





January 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# NVizcaya adds agroforestry projects

By Vince Jacob Visaya

January 9, 2022

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya – The <u>Department of Environment and Natural Resources</u> (DENR) Region 2 has recently turned over six agroforestry support facilities (<u>ASF</u>) under the <u>Forestland Management Project</u> (FMP) to the province of Nueva Vizcaya.

The P40-million worth infrastructure projects are the 0.75 kilometers Pingkian Access Road, 2.08 km Talmoy-Daldal Pathway, 45 linear meters Udongaw Hanging Bridge, 0.68 km Latbang Pathway, and 4.2 km Bahlungay Irrigation Pipeline System, all in Kayapa town; and the 4.88 km Lazar Kalinga Irrigation Pipeline System in Dupax del <u>Sur</u>.

The irrigation pipelines will provide a stable water supply to the households and agroforestry projects in the <u>upland</u> while the access roads and pathways will ease transportation of produce from the farm to the market thereby improving their economic activities.

DENR <u>Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan</u>, who led the signing of the tripartite memorandum of agreement for the operation and maintenance of the facilities, reported that this year, a total of 13 ASF were turned over to the local government units and people's organizations (POs).

She thanked the local chief executives and the POs for their support of the department's greening effort, especially to the FMP.

Congresswoman <u>Luisa Cuaresma</u> thanked the DENR for providing projects that will uplift the lives of her constituents.

Aside from the agroforestry support facilities, DENR Region 2 maintained and protected over 25,000 hectares of plantations.

Source: <a href="https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/01/09/news/regions/nvizcaya-adds-agroforestry-projects/1828694">https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/01/09/news/regions/nvizcaya-adds-agroforestry-projects/1828694</a>





January 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 3	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Open-pit mining environment impact seen outweighing economic benefits

January 9, 2022 | 10:20 pm



#### By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

THE return of open-pit mining promises a boost to the economy, possibly at the expense of degrading the environment and living conditions for residents near the mines, a University of the Philippines (UP) academic said.

"From the view of sustainable development, the decision might not be right considering the impact of large-scale mining on local communities. While there might be economic benefits that can be gained from implementing this liberal policy on mining and granting new permits, these benefits, however, have to be weighed against the long-term impact of mining activities on the environment and the lives of the people," according to political scientist Ruth R. Lusterio-Rico, associate dean of UP Diliman's College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, who studies environmental politics.

"Some sectors have openly questioned and criticized this shift in policy particularly in light of the recent natural disaster experiences that are already considered to be related to climate change. Thus, for advocates of environmental protection, the economic benefits that could be gained now would not outweigh the consequences on the environment for the future generations," she added.

On Dec. 23, the government lifted the four-year ban on open-pit mining, which superseded an earlier order issued by the late Environment Secretary Regina L. Lopez.

In April, President Rodrigo R. Duterte lifted the nine-year moratorium on granting mining permits.

"There were indications that the administration has softened on its stance on mining. As everyone knows, in the early period of the Duterte administration, the position of the administration, particularly the President, was strongly against mining. Evidence of this (included) his strong statements against mining and mining companies in his State of the Nation Addresses (SONAs) in 2016 and 2017," Ms. Lusterio-Rico said.

"Mr. Duterte even directed the (Department of Environment and Natural resources) to review all mining permits and ensure compliance of mining companies to all government standards and regulations. It would be recalled that this strong position against mining was implemented by Ms. Regina L. Lopez," she added. "After Ms. Lopez's exit from the DENR, the position on mining gradually shifted. In his later SONAs, Mr. Duterte no longer talked about mining. The focus shifted to cleaning up Boracay and Manila Bay."





anuary 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 3	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Ms. Lusterio-Rico said the government and miners must ensure that the lives of those in mining communities are not disrupted.

"I think the government must very carefully study the situation in the communities that would potentially be affected by mining activities, on a case-to-case basis. To be fair, there were also mining companies that practiced what may be considered 'responsible mining.' But definitely, knowing how communities would be affected by mining activities is very important. Aside from the long-term impact on the environment, let us not forget the consequences of mining activities on people and their communities," she said.

"There have been several studies made on the consequences of mining on people's lives as well as on the environment. There are communities that have been divided because of the issue of mining, primarily because there are people who gain and there are those who lose," she added.

However, she called the consequences of open-pit mining inevitable in the event of mining accidents.

"In other words, even if the mining company can be a potential provider of employment, not everyone in the community can be hired by the mining company. There are also heavy consequences on communities, such as loss of livelihood, poor health conditions, etc. when accidents happen in mining areas," Ms. Lusterio-Rico said.

"I suppose that the risks involved in revitalizing the mining industry cannot be overemphasized. It is very clear based on past experience and the current challenges posed by climate change that the Philippines has to be vigilant and ready to face the possible consequences of irresponsible action," she added.

Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA), an organization of small fishermen, called the job creation benefits minor compared to the potential costs.

Open-pit "only creates very small number of jobs and a paltry amount of value to the Philippine economy" at the expense of degrading the environment, PAMALAKAYA National Charmain Fernando L. Hicap said in a statement.

"The resumption of open-pit mining spells greater environmental destruction and disaster for farmers, indigenous peoples, and fisherfolk. We do not buy the pretext that inviting more mining companies into our land will help revive the pandemic-battered economy... There are more sustainable ways to restore the economy (than) exposing our natural resources and sacrificing our national patrimony to big mining interests," Mr. Hicap added.

The mining industry welcomed the lifting of the ban, taking the position that the practice can be made environmentally sustainable.

"The mining method is dependent on the location and configuration of the ore body. Open-pit mining is employed for shallow or near-surface mineral deposits, where underground operations are impractical. There are sufficient safeguards to ensure that all mining operations including open-pit are done safely and with due consideration to the environment and host communities," the Philippine Mining and Exploration Association (PMEA) said in a statement.





January 10, 2022	Headline
-	Editorial
Date	Column
3 of 3	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

"We hope that this will encourage investment in mining in the future and that the government will facilitate and expedite the permitting process. This will allow the mining industry to contribute more to the country's economic recovery from the disastrous effects of the pandemic," PMEA added.

Source: <a href="https://www.bworldonline.com/open-pit-mining-environment-impact-seen-outweighing-economic-">https://www.bworldonline.com/open-pit-mining-environment-impact-seen-outweighing-economic-</a>





January 10, 2022	✓ Headline
	<ul><li>Editorial</li></ul>
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Measures sought vs damage during typhoons

Edu Punay - The Philippine Star January 10, 2022 | 12:00am



Residents walk past their destroyed homes in Hernani town, Eastern Samar province on December 17, 2021, a day after Super Typhoon Rai pummelled the southern and central regions of the Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines — A House leader is pushing for measures that will prevent massive damage during strong typhoons following the devastation brought by Typhoon Odette.

Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda said the development of mangrove greenbelts in coastal communities would prevent a repeat of devastation brought by powerful typhoons.

Legarda said planting and rehabilitation of mangroves along the shorelines of vulnerable coastal communities would serve as natural buffers against storm surges, flooding, erosion and other climate hazards.

"We have long understood the workings of nature and we are learning once more from the experience from Typhoons Odette and Yolanda. In natural settings, mangroves have effectively protected our most vulnerable communities, lowering the storm surge and dampening the waves within the first few hundreds of meters of forest," she stressed.

The Antique representative added that a mangrove greenbelt of hundreds of meters wide "can play a critical role in reducing wind or swell waves, thus reducing erosion, flooding, and storm surges and preventing loss of life and damage to properties."

Legarda noted that during the onslaught of Odette, which brought torrential rains, violent winds and storm surges in Surigao del Norte and Dinagat, provinces in Central Visayas and the island of Palawan, the coastal municipality of Del Carmen in Siargao was miraculously spared from storm surges because it is home to 4,871 hectares of mangroves, the largest such forest in the Philippines.

On the other hand, during Typhoon Yolanda, the world's deadliest storm in 2013, Barangay Parina in Giporlos, Eastern Samar was also saved from storm surges by its mangrove forests of nine hectares.

Legarda said the forest served as the community's protective cover when water surged inland. On the other hand, Bacjao, a nearby barangay but located outside the mangrove area, was completely destroyed.

As chair of the Senate committees on finance and climate change in 2016, Legarda pushed for the prioritization and earmarking of funds under the National Greening Program for mangrove reforestation.





January 10, 2022	<b>✓</b> Headline
Date	Editorial
Dute	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

She said there remains a need for a comprehensive and integrated policy on mangroves that could support nature-based and sustainable climate adaptation measures to protect vulnerable communities and their livelihoods from the devastating impacts of extreme weather and disasters.

Legarda also called on the Climate Change Commission, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of the Interior and Local Government and other national and local government agencies to follow a "Building with Nature" approach to develop and implement ecosystem-based coastal defense measures alongside existing risk reduction measures.

Source: <a href="https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/10/2152814/measures-sought-vs-damage-during-typhoons">https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/10/2152814/measures-sought-vs-damage-during-typhoons</a>





January 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	<b>✓</b> Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# On a mountain high of garbage in Cebu City

By Marit Stinus-Cabugon January 10, 2022

AS we enter the fourth week after Typhoon "Odette," the Cebu City government is watching with concern as the number of confirmed Covid-19 infections climbs. Around New Year's Day, daily confirmed cases were less than a handful, but on January 4, it was 22. Two days later, the Department of Health reported 48 new infections. We have to go as far back as early October to find more than 40 new cases in a day.

Covid-19 was as good as forgotten after "Odette" as we were all scrambling to get water, look for cell phone signals, and line up at ATM machines and gasoline stations. Away from the main roads, few people cared to wear a face mask or observe physical distancing. Often children were lining up to get water. The need for water, cash or gasoline was urgent and real, unlike the invisible virus.

While many Cebu City residents have been vaccinated, too many haven't. Vaccination sites are open again and it seems the response is good. Hopefully, we can avoid another wave of infections, with hospitals once again forced to reject patients.



In the meantime, the city is still struggling with the mountains of garbage. My own neighborhood has had no garbage collection (as of January 7) since before the typhoon. No, this is not a mountain road. We are located near main roads named after some of Cebu City's most illustrious men: <a href="V: Rama Avenue">V. Rama Avenue</a> named after <a href="Vicente Rama">Vicente Rama</a> (1887 to 1956), who is known as the father of Cebu City. As senator, he authored in 1936 the cityhood bill. The other main road is <a href="R. Duterte Street">R. Duterte Street</a> named after <a href="Ramon Duterte">Ramon Duterte</a> (1901 to 1971). Duterte, who hailed from Danao, served as vice mayor, then mayor of Cebu City in the 1950s. He was also a judge and a law professor. One can learn more about Vicente Rama, Ramon Duterte and other Cebuano personalities from the many articles written by the late lawyer <a href="Clarence Paul Oaminal">Clarence Paul Oaminal</a>. Oaminal kept history alive with his regular write-ups in the local The Freeman newspaper. He passed away too soon at the age of 51 on Aug. 4, 2021.

Going back to the garbage problem, while the volume ballooned due to the typhoon debris, the situation also reflects the generally sad state of <u>waste management</u> in the city. There has been no attempt since several years back during the term of former mayor Tomas Osmeña to enforce segregation at source. In those days — must have been about 10 years ago — households were given leaflets explaining how to sort the garbage. Garbage collectors would not collect unsorted waste. This effort, however, was discontinued when city hall got new occupants.





anuary 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Of course, the system wasn't perfect. People said that it was useless to segregate garbage when it got mixed together in the truck anyhow. Well, that was 10 years ago. Imagine where Cebu City could have been today if we had continued to improve the segregation scheme — and thus the entire waste management system from point of generation to final disposal — rather than abandon it. Rome wasn't built in a day. Without segregation, even recyclable items and materials and dry and clean waste, such as paper, are mixed with kitchen waste, used diapers, sanitary pads and the like. Everything gets contaminated. We don't have a clue how to segregate our trash. And while this mixed trash can be sorted, the longer it is mixed, gets wet and contaminated, the harder it is to recover recyclable material.

The biodegradable debris, such as fallen trees, branches and leaves, eventually got buried under the household waste as people started throwing their uncollected garbage on top of the debris on the streets. When the Binaliw landfill — the site that takes the bulk of Cebu City's garbage — closed for a few days due to typhoon-related problems, the city was forced to dump debris and regular garbage on a lot in the <u>South Coastal Properties</u>, creating an instant open dump site. This earned criticism from the <u>Environmental Management Bureau</u> and a threat of penalty. Yes, it's probably blatantly illegal but considering the situation, better for the city to haul the stinking piles of month-old garbage from residential areas and dump them in an uninhabited area. The <u>Department of Environment and Natural Resources</u> (DENR) could give the city a deadline to remove the household waste (DENR allowed the dumping of biodegradable debris in the area).

The garbage crisis that resulted from Typhoon "Odette" is not unique to Cebu City. However, had we had a proper waste management infrastructure and system in place as contemplated by the 21-year-old <a href="Ecological Solid Waste Management Act">Ecological Solid Waste Management Act</a>, where proper segregation in order to recover recyclable and reusable materials, and waste reduction policies are emphasized, the volumes of smelly, unsanitary garbage requiring immediate collection is likely to have been much less.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/01/10/opinion/columns/on-a-mountain-high-of-garbage-in-cebu-city/1828784





January 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# 'IPs should not be squatters in own lands'

By Dexter A. See

January 10, 2022

**ITOGON, Benguet:** Mayor <u>Victorio Palangdan</u> underscored that Indigenous Peoples (IPs) should not be treated by the government as squatters in their own lands because of the existing land classifications under existing laws, rules and regulations.

Palangdan, who is one of the aspirants for the province's lone congressional post, pointed out that under the current setup, IPs are already considered as squatters in the lands that had been passed on to them by their ancestors because their current abodes are classified as protected lands, watersheds, timberlands.

He observed that the "patented mining claims of large-scale mining companies have deprived them [the IPs] the right to acquire titles to the piece of the property despite having lived in the said areas for decades."

He claimed that there is a need to reclassify the land use to allow IPs ownership and prevent the government from treating them as squatters in the lands they inherited from their ancestors or own through various means.

"There is nothing wrong in the efforts of the government to preserve and protect the environment because of its established benefits to humanity, but there is also a need to strike a balance between protecting the environment and the actual use of the areas where IPs are mostly residing as they can co-exist with nature as evidenced by the decades of their stay in such places," he added.

Palangdan said the IPs know and understand the importance of preserving and protecting the environment and the government must reward them with the legal ownership of the land that they have traditionally occupied.

"The IPs deserve to be rewarded as stewards of the environment, especially the protected, forest reservations, watershed, timberlands and patented mining claims, without unduly damaging these, thus, they deserve to be the partners of government in environmental preservation and protection," he noted.

Palangdan revealed that one of his priority legislations, when given by the people of Benguet the chance to be the representative of the province to the House of Representatives, is for the immediate reclassification of the lands within protected areas, forest reservations, watersheds, timberlands and patented mining claims to conform with the actual use of the land.

 $Source: \underline{https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/01/10/news/regions/ips-should-not-be-squatters-in-own-lands/1828757$ 





January 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# 92 plant species to be included in PH study on allergenic airborne pollen in Ilocos Norte

Published January 8, 2022, 2:09 PM by Charissa Luci-Atienza

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) said 92 plant species were to be included in a two-year research study seeking to identify possible allergenic airborne pollen in Ilocos Norte.



(Photo by Kym MacKinnon on Unsplash)

DOST Secretary Fortunato "Boy" T. de la Peña said the study is supported by the DOST-Philippine Council for Health Research

and Development (PCHRD) and is designed "to identify the characteristics, seasonality, and allergenic properties of various airborne pollen in Ilocos Norte."

"Currently, the research team has identified 92 plant species to be included in the study which will be observed for a three-month period for their flowering and fruiting cycles," he said in a taped report on Friday, Jan. 7.

The project is implemented to address the communities' increased risk of allergic respiratory diseases following the extended periods of pollen production and airborne pollen dispersal due to early flowering of plants fired up by climate change.

"Among the effects of climate change is the early flowering of plants which causes extended periods of pollen production and airborne pollen dispersal. With this, communities are more exposed to possible pollen allergens, resulting in an increased risk of allergic respiratory diseases," the DOST chief said.

The study, "Seasonal Distribution of Allergenicity of Airborne Pollen in Ilocos Norte, Philippines," is led by Dr. Maureen B. Sabit of the University of Santo Tomas (UST).

De la Peña said the study "will generate crucial information about airborne pollen to educate the public on the possible causes and sources of pollen-related allergies and serve as a guide in managing allergic diseases."

"Aside from the characterization of possible allergenic airborne pollen, the project will also develop technologies that will forecast airborne pollen concentrations, enabling accurate diagnosis and creation of preventive measures for pollen allergies," he added.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2022/01/08/92-plant-species-to-be-included-in-ph-study-on-allergenic-airborne-pollen-in-ilocos-norte/





anuary 10, 2022	Headline
Date	- Editorial
1 of 2	Column Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# **Arroceros Forest Park to reopen**

by Rev E. Requeio January 9, 2022 in National, News

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso is looking forward to the re-opening of the redeveloped Arroceros Urban Forest Park, considered as the capital city's "last lung."

"This is what the 'tolongges' used to hang out, mounds. It's nice. You can go sightseeing at night, flirt. It's nice oh. Then here are the things ... even at night, senior citizens and children can go around," Moreno said while inspecting the progress of the work being done at the park.

The 2.2-hectare Arroceros Urban Forest Park has more than 3,000 trees of 61 varieties and 8,000 ornamental plants and is home to 10 bird species.

After undergoing construction for six months, the park now has fountains, elevated walkways, a coffee shop and play areas for children.

Meanwhile, senatorial bet Dr. Carl Balita of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Quezon City is urging the Professional Regulation Commission to expedite the digitalization of board licensure examinations amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a statement sent to Quezon City media, Balita said the PRC website used to present 100 board exams every year, but almost examinations were cancelled since March 2020.

In 2021, there were 48 exams rescheduled, while there were 12 others that rescheduled in 2022 with eight board exams postponed, he lamented. Late last year, he said, the schedule for 90 board exams for 2022 was released.

Moreno made a tour of the new forest park Wednesday evening along with Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna, Manila City Engineer Armand Andres and other Manila City Hall officials.

Moreno has touted the new Arroceros Park as the Philippine capital's version of New York's Central Park.

"As long as the people are good, the Filipinos can be proud, we will do it ... the people deserve it," he said.

"We make sure that when we build, we build fast because time is of the essence, especially now during the pandemic," added the 47-year-old local chief executive.

Moreno said he was very much contented with the progress of the work being done at the park as he toured the place.

He said the park would have amenities like play areas, kiosks, and public toilets. It will also have landscaping with an elevated path walk, a special lighting system, and water fountains.

Some of the pathways have rubber matting so that people will fee safer and more comfortable when strolling in the park.

Moreno also suggested the setting up of speakers where bird sounds could be heard so that people visiting the area would feel more relaxed.

Environmental groups such as Winner Foundation were said to be also contended with work being done inside the park.

The group previously expressed fears that touching the park, like building concrete pathways or walkways, will eventually kill the more than 3,000 trees in the area.





January 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

In a meeting at the Manila City last November, Moreno assured the environmental groups that no trees will be cut and that the park will be protected during its refurbishment.

Aside from Winner Foundation, also present during the meeting were the Manila Doctors, Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, Pamanlahi, Center for Energy, Ecology and Development, Earth Island Institute and Renacimiento Manila and The Climate Reality Project Philippines.

Last February 2020, Moreno signed Ordinance 8607, officially declaring the park along Arroceros Street as a permanent forest park.

The Arroceros Forest Park is part of a series of construction and rehabilitation projects to create more tourist destinations in Manila under Mayor Isko Moreno's administration.

Other projects of the Moreno, who is the Aksyon Demoktratiko's presidential bet, include the redevelopment and overhaul of the Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden and the renovation of the City Hall's iconic clock tower.

Source: https://manilastandard.net/news/314031853/arroceros-forest-park-to-reopen.html





anuary 10, 2022	Headline
	- Editorial
Date	Column
A7	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Arroceros Park finishing touches underway

When it reopens to the public on a date yet to be announced, the park will boast of fountains, elevated walkways, a coffee shop and play areas for children

BY PAT C. SANTOS

Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso said Sunday he is looking forward to the re-opening of the redeveloped Arroceros Urban Forest Park, which he dubbed as the capital city's version of New York's famed Central Park.

Dubbed as Manila's "last lung," the 2.2-hectare park is home to 3,000 trees of 61 varieties, 8,000 ornamental plants and at least 10 bird species.

"As long as it's for the good of the people, something we Filipinos can be proud of, we'll do it — the people deserve it," Domagoso said of the park undergoing improvements for six months now.

When it reopens to the public on a date yet to be announced, the park will boast of fountains, elevated walkways, a coffee shop and play areas for children.

It will have a special lighting system and some of the pathways will have rubber matting for added protection for visitors.

Manila City engineer Armand Andres toured Domagoso, Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna and other city officials around the park on Wednesday evening. The mayor expressed contentment with the pace and the work progress, saying "we make sure that when we build, we build fast because time is of the essence, especially during this pandemic."

Some of the pathways have rubber matting so that people will feel safer and more comfortable when strolling in the park. Being considered is the mayor's suggestion to put in place around the park a public address system.

Work inside the park has reportedly met the approval of various environmental groups, including the Winner Foundation which initially expressed the reservation that the improvements could kill trees.

In a meeting last November, Domagoso assured the groups that no trees will be cut and that the ecological balance at the park will be protected during its refurbishment.

Also present during the meeting were the Wild Birds Club of the Philippines, Pamanlahi, Center for Energy, Ecology and Development, Earth Island Institute, Renacimiento Manila and the Climate Reality Project Philippines.

In February 2020, Ordinance 8607 designated the park along Arroceros Street as a "permanent forest park" after the previous administration nearly sold it to a mall developer.

Manila's other big-ticket projects include the renovation of the Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden and the repair of the City Hall's iconic clock tower.





January 10, 2022	Headline
<u> </u>	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Upsilon, Unilever give 'real talk' on climate change crisis

INOUIRER.net BrandRoom / 09:50 AM January 04, 2022

Climate change persists to exist—except this time, it has indeed taken a turn for the worse. Based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group I report, "Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis," reducing global warming levels close to 1.5°C or even 2°C could be improbable without "immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions." With all that is happening, it is time to have a real talk about climate change.

The drastic changes felt across the globe are making people antsy, scared, and confused. Despair is a common denominator because of the effects of climate change.



In response, the Upsilon Sigma Phi's Climate Action Network (CAN) held its U-Talk webinar to emphasize Unilever's Climate Action Transition Plan. Addressing climate change as one of the greatest threats to economic stability, the discussion delved into the private sector's efforts in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement.

#### The private sector's efforts

As a member of the oldest Greek-letter organization and fraternity in Asia, Unilever Vice President Communication SEA Ed Sunico knows by heart how Upsilon Sigma Phi has always been faithful in its principle of helping lead economic stability in the country and around the world.

According to the <u>IPCC Climate Change Report</u>, the world is running out of time in tackling the climate crisis, which is the core reason why Unilever Philippines has been speeding up its efforts in protecting the planet. Sunico says that climate change's effects on the world soar above and beyond just the environmental sphere. Its social and economic impact could lead to global instability in which lives and livelihoods are affected. This, according to Sunico, explains how climate change and social inequality are deeply intertwined.

This is where Unilever's Climate Transition Action Plan comes in.

#### What this means

The Climate Transition Action Plan consists of a variety of targets and actionable steps to combat the crisis through an emissions reduction roadmap that involves Unilever's operations, value chain, and brands.

"We need to limit the global temperature rise by 1.5°C to avert climate catastrophe," Sunico explains.





January 10, 2022	Headline
	- Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



With this in mind, Unilever Philippines has set the game plan in motion, starting with its transition to 100 percent renewable grid electricity in all its sites through its partnership with First Gen. The roadmap also includes spearheading climate-action initiatives such as the "Kolek-Kilo-Kita" plastic collection program in hundreds of barangays nationwide, plant-based food transformation, and the shift to non-HFC (hydrofluorocarbon) point of sale ice cream freezers.

#### Aligned with government initiatives

At the core of Unilever's roadmap is to amplify the efforts of the government through the Department of Energy (DOE) in pursuing its e-mobility plan for the future. The DOE has always advocated the acceleration of e-vehicles for Filipinos by providing dedicated lanes and helping drivers use electronic vehicles in the long run.

While this is just one of the initiatives the team laid out, Sunico acknowledges that there is still much to be done to boost climate resilience. Creating laws, policies, and initiatives are, after all, fully encouraged by the DOE.

To address the global problem, Upsilon-CAN's main goal for the webinar is to generate awareness of the current climate situation and encourage more Filipinos to come up with initiatives to resolve the crisis together.

For more information on Unilever Philippines' plans and initiatives, visit this <u>link</u>. By INQUIRER.net BrandRoom/JA

Source: <a href="https://globalnation.inquirer.net/201211/upsilon-unilever-give-real-talk-on-climate-change-crisis">https://globalnation.inquirer.net/201211/upsilon-unilever-give-real-talk-on-climate-change-crisis</a>





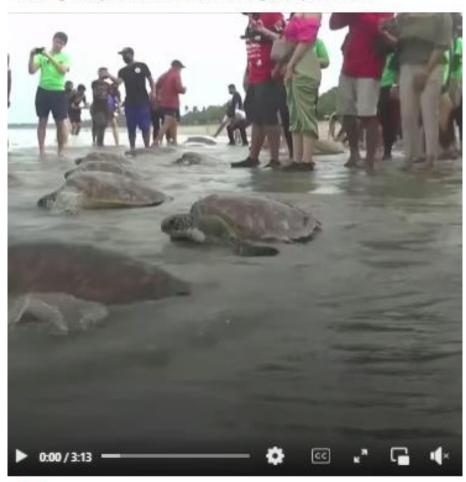
January 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

SEWES

GMA News posted an episode of GMA News Feed 2022.

Malaya nang lumalangoy sa karagatan ang 33 pawikang pinakawalan ng mga awtoridad sa Bali, Indonesia.

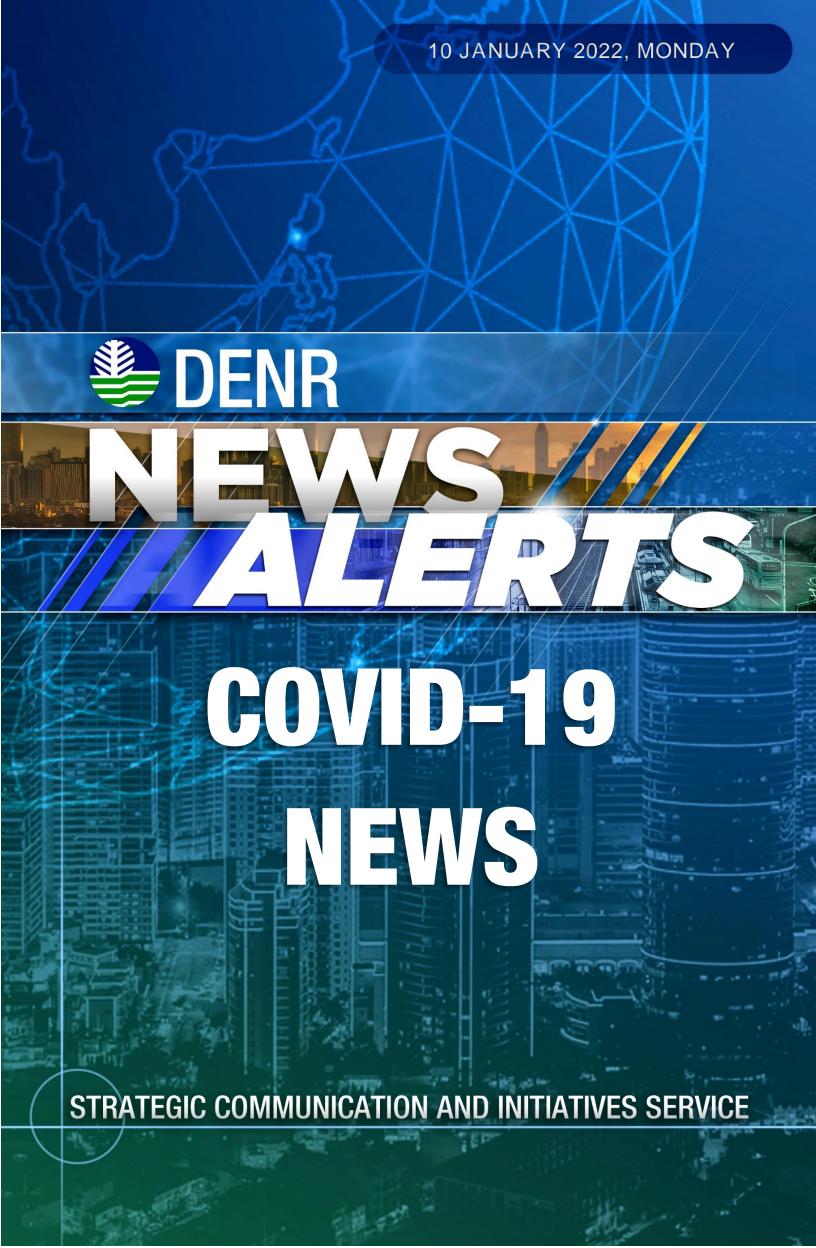
Sinagip ang mga ito mula sa isang anti-poaching operation noong Disyembre. Isa ang turtle poaching sa mga problemang kinakaharap ng Indonesia. In demand raw kasi ang mga ito sa ibang bansa sa Asya tulad ng Malaysia, Vietnam at China. Ang detalye sa video.



**OO** 602

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Source: <a href="https://fb.watch/ar6djMJ05h/">https://fb.watch/ar6djMJ05h/</a>



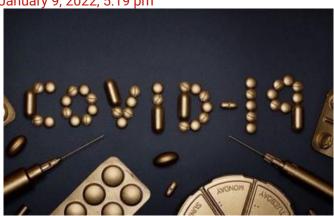




January 10, 2022	Headline
	<ul><li>Editorial</li></ul>
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# PH logs add'l 2,579 Covid-19 recoveries; 28,707 new cases

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor January 9, 2022, 5:19 pm



**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday reported 2,579 recoveries and 28,707 new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections.

The latest Covid-19 bulletin indicated 128,114 active cases while total recoveries rose to 2,785,183, or 93.9 percent of 2,965,447 infections since the pandemic started in March 2020.

Out of the active cases, 119,276 are mild, 2,851 are moderate, 4,213 are asymptomatic, 1,465 are severe, and 309 are critical.

"Of the 28,707 reported cases today, 28,512 (99 percent) occurred within the recent 14 days – Dec. 27, 2021 to Jan. 9, 2022," the DOH reported.

The regions with the most cases in the recent two weeks were the National Capital Region (NCR) with 16,803 or 59 percent of new infections; Calabarzon, 5,821 or 20 percent; and Central Luzon, 2,841 or 10 percent.

The death toll has reached 52,150 with 15 new deaths, representing 1.76 percent of overall cases.

"Of the 15 deaths, 11 occurred in January 2022 (73 percent), 1 in December 2021 (7 percent), 1 in October 2021 (7 percent), and 2 in September 2021 (13 percent). Deaths were from Region 4A (3 cases or 20 percent), Region 6 (3 cases or 20 percent), Region 3 (3 cases or 20 percent), Region 2 (2 cases or 13 percent), NCR (2 cases or 13 percent), Region 7 (1 case or 7 percent), and Region 1 (1 case or 7 percent) due to the late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya," the DOH said.

COVIDKaya is a digital application used by healthcare workers to collect and share data about Covid-19 cases.

According to the January 7 data, about 44 percent of 77,479 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"One hundred thirty-five duplicates were removed from the total case count as 116 of these are recoveries," the DOH said.

Meanwhile, three cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after validation.





January 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

All laboratories were operational on January 7 but 14 were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH said the 14 laboratories contribute, on average, 5.1 percent of samples tested, and 5.7 percent among positive individuals based on data in the past 14 days.

To date, 35 percent of 3,400 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 39 percent of 19,600 isolation beds, 38 percent of 13,200 ward beds, and 18 percent of 3,000 ventilators are used by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 52 percent of 1,100 ICU beds, 50 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 65 percent of 4,600 ward beds, and 26 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the NCR. **(PNA)** 

Source: <a href="https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1164934">https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1164934</a>





January 10, 2022	<b>✓</b> Headline
	- Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# For second straight day, Philippines sets record with 28,707 new COVID-19 cases

Philstar.com January 9, 2022 | 4:00pm



Vendors, truck drivers and other essential workers line up to receive their booster shot at the night market in Divisoria, Manila on Jan. 5, 2022.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Just a day after setting a new single-day record, the Philippines on Sunday again recorded its highest number of COVID-19 cases in a day since the pandemic began with 28,707 fresh cases, bringing the national caseload to 2,965,447.

The Department of Health in its latest COVID-19 case bulletin reported that the new infections were good for a positivity rate, which refers to the percentage of coronavirus infections based on the total tests conducted, of 44.0% out of 77,479 tests.

According to the DOH, 14 labs were not able to submit their data to its system. "Based on data in the last 14 days, the 14 labs contribute, on average, 5.1% of samples tested and 5.7% of positive individuals," it said.

The DOH also reported 2,579 recoveries — bringing the total number to 2,785,182 — while deaths now stand at 52,150 after 15 more casualties were tallied.

Active cases, too, are at their highest in nearly three months with 128,114 people still recovering from the infection, according to the DOH.

The Philippines is in the middle of its worst surge since the Delta variant. The previous peak during the Delta-driven surge was at 26,303 cases until the DOH recorded 26,458 cases on Saturday afternoon.

Earlier, independent pandemic monitor OCTA Research said that the positivity rate in Metro Manila may breach 50% in the coming days. A positivity rate of 50% would mean that one in every two tests comes out positive.

The current positivity rates are nowhere near the benchmark of 5% set by the World Health Organization for opening economies.





	January 10, 2022	Headline
= )"	Date	Editorial Column
	2 of 2	Opinion
	Page	Feature Article

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said his department is readying for a "probable" shift to Alert Level 4 in the coming days, though he was careful to note that the healthcare utilization in Metro Manila has not yet reached the threshold required for the stricter alert level.

It has been 663 days since the first enhanced community quarantine was hoisted over some parts of Luzon, and the Philippines remains under the world's longest quarantine. — **Franco Luna with reports from Gaea Katreena Cabico and Xave Gregorio** 





January 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Cases near Delta peak

If we remember, the National Capital Region had already reached the peak of Delta surge on 11 September. And for Region 4-A and Region 3, we're nearing the peak

Published 6 hours ago on January 10, 2022 12:07 AM

By **Jom Garner** 



The Philippines may reach the peak of Covid-19 infections experienced during the surge driven by the Delta variant last year, sooner than what is expected as coronavirus cases continue to increase.

In a radio interview, Jomar Rabajante of the University of the Philippines Covid-19 Pandemic Response Team said that the country may reach its peak as early as 15 January.

This is sooner compared to the Department of Health (DoH) projection early last week that Covid-19 cases will peak by the end of the month.

Rabante said that with faster spread of infections in neighboring regions of Metro Manila such as CALABARZON and Central Luzon, the Philippines will likely reach its peak earlier than expected.

"If we remember, the National Capital Region had already reached the peak of Delta surge for 11 September. And for Region 40A and Region 3, we're nearing the peak," he said.

"What's happening in our nearby regions, provinces, will possibly speed up the peak for the entire country and we may reach this target around mid-January," he added.

He further explained that NCR posted 9,031 cases on 11 September, while CALABAZON had 5,833 and Central Luzon reported 3,111.

On Sunday, the latest case bulletin of the Department of Health (DoH) showed that the country logged record-high 28,707 new Covid-19 infections with top contributing regions such as NCR with 16,803 cases, CALABARZON with 5,821 and Central Luzon with 2,841.

The fresh infections brought the country's total caseload to 2,965,447 with 128,114 active cases.

The increase in the number of Covid-19 cases was also seen in the country's hospital utilization rate.

As of 9 January, the country's occupied intensive care unit (ICU) beds for Covid-19 is now at 35 percent, occupied isolation beds at 39 percent while mechanical ventilators in use stood at 18 percent.

In NCR, the occupied ICU beds is currently at 52 percent, isolation beds for Covid-19 at 50 percent while mechanical ventilators in use at 26 percent.





January 10, 2022	✓ Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

#### In critical risk

Meanwhile, 15 major private hospitals mainly in Metro Manila are now at their critical risk capacity as more Covid-19 patients flock to health facilities, according to a hospital group.

In a phone call interview with the Daily Tribune, Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines Inc. (PHAPi) president Jose Rene de Grano said without disclosing these hospitals may soon announce non-acceptance of new Covid-19 cases.

"Around 15 private hospitals are already at the critical occupancy rate and may announce that they are already in full capacity," De Grano said.

The Philippine General Hospital (PGH), the largest referral center for Covid-19 announced that it will limit its admission of non-Covid patients to deal with the surge of Covid-19 admissions.

PGH spokesperson Dr. Jonas del Rosario said that the move will allow the hospital to reassign its health workers to Covid-19 operations.

Del Rosario said that the PGH has some 2,000 healthcare workers involved in the hospital's Covid-19 operations but 40 percent are currently under quarantine or isolation due to exposure to the dreaded lung disease.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/01/10/cases-near-delta-peak/





anuary 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# IATF-EID to discuss possible Alert Level 4 in NCR: DILG

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan January 9, 2022, 5:33 pm



Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año (File photo)

**MANILA** – Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año said the recommendation to place the National Capital Region (NCR) under more stringent Alert Level 4 status will be discussed in the succeeding meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID).

This, as the OCTA Research Group on Sunday said the positivity rate in Metro Manila has exceeded 50 percent for the first time –50.5 percent as of January 7, 2022.

"This (Alert Level 4) will be discussed in the next IATF meeting," Año said in a text message to Philippine News Agency on Sunday.

Metro Manila and four nearby provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal are under Alert Level 3.

The OCTA said the NCR logged the most number of the country's Covid-19 cases from January 2 to 8 at 8,468 followed by Bacoor City with 218, Antipolo with 211, Cainta with 202, and Dasmariñas with 152.

On Sunday, the Department of Health (DOH) reported 28,707 new Covid-19 infections, the highest single-day tally since the pandemic started in March 2020.

Some 16,803 or 59 percent of new infections were recorded in NCR, increasing the country's active cases to 128,114, and overall caseload to 2,965,447.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) reiterated its appeal to the public to strictly follow health protocols.

"We have seen photos of people standing in long queues outside the movie houses. Cinemas may have reopened in some areas with lower Covid Alert Level status, but this doesn't mean that the minimum public health standard must be disregarded," PNP Chief General Dionardo Carlos said in a statement.

He also urged the establishments allowed to operate by the local government units to strictly enforce the health protocols.

"We remain committed to assisting in the implementation of the protocol especially when the situation may be overwhelming already," he said.





anuary 10, 2022	Headline
Date	- Editorial
	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Carlos expects measures such as prohibiting food and drinks, wearing of face masks and the observance of physical distancing inside movie houses.

Meanwhile, Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro clarified that the use of face shields in the city is not mandatory.

"Dahil ito nga ay optional, walang kaakibat na penalty o multa ang hindi pagsusuot ng face shield. Kundi ito ay bahagi lamang ng ibayong pag-iingat o added precaution sa crowded o congested areas (Because it is optional, there is no penalty for not wearing a face shield. But this is only part of the added precaution in crowded or congested areas)," Teodoro said in a message to reporters.

DILG Undersecretary and spokesperson Jonathan Malaya warned that barangay officials may face charges if proven that the surge in Covid-19 cases in their jurisdiction was due to poor implementation of the minimum public health standards (MPHS), particularly the unabated outdoor activities of their unvaccinated residents.

"Madami pong mga pwedeng ifile sa kanila [barangay captains] for dereliction of duty, simple misconduct, negligence, madami pong pwede tayo, so alam naman yan ng kapitan (Many charges can be filed against them for dereliction of duty, simple misconduct, negligence, we many charges we can file, the barangay captains are aware of that)," Malaya said in a radio interview.

Metro Manila mayors earlier approved ordinances restricting the mobility of the unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals, particularly in indoor and al fresco dining, hotels, country clubs, and similar establishments.

Many business leaders, medical groups, and organizations have been pushing for the restrictions to be implemented nationwide amid the spike in infections and the threat of the Omicron coronavirus variant. (PNA)

Source: <a href="https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1164935">https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1164935</a>





anuary 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Omicron likely causing spike in COVID-19 infections: OCTA

**Jasmin Romero, ABS-CBN News** 

Posted at Jan 09 2022 07:19 PM



Motorcycle riders from different delivery and ride-hailing apps line up for the booster shot vaccination at the Kartilya ng Katipunan beside the Manila City Hall on January 6, 2022. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News* 

MANILA - The sharp rise in COVID cases in the country is "most likely" due to the Omicron variant, according to an independent research group.

OCTA Research Fellow Guido David said this was evident in the genome sequencing data.

"Sa latest genome sequencing na isinagawa ng Philippine Genome Center.. 60 percent ng mga sample test nila ay omicron, as of Jan 2. Most likely ngayon mas marami na," Guido said.

(In the latest genome sequencing by the Philippine Genome Center, 60 percent of their samples tested were omicron as of Jan. 2. Most likely this number has risen further.)

Guido added that international travelers who broke quarantine may have caused the local spread.

While there is no guarantee how the virus would pan out, David said he hopes that the omicron variant would be the last, and the Philippines would experience a 1- 1.5 month surge just like in South Africa.

On Sunday, an additional 2.7 million doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine arrived from the COVAX Facility donated by the US government, raising the total number of delivered COVD-19 vaccines to 213.4 million.

#### **ALERT LEVEL 4?**

David meanwhile said he believes that while raising Alert Level 4 can help curb the infection rate, there is no guarantee that it could work.

"Ang sabi nga sa ibang bansa, sa UK parang inevitable na ito eh. Karamihan ng tao mahahawaan dahil sa sobrang bilis ng pagkalat ng virus.

(What was said in other countries, in the UK, this was likely inevitable. Most people will get infected because of the speed of transmission of the virus.)

Instead, he said there must be a "paradigm shift" with the way government views lockdowns, according to David since unlike before— more people are vaccinated now, and there are more vaccines.





January 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Martin Diño meanwhile said he does not favor raising the alert level.

"Tama lang ang sinasabi ng presidente na paandarin ang ekonomya pero i-maximize ang pagpapabakuna, nakita natin na ito ang effective. At ang mga bakuna may expiration yan," Diño said, urging those who are unvaccinated to get jabbed.

(What the President said is correct, that we keep the economy open but maximize the vaccination. We have seen that this is effective. And vaccines have an expiration date.)

Guido meanwhile said omicron must not be taken lightly as it can still strain the healthcare system.

Source: <a href="https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/09/22/omicron-likely-causing-spike-in-covid-infections-octa">https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/09/22/omicron-likely-causing-spike-in-covid-infections-octa</a>





January 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Pagbabawas ng onsite workers sa gobyerno pinayagan ng Malacañang

Malou Escudero - Pilipino Star Ngayon January 9, 2022 | 12:00am



Sa Memorandum Circular No. 94 ng Office of the President at nilagdaan ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, inilatag ang mga panuntunan para sa pagbabawas ng bilang ng mga manggagawa sa gobyerno na pisikal na papasok sa trabaho o onsite workers.

MANILA, Philippines — Pinayagan ng Malacañang ang pagbabawas ng mga onsite workers sa mga tanggapan ng gobyerno sa ilalim ng Alert Level System.

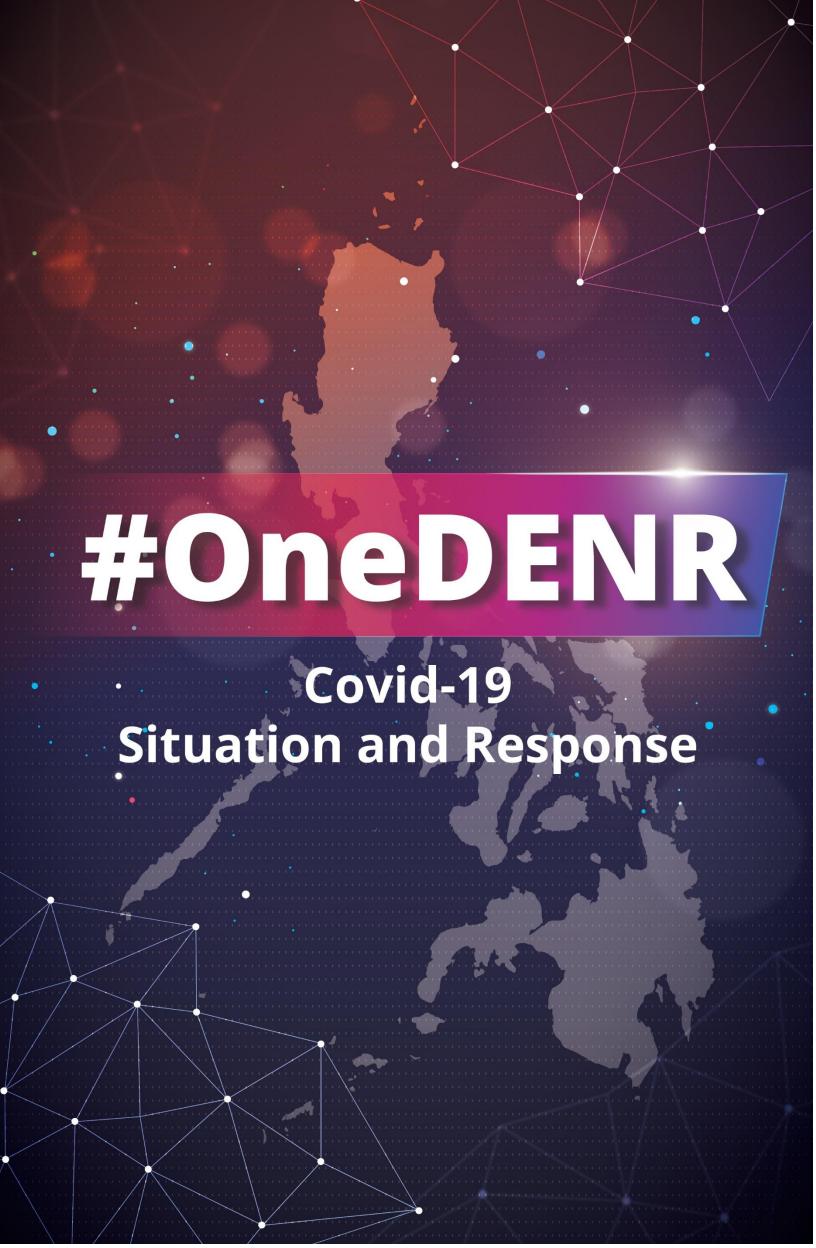
Sa Memorandum Circular No. 94 ng Office of the President at nilagdaan ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, inilatag ang mga panuntunan para sa pagbabawas ng bilang ng mga manggagawa sa gobyerno na pisikal na papasok sa trabaho o onsite workers.

Nakasaad sa MC No. 94 na sa pinakahuling pagtaas ng bilang ng may COVID-19, may mga ulat na nahihirapan ang mga tanggapan ng gobyerno na sumunod sa minimum onsite workforce na nakasaad sa Alert Level System at MC No. 93 dahil sa pagtaas ng bilang ng mga manggagawa na nagpo-positibo at kinakailangan na mag isolate.

Nakasaad na sa ilalim ng Alert Level 2, ang mga ahensiya at tanggapan ng gobyerno ay dapat fully operational kung saan 80% ang magre-report sa trabaho.

Sa ilalim ng Alert Level 3, ang onsite workforce sa mga tanggapan ng gobyerno ay babawasan at ibaba sa 60% samantalang 40% naman kapag idineklara ang Alert Level 4.

Source: <a href="https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2022/01/09/2152659/pagbabawas-ng-onsite-workers-sa-gobyerno-pinayagan-ng-malacaang">https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2022/01/09/2152659/pagbabawas-ng-onsite-workers-sa-gobyerno-pinayagan-ng-malacaang</a>







**ENERO 9, 2022** 

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

4.3%

128,114

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

TOTAL NG GUMALING 2,785,183

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

**TOTAL NG NAMATAY** 52,150

MGA BAGONG KASO 28,707

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 2,579

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 15

KABUUANG BILANG NG KASO

2,965,447

### MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 7

**DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 9** AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 7

PORSYENTO NG MGA **NAGPOSITIBO** 

BILANG NG TINEST

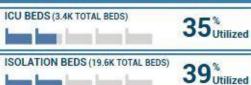
HALOS

96.4%

ANG MILD AT **ASYMPTOMATIC** NA KASO!



#### KABUUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



WARD BEDS (13.2K TOTAL BEDS) 

VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

\*\*\*\*

18% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS) 38% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

ICU BEDS (1.1K TOTAL BEDS)

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)

100 100 100 100 100

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

52% Utilized

50% Utilized

65% Utilized

26% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA **AKTIBONG KASO** 

4,213 Asymptomatic

119,276 Mild

2,851 Moderate

1,465 Severe

309 Critical

#### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

#### DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

- 1555
- 0915-777-7777
- · 02-886-505-00
- 0919-977-3333
- bit.ly/OHCCHotline

#### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

#### SeeYouDoc

- seeyoudoc.com
- SeeYouDoc

#### KonsultaMD

- konsulta.md
- KonsultaMD

#### CloudPx

cloudpx.ph/

#### **Telimed and Medgate**

medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

#### MedCheck

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

- TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
- TelAventusMD

#### HealthNow

- healthnow.ph/
- ☐ HealthNow



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May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov





(02) 894-COVID / 1555







nuary 10, 2022	Headline
	• Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qP\_bYtIPB50







nuary 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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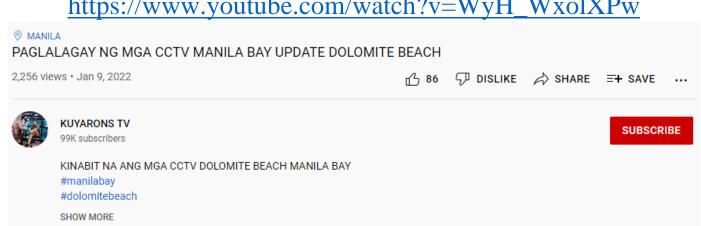




nuary 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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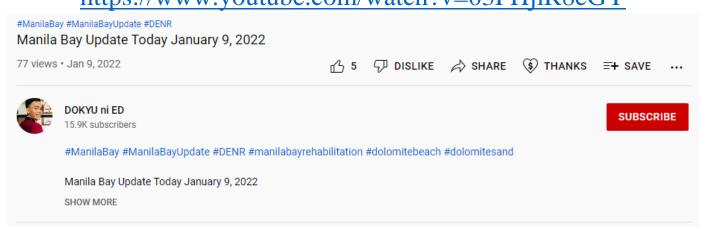




nuary 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



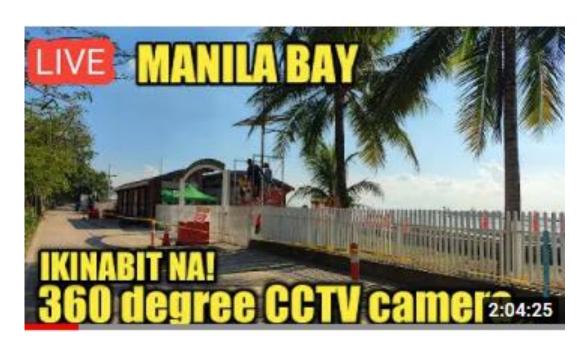
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nuary 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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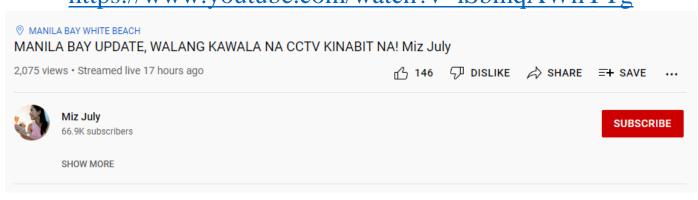




nuary 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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nuary 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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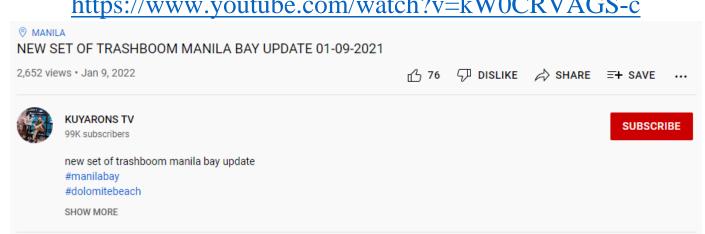




nuary 10, 2022	Headline
	• Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



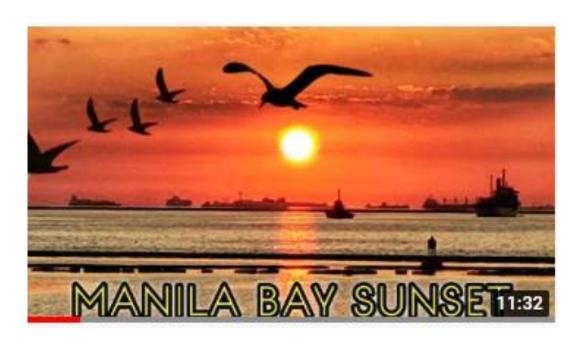
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nuary 10, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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nuary 10, 2022	Headline
Data	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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nuary 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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nuary 10, 2022	Headline
	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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