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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR gets German funding for flood mitigation

January 12, 2022



The Tagum Libuganon River basin is one of the recipients of the German grant. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) had implemented ecosystem-based management on Ilog-Hilabangan in [Negros Island](#) and Tagum-Libuganon in the Davao Region, mainly in Davao del Norte, with an aim to reduce their vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters.

DENR and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für [Internationale](#) Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) signed a technical cooperation agreement for the implementation of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation in 2 River Basins (E2RB) project.

The DENR's [River Basin Control Office](#) (RBCO), the implementation partner of the project, initiated activities in 2021 despite the pandemic.

"A project management committee has already been created. We can start implementation this year after some delays due to Covid-19," RBCO Executive Director [Nelson Gorospe](#) said.

The Philippine government was to receive a grant of 4.6 million euros from the German government for E2RB.

It would strengthen the river basins' ecosystem services, protect their biodiversity and reduce their vulnerability to climate change as flooding had been experienced in the basins.

"One of the bases for the choice of the site is perennial flooding," Gorospe added.

The [German Federal Ministry of Environment](#), Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, through the [International Climate Initiative](#), commissioned GIZ to implement the project.

E2RB was in line with DENR's program on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap 2018 to 2022. It was also aligned with the Philippine Development Plan 2017 to 2022, the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and the enhanced [National Greening Program](#).

"The effective protection of forests in river basins supports the objectives of the [Philippines'](#) intended nationally determined contributions in the area of mitigation through the contribution of the forest sector to the planned total greenhouse gas reduction of 70 percent in 2030," stated the DENR-GIZ implementation agreement.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/01/12/public-square/denr-gets-german-funding-for-flood-mitigation/1829061>



PH Eagle released back into Zambo Norte's wild

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. [January 11, 2022, 4:02 pm](#)



FREED EAGLE. A female Philippine Eagle, named Godod, takes off from a wooden release platform as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Zamboanga Peninsula together with the Philippine Eagle Foundation released her Monday (Jan. 10, 2022) in an upland village in Godod, Zamboanga del Norte. The eagle was freed back into her natural habitat one month and five days after she accidentally got trapped and captured by a Sunbanen farmer in another village in Godod town. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-9)*

GODOD, Zamboanga del Norte – Onlookers were in a festive mood as officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), assisted by Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) personnel, released a female Philippine Eagle back into the wild here.

The eagle, named “Godod,” was released around 10:30 a.m. Monday in an upland barangay here, Almario Caabay Jr. of the Provincial Environment and Resources Office (PENRO) said, is located 5,500 meters above sea level.

“Usually, we don’t reveal the location where we release a wildlife back to the natural habitat so as not to give an idea to the hunters,” Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) in an interview.

Dr. Ernest Duldulao, DENR’s Regional Wildlife Rescue Center resident veterinarian, physically examined Godod before she was freed.

“She is healthy and ready to return to the wild,” he said.

Godod, before flying back to the wild, stood for several minutes on the wooden release platform and looked back, giving spectators an opportunity to have their last look at the eagle and take photographs and video.

The spectators included officials of the DENR headed by Ronald Gadot, assistant regional director for technical services, PEF personnel, and Godod Mayor Abel Matildo, among others.

Dionisio Rago, head of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)-Liloy, said the eagle was named after the town since the bird was accidentally trapped and captured by a Subanen farmer on Dec. 5, 2021 in Sitio Makinaryas, Barangay Bunawan.

Rago said the wildlife was confirmed as a Philippine Eagle based on the photographs given to them by the Godod Municipal Tourism Office.

He said they immediately sent a team and retrieved the wildlife in coordination with the 44th Infantry Battalion on December 16 at the height of Typhoon Odette.



“Our retrieval team was able to bring down the eagle from the mountains at 5 a.m. of December 17 since they were stranded due to typhoon Odette,” Rago said.

“The eagle was weak, though physically fit,” Rago said, adding that the bird was properly examined by a veterinarian upon arrival at his office.

The eagle, which sustained a superficial injury on her left wing, was placed in a cage for rehabilitation at Rago’s office guided by their veterinarian and the PEF.

Godod, while under rehabilitation, was fed daily by only forest ranger one Gersel Rafols to limit her interaction with humans. Daily she consumed one-fourth kilo of meat.

“Her interaction with only one person was part of the preparation in sending her back to the wild,” Rago said.

Ronald Gadot, assistant regional director for technical services, said the area where the eagle was caught indicated that the place was rich in biodiversity as the forest was vast and intact.

Gadot said the Philippine Eagle is territorial and the span of their territory is at least 10,000 hectares of forest.

“They have a territorial area,” Gadot added.

He said there are only an estimated 400 pairs of Philippine Eagle in the country and the Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9) has four eagle monitoring stations.

The four areas where Philippine Eagles are monitored in the region include the towns of Baliguian and Godod, Midsalip in Zamboanga del Sur, and, the Pasonanca Natural Park in Zamboanga City.

“We are proud of Zamboanga Peninsula that we have monitored four pairs of (Philippine) eagle that are soaring high in our forest showing the region has a rich biodiversity,” Gadot said.

He urged the upland community, especially the indigenous peoples, to help the government protect the Philippine Eagle.

The DENR officials said Philippine Eagle can only be found in the Sierra Madre in Luzon, Samar, and Mindanao. **(PNA)**



Rescued Philippine Eagle 'Godod' released in Zamboanga del Norte forest

[Roel Pareño](#) - Philstar.com January 11, 2022 | 5:56pm



Villagers witness Philippine Eagle 'Godod' as she was released Monday by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources IX.

(Photo courtesy of DENR-IX)

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines — A Philippine Eagle rescued from captivity was returned to his forest home Monday morning after she was freed by personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources IX in Godod town, Zamboanga del Norte.

The DENR officials and personnel, representatives from the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), local officials, tribal leaders and media representatives trekked to the release site at Barangay Sianan, which is 5,500 meters above sea level for the release of Godod, a female Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) named after the town where she was recovered.

Ronald Gadot, DENR IX assistant regional director for technical services, said a DENR veterinarian and PEF personnel checked the eagle prior to release.

"After declaring the bird fit and healthy, they immediately recommended its release back into the wild," Gadot said.

During the release, 'Godod' stepped out of the cage draped with white cloth, glanced for a moment and soared into the forest canopy to the cheers of the onlookers.

Dionisio Rago, Liloy town Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) chief, said Godod was retrieved by his personnel from a Subanen upland dweller last December 7 in Barangay Sianan.

A Timuay (Subanen chief) disclosed that hunting for wildlife, including eagle, is use for the tribe's rituals and said they were not aware about the prohibition against catching eagles, especially the Philippine Eagle.

Sianan Barangay chairman Euberto Badinas said they have been cautioning the Subanen community in the area against the poaching of Philippine Eagle as it is prohibited by laws.

The DENR officials said, following the release of 'Godod', an intensive information campaign was conducted to community residents to inform them about the importance of the Philippine Eagle and the need to protect it.

Gadot said the presence of the Philippine Eagle is an indicator species in terms of assessing the richness of biodiversity in an area.



"And as a top predator it makes its home where food is abundant," Gadot said.

He said the mountain area of Godod also harbors wildlife like monkeys, hornbills, snakes, flying lemurs, wild pigs, wild cats as well as animals that form a major part of the Philippine Eagle's diet.

Gadot added that the closed canopy of the dipterocarp forest in Godod and its elevation makes it the perfect home for the Philippine Eagle to thrive.

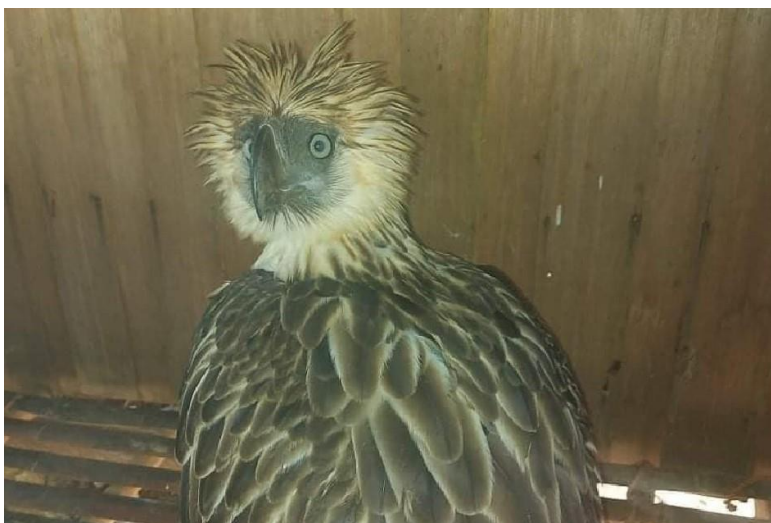
"There is a need to protect our national bird as it is already declared as critically endangered. In fact, an estimate of more or less 400 individuals exist in the wild. These endemic eagles are vulnerable to hunting, illegal wildlife trade, destruction of habitat to name a few," according to Gadot.

The DENR officials do not have an estimate on how many Philippine Eagles are in the Zamboanga Peninsula but have documented at least four breeding sites, including its recent discovery in Godod, Baliguian, all in Zamboanga del Norte, Pasonanca Natural Park in Zamboanga City and in Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur.

PH eagle na ginamot sa pamamagitan ng telemedicine, pinakawalan na

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 11 2022 08:30 PM



Ang agilang si Godod. Larawan mula sa Philippine Eagle Foundation

Isang Philippine eagle na ginamot sa pamamagitan ng telemedicine ang pinakawalan na sa kagubatan ng Zamboanga del Norte nitong Lunes matapos ang matagumpay na medical treatment nito.

Ayon sa Philippine Eagle Foundation, aksidenteng nahuli ang agilang si Godod sa isang noose trap o patibong noong Disyembre 2021 kaya't nagtamo ito ng mga sugat.

Ang babaeng agila ay ipinangalan sa bayan sa Zamboanga del Norte kung saan ito natagpuan at inalagaan ng ilang linggo.

Nabigyan ng agarang medikal na atensyon si Godod sa pamamagitan ng telemedicine, dahil nasa 10 oras ang layo ng Godod mula sa Philippine Eagle Center sa Davao City.

Siniguro umano ng Philippine Eagle Foundation na nasa mabuting kalagayan ang agila bago pakawalan ito.

— Ulat ni Hernel Tocmo

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/11/22/ph-eagle-na-ginamot-sa-telemedicine-pinakawalan-na?fbclid=IwAR18HHSpYB-fZDEZhJw3viq9LkOFLMmN5MT0WV9POyPOAUyBubuE1nkQvjo>



Villar begins hearing on 2 priority environmental measures

January 11, 2022 min read

By Ernie Reyes

MANILA – Senator Cynthia Villar on Tuesday has started the public hearing on two priority environmental bills in order to protect and preserve the ecosystem in the countryside amid worsening climate change.

In her opening statement during the hybrid hearing on the measures, Villar said that the first agenda is the declaration as a protected area of the Tugbo Natural Biotic Area located in Masbate City and the Municipality of Mobo, in the Province of Masbate under House Bill No. 9488 principally authored by Representative Elisa Kho and its Senate counterpart, Senate Bill No. 1711 that I filed.

The second in the agenda, she added that are the bills seeking for the reclassification of the portion of Mangabul Forest Reserve Located in Bayambang, Pangasinan into Agricultural Land Open to Disposition to Bonafide and Long-Term Farmers of the Area.

These are House Bill No. 9253 principally authored by Representative Baby Arenas, Senate Bill No. 1961 authored by Majority Leader Migz Zubiri, and Senate Bill No. 2444 authored by Senator Bong Revilla.

In Declaring the Tugbo Natural Biotic Area as a Protected Area under the ENIPAS Act, Villar, chairman of the Senate committee on the environment and natural resources said that when she became the Chairperson of this Committee in 17th Congress, she vigorously pushed for the passage of Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018, which strengthened the legal framework for the establishment, management, and maintenance of all designated protected areas in the country or those that are identified to be ecologically rich and biologically important public lands that are habitats of rare and threatened species of plants and animals, biogeographic zones and related ecosystems. (ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/01/11/villar-begins-hearing-on-2-priority-environmental-measures/?fbclid=IwAR3VZ9YFSmpOr8l8D--gLGNDKZzxoxmqLAYFYiJhndUqNzT0FUCYedNEWY>



Miners spring into action as Typhoon 'Odette' hits Visayas and Mindanao

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JANUARY 11, 2022

AS soon as Typhoon "Odette" made landfall and devastated Visayas and Mindanao on December 16, mining companies have started to deploy rescue and relief teams in typhoon-affected areas to help affected communities.

From providing clean water and food packages, to construction materials needed for those who lost their homes to helping those who needed immediate medical care, miners from different companies belonging to the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) rushed to communities from their respective areas of operation to give the victims the much-needed boost.

Environmental groups continue to blame mining for the environmental destruction caused by mining, which they say, aggravates the adverse environmental impact of extreme weather events like typhoons, floods, and landslides that often lead to disaster.

The devastation caused by Odette last December happened just a few days after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) lifted the ban on open-pit mining method, an environmental policy put in place by former DENR Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez in 2017. President Duterte had also recently signed Executive Order 130 which lifted the moratorium in the processing of new mining projects in the Philippines that was put in place by former President Aquino's Executive Order 79.

In the Caraga Region, Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) affiliate Taganito HPAL Corp. (THPAL) distributed food packs and rice to families and evacuees from barangays Urbiztondo and Taganito, as well as construction materials for some 3,600 families from the firm's host town of Claver in Surigao del Norte.

Partial data provided by Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Caraga Regional Director Larry Heradez revealed that THPAL's contribution alone cost some P13 million.

In Luzon, Philex Mining Corp., for its part, gave financial assistance to the Philippine Disaster Resiliency Foundation and the One Meralco Foundation for use in the MVP Group Tulong Kapatid Odette response efforts.

Part of the assistance would be for the purchase of shelter and building materials for local government units in Surigao del Norte that were badly hit by Odette. The company also conducted an employees' donation drive as well as offered its generator set at its Silangan Mindanao Mining Co. Inc. Project site in Barangay Timamana, Tubod, also in Surigao del Norte, for free charging of mobile phones and other communications devices.

"Member-firms of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines [COMP] also provide many unquantifiable efforts that are equally valuable in times of disaster, such as the quick response of Emergency Response Teams, the use of company equipment in the clearing efforts, and manpower resources," said COMP Chairman Mike Toledo.

As in other past typhoons like Yolanda, Ondoy, and Sendong, as well as the big earthquakes in Mindanao in 2017, and Luzon in 1990, Toledo said Filipino miners have shown dedication in helping communities devastated by Odette.

Carmen Copper Corp. employees, for its part, delivered food packs—amid toppled electric posts and uprooted trees—to more than 100 residents of Barangay Cantabaco, Toledo City in battered Cebu Province while Odette was making landfall in Carcar City, some 37 kilometers south.



Carmen Copper prioritized the distribution of basic necessities, such as food and water, to affected communities. Bulk containers were set up at key areas within the mine compound to provide nearby residents domestic water for free.

This was augmented by water trucks making rounds to reach more individuals, especially in the hinterlands. As of December 31, more than 100,000 liters of domestic water as well as 20,000 pieces of relief goods have been distributed to Carmen Copper's 17 host and neighboring communities.

Meanwhile, almost 12,000 households benefited from the joint relief operation conducted by TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc., Agata Mining Ventures Inc., Greenstone Resources Corp. and the Villar Sipag Foundation. The initiative was launched a day after Odette hit the two Surigao provinces and Dinagat Islands. Employees of the three companies immediately packed and distributed rice, canned goods and noodles to the typhoon victims.

The P7-million relief effort covered eight host and neighboring barangays of Agata in Agusan del Norte: Binuangan, Tinigbasan, Tagpangahoy, Lawigan, E. Morgado, Tagbuyacan, Colorado and La Paz. A total of 3,163 households in the area received assistance. The operation likewise benefited the host and nearby communities of Greenstone in the town of Tubod. Some 4,830 food packs were distributed to the typhoon victims, while another 3,400 were given to affected households in Surigao and Dinagat Islands.

NAC subsidiaries Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTN) in Palawan, Cagdianao Mining Corp. (CMC) in Dinagat Islands, as well as Taganito Mining Corp. and Hinatuan Mining Corp. both in Surigao del Norte provided victims in host and neighboring communities a total of nearly 14,000 sacks of rice, and some 10,000 food packs. RTN and CMC also donated materials for temporary shelter, even as the latter made available a doctor and distributed over 5,000 kilograms of chicken and pork meat and water purifiers to victims. HMC also provided medicines for gastroenteritis.

"So far, our relief has cost P40 million—and counting," said JB Baylon, NAC vice president for Communications. "Going forward, there will be more rebuilding and repairs to be done in the communities and the islands, such as Siargao, which NAC will be committed to."

Carrascal Nickel Corp. donated P5.5 million in cash to the MGB Central Office. Platinum Group Metals, Inc. provided 5,000 sacks of rice to communities in Surigao del Norte, including Siargao Island. Pacific Nickel Phils. Inc distributed 1,300 food packs to residents of barangays Talisay and Cantiasay, as well as employees and contractors who also fell victim to Odette.



Gov't to use fallen coconut trees to rebuild Odette-wrecked homes

Published January 11, 2022, 4:14 PM

by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

The national government will utilize uprooted coconut trees to rebuild the homes that were destroyed by typhoon "Odette" last month.



STILL POWERLESS. A portion of Magallanes village in Limasawa, Southern Leyte after the onslaught of Typhoon Odette. Nearly three weeks after the typhoon, Mayor Melchor Petracorta on Wednesday (Jan. 5, 2022) appealed for the immediate restoration of their power supply. (PNA photo by Sarwell Meniano/Manila Bulletin)

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Chairman and Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he was coordinating with other government agencies such as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to reorganize the affected communities.

However, one big problem was the lack of sawmills that will turn the raw products into quality lumbers.

"Iyong TESDA nag-field din siya ng mga carpenters sa Siargao, iyon din po ang problema nila, walang materials (TESDA also fielded carpenters in Siargao and they had the same problem, there are no materials)," Lorenzana said during the pre-recorded public address of President Duterte on Monday night, Jan. 10.

Lorenzana said he suggested the use of fallen coconut trees which could be turned into lumber through mini sawmills.

"Dahil kung mano-mano 'yung paggawa ng lumber, Mayor, ay matagal. Matagal makapaggawa ng lumber 'yung mga coconut trees saka 'yung mga naputol na mga kahoy (If the production of lumber will be manual, Mayor, it will take a long time. It will take time to produce lumbers from the coconut trees and other fallen trees)," he stated.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), around 1.1 million houses were destroyed by Odette when it ravaged parts of Visayas and Mindanao last month.

Meanwhile, NDRRMC Executive Director Ricardo Jalad said they have tasked the Shelter Cluster led by the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DSHUD) to fast-track the provision of shelter assistance to the typhoon victims.

"We will consolidate our recommendations, Mr. President, regarding the provision of shelter assistance through this Shelter Cluster," Jalad said.



He said the Shelter Cluster was scheduled to meet on Tuesday to discuss their strategies in rebuilding the homes of the victims, including the use of fallen coconut trees as materials for the construction.

In return, Duterte vowed to give Lorenzana a specific budget for the procurement of sawmills. He also tasked Lorenzana to “arrest” illegal loggers and confiscate their sawmill in the affected areas.

“Hulihin mo na lang pati ‘yung nag-o-operate, pati ‘yung may-ari ng sawmill kasi iyon ang ipadugo natin sa mga — gawain nating padugo doon sa mga — ulo nila doon sa mga sawmill na maibigay natin (Arrest all the [illegal] operators including the owners of sawmills because we will use their heads as an offering for the sawmills that we will distribute),” Duterte said.



Natumbang puno ng niyog gagamitin ng gov't sa pagkukumpuni ng Odette-hit houses



January 11, 2022 @ 7:20 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Gagamitin ng pamahalaan ang mga nahugot na puno ng niyog sa pagkukumpuni ng mga bahay na napinsala ng bagyong “Odette” noong isang linggo.

Inilahad ni National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Chairman at Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na nakikipag-ugnayan na siya sa ilang ahensya ng pamahalaan kagaya ng Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) upang isaayos ang mga apektadong komunidad.

“Iyong TESDA nag-field din siya ng mga carpenters sa Siargao, iyon din po ang problema nila, walang materials,” ani Lorenzana nitong Lunes.

“Dahil kung mano-mano ‘yung paggawa ng lumber, Mayor, ay matagal. Matagal makapaggawa ng lumber ‘yung mga coconut trees saka ‘yung mga naputol na mga kahoy,” dagdag pa niya.

Batay sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), halos 1.1 milyong tahanan abg winasak ng bagyong Odette sa pagtama nito sa Visayas at Mindanao noong isang buwan.

Samantala, sinabi ni NDRRMC Executive Director Ricardo Jalad na itinalaga ang Shelter Cluster na pinangungunahan ng Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DSHUD) na pabilisin ang shelter assistance sa mga biktima ng bagyo.

“We will consolidate our recommendations, Mr. President, regarding the provision of shelter assistance through this Shelter Cluster,” ayon kay Jalad. **RNT/SA**



Southern Leyte bans outbound lumber transport

By Roel Amazona **January 11, 2022, 2:13 pm**



CLEARING. Fallen trees were cut by soldiers as part of debris clearing operations in Southern Leyte in this Dec. 29, 2021 photo. The Southern Leyte provincial government has banned the transport of wood outside the province to speed up rebuilding activities after Typhoon Odette hit the province last December. *(Photo courtesy of Philippine Army)*

TACLOBAN CITY – The Southern Leyte provincial government has banned the transport of lumber outside the province to expedite rebuilding activities after the devastation by Typhoon Odette last December.

Governor Damian Mercado issued an executive order on Monday, prohibiting anyone to transport lumber for use outside Southern Leyte.

“The massive volume of fallen trees can be utilized by the local government units of Southern Leyte in making it into lumber to be distributed to families with totally and partially damaged houses so that rebuilding of houses can commence,” Mercado said in his directive.

The official also directed the city, municipal, and provincial governments to convert uprooted trees into lumber and distribute these for free to families whose houses were destroyed.

The directive also seeks to prioritize local chainsaw operators in the processing of fallen trees into logs.

Checkpoints in boundaries have been set up to enforce the lumber transport ban.

Based on the January 4 initial report, there are about 38,080 houses considered as totally damaged by the strong typhoon in Southern Leyte. **(PNA)**



'Basureros' turn the tide against plastic waste

By ... -January 12, 2022

About 6.3 billion metric tons.

That's the amount of discarded metal, rubber, glass, paper and a lot of plastic that end up worldwide in landfills, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Garbage collectors are turning the tide.

Gregg Yan of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), a regional organization which pushes for integrated solutions to coastal and marine problems, including marine plastic pollution, in a press release shared the story of Sherwin Salazar, 38, a mangangalakal or waste picker and a master of the trade.

"The best time to hunt for scrap is right after homeowners leave their garbage out, before government collection trucks arrive, usually between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.," Salazar said outside a bustling junkshop in Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

He had just unloaded over a thousand pesos worth of junk.

Salazar has been hunting for treasure in Cavite's garbage dumps for 25 years running.

Salazar's garbage collection brings him to nearby cities like Tagaytay.

"Supporting waste pickers and recycling facilities converts a significant portion of waste which would otherwise be dumped in landfills or in our rivers and seas, into useful products," said Thomas Bell who manages PEMSEA's Project ASEANO, a project that supports on local capacity building for reducing plastic pollution in Southeast Asia.

"These cottage industries also support the lives and livelihoods of thousands of Filipinos," Bell said.

Project ASEANO focuses on the city or municipal level, with Cavite's Imus River as one of two project sites.

"To decisively address plastic waste management, we need to include waste pickers and recyclers as major stakeholders," said Aimee Gonzales, PEMSEA executive director. "They are our front liners in the war against waste." – **Paul Icamina**



EcoWaste warns of high lead content on spray paint products

Published January 11, 2022, 6:59 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

The Ecowaste Coalition urged the national government for stricter regulatory action after discovering extreme lead content on some aerosol paints with that are in retail stores and online shopping sites in some parts.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Jan. 11, EcoWaste Coalition Chemical Safety Campaigner Thony Dizon said that aerosol paints with high lead content were supposed to be phased out in accordance with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources's (DENR) Chemical Control Order (CCO) issued last December 2016.



Thirty-seven aerosol paints with high lead content. (Photo from the EcoWaste Coalition)

The CCO required a maximum limit of 90 parts per million (ppm) for lead in paint and a three-year phase-out period (2013 to 2016) for leaded decorative paints and a longer six-year period (2013 to 2019) for leaded industrial paints.

"We find it very disappointing to find more lead-containing spray paints being sold at retail stores and online shopping sites in violation of the COO. These decorative paints, which are marketed for general use and are accessible to consumers, should have been phased out on Dec. 31, 2016," said Dizon.

From October to November 2021, the environmental group investigated 60 spray paints samples representing 16 brands that were bought in various retail stores and online shops in the cities of Angeles, Antipolo, Batangas, Calamba, Lucena, Mabalacat, Malolos, Manila, Paranaque, San Fernando, and San Jose del Monte imported from China and Thailand.

According to EcoWaste, samples were screened for lead content, and results showed that 37 out of 60 samples exceeded the 90 ppm limit.

The group handed the 37 samples to SGS, a private testing company, and laboratory results confirmed that the samples representing 11 brands contained violative lead concentrations up to 97,100 ppm.

Here are the list of the top 15 samples with the highest lead concentrations:

- Meng Qi Bo Shi Qi Pai Zidong Penqi (grass green), 97,100 ppm
- Koby Spray Paint (medium yellow), 95,800 ppm
- One Take Spray Paint (green), 88,900 ppm
- King Sfon Aerosol Spray Paint (lemon yellow), 86,300 ppm
- King Sfon Aerosol Spray Paint (orange red), 85,800 ppm
- Sinag Paint Aerosol (lemon yellow), 85,800 ppm



Korona Spray Paint (yellow), 64,800 ppm
Haifei Spray Paint (light green), 64,000 ppm
Haifei Spray Paint (art yellow), 62,000 ppm
Silvestre Spray Paint (high temp yellow), 54,300 ppm
Meng Qi Bo Shi Qi Pai Zidong Penqi (lemon yellow), 51,900 ppm

Standard Aerosol Spray Paint (post green), 51,800 ppm

Korona Spray Paint (orange), 50,900 ppm

King Sfon Aerosol Spray Paint (yellow), 50,100 ppm

Standard Aerosol Spray Paint (deep yellow), 48,900 ppm

On Jun. 29 last year, the Philippines received the Future Policy Award (special category for lead in paint) for being the first country in Southeast Asia to successfully implement a lead-safe paint regulation.



Act now to prevent a water crisis

January 12, 2022

[METRO](#) Manila and parts of Central [Luzon](#) could face another season of water shortages if action is not taken now to prevent it, reports from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and [Astronomical Services Administration](#) (Pagasa) suggest.

As of Saturday January 8, the water levels of the Angat, Pantabangan and Magat reservoirs were at 201.84 meters, 205.67 meters and 185.31 meters above sea level, respectively. These levels were 4.32 meters, 10.85 meters and 6.77 meters below the optimal "rule curve" elevations for those reservoirs on that day, and they were dropping at a rate of between 10 and 26 centimeters per day.

While these levels are not yet critical, Pagasa expressed concern that there could be shortages before the expected onset of the rainy season in the middle of the year. The Angat, Pantabangan and Magat watersheds are forecast to receive 96 millimeters, 91 millimeters, and 49 millimeters of rainfall, respectively, this month, but that is less than half of what would be needed to raise the reservoirs to near their normal high levels. Pagasa estimates that the Angat and Magat reservoirs will be approximately 10 meters lower than they are now by month-end, with Pantabangan dropping about two meters.

Again, to be clear, at this point, the current situation is cause for concern rather than alarm. However, if the rainfall forecast for the next couple of months does not improve significantly, we could, once again, be facing a situation similar to the widespread water shortages that plagued Metro Manila and surrounding areas in March-April 2019.

That was a difficult situation; at a time when we are also grappling with a strong resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic, a repeat of that problem could be disastrous. The government, as well as water users, should be planning now to prevent or minimize another widespread water shortage.

For its part, the [National Water Resources Board](#) (NWRB) formulated a contingency plan during the 2015 to 2016 dry spell caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon to address water supply problems. As another El Niño is currently forecast to begin in the summer months (in June or July), implementing that contingency plan or at least preparing the responsible agencies to do so at the first sign of trouble would be a prudent first step.

The NWRB's plan includes measures such as maintaining the maximum water allocation for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) from the Angat reservoir to ensure adequate water supply in Metro Manila; allowing MWSS to use its existing deep wells as needed to augment water supply for its two concessionaires (Manila Water and Maynilad); reopening previously closed deep wells if needed to maintain water supplies for critical services, such as hospitals; and ramping up its information and monitoring efforts to prevent water wastage and encourage conservation.

Practice conservation

This last aspect of the water management plan is one that we can all participate in and most definitely should. Any of the government measures to ensure that water supplies are maximized are not effective if all of us who use water do not do so efficiently.



Many of the ways in which we can practice conservation require little to no investment or cost and do not noticeably reduce the convenience we are accustomed to. So, there is really no reason not to make them everyday practice. Checking water systems in our homes for leaks (such as dripping faucets) and having them repaired is a good place to start. Practicing easy water-saving habits, such as not letting the faucet run while brushing teeth or washing hands, and teaching these to our children also helps to reduce water use. Various water-saving devices such as flow restrictors or even simple steps such as closing water supply valves slightly on sinks or toilets can also contribute to lower water use. Extravagant practices such as frequently washing vehicles or sidewalks should also be avoided.

By thinking ahead, we can prevent unfavorable circumstances now from becoming a serious threat later on and further compromising our efforts to manage and recover from the [coronavirus](#) pandemic.



Homage to the acacia trees

BYATTY. DENNIS GORECHO JANUARY 12, 2022



The acacia trees of the academic oval are silent witnesses to the travails of the denizens of the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines.

As a homage to my second home for a decade, I ran 10 kilometers (five rounds of the 2.2-kilometer loop) to cap my golden year last December.

The 10-kilometer run symbolizes 10 years, or one fifth of my 50 years of existence, as one of the Iskolar ng Bayan.

Canopied by over a hundred years old sturdy acacia trees, the Diliman academic oval is a pollution-free haven not just for runners, but also for bikers.

A favorite photo backdrop is the scenic view of the way the branches of the trees from the left side of the street meet with those from the right side, forming some kind of archway. They are now part of UP culture and heritage.

Most of the trees are as old as the campus itself. They offer much needed shade and bring in a relieving breeze even in the scorching heat.

The acacias, botanically known as *Albizia saman*, were the first trees planted after the transfer of UP to Diliman in the late 1940s.

The hard adobe grounds had to be blasted to allow them to take root.

Since then, says the UP *website*, the trees have spoken eloquently of UP Diliman's fast and robust growth. Now larger-than-life, *acacias* hold sway at the academic center, providing shade where there was once only grassland.

The UP web site added: Like UP and the country's colonial past, they are also "dominant and lingering, roots long and winding, beautiful and scary at the same time; and as exotic species, forever imposed, a stranger to the land."

A UP alumna once wrote: "The way the branches completely extend out from the tree's trunk, like arms stretching out from the body, portrays how the students are pushed to their limits, especially academically. Yet despite that, the acacia trees and the students alike, remain standing strong amidst all of that expanding, growing even more used to it as the years go by."

For the Hebrews, acacia is believed to be the wood that Moses was instructed to use when building the Ark of the Covenant that encased the two tablets of the Ten Commandments.

Before the pandemic, the oval is divided into three lanes—with the outermost part dedicated to motorists and the innermost for joggers and bikers. Motorists are now prohibited to traverse major portions of the oval.



The loop has seen many events including rallies, UP Fair and lantern parades.

I was born in the same period when the First Quarter Storm (FQS) was associated with anti-Martial Law protests, mostly led by UP students and faculty.

I was barely two months old when the nine-day uprising called “Diliman Commune” from February 1 to 9, 1971 became an evidence of UP’s role as the “bastion of activism” since the early days of the Marcos dictatorship. The academic oval was my solace as a student at the UP School of Economics from 1987 to 1991 and later at the UP College of Law from 1992 to 1998.

After engaging in graphs, formulas and laws of supply and demand as an Economics major, I crossed the street to pursue my law degree.

Traversing the path of legal education was hard to the exponential power. I was a working student then as a newspaper reporter by day before rushing to my evening classes.

“Serve the people. Do not betray your humanity,” says my professor and Supreme Court Associate Justice Marvic Leonen. It was also in UP that I became roommates with Buddy Zabala and Raymund Marasigan of Eraserheads for two years (1989 to 1991) at the Molave dorm.

Because the band members often used our room to play their instruments and practice, I often ended up going out to study somewhere else, as I could not take the “noise”. As a supportive roommate, I watched them perform during the annual UP Fair at the Sunken Garden at a time when they were just starting to make waves inside the campus.

It was beyond my comprehension that the “noise” that I tried to avoid made them known as one of the most successful, critically acclaimed, and significant bands in OPM history.

The oval is also home to the annual Lantern Parade, which was inspired by the folk practice of carrying lanterns of various shapes and sizes to light the way to the early morning December masses or *misa de gallo* during the Spanish period.

Ten years inside the university makes one cherish the concept of academic freedom.

The campus molded us to fight for the causes we believe in; trained us for the skills we need to communicate ideas and rally others to effect changes in society.

All educational institutions, including UP, must be maintained as safe havens for civilized and intelligent discourse of all beliefs and forms of democratic expression, where students and teachers can discuss freely without fear of censorship or retaliation. The acacia trees will continue to be witnesses to UP’s existence as an institution with a critical eye on social and historical issues.

Peyups is the moniker of the University of the Philippines. Atty. Dennis R. Gorecho heads the seafarers’ division of the Sapalo Velez Bundang Bulilan law offices. For comments, e-mail info@sapalovelez.com, or call 0917-5025808 or 0908-8665786.



Corruption in the bureaucracy is a deep-rooted problem

BY DR. JESUS LIM ARRANZA JANUARY 12, 2022



Since its creation as an advocacy group to promote and protect the interests of local producers and manufacturers, the Federation of Philippine Industries has evolved to become more proactive and profound in its advocacy to stop all forms of illicit trade, smuggling, and corruption in both the public and private sectors. As FPI head, I can say we have had successes in our campaigns, but much work remains to be done.

Recently, I received a letter from Mr. Alberto M. Albano, president of the Philippine Iron and Steel Institute (PISI), the umbrella organization of local steel producers and traders, explaining how we can help untangle the deep-rooted problem of corruption in the bureaucracy.

Mr. Albano started by analyzing how the term of office of government officials—six years for the Executive Department; six years for senators; three years for congressmen; three years for local government elective posts; tenured up to retirement age of 65 for judges and 70 for justices in the Judiciary; and the tenure of office of the Civil Service-protected bureaucracy, which is tenured up to retirement age.

“We have been brought up and brainwashed both by our environment and media that the “swamps” or “centers of corruption” are the Executive and the Legislative departments. True. There’s no denying that, and there’s also corruption in the LGUs,” Mr. Albano said.

“But what we have overlooked for the longest time is corruption at the Civil Service-protected bureaucracy at all levels. Worse, while the political leaders in the Executive and the Legislative Departments have to face the electorate every six years or three years, the Civil Service-protected bureaucracy doesn’t have to do this. So, if any of the tenured officials are corrupt, they have a lifetime to commit corruption! And they are doing this,” he added.

Mr. Albano explained: “These are the corrupt people we, ordinary citizens, encounter everyday in the course of our daily lives. We are their regular victims. Need a Business Permit? A Construction Permit? A Tax Clearance? Clear from the Post Office a small item sent by a relative from abroad so you need a Customs Clearance? The corrupt people in the bureaucracy have weaponized all the requirements of government. But it is not only when you go to their offices that they attack you. They come to your store to inspect and fabricate all sorts of violations.”

There’s more: “Millions of legitimate landowners have been victimized by Documentary Land Grabbers under a modus perfected by PENROs and CENROs that are conspiring with Provincial/Municipal Assessors to fabricate fake Tax Declarations overlapping even titled properties and selling these to unsuspecting buyers. When the legitimate owner complains, they maneuver to have the plaintiff bring the matter to court where their lawyers will make sure that the case will go to corrupt judges and will remain unsettled for years.”



Mr. Albano said almost all of us have our tales of outrage at these corrupt practices that are being foisted upon us by the bureaucracy. What to do?

He said: "Make the people aware of these problems. Focus on just these, which we have been overlooking: the Civil Service-protected Bureaucracy."

Mr. Albano gives a stark and recent example: "In the early days of the pandemic, President Duterte added a regular feature to his weekly IATF televised program to announce the names of government employees who were caught guilty of corrupt practices. He proceeded by Department—different Department exposed every week. On screen, he would even modify the penalties, e.g. from suspension to outright termination, etc. A few months later, he publicly boasted that he ordered the termination of more than 60 Bureau of Customs employees...only to be corrected the following day by the Justice Secretary that these 60 plus people were back at work. The most the Civil Service Law would allow is suspension for six months; they can only be terminated if the Court approves on the basis of cases filed. And we know that court cases take forever to resolve."

Mr. Albano's proposed solution is the straightforward enforcement of the Anti-Red Tape Law and the Ease of Doing Business Law (RA 11032). "Lawyers in Executive Departments could not go around the ARTA law. I have been informed that in the case of DENR, they persuaded the ARTA complainant to also file with the PACC; after which they move for dismissal on the basis of forum shopping. Otherwise, they engage in all sorts of delaying tactics," he said, adding that the main cause of delays is the very serious shortage of good ARTA lawyers. "I heard this from an ARTA lawyer myself. They have a huge backlog of cases now."

Mr. Albano has a good piece of advice for me: "In your campaign sorties, remind the public to be aware of the provisions of the Ease of Doing Business Law or Anti-Red Tape Law. Once they encounter delayed government transactions, they need to file a complaint against the erring government employees. They don't need a lawyer to do this."

Clearly, as Mr. Albano said, private citizens doing business transactions with the government have a big role to play to make the campaign against red tape and corruption succeed.

Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza is the chairman of the Federation of Philippine Industries and Fight Illicit Trade; a broad-based, multisectoral movement intended to protect consumers, safeguard government revenues and shield legitimate industries from the ill effects of smuggling.



Air pollution: Delhi's smog problem is rooted in India's water crisis

Published 1 day ago



AFP

Image caption, Delhi battles heavy pollution every winter

Every winter, Indian capital Delhi's toxic air is fuelled by farmers burning crop stubble. But the fires don't stop. Why? The answer lies in water, writes climate expert Mridula Ramesh.

India loses an estimated \$95bn (£70bn) to air pollution every year.

From mid-March to mid-October, when Delhi's air quality varies from good to moderate to unhealthy for sensitive groups, chatter on air pollution and its causes is muted.

But then comes winter. Pollution in any city mixes vertically in the atmosphere, and the height at which this happens shrinks by more than half in the winter, raising the concentration of pollution. Two new sources also enter the mix. By the end of October, when the rains have ceased, the winds begin to blow in from the northwest, carrying fumes from burning fields. Then there is the Diwali, the popular festival lights, where millions burst fire crackers to celebrate.

Both of these play a large role in the spike in pollution. In the first week of November 2021, when Delhi's air quality went beyond hazardous, stubble burning accounted for 42% of the city's PM2.5 levels - these are tiny particles that can enter the lungs.

Governments have banned the practice, imposed fines and even suggested alternate uses for the straw and other crop residue. But farmers continue to burn stubble. Why?

Think of the fields that are on fire. They get only between 500-700mm (19-27 in) of rainfall a year. Yet, many of these fields grow a dual crop of paddy and wheat. Paddy alone needs about 1,240mm (48.8 in) of rainfall each year, and so, farmers use groundwater to bridge the gap.

The northern states of Punjab and Haryana, which grow large amounts of paddy, together take out roughly 48 billion cubic metres (bcm) of groundwater a year, which is not much less than India's overall annual municipal water requirement: 56bcm. As a result, groundwater levels in these states are dropping rapidly. Punjab is expected to run out of groundwater in 20-25 years from 2019, according to an official estimate.

The burning fields is a symptom of the deteriorating relationship between India and its water. Long ago, farmers grew crops based on locally available water. Tanks, inundation canals and forests helped smoothen the inherent variability of India's tempestuous water.



GETTY IMAGES

Image caption, Smoke from farm fires is a major cause of Delhi's air pollution

After independence from the British in 1947, repeated droughts made the Indian government succumb to the lure of the "green revolution".

Until then, rice, a water-hungry crop, was a marginal crop in Punjab. It was grown on less than 7% of the fields. But beginning in the early 1960s, paddy cultivation was encouraged by showing farmers how to cheaply and conveniently tap into a new, seemingly-endless source of water that lay underground.

The flat power tariffs to run borewells were cheapened and finally not paid - removing any incentive to conserve water. Water did not need to be managed, farmers were taught, only extracted. In the heady first years of the revolution, fields began to churn out paddy and wheat, and India became food-secure. But after a couple of decades, the water began to sputter.

To conserve groundwater, a 2009 law forbade farmers from sowing and transplanting paddy before a pre-determined date based on the onset of the monsoon. The aim was to make the borewells run less in the peak summer months.

But the delay in paddy planting shrunk the gap between the paddy harvest and sowing of wheat. And the quickest way to clear the fields was to burn them, giving rise to the smoky plumes that add to northern India's air pollution.

So, the toxic smog is but a visible symbol of India's trainwreck of a relationship with its water.



GETTY IMAGES

Image caption, Paddy cultivation is drying up India's groundwater

To tackle this problem, Indians need to respect their water again - a tall ask after decades of neglect.

Take people's choices in food and crops. A century ago, most Indians ate the hardy millet, which could withstand the vicissitudes of India's water. Today, there are far more Indians, and they eat rice and wheat rotis (flatbreads), making millets an unappealing crop for farmers to grow.



And pricing water, directly or through electricity that powers the borewells, is seen as political suicide. Meanwhile, as air quality improves from hazardous to (very) unhealthy, people, courts and political leaders have moved on - at least until next November.

But the time bomb - of depleting groundwater - ticks on. Once that runs out, the November air might be cleaner.

But what will India do about food?

Mridula Ramesh is a leading climate and water expert and author of Watershed: How We Destroyed India's Water and How We Can Save It and The Climate Solution: India's Climate-Change Crisis and What We Can Do about It.

Follow her on Twitter @mimiramesh

12 JANUARY 2022, WEDNESDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



With 33,169 new cases, DOH reports record tally for third straight day

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com January 10, 2022 | 4:05pm



People line up to receive COVID-19 vaccine at the Baseco Health Center in Tondo, Manila on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Monday reported a record number of COVID-19 infections for a third consecutive day, registering 33,169 additional cases.

Monday's new cases follow the previous record of 28,707 cases logged on Sunday. On Saturday, the country registered 26,458 infections.

The new infections brought the total number of COVID-19 cases to nearly three million.

Ninety-nine percent of the newly-reported cases occurred from December 28 to January 10, the Department of Health said. More than half of the cases were from Metro Manila.

The positivity rate was 46% out of 73,344 tests. This was way above the 5-percent threshold of the World Health Organization for opening economies.

According to the DOH, 10 testing laboratories, which contribute 6.2 percent of samples tested, were not able to submit their data.

The department also reported 145 additional fatalities, raising the death toll to 52,293.

Meanwhile, recoveries increased by 3,725 for a total of 2,788,711.

There are currently 157,526 active cases, which represent 5.3% of the confirmed total infections.

The surge in infections, which the government has attributed to increased mobility and the presence of the Omicron variant, is threatening to overwhelm the country's health system anew.

No recommendation for Alert Level 4

- There is no recommendation yet to put Metro Manila under an even stricter [Alert Level 4](#), the Department of the Interior and Local Government said.
- The directive to shorten the quarantine and isolation period of healthcare workers [will endanger medical frontliners](#) and will not solve a severely lacking workforce, the Filipino Nurses United said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/10/2153000/33169-new-cases-doh-reports-record-tally-third-straight-day>



Dinapuan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas lumagpas na ng 3 milyon

[James Relativo](#) - Philstar.com January 11, 2022 | 4:08pm



Community watchmen kept an eye on those entering Barangay 02 Zone 1 on Layug Street in Pasay City on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022. The area is under granular lockdown due to high occurrence of COVID-19 cases.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Lumagpas na ng 3 milyon ang bilang ng nahahawaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas matapos nitong madagdagan pa ng mahigit 28,000 bagong infections, ayon sa datos ng Department of Health (DOH), Martes.

Tinapos ng 28,007 new cases ngayong araw ang [tatlong sunud-sunod historic highs](#) ng bansa pagdating sa mga bagong nahahawaan ng nakamamatay na sakit.

Narito ang mga sariwang numero na inilabas ng DOH:

- total cases (3,026,473)
- bagong kaso (28,007)
- total deaths (52,511)
- kamamatay lang (219)
- aktibong kaso (181,016)

"Samantala ay mayroon namang naitalang 4,471 na [bagong] gumaling," dagdag pa ng kagawaran, dahilan para tumuntong naman na sa 2.79 milyon ang total recoveries ng sakit.

"Ayon sa pinakahuling ulat, lahat ng mga laboratoryo ay operational noong January 9, 2022 habang mayroong 12 laboratoryo na hindi nakapagsumite ng datos sa COVID-19 Document Repository System (CDRS)."

Sa 28,007 bagong kasong iniulat ngayong araw, 27,604 ang sinasabing nangyari sa nakaraang 14 araw. Ang mga rehiyong may pinakamatataas na kaso sa nagdaang dalawang linggo ay galing ng:

- National Capital Region (15,256)
- Region IV-A (5,861)
- Region 3 (3,064)

Sa kabila nito, 17 lang dito ang nangyari nitong Enero. Ang nalalabing iba pa ay mga backlogs na nangyari noong taong 2021 pa.



"This issue is currently being coordinated with the Epidemiology and Surveillance Units to ensure information is up to date," patuloy pa ng DOH kanina.

Inilabas ang mga panibagong nagtataasang datos habang kumakalat ang mas nakahahawang Omicron variant sa Pilipinas, na "ina-assume" na ng DOH na nasa mga komunidad na sa bansa.

Kamakailan lang nang [aprubahan](#) ng Food and Drug Administration ang "compassionate special permit" para sa generic version ng COVID-19 pill (Bexovid) ng kumpanyang Pfizer. Cleared na ito para magamit sa mga edad 12-anyos pataas na merong mild to moderate infection ng COVID-19.



Omicron dominant COVID-19 variant in latest genome sequencing — DOH

Philstar.com January 11, 2022 | 12:09pm



Devotees at National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help at Baclaran in Parañaque City show their vaccine cards prior to entering church premises on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022. Metro Manila mayors had agreed to restrict activities and movement of unvaccinated individuals as COVID-19 cases surge anew.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The hyper-transmissible Omicron variant was found to be the dominant variant in the latest genome sequencing run conducted by the government, the Department of Health said Monday.

Results of a genome sequencing run conducted on January 3 showed that 60.42% of 48 samples were positive for Omicron, while 37.5% were of the Delta variant.

"[Omicron] is already the dominant variant, whereas before it was Delta," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said.

The Philippines has so far detected 43 cases of the Omicron variant, which is believed to be driving the steep increase in COVID-19 infections. Meanwhile, there are 8,497 cases of the Delta variant in the country.

In an interview over state television PTV on Tuesday, Philippine Genome Center Executive Director Cynthia Saloma said more samples are included in the ongoing genome sequencing to see a better picture of the COVID-19 situation this month.

"Based on our data, there were more Delta cases last December... But in the last sequencing run, because we really tried to focus on the returning overseas Filipinos and the National Capital Region where we experienced cases, we saw that there were more Omicron results," Saloma said in a mix of English and Filipino.

"Whether it's reflective of the fact that Omicron is already dominant in the country, we need to have further evidence," she added.

According to the health department, the country is at critical risk from COVID-19.

The DOH on Monday logged 33,169 additional cases, the third consecutive day that the country reported a record number of infections.

The country has registered nearly three million infections since the pandemic began. Of the figure, 157,526 are active cases. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/11/2153191/omicron-dominant-covid-19-variant-latest-genome-sequencing-doh>



Alert Level 4 itataas sa NCR kung mapupuno na ang mga ospital - Malacañang

[Malou Escudero](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon January 11, 2022 | 12:00am



Dahil sa patuloy na pagtaas ng mga kaso ng COVID na dulot ng Omicron variant kung kaya marami sa mga Pinoy ang nagkukusa na sa pagsusuot ng face shield lalo na sa mga pampublikong lugar.

Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Nakahanda ang gobyerno na itaas sa Alert Level 4 ang National Capital Region kapag umabot sa mahigit na 70 porsiyento ang healthcare utilization, ayon sa Malacañang.

Sa panayam sa Headstart ng ANC, sinabi ni Cabinet Secretary at acting Presidential spokesman Karlo Nograles na nanatili pa rin sa Alert Level 3 ang NCR dahil sa mataas na daily attack rate ng COVID-19 at moderate na hospitalization rate.

Pero agad aniyang itatas sa Alert Level 4 kapag naabot na ang threshold bagaman at sa ngayon ay nakakaya pa ang sitwasyon at kaya pang tumanggap ng mga pasyente sa mga ospital.

Idinagdag ni Nograles na dapat na ring itaas ang bed capacities sa mga temporary treatment and monitoring facilities (TTMFs) sa buong bansa.

Pero sa ngayon aniya ay hindi pa naabot ang pamantayan para itaas sa Alert Level 4 ang NCR.

‘Yung total bed utilization, that’s not hitting the metric yet. Tayo sa NCR we’re what--well not 100 percent fully vaccinated--that’s where the importance of fully vaccinated comes into being,’ ani Nograles.

Iginiit din ni Nograles sa mga local government units (LGUs) na dapat itaas ang telemedicine at telehealth para mas maraming mga mamamayan ang makapagpa-konsulta kahit nasa loob ng tahanan.

Bexovid okayed vs Covid-19

Published 7 hours ago on January 12, 2022 12:04 AM

By **TDI** @tribunephil



Philippine regulators have approved the compassionate use of the generic version of Pfizer's antiviral Covid-19 pill, making the drug more accessible to patients in government hospitals.

Oscar Gutierrez Jr., acting director of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), announced on Monday night that the regulatory body has granted a special permit for the drug which is said to be effective in reducing the risk of hospitalization or death among coronavirus patients.

"The FDA has approved the application of the Department of Health (DoH) for a compassionate special permit institutional use to make accessible the first generic version of Paxlovid with the brand name Bexovid," Gutierrez said.

"It is hoped that the cost of treatment would be cheaper because Bexovid is a generic drug," he added.

Citing data from Pfizer, Gutierrez said that the risk of hospitalization or death can be reduced by 89 percent when the drug is taken by a patient within three days after the onset of symptoms and by 88 percent if used within five days.

The drug may be administered to individuals aged 12 or older as two tablets taken twice a day for five days.

The FDA chief said that Bexovid is made by Beximco Pharm Inc. and will be distributed in the Philippines by Biocare Lifescience.

Once the supplier has delivered the drugs to the DoH, the agency will then make the drug available to government hospitals, said Gutierrez.

The approval came at a time when the country was battling an exponential growth in Covid-19 infections and an increase in hospital admissions.

Gov't should remain fully operational despite rise in infections

January 11, 2022



President Rodrigo Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with key government officials at the Malacañan Palace on January 4, 2022. ROBINSON NIÑAL/ PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

By Azer Parrocha | Philippine News Agency

MANILA – Despite the soaring rate of COVID-19 infections among government workers, the national government should remain fully operational to ensure the effective delivery of public service, President Rodrigo Duterte said on Monday, Jan. 10.

Duterte made the remark amid an uptick in COVID-19 cases among government personnel, including healthcare workers in public hospitals and members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

“Alam mo, kung bawalan tayo tapos lahat sa gobyerno kasi opisina ‘yan. Opisina por opisina por opisina. So kung may asymptomatic diyan talagang mahahawa. Ngayon if bawalan mo lahat magtrabaho (You know, if we are prohibited from working it would affect other offices. If there is an asymptomatic worker then others will really be infected. Now, if you prohibit us from working) then the machinery of government will stop to grind,” he said in a prerecorded public address.

He did not elaborate on which government agencies he was referring to, but it seemed like he was also referring to his experience in his own office.

As the country’s top official, Duterte said he needed to continue holding regular public addresses to “communicate to the people what government is doing.”

He said part of being a civil servant was the risk of contracting COVID-19.

“Now, if ma-compromise tayo (if we are compromised) that’s part of the game. ‘Yan ang trabaho namin. Ngayon, kung magka Covid kami (If we get Covid), then so be it. Kasali sa trabaho ‘yan e. Now, kung mamatay ako (It’s part of our job. Now if I die) then so be it,” he added.

On Saturday, Jan. 8, Malacañang has issued a memorandum circular (MC) enumerating requirements and procedures for reducing the on-site workforce in government offices below the minimum that was set under the Alert Level System (ALS).

Under Alert Level 4, government agencies will remain fully operational with at least 20% on-site capacity for workers; at least 30% on-site capacity for Alert Level 3; and at least 50% on-site capacity for Alert Level 2.



On Jan. 6, PSG commander Col. Randolph Cabangbang bared that a total of 15 personnel of the PSG tested positive for COVID-19.

He, however, assured that the personnel “are not in any way” detailed to the President.

Cabangbang also assured that the rest of the PSG personnel remain fit and able to protect the President.

The Philippine General Hospital (PGH) on Saturday said it is now operating in a “crisis mode” as nearly 40% of its COVID-19 healthcare workers are either infected with COVID-19 or are now in quarantine after being exposed to the virus.

PGH spokesperson, Dr. Jonas Del Rosario, said healthcare workers who were quarantined for testing positive for COVID-19 shall report back to work as long as they are asymptomatic.

The PGH currently has around 2,000 healthcare workers and ancillary staff members involved in COVID-19 operations.

Of this figure, 310 of them tested positive for COVID-19 during the past week. **(PNA) – bny**



GRABENG COVID-19 PAG-INGATAN, PAGTULONG-TULUNGANG LABANAN



January 11, 2022 @ 9:38 AM 21 hours ago

SUMASABAY ang mahal kong Pinas sa lumulundag na paglobo ng mga nagkakasakit sa coronavirus disease-19 sa buong mundo.

Itong Omicron variant ang itinuturong dahilan nito.

Dahil sa Omicron variant, mahigit 307 milyon na ang nagkakasakit sa COVID-19 simula noong Disyembre 2019.

Ang UK, humabol at pangalawa na sa Russia sa pagkakaroon ng mahigit 150,000 patay simula noong 2020.

Ang Australia, mabilis nitong nilagpasan sa nakalipas na 24 oras ang mga bansang Ireland, Kazakhztan at Morocco sa pagkakaroon ng 1,049,306 kaso.

Ang nakakaba pa, mga Bro, 63 bansa pa lang ang may Omicron at ganito na ang nagaganap.

Paano na lang kung maabot nito ang mahigit 220 bansa at teritoryo na may halo-halong COVID-19?

Gayunman, hindi nakapagtataka ang sobrang bilis ng pagdami ng mga nagkakasakit sapagkat mismo nga sa Pilipinas, nagaganap din ito pagdami.

DOBLE-TRIPLENG BILANG NG PATAY

Nayon lang din nagsisilabasan ang malaking posibilidad na doble o triple ang bilang ng mga patay simula noong 2019.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, may patay nang 5,506,029 at kung doble o triple ang tunay na namatay, nasa mahigit 10M o 15M na.

Ginawa ang pagtaya rito sa mahigit 15 buwang mga pag-aaral sa COVID-19 ng World Health Organization, iba't ibang gobyerno at mga grupo ng mga researcher, kasama na ang mga media.

Ayon sa WHO, maraming bansa ang walang maayos na rekord ng mga patay sa pandemya hanggang sa pagdating ng Omicron variant.

Isa sa mga kinokonsidera nila ang mga sobrang bilang ng patay sa nakalipas na dalawang taon kumpara sa taunang mga patay bago dumating ang 2020.

Sa India lamang, may taunang patay na 10 milyong mula sa iba't ibang sakit pero sumobra ng nasa 30 porsyento ang patay noong 2020 at maging nitong 2021.



Sa ngayon, hanggang 483,790 lang ang deklaradong patay sa India ngunit nakabatay lang sa mga death certificate mula sa gobyerno at ospital at hindi kasali ang mga namatay sa mga malalayo sa mga kabisera na lugar.

Basta inililibing, sinusunog o itinatapon na lang sa ilog ang mga patay, gaya ng nangyari noong nanalasa ang Delta variant noong Abril, Mayo at Hunyo 2021.

MAHALAGANG MALAMAN

Kung bakit natin iniuulat, mga Bro, ang kabuuang nagaganap sa COVID-19 ay mahalagang-mahalaga.

Una, nais nating ituwid ang paninira ng mga kritiko ng pamahalaan at namumulitka na gawa ng gobyerno ang lahat ng paglobo ng COVID-19 at ang hindi nila pagkilala sa labis na pagsisikap nitong masalba ang lahat sa pagkakasakit at kamatayan.

Ikalawa, sa pag-alam natin sa nagaganap sa buong mundo, makapupulot tayo ng mga aral na pupwede nating pairalin sa bansa laban sa pandemya, gaya ng sapilitang pagbabakuna.

Ikatlo, mabibigyan din natin ng tamang respeto at paggalang sa mga nasawi at nagkakasakit, kasama na ang mga health worker at iba pang mga frontliner na nakasalang lagi sa panganib alang-alang sa kabutihan ng lahat.

Ikaapat, matutunan nating mag-ingat, magkaisa at magtulong-tulong nang todo laban sa pandemya.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 668

ENERO 11, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

6.0%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
181,016

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

92.3%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,792,946

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.74%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
52,511

MGA BAGONG KASO **28,007**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **4,471**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **219**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,026,473**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 9

DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 11
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 9

44.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

58,409

BILANG NG
TINVEST

HALOS

97.4%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

**SANITIZE ANG
KAMAY AT IWASAN
ANG KULOB NA LUGAR**

KABUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.4K TOTAL BEDS)	41% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (19.6K TOTAL BEDS)	44% Utilized
WARD BEDS (13.3K TOTAL BEDS)	41% Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	18% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.1K TOTAL BEDS)	54% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)	60% Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.4K TOTAL BEDS)	64% Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	27% Utilized

5,521 Asymptomatic
170,873 Mild
2,863 Moderate
1,464 Severe
295 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc

✉ seeyoudoc.com
📞 SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD

✉ konsulta.md
📞 KonsultaMD

CloudPx

✉ cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate

✉ medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck

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

TelAventusMD

✉ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
📞 TelAventusMD

HealthNow

📞 healthnow.ph/
✉ help@healthnow.ph
📱 HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

[doh.gov.ph](https://www.doh.gov.ph)

[📞 \(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:028940000)

12 JANUARY 2022, WEDNESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjrOdr6dxEs>

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #DuterteLegacy

DOLOMITE BEACH COLIFORM UPDATE! DENR USEC. ANTIPORDA NAGSALITA NA!

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#BattleForManilaBay

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Miz July

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update dolomite beach manila bay 01-11-2022

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#manilabayupdate

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v11et-moqmk>

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


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