

08 JANUARY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR-EMB lauds Alsons Sarangani Energy Corporation watershed protection project



by [Manila Standard](#)

[January 7, 2022](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau has praised Alsons Power Group’s Sarangani Energy Corporation (SEC) Community Watershed Protection and Development Project in Maasim, Sarangani province.



The SEC Watershed Protection Project is one of the largest in the country, covering an area of 7,500 hectares – larger than the City of Manila and nearly twice the size of Makati City.

Located in the vicinity of SEC’s 210 mega-watt baseload thermal power plant, the project aims to provide forest cover for the Siguil and Kamanga River watersheds.

Currently managed by the Alcantara Foundation, it also provides livelihood to more than 500 families belonging to the Bl’aan and T’boli indigenous communities in the uphill areas of Maasim.

“The synergy you have in collectively protecting our environment is something to be proud of and should be emulated in the region and the rest of the country,” said DENR EMB Regional Director Omar Saikol during a site visit to Datal Basak in Barangay Kablacan with the power firm’s executives, its partners and the community representatives.

“The Sarangani Energy Watershed Protection Project exemplifies our group’s steadfast commitment to empowering our host communities thru ensuring the preservation and protection of the environment and helping provide livelihood to our partners in the Bl’aan and T’boli communities,” said Ruben Tungpalan, Alsons Power Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Community Relations.



DENR-EMB lauds Alsons Sarangani Energy Corporation watershed protection project



The SEC thermal power plant in Maasim provides power to Sarangani Province, General Santos City and other areas of Mindanao.

Alsons Power is Mindanao's first private sector power generator with a current portfolio of four power facilities serving over eight million people in 14 cities and 11 provinces in the country's second largest island.



Lifting of mining ban a poor decision

January 8, 2022

THE recent end to the four-year ban on open-pit mining in the Philippines is a tremendous disappointment. In spite of hollow promises that "adequate safeguards" and "strict regulation" will prevent harm, the decision elevates the risk of large-scale environmental and social damage almost to the point of inevitability, and completely fails to read the room when it comes to public opinion on the issue of mining.

Much has evidently changed in the past five years because President Duterte, who once openly expressed a strong distaste for the destructive nature of mining and whose first choice to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was an actual environmental advocate in the person of the late Gina Lopez, has remained silent on the removal of the last significant vestige of Lopez's brief time in office.

Those with a vested interest in seeing the exploitative industry revived in the Philippines, however, have certainly not been silent. In a statement earlier this week, the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines said the government's decision to end the ban on open-pit mining has been "a long time coming" and would encourage investment in the country.

According to DENR projections, the resumption of open-pit mining will lead to the immediate development of 11 pending projects that are expected to generate about P11 billion combined in yearly government revenue, increase annual exports by P36 billion and provide employment to 22,880 people living in remote municipalities.

Philippines lifts ban on new open-pit mines

That is all well and good, but we believe the costs to achieve those gains are unacceptable, and cannot be made acceptable because of the very nature of mining. Mineral resources, whether metallic ores, coal, petroleum or others, are finite; once removed, they cannot be replaced. To harvest those resources, substantial damage to the environment must be done, and even if the damage is carefully managed and remediated when mining activities cease, the local environment is unavoidably forever altered.

The rosy estimates of how much revenue can be generated or how many people can be employed are simply distractions from the fact that given the current state of the Philippines' industrial development, any mining that takes place here amounts to exploitation of the most fundamental form of the national wealth for the sake of creating value elsewhere. The Philippines has no downstream processing, refining and manufacturing industrial sector to speak of, which could turn the relatively low-value raw materials into high-value products. Our own nickel and copper are sent away to other countries, and sold back to us in the form of imported products costing hundreds of times what we originally earned.



Lifting of mining ban a poor decision

There is no form of economics, or even elementary mathematics, in which that arrangement makes any sense, yet here we are. Even then, it would perhaps be workable if the exported raw materials were something sustainable, such as agricultural products that can be produced again and again, but that is not the case with minerals. Once they are gone, so are the revenues, and the exports, and the jobs that the advocates of mining are now so cheerfully promising. And that is the best case scenario, taking the DENR and mining industry backers at their word that "adequate safeguards" and "strict regulation" will indeed be rigorously maintained to prevent a costly ecological disaster.

With the decision already an apparent fait accompli, however, the country seems to have no choice but to make the best of it. Thus, the DENR and mining industry interests must be held strictly accountable for the impacts and outcomes of mining activities. Any investment in mining must be matched by an equal investment in sustainable development for communities affected, infrastructure and economic opportunities that will remain in place and grow long after the mining is gone. Likewise, all environmental damage must be remediated, and not simply in terms of immediate cleanup, but over the long term to return mining areas to their original state.

Mining industry promises need scrutinizing

Most importantly, consultation and engagement with affected communities must be forthright and transparent, and the decisions of the communities scrupulously respected. The mining industry must never forget that its access to the nation's wealth is a matter of privilege, not right, and must be compelled to conduct itself accordingly.



EcoWaste, TUCP push for stronger anti-asbestos policy

Published January 7, 2022, 5:08 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

There is an urgent need to improve the policy on the manufacture and use of asbestos and materials containing the disease-causing substance to protect public health, the EcoWaste Coalition (EcoWaste) and Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) said Thursday, Jan. 6.



Labor and Environmental Groups Push for a Stronger Anti-Asbestos Policy to Protect Human Health



(Courtesy of EcoWaste Coalition Facebook Page)

In a joint statement, EcoWaste and TUCP said that the Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Asbestos “needs serious enhancement” to protect the public from the unrestricted importation of raw asbestos and materials or products containing such substance.

According to the groups, the most common diseases caused by asbestos exposure are asbestosis or a form of lung disease, lung and ovary cancer, scarring of the lung lining, and mesothelioma or the formation of a tumor in the linings of the lungs, abdomen, or heart.

“We no longer see labels on asbestos-containing products. And we don’t see warning signages that forewarn the people and keep communities from hazards of asbestos dust exposure in demolition and disposal of asbestos,” said TUCP President Raymond Mendoza.

“The compliance to and enforcement of CCO is long gone. We fear that many workers and their families may have been exposed already, and its effects will only manifest a few years later,” he added.

Meanwhile, EcoWaste Coalition Chemical Safety Campaigner Thony Dizon said the CCO can be strengthened by expanding the ban to cover all forms of asbestos, phasing out asbestos-containing products, and promoting the commercial use of safer alternatives to such carcinogenic material.



EcoWaste, TUCP push for stronger anti-asbestos policy

“All stakeholders, including workers, communities, and local governments, need to be involved in raising citizens’ awareness on this public health issue and in the conduct of sustained monitoring and surveillance on asbestos exposure,” Dizon said.

The CCO on Asbestos was issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Jan. 6, 2000.

It prohibits all forms of asbestos on toys, low-density jointing chemicals, corrugated commercial paper, and untreated textiles among others.

Moreover, it also notes that asbestos and asbestos-containing materials must be labeled in structures, construction, demolition, disposal, and packaging products.

All manufacturers are also required by the DENR to register with the Environmental Management Bureau, obtain importation clearance, and submit annual reports, among other things, to ensure compliance with the CCO.



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MMDA ✓

11 hrs · 🌐

Gaano nga ba katagal matunaw ang mga karaniwang ginagamit na gawa sa plastic? Marami ang inaabot ng mahabang taon bago ma-decompose, ayon sa World Wildlife Fund.

Kung patuloy ang paggamit ng mga plastic at pagtatapon nito sa kung saan-saan, posibleng mapuno ang paligid ng mga ito o hindi na gumagalaw ang tubig at umaagos sa mga daluyang tubig dahil sa pagbabara.

Maraming ring mga bagay ang maaari nating ma-reduce, reuse, at ma-recycle bago itapon at gawing alternatibo sa plastic kaya't baguhin na ang nakagawian. Refuse single-use plastics!

#MMDA

#mmdaatyourservice

#iMinformed

#solidwastemanagement

**GAANO KATAGAL MATUNAW
ANG KARANIWANG ITINATAPON NATIN?**

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE 450 TAON | PLASTIC CUPS 450 TAON |
| PLASTIC BAG 20 TAON | DISPOSABLE DIAPERS 500 TAON |
| COFFEE CUP 30 TAON | PLASTIC TOOTHBRUSH 500 TAON |

SOURCE: World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

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Masungi Georeserve

15 hrs · 🌐

Equipped with cameras and a passion for environment and sustainable development, the Parabukas team of young environmental lawyers traversed through the mountains of Masungi's reforestation site, in pursuit of stories that showcase challenges faced by environmental defenders in the country today. Taking a quick stop at one of the new reforestation plots in the Legacy Trail, the team also participated in our restoration work by planting native trees. 🌳 Thanks for visiting, Parabukas team!



Grants now open to support craft communities for forest conservation

[Friday, January 7, 2022 Journal Online](#)



@Mat Wright

The British Council in the Philippines and Forest Foundation have teamed up for **Woven Networks – Craft changemakers conserving forests**. The one-year collaboration aims to strengthen the voices of local communities by highlighting their sustainable practices and vital role as artisans through research grants. The project advocates for more inclusive and gender-sensitive forest management by sparking collaboration and knowledge exchange between forest-dependent craft communities and wider society.

In line with this is the launch of the Woven Networks Scoping Grants where **10 grants of up to Php285,000 each will be awarded for the research and development of projects that champion indigenous knowledge and the sustainable resource management of craft communities**. The scoping grants are open to Philippine-based designers, researchers, creative social entrepreneurs and community leaders who believe in the importance of local and international collaborations in responding to systemic challenges.

The research projects must take place between April 2022 and July 2022. They should involve craft communities who rely on forest products in any of Forest Foundation's focal landscapes in:

- [Sierra Madre](#) (Region II, Region III and some areas in Region IV-A – Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Quezon)
- Palawan (Region IV-B)
- Samar and Leyte (Region VIII)
- Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental (Region X)



Grants now open to support craft communities for forest conservation

Proposals should also include network-building activities between local partners and collaborators within the Philippines and United Kingdom.

Recognising that not all interested applicants may be familiar with grant proposal writing, there will be an information session on 14 January 2022, at 5.00 p.m. (PH time). Registration can be done [here](#).

Proponents can apply as an individual or as an organisation via the [British Council's website](#).

The deadline for applications is 29 January 2022.

There are around 60 million indigenous people who rely on the forest for their livelihood, according to the United Nations. In the Philippines, many of them are women artisans and weavers. They greatly depend on non-timber forest products like rattan, abaca, raffia, or pandan, turning them into clothing, baskets and other objects. However, mass production of craft products has led to overexploitation of forest resources, unsustainable practices, and increased vulnerability to climate change.

Despite policies that support community-based forest management in the Philippines, there are still complex factors preventing indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women from participating more in forest conservation. They often face extreme marginalisation and discrimination. The location of their homes, usually in remote areas, makes it difficult for them to be represented or access opportunities.

The Woven Networks project is supported by the British Council Crafting Futures global programme.



Tomas initiates narra trees, cocoa planting

By Vince Jacob Visaya
January 8, 2022



Nueva Vizcaya Vice Gov. Jose Tomas Sr. is being assisted as he plants a seedling to mark his 64th birthday at the Tam-an mountain farm in Busilac, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022. PHOTO BY VINCE JACOB A. VISAYA

Nueva Vizcaya Vice Gov. Jose Tomas Sr. is being assisted as he plants a seedling to mark his 64th birthday at the Tam-an mountain farm in Busilac, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022. PHOTO BY VINCE JACOB A. VISAYA

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: Narra symbolizes resiliency and could be an inspiring trait in cooperative development and in public service, Nueva Vizcaya Vice Gov. Jose Tomas Sr. said as he advocated to bring the province into the map as the native tree's main source.

"Narra wood describes the fighting spirit and strength of character of the people," he told reporters on Thursday after he and cooperative member and workers of Tam-an Banaue Multipurpose Cooperative had planted 250 narra and cacao trees to mark his 64th birthday celebration at the mountains of Tam-an farm in Busilac village here.

"Nueva Vizcaya used to be full of narra and other sturdy trees in the province, but illegal logging has been the culprit," he said.



Tomas initiates narra trees, cocoa planting

A large and strong shady tree, narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*) is a large deciduous reddish hardwood that is most wanted by villagers as furniture.

Aside from narra, Tomas also advocated cacao planting, which will give "economic returns for decades." A cacao tree is expected to bear fruits in five years and live for 100 years.

"Sturdy trees like narra thrive in the province because of its unique topography of mountains and rolling hills," he added.

Researches showed Nueva Vizcaya, a landlocked province in the Cagayan Valley, founded in 1839 has an area of 3,975.67 square-kilometers with 275 villages and 15 towns. Its capital is Bayombong. It is bordered by Benguet to the west, Ifugao to the north, Isabela to the northeast, Quirino to the east, Aurora to the southeast, Nueva Ecija to the south and Pangasinan to the southwest.

Environment studies listed about 63,071 hectares of mountains in the province such as the Mount Pulag and upland areas in Kayapa, Dupax del Sur, Dupax del Norte, Solano, Bagabag, Villaverde, Diadi and Ambaguio.

Tomas recalled that prior to his plunge into politics in 2019, he steered the Tam-an as the first billionaire cooperative in Cagayan Valley, which now has P2 billion in assets with close to 700 workers and 200,000 members. He was the chief executive officer but his son Jose Jr. took over when he was elected vice governor.

Tomas said he was born to a poor family in Ifugao on Jan. 6, 1958. He recalled his experience as a houseboy in order to finish high school and took in various odd jobs as a carpenter, and later as a waiter, a bartender, and then as a beverage supervisor at the Banaue Hotel.

"When the cooperative was organized in 1991, it started with just capitalization of P25,000 and with just 25 incorporators. God is good all the time," he said.



Vice gov pushes for Nueva Vizcaya as PH's narra capital

By Villamor Visaya, Jr. January 7, 2022, 1:58 pm



TREE PLANTING. Nueva Vizcaya Vice Governor Jose Tomas Sr. (second from left) and other volunteers show their narra and cacao seedlings during a tree planting activity at the Tam-an mountain farm in Busilac, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya on Thursday (Jan. 6, 2022). Tomas is pushing the province to become the narra capital of the country (*Photo by Villamor Visaya Jr.*)

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya – Vowing to plant more “sturdy” trees, Nueva Vizcaya Vice Governor Jose Tomas Sr. is bringing the province into the map as the narra capital of the country.

“As a Philippine national tree, narra symbolizes resiliency—which aptly describes my experience in cooperative development and now in public service. Narra wood describes the indefatigable spirit and strength of character of the people,” he told the Philippine News Agency on Friday, a day after he and cooperative member and workers of Tam-an Banaue Multi-Purpose Cooperative had planted 250 narra and cacao trees to mark his 64th birthday celebration at the mountains of Tam-an farm in Busilac village here.

“We used to be the haven of narra and other sturdy trees in the province but illegal logging has been a factor in the decline,” Tomas said.

A large and strong shady tree, narra (*pterocarpus indicus*) is a large deciduous reddish hardwood that is most wanted as furniture material.

Aside from narra, Tomas also advocates cacao planting, which he said would give “economic returns for decades”. A cacao tree is expected to bear fruits in five years and live for 100 years.

“Sturdy trees like narra thrives in the province because of its unique topography of mountains and rolling hills,” he said.

Nueva Vizcaya has about 63,071 hectares of mountains that include the Mt. Pulag and upland areas in Kayapa, Dupax del Sur, Dupax del Norte, Solano, Bagabag, Villaverde, Diadi, and Ambaguio.



Vice gov pushes for Nueva Vizcaya as PH's narra capital

Prior to his plunge into politics in 2019, Tomas steered Tam-an into becoming the first billionaire cooperative in Cagayan Valley. It now has PHP2-billion assets with close to 700 workers and 200,000 members.

Tomas was then the chief executive officer but his son, Jose Jr. took over when he was elected vice governor.

“When the cooperative was organized in 1991, it started with just capitalization of PHP25,000 and with just 25 incorporators. God is good all the time,” he said, citing the challenges that they had weathered. *(PNA)*



Six hot topics for climate change and nature policy in 2022

From making green shifts fairer for workers to slashing fossil fuel subsidies, action on climate change needs to ramp up in 2022, analysts say.



An iceberg floats near the Wahlenberg Glacier in Oscar II land at Spitsbergen in Svalbard, Norway. Image: REUTERS/Hannah McKay

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

Jan. 7, 2022

From phasing out fossil fuel subsidies to tackling the surging costs of loss and damage caused by climate change impacts, 2022 is likely to see growing pressure for more ambitious action to fight global warming on the ground.

The urgency comes as officials and climate policy analysts warn the most ambitious Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7F) is growing harder to reach — despite gaining stronger political backing in 2021.

“2022 is all about shifting into what the (UN) secretary-general has called ‘[emergency mode](#),’” Inger Andersen, executive director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Here are some of the climate and nature issues experts predict will be top priorities this year:

Faster, bigger emissions cuts

Efforts need to be redoubled, especially by major greenhouse gas emitters, to slash carbon pollution this decade, in a bid to stick to the 1.5C warming ceiling and minimise climate-change harm to people and the planet.



Six hot topics for climate change and nature policy in 2022

“There has been too much emphasis on net-zero (emissions) targets by mid-century and not enough attention to significant reductions between now and 2030,” said Robert Watson, a former chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

“If governments are sincere in their stated goal of achieving the Paris target, then they must bite the bullet in 2022 and significantly strengthen their pledges,” he stressed.

This is especially needed from the biggest-emitting countries which include China, the United States, India, Russia, Japan and members of the European Union, Watson noted.

Governments agreed at November’s COP26 UN climate summit to find ways to strengthen their climate action plans again in a year’s time, rather than every five years as stipulated in the Paris pact.

Projections show global emissions in 2030 will still be roughly twice as high as needed to limit warming to 1.5C, according to Niklas Höhne, co-founder of the Germany-based NewClimate Institute, a research group.

“With such a glaring gap, all countries have an obligation to reconsider their choice,” he said.

Phasing out fossil fuel ending

Governments will be expected to push ahead on phasing out their backing for fossil fuels at home and in developing nations after agreeing at COP26 to end — though without a deadline — “inefficient” subsidies for oil, gas and coal.

Key countries that have financed polluting energy technology outside their borders, including China, Japan and South Korea, pledged in 2021 to end new overseas coal funding, while a group of donor states made a similar commitment for all fossil fuels.

Fossil fuel subsidies, funding and technical assistance have kept the cost of using oil, gas and coal for energy artificially low, hampering the much-needed switch to renewable sources.

UN environment chief Andersen said the transition away from fossil-fuelled economic growth is one of the “elephants in the room” that must be tackled this year.

The International Monetary Fund estimates global fossil fuel subsidies amount to a whopping [\\$6 trillion a year](#).

“The priority has to be kicking fossil fuel interests out of politics once and for all, and removing their social license just like what happened with Big Tobacco,” said Jennifer Morgan, the head of environmental group Greenpeace International.

Just transition

As the pressure to cut emissions from fossil fuels and switch to cleaner energy sources rises — in developing as well as wealthy nations — there is growing concern about how this will affect workers who now rely on high-carbon industries for a living.

Governments are increasingly grasping the need to provide support — such as retraining for green jobs and funding to set up new businesses in former coal or oil hubs — to ensure they bring communities along in the shift to cleaner economies.

Six hot topics for climate change and nature policy in 2022

At COP26, donor governments put billions of dollars into new partnerships to help coal-reliant emerging economies such as South Africa, India, Indonesia and the Philippines kickstart a “just transition” that is green and socially fair, especially for the most vulnerable.

In 2022, there will be strong interest in how those new programmes — backed by governments from Britain to Canada and Germany, as well as international climate funds — shape up.

In the wake of COP26, the International Trade Union Confederation - which represents 200 million union members worldwide — called for an immediate start to talks with workers and communities aimed at producing “[just transition](#)” plans.

Accelerating climate change impacts

From deadly Hurricane Ida in the United States to devastating floods in Europe and China, and hunger-inducing drought in East Africa, climate change-fuelled disasters cost tens of billions of dollars in 2021 and caused severe human suffering.

A key report from the IPCC, due for publication in late February, is expected to hammer home how the risks to humans and nature are bigger than scientists had expected — even at today’s 1.1C of global warming — and will [surge beyond](#) 1.5C of warming.

Social and economic inequalities are exacerbating the consequences of climate change for the poorest people, and in turn will be made worse by it, the UN climate science panel is likely to say in the second report of its sixth assessment series, aimed at global policy-makers.

“It talks to us not only of how we are currently adapting to these changes, but what adaptation responses may exist in the future,” Debra Roberts, co-chair of the group of scientists that drafted the upcoming IPCC impacts report, said in a statement.

The Paris Agreement established a global goal on adaptation to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change effects, through things like stronger infrastructure, early warning of disasters and crops that can tolerate extremes.

But efforts on the ground lag far behind accelerating climate stresses and weather shocks, with funding to ramp up adaptation tens of billions of dollars short of what is thought to be needed each year, especially in the most at-risk places.

Paying for climate loss and damage

As extreme weather disasters get fiercer and more frequent, wealthy countries responsible for most carbon emissions will come under greater pressure to help cover the rising costs sustained by vulnerable nations on the frontlines.

The issue of “[loss and damage](#)” gained important recognition at the COP26 summit, with countries agreeing to launch a new dialogue on how to finance efforts to prevent and repair harm, from destroyed homes and ecosystems to lost cultural heritage.

But a long-standing push by at-risk nations to create a new loss and damage fund did not succeed.



Six hot topics for climate change and nature policy in 2022

“It is time for the big historic polluters — government and corporate — to pay up,” said Greenpeace’s Morgan.

“This issue must be at the top of the agenda for developed countries at the COP in Egypt,” she added, referring to the UN climate conference to be held in late 2022.

The demand for fresh [finance](#) to cover “loss and damage” comes on top of a failure so far by the developed world to deliver \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help poorer nations adapt to global warming and adopt cleaner energy.

New deal for nature

Protecting natural systems, including forests, and halting the rapid decline in biodiversity — both key to the global fight on climate change — are set to be in the limelight this year at a flagship UN biodiversity conference known as COP15.

The talks — where countries are tasked with finalising a new global accord to safeguard plants, animals and ecosystems, similar to the Paris climate pact - have already been postponed three times due to the pandemic.

Questions are being raised over whether the COP15 summit, scheduled for April 25-May 8 in the Chinese city of Kunming, will proceed, due to stricter travel restrictions worldwide to curb the spread of the [Omicron coronavirus variant](#).

COP15 — together with the COP27 climate talks in Egypt — will be “critical turning points” to confront the “triple planetary crisis” of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, said UNEP’s Andersen.



2022 shapes up among warmest years ever

The Met Office adds that the average masks the reality that parts of the planet are warming a good deal faster than the rest of the world, with the Arctic now seeing heating twice the global average.



Alaska shatters record with warmest-ever spring. Image: [Taylor Renay, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

[The Energy Mix](#)

Jan. 7, 2022

As meteorologists forecast another dangerously warm year ahead, more data is in on just how hot the planet got over the last 18 months, with particularly dire news coming from the Arctic and the Himalayas.

Looking into its crystal ball for 2022, the United Kingdom's Met Office is forecasting an average global temperature about 1.09°C above pre-industrial levels, Bloomberg Green [reports](#). "While temperatures are expected to be slightly lower than in some years since 2015," hitting 1.09°C will make 2022 the eighth year in a row in which global average temperatures have exceeded 1.0°C of warming.

The Met Office adds that the average masks the reality that parts of the planet are warming a good deal faster than the rest of the world, with the Arctic now seeing heating twice the global average.

The World Meteorological Organisation illustrated the trend with its confirmation that the Siberian town of Verkhoyansk hit a record-smashing 38°C on June 20, 2020, a temperature "more befitting the Mediterranean than the Arctic." The UN agency is still taking the time and scientific rigour it needs to verify readings of 54.4°C posted in California's Death Valley in 2020 and 2021, and 48.8°C in Sicily this past August, Bloomberg [says](#).

Should the Sicily reading stand, it will be the hottest ever recorded in Europe.



2022 shapes up among warmest years ever

“The WMO Archive of Weather and Climate Extremes has never had so many ongoing simultaneous investigations,” WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement, and the extreme heating is not confined to the north polar regions: “In 2020, there was also a new temperature record (18.3°C) for the Antarctic continent.”

Expanding on the significance of Siberia’s exceedingly warm summer of 2020, which saw temperatures as high as 10°C above the norm most of the time, the WMO said the heat fueled forest fires and massive sea ice loss, while contributing significantly to 2020 being one of the three warmest years on record.

As scientists confirmed record summer heat at both poles over the past two years, Alaskans endured “record-shattering warmth” in December, [reports](#) the Washington Post, with temperatures as much as 45°F/25°C above average courtesy of a “heat dome” parked off the Aleutians.

Also notable: morning lows warmer than those normally experienced in the height of summer.

And because air can hold roughly 4 per cent more water for every degree it warms, the record-setting temperatures also meant record-setting precipitation — often in the form of rain. Fairbanks recorded its wettest December on record since 1929.

The rain falling on snow followed by overnight freezes wrought havoc on Alaska’s roads, covering pavement with ice the consistency of cement. Ice buildup on power lines also led to extended electricity outages throughout the Fairbanks area.

The Post says December’s winter rains came a month after a mammoth storm yielding one of the heaviest four-day rainfall totals ever observed in the state. It bucketed nearly 30 inches/76 centimetres of rain onto the fast-retreating Portage Glacier, 80 kilometres southeast of Anchorage.

“Parts of Alaska have warmed more than 2.5°F since the 1970s, outpacing the remainder of the Lower 48 by about two-thirds,” the news story states. The warming along Alaska’s North Slope, in particular, is placing “entire ecosystems at risk amid the abrupt biome and environmental shifts.”

December also brought devastating news about the Himalayas, with research published in the journal *Scientific Reports* affirming that glaciers there “have shrunk 10 times faster” over the past 40 years than they did during the previous 700.

The new research studied the integrity of some 15,000 ice sheets throughout a region that is often referred to as the “[third pole](#)” due to the amount of ice it holds, [CNBC writes](#). The Himalayan glaciers “have lost about 40 per cent of their area in the last several hundred years, or an estimated 390 to 586 cubic kilometres of ice — enough to raise global sea levels 0.92 to 1.38 millimetres.” The report’s authors warned that the accelerating ice melt [threatens](#) water supplies and food security for millions of people in South Asia.



Manila Water, Maynilad prangkisa aprub kay Duterte

[NEWS](#)

By [Abante Tonite](#) Last updated Jan 7, 2022



Binigyan ng gobyerno ng panibagong prangkisa ang Manila Water Company Inc. at Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Ito'y matapos lagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Republic Act No. 11600 at Republic Act No. 11601 para sa tig-25 taong prangkisa ng dalawang kompanya.

Nakapaloob sa nabanggit na mga batas na kinakailangang sumunod sa environmental at sustainability standards ang Manila Water at Maynilad, at makipagtulungan sa mga lokal na pamahalaan para matiyak ang ligtas at maayos na serbisyo.

May probisyon din na maaaring i-takeover ng nakaupong pangulo ng bansa ang pansamantalang operasyon ng mga kompanya kapag mayroong digmaan, rebelyon, kaguluhan, kalamidad, emergency, sakuna o problema sa peace and order.

Maaaring kanselahin ng Kongreso ang prangkisa kapag nabigo ang dalawang kompanya na makatugon sa mga regulasyon at hindi makapag-operate sa loob ng dalawang taon.

Obligado ang Manila Water at Maynilad na magsumite ng taunang ulat sa Kongreso kaugnay sa kanilang operasyon at audited financial statement. Kapag nabigong gawin ito ay magmumulta ng P1 milyon kada araw na lumagpas sa taning ng pagsusumite ng ulat.

Nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte ang dalawang batas noong Disyembre 10, 2021 subalit kahapon lamang inilabas ng Malacañang ang kopya. (Aileen Taliping)



34 border checkpoints inilatag sa Metro Manila

By [Joy Cantos](#)(Pang-Masa)
- January 8, 2022 - 12:00am



Hinaharang ng mga pulis ang mga motorista sa checkpoint sa kahabaan ng McArthur Highway sa Valenzuela City upang alamin kung may dala silang vaccination cards bago sila makadaan.

Ernie Peñsaredondo

MANILA, Philippines — Sa gitna na rin ng pagsipa ng kaso ng COVID-19 at upang matiyak ang pagsunod ng publiko sa minimum health protocols ay 34 na border checkpoint ang inilatag ng National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay NCRPO Chief P/Major Gen. Vicente Danao, ang nasabing mga checkpoints ay magsasagawa ng visibility patrols at random checking kung sumusunod ang mga public transport vehicles sa 70 % capacity ng mga pasahero.

Ang hakbang ay kasunod naman ng pagsasailalim sa National Capital Region (NCR) sa Alert level 3 gayundin ang Bulacan, Cavite at Rizal . Nitong Biyernes ay isinailalim na rin sa Alert Level 3 ang Laguna.

Gayundin kung ang mga nagtutungo sa mga establisyemento at iba pang mga commercial services ay mga 'fully vaccinated' na mga indibidwal kung saan dapat ay may dala ang mga itong identification cards kasama na ang vaccine cards.

Kabilang rin sa mahigpit na iniinspeksyon ay ang mga gumagamit ng motorsiklo sa pagbiyahe kung saan ang mga walang dalang COVID-19 vaccine cards ay binabalaan at pinababalik lalo na ang mga nahaharang sa mga border checkpoints.

Nabatid na mananatili ang mga border checkpoint hanggang nasa Alert level 3 ang NCR at mga karatig nitong lugar.

Source:<https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2022/01/08/2152547/34-border-checkpoints-inilatag-sa-metro-manila/amp/>

08 JANUARY 2022, Saturday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



21,819 new COVID-19 cases, highest since September 2021

(Philstar.com)

- January 7, 2022 - 4:22pm



Patients and their companions crowd outside Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City as they wait to be admitted to the hospital on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022 as the Philippines records a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases at the start of the year.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Friday logged 21,819 new COVID-19 infections — the highest single-day tally since September 18 last year — pushing the total to 2,910,664 cases.

The Philippines is seeing a sharp increase in new COVID-19 cases in the past week driven by the more infectious Omicron variant as well as increased mobility and laxness in observing safety protocols over the holidays.

Of the total, 7.7% or 77,369 are classified active infections.

The DOH also recorded 129 new fatalities and 973 additional recoveries.

63% cases from Metro Manila

Of the new infections logged on Friday, 63% or 13,634 were traced to Metro Manila. Calabarzon region saw 4,129 new cases (19%) while Central Luzon logged 2,084 (10%) additional infections.

The DOH bulletin also showed that the positivity rate is at 40%, meaning two out of every five people tested were positive for COVID-19.

Utilization rates of Intensive Care Units, isolation and ward beds nationwide also continue to rise.

The DOH bulletin showed that 32% of ICU beds, 35% isolation beds and 31% of ward beds across the country are currently being used. In Metro Manila, where majority of the new cases are traced, 48% of ICU beds, 47% of isolation beds and 59% of ward beds are in use.

The national government on Thursday night placed five more provinces and nine cities — on top of Metro Manila and four nearby provinces — under Alert Level 3 until January 15.



DOH issues home quarantine, isolation protocols

By [Shiela Crisostomo](#) (The Philippine Star)
- January 8, 2022 - 12:00am



Devotees at National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help at Baclaran in Parañaque City show their vaccine cards prior to entering church premises on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022. Metro Manila mayors had agreed to restrict activities and movement of unvaccinated individuals as COVID-19 cases surge anew.

MANILA, Philippines — To prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed, the Department of Health (DOH) has issued an advisory on COVID-19 protocols for home quarantine and isolation.

Based on DOH Department Circular No. 2022-0002 dated Jan. 6, 2022, home quarantine and isolation is allowed for the “management of probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases with no symptoms, mild symptoms or moderate symptoms.”

“As the country faces another threat due to the continuous increase in COVID-19 cases and the new Omicron variant, proper protocols for quarantine and isolation are needed to avoid overwhelming numbers of patients in the health facilities and hospitals,” the advisory read.

Home quarantine is also allowed as “step-down management of COVID-19 cases from hospitals who are recovering and presenting mild or no symptoms but shall need to finish the indicated isolation period.”

According to DOH, the “minimum infrastructure requirements” for home isolation and quarantine include availability of a dedicated room and toilet, and oversight of a health care provider or the local government units (LGUs).

If there is a scarcity of beds in isolation facilities, the DOH said priority should be given to probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases who belong to the A2 and A3 sectors or the senior citizens and people with comorbidities “who cannot meet the home isolation requirements.”

The DOH noted that the quarantine period for close contacts and travelers should be seven days for fully vaccinated individuals and 14 days for partially vaccinated or unvaccinated individuals.



DOH issues home quarantine, isolation protocols

The isolation period for symptomatic and positive cases “regardless of vaccination status is 10 days for asymptomatic/mild/moderate, at the minimum, or as determined by attending physicians.”

The DOH added for the severe/critical cases, it should be 21 days or as determined by attending doctors.

Isolation pertains to the separation of the sick people with an infectious disease from people who are not sick. – **Helen Flores**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/08/2152495/doh-issues-home-quarantine-isolation-protocols/amp/>



'Mild' Omicron also kills—WHO



by [Manila Standard](#)

[January 8, 2022](#)

By Robin Millard

The Omicron variant of COVID-19 is killing people across the globe and should not be dismissed as mild, the World Health Organization (WHO) insisted Thursday.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the record numbers of people catching the new variant—which is rapidly out-competing the previously-dominant Delta variant in many countries—meant hospitals were being overwhelmed.

“While Omicron does appear to be less severe compared to Delta, especially in those vaccinated, it does not mean it should be categorized as mild,” Tedros told a press conference.

“Just like previous variants, Omicron is hospitalizing people and it is killing people,” he explained.

“In fact, the tsunami of cases is so huge and quick, that it is overwhelming health systems around the world.”

Just under 9.5 million new COVID-19 cases were reported to the WHO last week—a record, up 71 percent on the week before.

But even this was an underestimate, Tedros said, as it did not reflect the backlog of testing around the Christmas-New Year holidays, positive self-tests not registered, and overburdened surveillance systems missing cases.

Tedros used his first speech of 2022 to slam the way rich nations hogged available vaccine doses last year, saying it had created the perfect breeding ground for the emergence of virus variants.

He, therefore, urged the world to share out vaccine doses more fairly in 2022, to end the “death and destruction” of COVID-19.

Tedros wanted every country to have 10 percent of their population vaccinated by the end of September 2021 and 40 percent by the end of December.

Ninety-two of the WHO’s 194 member states missed the target set for the end of 2021—indeed 36 of them had not even jabbed the first 10 percent, largely due to being unable to access doses.

Tedros wants 70 percent jabbed in every country by mid-2022.

At the current pace of vaccine roll-out, 109 countries will miss that target.

“Vaccine inequity is a killer of people and jobs and it undermines a global economic recovery,” said Tedros.

“Booster after booster in a small number of countries will not end a pandemic while billions remain completely unprotected.”

The WHO’s COVID-19 technical lead Maria Van Kerkhove said it was “very unlikely” that Omicron would be the last variant of concern before the pandemic is over.



'Mild' Omicron also kills—WHO

In facing the more transmissible Omicron variant, Van Kerkhove urged people to step up the measures they were already taking to protect themselves against the virus.

“Do everything that we have been advising better, more comprehensively, more purposefully,” she said.

“We need people to hang in there and really fight.”

Van Kerkhove added that she was stunned by how sloppily some people were wearing face masks.

“It needs to cover your nose and mouth... wearing a mask below your chin is useless,” she said.

Looking ahead to this year, Bruce Aylward, the WHO's frontman on accessing coronavirus tools, added that there was “no need to finish 2022 in a pandemic.”

But WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan said that without vaccine equity, “we will be sitting here at the end of 2022 having somewhat the same conversation, which, in itself, would be a great tragedy”.



COVID WALANG SINASANTO, MGA SIMBAHAN ISINASARA



January 7, 2022 @ 3:19 PM 15 hours ago

WALA talagang sinasanto ang COVID-19, maging ang mga simbahan.

Katatapos nga lang ang Kapaskuhan at Bagong Taon na punom-puno ng pamisa para sa kaligtasan sa pandemya, pero heto't nagka-COVID ang ilang pari at empleyado ng limang simbahan sa Metro Manila.

Kasama sa mga simbahan ang Sta. Maria Goretti Parish Church; National Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus; St. Anthony de Padua Catholic Church; San Roque Parish Church na pawang nasa Manila; at National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe sa Makati City;

Sinuspinde muna ang mga misa at isinara ang mga ito para makatulong na rin sa pagpigil ng hawaan at pagkalat ng pandemya.

Pero paano ang mga nahawaan nila o nakahawa sa kanila?

Nasaan ang mga ito upang ma-COVID test sana para ma-quarantine o mag-self-isolate?

Hindi na ring pinayagang magkaroon ng misa at Traslacion sa Quiapo Church para maiwasang maging superspreader ito.

SA PASKO NAGSIMULA

Nagpapakita ang mga palatandaan o sintomas ng COVID makaraan ng 5 hanggang 14 araw o mahigit pa.

Hagip ng mga araw na ito ang Disyembre 23-25 na kasagsagan ng pagtitipon-tipon ng mga tao sa palengke at ng mga pamilya.



COVID WALANG SINASANTO, MGA SIMBAHAN ISINASARA

Kaugnay nito, nagparamdam ang pagdami ng may COVID bago magtapos ang taon at mabilis na dumami ang mga ito sa mga araw na ito.

May mga pagtitipon din noong Disyembre 30, 2021 hanggang nitong Enero 1, 2022.

Kaya naman hindi nakapagtataka kung sa kalagitnaan ng buwan at makaraan nito ay darami pa ang may impeksyon.

Dahil Alert Level 2 ang umiiral noong Kapaskuhan hanggang Enero 2, naging maluwag ang pagkilos at pagtitipon-tipon ng mga mamamayan kahit saan sa bansa.

Pati nga mga baby at matatanda ay nagsasama-sama.

Nagtodo-biyahe at pasyal din ang mga ito kahit saan, at inaabot pa nga ang ganitong pagkilos ng mga mamamayan hanggang gabi.

Ngayon nga inaani natin ang bunga ng lahat ng ito – ang mabilis na pagdami ng mga nagkaka-COVID.

PAGSISIMBA HINDI PINALAMPAS

Bukod sa pagsasama-sama ng mga pamilya, ang pagsisimba o pagsamba ay hindi pinalampas ng milyon-milyong mamamayan kahit saan, kasama na ang mga sakop ng pananampalatayang hindi Katoliko maliban lang ang dalawang grupo.

Ngunit ang mga negosyante mula sa dalawang grupo na hindi nagseselebreyt ng Pasko ngunit sumasali sa selebrasyon para sa Bagong Taon ay kasali sa mga kumpol-kumpol ng tao na nagtitinda o bumibili sa mga paligid ng mga simbahan.

Kaya naman, naririyang ang paglaganap ng hawaan sa sakit.

Nagkaroon din naman ng kontrol, halimbawa, sa loob ng simbahan para sa misa o pagsamba, gaya ng No Vaccine, No Entry, ngunit sa labas na may paglabag sa social distancing at pagsusuot ng face mask, lumalabas naman ang mga pari para magbigay ng komunyong at ang mga kolektor ng abuloy, lumalabas din na paresong face-to-face ang dating.

Sa loob ng mga simbahan, naririyang din ang mga pahaplos at pahalik.

Hawaan talaga ang mga nagaganap.

Sana, magtanda ang lahat sa ating mga pinaggagawa at huwag nang umulit upang mapagtagumpayan natin ang pandemya.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 664

ENERO 7, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

2.7%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
77,369

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

95.6%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,781,424

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.78%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
51,871

MGA BAGONG KASO **21,819**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **973**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **129**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,910,664**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 5
DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 7
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 5

40.0%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

70,049

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
94.0%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

D UMISTANSYA NG
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN
ANG PISIKAL NA
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS)
32% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)
48% Utilized

2,438 Asymptomatic

ISOLATION BEDS (19.5K TOTAL BEDS)
35% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.8K TOTAL BEDS)
47% Utilized

70,321 Mild

WARD BEDS (12.5K TOTAL BEDS)
31% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
59% Utilized

2,837 Moderate

VENTILATORS (2.9K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
14% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
20% Utilized

1,461 Severe

312 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
seeyoudoc.com
SeeYouDoc

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

HealthNow
healthnow.ph/
help@healthnow.ph
HealthNow

KonsultaMD
konsulta.md
KonsultaMD

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

CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/

TelAventusMD
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
TelAventusMD



Manatiling ligtas!

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



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

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



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

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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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

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

doh.gov.ph

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

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Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/yL3UoN2lYu8>

MANILA
LIVE DOLOMITE BEACH NGAYON MANILA BAY KUYARONS TV

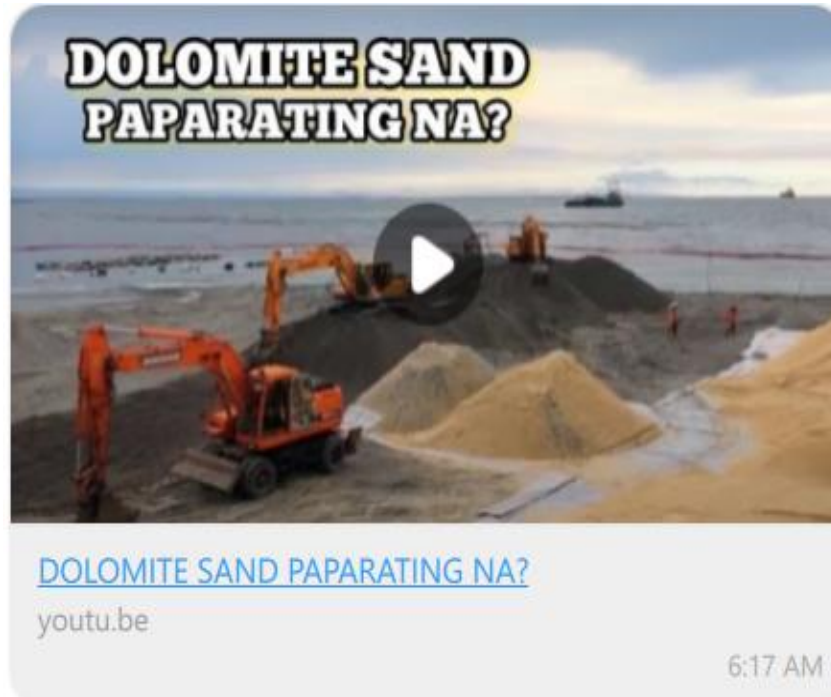
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#BattleForManilaBay

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


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Nakapagtala ang DOH ng 21, 819 na bagong kaso ng covid-19 ngayong araw. Ito ang ika-6 na pinakamataas na bilang na naitala sa kada-araw simula nang tumama ang pandemya.

SHOW MORE