

12 AUGUST 2021, THURSDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Masungi Georeserve

16h · 🌐



DENR SECRETARY CIMATU VISITS MASUNGI

Yesterday, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu visited Masungi and reiterated his support for our restoration efforts in the Upper Marikina Watershed, following the barbaric attack on two of our forest rangers last July 24.

We hope that the various DENR offices involved will follow this directive and help us in defending the integrity of the watershed against brazen protected area invaders, violators, and enablers.

Our team will continue to monitor the various plans and promises towards the removal and conviction of these unscrupulous entities. There must be NO COMPROMISES in protecting this critical watershed.

Meanwhile, our legal team and collaborators are set to file multiple criminal cases against suspects of the shooting and other crimes.

We continue to call for protection of rangers and the watershed at this critical time.

[#ProtectOurRangers](#)

To collaborate for rangers, please reach us at communications@masungigeoreserve.com.

Make A Statement/Adapt This Statement: <https://bit.ly/WRDPH2021>

Int' Ranger Federation Press Release: <https://bit.ly/IRFPR2021>

Donate to Injured Rangers: <https://bit.ly/donateforrangers>

Show your solidarity with our forest rangers by using this Facebook Frame:

<https://bit.ly/protectourrangers>





Dominguez assures public on strict adherence to sustainable, responsible mining practices

Published on: August 11, 2021

By DOF

MANILA -- Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has assured the public that the Duterte administration will strictly enforce the “non-negotiable condition” on the mining industry for it to adopt environmentally sustainable and responsible extractive practices to guarantee the sustainability of this potential economic growth driver and the vibrant future of its host-communities.

With this industry providing jobs and spurring the economic growth of mining communities, Dominguez said it is crucial for the government’s policy decisions on this sector to be aligned to facts and science.

To ensure an objective assessment that will result to policy and regulatory reforms for the industry, he said the interagency Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) had commissioned independent, multi-disciplinary teams composed of technical, legal, social, economic and environmental experts to undertake a review of large-scale metallic mines in the country.

These teams, which worked from February 2018 to December 2020, have submitted their recommendations covering their two-phase review of 44 large-scale metallic mines operated by 43 companies, Dominguez said.

In the succeeding phase of the comprehensive review, the MICC plans to cover priority mining and quarry operations across the country, including some mines located in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Dominguez said.

Dominguez, who co-chairs the MICC with Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, said he expects the experts’ recommendations to raise public awareness about the value of mining to the economy and elevate the quality of debate on the regulatory regime governing this industry, “firmly grounding it on facts and science.”

“As the Philippines fights its way out of the economic downturn and back to the path of vigorous growth, every sector of business activity is important. The Duterte administration recognizes that mining is potentially a driver of our economic recovery. In fact, it is pushing the revival of the industry to provide jobs and energize economies in the countryside,” Dominguez said in his pre-recorded message at the opening of the MICC’s Mining Review Dissemination Forum.



“The Duterte administration is doing its utmost to ensure that the mining industry will strictly adopt environmentally sustainable and responsible extractive practices. This non-negotiable condition will help guarantee the sustainability of the industry and the vibrant economic future of its host communities,” he added.

Dominguez noted that the Philippines is one of the countries in the world rich in mineral resources, which can reap tremendous benefits for the economy and its people if responsible and sustainable practices are strictly adhered to by the mining industry.

On top of creating jobs and driving the growth of local economies, Dominguez said mining projects also lead to additional investments in infrastructure, utilities, and other social development initiatives that benefit their respective host communities.

“It is therefore crucial to ensure that we align our policies for this industry to facts and science. Otherwise, policy decisions could wreak havoc on an industry on which many local communities depend on,” Dominguez said.

He noted that “wrong-headed policies” could end up damaging the environment instead of protecting it as he recalled the time when mining regulation “was so politicized that informal and small-scale mining operations were allowed to be completely unregulated.”

Dominguez said the comprehensive review ordered by the MICC, provides a venue to share its findings and lessons—both good and bad—with a view to raise awareness that will lead to policy and regulatory reform.”

The mining audit was mandated by Executive Order (EO) No. 79 in 2012, which directs the MICC to undertake a multi-stakeholder review on the performance of existing mining operations.

The purpose of the audit is to address issues relating to the mining industry and to improve the regulation of the sector.

“While it was mandated as early as 2012, no review was done until the Duterte administration took over and seriously committed to perform this important task,” Dominguez said. (DOF)



Gov't asks miners to adopt sustainable practices

posted August 11, 2021 at 07:02 pm

by [Julito G. Rada](#)

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31 ahensiya at LGU, tatanggap ng parangal mula sa KWF para sa kanilang mahusay na paggamit ng Filipino ngayong pandemya

Published on: August 11, 2021

By KWF

LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA -- Tatanggap ang 31 ahensiya at LGU ng prestihiyosong KWF Selyo ng Kahusayan sa Serbisyo Publiko para sa kanilang paggamit ng Filipino ngayong panahon ng pandemya sa pagtatapos ng Buwan ng Wika sa 31 Agosto.

Kinikilala ng parangal ang mga ahensiya at LGU na tumatalima sa Kautusang Tagapagpaganap Blg. 335 (EO 335). Hinihimok ng nasabing EO ang lahat ng mga kagarawaran, kawanihan, opisina, ahensiya, at instrumentalidad ng pamahalaan na gamitin ang wikang Filipino sa mga opisyal na transaksyon, komunikasyon, at korespondensiya.

Para sa taong ito, nagtuon din ang KWF sa naging pagkilos ng mga ahensiya at LGU sa paggamit ng Filipino sa panahon ng pandemya.

May apat na antas ang gawad mula 1 hanggang 4. Tatanggap ang sumusunod na ahensiya ng Selyo:

Unang antas: DBM, DAR, DOST, MTRCB, OPAP, JRMMC, Bayan ng Orion, Lungsod Paranaque, Lungsod Valenzuela, at Museo ng Pasig.

Ikalawang antas: DA, DOLE-BWSC, DOT, DENR, DepEd Central, DepEd Rehiyon V, DILG, MIAA, PCOO, PAF, at Bayan ng Marilao.

Ikatlong antas: DSWD, MMDA, QMMC, RMC, at Lungsod Sta. Rosa.

Ikaapat na antas: CFO, Lungsod Mandaluyong, Lungsod Maynila, at Lungsod Taguig

At sa unang pagkakataon, pagkakalooban naman ng KWF Selyo ng Dangal sa Serbisyo Publiko ang Korporasyong Pangkoreo ng Pilipinas (PHLPost) para sa kanilang huwarang paggamit ng Filipino sa buong bansa.

Iginawad ang pinakamataas na karangalan sa PHLPost para sa kanilang limang magkakasunod na taong pagtanggap ng parangal mula 2016–2021.

Mapapanood ang online na parangal, 9–11nu, sa FB page ng KWF. (KWF)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/08/11/31-ahensiya-at-lgu-tatanggap-ng-parangal-mula-sa-kwf-para-sa-kanilang-mahusay-na-paggamit-ng-filipino-ngayong-pandemya>



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Matagumpay na na-rescue ng Environment Law Enforcement Team ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region IX at PNP Zamboanga City, ang dalawang Philippine sailfin lizards o "Ibid" sa Barangay Victoria, Zamboanga City.

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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CD-WSLBezM&ab_channel=EagleNews



Single-use plastics should have been classified as environmentally unacceptable

August 10, 2021 | 9:33 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ MICHAEL VARCAS

THE TIMELY inclusion of single-use plastics in a list of products deemed environmentally unacceptable would have precluded the need to move for a ban on the products, Greenpeace Philippines said.

“Having or including single-use plastics in a NEAPP (non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging) list under (Republic Act) 9003 would have curbed the need for a single-use plastic ban, if it had been released and enforced as it was 20 years ago,” Greenpeace Philippines Zero Waste Campaigner Marian Frances T. Ledesma said in a briefing Tuesday.

Products listed as NEAPP are considered harmful for the environment, and cannot be manufactured, distributed and used.

Under the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or RA 9003, the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) is required to release the list within a year of the law’s effectivity and provide yearly updates.

However, the complete list has not been released, with the Environment department announcing plastic straws and coffee stirrers as the first two such products on the NEAPP.

Two weeks ago, the Congress approved on third and final reading House Bill No. 9147 or the proposed Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act, which gives a timeline of up to four years for the phase-out of various single-use plastic products, including cutlery, food and beverage containers, sachets and film wrap.

The phase-out plan will be drafted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the NSWMC and other government agencies. The plan will recommend programs addressing consumption, reduction and recovery; hold producers accountable; and identify alternatives to single-use plastics.

The approved bill, Ms. Ledesma said, currently favors plastic producers.

“If you look at the bill that was passed, there are many provisions that allow for them to circumvent any bans by doing end-of-life approaches to waste management and recovery. It doesn’t really address the main issue here where they (will be made) responsible also for impacts (of) their products and goods from the very beginning,” she said.



The bill would require producers and importers of single-use plastics to establish recovery schemes for plastic waste, set up recycling and thermal treatment facilities to dispose of these products and conduct clean-ups of waste that has leaked to coastal regions and public areas.

“Each producer or importer shall recover or offset and divert into value chains and value-adding useful products, whenever possible, at least 50% of their single-use plastic product footprint, three years after the effectivity of this act,” according to the bill. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/single-use-plastics-should-have-been-classified-as-environmentally-unacceptable/?fbclid=IwAR0SLHenAyMccGzWm86J5m_U0tBYD2UBZQoohYCTp1QaGS6O9A_GwhZQrXs



Disiplina sa basura, pagtatanim pinaigting ni Cong Revilla

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Aug 12, 2021

NEWS



Photo courtesy of Deputy Speaker Strike B. Revilla



Inindorso at binigyan ng 'go signal' ni Cavite 2nd District Cong. Strike Revilla ang Project Luntian Cavite na naglalayong ipamahagi ang disiplina sa kaalaman at pagtatanim ng mga puno para sa proteksiyon ng kalikasan sa siyudad ng Bacoor.

Ibabahagi sa nasabing programa ang tamang impormasyon sa mga unang napiling mga barangay sa siyudad kabilang na ang temang impormasyon, edukasyon at komunikasyon (IEC) sa pagsawata sa pagdami ng basura at ang pagtatanim ng mga puno. Tuturuan din ang mga ito ng oportunidad para kumita mula sa makukuhang kaalaman sa gagawing workshop.

Naniniwala ang kongresista na dapat lang na ipaalala sa lahat ng kanyang nasasakupan ang adbokasiya ng grupo.

Isa si Revilla sa nagpanukala ng House Bill 8728 "Graduation Legacy for the Environmental Act." Layunin ng nasabing batas na paigtingin ang mga programa at proyekto ng gobyerno upang protektahan ang kalikasan, bio-diversity, climate change, pagbawas sa kahirapan at seguridad sa pagkain.

"Sa kaparehong layunin ng Project Luntian Cavite, ako ay naniniwala na hindi ito madali pero hindi imposible na maibahagi ang adbokasyang ito kung sama-sama nating pagtututulongan," panawagan niya pa.



[Loren: Prioritize climate actions](#)

AUG 11, 2021, 1:15 PM

Opinyon News Team
News Reporter

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s report, the world may already be crossing “tipping points” of ice sheet collapse that could lead to catastrophic sea level rise even before 2100, together with abrupt ocean circulation changes.

DEPUTY Speaker Loren Legarda once again urged the government to prioritize climate actions as the Philippines recovers from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Legarda made the statement following the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) sixth assessment report, which warned that the world is "running out of time" to avoid the catastrophic effects of global warming.

“[The report] tells us without any ambiguity that human influence is “unequivocal” and most importantly, it tells us that the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C temperature limit remains within reach so long as the calls from science for urgent action on climate are acted upon,” Legarda, an advocate for environmental protection, said in a statement Wednesday (August 11).

The representative added that the Philippines is not spared from the climate risks that are now hitting parts of Europe, Asia and America, such as extreme weather that has caused flooding and wildfires.

“As our own scientists have reminded us, sea levels in the Philippines are rising at rates twice the global average, and AR6 tells us sea levels globally have already risen by 20 centimeters and will continue to do so for thousands and thousands of years,” Legarda added.

According to the report, the world may already be crossing “tipping points” of ice sheet collapse that could lead to catastrophic sea level rise even before 2100, together with abrupt ocean circulation changes.

“I wish to remind our policy makers, especially all the aspirants for the top political post of the country – the presidency, vice presidency, senatorial and local elections – that the IPCC has confirmed again through AR6 that the 1.5°C limit agreed in Paris is still within reach,” Legarda said.



“As the Philippines stated in 2015 during the COP21 negotiations in Paris, 1.5°C is no paradise, but keeping to such a global average temperature increase threshold means the harm that will be inflicted will be dramatically reduced,” she added, warning that there is “no time” for complacency and indifference.

“As I’ve said again and again over the last two decades, we need to pursue and realize economy-wide measures that aim at reaching our sustainable development goals sooner rather than later,” she concluded.



Gaya ng pandemya, climate change tutukan din – Legarda

By Seth Corpuz — Last updated Aug 11, 2021

NEWS



Nananawagan si Rep. Loren Legarda na kahit sa kabila ng pandemya ay 'wag isawalang-bahala ang pagtugon para labanan ang climate change.

Sa isang statement, pinaliwanag ni Legarda na siyensiya na mismo ang nagsasabi na iba na ang mga nangyayari sa kapaligiran bunsod sa pagbabago ng klima.

Ginawang pundasyon ng mambabatas ang inilabas na Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) ng Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), kung saan pinaliwanag ni Legarda na buong mundo ang magdurusa kung hindi kikilos para malabanan ang climate change.

Ilan sa mga ikinabahala ng mambabatas na nararanasan ngayon ng Pilipinas dahil sa climate change ang paglakas ng mga bagyo, sobrang init na panahon at pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig-dagat.



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Kaya naman ang panawagan niya, 'wag matulog sa pansitan pagdating sa climate change at kumilos agad upang makontra ang mga epekto nito.

“There is no time for complacency. There is no room for indifference. It’s time we reflect resilience as the country’s priority strategy in our response to climate change. As I’ve said again and again over the last two decades, we need to pursue and realize economy-wide measures that aim at reaching our sustainable development goals sooner rather than later,” saad ni Legarda.

“Heed the call of science. Look towards a far longer horizon. Take the long view, but act not tomorrow but today,” pagtatapos pa niya. (Mark Joven Delantar)



Residents walk past their house littered with debris and trash in Marikina City, suburban Manila on November 13, 2020, a day after Typhoon Vamco hit the capital area bringing heavy rains and flooding.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

What does UN climate report mean for Philippines? Expert says stronger cyclones, faster sea level rise

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - August 11, 2021 - 11:31am

MANILA, Philippines — Human-induced climate change is intensifying cyclones that threaten many countries in the world, including the Philippines, and will make storms worse in the coming decades, a climate scientist said Wednesday.

In a sobering report released Monday, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirmed that “widespread and rapid” changes in the atmosphere, ocean and land have occurred and that it is “unequivocal” that human activities have warmed the planet.

The IPCC—a panel of climate scientists convened by the United Nations—warned that some of the consequences of the climate crisis, especially changes in the ocean and ice sheets, are irreversible for centuries to millennia.

And what do the findings of the report mean for the Philippines—an archipelago in the Pacific that is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change?

“It means the impacts we’re already seeing now—for example, impacts of tropical cyclone occurrences all over the country—they’re going to get worse. The projection is that while the number of tropical cyclones may not increase, its intensity will definitely increase,” climatologist Lourdes Tibig said in an interview with ABS-CBN News Channel.

“We’re going to see more adverse impacts, we’re going to experience more extreme temperatures, we’re going to experience more heavy rainfall and flooding events. What does it mean for our economy? It is a lot,” she added.

IPCC warned that the average global temperature will likely breach the 1.5-degree Celsius warming threshold within the next 20 years, bringing more extreme weather events. Human activities have already heated the Earth by 1.1°C.

Continued sea level rise driven by climate change will affect coastal communities in the country, Tibig also said, warning that some islands may be submerged underwater if the rise in sea levels is not decelerated.



“Sea level rise in the Philippine seas is faster than what the IPCC report says,” she said.

At least three meters of sea level rise can be avoided if humans limit warming to 1.5°C instead of 2°C, according to the report.

Swift action needed

Tibig, who also serves as Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities’ climate advisor and a member of the Climate Change Commission’s National Panel of Technical Experts, said people will see more adverse impacts on the country’s environment, agriculture, food security and the health sector “if we do not heed the new report.”

She emphasized that the report sends the message that governments must take critical action to cap warming to 1.5°C—the goal set by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

“It simply means that we need to act fast now and we need to have massive action in order to reduce our emissions,” Tibig said.

“We need to step up our actions, we need to be consciously aware of what’s going to happen if you don’t try to do something.”



Duterte admin's 'lack of effort' on climate change hit as youth group raises worrisome IPCC report

Published August 11, 2021, 7:01 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Another local pro-climate action group has underscored the urgency of the message being conveyed by the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or IPCC.



(Photo by Bill Oxford/ Unsplash)

“The science is clear: there is no time to lose for climate action,” said Jon Bonifacio, education coordinator of Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP), in a statement Wednesday, Aug. 11.

“Every second that national and world leaders fail to take the necessary steps to address the climate crisis, they are actively choosing to condemn my generation, and future generations, to what could be an unlivable planet,” Bonifacio noted.

Released only last Aug. 9, the IPCC report bared that the planet is at its warmest state in at least 125,000 years, and unprecedented warming rates have been consistently occurring over the past decades.

The effects of this extreme warming are seen more frequently through intensified heatwaves, droughts, and typhoons. These changes are linked to high levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and human activities are, without a doubt, behind this, according to the report.

The Power for People Coalition (P4P) [aired similar concerns](#) on Tuesday, saying that the report “affirms something climate-vulnerable Filipinos already know: that the climate crisis is upon us”.

YACAP said the Philippines is at high risk for aggravated effects of climate change, being one of the most affected countries on the planet.

“Record-breaking high temperatures and neck-high floods are becoming regular occurrences in the Philippines. And yet, according to climate and environment groups, the Duterte administration has been consistent in its lack of efforts to adapt to climate change,” it said.



“The latest IPCC report is something many Filipino climate activists may already be expecting, but what’s shocking is that even if the Philippines is one of the most affected by the climate crisis, our leaders only talk about it. There is actually little action done to address the issue,” said Xian Guevarra, national coordinator of YACAP.

The report calls for rapid emissions reductions within the next decade to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius. With the upcoming United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP) in Glasgow this year, activists believe this is a key moment for global climate action, YACAP said.

Click [here](#) to read more about the Philippines’ commitment to the Paris Agreement.



Global warming is here

[BREAKTHROUGH](#) - [Elfren S. Cruz](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 12, 2021 - 12:00am

The attention of the world is on the pandemic and the global havoc it is creating. It is not surprising that most people failed to appreciate a United Nations document that just came out on climate. In the long run, this will have more disastrous effects even in the daily lives of people.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a major new report stating that the world will not be able to avoid the devastating impacts of climate change.

The UN report concludes that humans have caused so much emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that the adverse effects will continue for at least another 30 years no matter what the world does.

The effects are already beginning to happen like extreme droughts, severe heat waves, increased flooding. Again this will continue to happen for the next 30 years. If the climate change issues are not addressed, the effects will simply get worse even during the next 30 years and will definitely continue after this period.

The UN panel also predicted that the enormous ice sheets in Greenland and West Antarctica will continue to melt and global sea levels will continue to rise for the next 2,000 years.

The UN report also found that climate changes now are happening much faster than before. For example, the rate of increase of sea levels has doubled since 2006. Heat waves have become hotter since 1950. Extreme heat in the ocean that can kill marine life has doubled in frequency in the past four decades. This will continue for the next 30 years, and intensify if the world does not act now.

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere is greater now than at any time in the past two million years.

Humans caused climate change

Here are excerpts from the UN study that show how this global warming started:

"It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land...Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere have occurred...Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. ...There is now strong evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heat waves, heavy precipitation, droughts and tropical cyclones and in particular their attribution to human influence."

The increases in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere since 1750 can be directly attributed to human activities. The major cause is the burning of coal, oil and other fossil fuels as the world becomes industrialized. Those emissions have increased greatly over time and still continue today even as the world grows warmer. The effects are now seen and felt all over the world.

The future

In every future scenario that the IGPPC outlines, there is only one that shows how climate change can be moderated. The other scenarios are all dire predictions.

In the report, even if the world takes the necessary steps to reduce the gas emissions that cause global warming, the world will still reach 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2040 or sooner. This is the most ambitious target set by the Paris climate change agreement in 2015. This will not prevent the droughts, heat waves and floods we are witnessing these days.



In the worst case, if the world does little to reduce emissions, temperatures by 2100 could be 5 to 6 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels and the consequences would be catastrophic.

In an article by Henry Fountain, he says: “But the report shows that aggressive, rapid and widespread emissions cuts, beginning now, could limit the warming beyond 2050. In the most optimistic scenario, reaching net zero emissions could even bring warming back slightly under 1.5 degrees Celsius in the second half of the century.

“Such a scenario would be a mammoth and expensive undertaking for the world. It would also require a level of political will that most governments have so far have been unable to muster.”

The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said that the IGPC was nothing less than “a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are ringing and the evidence is irrefutable.” According to him, the solutions were clear: “Inclusive and green economies, prosperity, cleaner air and better health are possible for all, if we respond to this crisis with solidarity and courage.”

The consequences of not responding to the UN report are also very clear, according to the Climate Change Panel. At 2 degrees Celsius of global warming, above the maximum 1.5 degrees Celsius target, there will be intensification of the natural production of water – the water cycle. This will bring more intense rainfall and associated flooding as well as more intense droughts. Extreme sea level events that previously occurred once in 100 years could happen every year before the end of this century.

The weather experts warn that there is an urgent need to pay attention to climate adaptation “since the negative trend in climate will continue for decades and in some cases thousands of years. ...One powerful way to adapt is to invest in early warning, climate and water services.”

When our grandchildren and great grandchildren look back to our generation, I wonder what they will say? Did we leave them a better world?

* * *

Young Writers’ Hangout on August 21 with Kate Osias, respectively, 2-3 p.m.

Contact writethingsph@gmail.com. 0945.2273216

Email: elfrencruz@gmail.com



Manila Bay rehab

posted August 11, 2021 at 11:58 pm



Department of Public Works and Highways worker uses a backhoe to place metal slabs on the side of a creek in San Miguel, Manila on Tuesday (August 10, 2021). The activity is part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program of the national government. **Jess M. Escaros Jr.**



Gov't employee, tanod, 6 pa huli sa illegal logging

On Aug 11, 2021



SWAK sa kulungan ang walo katao na kinabibilangan ng isang empleyado ng Local Government Unit (LGU), barangay tanod at 6 iba pa sa magkahiwalay na anti-illegal logging operations sa Gonzaga, Cagayan.

Kinilala ni Police Major Garry Macadangdang, hepe ng Gonzaga Police Station, ang mga nadakip na sina Jomar Fernando, fish vendor; at Domingo Gumarang, na nagtangka magpuslit ng ilang piraso ng kontrabandong kahoy, ngunit nasukol ng pulisya.

Nahuli rin sa tangkang pagbiyahe ng mga illegal na kahoy sina Samuel Saligan, kawani ng LGU Gonzaga; Johnny Dela Cruz, tricycle driver; Joel Irorita, magsasaka; Marlon Calibuso, brgy. tanod; Anthony Beltran; at Marvin Parcaso, pawang magsasaka at residente ng Gonzaga.

Isinakay ang mga nakumpiskang kahoy sa kulong-kulong na umaabot sa 170 piraso at nagkakahalaga ng P20,000.

Nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa PD 705, Forestry Reform Code of Philippines, ang mga nadakip. (Rey Velasco)

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2021/08/11/govt-employee-tanod-6-pa-huli-sa-illegal-logging/?fbclid=IwAR11Y8yx-CQ1TfYptD01oLW-X4PhPDLK2KviA-5uRd0-qtz5AuCwIXt2kGU>



5 things to know about the new UN report on climate change

The 3,000-plus-page report concludes that ice melt and sea level rise are already accelerating. Wild weather events — from storms to heat waves — are also expected to worsen and become more frequent.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AUGUST 11, 2021



In this Thursday, July 15, 2021, file photo, a regional train in the flood waters at the local station in Kordel, Germany, after it was flooded by the high waters of the Kyll river. This summer a lot of the places hit by weather disasters are not used to getting extremes and many of them are wealthier, which is different from the normal climate change victims. That includes unprecedented deadly flooding in Germany and Belgium, 116-degree heat records in Portland, Oregon and similar blistering temperatures in Canada, along with wildfires. Now Southern Europe is seeing scorching temperatures and out-of-control blazes too. And the summer of extremes is only getting started. Peak Atlantic hurricane and wildfire seasons in the United States are knocking at the door. (Sebastian Schmitt/dpa via AP)

The UN-appointed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [published a new report Monday](#) summarizing the latest authoritative scientific information about global warming. Here are five important takeaways.

BLAMING HUMANS

The report says almost all of the warming that has occurred since pre-industrial times was caused by the release of heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. Much of that is the result of humans burning fossil fuels — coal, oil, wood and natural gas.

The authors say global temperatures have already risen by 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since the 19th century, reaching their highest in over 100,000 years, and only a fraction of that increase can have come from natural forces.

PARIS GOALS

Almost all countries have signed up to the 2015 Paris climate accord, which aims to limit global warming to an increase of 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial average by the year 2100. The agreements says that ideally the increase would be no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

But the report's 200-plus authors looked at five scenarios and concluded that all will see the world cross the 1.5-degree threshold in the 2030s — sooner than in previous predictions. Three of those scenarios will also see temperatures rise 2 degrees Celsius.

DIRE CONSEQUENCES

The 3,000-plus-page report concludes that ice melt and sea level rise are already accelerating. Wild weather events — from storms to heat waves — are also expected to worsen and become more frequent.



In this Thursday, July 29, 2021 file photo, birds fly over a man taking photos of the exposed riverbed of the Old Parana River, a tributary of the Parana River during a drought in Rosario, Argentina. Parana River Basin and its related aquifers provide potable water to close to 40 million people in South America, and according to environmentalists the falling water levels of the river are due to climate change, diminishing rainfall, deforestation and the advance of agriculture.

(AP/Victor Caivano)

Further warming is “locked in” due to the greenhouse gases humans have already released into the atmosphere. That means even if emissions are drastically cut, some changes will be “irreversible” for centuries, the report said.

SOME HOPE

While many of the report’s predictions paint a grim picture of humans’ impact on the planet and the consequences that will have going forward, the IPCC also found that so-called tipping points, like catastrophic ice sheet collapses and the abrupt slowdown of ocean currents, are “low likelihood,” though they cannot be ruled out.

BIG CATCH

Although temperatures are expected to overshoot the 1.5-degree-Celsius target in the next decade, the report suggests that warming could be brought back down to this level through what are known as “negative emissions.” That means sucking more carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere than is added, effectively cooling the planet again. The panel said that could be done starting about halfway through this century but doesn’t explain how, and many scientists are skeptical it’s possible.

‘Code red’: UN scientists warn of worsening global warming

Earth is getting so hot that temperatures in about a decade will probably blow past a level of warming that world leaders have sought to prevent, according to a report released Monday that the United Nations called a “code red for humanity.”

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AUGUST 11, 2021



Rescuers use a motorized raft bridge to evacuate residents from a flooded rural area in Xinxiang in central China’s Henan Province, Friday, July 23, 2021. The death toll from catastrophic flooding in the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou has continued to rise, state media reported Friday. (Chinatopix via AP)

Earth is getting so hot that temperatures in about a decade will probably blow past a level of warming that world leaders have sought to prevent, according to a report released Monday that the United Nations called a “code red for humanity.”

“It’s just guaranteed that it’s going to get worse,” said report co-author Linda Mearns, a senior climate scientist at the US National Center for Atmospheric Research. “Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide.”

But scientists also eased back a bit on the likelihood of the absolute worst climate catastrophes.

The [authoritative Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) report](#), which calls climate change clearly human-caused and “unequivocal” and “[an established fact](#),” makes more precise and warmer forecasts for the 21st century than it did last time it was issued [in 2013](#).

Each of five scenarios for the future, based on how much carbon emissions are cut, passes the more stringent of two thresholds set in the [2015 Paris climate agreement](#). World leaders agreed then to try to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above levels in the late 19th century because problems mount quickly after that. The world has already warmed nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since then.

Under each scenario, the report said, the world will cross the 1.5-degree-Celsius warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than some past predictions. Warming [has ramped up](#) in recent years, data shows.



FILE – In this July 15, 2021 file photo the Ahr river floats past destroyed houses in Insul, Germany. Due to heavy rain falls the Ahr river dramatically went over the banks the evening before. The mayors of three German towns badly hit by last month’s deadly floods are appealing for more help from the state and federal governments, saying the disaster caused billions of euros (dollars) worth of damage. (AP Photo/Michael Probst, file)



“Our report shows that we need to be prepared for going into that level of warming in the coming decades. But we can avoid further levels of warming by acting on greenhouse gas emissions,” said report co-chair Valerie Masson-Delmotte, a climate scientist at France’s Laboratory of Climate and Environment Sciences at the University of Paris-Saclay.

In three scenarios, the world will also likely exceed 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial times — the less stringent Paris goal — with far worse heat waves, droughts and flood-inducing downpours unless there are deep emissions cuts, the report said.

“This report tells us that recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid and intensifying, unprecedented in thousands of years,” said IPCC Vice Chair Ko Barrett, senior climate adviser for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

With crucial [international climate negotiations](#) coming up in Scotland in November, world leaders said the report is causing them to try harder to cut carbon pollution. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken called it “a stark reminder.”

The 3,000-plus-page report [from 234 scientists](#) said warming is already accelerating sea level rise and worsening extremes such as heat waves, droughts, floods and storms. Tropical cyclones are getting stronger and wetter, while Arctic sea ice is dwindling in the summer and permafrost is thawing. All of these trends will get worse, the report said.

For example, the kind of heat wave that used to happen only once every 50 years now happens once a decade, and if the world warms another degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit), it will happen twice every seven years, the report said.



In this satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows from left, overview of Greenville, Calif., before the wildfires on Oct. 31, 2018 and overview of Greenville, during the Dixie Wildfires on Monday, Aug. 9, 2021. California’s largest single wildfire in recorded history is running through forestlands as fire crews try to protect rural communities from flames that have destroyed hundreds of homes. (Satellite image ©2021 Maxar Technologies via AP)

As the planet warms, places will get hit more not just by extreme weather but by multiple climate disasters at once, the report said. That’s like what’s now happening in the [Western U.S.](#), where heat waves, drought and wildfires compound the damage, Mearns said. Extreme heat is also [driving massive fires](#) in Greece and Turkey.

Some harm from climate change — dwindling ice sheets, rising sea levels and changes in the oceans as they lose oxygen and become more acidic — is “irreversible for centuries to millennia,” the report said.

The world is “locked in” to 15 to 30 centimeters (6 to 12 inches) of sea level rise by mid-century, said report co-author Bob Kopp of Rutgers University.

Scientists have issued this message for more than three decades, but the world hasn’t listened, said United Nations Environment Program Executive Director Inger Andersen.

For the first time, the report [offers an interactive atlas](#) for people to see what has happened and may happen to where they live.



Nearly all of the warming that has happened on Earth can be blamed on emissions of heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. At most, natural forces or simple randomness can explain one- or two-tenths of a degree of warming, the report said.

The report described five different future scenarios based on how much the world reduces carbon emissions. They are: a future with incredibly large and quick pollution cuts; another with intense pollution cuts but not quite as massive; a scenario with moderate emission cuts; a fourth scenario where current plans to make small pollution reductions continue; and a fifth possible future involving continued increases in carbon pollution.

In five previous reports, the world was on that final hottest path, often nicknamed “business as usual.” But this time, the world is somewhere between the moderate path and the small pollution reductions scenario because of progress to curb climate change, said report co-author Claudia Tebaldi, a scientist at the US Pacific Northwest National Lab.

While calling the report “a code red for humanity,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres kept a sliver of hope that world leaders could still somehow prevent 1.5 degrees of warming, which he said is “perilously close.”

Alok Sharma, the president of the upcoming climate negotiations in Scotland, urged leaders to do more so they can “credibly say that we have kept 1.5 degrees alive.”

“Anything we can do to limit, to slow down, is going to pay off,” Tebaldi said. “And if we cannot get to 1.5, it’s probably going to be painful, but it’s better not to give up.”

In the report’s worst-case scenario, the world could be around 3.3 degrees Celsius (5.9 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than now by the end of the century. But that scenario looks increasingly unlikely, said report co-author and climate scientist Zeke Hausfather, climate change director of the Breakthrough Institute.

“We are a lot less likely to get lucky and end up with less warming than we thought,” Hausfather said. “At the same time, the odds of ending up in a much worse place than we expected if we do reduce our emissions are notably lower.”

The report also said ultra-catastrophic disasters — commonly called “tipping points,” like ice sheet collapses and the abrupt slowdown of ocean currents — are “low likelihood” but cannot be ruled out. The much talked-about shutdown of Atlantic ocean currents, which would trigger massive weather shifts, is something that’s unlikely to happen in this century, Kopp said.

A “major advance” in the understanding of how fast the world warms with each ton of carbon dioxide emitted allowed scientists to be far more precise in the scenarios in this report, Mason-Delmotte said.

In a new move, scientists emphasized how cutting airborne levels of methane — a powerful but short-lived gas that has soared to record levels — could help curb short-term warming. Lots of methane the atmosphere comes from leaks of natural gas, a major power source. Livestock also produces large amounts of the gas, a good chunk of it in cattle burps.

More [than 100 countries](#) have made informal pledges to achieve “net zero” human-caused carbon dioxide emissions sometime around mid-century, which will be a key part of the negotiations in Scotland. The report said those commitments are essential.

“It is still possible to forestall many of the most dire impacts,” Barrett said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/08/11/code-red-un-scientists-warn-of-worsening-global-warming/>



UN report ignites fight for funds to build climate defenses

August 11, 2021 | 12:50 pm



DAMAGE caused by several typhoons and the Taal Volcano eruption last year reached P113.4 billion, according to the National Economic and Development Authority. — PHILIPPINE STAR/ MICHAEL VARCAS

The United Nations (UN) climate panel's report on Monday alerted wealthy nations to a lesson many of the world's most vulnerable countries have already learned through bitter experience: they must adapt quickly to a world with more extreme weather.

The report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear the planet will get warmer for at least the next few decades, and seas will rise for centuries — trends that have already triggered weather disasters across the globe.

“The fact that some changes are going to continue to play out for a long, long time, underscores the importance of paying much more attention to making communities more resilient,” Jane Lubchenco, deputy climate director at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, told Reuters.

As rich nations strain to curb their climate-warming emissions, experts say they will need to prepare for higher sea levels, which can turn storm surges into floods.

Societies will also need to ready for heat waves by creating public health infrastructure to cope with those who become ill, while regions must rethink urban planning and development to steer communities away from high-risk zones, such as wildfire spots.

In developing countries alone, the UN has said this will take up to \$300 billion in adaptation investments per year by 2030, although other estimates run far higher. Few countries around the world have begun.

“Adaptation and resilience in general is underfunded nearly everywhere,” said climate scientist Bill Hare, who leads the non-profit Climate Analytics. Developed countries did not pay enough attention to the problem and developing countries did not have the money to spend, he said.

Development bank funding tells a similar story. Out of seven large development banks, only the African Development Bank in 2019 spent more to help societies adapt to already unavoidable climate change than on efforts to curb emissions, data from the banks showed.

The European Investment Bank spent just 11% of its climate finance for poorer countries on adaptation that year.

‘THIS IS WHAT WE’VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR’

Hours after the report's release on Monday, the US government said it would spend \$5 billion to help states and communities to prepare for climate disasters, for example, by strengthening power grids or water systems.



Even if global emissions are reduced quickly, the IPCC said average global temperature would rise 1.5 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial average over the next two decades. The world has already seen 1.1°C of that warming — enough to trigger today’s weather extremes.

“The IPCC pointed out how far behind we are in adapting to the impacts that are already unavoidable,” former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres said.

“Developing countries — and the most vulnerable populations in all countries — have already been knocked over the head by the adaptation challenge,” she said.

Developing countries tend to be the most vulnerable to costly climate impacts, and the least resourced to deal with them. For years, they have been struggling to secure the \$100 billion a year pledged by rich nations toward helping them prepare for climate disruptions.

The money that has arrived, so far, has focused on emissions reduction rather than adaptation. Of the \$78.9 billion in climate finance transferred by rich countries in 2018, only 21% was spent on adaptation, OECD data shows.

The IPCC report is likely to spur demands for more financing at a major UN climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, in November. A failure to deliver could irk the developing world and frustrate talks on other global deals to safeguard the planet.

“This is what we’ve been fighting for, for a long time,” said James Michel, former president of the Seychelles islands. “We are not warming the planet ... but then we are at the receiving end.”

Around 90% of the Seychelles’ population lives on the narrow coastal plateaus of the Indian Ocean nation’s main islands. Building houses further inland and improving flood defences is an expense the country cannot finance alone, Mr. Michel said.

Some especially vulnerable nations moved early to adapt.

Cyclone-prone Bangladesh has built more than 12,000 cyclone shelters along its coastline since 1970 — one of multiple adaptation investments that experts say have drastically reduced storm-related deaths.

“We have drills on what to do in a cyclone, what to do when a flood comes,” said Saleemul Huq, chair of the expert advisory group of the Climate Vulnerable Forum of 48 countries.

Not preparing means disasters can be costly, as many wealthy nations have seen. As of July 9, the United States had faced eight weather or climate-related disasters in 2021 with losses exceeding \$1 billion each, government data shows.

This week’s IPCC report focused on physical climate impacts, but next year the panel will release another comprehensive assessment of how countries can deal with climate impacts.

“Good adaptation policy is well known. You just have to be better prepared for these kinds of events, and every country is going to have to be better prepared,” Mr. Huq said.
— **Kate Abnett, Valerie Volcovici, and Kanupriya Kapoor/Reuters**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/un-report-ignites-fight-for-funds-to-build-climate-defenses/?fbclid=IwAR3IGPfkPQGTwSwFCDhc4etxYJz-pfWLvtyRHmMHQ7fmDWev3e7KfvUFXBw>



UN's umpteenth climate report: Not quite like Moses and the Ten Commandments

By [Yen Makabenta](#) August 12, 2021

I would rather have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned.

– [Richard Feynman](#)

First word

IN releasing its new climate report ("umpteenth" means "the latest in an indefinitely numerous series"), the [United Nations](#), led by its secretary-general [Antonio Guterres](#), essayed an imitation of Moses when he descended from Mount Sinai and unveiled the tablets of the Ten Commandments.

The UN officials bellowed as though they were sounding absolutely the last word on the climate controversy. They tried to be as stentorian, as certain and as prophetic as the prophet himself.

Reversion to global warming

The officials were so excited about the report, they reverted to "global warming" as their term of choice and forgot that they had already officially replaced warming with "climate change."

At the announcement on Monday, the UN said:

"Earth is getting so hot that temperatures in about a decade will probably blow past a level of warming which we call a 'code red for humanity.'

"It's just guaranteed that it's going to get worse, nowhere to run, nowhere to hide."

The new report of the UN [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) makes more precise and warmer forecasts for the 21st century than it did last time the report was issued in 2013.

Each of five scenarios for the future, based on how much carbon emissions are cut, passes the more stringent of two thresholds set in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Under each scenario, the report said, the world will cross the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than some past predictions.

"Our report shows that we need to be prepared for going into that level of warming in the coming decades. But we can avoid further levels of warming by acting on greenhouse gas emissions," it said.

In three scenarios, the world will also likely exceed 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial times - the less stringent Paris Agreement goal - with far worse heat waves, droughts and flood-inducing downpours.

The 3,000-plus-page report from 234 scientists said warming is already accelerating sea level rise and worsening extremes such as heat waves, droughts, floods and storms.

As the planet warms, places will get hit more not just by extreme weather but by multiple climate disasters at once, the report said.

Scientists have issued this message for more than three decades, but the world hasn't listened, said UN Environment Program (UNEP) Executive Director [Inger Andersen](#).



Nearly all of the warming that has happened on Earth can be blamed on emissions of heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. At most, natural forces or simple randomness can explain one- or two-tenths of a degree of warming, the report said.

Will this blockbuster climate report reduce the climate skeptics and climate realists to silence? Will the United Nations be allowed to preside over the future of the planet and all humanity?

Hardly. The UN is an unelected organization and is not a world government. Before the ink was dry on the new IPCC report, climate skeptics and realists were already busy putting together their two-fisted reply to it.

There is a formidable literature of climate skepticism that has accumulated for a decade as scientists and public intellectuals took turns in blasting the errors and idiocies in the theology of global warming and climate change.

Crystallizing the skeptics rebuttal are the words of the late famed physicist and Nobel laureate Richard Feynman, who said: "I can live with doubt and uncertainty and not knowing. I think it is much more interesting to live not knowing than to have answers that might be wrong. I would rather have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned."

Critiques of the UN report rapidly multiplied in the press and on the web this week. For now, I will just call attention to a very strong and revealing editorial in the Issues and Insights website on Aug. 9, 2021, "Pants on fire: UN issues another climate report":

IPCC's discredited hypothesis

"The hysterical responses to the Summary for Policymakers from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report were exactly what we expected.

"A hotter future is certain, climate panel warns. But how hot is up to us,' says the New York Times' screamer headline.

"The BBC dutifully quotes UN Secretary General António Guterres, a member of Portugal's Socialist Party, who said the report 'is a code red for humanity.'

"CNBC says, 'the world's leading climate scientists on Monday delivered their starkest warning yet about the deepening climate emergency.'

"Despite the alarms, and claims that some irreversible damage has been wrought, the IPCC says there is still a small chance to avoid devastation. If we act now. If we make deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. If we enact policies that just happen to be identical to the pieces of the policy lineup the political left has been pressing for decades but hasn't been able to pass by other means.

"To better understand what the UN and its political and media allies are up to, let's backtrack to a previous climate report.

"Eight years ago, when the IPCC issued its Fifth Assessment Report, [Chip Knappenberger](#), then the Cato Institute's assistant director of the Center for the Study of Science, called it an 'embarrassment of internal inconsistency,' and an "entirely self serving" document that was "beyond misleading."

"That's because the IPCC is more intent on maintaining the crumbling 'consensus' on global warming than on following climate science to its logical conclusion; a conclusion that increasingly suggests that human greenhouse gas emissions are less important in driving climate change than commonly held.



"That's still the IPCC's goal: to further the narrative that human activity is overheating Earth, so that left-wing politicians can gain further control of economies, and more effectively restrict the liberty of those who aren't part of the global elite.

"At roughly the same time as Knappenberger's observation, a pair of scholars who contributed to the report were appalled by the methods used to produce what is in effect an executive summary.

"[Robert Stavins](#), a Harvard professor, said the process for generating the report's Summary for Policymakers, which condenses thousands of pages of text and more than a dozen chapters from the full report into a document of a few dozen pages, created an 'irreconcilable conflict of interest.'

"It has got to the point, 'he wrote in an online letter in 2014,' where it would be reasonable to call the document a summary by policymakers, not a summary for them, and it certainly affects the credibility of the IPCC.'

"Sussex University professor Richard Tol, who had 'been involved with the IPCC since 1994, fulfilling a variety of roles in all three working groups,' 'stepped down' in September 2013 from the team that prepared the draft of the Summary for Policymakers from the Fifth Assessment Report.' He called it a 'debacle.'

"His criticisms of the process included the eventual removal of references that don't 'support the political agenda for greenhouse gas emission reduction,' which appear in early SPM drafts, and the development of 'later drafts' that 'put more and more emphasis on the reasons for concern about climate change, a concept I had helped to develop.'

"The IPCC does not guard itself against selection bias and groupthink, 'Tol concluded. 'Academics who worry about climate change are more likely to publish about it, and more likely to get into the IPCC. Groups of like-minded people reinforce their beliefs. The environment agencies that comment on the draft IPCC report will not argue that their department is obsolete. The IPCC should therefore be taken out of the hands of the climate bureaucracy and transferred to the academic authorities.'

"In short, the IPCC has a habit of doctoring the summaries in an effort to frighten and manipulate the public. And it's been doing so for some time. According to Canadian academic and author [Tim Ball](#), while the 2001 IPCC report 'was the most influential in establishing global warming as a serious threat demanding political action,' it also achieved another distinction, unknown to the media, public and politicians. A 'disconnect between the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) and the Science Report Of Working Group 1,' he said, was particularly extreme.

"So much of the so-called science the IPCC created was to amplify the threat of human-produced CO2 to global warming,'Ball wrote. 'The political mandate was the ultimate arbiter of what and how an issue was included.'

"When Ball wrote that six years ago, he wondered 'how long the IPCC can stay in business and continue to push' its 'totally discredited' hypothesis that man is warming his planet. The 2021 report unfortunately indicates that the answer might be 'forever.'"

Naturally, the UN will not answer this. Its climate dogma cannot be questioned."
yenobserver@gmail.com

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/12/opinion/columns/uns-umpteenth-climate-report-not-quite-like-moses-and-the-ten-commandments/1810615>



A dead-end business model and climate doom

By Ben Kritz

August 12, 2021

THIS first week of what looks like a sentence of house arrest lasting a month or more - I have little optimism that the current version of Extra Crispy Quarantine will end on August 20 as scheduled for a variety of reasons - has produced an unusual number of important topics for study and discussion that do not have anything to do with the pandemic.

That's nice because it means I have productive alternatives to sitting around in my underwear eating Ovaltine powder straight out of the jar or having conversations with my house plants but organizing and properly preparing so much compelling material for public digestion does take some time.

Thus, in the interest of giving myself a bit of space to complete some of this work, I'm going to pretend I'm someone else for part of this column, and share interesting and expurgated commentary written by another; in this case noted author [Cory Doctorow](#), who held forth on the subject of ride-sharing company [Uber](#) in a blog post on Tuesday (you can read it in its entirety at <https://pluralistic.net/2021/08/10/unter/#bezzle-no-more>):

"Uber is a bezzle," Doctorow begins, explaining that a "bezzle" is "the magic interval when a confidence trickster knows he has the money he has appropriated, but the victim does not yet understand that he has lost it," and continuing, "Every bezzle ends.

"Uber's time is up.

"Uber was never going to be profitable. Never. It lured drivers and riders into cars by subsidizing rides with billions and billions of dollars from the Saudi royal family, keeping up the con-artist's ever-shifting patter about how all of this would someday stand on its own....

"...But as the years went by, the stories that Uber told us about its path to profitability got more and more fanciful.

"Take the story that Uber could be a substitute for public transit. Private cars can't substitute for buses, light rail and subways. It's just...geometry. Number of cars [times] area occupied by cars [times] increased distances created by roads [equals] infinity.

"Uber increased road congestion....

"...When Uber ran out of fairy tales about its impending quantum leaps in AI and its sorcerous capacity to defy the laws of geometry and reduce traffic by increasing the number of cars on the road, it created a food-delivery business...that lost billions.

"The bezzle was an equal-opportunity ripoff. It didn't just steal money from credulous investors - it also victimized workers, riders, cities and restaurants. After all, if no one drove, rode or ate from an Uber, investors might wise up about its impending financial doom.

"So, within days of Uber's IPO, it jacked up prices for riders and ratcheted down wages for drivers (drivers were already losing money at this point, but Uber relied on their unfamiliarity with capital depreciation calculations to hide this).

"Cities, meanwhile, experienced a lost decade of transit activism. It's true that Uber had upsides, like bringing transport to underserved communities of color - but because Uber was always doomed, this was a temporary mirage that would strand those communities again.



"In other words, Uber was not incrementalism in service to sound, sustainable and resilient urban transport - it was a shiny distraction that made it harder to do stuff that does work, like dedicated bus lanes....

"Uber loses a lot of money. A lot of money. Billions. But it claims it's making money. How does it do this?

"It lies.

"Uber eschews boring old generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and invents fanciful new forms of mathematics where losing money is good, actually....

"....Uber bailed on (or got kicked out of) China, Russia, India and Southeast Asia, flipping its local divisions to local money-losing start-ups, who follow Uber's practice of making up farcical valuations for their doomed businesses.

"This gives Uber a great new financial trick: they can put the inflated valuations of these regional Uber-alikes on their balance sheet to make it look like the company is sitting on a mountain of cash that will let it continue with its losses for years.

"But Uber is nearly broke. A true accounting of the last quarter has Uber losing 38 cents on every dollar it took in. \$3.7 billion of its assets are actually worthless paper from failing overseas [ride-share] companies.

"Uber's cash reserves declined by \$4.7 billion in 2020 and \$937 million more in the first half of 2021. They've got \$6.7 billion in the bank, down from \$14.6 billion in 2019. To increase the appearance of a pony under this s***, Uber's invented a new field of accounting: 'Adjusted Ebitda profitability.'

"Ebitda is 'earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization.'

"Adjusted Ebitda' is 'bulls***....'

"....All of this is exactly what anyone with a shred of critical reasoning would have foretold from the very early days of Uber, but the company has managed to put up a surprisingly durable reality-distortion field that kept the investments pouring in.

"....It makes a routine practice of sponsoring dubious academic work to give it the veneer of sustainability, then overstating the studies' already-charitable conclusions to a gullible press.

"Take the [Wall Street Journal's article] 'How Uber and Lyft Can Save Lives,' which regurgitates Uber's nonsense claims about preventing drunk driving, using a laughable methodology to take credit for a 6.1 percent reduction in alcohol-related fatalities.

"To be clear, that's not even what the Uber-funded, non-peer-reviewed study claims - it's lifted from Uber's press release, as is the article's opening sentence, 'The value of ride-sharing apps has been proven in the marketplace.'

"That's a funny thing to read in a business paper about a company that is losing 38 cents on the dollar. I mean, I love public goods that have no market case - health care, education, transit - as much as the next commie, but these are not 'proven in the marketplace.'

"They're public services, and they're only sustained by public subsidies - private firms cannot perform these functions."



* * *

What makes this particular rant interesting to us here in the Philippines is that this country is a major market for one of the more apparently successful of the aforementioned "Uber-alikes," Grab, which has become a business darling during the endless coronavirus pandemic.

Don't get me wrong; as a selfish consumer with an overweening concern for my own comfort, I love Grab. I'm waiting for Grab to bring me my McDonald's breakfast as I write this, as a matter of fact. Between commuting, food delivery, and using its digital wallet for other occasional store or online purchases, Grab directly or indirectly accounts for P8,000 or more of my monthly budget, and I'm happy to spend it; the company's services are relevant, convenient, and based on what Grab drivers and delivery riders share, it treats its workers well.

But is it sustainable? As Doctorow rather tartly explained, no; the business model is fatally flawed, no matter how honorably it is pursued. In light of this week's pronouncement of climate doom by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), about which much more will be said later, the core business model of low-volume transportation, wherein one growth metric is literally the increase of automobiles on the road, is even more dubious.

In a sense, this subject provides us a sobering glimpse of the extent of life and business changes the climate crisis will impose. If we wish to survive it and ensure that there is some sort of habitable world left for our descendants to live in, we are going to have to accept that calling an entire gas-powered vehicle to haul one or two of our lazy butts from point A to point B is not best practice. Unless, of course, we simply choose to become nihilists, and give up on trying to mitigate and adapt to climate effects. Contrary to the popular saying, failure is actually an option and always has been; it's just not a very good one.

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12 AUGUST 2021, THURSDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



9K Covid-19 recoveries recorded; total now 1,577,267

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 11, 2021, 5:15 pm



(PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

MANILA – An additional 9,591 patients have beaten the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the country’s overall recovery count to 1,577,267 on Wednesday.

The Department of Health (DOH), in its latest Covid-19 bulletin, said recoveries account for 93.4 percent of the total 1,688,040 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

Another 12,021 new cases and 154 new deaths were also reported. These figures bring the overall tally of active cases to 81,339 and the death toll to 29,374.

The latest figures showed 94.8 percent of the active cases are mild, 1.5 percent are asymptomatic, 1.6 percent are severe, 1.15 percent are moderate, and 1 percent are in critical condition.

“There were 137 duplicates removed from the total case count as 129 of these are recoveries. Moreover, three cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as active cases and 112 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation,” it said.

DOH data on Aug. 9 showed that 21.9 percent of 38,478 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on that date while three laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the last 14 days, the three non-reporting labs contribute, on average, 2.0 percent of samples tested and 1.2 percent of positive individuals.

To date, 68 percent of 3,800 intensive care unit beds, 57 percent of 19,900 isolation beds, 59 percent of 13,400 ward beds, and 49 percent of 2,900 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

Meanwhile, 69 percent of 1,200 intensive care unit beds, 58 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 62 percent of 3,900 ward beds, and 51 percent of 1,000 ventilators reserved for patients with Covid-19 are being used in Metro Manila. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1150137>



12,021 bagong COVID-19 cases naitala ng DOH, 'pinakamalaki sa lagpas 4 na buwan'

(Philstar.com) - August 11, 2021 - 4:02pm



Commuters waiting for a ride at the hEDSA bus carousel at Bagong Barrio Station during the Metro Manila-wide hard lockdown on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 12,021 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Miyerkules, kung kaya't nasa 1,688,040 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

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

- **Lahat ng kaso:** 1,688,040
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 81,399, o 4.8% ng total infections
- **Kagagaling lang:** 9,591, dahilan para maging 1,577,267 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **Kamatatay lang:** 154, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 29,374

COA sa COVID-19 funds ng DOH

- Ngayong araw naitala ang pinakamaraming bilang ng bagong hawa ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas sa nakaraang 124 araw. Huling mas malaki ang single-day infections diyan noong ika-10 ng Abril, 2021.
- Record-breaking din ngayong araw ang bilang ng COVID-19 active cases, matapos nitong umabot sa 81,399. Ito na ang pinakamataas na bilang ng mga patuloy na nagpapagaling simula ika-24 ng Abril, 2021.
- Sa ulat ng Commission on Audit (COA) ngayong araw, nakitang nagkaroon ng "pagkukulang" sa management ng COVID-19 funds ng DOH na nagkakahalaga ng P67.32 bilyon.
- [Suspendido](#) rin muna sa ngayon ang mas maikling pitong-araw na quarantine para sa mga fully vaccinated na close contacts ng probably/confirmed COVID-19 cases. Ito'y matapos ianunsyo ni presidential spokesperson Harry Roque.
- Handa naman na sa ngayon ang Philippine National Police oras na mapagdesisyunan ng IATF na muling palawigin ang pinakamahigpit na enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) sa Metro Manila, bagay na magtatapos dapat sa ika-20 ng Agosto. Matatandaang nagpatupad ng lockdown dahil sa biglaang pagsipa ng mga kaso habang lumalaganap ang mas nakahahawang Delta variant.
- Idiniin din ni PNP chief Guillermo Eleazar na [mahigpit nilang ipatutupad ang "ban" pagdating sa outdoor exercises ngayong ECQ sa Metro Manila](#), bagay na malaki raw ang magagawa para makontrol ang pagkalat ng COVID-19.



- Umabot na sa 200.29 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.3 milyong katao.

— James Relativo



COVID-19 sa Metro Manila bababa sa 5 weeks ECQ

By [Ludy Bermudo](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - August 12, 2021 - 12:00am



Residents queue for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the start of the local government's 24-hour vaccination program at Jacinto Zamora Elementary School in Pandacan, Manila on Sunday, Aug. 9, 2021.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — Maaaring mapababa pa sa mga susunod na buwan ang aktibong kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa kung magsasagawa ng 5 linggong enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) sa Metro Manila.

Batay sa datos ng Department of Health ay halos nasa 21,000 ang aktibong kaso, pero puwedeng bumaba sa 15,262 ang daily active cases sa katapusan ng Setyembre kung magsasagawa ng 1-week GCQ with heightened restrictions at 5-week ECQ.

Kung 1 linggong GCQ with heightened restrictions, 3 linggong ECQ, at 2 linggong MECQ naman, posibleng umabot ng 42,050 ang active cases kada araw.

Kapag 1 linggong GCQ with heightened restrictions, 2 linggong ECQ, at 3 linggong MECQ naman, maa-ring umabot ng 58,255 ang active cases sa ka-tapusan ng Setyembre.

Kasama na sa projection ng mga eksperto ang GCQ with heigh-tened restriction noong Hulyo 30 at kasaluku-yang ECQ.

Nagpaalala si Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na maaari pa ring magbago ang projection depende rin sa kilos ng publiko.

“That is not cast in stone. These are projections. Maari natin ‘yang mapigilan. Marami pang puwedeng gawin,” ani Vergeire.

Sa ngayon, hindi talaga makakaiwas sa banta ng Delta va-riant, lalo’t ang Mimaropa, Soccsksargen, Bangsamoro, at Caraga na lang ang mga rehiyong hindi nakapagtala ng variant of concern.

Pero nagpaalala rin si Vergeire na hindi naman malalaman sa sintomas kung ang variant na tumama sa isang tao ay Delta o hindi.

“We should all assume na kung ano man ang nagta-transmit sa atin ngayon, we assume ito ay Delta variant. Kung ano man ang sintomas, ‘yan ang kailangan pagtuunan ng pansin. Kailangan mag-isolate agad,” dagdag niya.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/08/12/2119371/covid-19-sa-metro-manila-bababa-sa-5-weeks-ecq/amp/>



Execs urge new normal for vaxed

Published 4 hours ago on August 12, 2021 03:00 AM

By [Raffy Ayeng](#) @tribunephil_raf



Major trade groups want government to draft a program that will provide vaccinated Filipinos a near normal environment that, in turn, is expected to jumpstart recovery for businesses.

Former Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) chairperson and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Governor's Board Member Jesus Varela lamented the group's call has fallen on deaf ears of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID).

"IATF is stubborn. I relayed this to some members and Joey (Concepcion) late last year. They are so focused on data and their integrity. Good thing we sold all our restaurants before the pandemic," he said.

The National Capital Region (NCR) was once again placed under the strictest enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) restrictions from 6 to 20 August to control the ballooning Covid-19 cases, especially the Delta strain.

Peace of mind
Varela said further relaxing restrictions on the vaccinated is a practical move to put people at ease in terms of health and security.

"I would have wanted a niche market, only for fully vaccinated, so they will feel more comfortable and safe. Unvaxed is not allowed, but then again, the certificates may all be faked," according to Varela.

Also, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) echoed Varela.

"There may be a possibility when more people are vaccinated, similar to what other countries are doing. In other countries, the thinking is that if you don't want to be vaccinated that's your choice, but you take the consequences," MAP National Issues Committee chairperson Riza Mantaring said.

As to being selective of most people to Covid-19 brands, she said this is due to misinformation being brought particularly over social media.

There are lots of misinformation about certain brands. Sinovac is actually quite effective.

"Maybe health authorities should intensify their info campaign to show that all vaccines have high efficacy in preventing serious illness and death," Mantaring added.



Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion, for his part, explained that the move to favor inoculated people will not mean discrimination but is more of a move to kill the virus.

“I agree that it is not discriminatory as they still have a choice which is to take the vaccine or not. When we have more vaccines, I assume they will allow it. There is still the problem in the global supply of vaccines but our country is improving in terms of vaccine rollout,” Concepcion noted.

Last month, Concepcion even suggested to allow only vaccinated passengers in public transportation as this will give greater confidence to the commuting public as the private sector is able to achieve micro herd immunity in the workspaces such as in buildings. “Safe transport will also be assured from the home to workplace,” he noted.

Fire the unvaxed
On the other hand, businessman and Information and Communications Undersecretary Ramon (RJ) Jacinto, owner of radio station DZRJ and the Rajah Broadcasting Network, said employers should have the option to fire their employees who stubbornly rejects being vaccinated since they are a threat to the health of the entire workforce.

“I don’t understand if our government is already in full gear with regard to vax. And they won’t allow employers to disallow entry of unvaxed workers in a workplace of fully inoculated people and clients. Hindi na nga sila tine-terminate. Sa akin fire lahat yan,” Jacinto stated.

“How can a handful dictate company operations and endangering all? That’s management prerogative,” he said.

Jacinto in collaboration with Daily Tribune launched a campaign to encourage vaccination with the use of a song “Papabakuna Ka ba?” which a jingle mobile of the Tribune propagates in densely populated areas.



Flu vaccine recommended even with COVID-19 inoculation — expert

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Aug 11, 2021 2:49:15 PM



(FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 11) — A flu expert said people should get inoculated against the flu even if they have already been vaccinated against COVID-19.

"Tatandaan po natin na magkaibang virus 'yung COVID at saka 'yung flu. Sa aspeto po ng public health, ang ayaw nating mangyari ay magkaroon ng flu outbreak," said Dr. Donald Ray Josue, vaccines medical director of GSK Philippines, at a Laging Handa briefing on Wednesday.

[Translation: Let us remember that (the virus that causes) COVID and the flu are different viruses. In the aspect of public health, what we don't want to happen is a flu outbreak.]

Josue said everyone could get a flu vaccine, which he said should be administered yearly.

"Ang recommendation ay dapat annually tayo nagpapabakuna dahil ang bakuna na nakukuha natin sa flu ay nagwe-wane 'yung immunity niya... Bukod doon, may nagsi-circulate na virus na naa-identify taun-taon. Kaya mahalaga na mayroong match dun sa naibakuna sa atin laban dun sa nagsi-circulate na flu virus sa taong 'yon," Josue said.

[Translation: The recommendation is to be vaccinated annually because the flu vaccine's immunity wanes. Apart from that, a new circulating flu virus is identified every year. That's why it's important that the vaccine we receive must match the flu virus circulating in that year.]

Josue said children six months to five years old, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with comorbidities as well as health care workers are more vulnerable to developing complications from the flu.

He added that while COVID-19 and the flu may have similar symptoms such as fever, cough, difficulty breathing and sore throat, the loss of smell and taste are symptoms more often seen in COVID-19 rather than the flu.

The Department of Health has [previously encouraged](#) the public to get vaccinated against the flu as well as pneumonia.

Even COVID-19 survivors can get the vaccines, said the DOH.



"Pwede...makuha ang mga bakunang ito. Siguraduhin lamang na mayroong 14 araw na agwat mula sa dose ng flu o pneumonia vaccine at dose ng COVID-19 vaccine," the DOH said in May.

[Translation: You can get these vaccines. Just be sure that there are 14 days in between the dose of flu or pneumonia vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine.]



Adults exhorted: Get jabbed for kids' sake

As to the number of cases in children, we need to understand that the increase in the number of cases is common among all age groups.

Published 4 hours ago on August 12, 2021 03:00 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



The Department of Health (DoH) on Wednesday reminded the eligible adult population to get themselves vaccinated to protect the younger population.

“If you are an eligible (adult), get yourselves vaccinated to protect our children, that is what we called the cocoon strategy,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in an online media forum.

Vergeire said if all the adult household members are vaccinated, there is a lesser chance for the children to be infected.

The cocoon effect refers to the phenomenon where the unvaccinated individuals will be protected by the vaccinated individuals that surround them.

She also reiterated that the increase in the number of Covid-19 cases are not common among the younger population but across all age groups.

“As to the number of cases in children, we need to understand that the increase in the number of cases is common among all age groups,” she said.

The Health department previously said based on the data, there was an overall 59 percent increase in cases among all age groups during the period of 13 to 25 July compared with 26 July to 8 August.

Among all the age groups, the highest increase was observed among the 30-39 age group and lowest among those 80 years old and above during the same period.

Vaccination for children halted
The Health official said the vaccination for the younger population which was initially announced to happen in September will be halted.

“The Philippine Pediatric Society and all experts panel have recommended that though we find value in vaccinating children but based on safety, equity and protection, we will not recommend the vaccination for the children for now,” she said.

Vergeire said the agency will consider first the available data on Covid-19 vaccine for children to ensure that the vaccines will be safe for them.



She also noted that aside from the safety issue with the Covid-19 vaccines for children, the current vaccine supply will also not permit the proposal.

“The statistics for children is about 50 million, if we talk about 0-19 years old. That is how big the requirement needed to vaccinate the children,” she added.

For the age group of 10 to 19 years old, the country will be needing at least 20 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

Covid-19

fatalities

Vergeire also noted that the majority of the children who died with Covid-19 have comorbidities or existing health conditions.

“Most of them have comorbidities. We need to analyze it first, we cannot be able to tell everybody directly that they died of Covid-19,” she said.



Longer 'Q' back in effect

The Philippines has temporarily suspended the shortened quarantine protocol for fully-vaccinated individuals who had "exposure" to Covid-19 patients, Malacañang announced Wednesday.

It means that the fully-vaccinated persons who were deemed "close contacts" of probable and confirmed carriers of coronavirus would observe a 14-day quarantine period – instead of seven days, which was previously set by the national government.

Turn to page A2

Longer 'Q' back in effect

The new protocol came amid the threat of the highly contagious Covid-19 Delta variant, which was blamed for the deadly surges across the Asia-Pacific region

From page 1

"The decision to temporarily suspend the protocol is part of the continued implementation of proactive measures to slow down the surge in Covid-19 cases and to stop the further spread of the variants," Palace spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque said.

The Department of Health defines "close contacts" as individuals who had exposure to probable or confirmed virus carriers two days before and 14 days after the onset of their Covid-19 symptoms.

The "exposure" may take place through face-to-face contact with the Covid-19 patient within one meter for at least 15 minutes.

The decision to temporarily suspend the protocol is part of the continued implementation of proactive measures to slow down the surge in Covid-19 cases and to stop the further spread of the variants.

A person may also be exposed to a virus carrier through direct physical contact, direct care for the patient without personal protective equipment, or other situations as indicated by local risk assessments.

Close contacts who remained asymptomatic for at least 14 days from the dates of their exposure to virus carriers may discontinue their quarantine, Roque said.

The exposure may take place through face-to-face contact with the Covid-19 patient within one meter for at least 15 minutes.

However, if they developed Covid-19 symptoms or if they tested positive for coronavirus, they would be isolated or admitted to a government facility for treatment.

The new protocol came amid the threat of the highly contagious Covid-19 Delta variant, which was blamed for the deadly surges across the Asia-Pacific region. The policy was stated in Resolution 132, which was ratified by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases on Tuesday.

The Philippines has so far confirmed 450 cases of the Delta variant, which has also been detected in all 16 cities in Metro Manila, including the sole municipality of Pateros.

MJ BLANCAFLOR @tribunephil_MJB



900k Pfizer, Sinovac jabs boost supply

posted August 11, 2021 at 10:30 pm

by [Joel E. Zubano](#)

The government got a much-needed boost of vaccine supply with the expected arrival of more than 900,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines from China and the United States on Wednesday.

The shipments of Pfizer and Sinopharm vaccines also brings the country's vaccine stock to more than 39 million doses.

The Philippine government purchased the doses of Pfizer while the United Arab Emirates donated the China-brand vaccine.



SINOPHARM VACCINES. Abdula Alameri, Second Secretary and Khalid Alhajeri, Acting Chargé Affaires of the United Arab Emirates, OPPAP Assistant Secretary Wilben Mayor, and Dr. Soledad Antonio, director of the DOH-Bureau of International Health Cooperation (from left) do the 'Resbakuna' sign during the arrival of the first shipment of Sinopharm vaccines at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 in Pasay City on Wednesday. Avito Dalan

Pharmaserv Express, the government's third party cold-chain facility and logistics partner, will receive the doses upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

After the packaging process at the firm's facility in Marikina City, the doses will be delivered to various local government units, especially in the areas with the high number of active cases of coronavirus disease.

With the arrival of the first 100,000 doses shipment of Sinopharm, and additional 813,150 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, the Philippines now obtained 39,515,350 total doses of vaccines since February.

The country's vaccine stock will breach the 40-million mark with the arrival of two million doses of Sinovac vaccine, also coming from China today.

Customs-NAIA officials said of the total number of doses in the latest Pfizer shipment, 102,960 will be transported via domestic flight to Davao. The Port of NAIA will first process the clearance for its release prior to its departure from Manila, they added.

Another 102,960 doses of Pfizer will go straight to Cebu via Air Hong Kong flight LD-457, which was scheduled to land at 6:45 p.m.

According to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), the country is expected to receive 22 million doses of vaccine this month.



National Task Force Against COVID-19 chief implementer and Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez said assured that the storage for the vaccines will not be a problem.

He said Pharmaserv can accommodate 40 million doses that require various storage temperatures at any given time, from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Sinovac and Sputnik V.



As pandemic persists, mental health frays

August 11, 2021 | 12:03 am



UNSPLASH

PANDEMIC-INDUCED fear continues to weigh down Filipinos, who are calling crisis hotlines, searching the internet for wellness apps and anxiety remedies, and reporting a lack of focus.

“Questions are triggered. People call and say, what if I die? I may not live. The idea of mortality is close to them,” said Jean L. Goulbourn, founder and chief executive officer of [the Natasha Goulbourn Foundation \(NGF\)](#), a non-profit organization founded in 2007 that helps individuals battle depression.

Fear — the beginning of anxiety — is the number one reason that people call NGF’s hotlines, said Ms. Goulbourn, in an interview with *BusinessWorld* a day before Metro Manila entered enhanced community quarantine due to a surge in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

“COVID-19 is like depression. It does not choose age anymore, does not choose social status,” she said. “You can be a CEO and COVID-19 can still hit you. It’s exactly like depression.”

WELLNESS APPS

Aside from calling organizations like NGF, Filipinos are also looking online for ways to calm their fraying nerves.

Google searches for mental health services increased by 128% in the Philippines from January to May 2021 compared to the same period in 2019, according to a recent report by [meta-search website iPrice](#). This increase places the Philippines second only to Indonesia, Asia’s COVID-19 epicenter, which recorded a 231% increase in searches for psychologists and similar services.

The iPrice report also showed that Filipinos are increasingly interested in anxiety remedies such as scented candles (up 348%), weighted blankets (up 273%), essential oils (up 155%), and therapy lamps (up 139%), based on information collated from July 14 to 16 using Google Keyword Planner.

Searches for wellness and meditation apps such as Headspace and Talkspace are also surging among Filipinos.

MENTAL MALAISE

These findings are on top of a poll by [MindNation](#), a wellbeing organization, that showed that the local workforce is feeling the brunt of this pandemic. According to a study released this June, more than half of 6,000 respondents are worried about health risks and financial pressures.



Among the challenges are a lack of focus and concentration, less pleasure in doing things normally enjoyed, lower self-confidence, sleeping problems, and feeling down.

NGF's Ms. Goulbourn said that because of the pandemic, the stigma for seeking help for mental health issues is less pronounced among Filipinos as COVID-19 has heightened everyone's sense of mortality.

"We're confronted with death now," she said, adding that a two-hour lecture on mental resilience is of little to no use. "One webinar cannot help," she said, offering instead NGF's four-month workshop as a "real course and workshop that creates hope in action." — **Patricia B. Mirasol**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/as-pandemic-persists-mental-health-frays/?fbclid=IwAR0FZISlz1X7RKF2GuP_CuG25siup-XqGa2Fb2TqXhXni5A8kSHXvnjupuA



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DELTA VARIANT



WHAT IS THE COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT?

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



evading immune protection



reduced antibody neutralization

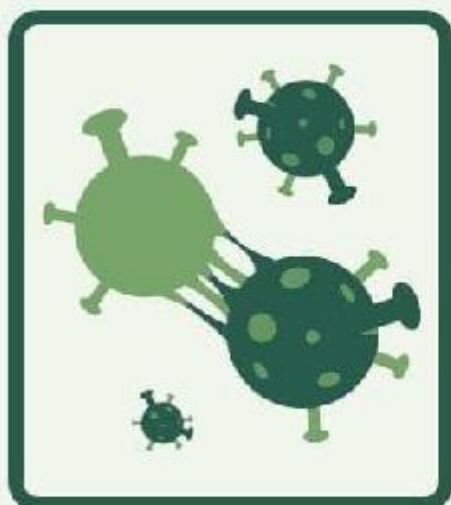


increased transmissibility





HOW SERIOUS ARE VIRAL MUTATIONS?



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



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



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF DELTA VARIANT?

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

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

Strictly observing
MPHS



Immediately
self-isolating



Consulting
with a
doctor



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



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HOW TRANSMISSIBLE IS THE DELTA VARIANT?

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

POTENTIAL NUMBER OF TO-BE INFECTED PERSONS



Original Variant



Alpha Variant



Delta Variant



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WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

- Correctly observe the Minimum Public Health Standards at all times



Proper wearing of face mask and face shield



Frequent hand-washing or sanitizing



Physical distancing of at least 1 meter



Ensuring proper ventilation

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



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ARE OUR PRESENT VACCINES EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE DELTA VARIANT?



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

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



12 AUGUST 2021, THURSDAY



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August 11, 2021

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
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