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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# DENR: Demolition of fishing structures in Cavite to benefit fisherfolk

Philstar.com September 8, 2021 | 6:14pm



Groups hold a protest action in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' office in Quezon City on September 6, 2021.  
Pamalakaya

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Wednesday defended the planned demolition of "illegal" structures in Manila Bay after fisherfolk protested the move.

In a briefing, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda claimed the planned dismantling of fishing structures in the waters of Cavite—which is feared to threaten the livelihood of 15,000 fishers and coastal residents who are engaged in mussel and oyster aquaculture—will actually benefit small-scale fisherfolk.

He said fishers would no longer have to venture farther into the sea once "illegal" fish cages, fish pens and baklad are removed.

"The first ones who will benefit from that are small fisherfolk, those who use small boats. Would you imagine once we dismantle illegal structures within one kilometer or few hundred meters from the shoreline, they can fish easily," Antiporda said partly in Filipino.

The demolition, which did not push through as scheduled on Tuesday, is part of the department's efforts to regulate fishing structures along Manila Bay and its tributaries after bamboo poles from fish pens and fish cages in Cavite were washed ashore following heavy monsoon rains in July.

But fishers believe the dismantling activities are a prelude to a massive reclamation plan in Cavite.

## Mussel farms

Antiporda also said the mussel and oyster farmers in Cavite have nothing to worry about as long as they are operating legally.

"The Supreme Court mandamus allows mussel farms to operate. The court is even encouraging to grow more shellfish in Manila Bay," he said.

The DENR Calabarzon earlier said that the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has been tapped to provide technical assistance to tahungan operators with permits for them to shift to long-line method, which is said to be a more environment-friendly way of growing shellfish.



In response, fishers' group PAMALAKAYA said the purpose of the two dialogues that occurred in Bacoor City "was to inform, not consult the public about the plan to dismantle what the DENR calls illegal fishing structures in four coastal towns in Cavite."

"And that includes tahungan, fish cages and saprahan owned by small fisherfolk," it said.

According to the DENR, there are 271 "illegal" structures in Cavite City, 97 in Kawit and two in Noveleta for dismantling.

Environment officials were scheduled to meet with local government units and other agencies to discuss the schedule for the demolition activity. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**



# DENR to dismantle 370 illegal fish pens in Manila Bay rehab

September 8, 2021 | 8:13 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ EDD GUMBAN

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that it will be demolishing 370 illegal fish pens along the Cavite shore of Manila Bay as part of the bay's rehabilitation.

"We plan to demolish 271 illegal aquaculture structures in Cavite City; 97 in Kawit; and 2 in Noveleta. If you will notice, we don't have plans of taking down even just one structure in Bacoor because of the mussel farms there," DENR Spokesperson and Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said at a Laging Handa briefing Wednesday.

He added that the clearing activity will not affect any mussel farms operating legally.

Last month, the Manila Bay Inter-Agency Task Force announced that it will be dismantling fish pens, cages, and mussel farms without permits starting Sept. 7.

Notices to that effect were posted in Cavite City, Bacoor, Noveleta, and Kawit.

The group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), an organization of small fishermen, said in a Facebook post Wednesday that the plans to dismantle were not carried out on the date indicated.

According to a Department of Agriculture administrative order issued in 2015, any person caught operating fish corrals, fish traps, fish pens, fish cages or fish ponds without a license, lease or permit will be considered prima facie to be engaging in unauthorized fishing.

He said the clearing of the illegal structures will not have an impact on small-scale fisherfolk.

"(The demolition of illegal structures) will not affect small-scale fishers who are being deprived of their right of a bountiful harvest... (However), there will be some fishers who will be affected, but they are the ones who are funded by investors... These are big companies. The investment (to establish illegal structures) is not small," Mr. Antiporda said.

Pamalakaya has estimated that the dismantling of aquaculture farms for mussels and oysters will affect the livelihoods of some 15,000 fisherfolk and coastal residents.



“The oyster and mussel aquaculture structures which will be dismantled contribute a lot to the country’s food security and fisheries production. Compared to the buildings established at reclaimed areas in Manila Bay, the mussel and oyster structures provide livelihood and supply food to thousands,” Pamalakaya Chairman Fernando L. Hicap said in a statement issued on Sept. 6.

In a separate statement Wednesday, non-government organization Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham) called on the DENR to withdraw its order to destroy fish pens and mussel and oyster farms in the Cavite area.

“DENR’s claim that these livelihood structures are a source of environmental degradation in the bay area is ridiculous. We know that the real reason behind these demolitions is to make way for a way more environmentally destructive project, the Cavite Province Land Reclamation and Development Project, which aims to create five islands located in the municipal waters of Cavite City, Kawit, Rosario and Noveleta,” the group said.

It described the DENR’s planned demolition as “inhumane and totally irrational” since this was taking place in the middle of a pandemic.

“(Many of the affected fisherfolk and coastal residents) are mussel producers. Destroying their farms will profoundly impact our shellfish supply as Cavite alone produces a third of the total mussels consumed in the country. Fishing families will also be left homeless, placing them at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 and other threats to their health,” Agham added.  
— **Angelica Y. Yang**



# DENR vows dismantling of 370 illegal fish pens, cages in Cavite

By LLANESCA T. PANTI, GMA News

Published September 8, 2021 5:19pm



DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said these illegal structures, located in Cavite City as well as in Kawit and Noveleta in Cavite province, did not secure permits from the DENR.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will dismantle at least 370 illegal fish pens and cages as part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation project.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said these illegal structures, located in Cavite City as well as in Kawit and Noveleta in Cavite province, did not secure permits from the DENR.

“A dialogue was made prior and it was clear they have no permit and at the same time, the bamboo stalks used for those are being awashed in Baywalk Area [along Roxas Boulevard in Manila],” Antiporda said during the Laging Handa briefing.

“Once and for all, we have to address this problem because ridding of illegal fish pens and cages will benefit fisherfolk engaged in honest livelihood. Those who will be affected by dismantling of fish pens are just those who get their salaries from investors behind these illegal activity,” he added.

Antiporda said that destroying the illegal fish pens and cages is also compliant with existing law that municipal waters should extended 15 kilometers from the shoreline.

“So let us not get swayed by those who claim that this will be put fisherfolk at a disadvantage because it is the other way around. This is for the benefit of our fisherfolk who will now be free to fish in municipal waters,” Antiporda said. — **BM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/802572/denr-vows-dismantling-of-370-illegal-fish-pens-cages-in-cavite/story/>



Source: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jUCvig5rUc&ab\\_channel=PTV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jUCvig5rUc&ab_channel=PTV)

### DENR, nilinaw na hindi kasama ang mga tahungan sa demolisyon sa Manila Bay

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## [DENR embarks on \\$4.65-M project for sustainable waste management](#)

SEP 8, 2021, 12:49 PM

Rose De La Cruz  
Columnist

***Face masks, gloves, and wipes are made from multiple plastic fibers, primarily polypropylene, that will remain in the environment for decades, possibly centuries, fragmenting into smaller and smaller microplastics and nanoplastics.***

**FOR** over a year now, Filipinos have been told to always don face masks and shields whenever they step out of their homes—especially when commuting or staying in crowded spaces.

At one point even, they were told to wear masks even inside their homes, especially if they experience the symptoms of flu and possibly early stages of Covid-19, for the safety of everyone.

Unfortunately, those masks and shields are not being disposed properly.

Often, they land on streets, in water bodies (rivers and canals) and public areas' bins that cumulatively can expel virus as freely as the air that passes through them.

Despite all advises that face masks to be thrown away in garbage bins must be removed of their strings so that they do not get entangled and become a ball of trash, Filipinos still refuse to do it.

### **\$4.65-M project**

To address the situation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is set to implement a project with a funding of \$4.65 million.

The program is to be funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to address the waste problem brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

GEF is an independently operating financial organization that provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), mercury, sustainable forest management, food security, and sustainable cities.

Earlier, the DENR has expressed concern about the increased generation of health care wastes.

DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Director William Cuñado said the project involves the reduction of unintentionally- produced POPs (persistent organic pollutants) released to the environment.



*Cunado said: "Management of mercury- added products and mercury waste from the healthcare sector will be addressed as these can have adverse effects on human health once released into the environment."*

*"We also need to strengthen the management of non-pathological infectious waste generated from the health care system brought about by COVID-19. These trashes should be properly treated and disposed of to prevent the spread of the virus," he added.*

Cuñado said the project would also demonstrate low-cost and non-combustion treatment of waste suitable for small-scale and remote hospitals.

*"This will be implemented in a cluster of health care facilities. The project will upgrade the capacity of waste service providers with best available technologies, techniques and practices. It will also link local governments to public and private investments," he said.*

### **Reducing mercury usage**

The DENR is mandated to reduce the use of mercury under its obligation as a party to the Minamata Convention.

Human exposure to mercury has been linked to disorders of the central nervous system resulting in incognitive motor skills, kidney failure and birth defects.

The Philippines is also committed to the elimination of POPs under the Stockholm Convention.

The project will be implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and EMB as the lead executing agency.

### **Pathogens**

The Department of Health said infectious waste is most likely to contain pathogens (bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi) in sufficient concentration or quantity to cause diseases in susceptible hosts.

Medical waste generated at home can be put in the garbage bin. If extraordinary circumstances make the waste particularly hazardous, your healthcare provider may tell you otherwise, and pharmaceuticals merit special disposal, but most stuffs like bandages can be tossed in the garbage (not the recycling container.)

### **Proper disposal of masks**

As the pandemic continues, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has renewed its call to discard used face masks properly to prevent risks of Covid-19 transmission.

*"Protection against Covid-19 goes beyond following the minimum health protocols and the use of face masks and face shields. Our responsibility extends to the disposal of these healthcare items which are potentially contaminated," said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.*

Cimatu stressed the importance of responsibly discarding Covid-19 litter especially disposable face masks because these have now affected terrestrial and aquatic animals.

*"We have seen that while face masks protect us, these have become the newest threat to animal life because of entanglement, and have added up to marine litter," Cimatu said.*

*The DENR advised putting the used face masks in a separate container and properly label it as household healthcare waste, even specifically indicating it as face mask."*

*"Let's do this so we won't jeopardize the lives of garbage collectors and whoever takes out trashes at home. If we will not practice this, and masks contaminate other solid wastes, these people will have the risk of getting infected by the virus and consequently infecting our own households in the end," Cimatu said.*



## PPEs

Personal protective equipment is made of plastic and isn't recyclable. Now it's being found everywhere on earth, including the oceans. The solution isn't complicated: Throw them away.

A year ago, the idea that disposable face masks, gloves, and wipes could become global environmental pollutants was not a pressing concern. PPEs were seen as essential for preventing the spread of Covid-19. No one imagined just how much of it would be needed, for so long. Then production exploded—and now the litter is inescapable.

Globally, 65 billion gloves are used every month. The tally for face masks is nearly twice that—129 billion a month. That translates into 3 million face masks used per minute.

A separate study reports that 3.4 billion face masks or face shields are discarded every day.

Asia is projected to throw away 1.8 billion face masks daily, the highest quantity of any continent globally. China, with the world's largest population (1.4 billion) discards nearly 702 million face masks daily.

All may be called disposable, because they're cheap enough to be used once and then thrown away. But here's the hitch: They don't go away.

## Disguised plastic

Face masks, gloves, and wipes are made from multiple plastic fibers, primarily polypropylene, that will remain in the environment for decades, possibly centuries, fragmenting into smaller and smaller microplastics and nanoplastics.

A single face mask can release as many as 173,000 microfibers per day into the seas, according to a study in *Environmental Advances*.

*"They're not going anywhere," says Nicholas Mallos, who oversees the Ocean Conservancy's marine debris program.*

Littered face masks and gloves are blown like tumbleweeds into rivers and streams, which carry them to the seas.

Scientists have recorded their presence on South American beaches, river outlets in Jakarta Bay, in Bangladesh, on the coast of Kenya, and on the uninhabited Soko Islands in Hong Kong.

Discarded PPE has clogged street drains from New York City to Nairobi and has gummed up machinery in the municipal sewage system in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Face masks, gloves, and wipes are not recyclable in most municipal systems and should not be added to any household recycling bin.

Masks can contain a mix of paper and polymers, including polypropylene and polyester, that can't be separated into pure streams of single materials for recycling. They are also so small they get caught in recycling machinery, causing breakdowns. (PPE used in medical facilities is disposed of as hazardous medical waste.)

Joana Prata, an environmental health researcher at Portugal's University of Porto, and lead author of a study on pandemic repercussions on plastics, noted that citizens need clear information on use and disposal of PPE.

*"This includes proper disposal as mixed waste in closed leak-proof bags," she wrote.*

## A larger global problem gets worse

The problems created by PPE litter have arrived at a complicated time in the effort to curb plastic waste, the *National Geographic* reported.

The amount of plastic waste accumulating in the oceans is forecast to triple in the next 20 years, with no real solution on the horizon. If every corporate pledge to use more recycled plastics were kept, the shift would reduce that projected tripling by just 7 percent.



The pandemic has also seen increased production of disposable packaging, as consumers have bought more takeout food, and as bans of single-use plastics, including shopping bags, were suspended because of fears that reusables would spread the virus. At the same time, in part due to cuts in cash-strapped municipal budgets, a third of the recycling companies in the United States have been partially or completely shuttered.

The Geographic proposed the following: Don't be a litterbug—even with PPE; Wear washable cloth masks when possible; Pack used PPE into a plastic bag, seal it, and put it out for the trash.

Source: [https://opinyon.net/national/denr-embarks-on-usd4-65-m-project-for-sustainable-waste-management?fbclid=IwAR0CkCtpRhbRWC\\_9HKYZi-4q63tuRscF6Igg3U\\_GgI7klt0HO7h1qGNSra8](https://opinyon.net/national/denr-embarks-on-usd4-65-m-project-for-sustainable-waste-management?fbclid=IwAR0CkCtpRhbRWC_9HKYZi-4q63tuRscF6Igg3U_GgI7klt0HO7h1qGNSra8)



## [MVP Group, nakipag-partner sa LLDA upang pangalagaan ang Laguna de Bay](https://opinyon.net/national/mvp-group-nakipag-partner-sa-llda-upang-pangalagaan-ang-laguna-de-bay)

SEP 8, 2021, 5:45 AM

Santiago Celario  
Writer

**Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), malaking bagay ang pakikipagsanib-pwersa ng MVP Group bilang ka-partner sa pangangalaga at pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa Laguna de Bay**

Tinanggap ni Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) General Manager Jaime C. Medina ang pakikipag-kapit bisig ng Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynila) at iba pang kumpanya sa ilalim ng Manuel V. Pangilinan (MVP) Group of Companies upang pangalagaan ang Laguna Lake.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), malaking bagay ang pakikipagsanib-pwersa ng MVP Group bilang ka-partner sa pangangalaga at pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa Laguna de Bay

Sabay-sabay na lumagda sina Medina at mga opisyal ng naturang mga kumpanya ng Memorandum of Cooperation upang pormal na pasinayaan ang pagtutulungan ng siyang bahagi ng MPIC's Laguna de Bay Welfare Awareness (LAWA) program.

Ang virtual event na ginanap noong Agosto 23, 2021 ay dinaluhan nina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Attached Agencies Rodolfo C. Garcia, LLDA Assistant General Manager Gener Dungo, MPIC Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, Maynila President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez at iba pang key officials ng mga partner companies.

Ang LLDA ay isang attached agency ng DENR.

Pangunahing mandato ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) ay protektahan ang lawa at maiwasan ang malawakang pagkamatay ng isda upang mapagyaman ito.

Source: [https://opinyon.net/national/mvp-group-nakipag-partner-sa-llda-upang-pangalagaan-ang-laguna-de-bay?fbclid=IwAR2vH9RP4aHk09HXmivP1b7SmWHVu6M2JrFc\\_H\\_zJHXNJtQis00ggIROHSA](https://opinyon.net/national/mvp-group-nakipag-partner-sa-llda-upang-pangalagaan-ang-laguna-de-bay?fbclid=IwAR2vH9RP4aHk09HXmivP1b7SmWHVu6M2JrFc_H_zJHXNJtQis00ggIROHSA)



# Kaliwa Dam Project proceeds despite violation of DENR rules

By [Peter Tabingo](#) -September 9, 2021

THE New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS KDP) has been proceeding despite the failure of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to comply with environmental guidelines.

In the 2020 report on the MWSS released last September 7, the Commission on Audit said the Kaliwa Dam Project has not completed its application for mandatory permits from various government agencies, a condition set with the issuance of an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

Records showed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued the ECC on October 11, 2019.

However, the audit team said MWSS failed to submit proof that it has complied with the conditions and restrictions set in the ECC.

The MWSS submitted some documents on May 20, 2021, but these were not the ones required by the DENR rules.

“(MWSS) management simply provided a checklist or a compliance monitoring report (CMR) without any supporting document (e.g. permits) to show compliance with the ECC,” auditors noted.

Among the requirements are duly signed memoranda of agreement (MOA) with affected local government units within six month upon issuance of the ECC, an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan duly approved by the National Commission in Indigenous People (NCIP), establishment of a program for reforestation and carbon sink mechanisms to offset greenhouse gases, a detailed waste management program, a comprehensive inventory and assessment of threatened species that may be affected by clearing operations, and the creation of a Multipartite Monitoring Team to oversee the project and ascertain observance of all environmental policies.

The COA said most of these requirements even required prior submission to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Central Office within six months to one year of receipt of the ECC.

Source: [https://malayaph.com/index.php/news\\_news/kaliwa-dam-project-proceeds-despite-violation-of-denr-rules/](https://malayaph.com/index.php/news_news/kaliwa-dam-project-proceeds-despite-violation-of-denr-rules/)



# COA flags MWSS over P12 billion Kaliwa Dam project

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star September 9, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Audit (COA) has called out the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for proceeding with the implementation of the P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam project in Infanta, Quezon without proof of compliance with environmental prerequisites and submission of necessary permits.

In its 2020 annual audit report, the COA noted that the MWSS entered into a contract agreement and issued a notice to China Energy Engineering Corp. Ltd. to proceed with the project on Nov. 13, 2019.

The COA noted that based on the MWSS' 2020 report on projects, programs and activities, the detailed engineering and design phase of the dam project was 92.67 percent complete at the end of the year.

The audit body said this was despite the MWSS' failure to show proof that the preconditions set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under an environmental compliance certificate issued on Oct. 11, 2019 have been complied with.

Among the preconditions set by the DENR were the submission of approved reforestation program, waste management plan, integrated watershed management plan, comprehensive social development program, ancestral domain and cultural heritage sustainable development plan, and cultural heritage protection plan. Also required are the creation of a multipartite monitoring team and inventory and assessment of threatened species that may be affected during clearing operations.

The COA said its audit team requested for the submission of the relevant documents and permits, but the MWSS simply provided a "checklist" and a photocopy of a compliance monitoring report last May 20.

The agency said the MWSS should direct its engineering and technical operations group to secure the necessary permits and submit an authenticated copy of the compliance monitoring report and supporting documents.

It was in 2018 when the Philippine government secured a loan amounting to \$211.21 million or P12.2 billion from the Chinese government, through the Export-Import Bank of China under the Official Development Assistance program.

The loan shall finance 64 percent of the P18.7-billion total cost of the the dam project, which is expected to stabilize the water supply in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The COA noted that on March 20, 2020, the MWSS had availed P1.544 billion of the loan from China Eximbank.

The agency recommended to the MWSS to direct its engineering and technical operations group to secure the necessary permits as required by the DENR and to submit to the audit team an authenticated copy of the compliance monitoring report and supporting documents.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/09/09/2125794/coa-flags-mwss-over-p12-billion-kaliwa-dam-project>



# As holidays draw near, Greenpeace urges e-commerce sites to cut down on plastics use

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 08 2021 05:57 PM | Updated as of Sep 08 2021 06:02 PM



A stray dog scavenges for food among trash near the mouth of Pasig river that connects it to Manila Bay in Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila on World Environment Day, June 5, 2021. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA— Environmental group Greenpeace on Wednesday urged the Philippines' biggest e-commerce platforms to find alternative ways to package products and help alleviate the country's "plastic pandemic," just as the gift-giving season drew near.

In a press briefing, Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Maverick Flores said it is time that e-commerce sites become accountable from the plastic problem that they have "enabled."

The group also timed their event hours before major e-commerce sites Lazada and Shopee commenced with their 9.9 sales— their monthly discount shopping event.

"Step up tayo ng ating messaging para (we step up messaging to) i-demand ang better responses from these companies... Both of these companies... should not let themselves be left by the wayside as regional trends of e-commerce finally recognize the need to be more environmentally sustainable," Flores said.

According to Greenpeace campaigner Jefferson Chua, the use of e-commerce websites "doubled" as people shopped online more while cooped up in their homes during the pandemic, with Lazada's 12.12 sale last year logging in almost 420 million minutes among users.

Shopee, meanwhile, reportedly sold 12 million products in the first 24 minutes of the event.

"This reflected a 55 percent growth in 2020. Some analysts also predict that the number of Filipinos using e-commerce will also reach a staggering number [of] 55.8 million users by 2025 as the access to internet begins to be more widely accepted here in the country," said Chua.

"These figures point to an astounding— and unsustainable— rise in plastic packaging. And yet, there's no public data of exactly how much waste these companies produce. Neither are there any commitments whatsoever to reduce this," he added.

"What we have right now is a perfect storm, incoming holidays, and the persistence of the pandemic and of course the burden that these events produce in our planet in terms of packaging waste."

Aside from this, Greenpeace cited an Oceana report stating that plastic packaging "will more than double" from 2019 to 2025 or from 943 million kilograms to 2.056 billion kilograms.

Greenpeace East Asia, meanwhile, pointed out that plastic wastes in China might top 41 million tons roughly 4 years from now.

This is the reason the group, as well as other Filipinos, are calling on the sites to find an alternative way of packaging its products.

To date, Youth Strike 4 Climate was able to collect [at least 14,000 signatures](#) for these firms to reveal the extent of the plastic wastes they are generating and the need to reduce it, to alleviate the problem.

The petition was launched in November last year.

They are also calling for environmental sustainability and transparency on policies "that demonstrate [their] commitment to environmental health through corporate social responsibility targets."

"What's happening here in the Philippines is that Filipino taxpayers, our communities, our local governments, not Lazada or Shopee, are paying for the cost of managing our e-commerce waste," Marian Ledesma, Greenpeace ecowaste campaigner, said.

A study in April this year found that the Philippines contributed 36 percent of the plastic waste that ended up in the world's oceans, with the Pasig River also being identified as the top plastic pollution source.

Seven of the 10 rivers that contributed plastic pollution in the world's oceans are located in the country, it showed.

The Climate Change Commission described the findings to be of "extreme concern" in terms of how plastic waste are being managed in the Philippines.

## ALTERNATIVE

Reusable packaging is one of the ways plastic waste can be reduced, according to the group.

While Lazada and Shopee had attempts to have green initiatives, Greenpeace noted, the change must come from the way they are delivering and processing orders.

"There haven't been publicly available commitments and goalposts to these important data sets. 'Yung campaigns nila (their campaigns) against plastic and for environmental sustainability are really geared towards more on the consumer side by supporting these companies that are environmentally friendly," Chua said.

ABS-CBN News reached out to representatives from Shopee and Lazada to get their side on the matter, but both have yet to release official statements as of this posting.

A Shopee representative has acknowledged ABS-CBN News' request. We will update this story for developments.

Youth Strike 4 Climate, meanwhile, said it is important to tap on small and medium-sized eco-friendly sellers.

There are also some small-time retailers like Good Trade PH which offers "compostable packaging" like compostable mailers and honeycomb bubble wrap.

"Lazada and Shopee can tap and work with them for more sustainable packaging solutions and eco-friendly disposal schemes," they said.

Reusable and returnable packaging has already been initiated by Loop, Zippies, Repack, Fachpack, eBox Solutions, and most especially JuanBag, they added.

JuanBag, according to its founder Rachel Lacanlale, innovated a thick, vinyl lining for its reusable and returnable packaging so customers would get the items easily during deliveries.



She also assured customers who are concerned about the sanitation process, and said the delivery system and process would minimize the risk amid the COVID-19 threat.

"Consumers will not hold the bubble wrap or anything, instead the item is just inside and you can just take it out, no need to use tapes and other materials wherein the consumer can have to untangle things and that minimizes 'yung cost for sanitation because we can just easily sanitize the items or the packaging," Lacanlale explained.

The House of Representatives earlier passed a measure that seeks to gradually phase out the production, sale, and use of single-use plastics.

The measure seeks to protect life on land and water from hazards posed by plastic pollution, prolong the service life of sanitary landfills, and discourage the consumption of single-use plastic products.

A report by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific showed some 164 million sachets are used and thrown away each day by Filipinos, or 59.8 billion per year.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/09/08/21/greenpeace-asks-online-stores-to-cut-down-plastics-use?fbclid=IwAR2x4p5gDlPTIBELTVlkuh0eNNeFfXkShWVjMG1kDNIq87Kpo0ZZ338WwA>



# Retiradong sundalo/bgy. kagawad wanted sa illegal logging

On Sep 7, 2021



TUMAKAS ang isang retired Philippine Army (PA) nang mahuli sa aktong nagpuputol ng mga kahoy gamit ang chainsaw sa Barangay Purag, Sinit, Ilocos Sur, Linggo ng gabi.

Kinilala ng Sinit Police Station (SPS) ang suspek na si Carmilo Ramos Battad, 61, retiradong miyembro ng PA at barangay kagawad ng Brgy. Namalpalan, Magsingal sa nasabing lalawigan.

Ayon sa SPS, nakatangap sila ng tawag na maynagpuputol ng kahoy sa Brgy. Purag.

Sa pagresponde ng SPS operation unit nakatunog ang suspek at mabilis itong tumakas.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad, iniwan ng suspek ang kanyang Isuzu truck na may plakang XGJ-663 at puno ng troso ng Acasia, at chainsaw sa pagputol ng kahoy.



Kuha sa itinambak na dolomite sa bahagi ng Manila Bay bandang 3 p.m. sa gitna ng pananalasa ng bagyong #JolinaPH sa bansa. | via Marlene Alcaide

See Translation



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# UN rejects call to delay COP26 climate summit

Agence France-Presse September 8, 2021 | 10:31am



Activists hold a banner reading "It's hotting up - Climate Crisis" as they take part in an protest by the Extinction Rebellion climate change group, near the Houses of Parliament in central London on September 3, 2020 on the third day of their new series of 'mass rebellions'.

AFP / Justin Tallis

UNITED NATIONS, United States — The United Nations on Tuesday rejected a call by a global non-government network to postpone the upcoming COP26 climate summit in Britain on the grounds that a lack of COVID-19 vaccines risked sidelining developing countries.

"For now, no changes are planned, but we understand the concerns," UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said of the UN Climate Change Conference set to kick off October 31 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Earlier Tuesday the Climate Action Network, a global collection of more than 1,500 climate NGOs, called on Britain to postpone COP26 amid an increase in COVID-19 cases, unequal global vaccine rollout, and stringent quarantine requirements for dozens of countries seeking to attend the 12-day UN talks.

"Our concern is that those countries most deeply affected by the climate crisis and suffering from the lack of support by rich nations in providing vaccines will be left out," said Tasneem Essop, CAN's Executive Director.

But the United Nations joined the host government in countering that the climate crisis was too urgent for the meeting to be put off.

"The global scientific community has made clear that climate change is now a global emergency," Haq said.

"Only an urgent and major step up in climate action can keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach, and protect the most vulnerable countries and communities from worsening climate impacts."

Haq said UN authorities and offices are working with the British government "to make COP as safe and inclusive as possible, including offering vaccines to all participants and paying for hotel quarantine costs where quarantine is required."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/world/2021/09/08/2125724/un-rejects-call-delay-cop26-climate-summit>



## Biden: Climate change everybody's crisis

By [Associated Press](#) September 9, 2021

**NEW YORK:** President [Joe Biden](#) declared climate change has become "everybody's crisis" on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) as he toured neighborhoods flooded by the remnants of Hurricane "[Ida](#)," warning it's time for America to get serious about the "code red" danger or face ever worse loss of life and property.

Biden spoke after walking streets in [New Jersey](#) and then Queens in New York City, meeting people whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged by flooding when "Ida" barreled through.

The storm dumped record amounts of rain onto already saturated ground and was blamed for more than a dozen deaths in the city.

The president said he thinks the damage everyone is seeing, from wildfires in the West to hurricane havoc in the South and Northeast, is turning climate-change skeptics into believers, but years of unheeded warnings from scientists, economists and others mean time for action is short.

"The threat is here. It is not getting any better," Biden said in New York. "The question is can it get worse. We can stop it from getting worse."

Biden sounded a similar theme before he toured Manville, New Jersey, also ravaged by severe flooding caused by "Ida."

"Every part of the country, every part of the country is getting hit by extreme weather," Biden said during a briefing with officials in [Somerset County](#) including Gov. [Phil Murphy](#).

He said the threat from wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other extreme weather must be dealt with in ways that will lessen devastating effects of climate change.

"We can't turn it back very much, but we can prevent it from getting worse," he said. "We don't have any more time."

The natural disasters have given Biden an opening to push [Congress](#) to approve his plan to spend \$1 trillion to fortify infrastructure nationwide, including electrical grids, water and sewer systems, to better defend against extreme weather. The legislation has cleared the Senate and awaits a House vote.

Biden also talked up a side benefit of the plan, the "good-paying jobs" he said it will create. On Tuesday, the [White House](#) asked Congress for an additional \$24 billion in disaster aid to cover the costs of "Ida" and other destructive weather events.

In New Jersey, Biden walked along a street in the [Lost Valley](#) neighborhood of Manville where flooding is common and the cleanup continues after the [Raritan River](#) overflowed its banks. Many front lawns were covered with waterlogged couches, broken pianos, crumbled plaster and other debris.

One home displayed a hand-painted sign that said, "Manville will be back better."

Biden, wearing a mask, spoke to adults and children, including Meagan Dommar, a new mother whose home was destroyed by fire as the flood occurred. She told him that she and her husband, Caesar, had left with the baby before the flooding, then returned to find destruction.



"Thank God you're safe," Biden replied. She said afterward she hoped the visit would speed help "along a little bit" and said she was grateful for the visit.

Not everyone was so welcoming. As he walked the route, the Democratic president was taunted by supporters of Republican former president Donald Trump who yelled that Biden was a "tyrant" and worse. Biden did not look in their direction.





## China shows willingness to cooperate on climate issue by inviting US envoy Kerry

By [Global Times](#) September 9, 2021

US climate envoy [John Kerry](#) is set to kick off his second visit to [China](#) within five months under China's invitation at a time when the bilateral relationship has hit a nadir not seen in decades.

China's [Ministry of Ecology and Environment](#) announced on Tuesday that Kerry would visit China this week, under China's invitation. During his visit, Kerry will discuss cooperation on climate change between China and the US and the upcoming 26th [UN Climate Change Conference](#) of the Parties (COP26) with his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua in the Chinese city of Tianjin.

Analysts believe that a series of fiascos at home and abroad has made Washington realize that cooperation with Beijing is essential for it to deal with multiple affairs, so that Kerry's visit, apart from enhancing global cooperation on climate, also serves as testing the waters on whether collaboration could be extended beyond the global warming battle.

Kerry's visit comes just ahead of a key United Nations climate meeting, COP26 in Glasgow in November, where nations are expected to enhance their targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within this decade.

### 'Responsible bellwether'

"The recent extreme weather that has caused incidents around the globe has warned countries of the urgency to address climate issues. By inviting Kerry twice, China is demonstrating its willingness to strengthen cooperation with the US on climate change, and showcases its image as a responsible bellwether in tackling this global puzzle," [Li Haidong](#), professor at the [Institute of International Relations](#) of the [China Foreign Affairs University](#), told the Global Times.

Days before Kerry's visit, some US media, including the Wall Street Journal and CNN cited sources saying that the US special climate envoy will press Chinese leaders to declare a halt on financing international coal-fired projects as part of the Belt and [Road Initiative](#) (BRI) and ask China to accelerate its timeline to decarbonize the economy.

[Yang Fuqiang](#), a research fellow at [Peking University's Research Institute](#) for Energy, told the Global Times that «developing countries in the BRI prioritize boosting the economy, which results in large amounts of carbon emissions. But without help from China's technology and capital, emissions will be higher than they are now.»

The expert noted that China is gearing up to phase out coal consumption and achieve its goal of carbon neutrality and it will not bow to any external pressure to act rashly.

Yang said that China's development in the digital economy, the new-energy industry such as photovoltaics and super computers all contribute to pushing forward the country to shake off its reliance on traditional energy. Yet paradoxically, the US is trying to slap sanctions on these fields which thwarts China's development, Yang noted.

After Kerry visited China in April to discuss climate issues, China and the US published a joint statement which said both countries are "committed to working together" on climate change, and will cooperate on multilateral fronts including the Paris Agreement.

Xie said at a forum in Beijing in July that China has established a leading group and is formulating a timetable and road map for carbon peaking and carbon neutralization.



China announced a clean and low-carbon energy transformation plan to honor its commitments to peak its carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. The same process would take the European Union 60 years and the [United States](#) 45 years, Xie said.

### Cooperation with China indispensable

Kerry's visit to Tianjin marks the third trip to China by a senior Biden administration official and Kerry's second in five months. The US, at loggerheads with China over a range of issues including Covid-19 origins, human rights, the Taiwan question and others, has started reaching out to China on topics like Afghanistan and trade.

On Sunday since the suicide bombings that killed about 170 Afghans and 13 US soldiers at the Kabul airport last week, [Chinese State](#) Councilor and Foreign Minister [Wang Yi](#) held a phone conversation with US Secretary of State [Antony Blinken](#) during which Wang said it was necessary for all sides to engage with the Taliban and "positively guide" them.

On US-China ties, Wang said recent communications between the two countries on Afghanistan and climate change show that dialogue is better than confrontation, and cooperation is better than conflict.

The embarrassing situation in Afghanistan is the latest lesson for Washington to realize that without consultation with China, it would face much worse consequences, Lü Xiang, a research fellow at the [Chinese Academy of Social Sciences](#) in Beijing, told the Global Times, noting that as the US is now facing several fiascos at home and on international fronts, it has realized that engaging with China is indispensable in addressing those problems.

Lü said that according to his knowledge, US commerce and national defense departments are eager to contact China, therefore Kerry's visit may be "testing the waters" for the US to see if the bilateral negotiation could go beyond global warming issues.

Bloomberg reported last week that a contingent of Wall Street veterans and high-level Chinese government officials are preparing for talks again, as business leaders work outside the Biden administration for greater access to China. The information has not been confirmed by the Chinese government.

Chinese analysts warned that the US cannot dream about cooperating with China on some fronts, while thwarting China's development in other fields. Similarly, China's Vice Foreign Minister [Xie Feng](#) told US Deputy Secretary of State [Wendy Sherman](#) in Tianjin last month: "The US... cannot expect cooperation on one hand and to hurt China's interests on the other. This won't work."

Lü also believes that China is not holding out high hopes on both sides to make great strides in cooperation and enhancing ties, based on the Biden administration's hostile attitude against China.

"If the US wants to make progress in cooperation with China on climate and other issues, it first needs to change its domestic political climate," Lü concluded.

**BY ZHAO YUSHA, *Global Times***

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/09/09/opinion/columns/china-shows-willingness-to-cooperate-on-climate-issue-by-inviting-us-envoy-kerry/1814049>

# Climate change: Dragonflies spread north in warming world

By Helen Briggs BBC Environment correspondent

Published 1 day ago



DAVE SMALLSHIRE

image captionThe emperor dragonfly is expanding north into Scotland and Ireland

## Dragonflies are moving northwards across Britain and Ireland as temperatures rise.

More than 40% of species have increased their distribution since 1970, while only about 10% have declined, according to a new report.

Experts from the British Dragonfly Society say it's an indicator of the effects of climate change. There is concern over the loss of populations of insects due to factors such as pollution and habitat loss.

Conservation officer Eleanor Colver said while their data can determine where dragonflies are, it cannot determine exactly how many there are - and whether numbers have increased overall.

"Factors such as the use of pesticides (reducing their flying insect prey), water pollution and habitat loss continue to threaten the health of dragonfly populations within species' existing ranges," she said.



DAVE SMALLSHIRE

image captionThe small red-eyed damselfly: Now found from Cornwall to County Durham

The report, *State of Dragonflies 2021*, incorporates 1.4 million records from 17,000 recorders gathered from 1970 onwards.

It assesses the fortunes of 46 species of dragonflies and their close relative - the damselflies - across Britain and Ireland.

Since 1995, several species have reached Britain from southern Europe for the first time - and at least two more have reappeared after long absences.



Species expanding their range include the emperor dragonfly, migrant hawker, ruddy darter, black-tailed skimmer and small red-eyed damselfly.

In contrast, some upland and northern dragonflies are in retreat, including the common hawker and black darter, perhaps because of the loss of peatbogs or extreme droughts.

"The increase in many species, if not all, we can put down to a combination of climate warming and more or better wetland habitats such as an increase in the number of ponds, lakes, gravel-pits and reservoirs in recent decades," said Dave Smallshire, co-editor of the report.

But people should not get the message that all is "tickety-boo with dragonflies", he added.

"The overwhelming message is that global climate change - and in the case of Britain and Ireland - significant climate warming is likely to have had an over-riding effect on many of these changes," he said.



IAIN H LEACH

image captionBlack darter: With a home in upland bogs, this species is in decline

Dragonflies are fast-flying, four-winged insects with long bodies and large eyes. They were some of the first winged insects to evolve, some 300 million years ago.

Scientists are increasingly concerned about the decline of some populations of insects.

One scientific review of insect numbers in 2019 pointed to 40% of species undergoing "dramatic rates of decline" around the world.

The study said bees, ants and beetles were disappearing eight times faster than mammals, birds or reptiles, while other species, such as houseflies and cockroaches, were likely to boom.



# UN chief calls on all countries to do more to improve air quality

Published September 8, 2021, 9:48 AM

by [Xinhua](#)

UNITED NATIONS — United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday called on all countries to do more to improve air quality.

“On the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, I call on all countries to do more to improve air quality,” the UN chief said in a message for the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, which falls on Sept. 7 annually.

“Today, as many as nine out of 10 people breathe polluted air, leading to some 7 million premature deaths each year, of whom 600,000 are children,” said the top UN official. “Unless we act decisively, this number could double by 2050.” The secretary-general pointed out that like many societal ills, air pollution reflects global inequalities, with most deaths related to air pollution occurring in low- and middle-income countries, and in poorer neighborhoods in wealthier nations.

Poverty forces people to live close to sources of pollution, like factories and highways, said Guterres, noting that poverty makes 3 billion people continue to burn solid fuels or kerosene for cooking, heating and lighting.

“The pollution that is damaging our health is also driving the climate crisis,” he added.

The secretary-general stressed that air pollution can be solved.

“Better monitoring can identify sources of air pollution,” he said, underscoring that evidence-based national legislation can help meet World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines.

And stronger emissions standards on vehicles, power plants, construction and industries can cut pollution, said the secretary-general.

“I welcome the recent global phase-out of leaded petrol,” he said. “We must also accelerate access to clean cooking and clean heating. We must invest in renewable energy instead of fossil fuels. Coal use must be phased out.” He also call for transition to “zero emission vehicles.” “If we take these steps, we can save as many as 150 million lives this century and help clean our atmosphere,” said the UN chief.

The UN General Assembly on Dec. 19, 2019, established Sept. 7 as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, underscoring the importance of clean air for the health and day-to-day lives of all.



## Sea of plastic: Med pollution under spotlight at conservation meet

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

PLASTIC packaging and discarded fishing nets bob in the tranquil waters of the [Mediterranean](#), signs of the choking pollution that has stirred strong feelings at the world conservation [congress](#) in the French port city of [Marseille](#) this week.

"The Mediterranean is the most beautiful sea in the world...and one of the most polluted," said [Danielle Milon](#), vice president of the Calanques National Park on the edge of the city where the [International Union](#) for Conservation of Nature is holding its congress.

While the quantity of rubbish in the sea is well documented - the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released a report on the issue last year entitled "Mare plasticum" - it is driving growing alarm among countries whose economies rely on tourism drawn to pristine beaches and sparkling waters.

At the opening of the IUCN Congress, Greek Prime Minister [Kyriakos Mitsotakis](#) and French President [Emmanuel Macron](#) pledged to greatly increase the size of conservation areas off their Mediterranean coasts - as well as the rigor with which they are preserved.

"Marine protected areas must no longer be paper parks but must have defined conservation measures," Mitsotakis said at the opening ceremony.

"We must promote sustainable tourism [and] put biodiversity at the heart of tourist coastal planning."

### 'Noah's Ark'

Near the coasts the main types of plastic pollution in the almost closed sea are packaging and fishing debris, said [Francois Galgani](#), a specialist on maritime waste at Ifremer, a top marine research center in France.

"Turtles confuse the packaging with jellyfish and in some areas in the Mediterranean 80 percent of turtles have ingested plastic," he said.

Meanwhile, nets can kill long after the fishing boats leaves them behind.

Plastic waste can alter life cycles and the floating debris can even transport some species far from their habitats.

"A Noah's ark," said Galgani, adding there are "no other examples of species transport of this magnitude."

To change the situation, everyone needs to play their part, [Philippos Drousiotis](#) head of the Cyprus sustainable tourism initiative.

"I was in the tourism trade and very much liked the idea of being sustainable [but] environmentalists didn't care about people," he said, adding that he was driven by economic realism.

With initiatives like the "keep our sand and sea plastic free" project, his organization tries to steer tour organizers, boat rental firms and hotels to stop using single use plastics.



It has also installed water fountains on beaches to make it easier for holidaymakers to give up their plastic bottles.

"The solutions are on land and not at sea," said [Romy Hentinger](#) of the [Tara Ocean Foundation](#).

It is also necessary to increase knowledge of the sources of pollution and how it circulates.

The [Tara Oceans](#) schooner led an expedition in 2019 to trace plastic pollution in the major European rivers.

According to [Nathalie Van Den Broeck](#), oceanographer and vice president of Surfrider Europe, some "80 percent of waste on beaches and in the seas comes from rivers."

The French NGO has also launched a study using artificial intelligence to find waste in images taken on mobile phones by citizen scientists.

Volunteers have recently traveled along the banks of the Rhine, in the six countries crossed by the river.

There are a host of initiatives looking to use the Marseille congress to develop networks and partnerships.

Although Middle Eastern and North [African countries](#) from the southern shores of the Mediterranean - which often have far fewer resources - are conspicuous by their absence.

But more needs to be done, said [Mercedes Munoz Canas](#), from the [IUCN Center](#) for Mediterranean Cooperation, who wants to bring in business interests.

We must "build a community," she said.



# 'Jolina' displaces over 12K persons in 4 regions: NDRRMC

By Priam Nepomuceno [September 8, 2021, 3:18 pm](#)



(Photo courtesy of Masbate City Police Station)

**MANILA** – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Wednesday reported that bad weather caused by Typhoon Jolina has so far affected 2,753 families or 12,213 individuals in four regions.

In its update, the NDRRMC said these individuals are from 65 villages in Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, and Eastern Visayas.

It added that 1,995 families or 8,600 individuals are being aided in 55 evacuation centers.

In a Laging Handa briefing, NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad reported that 12 fishermen were rescued off Sto Nino, Samar, while another five are still missing.

"*Meron pang pinaghahanap na limang mangingisda. Sila ay naabutan ng bagyo na nasa laot pa lamang* (there are still search operations ongoing for the five missing fishermen. The typhoon caught while they were at sea)," he added.

So far, Jalad said no death or injury have so far been attributed to the typhoon. **(PNA)**





# Floods hit Metro Manila due to 'Jolina'

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz September 8, 2021, 4:16 pm



INCESSANT RAINS. Vehicles waded through ankle-deep floodwaters along a portion of Doña Soledad Ave. in Parañaque City due to non-stop rains brought by severe tropical storm Jolina on Wednesday (Sept. 8, 2021). Jolina is forecast to cross the Batangas-Cavite area either Wednesday afternoon or evening, before heading towards Manila Bay. (PNA photo by Ben Pulta)

**MANILA** – Several low-lying areas in Metro Manila are inundated in floodwaters due to non-stop rains brought by Severe Tropical Storm Jolina (international name Coson) Wednesday.

In its 12 noon alert, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reported four inches of floodwaters along Roxas Boulevard – Quirino Service Road—with no other major roads experiencing flooding.

There are at least three cities within the National Capital Region currently experiencing floods.

In the City of Manila, gutter-deep floodwaters have been reported along P. Burgos corner Finance Road and España Boulevard.

In Navotas, non-stop rains also resulted in gutter-deep flooding along Daang Hari corner M. Naval, Daang Hari corner Gov. Pascual, Tangos North INC, and E. Rodriguez corner Masipag.

In Malabon, 6 inches of floodwaters inundated San Vicente Maysilo; 3 inches in Don Basilio Pulong Duhat; 5 inches in M.H. Del Pilar Tatawid; 5 inches in M. Sioson Dampalit; 6 inches in Barangay Tenejeros in front of barangay hall; 4 inches in Maria Clara Barangay Acasia; and 3 inches in Sitio Sais Catmon.

Meantime, in Marikina City, the Marikina Public Information Office reported that the Marikina River is still at a normal level at 14.6 meters as of 1 p.m. The first alarm for the Marikina River is at 15 meters which means residents in low-lying areas must prepare to evacuate.

In its 2 p.m. tropical cyclone bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration reported that the center of “Jolina” was last estimated in the vicinity of San Nicolas, Batangas.

It is packing maximum sustained winds of 95 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center, gustiness of up to 160 kph, and is moving northwestward at 15 kph. **(PNA)**



# 2 Bulacan dams release water due to 'Jolina' rains

By Manny Balbin September 8, 2021, 4:42 pm



Bustos Dam in Bulacan. (File photo courtesy of PDRRMO-Bulacan)

**CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan** – The Bustos and Ipo dams in this province on Wednesday released excess water due to heavy rains brought by Typhoon Jolina.

Records from the Bulacan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) showed that as of 8 a.m., the water elevation of Bustos Dam is at 17.26 meters, higher than its spilling level of 17.00 meters while the Ipo Dam is at 101.21 meters as against its spilling level of 101 meters.

Meanwhile, Angat Dam's water level is at 194.70 meters, still 17.30 meters below its 212-meter normal high water level.

PDRRMO head Felicisima L. Mungcal, in an advisory, said Ipo Dam started discharging 55 cubic meters per second (cms) beginning at 8 a.m.

Mungcal said the release of water at Ipo Dam was increased to 95 cms at 11 a.m. after its water level rose by 17.40 meters.

On the other hand, she said the water level at Bustos dam increased by 17.40 meters as of 12:30 p.m.

She said the Bustos dam's gate no. 3 was opened and discharged 325 cms.

She advised residents living in low-lying areas and near river banks in the towns of Norzagaray, Angat, San Rafael, Bustos, Baliwag, Pulilan, Plaridel, and Hagonoy for possible floods.

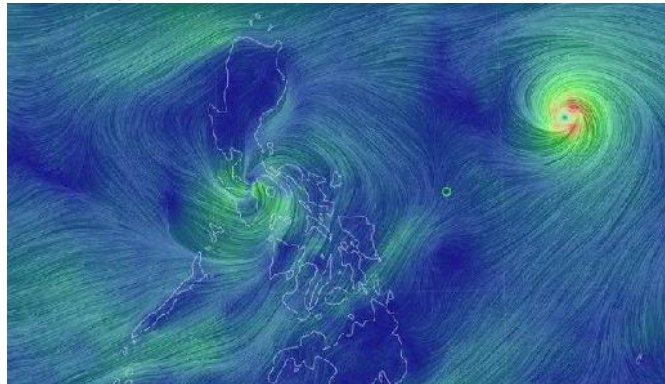
Governor Daniel R. Fernando, chair of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Center (PDRRMC), has already ordered all city and municipal disaster councils in the province to prepare for disaster response efforts. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1152960>



# Typhoon Kiko tumitindi habang bagyong 'Jolina' ika-8 beses magla-landfall

By [James Relativo](#)(Philstar.com) - September 8, 2021 - 10:26am



Satellite image ng Severe Tropical Storm Jolina at Typhoon Kiko  
[earth.nullschool.net](http://earth.nullschool.net)

MANILA, Philippines — Dalawang bagyo ang kasalukuyang umiiral sa loob ng Philippine area of responsibility, ang isa tinatayang sasalpok sa kalupaan ng ika-walong beses sa probinsya ng Batangas ngayong umaga.

Bandang 4 a.m. nang mamataan ang mata ng Typhoon Kiko 1,175 kilometro silangan ng Central Luzon, ayon sa state weather bureau, Miyerkules.

- **Lakas ng hangin:** 150 kilometro kada oras
- **Bugso ng hangin:** 185 kilometro kada oras
- **Direksyon:** pakanluran
- **Bilis ng pagkilos:** 20 kilometro kada oras

Ngayong 7 a.m. naman nang maobserbahan ang sentro ng Severe Tropical Storm Jolina sa ibabaw ng coastal waters ng San Juan, Batangas, sabi ng PAGASA.

- **Lakas ng hangin:** 95 kilometro kada oras
- **Bugso ng hangin:** 115 kilometro kada oras
- **Direksyon:** pakanluran hilagangkanluran
- **Bilis ng pagkilos:** 15 kilometro kada oras

Kaugnay ng mga naturang sama ng panahon, nakataas naman ang mga Tropical Cyclone Wind Signals sari-saring bahagi ng Pilipinas:

## Signal no. 2

- Marinduque
- hilaga at gitnang bahagi ng Oriental Mindoro (Bansud, Gloria, Pinamalayan, Pola, Socorro, Victoria, Puerto Galera, San Teodoro, Baco, City of Calapan, Naujan)
- hilaga at gitnang bahagi ng Occidental Mindoro (Abra de Ilog, Paluan, Mamburao, Santa Cruz, Sablayan) kasama ang Lubang Islands
- gitna at timog bahagi ng Quezon (General Luna, Macalelon, Sampaloc, Unisan, Pagbilao, Sariaya, Alabat, Pitogo, City of Tayabas, Padre Burgos, Lucban, Gumaca, Agdangan, Plaridel, San Antonio, Candelaria, Atimonan, Quezon, Tiaong, Mauban, Perez, Lucena City, Dolores, Real, Infanta)
- Batangas
- Cavite
- Laguna
- Rizal
- Metro Manila



- timog bahagi ng Bulacan (Pandi, Bulacan, Marilao, Calumpit, Norzagaray, Plaridel, Santa Maria, Balagtas, Bocaue, Bustos, City of Malolos, Angat, Obando, City of San Jose del Monte, Pulilan, City of Meycauayan, Hagonoy, Paombong, Guiguinto, San Rafael, Baliuag)
- Pampanga
- Bataan
- Zambales
- Tarlac

Dahil diyan, makararanas o nakararanas na ng mapaminsalang "gale-force" hanggang "storm-force" winds sa loob ng 24 oras.

### Signal no. 1

- La Union
- timog bahagi ng Benguet (Sablan, Tublay, Bokod, La Trinidad, Baguio City, Itogon, Tuba, Kapangan, Atok)
- timog bahagi ng Nueva Vizcaya (Alfonso Castaneda, Dupax del Norte, Dupax del Sur, Aritao, Santa Fe, Kayapa)
- timog bahagi ng Aurora (Baler, Maria Aurora, San Luis, Dingalan)
- Pangasinan
- Nueva Ecija
- nalalabing bahagi ng Bulacan
- nalalabing bahagi ng Quezon kasama ang Polillo Islands
- Camarines Norte
- kanlurang bahagi ng Camarines Sur (Ragay, Del Gallego, Lupi, Sipocot, Cabusao, Libmanan, Pasacao, Pamplona)
- kanlurang bahagi ng Romblon (Odiongan, Romblon, Banton, Santa Maria, Concepcion, San Andres, San Jose, Looc, Ferrol, Alcantara, San Agustin, Calatrava, Corcuera, Santa Fe)
- nalalabing bahagi ng Oriental Mindoro
- nalalabing bahagi ng Occidental Mindoro

Kaugnay niyan, nakararanas na o makararanas pa lang ng malalakas na hangin sa mga sumusunod na lugar sa loob ng 36 oras.

Sinasabing magla-landfall na naman ang bagyong "Jolina" sa kalugaran ng Lobo o San Juan, Batangas sa susunod na isa hanggang dalawang oras. Matapos niyan, tatawid ito sa Batangas-Cavite area bago makita sa Manila Bay ngayong hapon o gabi. Susundan na naman ito ng isa pang landfall sa kalugaran ng Bataan Peninsula.

Posibleng lumabas ang bagyong "Jolina" sa PAR ngayong Biyernes ng umaga.

Ilang lugar naman sa probinsya ng Northern Luzon at Extreme Northern Luzon simula ngayong gabi hanggang bukas ng umaga ang pwedeng taasan ng Tropical Cyclone Wind Signals (TCWS) dahil sa Typhoon Kiko: "The highest possible wind signal that may be hoisted for this tropical cyclone is TCWS #4."

### Malalakas na pag-ulan

Sa susunod na 24 oras, inaasahang makararanas ng "malalakas hanggang matitindi na minsanang 'torrential' na ang mga pag-ulan sa:

- Metro Manila
- Bataan
- Romblon
- Marinduque
- Cavite
- Laguna



- Batangas
- Rizal
- Quezon
- Camarines Norte
- Occidental Mindoro
- Oriental Mindoro

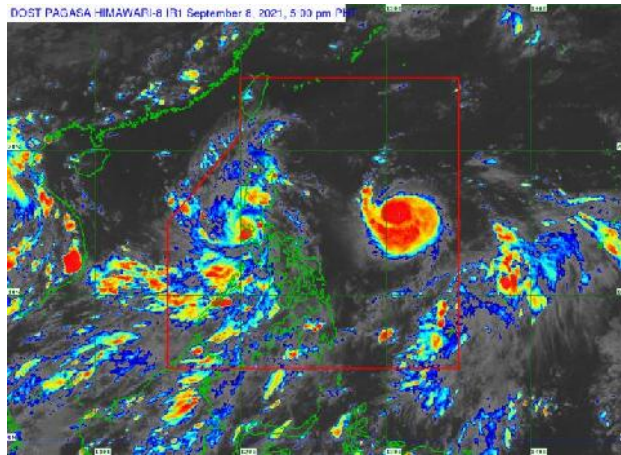
Katamtaman hanggang malalakas hanggang matitinding pag-ulan naman ang maaaring matikman ng:

- Aurora
- Bulacan
- Nueva Ecija
- Pampanga
- Tarlac
- Zambales
- Camarines Sur
- hilagang bahagi ng Palawan kasama ang Calamian at Cuyo Islands
- Aklan
- Antique
- Capiz
- Iloilo
- Guimaras
- Negros Occidental

"Under these conditions, scattered to widespread flooding (including flash floods) and rain-induced landslides are highly likely especially in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazard as identified in hazard maps," wika pa ng PAGASA.

# Typhoon 'Kiko' to bring heavy rains over Northern Luzon until Saturday

September 8, 2021



*Infra Red Satellite image from Himawari-8 via the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) at 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 8, 2021. (Photo courtesy of DOST-PAGASA)*

**By Christine Fabro**

Typhoon Kiko (international name Chanthu) may bring heavy rains over the eastern section of Northern Luzon on Friday (Sept. 10), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said on Wednesday (Sept. 8).

As of 5:00 p.m. today, Kiko further intensifies as it moves west-southwestward over the Philippine Sea.

The center of Kiko was estimated at the East of Central Luzon with maximum sustained winds of 175 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 215 kph, and a central pressure of 940 hectoPascals (hPa).

According to PAGASA's latest bulletin, rains with gusty winds will be experienced over Oriental Mindoro.

Meanwhile, cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms will be experienced over Bicol Region, Northern Samar, Marinduque, and Romblon.

Currently, there are no tropical cyclone wind signals (TCWS) in effect due to Kiko. However, PAGASA said the current track and intensity forecast shows that there is a moderate to a high likelihood that TCWS will be hoisted for several provinces in Northern Luzon, with higher wind signal levels possible over Extreme Northern Luzon.

"The highest possible wind signal that may be hoisted for this tropical cyclone is TCWS #4," PAGASA said. – **bnv**

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/typhoon-kiko-to-bring-heavy-rains-over-northern-luzon-until-saturday/>

09 SEPTEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



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**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Alagang Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1118  
Tel. Nos. (812) 827-1817, 828-3725; Fax No. (812) 820-1248  
Mobile No. 99394233, 99394234; Email: rscamburo@denr.gov.ph



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT** of the proposed **HOMONHON LATERITIC NICKEL/IRON PROJECT** of the **Nickelace Inc. (NKI)** located in Barangays Cagusu-an, Pagbabangnan, Casuguran and Culasi, Homonhon Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **HOMONHON LATERITIC NICKEL/IRON PROJECT** to attend Public Hearing scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
16 September 2021 (Thursday)	9:00 AM <i>Registration starts at 8:00 AM</i>	VGTI-NKI Mess Hall, Mine Site Office Brgy. Cagusu-an Homonhon Eastern Samar
16 September 2021 (Thursday)	2:00 PM <i>Registration starts at 1:00 PM</i>	VGTI-NKI Mess Hall, Mine Site Office Brgy. Cagusu-an Homonhon Eastern Samar

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	Homonhon Lateritic Nickel/Iron Project
Project Location	Barangays Cagusu-an, Pagbabangnan, Casuguran and Culasi, Homonhon Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar
Project Type	Resource Extractive Industry: Major Mining Project
Project Proponent	<b>NICKELACE, Inc.</b>

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** through email at [eia@emb.gov.ph](mailto:eia@emb.gov.ph) on or before **13 September 2021**. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: [www.eia.emb.gov.ph](http://www.eia.emb.gov.ph) (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- EMB Region VIII**  
Office Address: DENR Compound, Jones Street, Tacloban City Telephone No.: **(053) 832-1088**
- Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO)**  
Office Address: Guiuan Municipal Hall, Homonhon Island Eastern Samar

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone numbers (02) 89202240 to 41 and look for the project case handler **Engr. Joel Polintan** at [joel\\_polintan@emb.gov.ph](mailto:joel_polintan@emb.gov.ph).



09 SEPTEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Active cases down to 151,135 with 20K new Covid-19 recoveries

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor September 8, 2021, 6:33 pm

**MANILA** – The nation's total number of recovered coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases has reached 1,948,198 after 20,151 new recoveries were reported on Wednesday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) noted that recoveries account for 91.3 percent of the total case count which has reached 2,134,005 since the start of the pandemic last year.

Meanwhile, 12,751 new infections brought the total number of active cases nationwide to 151,135.

The DOH noted the relatively low numbers reported on Wednesday is due to the technical issues encountered in the extraction of updated data from the COVIDKaya digital platform on Sept. 7.

About 91.6 percent of these active cases are mild, 3.7 percent are asymptomatic, 0.7 percent are critical, 1.5 percent are severe, and 2.54 percent are moderate.

Another 174 new deaths were also reported, pushing the country's total number of Covid-19 fatalities to 34,672.

According to DOH data on Sept. 6, about 28.1 percent of 57,260 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"About 54 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 46 are recoveries. Moreover, 80 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it added.

All laboratories were operational on Sept. 3 while five laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH noted the five non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 0.9 percent of samples tested, and 1.2 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 76 percent of 4,100 intensive care unit beds, 67 percent of 20,900 isolation beds, 72 percent of 15,400 ward beds, and 56 percent of 3,200 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 74 percent of 1,400 intensive care unit beds, 63 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 72 percent of 4,300 ward beds, and 63 percent of 1,100 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region. **(PNA)**



# DOH logs 12,751 more COVID-19 cases

Philstar.com September 8, 2021 | 5:31pm



MMDA personnel conduct misting operation at Doña Juana Elementary School in Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City as part of the Department of Education's Oplan Balik Eskwela on Sept. 6, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

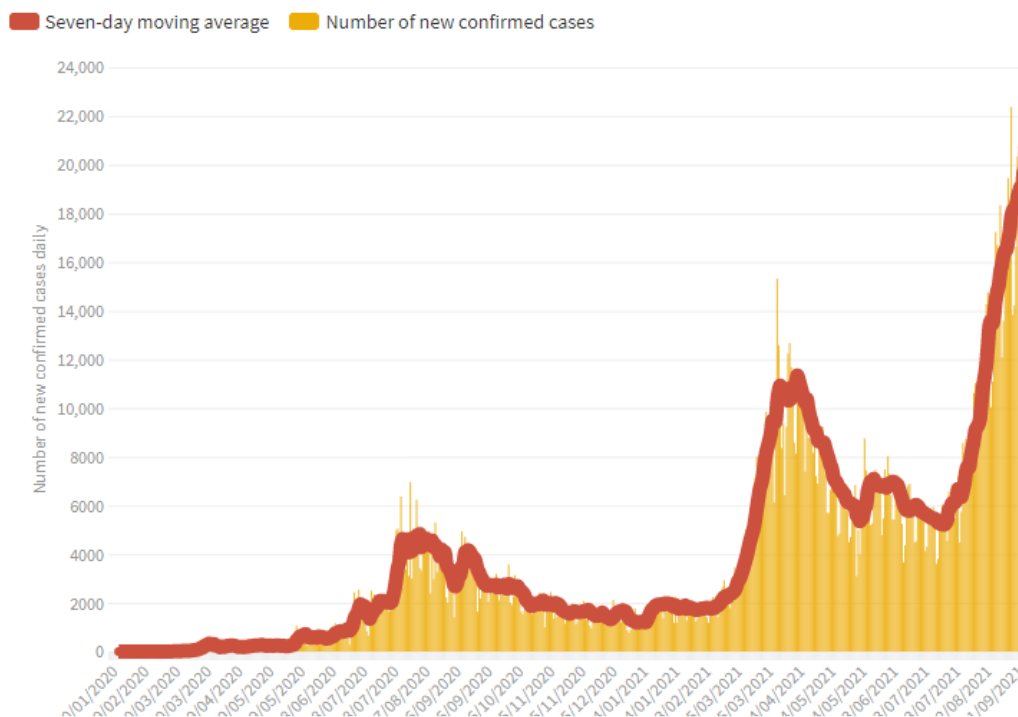
MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Wednesday reported 12,751 new coronavirus cases to bring the country's total to 2,134,005.

Today's figures saw active cases down by 7,502 from the 158,637 on September 7. The Department of Health said five laboratories did not submit test results.

- Active cases: 151,135 or 7.1% of the total
- Recoveries: 20,151, bringing the number to 1,948,198
- Deaths: 174, or now 34,672 in total

DOH attributed the relatively low numbers reported to "technical issues encountered in the extraction of updated data from COVIDKaya" yesterday, September 7.

## COVID-19 cases in the Philippines



Source: Department of Health • As of September 8, 2021, 4 p.m.



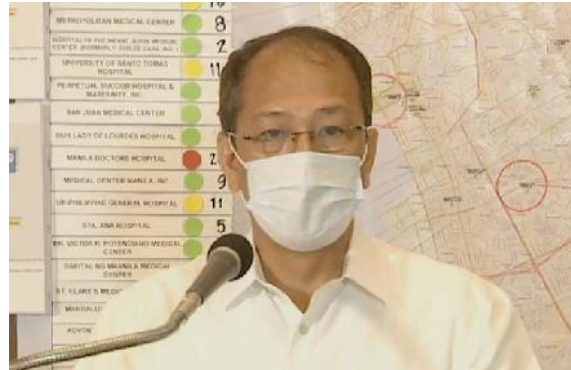
## GCQ in NCR pushed back

- The government delayed the "granular" lockdown in Metro Manila supposedly taking effect today to September 15, saying there is [no consensus](#) yet on implementing guidelines.
- Joblessness in the Philippines rose to 27.6% in June, a Social Weather Stations survey suggested. It translates to [13.5 million](#) individuals out of work against the 12.2 million in May.
- DOH denied it made [double payments](#) to the Department of Budget and Management's Procurement Service for the same set of personal protective equipment for health workers.

## 90 percent next vax target

Published 4 hours ago on September 9, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



From the initial vaccination target of 70 percent, the Philippines is considering raising it up to 90 percent by early next year, vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. said Wednesday.

In a radio interview, Galvez said that the original target date to achieve herd immunity, which is by November this year, has to be revisited due to the presence of a more transmissible Delta variant.

“We are seeing that the herd immunity... that concept could change as we raise to 80 percent to 90 percent due to the Delta variant,” he said.

“That’s what the experts told us in order to protect our population,” he added.

Galvez, who also heads the National Task Force against Covid-19 said that the government would at least try to inoculate 77 million individuals before the end of the year.

The government originally planned to inoculate 70 percent of the 110 million Filipinos by November to achieve herd immunity.

Based on the latest vaccine statistics report from the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC), a total of 15,033,354 individuals are now fully vaccinated in the country.

Meanwhile, more than half of the target population in the National Capital Region (NCR) have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

Galvez said that based on the latest vaccine statistics report, 52.3 percent of the target population NCR are now fully vaccinated. This is equivalent to five million people.

The partially vaccinated individuals in the capital region are now at 81.72 percent or around eight million people.

The government official previously said that the country is expecting an additional 25 million doses of Covid for September.

The expected deliveries for September are composed of government-procured 12 million doses of Sinovac, five million doses of Pfizer, two million doses of Moderna, one million doses of AstraZeneca, and one million doses of Sputnik.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/09/09/90-percent-next-vax-target/>



## Sustain state vax drive — Dominguez

Published 4 hours ago on September 9, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Joshua Lao](#) @tribunephil\_lao



Inoculating the majority of the population will continue to be pushed, allowing the country to finally reach herd immunity against the dreaded Covid-19 virus, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said.

“We have enough received and in order to cover 100.83 million of our residents. (In terms of) donations, we have 49.64 million doses. (From) multilateral financing 105 million doses — the cost of which is \$1.13 billion,” Dominguez told lawmakers during the Development Budget Coordination Committee’s virtual hearing on Wednesday.

“The source of the funds is from the national budget of \$176.5 million, enough for 15.5 million doses and the private sector, we understand, has ordered 24.9 million doses,” he added.

In terms of delivery schedule, the Finance chief said that they have already received a total of 52.79 million doses as of 7 September 2021.

Bulk or 32.09 million of the overall stock were procured by the national government, while 17.12 million doses were donations and some 3.57 million came from the procurement of the private sector and local government units.

“For the rest of September, we are expecting a total of 37.58 million doses to be received and from October to December 2021, we are expecting the delivery of another 105.29 million doses for a grand total of 195 million doses of vaccines,” Dominguez said.

Still, the Finance chief said that the government remains short of the required supply in order to achieve their target of inoculating at least 70 percent of the population.

“What we need to inoculate everybody is nine million doses arriving a week. We have already ordered it. We have set aside the money for it. Now, it’s up to the pharmas to deliver,” he explained.

“So far, this first week of September, we are really short...basically nine million doses arriving a week is what we need. Last week, I think we only got 3.5 (million),” he added.

As such, the Cabinet official affirmed the possibility of a delayed achievement of the herd immunity by the end of the year, which might be pushed towards the first quarter 2022.

“That looks probable... We hope for the best and fortunately, we have been able to get a steady supply, particularly from Sinovac. They have come up with more than 50 percent of our deliveries,” Dominguez said.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/09/09/sustain-state-vax-drive-dominguez/>



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**

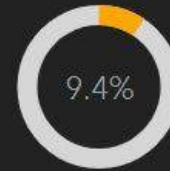
# DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.

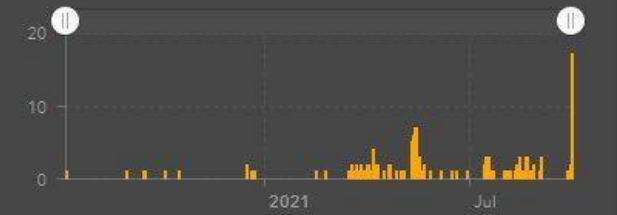


## % COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in DENR-CO



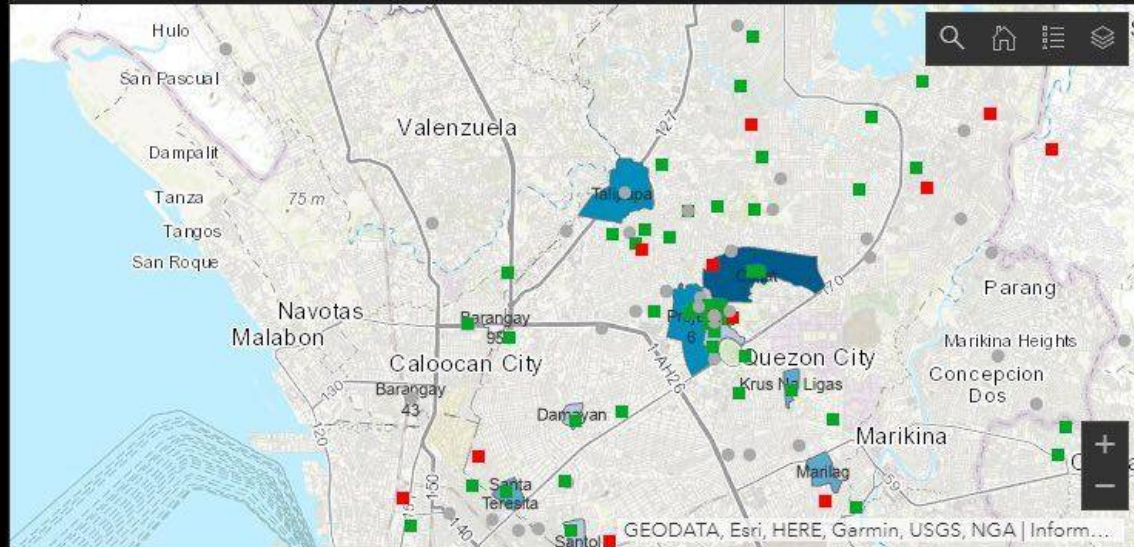
Last update: 5 minutes ago

## Daily Confirmed Cases



Last update: 5 minutes ago

## Residence of affected personnel



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.

[Map](#) [Map Legend](#)

## Age Group



Last update: 5 minutes ago

## Age Group by Sex



Last update: 5 minutes ago

## Health Status



Last update: 5 minutes ago

## Comorbidity



Last update: 5 minutes ago

## Sex



Last update: 5 minutes ago





# KUMUSTA KA? TARA, USAP TAYO!

An Online Forum Series on Mental Health and  
how to cope with the Covid-19 Pandemic

Every Friday, | September 10, 2021-  
10:00 am | November 12, 2021

Hosted by:

Office of Undersecretary Penelope D. Belmonte

via  zoom


 LIVE on /NAPC.PH

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 [nipc.gov.ph](http://nipc.gov.ph)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/228765093801515/posts/4682983938379586/?d=n>

# KUMUSTA KA? TARA, USAP TAYO!

WEEK 1

HOW DO PANDEMICS IN GENERAL AFFECT OUR MENTAL HEALTH? (PERSPECTIVE OF A LEADER AND A WORKER)

WEEK 6

HOW DO I BALANCE OBSERVING SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND NOT BECOMING OBSESSIVE ABOUT IT THAT IT BECOMES A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE?

WEEK 2

HOW DO PANDEMICS IN GENERAL AFFECT OUR MENTAL HEALTH? (PERSPECTIVE OF A PARENT AND A CHILD)

WEEK 7

WHAT IF I'M ALREADY LIVING WITH AN ANXIETY DISORDER? MEDIA COVERAGE CAN BE ESPECIALLY TRIGGERING. HOW CAN I COPE BEST?

WEEK 3

HOW CAN I MONITOR MY MENTAL HEALTH? WHAT'S HEALTHY IN THIS SITUATION, AND WHAT'S CONCERNING?

WEEK 8

HOW DO I OFFER EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS, OR CO-WORKERS WHO ARE/HAVE BEEN QUARANTINED?

WEEK 4

HOW CAN I COPE WITH THE STRESS AND ANXIETY I'M EXPERIENCING BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC?

WEEK 9

WHICH IS MAKING PEOPLE MORE ANXIOUS: THE VIRUS OR THE HYSTERIA IN THE MEDIA?

WEEK 5

I FEEL ANXIOUS ABOUT CATCHING THE VIRUS OR TRANSMITTING IT TO A LOVED ONE. WHAT CAN I DO?

WEEK 10

HOW DO I TALK TO MY CHILDREN ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS WITHOUT MAKING THEM ANXIOUS?

#COPING WITH COVID-19

f LIVE on /NAPC.PH via zoom



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/228765093801515/posts/4682983938379586/?d=n>

# Self-care during the pandemic: Why it is so important and tips to help!



## Practicing self-care is important.

You won't be able to properly care for your family if you run down. Self-care is an essential service you need to do for yourself. Because there's nothing wrong with putting yourself first.



## Make time for yourself.

Create a space in the day and do something for yourself. Designate your time to relax. "Me time" actually makes us more productive, minimize stress, strengthens our relationships, and reboots our brains.



## Monitor your social media intake.

Limit how much time you're spending online. Don't forget, social media just shows a sliver of other people's lives, not the whole picture. Remember that social media is a tool—it's supposed to work for you, not against you.



## Be kind to yourself.

Being kinder to yourself will make you happier and boost your self-esteem. This is a stressful time, and it is okay to have bad days. Don't beat yourself up about it!



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#BeachNourishment #DolomiteWhiteSand #Savemanilabay

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

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
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
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
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


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



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