





| ecember 15, 2021 | Headline |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| 1 of 1 | Column Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

DENR donates boat to Army in Aurora

By Jason De Asis December 14, 2021, 6:22 pm



DONATION. Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-Aurora head Alfredo Collado (center), Lt. Col. Reandrew Rubio (left), commanding officer of the Philippine Army's 91 Infantry Battalion (91IB) and 91IB logistic officer 1st Lt. Jonemar Suarez (right) sign the deed of donation for a motorized boat at the 91IB headquarters in Baler, Aurora on Tuesday (Dec. 14, 20021). The vessel is to help 91IB in its efforts to protect the province's natural resources. (*Photo by Jason de Asis*)

BALER, Aurora – The Philippine Army's 91st Infantry "Sinagtala" Battalion (91IB) has received a big boost in its implementation of the law on coastal and marine protection in this province.

This, after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) donated on Tuesday a motorized boat worth PHP500,000 to the 91IB that can be used in its operations concerning the protection of the province's natural resources as well as in rescue and relief efforts.

The deed of donation was signed by Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) head Alfredo Collado, 91IB commanding officer Lt. Col. Reandrew Rubio, and 91IB logistic officer 1st Lt. Jonemar Suarez.

Rubio said there is cooperation in the development support and disaster relief efforts with the DENR, Philippine Coast Guard, and other concerned agencies.

He said the 91IB will continue its mandated duty to help in the enforcement of the law for peace and order, rescue and relief efforts, and the protection and conservation of the province's natural resources.

Rubio thanked the DENR for the motorized boat, which, he said, is essential in their operations to secure and protect the province, especially in times of disasters and emergencies.

He assured that the 91IB will remain committed in maintaining peace and development in the province.

"This is our commitment for the people of Aurora, we assure that the Philippine Army is one with you against illegal logging and in the implementation of any environmental activities," he said during the signing event. *(PNA)*

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1162699





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| · | • Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

Sea turtle rescued, freed in Pampanga

By Zorayda Tecson December 13, 2021, 8:56 pm



RESCUED SEA TURTLE. Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) prepare to bring back a rescued Olive Ridley sea turtle to its habitat in Sasmuan, Pampanga on Saturday (Dec. 11, 2021). Fisherman Nimrod Castro of Barangay San Jose in Lubao, Pampanga found the turtle caught in his fishing net while sailing along the tributary of Pampanga River and turned it over to the DENR. (Photo courtesy of DENR-3)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – A concerned citizen of Lubao town, this province has turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) provincial office here a vulnerable Olive Ridley sea turtle over the weekend.

In a social media post on Monday, Laudemir Salac, chief of the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), said fisherman Nimrod Castro of Barangay San Jose found the turtle caught in his nylon fishing net while sailing along the tributary of Pampanga River, between the boundary of Hermosa, Bataan and Lubao, Pampanga on Saturday.

The turtle was turned over and released back into the water on the same day.

Salac said it had a carapace length of 72 centimeters and width of 67 centimeters and was released without tagging.

"Since the turtle was in good health condition, we immediately released it back to its habitat at the Bangkung Malapad in Sasmuan town," he said.

Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad was earlier declared by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu as a critical habitat and ecotourism area.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Olive Ridley turtles are found worldwide but listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Paquito Moreno, executive director of the DENR in Central Luzon, appealed to the public to immediately report to environment authorities any wildlife sighting and encounter to avert potential danger and threat to their population.

"We see this visit of marine turtle in the coastal waters of Pampanga as a good sign that our efforts in cleaning and rehabilitating Manila Bay are making a positive result," he said.

The 24-kilometer coastline of Pampanga is part of the 190-kilometer long Manila Bay coastline.

Moreno also encouraged the public to be vigilant in monitoring and reporting any illegal trading and online selling of wildlife to penalize perpetrators who destroy biodiversity and the environment. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1162610





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park protection palalakasin VILLAR, FILIPINO-FRENCH NGO NAG-ALYASAN

12 hours ago



NAGKAISA sina Sen. Cynthia A. Villar at ang "Together Ensemble Foundation" upang patuloy na mapangalagaan ang Las Pinas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) na itinalaga na Wetland of International Importance sa Ramsar Convention.

Sa "Meet and Greet" event sa pagitan ng LPPWP- Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) at ng French Ambassador to the Philippines Michèle Baccoz at Together Ensemble Foundation sa pangunguna nina Hubert d'Aboville at Ramon Moreno, President at Vice President ng naturang NGO, sinabi ni Villar na masaya sila sa pagbisita ng mga ito sa Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, protected area na nasa kanyang hometown sa Las Piñas City at Parañaque City. Pinasalamatan niya ang French ambassador at foundation sa kanilang interes na magtayo ng kapa-pakinabang na mga proyekto sa Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, na makakapagpaigting sa protection strategies sa lugar.

Ipinahayag ni Ambassador Bacozz na inilawan ang Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park na isang magnificent and fantastic nature protection initiative na, "we need to build one or more concrete actions next year to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Together Ensemble Foundation, which will be part of the calendar of the major events of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the France to be celebrated from July to December 2022."

"Fifteen days ago, we mentioned the symbolic planting of 75,000 trees on the site to commemorate the 75th anniversary, or perhaps building a monument symbolizing Franco-Filipino cooperation to mark the two anniversaries. This meeting will allow us to further expound on these good ideas, or even come up with new proposals," dagdag pa ni Ambassador Bacozz.

Binigyan diin din niya na malaki ang papel ng agricultural sector sa pag-unlad ng France at Philippines "I am confident that we will able to build further on this through the ideas we will be keen to share as the basis for one or more events for the second half of next year," sabi pa ng French ambassador kay Villar, chairperson ng Senate Agriculture and Food committee.

Sinabi rin ni Villar na marami silang ginugol na oras, resources at patuloy silang nakikipaglaban para protektahan ang santuwaryong ito. Aniya, palagian itong nalalagay sa mga pagbabanta partikular ang reklamasyon.

Pinasaringan niya ang mga walang pakialam sa "environment benefits" ng Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, na kinokonsidera niyang "a valuable piece of real estate."





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Date | Editorial Column |
| 2 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

"We are also opposing these reclamation projects on this side of Manila Bay because it will impede the free flow of water of the 6 rivers in the area- Paranaque River, Las Pinas river, The Zapote River, Molino River, Bacoor River and the Imus River. If that will happen along with the phenomenon of climate change, disastrous flooding will result in the vicinity in case of torrential rains and that will definitely cause suffering and misery to the two million of people living in three cities," babala ni Villar na chairperson din ng Senate committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Nilagdaan ni Villar at naipasa sa Kongreso ang Republic Act 11038 o ang Expanded NPAS Act na nagdedeklara sa Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, bilang legislated protected area, kasama ang 106 pang legislated protected areas sa bansa.

Kabilang sa kanilang inisyatibo ang pagtatayo ng buffer zone sa Manila Bay area para sa karagdagang proteksyon ng Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park,.

Kasama ang DENR, the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands at Villar SIPAG Foundation na nagpatayo ng Visitors' Center and the Wetland Center, tiniyak ng senador na mananatili siyang nangunguna para pangalagaan ang Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park,, "The Last Natural Bastion in Metro Manila." (ESTONG REYES)





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |



Villar, Filipino-French NGO forge ties to boost Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park protection

December 14, 20215 min read

By Ernie Reyes

MANILA – Senator Cynthia A. Villar and "Together Ensemble Foundation" have agreed to work together to further maintain and preserve the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP), which was listed in the Ramsar Convention as Wetland of International Importance.

In her remarks during the "Meet and Greet" event between the LPPWP- Protected Area Management Board and French Ambassaor to the Philippines Michèle Baccoz and the Together Ensemble Foundation led by its President Hubert d'Aboville and Vice President Ramon Moreno, Villar said they are happy and honored that they visited and toured Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, a protected area, which is located in her hometown in Las Piñas City and Parañaque City. She thanked the French ambassador and the Foundation for showing interest in putting up worthy projects at LPPWP that will augment their protection strategies in the area.

Ambassador Baccoz who described the Las Pinas Parañaque Wetland Park as a magnificent and fantastic nature protection initiative related that "we need to build one or more concrete actions next year to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Together Ensemble Foundation, which will be part of the calendar of the major events of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and France to be celebrated from July to December 2022."

"Fifteen days ago, we mentioned the symbolic planting of 75,000 trees on the site to commemorate the 75th anniversary, or perhaps building a monument symbolizing Franco-Filipino cooperation to mark the two anniversaries. This meeting will allow us to further expound on these good ideas or even come up with new proposals," added Ambassador Baccoz.

She also noted that the agricultural sector plays a major role in the development of France and the Philippines. "I am confident that we will able to build further on this through the ideas we will be keen to share as the basis for one or more events for the second half of next year," the French ambassador also told Villar, who sits as chairperson of the Senate Agriculture and Food Committee and the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Villar said they poured in time, resources, and continuously take pains to protect this sanctuary and make it as it is today. She said it is constantly exposed to threats, particularly reclamation. She took potshots at entities unmindful of the environmental benefits of Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, which she describes as a "valuable" piece of real estate.





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Date | E ditorial |
| Date | Column |
| 2 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

"We are also opposing these reclamation projects on this side of Manila Bay because it will impede the free flow of water of the 6 rivers in the area- Paranaque River, Las Pinas river. The Zapote River, Molino River, Bacoor River and the Imus River. If that will happen along with the phenomenon of climate change, disastrous flooding will result in the vicinity in case of torrential rains and that will definitely cause suffering and misery to the two million people living in three cities," warned Villar, who heads the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Villar authored and passed in Congress Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded NPAS Act declaring the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park a legislated protected area, joining other 106 legislated protected areas in the country.

As one of their initiatives, they are setting an appropriate area of Manila Bay as buffer zone to add an extra layer of protection to Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park.

Along with DENR, the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands and the Villar SIPAG Foundation that built the Visitors' Center and the Wetland Center, the senator vowed to continue to take the forefront in fighting to protect the LPPWP, the last natural bastion in Metro Manila. (ai/mtvn)



Sen. Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, leads the "Meet and Greet" event at Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park with French Ambassador Michèle Baccoz, and Together Ensemble Foundation President Hubert d'Aboville. Others who joined the event are the following: French Embassy Cultural Councilor Marc Piton, Together Ensemble Foundation Vice President, Ramon Moreno, DENR NCR Regional Exec. Director and LPPWP-PAMB chairperson Jacqueline Caancan, multi-awards French Film Director Joanna Vasquez Arona, Wild Bird Club of the Philippines Pres. Mike Lu, Ecological Minister of Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila Rev. Fr. Ricardo Valencia Jr., Architect Aaron Lecciones who headed the design team for the LPPWP Wetland Center complex, Exec. Director Amy M. Lecciones from the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW) and Atty. Armi Corpuz, Chief of Staff of Sen. Villar.

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/12/14/villar-filipino-french-ngo-forge-ties-to-boost-las-pinas-paranaque-wetland-park-protection/?fbclid=IwAR26ZoRpGIRu6bb_8Rh_1Z-zbeQ6p8XUYQDBXSn1GUmEDNHCvLajtyq8AWE





| cember 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Date | - Editorial |
| | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion Feature Article |
| Page | Feature Article |

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Plastic waste benefits community spaces

December 15, 2021



At the recent turnover of the recycled plastic outdoor furniture are Parañaque City officials Rep. <u>Eric Olivarez</u>, <u>Mario Jimenez</u>, Councilor Tess de Asis, <u>Bernie Amurao</u> and Mayor <u>Edwin Olivarez</u>; The Plastic <u>Flamingo</u>'s Anne-Sophie van der Spek; <u>Dani Zuniga</u>; Mondelez <u>Philippines</u>' <u>Joseph Fabul</u> and <u>Caitlin Punzalan</u>; and Cenro's Tere Rivera.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN its goal to reduce the impact of its plastic packaging on the environment, Mondelez Philippines has embarked on an approach that has both short- and long-term effects. Most recently, the snacks company worked with social enterprise The Plastic Flamingo to turn over outdoor furniture made from recycled plastic to the Parañaque City government.

These recycled items showed proof of the recyclability of plastics and how supporting the circular economy for this material can benefit the environment and livelihoods.

The Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (Parms), alongside its members such as Mondelez Philippines, has committed to supporting efforts to manage plastic and packaging waste and reduce the country's waste footprint.

According to a 2021 Zero Waste to Nature road map by Parms, reducing marine litter entailed three major steps: design for circularity, support waste recovery processes and facilitate investment into diversion pathways.

Mondelez Philippines was one with Parms in implementing this road map and had signed the industry pledge to ensure that by 2030, the company could collect and divert the same amount of plastic that it used for its products.

"We recognize the responsibility that each one of us has in ensuring plastic waste does not end up in nature," explained Atty. Joseph Fabul, Corporate and Government Affairs country manager for Mondelez Philippines. "We all have a role. For consumers, it can be deciding to buy in bulk rather than small pieces, if they can afford it, and make sure to dispose of their waste properly. For companies like ours, it means being mindful of our packaging use and supporting the collection of what we put out in the market."

By 2022, Mondelez aimed to collect more and divert plastic waste in line with its 2030 commitment with Parms on recovery.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/12/15/public-square/plastic-waste-benefits-community-spaces/1826004





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| | ✓ Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

EDITORIAL -Climate change performance

The Philippine Star December 14, 2021 | 12:00am



Last week the government announced a piece of encouraging news. Being included for the first time in the Climate Change Performance Index, the Philippines ranked 23rd among 63 countries and the European Union as one entity in terms of climate protection efforts. Those included in the CCPI account for approximately 90 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The independent monitoring tool has been published annually since 2005 by environmental NGO Germanwatch, the NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network, in consultation with some 450 climate and energy experts.

Each country is assessed based on greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, energy use and climate policy. Based on these categories, no country has achieved an overall "very high" rating in the index, so the top three ranks are empty.

The Scandinavian countries lead: Denmark tops the index at fourth place, followed by Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom and Morocco. Economic wealth does not translate into significant efforts in fighting climate change. The United States is consistently ranked among the worst in the index. This year the US is again near the bottom together with Kazakhstan, Russia, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. Australia also suffered a considerable drop in ranking.

The Philippines rated low in climate policy, medium in renewable energy, and high in emissions and energy use. The country had submitted last April its first nationally determined contribution, setting an emission reduction and avoidance target of 75 percent by 2030, in line with its commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The climate efforts are committed in agriculture, industry, waste, transport and energy sectors.

The CCPI report, however, took note of the country's actual implementation of climate change efforts and considered the 75 percent target ambitious, while current climate policies "are not ambitious enough" and with "no clear plan for how to achieve the goal."

These are the challenges faced by the government, even as it touts the country's 23rd place in the climate performance index.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/12/14/2147787/editorial-climate-change-performance





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| · | - Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 3 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

Are tornadoes linked to climate change? The science isn't yet definite

Lucie Aubourg, Agence France-Presse

Posted at Dec 14 2021 10:39 AM



A swath of damage left by a tornado is seen in a satellite image taken over Mayfield, Kentucky, U.S. December 12, 2021. Image taken December 12, 2021. Courtesy of BlackSky/Handout via Reuters

WASHINGTON, United States - Was climate change behind the recent tornadoes that killed dozens of people and wrought a trail of destruction through five American states?

Higher temperatures might create more favorable conditions for these violent storms, but for now, scientists remain cautious about drawing a direct connection.

While research has firmly linked recent extreme weather events to global warming -- from this summer's heatwaves in North America to flooding in western Europe -- there remain important gaps in the scientific understanding of twisters and how they relate to climate.

"At least in the past few decades, we have seen a trend towards more favorable conditions," especially in winter in the country's midwest and southeast, John Allen, a climatologist at Central Michigan University, told AFP.

But "it is misleading to attribute this event to climate change," he added.

James Elsner, professor of climatology at Florida State University, draws a comparison with what we know about the connection between fog and car crashes: foggy conditions on the road are associated with a higher number of accidents, but individual crashes in heavy fog aren't always due to poor visibility.

In the same vein, knowing what the link is between climate change and tornadoes with more certainty requires further investigation.

This is where the field of "attribution science," which has made enormous strides in recent years, comes in.

The idea is to feed climate data into computer models to analyze the probability specific extreme weather events would have occurred in a world without human-driven climate change, versus the world we live in today.

But such studies take time to carry out and are particularly tricky for tornadoes, which are more difficult to model than other extreme weather phenomena because of a relative lack of data.

It's even too early to say for sure that climate change will increase the frequency of winter twisters.





| December 15, 202 | 1 Headline |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 2 of 3 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

"I think you could probably argue that seems to be the way the evidence is pointing. But I don't think we're at the point now where we can definitively say 'yes, this is climate change,'" said Allen.

The latest United Nations Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) report underlined there was "low confidence" on a link between global warming and small-scale phenomena such as tornadoes, both in observed trends and in projections.

- Shifting patterns -

The average number of tornadoes per year in the United States has not increased in recent years, hovering around 1,300, with most occurring in spring.

"Most months have shown a decline in the number of tornadoes and the number of days hosting tornadoes over the last, say 30 years or even 40 years," said Jeff Trapp, an atmospheric scientist at the University of Illinois.

The exception, he says, are the months of December and January, which have seen increases in tornado activity over the same period -- a result that is at least "consistent" with a "potential climate explanation."

Tornadoes form from thunderstorms, when warm, moist air encounters colder falling air with rain or hail. This creates spinning air currents that start out horizontal and may become vertical.

In recent years, "What we do tend to see is a higher likelihood of having warm days during the cool season, that could support thunderstorms and tornadoes," said Trapp.

What's more, when tornadoes do form, the outbreaks have become more clustered, even though the sum total across the year is about the same, said Chiara Lepore, a researcher at Columbia University.

Finally, scientists note an eastward shift in the so-called "Tornado Alley," with more storms likely to hit Arkansas, Mississippi, or Tennessee -- all three of which were affected this weekend.

- What to expect next? -

The problem researchers have in studying tornadoes is that they are fleeting and small in size and they are hard to "see" on climate models, unlike bigger events like hurricanes or heat waves.

Scientists, therefore, can only study changes in the conditions potentially favorable to them forming.

A recent study found that for every degree Celsius of warming, there is an increase of between 14 to 25 percent in severe thunderstorm likelihood over the United States.

But it's still difficult to infer how this would translate to more tornadoes, said Lepore, the study's lead author.

According to another forthcoming modeling paper co-authored by Trapp, "tornadoes may become more powerful in future climate," he said.

However, very violent tornadoes will remain "rare events," rather than a "new normal," he predicted.





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| Dute | Column |
| 3 of 3 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

"We're in the early stages of trying to understand the link between climate change and what we call severe local storms," including tornadoes and hail storms, said Elsner.

"But in the next five or 10 years, I think you're going to see some real advances."

la/ia/sw

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| December 15, 2021 | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Date | Editorial Column |
| 1 of 6 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

Who will pay for the damage caused by climate change?



By Isabelle Gerretsen14th December 2021

Talking about who is responsible for climate change is a fraught debate – even more so when it comes to who ought to pay for the damage it causes.

In September 2017, John Mussington was forced to evacuate his home and leave behind his animals when the small Caribbean island of Barbuda was hit by category 5 Hurricane Irma, at 185mph (300km/h).

"It was devastating," says Mussington, a marine biologist and a high school principal on Barbuda. "People were traumatised, there were many buildings without roofs and we had no electricity. Our immediate concern was: how do we survive the next day?"

<u>Every building was damaged by Irma</u>, with 23% completely destroyed. A 2018 study concluded that <u>climate change worsened destructive hurricanes</u>, <u>including Irma</u>, <u>by increasing rainfall by between 5 and 10%</u>.

The initial shock was compounded when all of Barbuda's 1,800 residents were ordered to evacuate to their sister island, Antigua, for one month. Mussington says this completely upended his life.

"That was the most traumatic of all, sitting there in Antigua, worrying about our farms, animals and businesses instead of starting the recovery," he recalls. "I'm a beekeeper and all my colonies were knocked down – I lost my business, as did many farmers and fishermen."

Our whole culture, identity and way of life is linked to the environment and natural resources—John Mussington "When countries lose their islands because of sea level rise and extreme events, they are losing their culture and traditions. There is no adapting to that," says Le-Anne Roper, coordinator for loss and damage at the Alliance of Small Island States (Aosis).

For Barbudans, the destruction of the biodiversity and local environment is a direct violation of their way of life. "Our whole culture, identity and way of life is linked to the environment and natural resources," says Mussington, adding that many Barbudans spend their spare time outdoors, fishing, hunting and camping in the wild. "It is part of who we are as Barbudans."

Damaged buildings and job losses aren't the only victims of extreme weather events caused by climate change. From Barbuda to Fiji, entire cultures are at stake. But with more awareness, new technologies and strong calls for international support, these small island nations are fighting back.





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| 2 of 6 | Column Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |



Every single building on Barbuda was damaged by Hurricane Irma, many of them left entirely uninhabitable (Credit: Getty Images)

Aosis, which carries out advocacy at global climate negotiations on behalf of 39 small island nations, first raised the issue of loss and damage in 1991, shortly after it was founded, when it called for support for islands facing rising sea levels. **Rich nations have strongly resisted these calls**, insisting that humanitarian aid is enough to deal with the issue.

Failure to provide critical finance is measured in lives and livelihoods in our communities. This is immoral and

it is unjust-Mia Mottley

For the next 30 years, low-lying small island states and other climate vulnerable countries have continued to <u>ask rich nations to help them cope with extreme events</u>, such as heatwaves, hurricanes and floods, as well as slow-moving climate threats, such as rising seas. They argue that rich countries should pay for the climate-induced losses and damages they are suffering because they are responsible for <u>almost 80% of historical emissions</u>.

At the United Nations' global climate talks in Glasgow in November, developing countries fought hard for a dedicated loss and damage funding facility, a formal body set up under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide new financial support to affected nations. But the final **Glasgow climate pact** made no reference to climate finance to address the rising costs of losses and damages in developing countries. Instead, rich nations said they would establish "a dialogue" to discuss "arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimise and address loss and damage".

At the climate talks, Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley told world leaders that asking countries on the frontlines of the climate crisis, like small island states, to pay for climate damages is "like asking the passengers of a car crash to pay for damages, rather than the driver".

"Failure to provide critical finance is measured in lives and livelihoods in our communities," Mottley said, adding that she felt it was "immoral" and "unjust".



Fiji has repeatedly had to deal with intense storm surges, which are set to get more serious and frequent with climate change (Credit: Getty Images)





| December 15, 2 | 2021 Headline |
|----------------|------------------|
| Date | Editorial Column |
| 3 of 6 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

Vulnerable countries say they urgently need finance and technical support now as they already face deadly climate impacts, which will intensify as the planet gets hotter. According to the <u>latest report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)</u>, "...every additional 0.5C of global warming causes clearly discernible increases in the intensity and frequency" of extreme events such as heatwaves, heavy rainfall and droughts.

"We can't ignore [these impacts] anymore," says Adelle Thomas, senior Caribbean research associate at Climate Analytics. "It's happening now in developed countries [too]," she says, referring to the <u>floods in Germany in July</u> which killed more than 200 people and <u>caused up</u> to €5bn (£4.2bn/\$5.8 bn) in economic losses.

A study by Christian Aid highlights the devastating economic impact climate change will inflict on the world's 65 most-vulnerable countries: if global temperatures were to rise by 2.9C, their average GDP will fall by 20% by 2050 and 64% by 2100. After the United Nations' global climate talks in November, policies now put the world on a path towards 2.4C.

Preventative approach

Every year Fiji deals with extreme events, ranging from **powerful cyclones to prolonged droughts**, says Satyendra Prasad, Fiji's ambassador to the United Nations. "One-tenth of our economy was wiped out by three events last year alone, when we were also fighting Covid-19. That is the difference between small and large states," says Prasad.

In 2021, Fiji launched a <u>parametric insurance scheme</u>, in partnership with United Nations agencies, that offers immediate payouts to poor women and other vulnerable communities after a disaster. This targeted finance helps them rebuild their lives following a catastrophe, says Prasad.

The government is also relocating 20,000 people living in 45 coastal communities inland to protect them from rising sea levels, with funding raised by **Fiji's environment and climate adaptation tax**. "It's not only about moving homes," says Prasad. "We have to build new roads, move schools and provide electricity – all the things that make life possible."

The constant pressure to rebuild after extreme events makes it almost impossible for Fiji to invest in education, healthcare and infrastructure. "We are spending more money repairing and rebuilding schools than on expanding education," says Prasad, adding that money for healthcare is diverted to social services to help vulnerable communities recover.



One way to lessen the damage caused by climate change is better early-warning systems, such as those trialled in Pakistan to predict drought (Credit: Getty Images)

Meanwhile in Pakistan, a pilot project launched by the <u>Start Network</u>, a coalition of 50 aid agencies and nonprofits, aims to take early intervention a step further. The network is trying to prevent extreme weather from leading to hunger and poverty by spotting the signs of risk early and acting fast.





| December 15, 2 | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Date | Editorial Column |
| 4 of 6 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

Using satellite images and statistical modelling, the tool predicts when extreme events, such as droughts or floods, are about to hit and activates an alert for early intervention – providing both money and crucial technical expertise. This allows vulnerable communities to develop early response plans and minimise the impacts as much as possible. This model, which predicts a fall in crop yields, has allowed communities in Pakistan to switch to planting drought-resistant crops, preserve water and immunise their cattle up to one month ahead of a drought.

"It is a very effective, targeted and fast response, before a hazard has occurred on the ground," says Amjad Ahmad, the network's disaster risk financing coordinator in Pakistan.

The initial results are positive, says Ahmad. Fewer children have dropped out of school and families haven't been forced to move to urban slums in search of work. Communities have also been able to access funding before droughts and other climate shocks hit.

"We don't need to see suffering for the funding to be released," says Sarah Klassen, Start Network's policy and advocacy advisor. "We really see anticipatory action as one of the practical ways that humanitarians can address and minimise loss and damage caused by climate change," says Klassen.

The liability problem

These kinds of interventions require technological expertise and, crucially, the money to finance them. But the big question is, who should foot the bill?

The liability and compensation debate has made loss and damage 'a political taboo' and stalled negotiations Rich nations, who typically have the largest historic emissions, are concerned that they could be held liable for the decades of pollution they have caused. When loss and damage was included in the Paris Agreement in 2015, the US pushed for a clause to be added which stated that the accord "does not involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation".

The liability and compensation debate has made loss and damage "a political taboo" and stalled negotiations, says Thomas.

Despite signing up to a "high ambition coalition" with small island states and vulnerable nations at the November climate talks in Glasgow, the <u>US and EU blocked their proposal</u> for a loss and damage funding facility. When asked why the US opposed establishing such a facility, Washington's special climate envoy John Kerry told reporters: "We remain always thoughtful about the issue of liability and where this goes."



Improved early-warning systems can help to target aid and preventative interventions before a period of extreme weather hits (Credit: Getty Images)

Fijian ambassador Prasad says the political negotiations need to move beyond this conundrum. "It should be about problem solving long-term, not about retribution and who is responsible for which share," he says.





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 5 of 6 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

Providing loss and damage support isn't purely altruistic, says Olivia Serdeczny, a research analyst at Climate Analytics, specialising in loss and damage. "At some point developed countries could act out of self-interest. They don't want political systems in developing countries to become destabilised and to be faced with climate migrants," she says.

How much is needed?

<u>Campaigners say</u> vulnerable nations need at least \$300bn (£225bn) a year to respond to loss and damage in 2030. Developing countries say this recovery finance should be in addition to money set aside for climate mitigation and adaptation, which falls under a <u>global climate</u> finance pledge.

"The volume and scale of resources [needed] is beyond what countries like ours can afford," says Prasad. "We need dedicated, ring-fenced resources for loss and damage."

At the UN climate talks in November, Scotland became the first country in the world to set aside specific funding for loss and damage, **pledging £2m (\$2.7m)** to help communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Although a small amount, the pledge was considered highly symbolic. But other countries resisted opening up a new channel of climate finance.

One area where progress was made at the talks was rich countries agreeing to fund the Santiago Network, a mechanism established in 2019 to provide technical assistance to countries experiencing loss and damage. The plan is to get this network up and running before the next United Nations climate meeting, which will be held in Egypt in November.



Both rich and poor countries will face the impacts of climate change, and will need to adapt – though not all have the resources to do so easily (Credit: Getty Images)

"It is expected to provide demand-driven technical assistance and solutions to countries," says Harjeet Singh, senior advisor to Climate Action Network International. "Such support will help generate knowledge and information for countries who need technical assistance in dealing with the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events and new challenges like rising sea levels, melting of glaciers and oceans turning acidic."

But vulnerable countries say the network alone does little to relieve the challenges they face. "[Climate disasters] are our lived reality," says Prasad. "Every year that we are delaying action, we are increasing the scale of problems around loss and damage."

"We are at a real tipping point," says Thomas. "We are reaching our limit of waiting and fighting."

After Hurricane Irma, loss and damage finance would have helped Barbuda rebuild faster and in a resilient way, so that the island can withstand future hurricanes, says marine biologist Mussington. The funds could be used to switch Barbuda's main power supply to renewable energy, like wind power, which is not only more sustainable but can be adapted to better withstand storms and keep the lights on after a severe storm, he says.





| December 15, 202 | 1 Headline |
|------------------|-----------------|
| | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 6 of 6 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

International support would also allow for more investment in Barbuda's mangroves, coral reefs and beaches – all core ingredients of cultural life in Barbuda – and which act as critical barriers for storm surges, he adds. "If we do not maintain these, we do not maintain our culture and identity."

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Source: https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20211213-who-will-pay-for-the-damage-caused-by-climate-change





| December 15, 20 | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Date | Editorial Column |
| 1 of 3 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

Thwaites: Antarctic glacier heading for dramatic change

Jonathan Amos

Science correspondent @BBCAmoson Twitter



Thwaites is so wide, it goes to the horizon in all directions

Scientists are warning of dramatic changes at one of the biggest glaciers in Antarctica, potentially within the next five to 10 years.

They say a floating section at the front of Thwaites Glacier that until now has been relatively stable could "shatter like a car windscreen".

US and UK researchers are currently engaged in an intense study programme at Thwaites because of its melt rate.

Already it is dumping 50 billion tonnes of ice into the ocean each year.

This is having limited impact on global sea-levels today, but there is sufficient ice held upstream in the glacier's drainage basin to raise the height of the oceans by 65cm - were it all to melt.

Such a "doomsday" scenario is unlikely to come about for many centuries, but the study team says Thwaites is now responding to a warming world in really quite rapid ways.

"There is going to be dramatic change in the front of the glacier, probably in less than a decade. Both published and unpublished studies point in that direction," said glaciologist Prof Ted Scambos, US lead coordinator for the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration (ITGC).

"This will accelerate the pace (of Thwaites) and widen, effectively, the dangerous part of the glacier," he told BBC News.

Thwaites Glacier: Vulnerable eastern ice shelf
Water depth (meters)

1400 750 0

Warm water incursion

Pinning Ridge

20km
10 miles





| December 15, 202 | 1 Headline |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| | Column |
| 2 of 3 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

Thwaites is a colossus. It's roughly the size of Great Britain, or Florida, and its outflow speed has doubled in the past 30 years.

The ITGC has established how this is happening. It is the result of warm ocean water getting under - and melting - Thwaites's floating front, or ice shelf as it's known.

The warm water is thinning and weakening this ice, making it run faster and pushing back the zone where the main glacier body becomes buoyant.

At the moment, the leading edge of the eastern ice shelf is pinned in place by an offshore underwater ridge, which means its flow speed is a third of that seen in the ice shelf's western sector which has no such constraint.

But the ITGC team says the eastern shelf is likely to become uncoupled from the ridge in the next few years which will destabilise it. And even if the pinning persists, the ongoing development of fractures in the shelf ice will almost certainly break up the area anyway.

"I visualise it somewhat similar to that car window where you have a few cracks that are slowly propagating, and then suddenly you go over a bump in your car and the whole thing just starts to shatter in every direction," **explained Dr Erin Pettit from Oregon State University**.

The affected area is very small when considered in the context of the glacier as a whole, but it is the shift to a new regime and what this means for further ice loss that is the real significance.

At present, the eastern shelf, which has a width of about 40km, moves forward at about 600m per year. The coming change in status will probably see the following ice jump in speed to about 2km per year - the same as the current velocity recorded in the 80km-wide western sector.

Jointly funded by the US National Science Foundation and the UK's Natural Environment Research Council, the five-year ITGC project is putting Thwaites under unprecedented scrutiny.

Each Antarctic summer season, teams of scientists are investigating the glacier's behaviour in every way possible. From satellite, on the ice, and from ships in front of Thwaites.

Those teams are en route for the new season right now, some in Covid quarantine ahead of their deployment to the field.



Boaty McBoatface, the British Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, will dive under Thwaites' ice shelf

One of the projects for the New Year will see the tubby yellow submarine known as "Boaty McBoatface" dive under Thwaites' floating ice to gather data on water temperature, current direction and turbulence - all factors that influence melting.





| December 15, 2021 | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 3 of 3 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

The autonomous vehicle will go on missions lasting one to four days, navigating its own path through the cavity beneath the shelf. This is high risk as the seafloor terrain is extremely rugged.

"It's scary. We might not get Boaty back," conceded Dr Alex Phillips from the UK's National Oceanography Centre.

"We've put a lot of effort this past year into developing collision avoidance for the vehicle, to make sure it doesn't crash into the seabed. We also have contingencies whereby if it does get into trouble, it can retrace its steps and retreat to safety."

The latest science on Thwaites Glacier is being presented this week at the <u>American</u> <u>Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in New Orleans</u>.

Source: https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-59644494

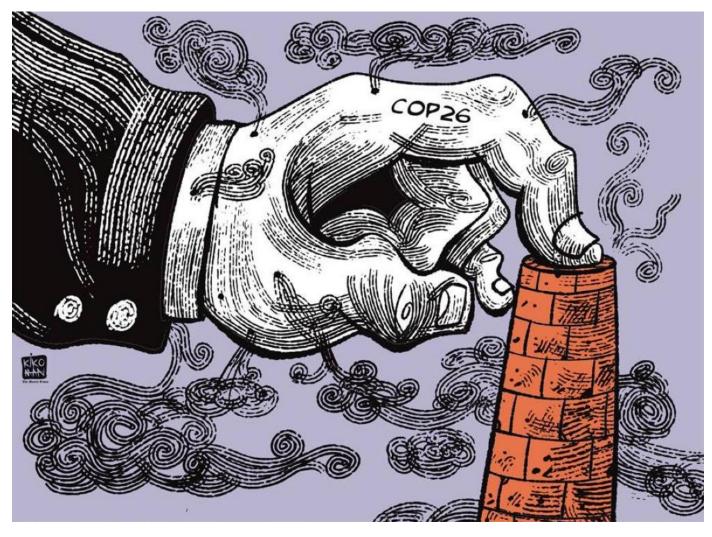




| December 15, 202 | 1 Headline |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

COP26

December 15, 2021



Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/12/15/opinion/editorial-cartoon/cop26/1825992

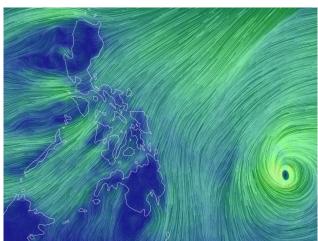




| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

Severe tropical storm Rai enters Philippines

Philstar.com December 14, 2021 | 9:20pm



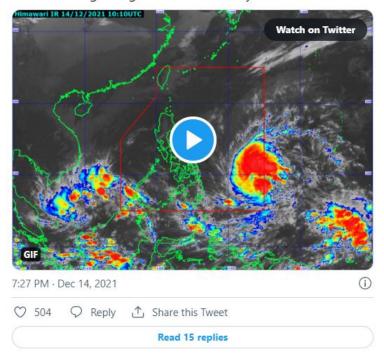
Satellite image on Dec. 14, 2021, 9:15 p.m. shows Severe Tropical Storm Odette.

MANILA, Philippines — State weather bureau PAGASA reported Tuesday that a severe tropical storm has entered the Philippines' weather monitoring area.

PAGASA said that Severe Tropical Storm Rai (international name) entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. It was assigned the local name Odette.



At 7:00 PM today, Severe Tropical Storm RAI entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility and was assigned the domestic name #OdettePH. Tropical Cyclone Bulletins will be issued beginning at 11:00 PM today.



The state weather bureau said that it will begin issuing tropical cyclone bulletins beginning at 11 p.m. Tuesday.

As of 10 a.m., the cyclone packed maximum sustained winds of 95 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 115 kph. It was spotted 1,165 km east of Mindanao.





| December 15, 20 | 21 Headline |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Date | Editorial Column |
| 2 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

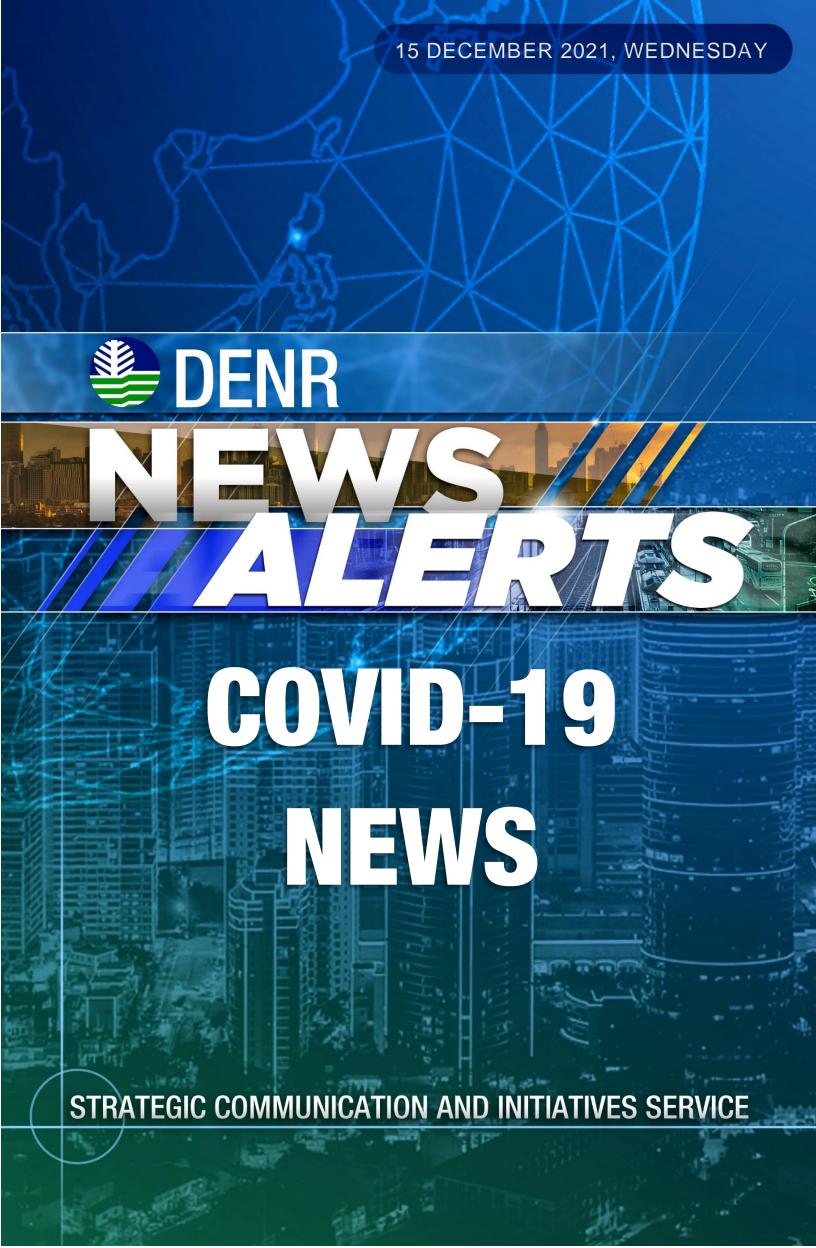
Weather forecasters said Odette will start moving westward over the Philippine sea on Wednesday afternoon, and may hit land in Caraga or Eastern Visayas on Thursday afternoon or evening.

While the tropical cyclone is inside PAR, PAGASA said it may further intensify before landfall, and is forecast to reach typhoon category on Wednesday. By Thursday morning or afternoon, it may reach its peak intensity of around 155 kph.

Due to strong to typhoon-force winds brought by Rai, the weather bureau said there is high likelihood Visayas, large portions of Mindanao and southern part of Luzon will be placed under tropical cyclone wind signals

PAGASA said they may hoist up to TCWS No. 3, with localities in eastern portions of Visayas and Mindanao put under Signal No. 1 as early as Tuesday afternoon or evening. — with report from Kristine Joy Patag

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/12/14/2148036/severe-tropical-storm-rai-enters-philippines







| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Date | Editorial Column |
| 1 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

4 regions, cities monitored for increase in COVID-19 cases

Mayen Jaymalin - The Philippine Star December 15, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — While all regions in the country are now at minimal risk for COVID-19, the Department of Health (DOH) is monitoring two regions and two cities, which recorded an increase in infections.

DOH Epidemiology Bureau director Alethea de Guzman said Bicol and Soccsksargen recorded a slight increase in new cases.

"Babantayan natin kung ito ay magtutuloy-tuloy at mag-translate into a positive two-week growth rate. Sa ngayon in Region 12 and 5, the two-week growth remains negative," De Guzman told a virtual press briefing yesterday.

She said the DOH is also monitoring Lapu-Lapu and General Santos cities after they logged minimal increases in the two-week growth rate.

De Guzman said the increase in cases was "very small."

She said the DOH is monitoring the two cities to determine whether the growth rate will continue.

The Cordillera Autonomous Region and Zamboanga peninsula, which were previously classified as low risk, are now at minimal risk.

This means a negative two-week growth rate and average daily attack rate of fewer than one per 100,000 people.

Health system capacity was also at low risk in all areas as critical cases among confirmed admissions are continuously declining.

De Guzman said severe cases have sharply dropped since the end of October.

Based on the projection of the DOH, active cases would drop to 1,766 by Jan. 31 if minimum public health standards are observed. If not, cases are seen to rise up to 9,388.

Even with increased mobility, De Guzman said active cases in Metro Manila are still projected to drop to a low of 148 or a high of 325 by Jan. 31.

She said case fatality rate remains "very low" while average daily cases dropped by 26 percent to 380 from 516 last week.

De Guzman said the DOH recorded 970 COVID-related deaths last month, five times lower compared to 4,594 in October.

"Cases per day are among our lowest after we had several peaks that started in August 2020, April 2021 and September 2021," De Guzman said.

Zero new cases in Baguio, Benguet towns

Meanwhile, Baguio City logged zero new COVID-19 cases and had only 20 active cases on Monday.





| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 2 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

In Kabayan town in Benguet, no active case was recorded on Monday.

Bokod and Bakun, also in Benguet, had no active case as of Sunday, according to the provincial health office.

Health and local government officials urged the public to have themselves vaccinated to maintain the COVID-free status.

The Cordillera Regional Vaccination Operations Center said it is ready for the second round of National Vaccination Days.

Up to 68,247 members of the eligible population, including minors, are being targeted for vaccination.

Benguet is eyeing the vaccination of 31,161 residents; Ifugao,15,261; Kalinga, 9,909; Mountain Province, 6,792; Apayao, 3,306, and Abra, 1,818.

The Baguio city government said it would participate in the National Vaccination Days even though it has achieved the 70 percent target. – **Artemio Dumlao**

Source: https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/12/15/2148005/4-regions-cities-monitored-increase-covid-19-cases





| December 15, 2021 | Headline Editorial |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

PH receives over 8.2M COVID-19 vaccine doses

By **CNN Philippines Staff**

Published Dec 14, 2021 10:52:28 PM



Photo courtesy: National Task Force Against COVID-19

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 14) - The country's COVID-19 vaccine supply gets a huge boost after over 8.2 million shots arrived Tuesday.

Majority of the new vaccine arrivals are Johnson & Johnson - donated by European countries through the World Health Organization-backed COVAX facility.

A total of 2,956,800 J&J shots were donated by Netherlands. Sweden gave 1,512,000 doses while Austria donated 266,400 shots.

Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez, Jr. said the newly arrived J&J COVID-19 vaccine doses will be allocated to geographically challenged areas.

France also donated a total of 1,058,400 Moderna doses while Spain added 453,600 more shots of the same brand - all through COVAX.

Meanwhile, China gave the country two million additional Sinovac doses.

The deliveries are part of the over 24 million COVID-19 vaccine doses scheduled to be received by the Philippine government this week.

Galvez added the latest and upcoming vaccine deliveries will be distributed in regions with low vaccine coverage, such as the Bicol Region, Region 12, and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Source: https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/12/14/PH-receives-over-8.2M-COVID-19-vaccine-doses.html





| December 15, 2021 | ✓ Headline |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |

Pfizer vaccine protects vs hospitalization during Omicron wave - study

Alexander Winning and Wendell Roelf, Reuters

Posted at Dec 14 2021 07:23 PM



Vials of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine rests on a table inside the Makati Coliseum on June 29, 2021. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News/File*

JOHANNESBURG — Two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine appear to have given 70% protection against hospitalization in South Africa in recent weeks, a major real-world study on the potential impact of omicron showed on Tuesday, as the country battles a spike in infections linked to the new variant.

The study released by South Africa's largest private health insurance administrator, Discovery Health, was based on more than 211,000 positive COVID-19 test results from Nov. 15 to Dec. 7, around 78,000 of which were attributed to omicron.

The 78,000 results are not confirmed omicron cases, meaning the study is not able to make conclusive findings about the variant labeled "of concern" by the World Health Organization.

South African scientists have so far confirmed around 550 Omicron sequences, with the variant accounting for 78% of sequences from November, more than the previously dominant delta variant.

South Africa alerted the world to omicron late last month, triggering alarm that it could cause another surge in global infections, and leading to the imposition of travel restrictions on southern Africa. South Africa's daily infections have since risen to around 20,000 in recent days.

Based on analysis by Discovery's clinical research and actuarial teams, and in collaboration with South Africa's Medical Research Council (SAMRC), the study calculated that two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech offered 70% protection against hospitalization compared with the unvaccinated during the recent surge in cases and 33% protection against infection.

It said this represents a drop from 80% protection against infection and compares with above 90% efficacy against hospital admission during South Africa's outbreak of the delta variant, which is the globally dominant variant and considered to be the most infectious to emerge during the pandemic.

Discovery cautioned that the study's findings should be considered preliminary.

But Glenda Gray, SAMRC president, said it was important that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine appeared to be offering good protection against severe disease and hospitalization as a highly transmissible new variant circulates.





| December 15, 2021 | ✓ Headline |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Date | E ditorial |
| Date | Column |
| 2 of 2 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
| | |

"We are extremely encouraged by the results," she said in a statement.

The analysis also shows protection against hospital admission is maintained across all ages, in people from 18 to 79 years, with slightly lower levels of protection for the elderly.

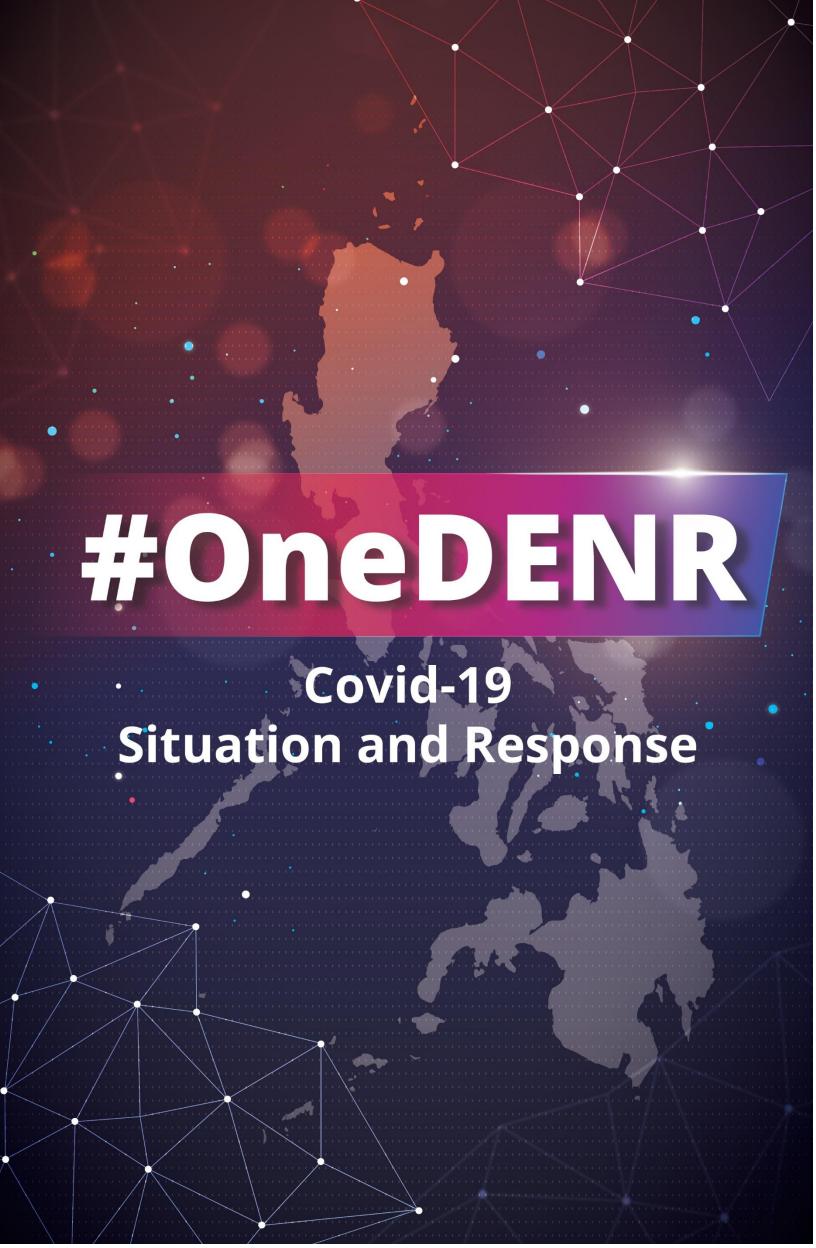
Protection against admission is also consistent across a range of chronic illnesses including diabetes, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, and other cardiovascular diseases.

South Africa is using the Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson vaccines in its COVID-19 immunization campaign, with more than 20 million Pfizer doses administered so far.

It concluded that there was a higher risk of reinfection during the fourth wave than during previous waves and that the risk of hospitalization among adults diagnosed with COVID-19 was 29% lower than during the country's first wave early last year.

Children appeared to have a 20% higher risk of hospital admission with complications during the fourth wave than during the first, despite a very low absolute incidence, it said.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/12/14/21/pfizer-jab-protects-vs-hospitalization-during-omicron-wave-study







DISYEMBRE 14, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

10.526

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

2,775,991

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

50,351

MGA BAGONG KASO 235

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 780

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 10

KABUUANG BILANG NG KASO

2,836,868

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 12

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 14 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 12

PORSYENTO NG MGA **NAGPOSITIBO**

BILANG NG

TINEST

45.2% ANG MILD AT **ASYMPTOMATIC** NA KASO!

HALOS



KABUUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.6K TOTAL BEDS) 23% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.6K TOTAL BEDS)

WARD BEDS (12.4K TOTAL BEDS) ے نے کے سات

VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

100 100 100 100 100

24% Utilized

12[%] Utilized

13% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS) 24% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)

WARD BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

100 100 100 100 100

KALAGAYAN NG MGA **AKTIBONG KASO**

659 Asymptomatic

4.104 Mild

3,502 Moderate

1.868 Severe

393 Critical

KASANGGA NG BIDA

UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

19% Utilized

17% Utilized

16% Utilized

Nakasalalay sa ating pagsunod sa Minimum Public Health Standards ang patuloy na pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID-19. Binibigyan diin natin ang kahalagahan ng pagbabakuna bilang primaryang sanggalang laban sa nakakamatay na sakit. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa BHERTS o sa One COVID Referral Center na maabot sa 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333, para sa karampatang gabay.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating Telemedicine Service Providers, at ang http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanan ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333 GLOBE: 0915 777 7777 TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na si KIRA! VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH MESSENGER: Department of Health PH KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas! I-download ang StaySafe App O Gamiting ang WEBAPP at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov













| cember 15, 2021 | Headline |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |



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| December 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S02OHL-5cMA&ab_channel=KUYARONSTV



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| cember 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |
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| cember 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date | Editorial |
| 1 of 1 | Column Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |



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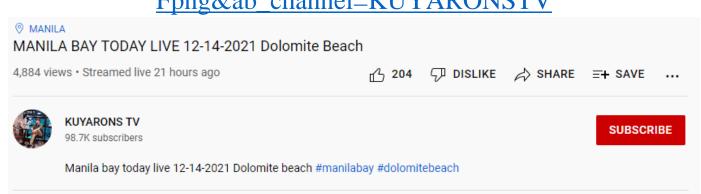




| cember 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| · | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |



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| cember 15, 2021 | Headline |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Editorial |
| Date | Column |
| 1 of 1 | Opinion |
| Page | Feature Article |



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