

08 OCTOBER 2021, FRIDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Villar pushes for extended producer responsibility on wastes

BY **BMPLUS** OCTOBER 7, 2021



Sen. Cynthia A. Villar

SAYING that the globe is in the middle of a climate emergency, Senator Cynthia Villar cited the need to find the strategic interventions to drastically redeem what would have been valuable materials from the waste stream.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, has sponsored Senate Bill No. 2425, under Committee Report No. 328 which refers to “An Act Institutionalizing the Practice of Extended Producer Responsibility on Plastic Packaging Waste. This would amend Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”.

“This measure seeks to incentivize innovation, motivate producers to take charge of the life cycle of their products, clearly defines responsibilities and mandates and allows for better citizen participation in reaching objectives and goals,” stressed Villar.

If done properly, she said that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is also an opportunity, an open door to a thriving industry that pushes us into a circular economy where materials cycle through lives and less land is lost to dumping and waste storage.

“We need to rescue our country from the ill repute of being a marine litter culprit and demonstrate that a developing country can and will make this work,” said the lady senator.

Without an EPR System, She said back trips of trucks and ferries will not care to carry discards for reuse, recycling or processing.

Although those that make the products that become discards in very short spans of time have always had the ethical responsibility, Villar said they do not have the legal responsibility to ensure the recyclability and upscalability of their products and packaging.

“The pandemic has both complicated and multiplied this problem tenfold. Hence, this Chamber has the duty to act decisively and effectively to pass a law that would have a high rate of compliance,” emphasized Villar.

Around the world, she said, there is abundant evidence that EPRs have allowed municipalities and taxpayers to deflect the financial burden of waste management and transferred it to producers.



“More importantly, EPR systems have resulted in decreased volumes of waste for final disposal and ushered in a thriving recycling industry. And many of these companies that succeeded also market their products here and would likely have little difficulty in merely exporting their success as they export their products and manufacturing.”

She recalled the July 10, 2000 Payatas landslide or the garbage dump collapsed at Payatas, Quezon City which claimed the lives of 218 people.

“A gigantic mountain of garbage first collapsed and then went up in flames which resulted in the destruction of about 100 houses of informal settler families. No less than 218 people perished, not including those unaccounted for in a massive collapse of a mountain of discards. As if that was not enough, the methane emitting waste turned into an inferno,” remembered Villar.

The senator related that it was a horrific reminder that our society was an abject failure at managing our wastes so that the next year, Congress passed the Ecological Solid waste Management Act.

But still, Villar stressed open dumpsites has remained operational. Mixed wastes are being collected in urban areas. She said there is no National Ecology Center and the burden of waste reduction, segregation and management mostly fell into the lap of households and the local governments.

She lamented our country has been notorious, named in several reports as one of the top dischargers of marine plastics. A 2015 University of Georgia study revealed that the Philippines, ranked third, next to China and Indonesia (among 192 countries surveyed), in terms of volume of plastic wastes produced by the population that goes into the ocean.

“And, six years hence from the conduct of that study, it seems that we have not improved our ranking yet,” said Villar.



Villar seeks wider waste producer responsibility

posted October 07, 2021 at 11:30 pm by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Senator Cynthia Villar has sponsored a bill pushing for extended producer responsibility on wastes.

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OpinYon
19h · 🌐



OpinYon Quezonin

20h · 🌐

Isang Hawksbill Turtle ang napadpad sa baybayin ng Sariaya kamakailan.

Ito ay may sukat na 30 cm haba at 25.2 lapad ng carapace at may timbang na humigit kumulang 3 kilo.

Ang pawikan ay may tag no. 1853ph na ikinabit ng Community Environment and Natural resources Office (CENRO) Tayabas at agad ding pinakawalan.

Ang Hawksbill turtle ay kabilang sa mga critically endangered na pawikan.

Photos: Sherwin William Rosales

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With or without PAREX: SMC makes progress on Pasig River cleanup, 54K MT tons of silt, solid waste removed in just 3 months

October 7, 2021 6 min read

MANILA — San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is making headway in its P2-B Pasig River cleanup initiative aimed at helping mitigate flooding throughout Metro Manila and the flood-prone provinces around Laguna Lake.

The project is part of the much larger goal of SMC to clean up all the major waterways in Metro Manila and nearby provinces to allow water to flow freely into Manila Bay.

Together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), SMC reported that from July – when the project started- to date, the company has already removed 54,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste from the Pasig River—specifically, from two of its shallowest sections, at the Pandacan and Malacanang areas, both in the City of Manila.

At the same time, its ongoing P1-billion cleanup initiative for the Tullahan River system—which has been cited as having helped prevent severe and prolonged flooding in Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela—has so far extracted a total of 463,000 MT of solid wastes from the river.

Tullahan River is also cited as one of seven Philippine tributaries in the top ten list of the world's worst plastic-emitting rivers, the same list that Pasig River topped.

SMC is also undertaking a river channel enhancement program for the tributaries belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) in Bulacan province.

“With or without the PAREX project, we will continue to clean the Pasig River. Water sustainability has been our advocacy within the company for many years now. We have also been helping clean up rivers and bodies of water in our communities before, but since early 2020, we’ve been taking more direct action, starting with the Tullahan River, to help address flooding and to support the government’s Manila Bay rehabilitation program. By helping dredge, clean, and maintain rivers, we can mitigate flooding and minimize the number of wastes that end up in the Manila Bay,” SMC president Ramon S. Ang said.

Apart from the two pilot areas in Pandacan and Malacanang, SMC will also prioritize extracting solid wastes from other shallow portions of Pasig River, namely at the C-5 area near the Marikina river junction, at the mouth of Manila Bay, and at the Makati-Estrella area.

The Pasig River program aims to extract three million metric tons of silt and solid waste from the river, or a monthly target of at least 50,000 metric tons for five years. Current output for the cleanup is expected to increase as the company looks to hire more personnel and deploy more dredging equipment in the coming months.



A global study published recently named the Pasig River as the top polluter of the world's oceans, dumping around 38,000 tons of plastics into the oceans yearly. The study also revealed that 28% of the rivers responsible for global plastic pollution are in the Philippines.

"Our river systems are interconnected. If there is a problem with one, other river systems will be affected. So when we say we will clean up Pasig River, benefits will not be limited to Metro Manila, or the parts of the Pasig River we know and see," Ang said.

"The main concern we want to address—which is critical for millions of Filipinos in and around Metro Manila—is flooding, brought about by multiple problems affecting our larger river systems which have gone unchecked for so long. Beautification is not the priority now, although by cleaning up the river consistently, and with everyone's cooperation, it will come naturally," Ang added.

The massive effort will also be critical to helping mitigate unchecked heavy siltation of the Laguna Lake, which has led to increased flooding in Laguna province.

Ang explained: "Cleaning and deepening the Pasig River will increase its capacity to receive floodwaters from the Marikina River—and reduce peak water flows that normally go to the Laguna Lake through the Manggahan Floodway. This can ease typical severe flooding experienced by Marikina City, as well as in Calamba, San Pedro, Biñan, Sta. Cruz and Pila, in Laguna, which we all saw last year during Typhoon Ulysses."

"Looking at the bigger picture, the Pasig River dredging will not just benefit Metro Manila. Yes, it will do a lot to address flooding in the metropolis but equally significant, it will help mitigate the problem of Laguna Lake, which remains without a solution for now," Ang said.

Ang recalled the heavy flooding experienced by cities like Pasig and Marikina following heavy rains brought on by Typhoon Ondoy in 2009, as an example of severe consequences of not being able to adequately clean major river systems.

"Regular dredging and cleanup will help address the sedimentation and siltation that are a problem of many rivers in the country. Floods are becoming more severe. It has only been more than a decade since Typhoon Ondoy flooded many parts of Metro Manila, mostly areas adjacent to the Pasig River like Pasig and Marikina. We have to do what we can to help make sure that doesn't happen again," he added.

He added that according to bathymetric studies conducted by SMC, parts of Pasig River and Marikina River now only have depths of 1 ½ meter, while portions of Pandacan going out to the Manila Bay only measure two meters.

The P2 billion initiative was launched in July together with the DENR, Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and Mandaluyong Mayor Menchie Abalos.

"We are grateful to our government partners for their support. A clean Pasig River is a dream we share with many Filipinos, especially those who have worked to achieve this goal in the past. There are many issues that need to be addressed to make this dream a reality, but we are progressing," Ang said.

Ang said that the company is working closely with DENR and is waiting for the approval of a detailed dredging plan by the DPWH, to set the ideal depth and priority areas for dredging.



The initiative is seen to boost efforts to rehabilitate the Pasig River, which, for so many decades, has suffered from continuous dumping of industrial and solid wastes and even sewage, in its waters.

“With the government’s support and cooperation from stakeholders, we hope to bring the Pasig River back to a level where it can be enjoyed by more Filipinos,” Ang said. (ai/mtvn)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/10/07/with-or-without-parex-smc-makes-progress-on-pasig-river-cleanup-54k-mt-tons-of-silt-solid-waste-removed-in-just-3-months/?fbclid=IwAR1UB87JxJSZsALYJ4XYJp7GSr3AvsoyIN7FFM_iugYrMtrc22wq8Nqcj



San Miguel to clean up Pasig River 'with or without' PAREX, says Ang

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 07 2021 04:54 PM

MANILA - San Miguel Corp said it will continue rehabilitating the Pasig River “with or without” the controversial tollway it has proposed to build.

San Miguel said its P2-billion Pasig River cleanup “is part of the much larger goal of SMC to clean up all the major waterways in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.”

“With or without the PAREX project, we will continue to clean the Pasig River. Water sustainability has been our advocacy within the company for many years now,” said SMC president and CEO Ramon Ang.

The SMC chief said noted that they are also dredging the Tullahan River.

With government’s support and cooperation from stakeholders, we hope to bring the Pasig River back to a level where it can be enjoyed by more Filipinos,” Ang said.

SMC got the greenlight to build PAREX, or the Pasig River Expressway last month after signing an agreement with various government agencies.

PAREX will be a 19.4-kilometer, six-lane elevated expressway along the banks of Metro Manila’s biggest river. It is expected to reduce travel time between the Eastern and Western sections of Metro Manila.

The project however has come under fire from environmentalists and heritage advocates. Opponents of the project say that instead of solving the capital region’s traffic problems, PAREX will only worsen it by inducing more people to use their cars.

They say the tollway will also worsen air pollution in the areas it will pass, and may affect heritage sites along the river.

Ang however has said that PAREX will incorporate bicycle and pedestrian lanes, as well as a bus rapid transit system for those without cars. He also denied that the tollway will impact heritage sites.



Pasig River rehab tuloy kahit walang PAREX – SMC

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Oct 7, 2021

NEWS



Matuloy man o hindi ang Pasig River Expressway (PAREX) project, ipagpapatuloy ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) ang paglilinis nito sa mga ilog dahil matagal na ring adbokasiya ng kompanya ang water sustainability.

“With or without the PAREX project, we will continue to clean the Pasig River,” sabi ni SMC president Ramon S. Ang.

Ayon sa kompanya, nasa 54,000 toneladang dumi at putik na ang natanggal ng SMC mula Hulyo hanggang Setyembre sa ginagawa nitong paglilinis ng Pasig River.

Nasa P2 bilyon na ang inilaan ng SMC para sa Pasig River cleanup upang maibsan ang pagbaha sa Metro Manila at mga bahaing lalawigan sa paligid ng Laguna Lake.

Layunin ng SMC na linisin ang mga ilog at iba pang lagusan ng mga tubig sa Metro Manila at mga karatig lalawigan para maayos ang daloy papuntang Manila Bay.

Tumutok ang SMC sa paglilinis sa makikipot na lugar ng Pasig River, partikular na ang malapit sa Pandacan at Malacañang. (Eileen Mencias)

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/pasig-river-rehab-tuloy-kahit-walang-parex-smc/>



Legarda to tackle health, livelihood, environmental issues in Senate bid

Published October 7, 2021, 10:23 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)

House of Representatives Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda will be looking to address health, livelihood and environmental issues in her bid to run in the Senate in the national election next year.

Legarda, who was elected to the Senate in 1998, 2007 and 2013, said she is running for a lawmaking position in the upper chamber of Congress to focus on providing a pandemic recovery budget.

“We should institutionalize healthcare services up to the last mile up, up to the last barangay. So we should really upgrade the health services in provincial hospitals even if healthcare is devolve,” said Legarda in an interview in CNN Philippines’ The Final Word.

“The pandemic recovery is not just for the health care of Filipinos but also for the economic recovery of every Filipino family.” Legarda added that it could be done by allocating a budget for sufficient COVID-19 vaccines and boosters including shots for Filipinos 18 years old and below.

She added that the pandemic recovery is both a health issue and a jobs issue.

The Antique congresswoman said that the government’s existing livelihood programs should have an additional budget to help the poorest Filipino family.

“We must also be prepared to be able to help the poorest Filipino families who have been adversely affected by the pandemic to be able to rise,” Legarda said.

Regarding the country’s environmental issues, Legarda said that resources given to the dolomite beach in Manila Bay could have been placed elsewhere. The former three-term senator added that she agrees with the findings of the UP Marine Institute.

Legarda also said that local government officials should focus on addressing segregation of waste at source, recycling, and composting before any beautification or aesthetics is made.

The Antique solon said that revisiting the 1995 mining law should be done since it is quite old already. She added that we must ensure that local communities get their due and just share, and the rehabilitation fund is also implemented and done.

On the plan to build casinos in Boracay, Legarda said she is against this plan and she prefers to keep the island as a haven for nature and culture.

With regards to waste disposal issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, Legarda called on households to begin making solutions at their homes.

Legarda also said that she favors easier public access to the SALNs of the President, Vice-President and members of Congress. She, however, does not favor the reimposition of the death penalty for drug-related crimes. (Melvin Sarangay)

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/10/07/legarda-to-tackle-health-livelihood-environmental-issues-in-senate-bid/>



NGO calls on toymakers to comply with norms on lead paint levels

October 7, 2021 | 7:48 pm



REUTERS

THE EcoWaste Coalition has urged manufacturers and sellers of toy and childcare products to comply with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) standards after noting high levels of lead in a toy gardening set.

The group said in a statement Thursday that dealers in such products, including those online, must check whether their products are registered with the FDA, and if they hold a certificate of conformity signifying compliance with national lead paint standards.

EcoWaste conducted chemical sampling using an x-ray fluorescence device on a toy shovel and spade from a product called "Jin Feng Kinder-Gartengerate" set, which yielded lead content of up to 27,100 parts per million (ppm).

They said this was over the 90 ppm threshold of the Environment department's Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, which covers toys, paints and cosmetics.

"The group finds the detection of lead on the Jin Feng kiddie shovel and spade worrisome as the lead-containing paint will surely age, peel and break with frequent use and cause the lead in paint to get discharged into the soil," EcoWaste said.

According to the group's Chemical Safety Campaigner Thony Dizon, complying with the registration scheme will help implement lead paint regulations meant to protect children.

He added that retailers should only offer registered products which meet safety standards, including the 90 ppm lead paint limit.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is no safe level of lead exposure for children.

Exposure to lead may "adversely" impact children, causing brain and nervous system damage, slowed growth, and hearing and speech problems, the CDC said. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/ngo-calls-on-toymakers-to-comply-with-norms-on-lead-paint-levels/>



Watch out for lead-containing toys – toxics group

Published October 7, 2021, 4:18 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Toxics watchdog group EcoWaste Coalition urged on Tuesday, Oct. 7, the manufacturers, distributors and retailers of children's toys to ensure their compliance with Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) standard on lead being used in toys as the season of gift-giving nears.

The group also called on e-commerce sites to check if the items being sold on their platforms have a valid Certificate of Product Notification (CPN), as well as Certificate of Conformity (CoC) with regard to the country's national lead paint standard.

It made the call after finding out that some toys being sold in the market, including a "garden tools set" for kids, contain excessive amounts of lead.

Exposure to lead may cause damage to the brain and the central nervous system as well as slowed growth and development, learning difficulties, hearing and speech problems, and behavioral issues, EcoWaste said.

"Compliance to the Notification Scheme for TCCAs (toy and childcare articles (TCCAs) will help promote the implementation of the country's lead paint regulation, which among other things bans the use of such paints for toys and other children's products to prevent children's exposure to lead," Thony Dizon, the group's chemical safety campaigner, said.

"Products, especially those marketed for children's use, must also comply with the labeling requirements," he added.



Artistic, entertaining sourcebook for climate change education launched

Published October 7, 2021, 5:42 PM

by [Merlina Hernando-Malipot](#)

A creative sourcebook on using theater for climate education and action was launched by the Department of Education (DepEd) to further strengthen the integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation in basic education.

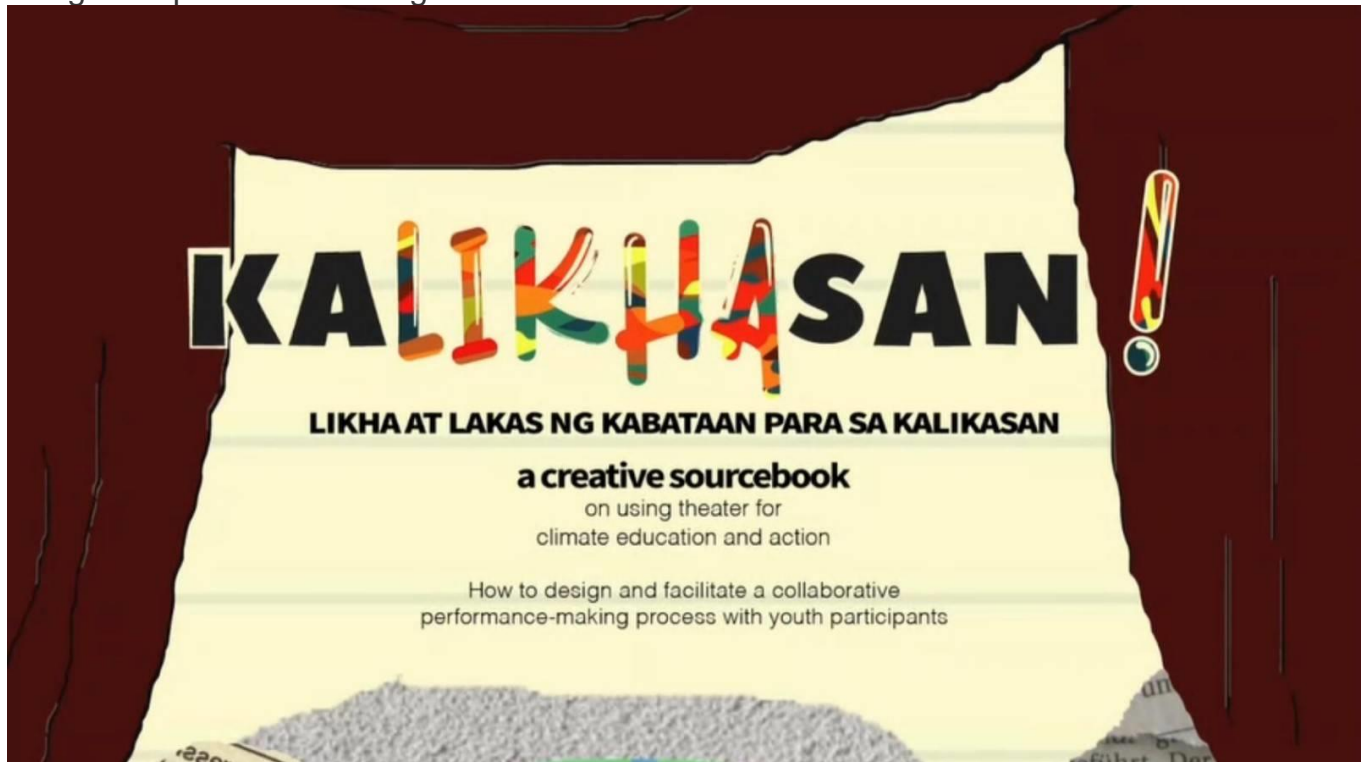


Photo from DepEd

DepEd, through its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), and Komunidad X launched the “KaLiKHAasan: Likha at Lakas ng Kabataan Para sa Kalikasan” which was developed for teachers, theater and performance practitioners, and workshop facilitators.

KaLiKHAasan explains how to design and facilitate a collaborative performance-making process with youth that includes climate action and the environment as central themes.

Education Secretary Leonor Briones commended the efforts of the creators for coming up with climate change solutions artistically and entertainingly for teachers and learners.

“Through KaLiKHAasan, we hope to see our learners create their own artistic interpretations of their visions for their community and the country,” Briones said.

DepEd said that the KaLiKHAasan Creative Sourcebook was developed following the success of the 2019 Climate Action Advocacy Show co-created and performed by 72 student-participants of the Sining Galing from Divisions of Malabon, Navotas, and Pasig City.

Meanwhile, DepEd DRRMS Director Ronilda Co explained that the development of the KaLiKHAasan creative sourcebook is one of the ways to strengthen the integration of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the basic education sector.



“By elevating our learners’ concerns through their talents and skills, we move forward towards a better society, one that can mitigate and adapt to climate change,” Co said.

The KaLIKHAsan: Creative Sourcebook was reviewed by the Curriculum and Instruction Strand, particularly by the Bureau of Curriculum Development (BCD), Bureau of Learning Delivery (BLD), and Bureau of Learning Resources (BLR) and external partners from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), and the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) of the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

Available at the DepEd Commons, DepEd LRMS or at <https://www.deped.gov.ph/kalikhasan-creative-sourcebook/>, DepEd encouraged teachers to use the KaLIKHAsan Creative sourcebook as a guide in replicating and localizing the process of creating a Climate Action Advocacy Show to empower the learners toward advocating for climate change solutions.



Magalong inspects ongoing development of dumpsite to eco-park

October 7, 2021 11 min read

By **Glen S. Ramos**
BGUIO City – Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong yesterday inspected the ongoing construction at the open dumpsite located in Barangay Irisan which will soon be converted into a high-end eco-tourism park for tourists and residents alike. The city government started to convert the long-abandoned 60-year-old open dump facility to an ecological forest park.

According to Magalong, P15 million was allotted for the project.

He added that structural engineers are regularly on-site maintaining the site's stability to prevent further erosion.

Once completed, the park will provide a good view of the sunset in La Union. (ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/10/07/magalong-inspects-ongoing-development-of-dumpsite-to-eco-park/?fbclid=IwAR2U67nwvYRM4mu4Pn5PF4HYKD2DGoFX4MckXwqaa5cyvamWlaYLyTctbC8>



Batangas City conducts dredging operations

October 7, 2021 1 min read

By Glen S. Ramos

BATANGAS City – The City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (CDRRMO) and City Engineers Office (CEO) in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) have started dredging operations in Sta. Clara River to prevent flooding along the main thoroughfares of the city.

According to CDRRMO Officer Rod Dela Roca, the Sta. Clara river serves as the only outlet of water from the city.

“Ang mga buhangin na makukuha ay ilalagay sa gilid ng ilog samantalang ang mga basura ay ipapahakot upang malinis ito nang tuluyan,” Dela Roca said.

“Isusunod natin ang dredging ng Mahuya River na nagdudugtong sa mga barangay ng Cuta, Malitam at Wawa.”

“Inaasahan natin na mababawasan ang pagbaha at pangamba ng mga residente na nakatira malapit sa ilog na ito ay umapaw ulit tuwing tag-ulan,” he added.

The residents vowed to do their part by preventing the disposal of garbage into the river.

The dredging operation was started on October 4, 2021. (AI/MTVN)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/10/07/batangas-city-conducts-dredging-operations/?fbclid=IwAR3odHk5tjIcf_9zBencm0obachp_W7BHn6kL6Ty-a7oVmIqM_ZCpQqp8o

SM Prime supports Manila Observatory's clean energy, climate and weather prediction system

October 8, 2021



Clockwise from left: Jeffrey Lim, president, SM Prime Holdings; Fr. Jose Ramon Villarín, executive director, Manila Observatory; (Ret.) VADM Alexander Pama, co-chairman, Arise Philippines; Tim Daniels, senior vice president, Investor Relations, SM Investments Corp.; Ma. Antonia Loyzaga, trustee, Manila Observatory; and Engr. Liza Silerio, vice president, Corporate Compliance, SM Supermalls. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

[SM Prime Holdings Inc.](#) has recently inked a partnership agreement with the [Manila Observatory](#) for the "[High Definition Clean Energy](#), Climate, and Weather Forecasts for the [Philippines](#)" Project, a data-driven system that utilizes automated weather stations (AWS) and high-performance computer modeling to provide clean energy and weather forecasts up to five days in advance.

The five-year partnership was officiated through a simple Memorandum of Agreement signing ceremony that took place on Sept. 23, 2021 via Zoom. Key representatives from various organizations that share SM Prime's disaster risk resilience (DRR) advocacy also attended the event.

The multi-stakeholder initiative is part of SM Prime's long-running advocacy to promote disaster preparedness and resilience in the country through strategic partnerships and science-based information.

Through the initiative, the Manila Observatory will produce daily weather forecasts and hourly forecasts for clean and renewable energy such as wind and solar energy, up to five days in advance. The 49 AWS instruments installed in the SM malls nationwide provide real-time pictures of the atmosphere that enable the Observatory to refine its micro-forecasts for renewable energy and weather. Moreover, long-term predictions of climate change in the Philippines from the 2030s to the 2090s will be continually made to help prepare communities especially those who are more vulnerable to its adverse impacts.

In addition, the Manila Observatory will produce risk maps and reports for specific geographic domains depending on the weather or climate-related hazard, as well as training materials for operation and maintenance of AWS, and annual reports, among other support materials.

"We need to respond to the climate emergency and we want to do this by contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, according to our strength as a scientific institution," said Manila Observatory Executive Director Fr. Jose Ramon Villarín SJ.



"On behalf of the Observatory and the mission of the Jesuits, we are truly grateful to SM," said Villarin to SM Prime during his speech at the event. "Because you were there at the very start, it was not difficult for other partners to join in," he added.

"Manila Observatory's daily forecasting services of weather and clean energy potential up to five days in advance, risk maps and its accompanying reports will definitely help SM in preparing for disasters, monitoring, and risk management, thus protecting our valued stakeholders and the communities we serve where SM businesses are located," said SM Prime President [Jeffrey Lim](#). "SM is fortunate to be a partner in this worthy undertaking and we look forward to a more sustainable and disaster-resilient society."

For more information, visit www.smprime.com/sustainability-overview.



Nestlé says aims to plant 3.5 million trees in PH starting in Mindanao

Bruce Rodriguez, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 07 2021 06:19 PM

MANILA – Nestlé said Thursday it aims to plant 3.5 million native tree species and bamboo in the country, starting with Mindanao, as part of the global food and drink giant's reforestation commitment.

The local initiative is called "Para Sa Susunod na Henerasyon Project: Nestlé's Reforestation" and is in partnership with One Tree Planted and EcoPlanet Bamboo.

"Bamboo is very efficient in absorbing CO2 emissions and that's going to be really playing a key role also for us in reducing our carbon footprint and eventually achieving that net-zero in 2050," said Kais Marzouki, chairman and CEO of Nestlé Philippines.

Emily Kunen, global climate delivery leader for forests at Nestlé, said they're starting the preparatory works for the project right away ahead of the planting phase in August 2022.

She added the Philippine initiative is among the first projects under its global reforestation commitment.

"As part of that, we committed to planting 200 million trees by 2030. So this initiative today is part of our commitment, it's one of our earliest projects that we're launching," Kunen explained.

Alaistar Jones, One Tree Planted major projects manager for Asia Pacific said, the public can also help improve reforestation efforts by supporting indigenous peoples, making more sustainable choices in buying products, and encouraging governments to intervene.

"Work with governments and others to increase existing forests that are under protected areas. This doesn't mean we should be excluding communities from those protected areas. We can have protected areas that are indigenous-owned and operated as well," Jones noted.

Aside from reforestation initiatives, Marzouki also shared that they're working on producing plastic alternatives for their packaging like paper-based products.

"Unfortunately plastic packaging is very effective especially for food-grade products because it's the most affordable barrier to contamination for our products," he said.

Despite this Marzouki assured the consumers that they're set to test the alternative packaging in select markets across the globe including the Philippines, making sure these would not increase their carbon footprint while being recyclable and/or biodegradable.



Scientists find new goby fish species in the Philippines, 2 others in Japan

Published October 7, 2021 11:11pm

Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (PBCFI)
on Wednesday

NEW SPECIES ALERT
A team of biologists from Japan and the Philippines have identified three new species of goby fish, belonging to the genus *Lentipes*. They were described in a study published today in the journal, *Systematics and Biodiversity*.

One of the new species was found living in the Philippine archipelago of Palawan and has been given the Latin scientific name *Lentipes palawanirufus*, which translates as "red *Lentipes* goby of Palawan". The other two new species were fou... [See More](#)

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A male of the new species, *Lentipes palawanirufus*, found in a stream in Palawan, Philippines. Credit: Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University website. Photos by Ken Maeda

Scientists from the Philippines and Japan have discovered a new species of goby fish in the province of Palawan in the Philippines and two new species in Okinawa, Japan.

The new species found in Palawan has been named *Lentipes palawanirufus* which when translated means "red *Lentipes* goby of Palawan."

The species found in Okinawa have been named *Lentipes kijimuna* and *Lentipes bunagaya*, inspired by the red-colored wood spirits, *Kijimuna* and *Bunagaya*, from Okinawan folk mythology.

The description of the new species were detailed in a report published in the journal, *Systematics and Biodiversity* and posted on the [Okinawa Institute](#) of Science and Technology Graduate University website.

The report was shared by the Philippine Biodiversity and Conservation Foundation Inc. (PBCFI) social media page.

"The names were inspired by *Kijimuna* and *Bunagaya*, who are wood spirits in Okinawan folk mythology usually portrayed as having red hair or skin," said Dr. Ken Maeda, first author of the study and staff scientist in the Marine Eco-Evo-Devo Unit at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST).

"Like their namesakes, these two new species have red markings on their body," he added.



Lentipes kijimuna was the first species discovered back in 2005. In 2010, Maeda found three more male fish in Okinawa with the same unique red coloration and collected one of them for later study. And then in 2012, he discovered a second color morph, also male.

It was during surveys of freshwater fish in Palawan between 2015 and 2018 in a collaboration project between OIST and the Western Philippines University that Maeda found males that displayed a third variation in color, with a bright red head and a reddish-brown lower body. --

BAP, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/806012/scientists-find-new-goby-fish-species-in-the-philippines-2-others-in-japan/story/?fbclid=IwAR1_n9gm_z1B-jOJSj9n94GPSsTcKgfWbfh3u8Ab9IzN2MctqKLTrz1qOG8



Nahuling Phil. Serpent Eagle, ipinasakamay sa Ilagan Sanctuary

By **Bombo Radyo Cauayan** - October 8, 2021 | 1:25 AM

CAUAYAN CITY- Nasa pangangalaga na ng Ilagan Sanctuary ang Serpent Eagle nailigtas ng mga kasapi ng Cauayan City Police Station sa Alicaocao overflow bridge.

Sa naging panayam ng Bombo Radyo Cauayan, inihayag ni PCaptain Essem Galiza, Chief ng Provincial Community Affairs and Development Unit-IPPO na isang concerned citizen ang nagbigay impormasyon sa nakitang Serpent Eagle na kanilang narecover sa Alicaocao Overflow Bridge .

Mahinang mahina anya ang Serpent Eagle nang kanilang marescue dahil kasagsagan ng bagyo nang makita na inalagaan ng mga kasapi ng PNP Cauayan City ng tatlong buwan at nang malakas na ang Eagle ay saka ipinasakamay sa Isabela Police Provincial Office (IPPO)

Ang naturang serpent eagle ay ipinasakamay naman IPPO sa Ilagan Sanctuary .

Alam anya nilang maalagaan ang Eagle dahil ito ang pangalawang Serpent Eagle na kanilang ipinasakamay sa Ilagan Sanctuary.



Nobel Physics Prize honors climate work

[Johannes Ledel](#) - Agence France-Presse October 7, 2021 | 7:40am



Goran K. Hansson (C), Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and members of the Nobel Committee for Physics Thors Hans Hansson (L) and John Wettlaufer (R) sit in front of a screen displaying the co-winners of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics (L-R) Syukuro Manabe (US-Japan), Klaus Hasselmann (Germany) and Giorgio Parisi (Italy) at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden, on October 5, 2021. US-Japanese scientist Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann of Germany and Giorgio Parisi of Italy won the Nobel Physics Prize for climate models and the understanding of physical systems, the jury said. Manabe and Hasselmann share one half of the prize for their research on climate models, while Parisi won the other half for his work on the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems.

AFP / Jonathan NACKSTRAND

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Japanese-American scientist Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann of Germany and Giorgio Parisi of Italy on Tuesday won the Nobel Physics Prize for climate models and the understanding of physical systems.

The Nobel committee said it was sending a message with its prize announcement just weeks before the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, as the rate of global warming sets off alarm bells around the world.

"The world leaders that haven't got the message yet, I'm not sure they will get it because we are saying it," said Thor Hans Hansson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics.

"But... what we are saying is that the modelling of climate is solidly based in physics theory."

Manabe, 90, and Hasselmann, 89, will share half of the 10 million kronor (\$1.1 million, one million euro) prize for their research on climate models.

Parisi, 73, won the other half for his work on the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems.

"Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann laid the foundation of our knowledge of the Earth's climate and how humanity influences it," the Nobel Committee said.

"Giorgio Parisi is rewarded for his revolutionary contributions to the theory of disordered materials and random processes," it added.

Manabe, who left Japan for the US in the 1950s, is affiliated with Princeton University, while Hasselmann is a professor at the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg.

Parisi, who also won the prestigious Wolf Prize in February, is a professor at Rome's Sapienza University.

Facing climate change

Working in the 1960s, Manabe showed how levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere correspond to increased Earth surface temperatures. Crucially, he recognized the role of water vapour in trapping heat, which is much more than carbon dioxide alone.



Manabe's seminal models, carried out at a time when computer power was a fraction of what they are today, remain a blueprint for the field.

But at the time he had little idea of his work's critical importance, telling reporters at a press event at Princeton, New Jersey, that he carried out his research "because I really had great fun".

Hasselmann was credited for working out how climate models can remain reliable despite sometimes chaotic variation in weather trends.

The Committee praised his identification of climate "fingerprints" caused by both natural and human activities and how much climate change can be attributed solely to man-made emissions.

"In 30 to 100 years, depending on how much fossil fuel we consume, we will face a very significant climate change," Hasselmann said in a 1988 interview, according to a statement from the Max Planck Society in Germany.

Hasselmann received an ovation from his work colleagues when the news broke.

"It was a bit strange for me, and it took a little longer for the audience to understand (my research)," he said

"Personally, I am very grateful that young people have taken up the problem," he added.

'A huge threat to humanity'

While scientists have been warning about dire climate outcomes for decades, there has not been nearly enough policy progress on transitioning from fossil fuels.

Asked for his views on the intersection of science and politics, Manabe said: "To try to understand climate change is not too easy, but it's much, much easier than what is happening in current politics."

Parisi was honoured for his work in the 1980s that was said by the Committee to be "among the most important contributions" to the theory of complex systems.

His work helped physicists understand apparently entirely random materials, with wide-ranging applications including mathematics, biology and machine learning.

Linking Manabe and Hasselman's work to Parisi's, the Nobel Foundation said this year's prize "recognises new methods for describing complex systems and predicting their long-term behaviour.

"One complex system of vital importance to humankind is Earth's climate."

"I think the award is important not only for me but also for the other two because climate change is a huge threat to humanity and it is extremely important that governments act resolutely as quickly as possible," Parisi told a press conference at the Lincean Academy in Rome.

'Drought and wildfire'

Tuesday's award was the first Nobel in physics to honour climate work, but the subject has previously received Nobel recognition in other disciplines.

The UN's IPCC, which received the Peace Prize together with former US vice president Al Gore in 2007, welcomed the award and congratulated the laureates in a statement.

"It is encouraging to see the Nobel Physics Prize recognising the work of scientists who have contributed so much to our understanding of climate change," said Hoesung Lee, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change.



He noted that both Manabe and Hasselmann had contributed to the IPCC's assessment reports in the 1990s.

When Manabe learned he won the physics Nobel, he cast his mind to the luminaries who came before him and thought "My God, this is a big surprise that I got this award," he said.

But after considering the current climate crisis, and that his contribution was a step towards understanding it better, "Then I thought, maybe it's okay." — with Pia Ohlin

Merkel and Pope Francis discuss climate change in farewell visit

Reuters / 04:35 AM October 08, 2021



Pope Francis receives outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel during her visit to the Vatican on October 7, 2021. Vatican Media/Handout via REUTERS

VATICAN CITY — Outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Thursday the response to climate change would require a radical change in how people live as she met Pope Francis during a farewell visit to the Vatican and Italy.

Pope Francis and other religious leaders made a joint appeal on Monday for next month's U.N. Climate Change Conference COP26 to offer concrete solutions to save the planet from "an unprecedented ecological crisis."

Merkel praised the Pope's position.

"Humanity's response to climate change will require a radical change in our way of living," she told reporters after the pair also discussed biodiversity, the future of the European Union, world conflicts, and sexual abuse in the Church.

Merkel and Pope Francis, who have met several times before, spoke privately in the papal library of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace for about 45 minutes.

In an interview with a Spanish radio network last month, Pope Francis called Merkel, who has led Germany for 16 years, "one of the world's greatest political figures."

Before seeing the Pope, she met German Jesuit Father Hans Zollner and others at the new offices of the Pontifical Gregorian University's program to prevent sexual abuse.

On Wednesday the Pope expressed his shame following a major investigation in France that revealed that French clergy had abused more than 200,000 children over 70 years.

Several investigations in Germany in the past few years have also revealed widespread abuse. "The truth must come to light," Merkel said after meeting the Pope.

The Vatican said in a statement Merkel and the Pope also discussed migration and the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the end of the private part of the audience, Pope Francis and Merkel, the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, exchanged gifts.



Pope Francis, 84, gave Merkel copies of some of his writings and a miniature reproduction of one of the bronze doors of St. Peter's Basilica and she gave him a three-volume collection about the gospels and a book on Michelangelo.

The 67-year-old Merkel, whose conservatives lost in Germany's September 26 election to the center-left Social Democrats, later met Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, the former head of the European Central Bank, which is based in Germany.

"The Chancellor has been able to lead Germany and the European Union with calm, determination and sincere Europeanism," Draghi said at their meeting at his official residence, Palazzo Chigi, in Rome.

"She transformed Germany's role in Europe. We will miss her," he said.



Climate change set to worsen resource degradation

October 7, 2021 | 5:20 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ MICHAEL VARCAS

MADRID — A vicious cycle linking the depletion of natural resources with violent conflict may have gone past the point of no return in parts of the world and is likely to be exacerbated by climate change, a report said on Thursday.

Food insecurity, lack of water and the impact of natural disasters, combined with high population growth, are stoking conflict and displacing people in vulnerable areas, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) think-tank said.

IEP uses data from the United Nations and other sources to predict the countries and regions most at risk in its “Ecological Threat Register.”

Serge Stroobants, IEP director for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa said the report identified 30 “hotspot” countries — home to 1.26 billion people — as facing most risks.

This is based on three criteria relating to scarcity of resources, and five focusing on disasters including floods, droughts and rising temperatures.

“We don’t even need climate change to see potential system collapse, just the impact of those eight ecological threats can lead to this — of course climate change is reinforcing it,” Mr. Stroobants said.

Afghanistan gets the worst score on the report, which says its ongoing conflict has damaged its ability to cope with risks to water and food supplies, climate change, and alternating floods and droughts.

Conflict in turn leads to further resource degradation, according to the findings.

Six seminars including governments, military institutions and development groups last year returned the message that “it is unlikely that the international community will reverse the vicious cycles in some parts of the world,” IEP said.

This is particularly the case in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, which has seen more and worsening conflicts over the last decade, it said.

“With tensions already escalating, it can only be expected that climate change will have an amplifying effect on many of these issues,” the report said. — **Reuters**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/climate-change-set-to-worsen-resource-degradation/>



Environmentalist new Peru PM

By [Agence France-Presse](#) October 8, 2021

LIMA: Peruvian President [Pedro Castillo](#) accepted the resignation of his prime minister on Wednesday and replaced him with a female environmental activist.

Under Peruvian law, the prime minister's resignation automatically triggered that of the entire Cabinet.

Hours later, Castillo swore in environmental and human rights activist Mirtha Vasquez, 46, as his new prime minister in a move seen as a sop to the moderate wing of the informal leftist coalition that supports him.

Castillo gave no reasons for replacing [Guido Bellido](#) as premier, who was a more hard-line leftist. Bellido's resignation letter said he was acting at Castillo's "request."

The leftist president, who used to be a rural school teacher, called for "unity" from [Peru's](#) economic, political and social sectors to "achieve common objectives" such as reactivating the economy.

Castillo's July appointment of electronic engineer Bellido, a political novice, was controversial from the start.

Peruvian media reported that Bellido, 41, was investigated by prosecutors for allegedly defending terrorism with statements made shortly after taking up his seat in parliament in June.

In comments to the [Inka Vision online](#) news outlet, he appeared to defend people who supported the [Shining Path](#) Maoist guerrilla group that fought the state from 1980 to 2000 and is designated a terrorist organization by Lima.

In August, Castillo seemed to have staved off a political crisis when the right-wing dominated congress approved his Cabinet following a bitter debate.

Until then, Peru had been in a state of political uncertainty since the beginning of the year when the electoral campaign got under way.

Peru has suffered years of political upheaval and a series of corruption scandals saw three different presidents in office in a single week last November.



Bagyong 'Maring' posibleng hagipin Babuyan Islands sa Lunes

By [James Relativo](#)(Philstar.com) - October 7, 2021 - 6:17pm



Satellite image ng Tropical Depression Maring mula sa kalawakan

MANILA, Philippines — Isa na namang bagyo ang nakapasok ng Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) ngayong araw, bagay na sumunod sa [kalalabas lang na bagyong "Lannie."](#) ayon sa PAGASA.

Bandang 4 p.m. nang mamatan ang Tropical Depression Maring 505 kilometro silangan ng Virac, Catanduanes ngayong Huwebes.

- **Lakas ng hangin:** 45 kilometro kada oras malapit sa gitna
- **Bugso ng hangin:** 55 kilometro kada oras
- **Direksyon:** timog timogsilangan
- **Bilis ng kilos:** 15 kilometro kada oras

Bandang 2 p.m. nang mabuo ang bagyong "Maring" matapos lumakas ng isang low pressure area sa Philippine Sea kanina.

"By Sunday afternoon, it will move west northwestward towards Extreme Northern Luzon and may pass close or make landfall over Babuyan Islands by Monday," dagdag pa ng state weather bureau.

"MARING' is forecast to remain tropical depression while moving over the Philippine Sea and may intensify into tropical storm by Sunday afternoon."

May katamtaman hanggang mataas na tiyansang mag-develop pa lalo ang bagyo at itaas ang Tropical Cyclone Wind Signals (TCWS) sa ilang probinsya ng Northern Luzon pagsapit ng Sabado ng umaga o hapon.

Sa ngayon, pinakamataas na posibleng itaas na TCWS ay Signal no. 2, ngunit maaari pang tumaas ito mula roon.

Wala pang nakababang TCWS sa ngayon sa anumang bahagi ng Pilipinas. Gayunpaman, magdadala ng mga katamtaman at minsanang malalakas na pag-ulan ang bagyo sa Eastern Visayas.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/10/07/2132487/bagyong-maring-posibleng-hagipin-babuyan-islands-sa-lunes/amp/>

08 OCTOBER 2021, FRIDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

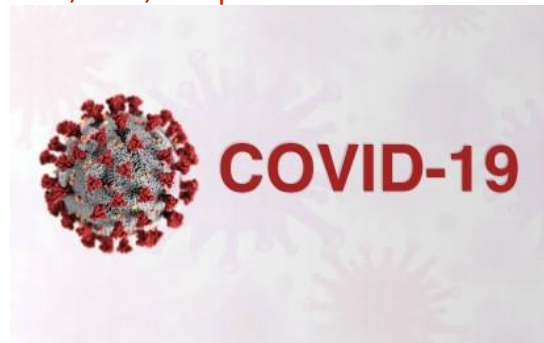
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH Covid-19 recovery tally rises by 7K to 2,478,616

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor October 7, 2021, 7:32 pm



MANILA – The country's overall tally of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) patients who have recovered from the disease has reached 2,478,616 as 7,425 new recoveries were recorded as of Thursday.

The Department of Health (DOH) said the figure is equivalent to a 94.1-percent recovery rate from a total of 2,632,881 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

The DOH also tallied 10,019 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number of active cases in the country to 115,328 or 4.4 percent of all cases.

Of the active cases, 77.7 percent are mild, 13.6 percent are asymptomatic, 1.2 percent are severe, 5.33 percent are moderate, and 1.2 percent are in critical condition.

There were 109 new fatalities, bringing the nation's death toll to 38,937 or 1.48 percent of the total cases.

The DOH said it will be reporting additional deaths tomorrow in a separate advisory, to reflect numbers not included in the previous case bulletins due to technical issues encountered with COVIDKaya.

It added 55 duplicates were removed from the total case count as 35 of those were recoveries.

Moreover, 56 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

According to DOH data on Oct. 5, about 18.1 percent of 56,418 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on Oct. 5 while four laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the last 14 days, the four non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 0.3 percent of samples tested and 0.4 percent of positive individuals.

To date, 72 percent of 4,500 intensive care unit beds, 56 percent of 21,100 isolation beds, 60 percent of 15,500 ward beds, and 51 percent of 3,300 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

In Metro Manila, 71 percent of 1,600 intensive care unit beds, 48 percent of 4,800 isolation beds, 55 percent of 4,300 ward beds, and 52 percent of 1,100 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are being used. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1155947>



COVID-19 infections nadagdagan ng 10,019 sa 'Pinas, sumipa na sa 2.63 milyong

Philstar.com October 7, 2021 | 4:57pm



Commuters line-up at the Roosevelt EDSA Bus Carousel station during a Monday morning rush hour in Quezon City on Oct. 4, 2021.

The STAR/Boy Santos

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 10,019 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Huwebes, kung kaya't nasa 2,632,881 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

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

- **lahat ng kaso:** 2,632,881
- **nagpapagaling pa:** 115,328, o 4.4% ng *total infections*
- **bagong recover:** 7,425, dahilan para maging 2,478,616 na *lahat ng gumagaling*
- **kamamatay lang:** 109, na siyang nag-aakyat sa *total local death toll sa 39,937*

'Pinas kulelat sa COVID-19 recovery report

- Huli ang Pilipinas sa 121 bansa pagdating sa September COVID-19 recovery report ng Nikkei Asia. Huling nasa ika-108 ang bansa noong Hulyo at ika-106 noong Agosto.
- Aabot sa [1.01 milyong doses ng Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines ang lumapag ng Pilipinas kagabi](#), bagay na dagdag na naman sa suplay ng gamot na prinocure ng bansa laban sa pandemya.
- Tumuntong naman na sa [22.65 milyong katao ang nakatatanggap ng kumpletong doses ng COVID-19 vaccines](#). Ito'y matapos maiturok ang nasa 48.39 doses ng gamot simula noong ika-1 ng Marso.
- Bagama't aminado ang DOH na bumababa na uli ang COVID-19 cases sa bansa, nagbabala si Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na 'wag makampante. Aniya, "[somewhat full](#)" pa rin ang maraming ospital ngayon dahil sa contagion.
- Umabot na sa 235.67 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, [ayon sa huling datos ng World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.81 milyong katao.

— James Relativo

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/10/07/2132472/covid-19-infections-nadagdagan-ng-10019-sa-pinaz-sumipa-na-sa-263-m>



Lockdown areas down to 186 areas

BY LARRY PAYAWAL

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has placed 186 areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) middle of this week due to the high concentration of Covid-19 cases in 122 barangays.

Aside from 687 PNP personnel, 701 force multipliers were also deployed to ensure security and adherence to minimum health standards by the residents of 133 houses, 19 residential buildings, 15 streets, 14 subdivisions or villages, and a settlement in Metro Manila.

Local government units have identified these areas where Covid-19 cases are rampant, the PNP Public Information Office said.

Aside from 687 PNP personnel, 701 force multipliers were also deployed to ensure security and adherence to minimum health standards by the residents of 133 houses, 19 residential buildings, 15 streets, 14 subdivisions or villages, and a settlement in Metro Manila.

The lockdowns are being imposed following Metro Manila Council head and Parañaque Mayor Edwin Olivarez's statement that a single Covid-19 case in a confined area – like a house or a condominium building – can be enough cause to declare a lockdown.

Two cases in a street will mean the closure of the critical zone.

The Inter-Agency Task Force extended the pilot implementation of the Alert Levels System in the NCR until 15 October.



Philippines last among 121 countries in COVID-19 recovery index

[Louella Desiderio](#), [Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star October 8, 2021 | 12:00am



A giant mural with theme of new normal wearing face mask and face shield as the people passersby at the Eastwood in Libis Quezon City (September 29, 2021).

Photo / Boy Santos, file

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines dropped to the lowest rank in the latest index covering 121 countries released by Nikkei Asia which looks at COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.

With a score of 30.5, the Philippines placed at the bottom of the Nikkei COVID-19 Recovery Index, which ranks countries by gauging infection management, vaccine rollout and social mobility at the end of each month.

A country with a higher ranking shows it is closer to bouncing back from the pandemic through its low number of COVID-19 cases, better vaccination rates and less mobility restrictions.

In the previous index released by Nikkei Asia last month based on data as of Aug. 31, the Philippines ranked second to last among 121 countries.

Among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia ranked the highest in the latest index as it took 54th place.

It was followed by Singapore (70th), Cambodia (76th), Malaysia (102nd), Myanmar (105th), Thailand (109th), Vietnam (118th) and Laos (120th).

Malta, which got a score of 73, topped the index.

China, which ranked first since the index was first released in July, fell to ninth spot.

Nikkei Asia's report on the latest COVID-19 Recovery Index said the Philippines has seen daily new cases drop after hitting the second highest level on Sept. 29, falling below 10,000 on Tuesday for the first time since August.

"But less than 30 percent of the population is vaccinated, low even among ASEAN countries," it said.

Nikkei Asia also cited the Philippines' pilot of granular lockdowns in Metro Manila last month which allowed the easing of some restrictions, but kept the stay-at-home orders for those below 18 and above 65 years old.



“The country is gradually easing restrictions on businesses to revive the economy, allowing gyms to reopen and increasing restaurant dining and salon capacities for vaccinated individuals,” it noted.

Palace reacts

In response, Malacañang echoed the World Health Organization (WHO)’s recent statement that the Philippines has a “very good comprehensive plan.”

“Regarding Nikkei, I won’t answer that anymore but I will just cite what the WHO country and regional representative said... I will start with the statement of WHO Country Representative Rabindra Abeyasinghe: ‘Don’t be discouraged by the fact that you have a lot of cases being reported nationally, that is an acknowledgement of the fact that you have expanded your testing capacity,’” presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said in a statement.

Roque said Abeyasinghe had also mentioned that the Philippines has one of the lowest proportions of fatalities in the region, an indication that the country’s hospital capacity has expanded.

“This is what the WHO country representative said: ‘I believe that the Philippines has a very good comprehensive plan. What we are concerned about is oftentimes the actual rollout phases (or) challenges although you planned very well,’” the Palace spokesman said.

Noting that social mobility was one of the indicators of the survey, Roque said the Philippines has adopted measures to promote livelihood during the pandemic.

“We are piloting various measures including localized lockdown and alert levels to prevent total wide scale lockdowns that prevent us from returning to normal,” he said.

“While we are on lockdown, we can’t go back to our previous setup. But we are giving priority to livelihood and as much as possible. We are opening the economy, which is the subject of intense debates in the IATF (Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases). But we hear the appeal of the majority that they should have livelihood,” he added.

Metro Manila is under Alert Level 4 until Oct. 15.

Department of Health (DOH) Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the Nikkei Asia survey was conducted in September, the peak of the Delta variant in the Philippines.

“When they were measuring the infection rates, that was the time when the number of cases in our country is really higher compared to other countries, whose peak had passed,” she said.

Vergeire said vaccination was also affected by the increase in the number of cases in the country.

“But of course, at the end of the day, we are boosting the vaccination drive. We shifted our policy so we can reopen our economy and of course, we are seeing the lowering of cases and we are managing well because our deaths are still below that of the global average,” she added.



US completes delivery of 5.57M Pfizer doses to PH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **October 7, 2021, 11:11 am**



GENEROUS VAX DONATION. US Embassy in the Philippines Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim Heather Variava joins vaccine czar Secretary Carlos Galvez Jr., in welcoming the arrival of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine doses at the NAIA on Oct. 2, 2021. The US government has completed the delivery of its donated 5.57 million Pfizer vaccine doses to help boost the Philippines' response against the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. *(Photo courtesy of US Embassy in Manila)*

MANILA – The United States government has completed the delivery of its donated 5.57 million Pfizer vaccine doses to help boost the Philippines' response against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

The US, through the COVAX Facility, delivered in five separate shipments a total of 5,575,050 vaccine doses to Manila, Cebu and Davao between October 1 to 6.

“The United States is very happy to be able to provide safe and effective vaccines not just to Manila, but to the greater Philippines and to the central and southern part of the Philippines as well,” US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim Heather Variava said Thursday.

These additional donations were part of the 500 million Pfizer doses the US is making available for distribution globally through COVAX, an initiative to support equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines.

As the largest donor to the COVAX Facility, the US has facilitated the delivery of more than 21.6 million jabs to the Philippines, including more than 8.8 million doses directly donated by the American people.

The US Embassy in Manila said it would continue to work closely with the Philippines throughout the pandemic to protect public health and support the local response against the virus.

To date, the total US government's Covid-19 assistance to the Philippines amounts to over PHP1.9 billion. **(PNA)**



Making VaxCertPH available, accessible

This VaxCertPH is a big help to many Filipinos who wish to travel abroad and for OFW who are due for deployment as it will make their movement abroad unhampered with digital proof of their vaccination.

Published 9 hours ago on October 7, 2021 10:01 PM

By **Harry Roque** @AttyHarryRoque



Our national digital vaccination certificate called VaxCertPH will now be available for more Filipinos who will be departing from the Philippines for international travel.

I was in Clark, Pampanga last Monday, 4 October, where the soft launch of VaxCertPH was held for the Central Luzon and CALABARZON.

During the said event, the national government through the Department of Health (DoH) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), signed a partnership agreement with SM Prime Holdings Inc. to set up booths in select SM malls where people can get a copy of their vaccination certificates.

The vaccination certificates can be generated through an online portal developed by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) for the DoH.

According to the DILG, the portal, which is self-service, can be used by people who have no access to the application on smartphones. Wrong information can also be rectified through the portal.

The VaxCertPH will be used by Filipinos traveling abroad as proof of their vaccination in the country. The soft launch is currently limited to overseas Filipino workers (OFW) and other Filipinos who will be traveling abroad. Previously, the VaxCertPH was also soft-launched in the National Capital Region.

During the event in Clark, SM Supermalls President Steven Tan lauded the partnership and said that SM is pleased to be of service to the Filipino people in making the vaccination certificate accessible to Filipinos going abroad, especially for the OFW.

SM is the first official venue partner of the VAXCERTPH, a program initiative of the government which digitizes vaccination records from the local government units. As of today, four million jobs have been completed at SM Malls nationwide.

To make the vaccination certificate available for all requesting individuals, the DICT is urging all local government units to upload complete and accurate data to the DICT's Vaccine Information Management Systems. The DICT is also reminding the public to make sure that the information that they give during their vaccination is complete and accurate to make it easy for them to get the vaccine certificate.



Make sure also that the information that you put in your vaccination forms matches the information in your passport so that you can use the vaccination certificate in your travel outside of the country.

This VaxCertPH is a big help to many Filipinos who wish to travel abroad and for OFW who are due for deployment as it will make their movement abroad unhampered with digital proof of their vaccination.

VaxCertPH will soon be made available nationwide so that more Filipinos can have access to their vaccination certificates.



PAGMAHAL NG ANTIGEN TEST BANTAYAN NA



October 7, 2021 @ 5:27 PM 13 hours ago

KAMAKAILAN lang, mga Bro, sinabi nating posibleng magmahal ang rapid COVID-19 test o antigen test sa dara-ting na mga araw.

Dahil sa nagaganap na kakulangan ng suplay nito, anomang araw, magaganap na sa ating bansa ang pagtaas ng presyo nito.

Noong una, sinabi nating magmamahal ang rapid o antigen test makaraang sabihin ng Department of Health na pwede na tayong gagamit ng nasabing uri ng test para sa mabilisang pagsusuri.

Ito'y dahil marami ang bibili at gagamit nito sa halip na sasailalim sa reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction test.

Sa Metro Manila, nagkakahalaga ngayon ang antigen o rapid test ng humigit-kumulang sa P500 o P1,000 sa mga lalawigan kada piraso samantalang naglalaro sa P3,000 ang rt-pcr.

Ngayong nagkakabalitaan ang kakulangan ng suplay ng antigen test, hindi kaya magdodoble o magtitriple ang presyo nito?

PAGKAKAIBA NG MGA TEST

Bago tayo magpatuloy sa pagtalakay sa pagmamahal ng antigen test, magandang kapain natin ang pagkakaiba nito at ang rt-pcr test at isama na rin natin ang serology test.

Paliwanag ng mga eksperto, sa rt-pcr, mismong ang virus ang nakikita at kinakayod ito mula sa ilong, lalamunan o iba pang parte ng katawan at malalaman kung kasalukuyang may impeksyon o kinapitan ng COVID ang tao.

Sa antigen test, ang protina ng virus ng COVID ang nakikita nito at malalaman kung tinamaan ang tao sa oras na isinasalang ito sa pagsusuri.

Sa serology o pagkuha ng dugo, malalaman kung may anti-bodies ang tao laban sa COVID na tumama sa kanya sa nakalipas na mga araw o panahon.

Sa rt-pcr, umaabot sa 2-4 araw ang resulta samantalang minuto lang sa antigen test at nasa 30 minuto-1 oras sa serology.

Sa rt-pcr, halos hindi na kinakailangan ang ikalawang test pero sa antigen at serology tests, kung nagpositibo ang tao, pwedeng igawan ng kumpirmasyon sa pamamagitan ng rt-pcr.

SUPLAY SA US

Tatlong kompanya ang gumagawa ng antigen test sa US, kabilang na ang Abbott laboratories at Quidel at may isang bagong kompanya ng nagtatayo nito.

Sa 30 na antigen test na gawa, 6 lang ang aprubado ng Food and Drug Administration nila.



Ngayon, mga Bro, nang iutos ni President Joe Biden na lahat ng kompanyang may 100 obrero pataas ang bilang na dapat mag-COVID test linggo-linggo kung hindi bakunado, nagkarambola ang mga kompanya sa pagbili ng antigen test.

Sumabay pa ang mga nagbukas na eskwela na nangangailangan din ng antigen test at ang mga estado sa US na may programang maramihang testing.

Nagaganap ang lahat ng ito sa pagsalakay ng Delta variant na pumapatay sa nasa 2,000 araw-araw sa US.

Ngayon kinukulang na ang suplay dahil sa milyon-milyong nangangailangan nito.

Magmula naman sa dating \$2-3 kada piraso, anak ng tokwa, umakyat na ang presyo sa \$10-15 kada piraso sa online selling.

Hindi lang 'yan.

Pinataas na ng Abbott ang presyo sa \$23 kada piraso at ang Quidel sa \$15 at sila ang may pinakamahal na antigen test.

Magkano ang mga ito kung dumating na sa Pinas...kung sa mga kompanyang Amerikano tayo bumibili?

SA IBANG BANSA

Sa ibang bansa naman, bultuhan kung bumili sila sa mga kompanya na maaaring Amerikano o Europeo o India.

Kaya naman, sa Germany, makabibili ka sa mga grocery store ng \$1 sa bawat piraso.

Pero sa United Kingdom at Canada libre.

Sa India, nagbebenta sila ng \$3.50 kada piraso.

Sa India ba tayo bumibili ng antigen test at kaya may presyong P500 sa Pinas, sa Metro Manila lalo na?

MIDDLEMEN NAGSASAMANTALA RIN

Isa sa mga sakit sa ulo ng Amerikano ang pagdaan ng mga antigen test sa mga midd-leman o tagabenta.

Bumibili ang mga ito ng bulto o kaya'y naghahanap ang mga ito ng mga kliyente para sa mga kompanyang antigen test maker at, siyempre pa, naririyang ang pagpatong nila sa presyo.

Kaya naman, nagdodoble o nagtitriple o nagka-quadruplet o nagki-quintuplet ang presyo, lalo na kung mga pribadong kompanya ang middleman.

Sa Pilipinas, may pagbili ba mismo ang gobyerno o dinaraan sa government-to-government o government-to-company para mas mura at tiyak ang kalidad ng mga test na ito?

Tinatanong natin ito dahil sa pahayag ng DOH na tatanggapin na nila ang resulta ng antigen test bilang bahagi ng rekord nito laban sa COVID-19.

Sana naman, makontrol ng pamahalaan ang mga switik at mapagsamantala sa antigen test sa presyo at kalidad ng mga ito.

oOo

Anomang reklamo o puna, iparating lang sa www.remate.ph o i-text sa 0921-4303333

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/pagmahal-ng-antigen-test-bantayan-na/>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 572

OKTUBRE 7, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

4.4%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
115,328

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

94.1%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,478,616

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.48%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
38,937

MGA BAGONG KASO **10,019**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **7,425**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **109**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,632,881**

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

18.1%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

56,418

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
90.8%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

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 (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)
72% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (21.1K TOTAL BEDS)
56% Utilized

WARD BEDS (15.5K TOTAL BEDS)
60% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.3K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
51% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.6K TOTAL BEDS)
71% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.8K TOTAL BEDS)
48% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS)
55% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
52% Utilized

Mild 77.1%

13.6% Asymptomatic

1.2% Critical

2.7% Severe

5.33% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

The DOH will be reporting additional deaths tomorrow in a separate advisory, to reflect numbers not included in the previous case bulletins due technical issues encountered with COVIDKaya.

Itatak natin sa ating mga puso't isip ang mahigpit na pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards**, saan man tayo patungo o naroroon. Kaakibat nito ang pagiging alisto sa ating mga sintomas para sa ating lubos na kaligtasan. Sa oras na makaramdam ng sintomas, makipag-ugnayan sa atin **BHERTS**, o ang **One COVID Referral Center**, na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

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



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

MESSSENGER: 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

08 OCTOBER 2021, FRIDAY



DENR

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
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#manilaupdate #manilabay #manilabaydolomitesand

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





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
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



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