

09 AUGUST 2021, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR-MGB clamps down on illegal small-scale miners in Nueva Vizcaya

August 8, 2021 3 min read

By: Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led the dismantling of various illegal mining equipment during a series of operations conducted against small-scale mining activities in Quezon town, Nueva Vizcaya province recently.

The joint operations which were carried out by MGB-Region 2, DENR Region 2, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Nueva Vizcaya, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Aritao, National Bureau of Investigation-Region 2, Philippine National Police, and Armed Forces of the Philippines, in coordination with FCF Minerals Corporation, cracked down on ball mills, shafting, diesel engines, pulleys, and other equipment used in illegal small-scale mining activities at Barangay Runruno.

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

MGB-Region 2 Director Mario A. Ancheta said the absence of documents, permits, or authority in the conduct of mining operations and the transport of minerals/mineral products and by-products will be considered as prima facie evidence of illegal mining.

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

Prior to the operation, MGB-Region 2 directed an investigation of the ongoing small-scale mining operations within the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) contract area of mining firm FCF Minerals Corporation.

MGB said that the firm has not yet utilized or developed the said area.



Given the location, Ancheta pointed out that the mining area cannot be declared as a “Minahang Bayan” site.

He added that despite constant dialogues and warnings, the small-scale miners, who were identified to be illegal settlers, continued to defy the MGB’s order to vacate and leave the area.

The MGB-Region 2 served cease-and-desist orders against the illegal mining activities last month.

“I have previously proposed to these illegal miners to look for other areas that can be applied for as Minahang Bayan since this area is prohibited. However, they continue to extract the area,” Ancheta said.

Charges will be filed against the miners for violation of Republic Act (RA) 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and RA 7076 or the People’s Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991.

The implementing rules and regulations of RA 7076 state that: “No small-scale mining shall be undertaken outside a Minahang Bayan and that no entity shall engage in small-scale mining without a small-scale mining contract.”

MGB-Region 2 has been monitoring the activities in the area since a landslide occurred on Nov. 13, 2020. It has previously been recommended to the local government of Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya to relocate the illegal settlers. (ai/mtvn)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/08/08/denr-mgb-clamps-down-on-illegal-small-scale-miners-in-nueva-vizcaya/?fbclid=IwAR0Vwh0J6inH4YLyU57TUGXJ_pndRdCxeiLNfHnbLUccSmLtGuLLxKExSNQ



Philippine Sailfin Lizards rescued in Zamboanga City

Published 19 hours ago on August 8, 2021 10:26 AM

By [Nonoy Lacson](#)



The Philippine Sailfin Lizards (*Hydrosaurus pustulatus*), locally known as “Ibid” was rescued by DENR-9 operatives from a resident in Barangay Victoria, Zamboanga City.

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Zamboanga peninsula (DENR-9) confiscated two Philippine Sailfin Lizards (*Hydrosaurus pustulatus*), locally known as “Ibid”, from a resident of Barangay Victoria.

Executive Director Crisanta Marlene P. Rodriguez confirmed yesterday that the operatives of DENR-9 Enforcement Division immediately validated the report last Thursday.

Her office ordered an investigation after receiving a call from a concerned citizen on the presence of two Philippine Sailfin Lizards being offered for sale to a Malaysian trader at a price of P50,000 each.

According to Enforcement Division Chief Cidur Julsadjiri, the caretaker of the “Ibid” failed to show documents allowing them to keep the wildlife.

The caretaker denied any involvement in the business and informed the team that it was only entrusted to them by a friend.

“This is a clear violation of Section 27 of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act wherein it states that it is unlawful for anyone to collect, possess or sell wildlife without the necessary permit from the DENR,” Rodriguez stated.



Further, Julsadjiri revealed that the wildlife was just waiting for the Malaysian trader for payment before shipment to Malaysia.

The Philippine Sailfin Lizards are now in the custody of CENRO Zamboanga City and will be released back to its habitat when deemed fit and healthy.

Philippine Sailfin Lizards are endemic in our country and classified as Vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The main threats for this species are habitat loss, being hunted for food, and collection for the pet trade.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/08/08/philippine-sailfin-lizards-rescued-in-zamboanga-city/?_cf_chl_jschl_tk=_pmd_f7bd2e6c43fcb283010422100c89d7f6069c2ba4-1628459709-0-gqNtZGzNAjjcnBszQ16



Rare civet cat released into the wild after recovering from injuries



EASTERN SAMAR, An adult civet cat rescued by a concerned citizen and staff of the Guiuan Marine Resource Protected Landscape and Seascape. (Photo from DENR-Eastern Visayas)

RONALD O. REYES

August 08, 2021

A RARE Philippine palm civet (*Paradoxurus philippensis*), locally known as “garong,” has been released back to its normal habitat in Guiuan, Eastern Samar after recovering from the sustained injuries.

"The Department of Environment and Natural Resource is grateful to everyone who shows concern for our wildlife and their habitat," said Eastern Visayas environment executive director Tirso Parian Jr.

"Let's keep our wildlife such as the civet cats alive and protected," the official added as he urged the public to report wildlife violations.

The office of Guiuan Marine Resource Protected Landscape and Seascape rescued the wounded animal after a concerned citizen spotted it in the streets of Poblacion 8, Guiuan, on July 24, 2021.

It was immediately brought to the Community Environmental and Natural Resources Office-Borongon Sub-office in Guiuan for proper care and rehabilitation.

Rescuers found the civet cat had injuries on its left eye and mouth.

The civet cats are considered one of the country's endemic species.

"The civet cat plays an important role in the ecosystem by propagating the seeds it spews after eating. This natural process contributes to growing a variety of plants and fruit trees in the forests," the regional environment office said. **(SunStar Philippines)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1903382/Tacloban/Local-News/Rare-civet-cat-released-into-the-wild-after-recovering-from-injuries>



SM, DENR spearhead Parañaque cleanup drive

August 9, 2021



'Adopt A River' initiative at Don Bosco and Tambo, Parañaque CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

[SM Prime Holdings Estate Management Group](#), in partnership with the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR), the local government of Parañaque City and the communities in Barangays Tambo and [Don Bosco](#), recently held simultaneous drives to clean up the city's rivers and waterways.

The "environmental bayanihan (community cooperation)" initiative netted four truckloads of vegetation and 57 sacks of garbage, each weighing approximately 20 kilos per sack, and was participated in by the Barangay Tambo Environmental Police, DoLE-TUPAD, DENR Estero [Rangers](#), barangay volunteers, and volunteers from SM security, maintenance and estate management personnel.

The clean-up drive is one of SM's way of supporting the [Manila Bay](#) Rehabilitation program by partnering with local and national governments to ensure that waterways are kept clean as they have a significant impact on large bodies of water such as the Manila Bay.



DOST-funded S&T project sets to protect communities in Benguet vs forest fire hazards

Published August 8, 2021, 11:55 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

A project seeking to protect communities in Benguet province against forest fire hazards by using Maguey (*Agave cantala*) as greenbelt is now being implemented, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD) has disclosed.



Maguey nursery site assessment in Brgy. Bobok-Bisal, Bokod, and Brgy. Daclan, Tublay in Benguet Province (Photo by Rhandy S. Tubal, ERDB-WWRRDEC/ DOST-PCAARRD)

The DOST-PCAARRD funded the project, titled “S&T Action Frontline for Emergencies and Hazards (SAFE) for Forest Fire Hazard in the Watersheds in Bokod and Tublay, Benguet Province Using Maguey (*Agave cantala*) as Greenbelt.”

“A government project will improve watershed resilience from climate change and ensure protection against fire hazards in Bokod and Tublay, Benguet province using Maguey (*Agave cantala*) as greenbelt,” the Council said in a statement.

“It will also provide more livelihood opportunities in the province through the production of crafts using Maguey fiber.”



The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau – Watershed and Water Resources Research Development and Extension Center (ERDB-WWRRDEC) serves as the implementing arm of the project.

During the first year of implementation, communities in Barangay Daclan, Tublay, and Barangay Bobok-Bisal, Bokod in Benguet Province are expected to benefit from the project. These barangays house the Benguet Pine Seed Production Areas (SPAs).

“The explicit establishment of the perimeter Maguey greenbelts within the SPAs is a promising technology to protect the seed sources of quality planting stocks for afforestation and reforestation purposes,” the DOST-PCAARRD said.

“Apart from maintaining and protecting the greenbelt, the second year of implementation will encourage local government units’ (LGUs) partnership with the communities in strengthening the policies on forest fire management.”

The Council said it expects an increase in livelihood opportunities through fiber craft production in the target areas during the project’s final year of implementation.

It cited that various farmers’ organizations, Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Offices (MENROs), Sangguniang Barangay Committee on Environment, and Barangay LGUs rallied behind the project.

“The partners’ commitment towards achieving the project’s objectives was fortified through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between ERDB-WWRRDEC and the host Municipal LGU/Barangay LGU.”

Among the initial accomplishments of the project include the survey and collection of Maguey bulbils, training of host communities on Maguey production, Greenbelt establishment, and forest fire prevention and control, the DOST-PCAARRD said.



MANILA BAY CLOSED TO PUBLIC

AUG 8, 2021, 1:16 PM

Mike Taboy
Photographer

Officers of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) keep a sharp eye along the stretch of the Manila Bay near Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila on Sunday.

The shoreline of Manila Bay, including the (in)famous "Dolomite Beach," has been declared off-limits to the public after Metro Manila was placed under enhanced community quarantine last August 6 to stem the rising cases of Covid-19 in Metro Manila. (MT)

Source: <https://opinyon.net/metro-manila/manila-bay-closed-to-public?fbclid=IwAR3H8LoUYx8su2mAucLO2HeaBwjmlDIQHII4nk6KKSJmW9aJeixp6Eoyqfbl>



De Lima opposes BIDA Bill for Boracay; fears being cash cow by greedy officials

August 8, 2021 3 min read

By Ernie Reyes

MANILA – Opposition Senator Leila M. de Lima is opposed to the bill that would create a government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC) to manage the famous tourist spot Boracay, saying that it is the latest attempt by the administration to take from Aklanons what is rightfully theirs.

In a statement, De Lima said the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) Bill, which was approved on second reading at the House of Representatives last Aug. 4 despite continuing opposition from local officials, national government agencies, and different groups could be used as a cash cow for some corrupt government officials.

“Make no mistake, this is an act of unjust taking driven by people who are salivating at the prospect of using the island and its natural resources as a cash cow to satisfy their personal greed, rather than the betterment of the residents. And it would be just the beginning if allowed to push through,” she said.

While the rehabilitation of the island, spearheaded by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), made significant gains in revitalizing the ecosystem in the island, De Lima stressed that “the national government should eventually return the operation and management of the island to the Aklanons, rather than now making moves to permanently take over both the management and receiving the benefits therefrom.”

“While it is national government’s job to guide our local governments in order to reach their potential, we must not fall into the trap of governing in place of the duly-elected officials in the local level,” she stated.

House Bill No. 9826, which consolidated and substituted at least nine similar bills provide for the creation of the BIDA as a GOCC with corporate powers that will formulate the Boracay Action Plan.

Under the bill, the BIDA has the power to “contract, lease, buy, sell, acquire, own, or dispose of real property of whatever nature.”



“Under the Constitution, our local governments enjoy local autonomy. Part of this is the power to create its own sources of revenues. The proposal, as it stands, gives BIDA the authority to operate and license tourism-related activities, which constitutes the bulk of the income of Aklan from the Boracay island. This income is not only necessary for the operations of the Aklan provincial government, it is essential for the provision of services to the Aklanons,” De Lima explained.



54 years of strong regional cooperation, network of partners for biodiversity

Published on: August 08, 2021

By ACB

Today, as we celebrate the 54th anniversary of the founding of the ASEAN, it is with pride and optimism that we look at the important achievements the robust cooperation among the Member States has made possible. This cooperation is underpinned by the ASEAN Member States' (AMS) common interest to protect its rich natural heritage and shared responsibility to sustainably manage its diverse biological resources.

As an organisation working under the auspices of the ASEAN, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) continues to contribute to the deepening and strengthening of the collaboration among the Member States, including the expansion of the network of partners with the aim of protecting and sustainably managing the region's biodiversity.

Amid the ongoing health crisis and the worsening impacts of climate change, the resolve of the region to rise above these challenges is even more pronounced. Brunei Darussalam's leadership this year that seeks to advance multilateralism motivates us to do more and serve the region better.

Just last Friday, as part of the celebrations of the ASEAN Day, the ACB, together with the ASEAN Secretariat, formally launched the ASEAN Green Initiative (AGI), a region-wide programme that aims to ramp up restoration efforts and plant at least 10 million native trees across the 10 ASEAN Member states in a span of 10 years. The AGI sets the standards for the recognition of tree-planting activities and programmes across the region that not only regrow our forests but also contribute to peoples' well-being, livelihood improvement, and resilience-building.

The AGI in itself is a demonstration of the strong cooperation among the AMS and their commitment to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration in the region.

As the ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Kung Phoak said at the virtual launch of the AGI, the region-wide programme is hoped to be "a catalyst that will mobilise contributions from the whole-of-society."

We are also pleased that despite uncertainties due to the ongoing pandemic, we have the constant support of our regional and international partners. As we continue to scale up our efforts, including in the mainstreaming of biodiversity across various sectors, we continue to expand our network.



Indeed, together as a region, we can achieve more. May the celebrations of the ASEAN Day bring inspiration and hope that we can overcome present challenges and ensure a brighter future for the ASEAN – a region that cares, prepares, and prospers.

May this day also instill in us that #WeAreASEANBiodiversity.

Happy 54th ASEAN Day!

Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim

Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

08 August 2021



Pinoy-made mobile app helps users exchange plastic trash into rewards

Published August 8, 2021 7:33pm

A Filipino-made mobile application helps users exchange trash into rewards to encourage more people to care for the environment.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, one million plastic bottles are bought per minute while five trillion single use plastic bags are used per year worldwide.

Additionally, eight million tons of plastic reach the oceans per year so it is possible that there will be more trash than fish in 2050.

To help combat this, software developer Benjo Vidal and his friend created [TrashCash](#), which can be used by communities to turn plastic waste into rewards.

"TrashCash has an e-wallet where you can save your points. For example, plastic bottles' exchange rate is five to eight points per kilo," Benjo said in a mix of English and Filipino.

"You can use those points to redeem the rewards provided by your barangays," he added.

Currently, the TrashCash application is being used by one barangay in Tondo, Manila and in Calamba, Laguna, which the founders refer to as "community partners."

Their community partners have the freedom to choose what rewards they are to give out.

"One of our partners' rewards is insurance. Some offer rice then school kits in exchange for the plastics that the people deposit," Benjo said.

Benjo said the plastics from residents then are given to their partners for repurposing.

"Clean Our Oceans Project, an organization that advocates marine observation through consumer behavior, collects and transports them from eco hubs to an upcycling company," he said.

The developers are hopeful that they will be able to partner with more local government units in the future to urge more people to care for nature.

—Franchesca Viernes/MGP, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/hobbiesandactivities/798541/pinoy-made-mobile-app-helps-users-exchange-plastic-trash-into-rewards/story/?ju&fbclid=IwAR1zB4vvE2i81L4rIpdPWu9UaouTrOejCTPPaIlmswbUel7c3_W8AVk2rT0



ABS-CBN News

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Natagpuan sa ilalim ng puno ng balete sa kabundukan ng Barbaza, Antique ang isang amethyst.
BASAHIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../miner-becomes-millionaire...>



👍👎❤️ Dexter Arboladora and 6.2K others

489 Comments 642 Shares



UN climate report 'starkest warning yet'

[By Agence France-Presse](#) August 9, 2021



President of the 2021 [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#), COP26, [Alok Sharma](#) prepares for a speech at Whitelee Windfarm in [Glasgow, Scotland](#), Friday May 14, 2021. Sharma is setting out the importance of COP26 and the UK's ambitions over the next six months, running up to hosting the Nov. 1-12 summit, bringing world leaders together to face climate change issues. [AP PHOTO](#)

An upcoming [United Nations](#) (UN) report on climate change gives the international community its clearest ever warning about the dangers of accelerating climate change, [Britain's](#) COP26 President Alok Sharma said on Sunday.

The chief for the November summit due to be held in the Scottish city of Glasgow told the Observer newspaper a report by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) due on Monday would show the world was on the brink of potential disaster.

"This is going to be the starkest warning yet that human behavior is alarmingly accelerating global warming and this is why COP26 has to be the moment we get this right," Sharma said.

"We can't afford to wait two years, five years, 10 years - this is the moment," he added, explaining that unless nations "act now, we will unfortunately be out of time."

Sharma was forced to defend British fossil-fuel projects that include plans to license new oil and gas fields in the [North Sea](#), which have proven embarrassing for Britain as it seeks to galvanize international action on climate change.

The Paris-based watchdog, the [International Energy Agency](#), has warned all fossil fuel development and exploration must cease this year if the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is to be met.

"Future (fossil fuel) licenses are going to have to adhere to the fact we have committed to go to net zero by 2050 in legislation," the COP26 president said.

"There will be a climate check on any licenses," he added.

A series of catastrophic emergencies in recent weeks including floods in [Europe](#) and [China](#), record temperatures in [North America](#) and forest fires around the world have focused minds on global warming, Sharma said.

"We're seeing the impacts across the world," Sharma said. "Every day you will see a new high being recorded in one way or another across the world," he added.

Sharma said he was "throwing the kitchen sink" at efforts to reach a deal on the contentious target to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, holding a large number of virtual and in-person meetings as he looks to bring 197 countries together in consensus on the aim.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/09/news/national/un-climate-report-starkest-warning-yet/1810252>



UN climate report 'starkest warning yet,' warns COP26 chief

Published August 8, 2021 6:58pm



A giant banner declaring an environmental message, which is grown on a carpet of living grass and tells governments to Act Now in the lead-up to COP26, floats on the river Thames in central London on June 25, 2021, having been placed on the water by Extinction Rebellion climate activists. Daniel Leal-Olivas/ AFP

LONDON — An upcoming UN report on climate change gives the international community its clearest ever warning about the dangers of accelerating climate change, Britain's COP26 President Alok Sharma said on Sunday.

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Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/798539/un-climate-report-starkest-warning-yet-warns-cop26-chief/story/?jus&fbclid=IwAR19kkYJv4uaf7um0IZQqQFWNqxckH7gsLIU1V8Pzv4eVear3a_zjetZ7fl



Climate change: Low-income countries 'can't keep up' with impacts

By Navin Singh Khadka

Environment correspondent, BBC World Service

Published 23 hours ago



Caribbean island countries say their adaptation plans are not effective because hurricanes have become more powerful

Low-income countries are struggling to protect themselves against climate change, officials and experts have told the BBC.

Organisations representing 90 countries say that their plans to prevent damage have already been outpaced by climate-induced disasters, which are intensifying and happening more regularly.

The UN says the number of developing countries with climate adaptation plans has increased. But it stresses that there's limited evidence these plans have reduced any risks.

"We need to adapt our plans to the worsening climate crisis. Our existing plans are not enough to protect our people," says Sonam Wangdi, chair of the UN's Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group on climate change.

Their call for action comes as the UN's climate science body prepares to publish its latest assessment on Monday about the state of global warming.

- **A really simple guide to climate change**

The report, compiled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, will provide a scientific assessment of current and future climate change, and be a key reference for policymakers at the UN climate summit in Glasgow this November.

The world has already warmed by about 1.2C since the industrial era began, and temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions.

Chaos in the Caribbean

Last year, the Caribbean had a record-breaking 30 tropical storms - including six major hurricanes. The World Meteorological Organisation says the region is still recovering.

On islands like Antigua and Barbuda, experts say that many buildings have been unable to withstand the intense winds these storms have brought.



Climate experts say houses in the Caribbean countries are unable to stand against category five hurricanes

"We used to see category four hurricanes, so that's what we have prepared for with our adaptation plans, but now we are being hit by category five hurricanes," says Diann Black Layner, chief climate negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States.

"Category five hurricanes bring winds as strong as 180 miles per hour which the roofs cannot withstand because it creates stronger pressure inside our houses," she said.

Falling seawalls in Pacific islands



Pacific island countries say their defences against rising seas and cyclones are proving to be increasingly weak

Several Pacific Island countries were hit by three cyclones between the middle of 2020 and January 2021.

"After those three cyclones, communities in the northern part of our country have seen the sea walls built as part of their adaptation plans crumbling," says Vani Catanasiga, head of the Fiji Council of Social Services - a group representing Fijian NGOs in the country's Disaster Management Council.

"The water and the wind repeatedly battering the settlements even displaced some locals."

Although it's rare to see so many storms in such a short space of time, experts say sea storms have been growing in strength.

Studies suggest tropical cyclones have become more intense in the past 40 years, but an increase in the overall number of cyclones has not been established.



Uganda's mountain menace



Some African countries say intensified landslides and floods have rendered their adaptation efforts useless

In Uganda, communities in the Rwenzori region have been trying to protect themselves from landslides and floods by digging trenches and planting trees, helping to prevent soil erosion. But it has not always been a success.

"The rains have become so intense that we have seen huge, sudden floods sweeping away these defences," said Jackson Muhindo, a local climate change and resilience coordinator for Oxfam.

"As a result, there have been multiple landslides on mountain slopes which have buried settlements and farms," he adds. "Adaptation works based on soil conservation are proving to be increasingly useless in the wake of these extreme weather events."

Adaptation low on the agenda

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change says more than 80% of developing countries have begun formulating and implementing their national adaptation plans.

But a study by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), published last month, suggests that the 46 of the world's least-developed countries don't have the financial means to "climate proof" themselves.

The IIED says these countries need at least \$40bn (£28.8bn; €33.8bn) a year for their adaptation plans. But between 2014-18, just \$5.9 billion of adaptation finance was received.



Developing countries say adaptation has not been a priority issue among their wealthier counterparts



Under the UN climate convention, the EU and 23 developed countries have pledged to make \$100bn available every year to fund climate-related projects in developing nations - like schemes to cut emissions, and adaptations to mitigate damage caused by weather-induced disasters.

From 2020, this money will be passed on through the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility and other such agencies. But developing countries argue that promise has largely been unkept. A report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) showed developed countries had made nearly \$80bn available in 2018 as total climate finance. But it found that only 21% of that money was provided for adapting to climate impacts, while most went towards cutting carbon emissions.

Developing countries have criticised climate finance figures provided by developed world, pointing out they also include money from regular aid payments.

Some experts say adaptation plans have been hampered by politics.

"When you have other issues like [bad] governance, poverty and now Covid, it becomes very difficult for the plans to work. They simply aren't a government's priority," according to Carlos Aguilar, a climate adaptation expert with Oxfam.

Greece wildfires: Hundreds more evacuated as uncontrolled fires rage

Published 6 hours ago

Hundreds more people have been forced to flee their homes in Greece as firefighters struggle to contain huge, days-old, wildfires.

Tourists and locals were evacuated by boat from Evia, the country's second-largest island, on Sunday.

More than 2,000 people have now been evacuated in total. Houses and power lines have also been destroyed.

While the fire on Evia is the most severe, dozens of smaller blazes are burning around the country.

The fires broke out after the most severe heatwave in 30 years, in which temperatures spiked to 45C (113F).

Heatwaves such as this are becoming more likely and more extreme because of human-induced climate change. The subsequent hot, dry weather is likely to fuel wildfires.



Firefighting aircraft dropped water onto the blazes on Sunday

"We have ahead of us another difficult evening, another difficult night," Civil Protection Deputy Minister Nikos Hardalias said on Sunday.

"On Evia we have two major fire fronts, one in the north and one in the south," he said, adding that the situation around the capital Athens had improved.

"We are afraid of the danger of flare-ups," Mr Hardalias warned.

Hundreds of firefighters have been deployed to Evia, and a total of 17 planes and helicopters are being used. The army has also been sent in.

Dramatic footage showed ferries full of people surrounded by the burning landscape and bright red skies.

"I feel angry. I lost my home... nothing will be the same," one resident, Vasilikia, told Reuters news agency as she boarded a rescue ferry on Sunday.

"It's a disaster. It's huge. Our villages are destroyed, there is nothing left from our homes," she added.



Authorities say the risk of further fires remains high in many regions, including Athens and Crete. Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has warned the country could face a "nightmarish summer" of continuous forest fires.

In the last 10 days, more than 56,000 hectares (140,000 acres) have been burnt in Greece, according to the European Forest Fire Information System.

On Saturday, a fire just north of Athens on Mount Parnitha spread smoke across the capital. Authorities set up a hotline for people with breathing difficulties, according to the Associated Press.

Thousands of people were evacuated from the area but the flames have receded. However, with strong winds forecast, there are concerns that the fire could flare again.

A number of countries have offered support to Greece. The UK, France, Romania and Switzerland have sent firefighters to the country.

09 AUGUST 2021, MONDAY



DENR

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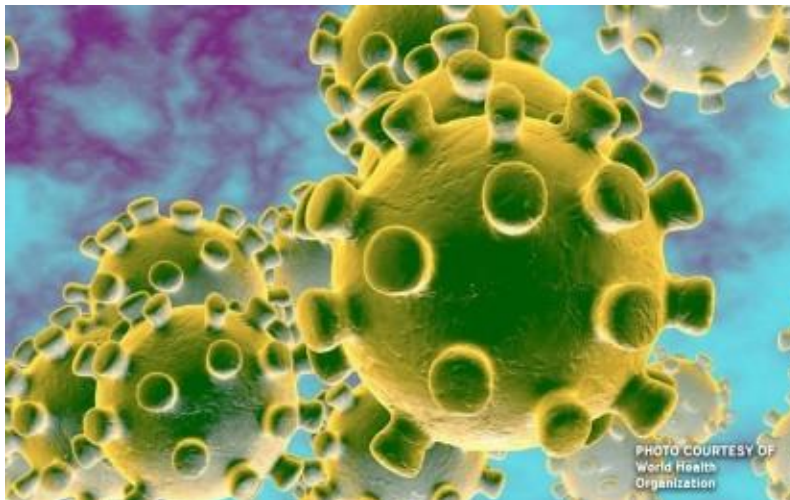
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH Covid-19 recovery tally rises by 8K to 1,552,278

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [August 8, 2021, 5:25 pm](#)



MANILA – An additional 8,079 patients have beaten the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the country’s overall recovery count to 1,552,278 on Sunday.

The Department of Health (DOH), in its latest Covid-19 bulletin, said recoveries account for 93.6 percent of the total 1,658,916 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

Another 9,671 new cases and 287 new deaths were also reported. These figures bring the overall tally of active cases to 77,516 and the death toll to 29,122.

The latest figures showed 93.2 percent of the active cases are mild, 2.8 percent are asymptomatic, 1.7 percent are severe, 1.20 percent are moderate, and 1 percent are in critical condition.

“There were 96 duplicates removed from the total case count as 92 of these are recoveries. Moreover, three cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as active cases and 149 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation,” it said.

DOH data on Aug. 8 likewise showed that 20.3 percent of 51,296 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on Aug. 6 and were able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

"Daily case counts are affected by the output from the laboratories nationwide. The relatively low case counts today is due to lower laboratory output last Friday," the DOH said.

To date, 64 percent of 3,700 intensive care unit beds, 55 percent of 19,700 isolation beds, 56 percent of 13,000 ward beds, and 45 percent of 2,900 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

Meanwhile, 63 percent of 1,200 intensive care unit beds, 56 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 57 percent of 3,800 ward beds, and 47 percent of 1,000 ventilators reserved for patients with Covid-19 are being used in Metro Manila. **(PNA)**



**DOH COVID-19
CASE BULLETIN # 512**

AGOSTO 8, 2021

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



MGA BAGONG KASO **9,671**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **8,079**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **287**

KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO **1,658,916**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 6
DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 8
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 6

20.3%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

51,296

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
96.1%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



KABUUNANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?	NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?	KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO
<p>ICU BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS) 64% Utilized</p>	<p>ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS) 63% Utilized</p>	Mild 93.2%
<p>ISOLATION BEDS (19.7K TOTAL BEDS) 55% Utilized</p>	<p>ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS) 56% Utilized</p>	2.8% Asymptomatic
<p>WARD BEDS (13.0K TOTAL BEDS) 56% Utilized</p>	<p>WARD BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS) 57% Utilized</p>	1.0% Critical
<p>VENTILATORS (2.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS) 45% Utilized</p>	<p>VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS) 47% Utilized</p>	1.7% Severe
		1.20% Moderate

(Image courtesy of DOH)



Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Metro Manila tumaas kahit nasa ECQ

By [Mer Layson](#) (Pang-Masa) - August 9, 2021 - 12:00am



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

MANILA, Philippines — Nitong Sabado (Agosto 7) kahit nasa ilalim ang Metro Manila sa enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) ay umabot na sa 2,823 ang mga bagong kaso ng COVID-19 ang naitala.

Ito ang datos na inilabas kahapon ng OCTA Research na pinakamataas na bilang na naitala sa rehiyon buhat noong Mayo 2, kung kailan ang Metro Manila ay nakasailalim sa modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

Idinagdag pa ng OCTA na ang reproduction rate sa Metro Manila ay tumaas rin sa 1.80 mula sa 1.56 noong nakaraang linggo.

Anila, ang naturang 'strong upward trend' at antas ng mga bagong COVID-19 cases sa NCR ay kahalintulad nang naobserbahan mula Marso 9 to 15, 2021, kung kailan ipinatupad rin ang ECQ sa rehiyon.

Naniniwala rin ang grupo na ang mabilis na pagtaas ng mga kaso ng sakit sa NCR at patuloy na pagtaas ng reproduction number nito ay nagpapakita ng posibilidad na ang surge ay dulot ng Delta variant.

Anyang, ang 31% ng mga sampled cases ay mayroong Delta variant, na pagtaas mula sa dating 16% lamang dalawang linggo na ang nakalilipas, base sa data mula sa bio surveillance na isinasagawa ng Department of Health (DOH).

Sinabi ng OCTA na sa 59%, ang ICU occupancy para sa COVID-19 sa NCR ay nananatili pa ring ligtas ngunit tinukoy ang pagtaas ng occupancy sa average na 11 kada araw sa nakalipas na dalawang linggo.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2021/08/09/2118612/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-metro-manila-tumaas-kahit-nasa-ecq/amp/>



Delta, common Covid-19 cases have similar symptoms: DOH

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 8, 2021, 8:02 pm



MANILA – It is impossible to distinguish Delta variant cases from regular Covid-19 infections based on symptoms as they have similar common flu-like manifestations.

In its latest public advisory Sunday, the Department of Health (DOH) noted that the variant first detected in India has the same indications -- headache, sore throat, runny nose, and fever.

The mutated Delta variant, however, is more transmissible, evades immunity protection, and reduces antibody neutralization.

"Viruses naturally undergo mutations as they reproduce. Some mutations might not have significant effects, but other mutations may make the virus more transmissible," the DOH stated.

Noting that a Delta variant case can infect up to eight persons, the DOH said it has contributed to increasing cases nationwide, together with the Alpha variant which can infect three at the most and the Beta variant that is known to infect four to five persons.

Getting infected can be avoided through the strict observance of minimum public health standards like proper wearing of masks and face shields, frequent handwashing and sanitizing, physical distancing of at least one meter, and proper ventilation.

The DOH advised the public to do self-isolation upon experiencing symptoms and seek early consultation.

"Get vaccinated when it's your turn and complete the required doses," the agency advised.

While further studies are needed to determine vaccine efficacy against the Delta variant, the DOH emphasized that data show fully vaccinated individuals are protected from the severe symptoms of Covid-19 that lead to hospitalization or death.

So far, the country has confirmed 450 Delta variant cases, with all 17 cities and town in Metro Manila with at least one case. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1149781>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DELTA VARIANT



WHAT IS THE COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT?

The **Delta (B.1.617.2) variant** is a mutated COVID-19 virus which was first described in India. It is said to be associated with:



evading immune protection



reduced antibody neutralization

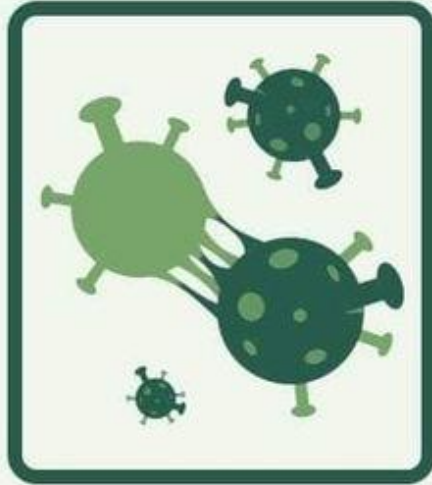


increased transmissibility





HOW SERIOUS ARE VIRAL MUTATIONS?



Viruses naturally undergo mutations as they reproduce. Some mutations might not have significant effects, but other mutations may make the virus more transmissible.



f OfficialDOHgov @DOHgovph doh.gov.ph (02) 894-COVID / 1555



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF DELTA VARIANT?

It's impossible to distinguish Delta based on symptoms. Common flu-like symptoms such as **headache, sore throat, runny nose and fever** are also symptoms of **COVID-19**.

If we want to keep a step ahead, we should implement the strictest precautions by :

Strictly observing
MPHS



Immediately
self-isolating



Consulting
with a
doctor



to receive proper treatment and avoid infecting others, knowing that the Delta variant can easily spread COVID-19 to others.



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HOW TRANSMISSIBLE IS THE DELTA VARIANT?

Alpha and Beta variants have already contributed to the increasing cases in the country, including the NCR Plus Areas. Delta variant is seen to be more transmissible.

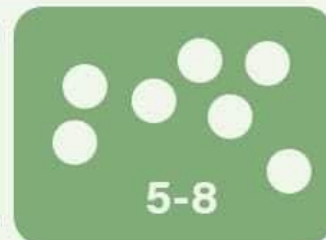
POTENTIAL NUMBER OF TO-BE INFECTED PERSONS



Original Variant



Alpha Variant



Delta Variant



WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

- Correctly observe the Minimum Public Health Standards at all times



Proper wearing of face mask and face shield



Frequent hand-washing or sanitizing



Physical distancing of at least 1 meter



Ensuring proper ventilation

- Immediately isolate upon experiencing symptoms and seeking early consultation.
- Always fact check. Get and share information only from credible sources.
- **Get vaccinated when it's your turn and complete the required doses.**



ARE OUR PRESENT VACCINES EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE DELTA VARIANT?



More studies are needed to determine the effectiveness of vaccines against the Delta variant, but data shows that people who are fully-vaccinated are protected against the severe symptoms of COVID-19 which may lead to hospitalization or death.

We urge everyone, when it is your turn, to choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and protect yourself and your loved ones.



09 AUGUST 2021, MONDAY



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Kuya Sam [👤 👤]

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