

14 FEBRUARY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR to business sector, government: Invest in wetlands conversation

By [Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 14, 2022 - 12:00am



“The Boracay Wetland Conservation Park illustrates the value of multi-sectoral convergence in conservation work. The wetlands of Boracay are now under different phases of rehabilitation,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said during the celebration of World Wetlands Day 2022 on Feb. 2.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has urged the business sector and government leaders to invest in wetland conservation, citing the success of the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park rehabilitation project.

“The Boracay Wetland Conservation Park illustrates the value of multi-sectoral convergence in conservation work. The wetlands of Boracay are now under different phases of rehabilitation,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said during the celebration of World Wetlands Day 2022 on Feb. 2.

“Thanks to our wetland adopters, the Energy Development Corp. (EDC), Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., J.G. Summit, Olefins Corp. and San Miguel Corp.,” he said.

Adopter EDC has formally turned over to the DENR the newly rehabilitated Boracay Wetland Conservation Park.

Cimatu lauded the EDC for being the first private entity to respond to the DENR’s Adopt-A-Wetland Program, which aims to recover and restore Boracay Island’s nine wetlands.

Cimatu, who is also the chairman of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), said that he witnessed the transformation of the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park or Wetland No. 2 “from a degraded wetland to what it is now – an arboretum of native trees, an ecotourism site and an educational center for conservation.”

The DENR said that wetlands, dubbed as the “kidney of the Earth,” are vital in the ecosystem as they “filter water through vegetation and substrates, help mitigate the effects of climate change and provide healing through their recreational uses.”

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on Feb. 2 to raise global awareness of the wetlands’ vital role for people and the planet.



The date also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.

Presidential Proclamation No. 74, Series of 1999, also declares Feb. 2 of every year as National Wetlands Day “in recognition of the immense importance of wetlands to the welfare of the Filipino people and the protection of global biodiversity.”

DENR: Hug A Tree This Valentine's Day

Rhodina Villanueva February 13, 2022

No one to spend Valentine's Day with? Why not show your love to the environment by hugging a tree instead, the DENR suggests.



A couple enjoys a romantic dinner inside a 'Love Bubble Pod' at the Venice Grand Canal mall in Taguig City on Feb. 12, 2022. The pods were set up to ensure social distancing among those who will celebrate Valentine's Day at the mall. Photo by Jesse Bustos, The Philippine STAR

Show love and gratitude to trees by hugging one this Valentine's Day, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu urged the public Saturday, Feb. 12.

"Hug a tree in gratitude for the gift they give us – the very air we breathe," Cimatu said.

The DENR has launched a week long "Tree Hugging Campaign" to raise awareness on the importance of trees and nurturing forests as a measure to address climate change.

Organized by the DENR-Forest Management Bureau (FMB), the Tree Hugging Campaign begins Monday, Feb. 14, and ends on Friday, Feb. 19.

"Trees help fight climate change and this event dramatizes the need to take immediate, drastic reductions in greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide which trees absorb," said Cimatu, who also chairs the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

The official said advocacies like the Tree Hugging Campaign "should be encouraged, especially in developing countries like the Philippines if we are to sustain our economic goals to reduce poverty without undermining our environmental programs."

The DENR chief stressed that such program "plays a crucial part in the DENR's agenda for Filipinos to adopt a positive lifestyle shift in the way we relate to our environment, especially to trees" in facing the challenges of climate change.

According to the Center for Global Development, developing countries like the Philippines account for 63 percent of the world's current annual carbon emissions.

Arbor Day Foundation, a United States-based non-profit organization, also said that a mature tree could absorb about 22 kilograms of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in one year and release oxygen in exchange.

An online tree-hugging challenge has been set for the campaign, with 10 entries to be picked as winners. Submission of entries begins tomorrow.



Those interested should like the FMB's Facebook page, follow its Instagram account, share FMB's post about the event and post photos showing creative way of hugging a tree, with short caption citing the importance of tree hugging with the hashtags #TreeHuggingDay, #PunoNgPagmamahal, and #ValentinesDay2022.

Hugging indigenous trees earns more points. Winners will receive special tokens from the DENR.



Tree hugging campaign, inilunsad ng DENR para itaas ang kamalayan ng publiko sa climate change

819 views • Feb 13, 2022

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OceanaGold prepares to list OGPI unit

[Catherine Talavera](#) - The Philippine Star February 14, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Australian-Canadian mining firm OceanaGold Corp. has started preliminary work on the listing of its subsidiary OceanaGold Philippines Inc. (OGPI) at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) as part of the requirements of its Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA).

In a webinar, OceanaGold executive general manager for New Zealand and the Philippines David Way said they have already started the initial process and inquiries regarding the listing of its Philippine subsidiary.

Under the 25-year FTAA with the Philippine government for the Didipio mine in Nueva Vizcaya the company is required to list at least 10 percent of its common shares in OGPI within the next three years.

In July last year, OceanaGold announced the renewal of its FTAA with the government for the Didipio mine in Nueva Vizcaya that expired in June 2019.

“I think it’s still very early to make a statement on the matter as we are still studying how it’s going to be done,” OGPI president Joan Adaci-Cattiling said when asked for updates on the company’s listing.

She said the focus of the company after the FTAA renewal was to ramp up and resume its operations.

“We do have time because under the FTAA addendum agreement, this is still within three years, with the possibility of extending it to five years for the listing, should we be required to have longer years of operations,” Cattiling said.

Apart from the listing of OGPI, other conditions set in the renewal of the FTAA include the allocation of an additional 1.5 percent of its gross revenue for community development, and the transfer of OGPI’s principal office to a host province in the next two years.

The FTAA also states that OGPI shall also offer for purchase by the Philippine central bank not less than 25 percent of its annual gold ore production at fair market price and mutually agreed upon terms.

In a statement last week, OceanaGold said it expects to reach full underground production rates early in the second quarter.

The company will resume drilling of the Didipio ore body this year and possibly extending the mine life through discoveries at depth.

Beyond 2022, the Didipio mine is expected to produce between as much as 120,000 ounces of gold per year along with 12,000 to 14,000 tons of copper per year, OceanaGold said.



OceanaGold ramps up Didipio production

By [Jed Macapagal](#) -February 14, 2022

OceanaGold Corp. expects its mining operations in Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya to ramp up this year, producing as much as 110,000 ounces of gold and up to 13,000 tons of copper.

In a statement, OceanaGold said full underground production rates in the mine site will be achieved by the second quarter of the year following the renewal of its financial or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) in July last year.

“The company will resume drilling of the Didipio ore body in 2022 with an aim to extend mine life through discoveries at depth. Greenfield exploration activities are expected to resume late in 2022 on near-mine targets,” the company said.

OceanaGold said beyond this year, the Didipio mine is expected to produce between 110,000 and 120,000 ounces of gold per year and 12,000 to 14,000 tons of copper per year at similar all-in sustaining cost and cash costs.

David Way, OceanaGold executive general manager for New Zealand and the Philippines, said while its local subsidiary, OceanaGold (Philippines) Inc. (OGPI) has other prospects in the Philippines, “our focus at the moment is get Didipio back up for full production, going full bore, understand the full capacity primarily of the Didipio ore body and then determine an exploration strategy going forward throughout the rest of the country.”

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau said OGPI’s resumption of operations last July contributed to higher ore production for the country. The company reported total sales for gold and silver as of August 2021, amounting to P105.86 million bound to Australia.



Poll bets urged not to use tarps, reduce waste

by [Manila Standard](#) February 13, 2022, 10:20 pm

The EcoWaste Coalition is urging candidates for the upcoming polls from hanging “Happy Valentine’s Day” plastic tarpaulins to cut down on waste and pollution.

In lieu of the tarpaulins, the advocacy group for a zero waste and toxics-free society persuaded political aspirants to commit to serving the people and the environment and to articulate the same in their public service platforms.

“Happy Valentine tarpaulins, especially during the campaign season, hardly mean anything to the electorate and can be completely avoided,” said Jove Benosa, Zero Waste Campaigner, EcoWaste Coalition.

The EcoWaste Coalition pointed out that cutting back on tarpaulins will certainly trim down campaign expenses, noting that the bulk production price for such type of campaign paraphernalia is about P5 to P10 per square foot.

More importantly, reduced production of campaign tarpaulins will translate to a lesser volume of plastic waste laden with harmful chemicals, the group emphasized.

Tarpaulins, which are often made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic, contain toxic chemical additives such as cadmium-bearing stabilizers that are used to slow down degradation when PVC materials and other polymers are exposed to sunlight, the group said.

“These chemical additives will be released into the environment as the tarpaulins are removed and subsequently disposed of,” said Thony Dizon, Chemical Safety Campaigner, EcoWaste Coalition.

Dizon recalled screening hundreds of tarpaulins used for the 2013 and 2016 elections using an X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer. Cadmium up to 1,279 parts per million (ppm) was detected in all 200 tarpaulins screened in 2013. Cadmium up to 1,704 ppm was likewise found in all the 300 tarpaulins screened in 2016.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), “products containing cadmium are not typically collected separately from the general waste stream in developing countries. Therefore cadmium discards will end up in municipal waste and disposed of in landfills, incineration, open burning or indiscriminate dumping.”

“Some of the cadmium in these products will be released to the environment, the extent of which depends on disposal method, control technologies applied and other factors,” the UN agency said.

The EcoWaste Coalition further warned that burning chlorinated materials like PVC-based tarpaulins in the open or in incinerators will generate dangerous byproduct contaminants called dioxins, which are targeted for global reduction, if not elimination, under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) of which the Philippines is a party.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), “dioxins are highly toxic and can cause reproductive and developmental problems, damage the immune system, interfere with hormones and also cause cancer.”



Last year, also in time for Valentine’s Day, the EcoWaste Coalition urged Filipinos to break up with single-use plastics (SUPs) and instead fall in love with ecological alternatives, saying “this toxic relationship with throw-away plastics is threatening the health of the ecosystems, especially the marine environment.”



The plastic that kills

By [Fr. Shay Cullen](#) February 13, 2022

IT'S encouraging to see active youth groups walking along beaches and river banks scooping up discarded plastic wrappings, bottles, bags, slippers and plastic junk that are causing not only unsightliness but are also a source of deadly toxic chemicals in our environment. They are cleaning up our mess when we use and discard plastic bottles and wrappings.

The laws in some few places banning plastic bags in the market places is a positive change, but is it enough to solve a gigantic problem? It is hopeful that many more people are aware of the dangers of plastic but much more has to be done to undo this terrible mistake by mankind: manufacturing almost everything out of plastic. There are many alternative materials that are safe and even better at wrapping and storing and cooking food. Wise and safety and health-conscious people are returning to using stainless steel containers and glass jars. Another great alternative to plastic is food-grade platinum silicone. The main ingredient is natural sand. No chemicals are used in its manufacture and all kinds of products are made from it. We have to change away from plastic, and this is a great alternative. Everyone should ask for products made from platinum silicone. They are strong and anyone can cook food, boil water, bake bread and store food in products made from silicone. Cooking utensils and products made from platinum silicone without any plastic fillers are the way to go. A plastic-free home with stainless steel and glass jars, ceramic plates and cups are for a cleaner, safer world.

This is something we can all do. There is much more to be done on a national and global scale of course. Right now, we are fighting the pandemic and if you ever got Covid-19 Delta or Omicron, you would never want it again. It is crippling and can have long-term effects on our health. But the pandemic is causing another even deadlier problem. Hundreds of millions of discarded plastic syringes and masks are now polluting and damaging our immediate environment and the planet.

This is a new hazard that is added to an already drastic situation of plastic pollution. You will see discarded plastic on the beaches, rivers and the roadside. But plastic pellets and dust blowing in the wind are unseen hazards that cause deadlier damage to the human species. The pellets are found even in fish. Even whales die from ingesting plastic junk.

The river systems of the world discharge millions of tons of plastic into the oceans every few months. The floating plastic garbage islands, some as big as France, release plastic particles into the oceans and are absorbed by marine life and lie on the ocean floor. Plastic is forever.

Even more so the plastic in our homes. Everything has plastic and the toxic chemicals that go into making or recycling plastic end up once again in plastic wrapping, containers, in clothes, almost everything you buy has plastic.

Plastic dust has been found in remote uninhabited places of the world. It shows that discarded plastic items, packaging, bottles and cups and gadgets slowly disintegrate and release and spread tiny particles to the food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink. They are carried on the wind like a toxic cloud that can slowly kill us.

Recycling is not the answer as more toxic chemicals are added to the old plastic to make more plastic. It is not the solution. Phasing out plastic is the only option. Replacing it with alternative safe materials like stainless steel glass, beeswax-coated wrapping and above all, platinum silicone, is the solution. Products made with platinum silicone are found on online shopping sites. But we, as members of the public, have to be motivated to change our lifestyle away from plastic and demand change from the chemical industry and government to enact laws that



make it mandatory to eliminate toxic chemical additives to their products and ban imports of such toxic-loaded products.

We can be motivated by the truth, by facing the reality, and having a true and righteous concern, even fear, of ill-health and sickness and death of ourselves and our friends and children. All these can motivate us. Knowing the truth will make us committed to making and demanding a safer, healthier world free of toxic chemicals.

These toxic plastic particles that are invisible are a serious health hazard as the human body has not evolved to combat them. We are defenseless against the toxic manmade chemicals in every bit of plastic. They are deadly poisons that cause suffering and death. Yet we carelessly manufacture them, use them and discard them at our own terrible cost. For all we know, they and the toxic chemicals are causing cancers, infertility and other diseases.

You don't have to believe only what you read here. It is based on the international research findings of world-renowned organizations like the Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) that have joined forces with the International Pellet Watch (IIPW) and environmental groups in 35 countries including the Philippines. There are over a dozen environmental protection organizations in the Philippines, all striving to protect the environment, all deserving of support. Republic Act 9003, a law known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act," mandates the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. I suggest another — Replace.

By giving executive orders to all government agencies to replace plastic in offices and canteens and giving tax breaks as incentive to hotels and restaurants to remove plastics and replace them with environment-friendly products, it could start a revolution in eliminating plastics. The supply of plastics can be reduced by reducing demand. It is the one thing that we can all do, look for the environment-friendly products.

www.preda.org



Buntis na pating na napunta sa dalampasigan, kinatay sa Sarangani

Pebrero 11, 2022 4:13pm GMT+08:00

SINULAT NI: JAMIL SANTOS

Kalunos-lunos ang sinapit ng isang pating na pinaniniwalaang lumapit sa baybayin para manganak matapos siyang hulihin at katayin sa Sarangani. Ang nasa 50 baby sharks sa kaniyang sinapupunan, hindi rin nakaligtas.

Sa video ng GMA News Feed, makikita ang ilang larawan na mula sa Maritime Police Sarangani, na pira-piraso na ang *Prionace glauca* o Blue Shark na nahuli ng ilang residente sa baybayin ng Barangay Big Margus sa bayan ng Glan.

Sinabi ng Maritime Police na agad silang rumesponde sa report ng Bantay Dagat na may nahuling pating sa lugar. Pero kinatay na ng mga residente ang pating nang tadnan nila.

Ayon sa Protected Management Area Board (PAMB), posibleng lumapit sa baybayin ang blue shark para sana manganak.

Bihira nang makakita ng species na Blue Shark sa kasalukuyan dahil "near threatened" o kumukonti na ang kanilang populasyon sa dagat.

Hindi rin umano agresibo ang ganitong uri species at hindi umaatake ng tao kung hindi nila mararamdaman na nanganganib sila.

Dalawang daang species ng mga pating ang matatagpuan sa Pilipinas mula sa nasa 1,000 species ng mga pating sa buong mundo.

Sa 200 species, 21 ang protektado ng batas o bawal patayin o hulihin.

Kaya patuloy ang pagsusulong ng ilang grupo ng pagsasabatas ng Shark Conservation Act na 2019 pa nakapasa sa final reading ng Kamara.

Kung maisasabatas, maparurusahan ang pagpatay, paghuli at pagbebenta ng endangered shark species.

Ipagbabawal din na putulin ang palikpik ng anumang pating, o gumamit ng shark wires na posible nilang ikasugat.

--FRJ, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/821571/buntis-na-pating-na-napunta-sa-dalampasigan-kinatay-sa-sarangani/story/?fbclid=IwAR2OEF9hvEmgYY0aU8ZSwFjSV4gEfFq7y-K0jP9n1t1Rrr1wVZzKR0SkZas>



Time for boards to lead on climate change

DELOITTE ON THE DOT

February 14, 2022

When the Philippines sent its delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Scotland last year, the 19-person team was headed by the Secretary of Finance. It was the first time that the country's top fiscal manager attended the annual UN climate conference, no doubt to underscore the importance of acting on climate change and the need to lead from the very top to effect meaningful change. In the private sector, however, it looks like there is still some hesitation in boardrooms to fully own the climate crisis.

During the fourth quarter of 2021, Deloitte conducted a survey of more than 350 board audit committee members in 40 countries. While they are the leaders responsible for managing and responding to risks and opportunities, many of the respondents had yet to sufficiently lodge climate change initiatives at the core of their agendas. Nearly 60 percent said they didn't regularly discuss climate change during meetings, and nearly half acknowledged that they lacked basic literacy in climate issues needed to make informed decisions.

Considering the authority and the responsibility vested on boards of directors (BODs), it is concerning to see how many board members have yet to take on climate change as a BOD concern even as the entire world is in agreement that it is the biggest threat right now to our way of life. Here in the Philippines, the need for key leaders to own climate action is even more urgent since we have been identified as one of nine countries at the highest risk of multiple climate hazards.

To be fair, the Deloitte survey respondents recognized the enormity of the problem and the roles they played in addressing it: 42 percent said they wished their organizations had a swifter, more robust climate response and 61 percent agreed that responsibility for action rested not with any specific committee but with the entire board. Certain roadblocks, however, prevented them from crafting long-term strategies for dealing with climate change. For starters, about 60 percent of the respondents thought the lack of global reporting standards made it difficult to compare their organization's progress against meaningful benchmarks. Hopefully this will not be the case for long.

During COP26, the IFRS Foundation's International Sustainability Standards Board announced that it was developing global sustainability reporting standards. It also plans to issue new climate standards this year, which will reflect recommendations from the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). Established by the Financial Stability Board, the TCFD released a framework for climate-related financial disclosures in 2017 to help companies incorporate climate-related risks in their existing reporting processes. Since then, more than 1,500 organizations around the world have expressed support for the TCFD, including Aboitiz Equity Ventures, the Ayala Group, and Pilipinas Shell here in the Philippines.

Companies that have embraced the TCFD recommendations already have a head start, not only in complying with sustainability disclosures but in capitalizing on new climate-related opportunities. They can also help frame the conversation around climate action rather than merely play catch-up to the evolving reporting and regulatory landscape, which is another roadblock identified by Deloitte's survey respondents.

Forty-six percent of respondents cited the ever-shifting reporting and regulatory landscape as one factor in their organization's slow response to climate change. Perhaps these organizations are in wait-and-see mode, allowing the dust to settle before deciding on the best approach.



These companies risk being left unprepared as climate threats such as extreme weather events, changes in rainfall patterns, and extreme temperatures continue to loom and start to hurt business value chains and the economy. The losses we have sustained as a country from the climate impacts continue to reverse important developmental gains achieved over the years. According to government estimates, the recent typhoon Odette set us back P24.5 billion in losses in agriculture and infrastructure, not to mention the nine million people who were displaced.

Instead of waiting for these barriers to be cleared before taking action, companies must take a more proactive approach. Best practice from the survey respondents indicate that committees, boards, and organizations are already investing time and energy in their climate strategy. Among these respondents, 87 percent said it was essential for board members to be more educated on the topic of climate change. This is critical in laying down commitments and strategies critical to the organization's climate action.

Another best practice is to get more robust information from management, which 79 percent of respondents recommended. Board members should, for example, get a clear picture from management on climate-related risks and opportunities up and down the value chain. Board members should insist that management use scientific evidence to better understand the financial implications of the impacts of climate change on their business in different climate scenarios. This will enable the company to optimize its investments in climate resilience. Measurable targets and milestones must be in place to get everyone on the same page. It is also important to communicate plans, especially to investors. Sixty-three percent of respondents recommended that companies publish their climate change plans so as to allow investors to assess a company's risks and opportunities and their climate impact.

During this period when we are facing several great challenges — a health crisis, climate change, transition to a new administration — it is not surprising that everyone, including business leaders, is called to participate in crafting solutions. The expectation is high because so are the stakes. As the governing body tasked with looking out for shareholder interest, the BOD's voice will be crucial in mobilizing the private sector towards climate action.

The author is a director specializing in climate and sustainability under the Risk Advisory services division of Deloitte Philippines (Navarro Amper & Co.), a member of the Deloitte Asia Pacific Network. For comments or questions, email blaureto@deloitte.com. Deloitte Asia Pacific Limited is a company limited by guarantee and a member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Ltd. Members of Deloitte Asia Pacific Ltd. and their related entities, each of which are separate and independent legal entities, provide services from more than 100 cities across the region, including Auckland, Bangkok, Beijing, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Melbourne, Osaka, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo and Yangon.



Boracay expects ‘revenge tourism’

Published 1 day ago on February 13, 2022 02:30 AM

By **Jun Aguirre**



BORACAY Island, Aklan — No less than Department of Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said Boracay is now ready for a so-called “revenge tourism.”

In a press conference here last Friday, Puyat said Boracay Island was one of the highly recommended tourist destinations in the Philippines.

Puyat was here to support the “Resbakuna” campaign for pediatric and booster shots for both residents and tourists. With her were Secretary Vivencio Dizon, Deputy Chief Implementer and Testing Czar of the National Task Force (NTF); Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementer of the NTF; and Undersecretary Anthony Gerard Gonzales, Office of the Presidential Assistant-Visayas.

“Revenge tourism” is defined as those tourists wanting to go on vacation after a series of lockdowns brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Boracay is ready since residents and hotel workers here registered more than a hundred percent vaccination rate against Covid-19. More than a hundred percent because vaccinated workers coming from outside Aklan province were hired by the hotels and various establishments here,” Puyat said.

While in Boracay, tourists can avail of free booster shots as walk-in vaccinees at Watsons Pharmacy at the City Mall.

Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores said the province’s tracing QR code system is also ready, as this is now automatically computer-generated for tourists who are able to present complete requirements.

14 FEBRUARY 2022, MONDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Daily COVID-19 tally drops to 3,050 cases

By [Mayen Jaymalin](#)(The Philippine Star) - February 14, 2022 - 12:00am



Filipinos queue for RT-PCR swab tests at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022 as the Philippines records a sharp increase in new COVID-19 cases.

MANILA, Philippines — The daily tally of COVID-19 infections continued to decline as yesterday's new cases added up to 3,050 with a positivity rate of 11.7 percent, the Department of Health (DOH) reported.

The new cases pushed to 3,637,280 the total COVID-19 caseload nationwide of which active cases went down to 81,394. The number of those who recuperated from the infection rose to 3,500,956 with the inclusion of 5,811 new recoveries.

Due to technical issues, the DOH did not report any additional death yesterday, so the fatality count stood at 54,930.

The National Capital Region (NCR or Metro Manila) still posted the biggest number of new cases with 556, followed by Western Visayas with 367, and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon or Region 4A) with 311.

The latest figure excluded data from two laboratories, which contribute to a 0.2 percent of samples tested and 0.1 percent of positive individuals.

While the decline in cases has continued, the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) expressed concern over the immediate downgrading of the quarantine status to Alert Level 1.

“What we are afraid of is the drastic loosening up (of restrictions),” Dr. Maricar Limpin, PCO president, said in a radio interview yesterday.

Limpin said the government should seriously look at the positivity rate as well as average daily attack rate (ADAR) before easing restrictions.

“We must make certain that we're not only looking at the number of cases recorded by the DOH, but also see whether or not the entire area or the rest of the Philippines is prepared (for a shift to Alert Level 1),” she stressed.

DOH warning

Meantime, the DOH has advised the public against throwing caution to the wind on the mere notion that the pandemic is nearing its end.

Citing how many people around the world are hoping that the COVID-19 crisis ends this year, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire underscored that public health measures must still be kept.



“We all want to reach that point, but we still need to exercise caution. We know that at any given time, new variants (of COVID-19) could still emerge and cause a surge in cases,” Vergeire said in Filipino at Saturday’s Laging Handa public briefing.

She issued the statement in reaction to the recently released results of the Social Weather Stations survey in which a majority of Filipinos polled last December said they expect the crisis to end this year. But Vergeire said the public must be “cautiously optimistic” because the virus is still there and they come in many variants.

The opinion poll was done before the Omicron-driven surge which led to an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases in the country last month.

Vergeire underscored that mass gatherings remain prohibited and people must strictly comply with minimum public health standards even as the government prepares for the “new normal.”



IATF tatalakayin bukas kung ibababa na ba sa Alert Level 1 ang Metro Manila

By **Bombo Dave Vincent Pasit** -February 13, 2022 | 12:57 PM



Tatalakayin pa bukas ng IATF ang bagong quarantine status sa bansa hanggang sa katapusan ng Pebrero, at kung handa na ba ang National Capital Region (NCR) na mailagay sa ilalim ng Alert Level 1, ayon kay Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.

Ayon kay Año, didipende pa sa presentation ng Technical Working Group ang magiging bagong alert level classification mula Pebrero 16 hanggang 28.

Subalit kailangan aniyang maging maingat sa posibiidad naman na ibaba sa alert level 1 ang sitwasyon sa NCR, lalo pa ngayon sa harap ng electoral campaign activities kaugnay sa May 2022 elections.

Sa ngayon, ang Metro Manila at ilang mga probinsya sa bansa ay nasa ilalim ng Alert Level 2 mula Pebrero 1 hanggang 15.

Iginiit ni Año na kapag madaliin ang paglalagay sa alert level 1 ang Metro Manila ay posibleng ma-overwhelm ulit ang healthcare utilization rate sa NCR.



MMDA starts vaccination drive for ages 5 to 11

[Ralph Edwin Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star February 14, 2022 | 12:00am



Children aged 5 to 11 years old, accompanied by their guardians, receive COVID-19 vaccine jabs at the Marikina Sports Complex on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, the fifth day of pediatric vaccination in Metro Manila.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will roll out today its pediatric vaccination program for children aged five to 11.

In an interview on dzBB yesterday, MMDA's Health and Environmental Protection Office chief Loida Alzona said the agency turned the vaccination facility into a playground to encourage more children to get inoculated.

Alzona said children five to 11 years old would receive doses of reformulated Pfizer vaccine.

Children will be given loot bags after the vaccination, she added.

Alzona said the children and grandchildren of MMDA employees would be prioritized in the inoculation program.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/02/14/2160607/mmda-starts-vaccination-drive-ages-5-11>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 701

PEBRERO 13, 2022

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PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

2.2%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
81,394

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

96.3%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,500,956

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
54,930

MGA BAGONG KASO **3,050**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **5,811**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **0**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,637,280**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 11

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 13
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 11

11.7%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

31,403

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
94.0%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

D UMISTANSYA NG
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN
ANG PISIKAL NA
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

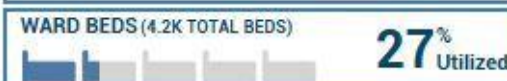
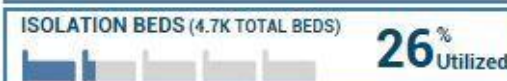
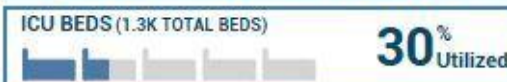
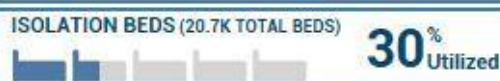
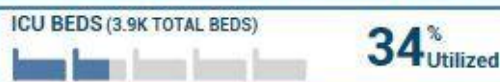
KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO



4,546 Asymptomatic

71,994 Mild

3,068 Moderate

1,460 Severe

326 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
MESSENGER: 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

[📞 \(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:02894COVID)

14 FEBRUARY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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Miz July

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

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




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