

14 JANUARY 2022, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Activities lined up for 21st year of solid waste management law

January 13, 2022, 8:03 pm



**MANILA** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has lined up activities this January to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the enactment of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a media statement on Thursday the observance of RA 9003 anniversary should be a "constant reminder to the public to be mindful of segregating their wastes and disposing of them properly."

"Now more than ever, the public should be mindful of their consumption as more wastes are produced during the pandemic. May this observance be not just a reminder this month but the start of a long-term habit and behavioral change among Filipinos," Cimatu said.

Signed into law on Jan. 26, 2001, RA 9003 mandates the adoption of a systematic, comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program in the country.

The DENR, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and the Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS), will be conducting various activities leading up to the anniversary of the signing of RA 9003.

A webinar on the 3Rs (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle) will be conducted on January 14, which will be participated in by the DENR-EMB central and regional offices, National Solid Waste Management Commission, and local government units (LGUs).

Topics will include backyard and home composting, home recycling, and upcycling.

On January 17, another webinar will be conducted on the "Introduction to an Ecological and Sustainable Lifestyle," and on January 21, on "Knowing More About Alternative Packaging."

The ceremonial turnover of yellow trash bins for healthcare wastes, signing of the memorandum of agreement and deed of donation for solid waste management equipment, and the awarding of 143 LGUs with best practices on solid waste management will also be conducted per region starting February.

The culmination activity will be held on February 2 to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of RA 9003.

As part of the celebration on February 2, the DENR will also be launching the Twelve Comics on Solid Waste Management by the DENR-SCIS and the Photo Story and Video Contest on Solid Waste Management by the DENR-Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan.





Likewise, on March 25, the DENR will re-launch a campaign called "Basura-Free Election 2022."

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said the activities will also serve as a "wake-up call for the legislators to amend the two-decade-old law on solid waste management."

"We have always emphasized that solid waste is the last and the least when it comes to any list of priorities," Antiporda said.

"Hopefully, with these activities, we can remind the legislators about the importance of amending RA 9003 for stricter penalties for violators, so that once and for all, hindi na last ang solid waste," he added. **(PR)**



# How DENR will celebrate Solid Waste Management Act's 21st anniversary

Published January 13, 2022, 5:08 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act or Republic Act 9003 (RA 9003) through a month-long of environmental-related activities until Feb. 2.

In a statement released on Thursday, Jan. 13, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu emphasized the importance of the RA 9003 anniversary, which mandates a systematic, comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program in the country.

“Now more than ever, the public should be mindful of their consumption as more wastes are produced during the pandemic. May this observance be not just a reminder this month but the start of a long-term habit and behavioral change among Filipinos,” Cimatu said.

Cimatu reminded the public to segregate and dispose their waste properly.

Through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and the Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS), the DENR has also lined up activities for the celebration.

On Jan. 14, a webinar on the 3Rs (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle) will be conducted by the DENR-EMB central and regional offices, National Solid Waste Management Commission, and local government units (LGUs).

The department will also facilitate a webinar on the “Introduction to an Ecological and Sustainable Lifestyle” and “Knowing More About Alternative Packaging” on Jan. 17 and 21.

In February, the ceremonial turnover of yellow trash bins for healthcare wastes and the awarding of 143 LGUs with best practices on solid waste management, among others will start per region.



# PH pushes for emerging 'blue economy' industries

By [Genivi Verdejo](#) January 12, 2022

The [Philippines](#) is pursuing emerging blue economy industries to generate income and protect the coastal and marine habitats.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary [Roy Cimatu](#) said the blue economy is the concept of good stewardship of the ocean and its resources.



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu FILE PHOTO

The country signed the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration in support of regional cooperation on coastal resilience to climate change programs and of Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) 2030 that will address marine plastic pollution and foster the blue economy.

Cimatu signed the declaration during the Seventh Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2021 held recently. "Being the most vulnerable region in the world to climate change, we need to enhance strategic partnerships under the existing mechanism which PEMSEA provides," Cimatu said.

The Philippines also reiterated its commitment to the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) 2022 to 2027. The country lost \$8 billion in tourism revenue in 2020 because of the closure of beach resorts and marine protected areas. It may continue to lose 6 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) due to climate-associated risks.

"These have exacerbated the funding gap on marine environmental protection," Cimatu said at the East Asia Seas (EAS) Congress 2021.

Climate change exacerbates the current pressures that our coral reefs are experiencing. Based on a study, the Philippines is estimated to lose 6 percent of its gross domestic product every year until 2100 if it disregards the risks associated with climate change.

Cimatu said the emerging blue economy industries include marine renewable energy, marine biotechnology and green shipbuilding. "To promote the blue economy, the Philippines continues to support sustainable tourism where we ensure the protection of coastal and marine habitats, resources and water quality as well as promote viable livelihood for coastal communities," he said.

The country will engage in sustainable fisheries through multi-species aquaculture and supplemental livelihood for fishers. It is supporting traceability for sustainable tuna fisheries.



"The country further invests in more green ports using renewable energy, solar panel lighting, and the establishment of shore reception facilities," he added. The conservation of forests and terrestrial ecosystems to eliminate land-based pollution has to continue as land pollution also finds its way to oceans.

It will produce the [National State of Oceans and Coasts Report](#), as it reports the East Asian Seas' progress in promoting sustainable and inclusive ocean economy and the nations' ocean assets. The [Integrated Coastal Management Act](#) supports the Philippines' sustainable development of coastal and related ecosystems, food security, poverty reduction, and elimination of circumstances that makes the country vulnerable to climate change impacts.

PEMSEA 2030 is a decade program of collaboration in South East Asia for reducing marine plastic pollution, enhancing management of [Marine Protected Area Network \(MPAN\)](#), and adopting the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).



# DENR taps IPs to help protect forest in Zambo Norte

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. **January 13, 2022, 7:42 pm**



**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has tapped indigenous peoples (IPs) to help protect the forest in the province of Zamboanga del Norte.

Dionisio Rago, chief of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)-Liloy, said Thursday they have strengthened the protection of the forest in coordination with the IPs, especially in the town of Godod.

Rago said they have also intensified information campaigns, together with the IPs, on the importance of forest protection.

Rago said the Godod is among the eight towns with a thickly forested area and falls under the jurisdiction of CENRO-Liloy.

Aside from Godod, the other towns covered by Rago's office are Leon Postigo, Salug, Liloy, Tampilisan, Labason, Gutalac, and Kalawit.

“Godod is part and parcel of the ancestral domain of the Subanen,” Rago said.

Timuay (Chieftain) Florencia Gaas of Subanens in Godod said in an earlier interview they were assisting the CENRO-Liloy in protecting the forest, especially within their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) area.

Gaas said villages in Godod town - Sianan, San Pedro, Bunawan, and Lomogon - are within the Subanens CADT areas.

Rago said the CADT of the Subanens covers 47,000 hectares straddling the towns of Godod, Leon Postigo, Sindangan, and Siayan in Zamboanga del Norte, and Midsalip in Zamboanga del Sur.

Meanwhile, Rago said they filed three cases of illegal logging against tree cutters last year.

He said the cases involved the illegal cutting of planted trees like mahogany, gemelina, and acacia. The cases are still for the decision of the court.

“They cut these planted trees without permission from our office which is required under the law,” he added. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1165359>





# DENR urges public to protect sea turtles from extinction

Published January 13, 2022, 7:07 AM by [Marie Tonette Marticio](#)

TACLOBAN CITY – Following the recent release of five endangered green sea turtles in Lapinig, Northern Samar, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources appeals to the public to protect them from extinction.

Dennis Ariño, Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist/Chief, Conservation and Development Section of the Community Environment and Natural Resources in Pambujan, Northern Samar, said all sea turtles are considered threatened species.



Aware of the need to protect marine turtles, four adults and one juvenile green sea turtle were released back to the sea after being caught by a fisherman in a sea coral or 'bunoan' in the coastal municipality of Lapinig in Northern Samar. (Photo by Dennis Ariño/Manila Bulletin)

“The green sea turtle is classified as endangered pursuant to the Department Administrative Order 2019-09.

If not protected, they will degrade into critically endangered and eventually they will be extinct,” he explained.

This week, four adult and one juvenile ‘pawikan’ were caught by a fisherman in a fish coral locally known as ‘bunoan.’ The sea turtles were turned over to the local police station and eventually released back in the wild after tagging and making sure that they were in good health condition.

“The community is well-informed that marine turtles are protected species so once they accidentally catch them, they turn them over immediately to authorities,” he said.

He added that in order to boost their campaign, they are looking for a marine turtle breeding area that they will make as a conservation site.

“Sea turtles lay their eggs where they were hatched so we need to find that area and protect it,” he stressed.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/01/13/denr-urges-public-to-protect-sea-turtles-from-extinction/>





# Rescued eagle turned over to Albay environment office

By Connie Calipay [January 13, 2022, 1:57 pm](#)



**RESCUED EAGLE.** Albay Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office chief Jerry Arena (left) receives a rescued juvenile eagle named "Tima" from an employee of the Philippine Geothermal Production Company, Inc. on Wednesday (Jan. 12, 2022). He said they will send the bird to the Albay Park and Wildlife for further observation, examination, and health assessment. *(Photo by Connie Calipay)*

**TIWI, Albay** – The Philippine Geothermal Production Company, Inc. (PGPC) has handed over a rescued eagle to the Albay Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO).

Erwin M. Vargas, PGPC public affairs supervisor, in an interview on Wednesday, said the eagle was rescued by a local farmer within the geothermal firm's 5,087-hectare operation reserved area.

"The Philippine Geothermal is very happy because it indicates that there is habitant here when a farmer was able to rescue an eagle. The eagle, named 'Tima' for Tiwi-Malinao was in a good condition and soon be identified what kind of species is it," Vargas said.

Lorenzo Consulta Jr., 34, of Barangay Cale, said he rescued the juvenile eagle, thinking it was just an ordinary bird.

"When I was with my cow in the upland area of the forest, a bird fell from the tree and since it's a baby, I thought it was just an ordinary kind of bird," Consulta said.

However, he wondered why the bird only ate raw meat and chicken.

"My wife and I tried to feed it with bananas and other fruits but to no avail, it will not eat and we try to give meat and chicken to try, to our surprise, the eagle would hold it and eat it," he said.

Jerry Arena, Albay PENRO officer in charge, said based on the physical features and initial observation of the bird, it was deemed to be a Rufous-bellied eagle.

"We will send Tima to Albay Park and Wildlife for further observation, examination, and health assessment," he said, adding that the park has the means to "release it back in the forest".

Arena said the presence of the eagle in the area is significant in terms of biodiversity.



"It only indicates that the biodiversity here is still abundant considering that some wildlife species are still present. It only shows that the preservation is still at hand," he said.

Arena also believed that other eagles are still in the upland area since the one rescued was a baby.

Jamie Moran, Tiwi ENRO chief, said the municipality will give a token and a certificate of commendation to Consulta. **(PNA)**



# NWRB retains MWSS' Angat water allocation

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

Board (NWRB) has retained the allocation of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) from Angat Dam amid a surge in new COVID-19 cases.

In a text message, NWRB executive director Seville David Jr. confirmed that there would be no change in the MWSS allocation of 48 cubic meters per second.

He said the decision was made “considering that water is an important mitigating measure to minimize the spread of COVID-19.”

Last week, Seville said the NWRB was considering lowering the allocation of the MWSS to 46 cms as the water level in Angat continues to drop.

As of midnight of Dec. 31, Angat’s water level was at 202.80 meters or 9.20 meters below its normal high of 212 meters.

Data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration showed that as of 6 a.m. yesterday, the water level in the dam fell to 200.59 meters.

Citing forecasts that Angat will receive 96 millimeters of rain this month, the MWSS said the water level in Angat Dam is not expected to significantly increase.

“Simulations also support that the 180-meter critical level will be breached before the rainy season if voluntary conservation efforts are not undertaken. Following the Angat water protocol, at 180 meters, the priority allocation of raw water is for domestic use,”the MWSS said.







*A replica of Mali, the zoo's nearly 50-year-old elephant welcomes Manila Zoo visitors at the entrance.  
Photo: ABS-CBN News*

## How a student thesis and P1.7 billion transformed the Manila Zoo

The popular destination for the city's kids has more than cleaned up its act and will soon be ready for visitors

ANCX Staff | Jan 13 2022

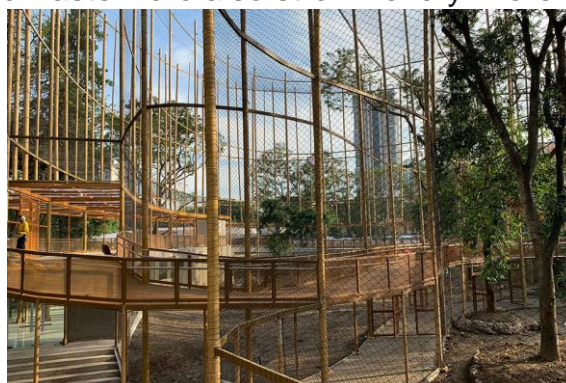
[“Deplorable,” “depressing,” “horrendous,” “major bay polluter”](#) were among the words people used to describe the Manila Zoo. Its state of affairs had been a recurrent topic for discussion among animal rights and environmental activists for a long time.

[There's PETA's \(People for Ethical Treatment of Animals\) persistent call](#) for Mali, the lone elephant at the zoo, to be released from its barren cement enclosure. The organization said Mali, now nearly 50 years old, should instead be placed in an elephant sanctuary where it can receive proper care.



*Mali, the zoo's lone elephant, now has more room to roam around. Photo: ABS-CBN News*

Sometime in 2011, the zoo became a trending topic when a [blogger named Nix](#) posted a couple of stories depicting the sad state of the animals inside it. There were those that were malnourished and wounded, in need of urgent care, housed in cramped cages and dirty habitats. At that time, plastic waste were also strewn everywhere.



*The aviary is equipped with an elevated walkway. Photo: ABS-CBN News*



In 2019, just when the zoo turned 60, it once again took the spotlight when Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu tagged it as one of Manila Bay's major pollutants. As part of the agency's efforts to rehabilitate the Manila Bay, [Cimatu conducted an inspection](#) of the zoo in January of that year and confirmed reports that the facility in fact never had its own sewage treatment plant (STP). Until it builds an STP, the zoo was disallowed to discharge untreated wastewater into the estuaries that led to the bay. In response to this, then-Manila Mayor Erap Estrada ordered the indefinite closure of the facility.



*The Butterfly Garden showcases 200 butterfly species. Photo: ABS-CBN News*

### **Brand new Manila Zoo**

After rehabilitation efforts the past couple of years, an improved and upgraded Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden was presented recently by Mayor Isko Moreno to media. In an interview with ANCX, Manila's Public Recreation Bureau OIC Pio Morabe Jr. says a major inspiration for the redevelopment was the thesis of UST Architecture graduate Kevin Siy.



*The Manila City government tapped Jose T. Mañosa & Associates to do the more detailed plans for the zoo. Photo: ABS-CBN News*

The then 23-year-old architect, a self-confessed animal lover, posted images of his proposed redevelopment plan on Facebook. This was spotted by one of Manila's councilors, who then showed it to Mayor Isko. In July 2019, the Manileño architect had the chance to personally present his thesis proposal to City Hall and consequently donated his park design to the city government.

Manila Zoo was a big part of Siy's childhood. "I really had a couple of great memories with my family there. And as I pass by the zoo going to school, seeing it fade through time made me turn it into my thesis project," he told Manila Bulletin. "I thought that making a thesis project that is close to my heart can motivate me more in making a good design."





*The Botanical Garden is a haven for plantitos and plantitas. Photo: ABS-CBN News*

Siy's vision for the zoo made the welfare and comfort of animals top consideration. "Gusto ko kasi hindi 'yong mga animals 'yong naka-enclose. Parang gusto ko 'yong tao ang naka-enclose," Siy told ABS-CBN News. "Ayoko ma-feel ng mga animals na sila 'yong na-enclose kasi parang tayo 'yong bumibisita [sa habitat nila]."

The Manila LGU tapped Jose T. Mañosa & Associates to do the more detailed plans for the zoo. According to Morabe, Siy was coordinating with the firm during the process, and parts of his design were upgraded and altered to fit existing space allotments.

Morabe was likewise instructed by the Manila Mayor to check out the Singapore Zoo to get some inspiration. Together with Trixie Mañosa, he had the chance to consult with former Singapore Zoo CEO Bernard Harrison who is known for advocating the open-zoo concept, showcasing animals as free-roaming within wide enclosures—a concept aligned with what Kevin had in mind.



*The zoo now has its own Sewage Treatment Plant. Photo: ABS-CBN News*

### **Long time coming**

Since the Manila Zoo was established in 1959, this is the first time it underwent a major redevelopment—[a makeover that reportedly cost P1.7 billion.](#)

What has changed? According to Morabe, the animal cages used to be manually operated. Now, these could be operated both electrically and mechanically. Today's zoo also has a bigger aviary, complete with an elevated walkway, allowing closer encounters with the feathered creatures. A butterfly garden with 200 species of butterflies is also a major feature, as are the 500 other animals in the property. Mali, a popular attraction, now has a bigger space to roam around.



*The Manila Zoo noticeably has more greeneries now. Photo from the Manila Public Information Office's Facebook page*

The Public Recreation Bureau OIC says the zoo currently houses 248 animal species but they are planning to acquire more. "When I took office, there was no giraffe, zebra, hippopotamus. *Wala na din tayong ibang cats.*" Morabe says now there's a lion, a tiger, snakes, even crocodiles that measure 18 to 20 feet. There are macaws, cockatoos, storks, peacocks and ostriches. "*Pero kailangan madagdagan pa,*" he says.



*The animal cages are operated both electrically and mechanically. Photo from the Manila Public Information Office's Facebook page*

The zoo also finally has its own STP. "Six stages ang [wastewater] treatment nya so malinis ang end-product," Morabe offers. The Manila Zoo also hired four in-house veterinarians.

Morabe shares that the rehabilitation effort was no joke. One of the major challenges they had to deal with was temporarily transferring the animals in smaller cages during the course of the construction. "*Na-trauma and na-stress ang ibang animals kasi pukpukan ng pukpukan 24 hours a day. Si Mali hindi makatulog kaya pumayat,*" he says. Some animals found difficulty laying eggs. But it was not only the animals who got sick. Some of the zoo's staff also contracted Covid.



*The fountain area remains an attraction inside the zoo. Photo from the Manila Public Information Office's Facebook page*



But all's well now, from the looks of it. Currently being built is the zoo's museum and reptile house, a playground, parks, and kiosks where people can dine. But it can't be visited by the public just yet. "*Inaayos pa namin para safe ang mga animals, ang mga animal keepers, at mga visitors.*"

The zoo is set to reopen during the first quarter of 2022.



14 JANUARY 2022, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





# Pinakamarami na naman: 34,021 bagong COVID-19 infections naitala ng DOH

Philstar.com January 13, 2022 | 4:10pm



Passengers present their vaccination cards to personnel upon entry at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) in Tambo, Parañaque City on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022. The Department of Transportation has started implementing a "no vaccination, no ride" policy on public transportation throughout Metro Manila. The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Sumipa na naman ang bilang ng bagong hawa ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas patungong 34,021, Huwebes, dahilan para ma-break na naman ang all-time high record sa new cases sa kasaysayan na bansa.

Mas marami ito kaysa sa [33,169 cases na naiulat ng Department of Health \(DOH\) nitong ika-10 ng Enero](#).

- total cases (3,092,409)
- bagong kaso (34,021)
- total deaths (52,736)
- kamamatay lang (82)
- aktibong kaso (237,387)

"Samantala ay mayroon namang naitalang 4,694 na [bagong] gumaling," wika ng DOH sa isang pahayag kanina, na nagpapataas sa total recoveries sa 2.8 milyon.

Sa kabila ng naturang all-time high sa new cases, pitong laboratoryo pa ang hindi nakapagsumite ng datos sa COVID-19 Document Repository System (CDRS), na siyang 5% ngf lahat ng samples na nai-test.

Narito ang listahan ng mga lugar na may pinakamaraming new COVID-19 cases sa nakalipas na dalawang linggo:

- Metro Manila (16,793)
- Region 4-A (7,131) and Region 3 (3,745).

"246 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 180 are recoveries," dagdag pa ng DOH kanina.

"Moreover, 44 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation."



Pinapaalalahanan din ng DOH ang publiko na 'wag basta maging kampante sa banta ng COVID-19 at ng mas nakahahang Omicron variant nito.

Aniya, dapat pa ring ipagpatuloy ang pagsunod sa minimum public health standards at laging magsuot ng facemasks, sumunod sa physical distancing at palagiang maghugas ng kamay.

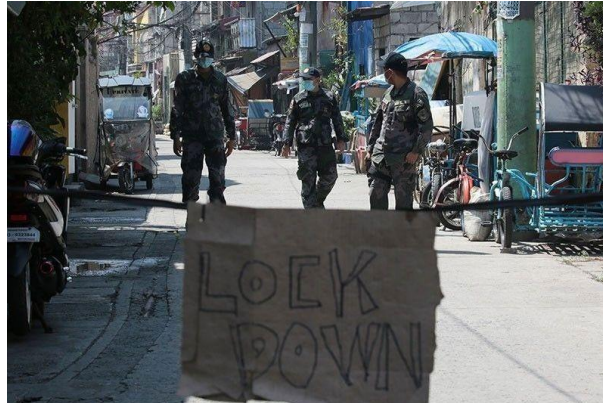
"Sa oras na makaramdam ng sintomas, AGAD NA MAG-ISOLATE at magpatest. Tandaan ang right test at the right time. Agad rin na magpabakuna upang makakuha ng dagdag na proteksyon laban sa COVID-19," dagdag pa ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan. — **James Relativo**





# 103 NCR areas under lockdown

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) - The Philippine Star January 14, 2022 | 12:00am



Police seen along Galicia Street in Bangkulasi, Navotas on July 14, 2020. The area was placed under lockdown since July 10 due to the surge of COVID-19 cases.

The STAR / Michael Varcas, file

MANILA, Philippines — Areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) that have been placed under granular lockdown due to COVID-19 cases reached 103 yesterday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported yesterday.

The lockdown affects 160 households or 325 people. To ensure they remain at home, 190 police officers and 210 force multipliers were deployed in these areas.

Forty-one of the lockdown areas are in Manila while 35 are in northern Metro Manila.

Eighteen areas in eastern Metro Manila and nine in southern Metro Manila were also locked down.

Despite having at least 31,479 active cases, no area in Quezon City was locked down, based on the PNP's report.

## Cases soar in Pasay

Meanwhile, the number of active COVID-19 cases in Pasay skyrocketed to 3,268 on Wednesday, increasing by 509 new cases or 12.69 percent in a day.

As of Wednesday, Pasay recorded 25,755 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 21,928 recoveries and 559 deaths.

The number of active cases in Pasay steadily increased from one on Dec. 23, according to the city government.

## Quiapo Church shut down

In Manila, Quiapo Church was temporarily closed yesterday until Jan. 28 to stem the surge in COVID-19 infections.

In a statement posted on its official Facebook page, Quiapo Church parish priest Hernando Coronel said "organizational work and other church-related activities that cater to the public are suspended... However, we will still continue to have our daily online masses and devotions streamed live on our social media pages and accounts."

He said the two-week closure will be used to conduct a thorough disinfection and intensive sanitation of the church premises.



### **Mandaluyong closes 3 vax sites**

The Mandaluyong City government temporarily closed three of its COVID vaccination centers yesterday until Sunday for disinfection after some members of its vaccination team tested positive for the virus.

All three of the closed centers are based in malls.

In an advisory, the city government said only the Unilab Bayanihan vaccination site along Pioneer street in Barangay Highway Hills is open for people seeking to get COVID jabs.

There were at least 1,690 active COVID-19 cases in Mandaluyong, based on the latest report of the city health department.

The city government has also started distributing COVID health recovery kits after major drugstores reported having low stocks of medicines for cough, colds and flu, common symptoms of COVID-19.

Each kit contains essential drugs, vitamin C tablets, mentholated rub, alcohol, face masks and towels. – **Ralph Edwin Villanueva, Robertzon Ramirez**

# DOH shortens quarantine, isolation for fully vaccinated

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#) Published Jan 13, 2022 4:09:23 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 13)** — The Department of Health has reduced the number of days for quarantine and isolation depending on a person's COVID-19 vaccination status.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire presented the updated quarantine and isolation requirements on Wednesday. Secretary Francisco Duque III said the updated guidelines are set to be signed for implementation on Thursday.

Fully vaccinated COVID-19 patients, both the general public and health workers, who are asymptomatic or experiencing mild symptoms should isolate for seven days — instead of the previous 10 days — from the onset of symptoms.

Health facilities can ask medical frontliners to further shorten their isolation to five days if they have received their booster shots.

Those who experience moderate symptoms need to isolate for 10 days regardless of their vaccination status.

The unvaccinated or partially vaccinated patients need to isolate for 10 days.

**CNN Philippines** @cnnphilippines

Replying to @cnnphilippines and @laratyan

DOH is also reducing the isolation period to seven days for fully vaccinated COVID-19 patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.

Sec. Duque says the updated guidelines are set to be signed for implementation today. [bit.ly/33fZuLL](https://bit.ly/33fZuLL) | @laratyan

**Updated ISOLATION PERIOD: Asymptomatic**

		General Public	Healthcare workers*
Probable case (w/ symptoms) or mild case	Fully vaccinated	7 days from onset of symptoms	7 days* from onset of symptoms
	Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	10 days from onset of symptoms	10 days from onset of symptoms
Asymptomatic case	Fully vaccinated	7 days from (+) test	7 days* from (+) test
	Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	10 days from (+) test	10 days from (+) test
Moderate case	Regardless of vaccination status	10 days from onset of symptoms	10 days* from onset of symptoms

\*Hospital infection Prevention & Control Committee and/or Provincial Health Office can shorten isolation duration for fully vaccinated health workers with supporting evidence. Risk: high careful assessment of benefits & risks. May be requested to other sectors with other leading clinicians on POC subject to WHI approval.

Official DOHpin | @DOHpinph | @dohpinph | (02) 894-COVID / 1888 | As of January 12, 2022

4:19 PM · Jan 13, 2022

33 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

[Read 3 replies](#)



Fully vaccinated individuals who have been exposed to a COVID-19 case but without symptoms can also undergo a shorter quarantine period.

From seven days, the general public only needs to quarantine for five days as long as they continue to monitor for flu-like symptoms until the 14th day. The unvaccinated need to complete the whole 14 days of quarantine.



The Department of Health also made changes to the quarantine period of healthcare workers after medical frontliners expressed fear they may pass the virus to others if they forego the quarantine period.

The previous policy, which was crafted earlier this month, stated that health facilities can ask vaccinated personnel to forego quarantine if they are not showing symptoms. Under the new policy, they have to undergo a five-day quarantine.

The DOH said the Inter-Agency Task Force has yet to approve if vaccinated and boosted health workers can skip quarantine in case they are not showing symptoms.

Vergeire said the changes were made based on the behavior of the Omicron variant.

"Findings show that vaccinated asymptomatic and mild cases are unlikely to shed infectious virus 10 days after the diagnosis or symptom onset," the official said.





# How Omicron differs from Delta

Published 6 hours ago on January 14, 2022 12:04 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephil\_MJB



The Philippines has been seeing record-breaking daily Covid-19 infections in recent days, but experts say it's nowhere near the peak. Experts have blamed the holiday gatherings and the emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant for the rapid virus transmission.

While there are still many unknowns about Omicron, here's how experts say it is different from the predominant Delta virus strain of Covid-19.

More transmissible

Omicron has so far been detected in about 150 countries. Its primary characteristic raising global concern is its transmissibility.

The new variant was found to be 2.7 to 3.7 times more infectious than the Delta variant among vaccinated people, according to a study by researchers from the University of Copenhagen, Statistics Denmark, and Statens Serum Institut.

This may be the case for Metro Manila where 19 cases of Omicron were recently reported in the region as it saw unprecedented growth in coronavirus infections.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said it would be unsurprising if nearby regions will not track what's happening in Metro Manila.

"The trend seems to be similar to regions outside the National Capital Region," Duque said. "The L-shaped epidemic curve is likely to be observed in other regions."

In total, 43 cases of Omicron had been detected in the Philippines. It remained to be seen whether the newly-discovered variant has dominated Delta, but the World Health Organization (WHO) said such a situation would happen soon.

"We believe that in the near future, Omicron will displace the Delta variant as the predominant variant as it has done in several other countries," said Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe, WHO representative to the Philippines.

He added the government should test more virus samples to determine whether Omicron is now the dominant variant in the country.

Philippine Genome Center executive director Dr. Cynthia Saloma earlier said that the facility will soon release the results of its recent tests showing the variants transmitted locally.



## Less virulent

About 90 percent of coronavirus cases in the country are only mild, based on government data.

Covid-19 patients have reported a wide range of symptoms, including cough, cold, sore throat, fever, headache, fatigue, and, in some cases, loss of the sense of smell and taste.

In September last year, when the country saw a Covid-19 surge driven by the Delta variant, symptoms appeared to be similar to those of the initial coronavirus strain that hit the Philippines.

The same symptoms are now experienced by Filipinos amid a fresh wave infection likely fueled by Omicron.

Anecdotal reports, however, show that manifestations of coronavirus at present are more manageable and do not require hospitalization.

Some patients even say that their sense of smell and taste remained normal even during the onset of their symptoms.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious disease expert, also said in a recent White House briefing that Omicron "proliferates very well in the upper airway and bronchi, but actually very poorly in the lungs."

Filipino doctors have also said that fewer coronavirus patients are in a critical state now compared to those who were hospitalized during the Delta wave.

Though there are no conclusive studies yet on the impact of Omicron on the human body, there appears to be a growing consensus among experts that wider vaccination coverage made the variant less severe and fatal.

Despite this, WHO clinical management lead Dr. Janet Diaz said that Omicron should not be considered "mild" although the variant may be less severe.

The unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, and even those who have completed their jabs but have comorbidities remain at risk for hospitalization or death due to coronavirus, experts say.

Regardless of whether the dominant virus type is Omicron or Delta, doctors also keep on reminding the public that minimum public health standards should be observed, including face mask-wearing and physical distancing.



## 'DI BAKUNADO: 85% SA OSPITAL, 93% SA SEMENTERYO



January 13, 2022 @ 10:20 AM 20 hours ago

HINDI natin titigilan ang maghatid-balita ukol sa coronavirus disease-19 hangga't hindi ito masusugpo.

Kabilang sa mga huling balita ang pagsasabi mismo ng Department of Health na sa lahat ng naoospital kaugnay ng COVID-19, 85 porsyento ang hindi bakunado at sa lahat din ng namamatay; 93 porsyento ang hindi bakunado o may isang turok pa lang ng bakuna.

Hindi biro-biro ang anunsyo na ito na ibinatay sa mga pagsusuri ukol sa mga naoospital at namamatay sa pandemya.

### ISANG KWENTO

Dumarami ang mga kwento ukol sa epekto ng hindi pagpapabakuna.

Isa na rito ang mag-asawa na parehong obrero ng pabrika ngunit sa magkaibang kompanya.

Parehong regular na obrero ang mag-asawa at kung magkasakit man sila, tuloy ang kanilang sahod.

Pero nag-iba ngayon ang mga patakaran ng kanilang mga kompanya na nakararanas ng pagkalugi.

Piniiral ngayon ang no-work, no pay dahil sa loob ng dalawang taon, naghilingalo ang kanilang mga kompanya.

Ngayon ay may COVID ang misis at napilitang magbantay si mister sa kanyang misis na nakaratay.

Dahil sa no work, no pay na patakaran ngunit hindi naman sila sinisibak sa trabaho, naisip ng mister ang kanyang dalawang anak na nag-aaral at ang panghulog nila ng hulugan nilang bahay buwan-buwan na delikado kung matuluyang maospital o mapa-cremate si misis kung mamamalasin.

Bakunado si misis subalit si mister, ayaw magbakuna at hindi naniniwala sa bisa at ligtas na bakuna.

Sa ikalimang araw ng pagbabantay sa naka-home quarantine na misis, hayun, nagpabakuna na si mister na isang electrician upang masalba ang kanilang buhay, trabaho, pananagutan sa kanilang mga anak at panghulog sa kanilang bahay.

Kinalimutan ni mister ang mga sabi-sabi na delikado ang bakuna at kumapit ito sa mas mahahalagang usapin para sa kanyang pamilya.



## TAHIMIK SAOMICRON

Ang balitang-balita sa Omicron variant, lumalaganap ito nang mabilis sa buong mundo at sinasabi mismo ng WHO na maaaring nakakalat na ito sa buong mundo bagama't nalalaman lang ang pagdating nito sa mga bansang may kakayahan na magsagawa ng genome sequencing o saktuhang pagkilala sa virus na ito.

Ang hindi balitang-balita, ang kakayahan nitong pumatay ng tao na alam na alam ng lahat na katangian ng orig na virus at Delta variant.

Pero ang masama, hindi lang mild o katamtamang sakit sa COVID ang parating ng Omicron kundi may kakayahan din itong ipadala sa ospital ang mga biktima nito sa kondisyong severe at critical.

Ang totoo, may mga bansang nag-ulat nang namatayan sila sa Omicron gaya ng United Kingdom, United States, Australia, South Korea at South Africa.

Ang masama, kung magbunga ang Omicron variant ng pag-apaw ng mga maysakit sa mga ospital, magkukulang ang mga doktor at nars at gamot para sa mga ito at itutulak ang mga pasyente sa malalalang kondisyon at kamatayan.

Sa Pilipinas, may mga ospital nang tumangging tumanggap ng may COVID at malamang na darami pa ang mga ito sa rami ng may COVID.

Dahil dito, magkakamatayan na rin kaya sa Pinas sa Omicron?

O magpabakuna na tayo lahat.





**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**





# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 670

## ENERO 13, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 7.7%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
**237,387**

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 90.6%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
**2,802,286**

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.71%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
**52,736**

MGA BAGONG KASO **34,021**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **4,694**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **82**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,092,409**

### MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 11

DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 13  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 11

# 47.9%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 78,866

BILANG NG  
TINIST

HALOS  
**98.0%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

**A**LAMIN  
ANG TAMANG  
IMPORMASYON

#### 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)	<b>45%</b> Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.1K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>46%</b> Utilized
WARD BEDS (13.4K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>45%</b> Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	<b>19%</b> Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.1K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>58%</b> Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.8K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>54%</b> Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.4K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>66%</b> Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	<b>26%</b> Utilized

7,332 Asymptomatic
225,408 Mild
2,881 Moderate
1,468 Severe
298 Critical

#### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

[bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines](https://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines)

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

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

[bit.ly/OHCCHotline](https://bit.ly/OHCCHotline)

#### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

[bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine](https://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](https://doh.gov.ph)

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



14 JANUARY 2022, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





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



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