

16 AUGUST 2021, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR, PCMC BLOODLETTING ACTIVITY AS COVID-19 RESPONSE

AN employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) takes part in the bloodletting activity jointly conducted by the DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service-Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division and the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC)-Pediatric Blood Center at the DENR Central Office in Quezon City on July 30, 2021. A total of 45 employees donated blood as a part of the department's COVID-19 response efforts and the continuing partnership of the DENR and PCMC. The DENR has initiated COVID-19 assistance activities including the distribution of relief goods, face masks and face shields, and the provision of free transport to medical frontliners using its fleet of buses since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. (From Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service thru Precy F. Lazaro)





Davao City seeks guidance from DENR for the construction of WTE project

August 15, 2021 | 7:28 pm



DAVAOCITY.GOV.PH

DAVAO CITY'S waste-to-energy (WTE) project, planned in partnership with its sister city Kitakyushi in Japan, has been reverted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upon the recommendation of the Davao Regional Council.

"As of the moment, the WTE project is with the DENR because... there is a new discussion at the Regional Development Council (RDC) 11," Davao City Mayor Sarah Duterte-Carpio said in mixed English and Visayan over the local government-run radio last week.

The regional council, which covers the five Davao provinces and the city, is currently reassessing the urban masterplan for the proposed Metro Davao area.

Davao City started exploring WTE as a waste management option about three years ago as the existing sanitary landfill nears full capacity.

The city government has already purchased a 10-hectare lot for the project site.

"Here in the city, we already crossed that bridge (use of WTE) long time ago when we purchased the property... the discussion now is still with the RDC... we are requesting DENR's support on this matter," the mayor said.

Meanwhile, the city is also looking at purchasing the property in the immediate vicinity of the existing landfill for expansion.

Non-profit environmental protection group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) has expressed anew on social media its opposition to WTE.

IDIS Executive Director Mark Peñalver said a more sustainable way of addressing the solid waste problem is ensuring strict implementation of existing policies, including the creation of materials recovery facilities and segregation at source.

IDIS and other environmental groups recently launched a signature campaign against the WTE project, which has been approved by the city council on second reading and will be included in the city's 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan. — **Maya M. Padillo**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/davao-city-seeks-guidance-from-denr-for-the-construction-of-wte-project/?fbclid=IwAR06MZeMa5zajp4oE8FBY_kfNs1Xs9iVJ6FKlGnkel_jSKv1WYw89r_ij4k



Group says options worse than plastic

Phasing plastics out and substituting it with the current alternatives is not a true solution.

Published 1 day ago on August 15, 2021 03:00 AM

By [Raffy Ayeng](#) @tribunephil_raf



After the House of Representatives passed two bills that seeks to eradicate single-use plastics (SUP), accompanied by another bill imposing an additional P20 per kilogram excise tax on plastic bags, manufacturers have aired their apprehension saying that alternatives for SUP endorsed by the passing of those bills will mean more harm to the environment, instead of resolving plastic pollution.

Last month, representatives of the House unanimously approved on third and final reading the House Bill (HB) 9147 or the proposed Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act authored by Speaker Lord Allan Velasco.

Velasco then said “the time is ripe” to enact a legislation that will regulate the production, importation, sale, distribution, use, recovery, collection, recycling and disposal of single-use plastic products.

Also, lawmakers have recently approved on second reading the proposed Plastic Bag Tax Act (House Bill 9171) that imposed a P20 excise tax on SUP as an amendment to the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or the Republic Act 9003.

Not true solution
Philippine Plastics Industry Association (PIIA) president Danny Ngo, noting that recyclable plastics, including SUP packaging, are bolstering the reduction of impacts of climate change.

“Phasing them out and substituting it with the current alternatives is not a true solution, but maybe more damaging than benefiting the environment as well as the economy,” he said.

Quoting a recent study “Life Cycle Impacts of Plastic Packaging Compared to Substitutes in the United States and Canada (Franklin Associates, 2018),” Ng said it revealed that plastic materials such as SUP has the lowest carbon footprint as compared to the more than double for alternatives paper, glass, tin and aluminum.

Moreover, the group’s president said shifting to compostable starch-based plastics as provided for in HB 9147 must first undergo an in-depth analysis to truly determine their environmental impact, and composting organic material under anaerobic conditions has the greater potential to release methane (CH₄), a heat-trapping gas that is 24 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂).



Ng maintained that globally, power generation has the highest contribution of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission at 25 percent for the use of coal and fuel oil, followed by the combined agriculture, forestry, and other land uses sectors at 24 percent due to livestock farming and crop cultivation producing methane gas.

Safe packaging
While 14 percent is from the transport sector, and 21 percent from the industry sector, where the substitute packaging paper, glass, steel and aluminum have more than double global warming potential than plastics based on life cycle analysis.

“The use of plastics being the safest, and most hygienic packaging material preserves food with a much longer shelf life. This helps reduce the 8 to 10 percent global GHG emissions that come from food loss and food wastage. It likewise saves more resources than producing the substitutes that use five times more water consumption, generates four times more solid wastes, and double the amount of energy consumption than plastics along with their respective production processes,” according to Ng.

Ngo similarly underscored that the use of plastics like SUP saves forest resources like trees, as trees are the best defense to absorb carbon dioxide to reduce the severe impacts of climate change.



Revival of plywood, veneer to get financial support from DBP

By [Jed Macapagal](#) -August 16, 2021



Wood value chain. Fast-growing trees Falcata are planted in many mountainous areas of Mindanao

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has expressed support to an initiative that will revive the plywood and veneers industry in Mindanao, a government agency said.

Secretary Emmanuel Piñol of the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA).

MinDA said both DBP president Emmanuel Herbosa and DBP director Jeannie Sandoval, agreed to the Industrial Tree Farming Program during a visit last week to a newly opened cacao outlet in Naawan, Misamis Oriental.

The parties are yet to discuss the financial support to be given by DBP.

Piñol said the program involves the planting of fast growing trees such as Falcata as well as the establishment of processing facilities to complete the wood value chain in the region.

MinDA said Falcata is planted in many mountainous areas of Mindanao especially in Caraga.

“However, since the tree farmers are disorganized and most of the logs are bought by private processors or exported to China, prices had been controlled and manipulated. The logs exported to China are processed into plywood and veneer and sold back to the Philippines depriving the farmers of added value for their trees,” Piñol said.

MinDA said the region used to host plywood manufacturing firms and paper mills but were forced to shut down operations due to mismanagement.

Piñol added a virtual convention will be conducted before the end of the month to organize the Mindanao Industrial Tree Farming Development Council.

Last month, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization will provide a funding of \$1.12 million (P56 million) for the development of pilot wood processing facilities in Agusan del Sur and Negros Oriental.



The DENR said the sustainable forest management project is expected to create jobs and new export-oriented industries producing furniture and veneer that will tap unused wood from almost 4,000 hectares of community forest of which 2,115 hectares are in Agusan del Sur and the remaining 1,932 hectares in Negros Oriental.

“The Philippines needs five million cubic meters of wood or lumber per year. Only one million is from the Philippines, the rest is imported. Those that come from the Philippines are from private forests and not from community-based forest management areas,” DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said, in an earlier statement.



Plywood revival in Mindanao planned

August 16, 2021 | 12:04 am



DTI.GOV.PH

THE MINDANAO Development Authority (MinDA) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) will enter into a partnership to revive the plywood and veneer industry in Mindanao.

MinDA Chairman Emmanuel F. Piñol said in a social media post over the weekend that efforts to revive the industry will involve farmed, fast-growing tree varieties.

Mr. Piñol said that DBP President Emmanuel G. Herbosa and Director Jeannie N. Sandoval expressed their support for the industrial tree farming program.

He added that the scheme involves organizing stakeholders and establishing processing facilities.

“Mindanao was known for its quality plywood produced by such companies as Sta. Clara and others. Later, the tree industry shifted to growing Falcata for the country’s largest paper mill, the Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines (PICOP) in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur,” Mr. Piñol said.

“PICOP shut down its operations several years ago due to mismanagement,” he added.

Mr. Piñol said Falcata is a fast-growing tree species planted in mountainous terrain, particularly in the Caraga region, with the potential to generate income for rural families.

However, he said tree farmers are disorganized, while the majority of the logs are purchased by private processors or exported to China.

“The logs exported to China are processed into plywood and veneer and sold back to the Philippines depriving the farmers of added value for their trees,” Mr. Piñol said.

Mr. Herbosa said: “This is the approach that we should take in undertaking development projects to provide jobs and boost the economy at the same time.”

MinDA is planning a virtual convention of tree farmers by the end of August to organize the Mindanao Industrial Tree Farming Development Council. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



Rangers' lament: 'We take care of environment, then they shoot us'

By: [Meg Adonis](#) - Reporter / [@MegINO](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:38 AM August 15, 2021



TAKING THE FIGHT TO COURT Forest rangers Khukan Maas and Melvin Akhmad, together with their supporters, go to the Rizal prosecutor's office on Friday to pursue a case against groups that they said are out to kill them. —PHOTO COURTESY OF MASUNGI GEORESERVE FOUNDATION

MANILA, Philippines — The wounds of Khukan Maas and Melvin Akhmad were still covered in bandages when they filed frustrated murder charges on Friday against nine suspects who allegedly fired at the two forest rangers employed by the Masungi Georeserve Foundation on the night of July 24.

By taking legal action at the Rizal provincial prosecutor's office, the rangers who guard a reforestation site in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape said they were fighting back against groups that had threatened to kill them and their families.

Maas, who has been working as a forest ranger for more than a decade, said he couldn't help but be enraged and seek redress for what happened "considering the difficulty of our work and to think we were doing no harm and only safeguarding government property."

"We take care of the environment, then they shoot us," he said.

Maas and Akhmad were at the Bayog Ranger Station inside the protected area on the night of the shooting. According to Ann Dumaliang, a trustee of the foundation, their attackers wielded shotguns and fired at the station at least 12 times.

Maas was hit in the neck while a bullet grazed Akhmad's head, according to staff members of the foundation who brought them to a hospital in Quezon City.

"We're so grateful for their fighting spirit, especially the rest of the rangers who are working alongside us. When I asked them how they were feeling after the attack, they said 'No surrender,'" Dumaliang told the Inquirer on Saturday.

Business interests

The foundation is a partner of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Masungi reforestation initiative, where rangers keep watch over a 2,000-hectare area, protecting it from encroachment by business interests, big or small.

Dumaliang said the foundation has identified at least two groups who had been threatening the rangers since March.



The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has also been going after these groups. On July 12, the agency recommended the filing of charges against the group led by Jay Sambilay and another led by Arnel Olitoquit for illegal encroachment and “other environmental crimes.” A month earlier, the DILG ordered the resort closed.

According to Dumaliang, the Olitoquit group was found to have been building a resort inside the Upper Marikina protected area, complete with swimming pools and other facilities.

Sambilay and his men have also been building a resort, according to forest rangers who encountered them in March.

‘On our own’

Dumaliang said the harassment did not stop with the July 24 shooting. Days after the attack, she said, the foundation’s staff members noticed men in cars tailing them on the road and taking pictures.

“We have taken note of more than seven instances when the rangers received death threats. Even their loved ones were not spared,” Dumaliang said.

The source of these threats would tell them that “we know where you live, anyway,” she said. “If we can’t go after you, we can go after your family.”

According to Dumaliang, Philippine National Police chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar had promised to post more law enforcers in the area as added deterrent.

Still, she said, the general feeling was that with their harassers still at large, “we are on our own, vulnerable and left to our own devices ... The situation could worsen.”



'ENDANGERED SPECIES'

BY THE MANILA TIMES
AUG 14, 2021 12:31 AM



Khukan Maas and Melvin Akhmad, park rangers of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc., file a complaint before the Rizal Provincial Prosecutor's Office in Taytay on Aug. 13, 2021. The complaint stemmed from an alleged attempt on their lives following a shooting after their duty at the Bayog Ranger Station on July 24, 2021. PHOTO BY ENRIQUE AGCAOILI

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/14/photos/endangered-species/1810917/amp?fbclid=IwAR37dFBmFY44ltqQ0TRUmoEoRCpn6XHttSiP5M9oHmlrk uXwPi79odhdheo>



PH mining's future bright despite Covid – Philex CEO

By [Dexter See](#) August 16, 2021

TUBA, Benguet: A mining industry executive has predicted rosy days for the local metal industry amid the [coronavirus](#) disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic and a revival of the world economy in the next three to five years.

Over the weekend, Philex President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Eulalio [Austin Jr.](#) said aggressive promotion of the use of electronic vehicles and artificial intelligence had created a big demand for metals, particularly copper, and served as a stepping stone for sustained operations of mining companies, located in different parts of the world.

Austin pointed out high metal prices that had prevailed in the past several years, which was the reason why global mining has survived the onslaught of the pandemic.

The Philex official explained that with such prices, mines worldwide were able to go back to old ore deposits that were low grade to take advantage of good metal prices.

Austin said the expected recovery of the world economy that had been heavily impacted by the pandemic would also raise demand for quality metals in the next five years.

Philex had been operating its Padcal mine in this mineral-rich town over the past 64 years, gaining distinction as the country's largest gold and copper producer.

Austin said the company has been continuously operating amid the ongoing pandemic with strict adherence to minimum public health standards to prevent a possible outbreak of the deadly virus at the mine site, especially with a new threat from Covid-19's more infectious Delta variant.

According to him, mining corporations will have to take advantage of the prevailing high metal prices and the projected bright prospects for the global mining industry in order to continue providing jobs even as companies help develop its host communities and try to also help protect the environment.

Austin said Philex will continue to lead the way in the practice of responsible mining to elevate the industry and achieve the overall objective of maximizing the utilization of rich resources of the state.

The Philex president added that mining companies must always be inclusive in implementing its expansion and development projects to be able to earn the trust and confidence of indigenous peoples, local government units and concerned stakeholders.



DOST now exploring sources of fragrances, flavors from PH forest

Published August 15, 2021, 1:50 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The Department of Science and Technology-Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) is conducting a research program seeking to explore potential sources of fragrances and flavors from the country's forest.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

DOST Secretary Fortunato “Boy” T. de la Peña said the FPRDI is implementing the “Fragrances and Flavors from the Forest Technology Program” or the F3TP.

“The goals of the program are to develop protocols for sustainable and responsible harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for flavors and fragrances; upgrade and transfer the FPRDI-developed extractor; and establish R&D (research and development) facilities for the development of technologies and products for flavors and fragrances,” he said during his weekly report on Friday,

He noted that the forests, both timber and non-timber, provide a multitude of flavors and fragrances.

“Among these include gums, resins and oils which are commercially important non timber forest products and tannins which can also be extracted from barks, leaves and wood and re-used to enhance flavors of some beverages like wine, beer, fruit juice and teas,” de la Peña said.

He described as “one of the very profitable niche markets” the flavor and fragrances industry.

“In 2018, its global market value amounted to around US\$ 20 billion and is projected to reach more than US\$ 30 billion by 2025,” the DOST chief said.

He said Europe, Africa, Middle East, North America, Asia-Pacific and South America are leading contributors to the flavor and fragrances industry, while China, India, Russia and Central America serve as “interesting emerging markets.”

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/15/dost-now-exploring-sources-of-fragrances-flavors-from-ph-forest/>



Mga kagubatan sa Pinas pinag-aaralan sa suplay ng pabango



August 15, 2021 @ 4:31 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA – Pinag-aaralan na ng Department of Science and Technology-Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) ang potensyal ng mga kagubatan sa bansa na makabuo ng mga flavor ng pabango.

Sinabi ni DOST Secretary Fortunato “Boy” T. de la Peña na ang FPRDI ay bumubuo ng programang “Fragrances and Flavors from the Forest Technology Program” o ang F3TP na naglalayon sa responsableng pagpuputol ng mga punong hindi pangtroso sa kagubatan upang gawing flavor ng pabango.

“The goals of the program are to develop protocols for sustainable and responsible harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for flavors and fragrances; upgrade and transfer the FPRDI-developed extractor; and establish R&D (research and development) facilities for the development of technologies and products for flavors and fragrances,” ayon kay Fortunato.

Dagdag pa niya, ang mga puno sa kagubatan, pangtroso man o hindi, ay maaaring magamit sa paggawa ng pabango at nagbibigay ng maraming uri ng flavor nito.

“Among these include gums, resins and oils which are commercially important non timber forest products and tannins which can also be extracted from barks, leaves and wood and re-used to enhance flavors of some beverages like wine, beer, fruit juice and teas,” paliwanag ni Fortunato.

Binigyang diin din niya na ang paggawa ng mga pabango ay isa sa mga pinakakumikitang produkto sa merkado.

“In 2018, its global market value amounted to around US\$ 20 billion and is projected to reach more than US\$ 30 billion by 2025,” aniya.

Ayon pa sa DOST chief, ang nangunguna sa listahan ng pinakamayayamang bansa sa industriya ng mga pabango ay ang Europa, Africa, Middle East, North America, Asia-Pacific at South America habang ang mga bansa naman ng China, India, Russia at Central America ay nagsisimula pa lamang na umangat sa merkado. **-RNT/Ethel Mangao -trainee**

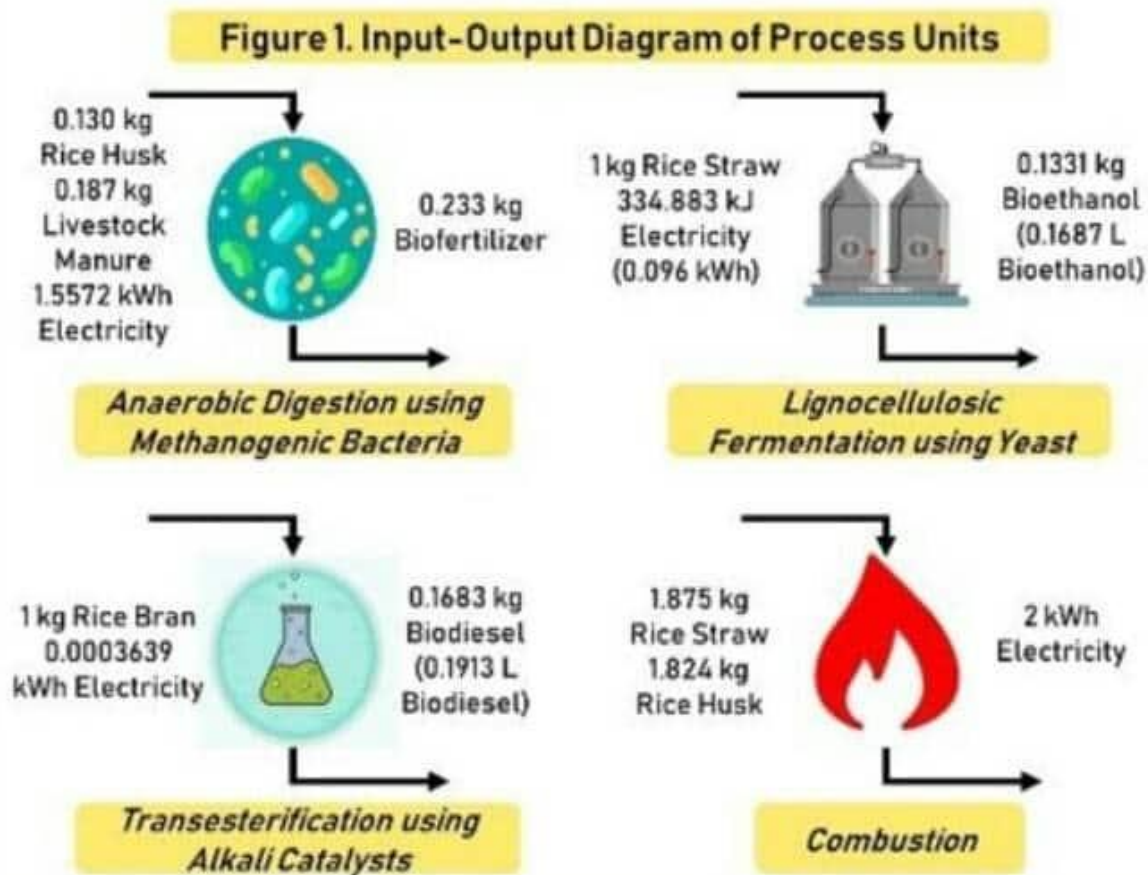
Source: <https://www.remate.ph/mga-kagubatan-sa-pinas-pinag-aaralan-sa-suplay-ng-pabango/>

DOST develops model for PH agri waste-based biorefinery

Published August 15, 2021, 11:33 AM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

A model for designing the country's agricultural waste-based integrated biorefinery (IBR) has been developed under a research project funded by the Department of Science and Technology-National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST-NRCP).



(DOST-NRCP)

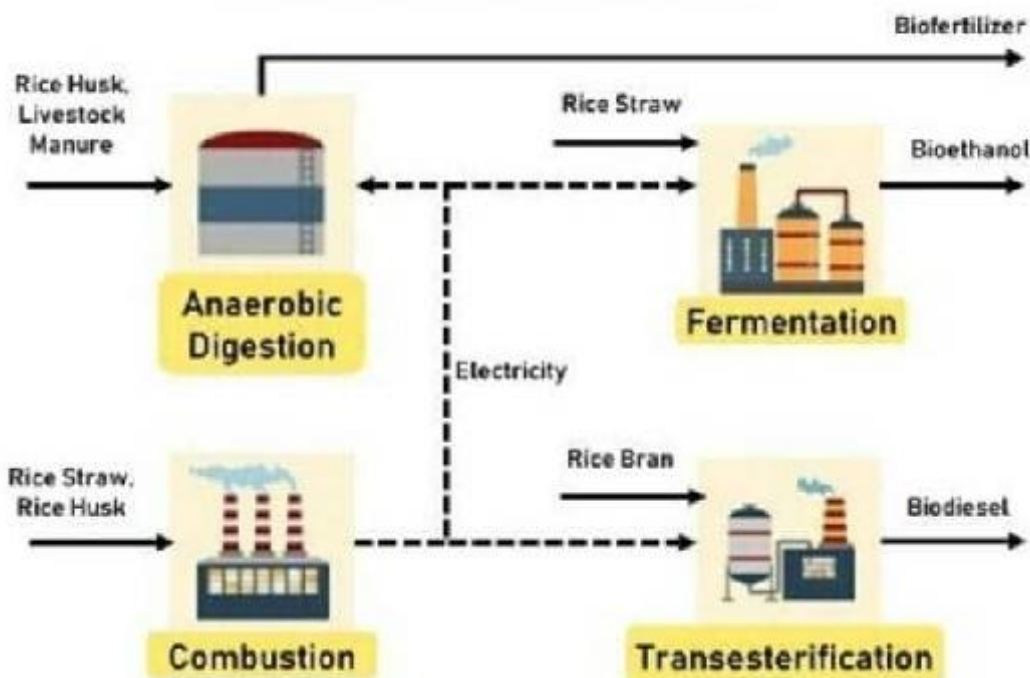
The DOST-NRCP said the research team, led by its member Michael Francis D. Benjamin developed a P-Graph (process graph) based Model for designing Philippine agricultural waste-based integrated biorefinery.

“Benjamin and team were able to develop sustainable designs, using input-output modelling, of a biomass-based integrated biorefinery or IBR where the country may achieve such eventual benefits,” it said in a statement.

The Council explained that an IBR refers to an integrated biomass processing plant or facility that produces several bioenergy products such as bioethanol, biodiesel, biofertilizer, and electricity using raw materials from rice production byproducts.

“Generally, IBRs decrease carbon emissions by avoiding uncontrolled and open burning of agricultural waste in the countryside, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, decrease the need for raw material as inputs, and produce various low carbon fuels,” it said.

The DOST-NRCP noted that the P-graph based method is applied to generate optimal and near-optimal IBR configurations utilizing the country's agricultural waste as feedstock to maximize profitability.

Figure 2. Process Flow Diagram

(DOST-NRCP)

Benjamin's team initially created the P-graph framework to address process network synthesis (PNS), but they decided to extend its use beyond the PNS domain (i.e., integrated systems).

The P-graph software also presents the results in a graphical interface, a distinct advantage compared to other optimization techniques, the Council said.

"With the increasing demand and declining supply for fossil fuels globally, NRCP researchers saw the need for alternative fuels that are both renewable and sustainable. Given the estimated amount of biomass derived from agricultural waste or residue in the Philippines which is about 60 Metric ton/year or 400 Petajoule/year of energy, the utilization of bioenergy is essential in order to increase global energy security and mitigate the effects of climate risks via reduction of greenhouse gas emissions," it said.

The DOST-NRCP study used rice straw, rice husk, and rice bran which are proven to contribute to sustainable energy generation in the country since its residues can generate biomass, a clean energy,

The P-Graph based model, using rice production waste, was able to show the results for optimal configuration of the IBR and the maximum profit to be generated, the Council said. It said the local government units (LGUs) may use the results of the study in creating policies to maximize bioenergy production and increase the revenue generation of farmers.

"The results of this study will help in developing strategies to meet energy requirements of a certain locality through the utilization of available agricultural waste. According to researchers, there is likewise a potential for job generation and increased income for farmers resulting from sales of biomass," the DOST-NRCP said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/15/dost-develops-model-for-ph-agri-waste-based-biorefinery/>



Volunteers collect face masks, plastic waste along Panigan-Tamugan Watershed



Photo credit to Idis

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

August 15, 2021

AMID the issuance of regulations and policies, local environmental groups were alarmed with the recent recovery of disposable face masks and plastic wastes along Panigan-Tamugan Watershed during a clean-up drive recently.

In a Facebook post on Friday, August 13, Interface Development Intervention for Sustainability (Idis) said their group and Bantay Bukid Volunteers collected 80 disposable masks, 36 plastic cups, cigarette packs, one bottle of fungicide, and a large number of various sachets of shampoo, junk foods, and detergents along the watershed.

Idis Executive Director lawyer Mark Peñalver told SunStar Davao on Sunday, August 15, that the number of wastes collected is higher than the previously conducted river clean-up in July. He said the facemask count was only 21.

This is despite the recent Watershed Management Council (WMC) resolution, prohibiting trekking activities in watershed areas in the city, while recreational activities in these areas will be regulated.

These are Resolution No. 3 - A Resolution Declaring that Trekking Activities are Prohibited in the Watershed Areas of Davao City; and Resolution No. 4 - A Resolution Adopting the Proposed Guidelines on the Conduct of Recreational Activities Within the Watershed Areas of Davao City and Forwarding the same to the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

Prior to the two resolutions, WMC released a resolution in 2020 mandating barangays within watershed areas to strictly regulate recreational activities within their territorial jurisdiction.

The WMC resolution was made into an ordinance, which was passed on Tuesday, August 10.

The "Watershed-Conservation Area Protection Ordinance of 2021," authored by Councilor Diosdado Mahipus Jr., committee chairperson on the environment, regulating recreational activities within the watershed areas of the city for the protection, conservation, and preservation of the natural environment.

"However, same scenario gihapon. In fact, nitaas pa. Based sa atong interview with the Bantay Bukid, every Saturday and Sunday, daghan gihapon daw gihapon tao ang nagaligo sa Panigan-Tamugan na area," Peñalver said.



(However, it is still the same scenario. In fact, the wastes recovered increased. Based on our interview with the Bantay Bukid, every Saturday and Sunday, many people still go to the Panigan-Tamugan area to swim.)

Peñalver said they commended the actions of the city government for making the appropriate actions. The area remains unregulated and unmonitored.

He said the city should strengthen its mechanisms in regulating the entry of people to the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed.

"Karon, sa atong nakita, wala pa'y ingon ana nga lakang nga gibuhad. Except sa mga nakapaskill nga mga ginabawal. Siguro kailangan pa og active na role na buhaton ang city government kung gusto gyud nato protektahan ato watershed," the Idis official said.

(Based on what we saw, there are no actions that have been made. Except that they posted signage on the prohibited items within watershed areas. Maybe the city government should play a more active role if they want to protect the watershed.)

He added that deploying police personnel within the watershed as the area is also reported to be a drinking area despite the existence of the 24-hour liquor ban in the city.

The environmentalist said they are alarmed with the recent wastes recovered as these are made from long-lasting materials that, if discarded, will survive for hundreds of years in the environment.

He said the turnout of improperly disposed of solid wastes in the next source of water in Davao City is an issue that needs urgent solutions.

"I think the city government should ensure the protection of these areas from any kinds of pollution. Be it plastic pollution, wastewater pollution, or chemical-based pollution," Peñalver said.

He also reminded the public to be "responsible and accountable" in the preservation of natural resources.



Manila Zoo opens Christmastime

You are lucky if you have seen the Manila Zoo because I (as a child) only saw it in the pages of our schoolbook.

Published 3 hours ago on August 16, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Pat C. Santos](#) @tribunephil_pat



The newly renovated Manila Zoo in Malate is scheduled to reopen in December in time for the Christmas season, Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso announced.

Describing the zoo as having become “at par with the world’s best zoological and botanical gardens,” Domagoso revealed this development on Facebook in his “Capitol Report.”

Once the zoo reopens, the mayor said its very first guests will be the workers and their families who helped in the construction and renovation of the facility amid the pandemic.

The zoo was closed temporarily for upgrade and renovation in January 2019, with the Covid-19 pandemic pushing back its reopening.

Domagoso conducted an ocular inspection of the nearly five-hectare facility, known as the Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden when it opened in the 50s.

He was accompanied by city engineer Armand Awhondres, city architect Pepito Balmoris and city electrician Randy Sadac.



CITY government of Manila has promised the animals will have a healthier home at the zoo this time around unlike in this old photo.



The mayor said the zoo will be his gift to the people of Manila and those who will visit it, especially children. He said it provides a healthy environment for the animals housed there.

Domagoso said that when established 61 years ago, the zoo was the first in Asia only to fall into disrepute as a contributor to the pollution of Manila Bay.

It was Domagoso who shut down the zoo, vowing to only open it when it becomes fully compliant with national government environmental regulations.

“You are lucky if you have seen the Manila Zoo because I (as a child) only saw it in the pages of our schoolbook,” he said.

“They planned to sell this, not only this but also the Paraiso ng Batang Maynila (paradise of Manila kids), sad to say. But thanks to you that you gave me the chance (to save them),” Domagoso added.

He said the people of Manila will see his commitment to bring back the zoo to its former glory soon enough, along with the historical Jones Bridge, City Hall underpass, Urdaneta Circle, Katipunan Park, Mehan Garden, and the Arroceros Forest Park, among others.



Wildfires are becoming more common in the Pacific

AUG 15, 2021, 7:32 AM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

From Micronesia to Hawaii, wildfires have been a growing problem for decades. With scarce funding to prevent and suppress these fires, island communities have struggled to address the problem.

Experts say wildfires in the Pacific Islands are becoming more common and larger as drought conditions increase along with climate change, the Associated Press said.

The AP gave a vivid image of such wildfire: A metal roof sits atop the burned remains of a homestead on the once-lush slopes of Hawaii's Mauna Kea — a dormant volcano and the state's tallest peak — charred cars and motorcycles strewn about as wind-whipped sand and ash blast the scorched landscape.

Generations of Kumu Micah Kamohoalii's family have lived on these lands reserved for Native Hawaiians, and his cousin owns this house destroyed by the state's largest-ever wildfire.

"I've never seen a fire this big," Kamohoalii said. "Waimea has had fires, many of them before and some maybe a few hundred acres, but not this size."

The fire has burned more than 70 square miles (181 square kilometers) in the two weeks it has been going.

But it wasn't the first time this area has burned and won't be the last. Like many islands in the Pacific, Hawaii's dry seasons are getting more extreme with climate change.

"Everyone knows Waimea to be the pasturelands and all the green rolling hills. And so when I was young, all of this was always green," Kamohoalii said. "In the last 10 to 15 years, it has been really, really dry."

Dangers of climate change

Huge wildfires highlight the dangers of climate change-related heat and drought for many communities throughout the US West and other hotspots around the world.

But experts say relatively small fires on typically wet, tropical islands in the Pacific are also on the rise, creating a cycle of ecological damage that affects vital and limited resources for millions of residents.

From Micronesia to Hawaii, wildfires have been a growing problem for decades. With scarce funding to prevent and suppress these fires, island communities have struggled to address the problem.



“On tropical islands, fires have a unique set of impacts,” said Clay Trauernicht, an ecosystems and wildfire researcher at the University of Hawaii.

“First and foremost, fires were very rare prior to human arrival on any Pacific island. The vegetation, the native ecosystems, really evolved in the absence of frequent fires. And so when you do get these fires, they tend to kind of wreak havoc.”

But it's not just burnt land that is affected. Fires on islands harm environments from the top of mountains to below the ocean's surface.

“Once a fire occurs, what you're doing is removing vegetation,” Trauernicht said. “And we often get heavy rainfall events. All of that exposed soil gets carried downstream and we have these direct impacts of erosion, sedimentation on our marine ecosystems. So it really hammers our coral reefs as well.”

Pacific island reefs support local food production, create barriers to large storm surges and are a critical part of tourism that keeps many islands running.

The wet season on tropical islands also causes fire-adapted grasses to grow tall and thick, building fuel for the next summer's wildfires.

“Guinea grass grows six inches a day in optimal conditions and a six-foot tall patch of grass can throw 20-foot flame lengths,” said Michael Walker, Hawaii's state fire protection forester. “So what we have here are really fast-moving, very hot, very dangerous fires.”

Walker said such non-native grasses that have proliferated in Hawaii are adapted to fire, but native species and shrubs are not.

“While (these wildfires) may not compare to the size and duration of what folks have in the western United States, we burn a significant portion of our lands every year because of these grass fires, and they're altering our natural ecosystems and converting forests to grass,” he said.

Extent of wildfires

The latest wildfire on Hawaii's Big Island burned about 1 percent of the state's total land, and other islands in the Pacific such as Palau, Saipan and Guam burn even more — up to 10 percent in severe fire years.

On average, Guam has nearly 700 wildfires a year, Palau about 175 and Saipan about 20, according to data from 2018.

Guam, like many other places, has long used fire as a tool. Farmers sometimes use it to clear fields and hunters have been known to burn areas while poaching.

The US territory's forestry chief Christine Camacho Fejeran said fires on the island are mostly caused by arson. “So all of Guam's wildfires are human-caused issues, whether it's an intentional or an escaped backyard fire or another (cause),” she said.

On average, Fejeran said, 6,000 to 7,000 acres (2,430 to 2,830 hectares) of the island burns each year, amounting to about 5 percent of its land.

While no homes have been lost to recent wildfires on Guam, Fejeran believes that trend will come to an end — unless more is done to combat the fires.

Fire legislation

The island has made some changes in fire legislation, management, education and enforcement. Arson has become a chargeable offense, but Fejeran says enforcement remains an obstacle in the tight-knit community.

Back in Hawaii, last week's blaze destroyed three homes, but the fire threatened many more



Mikiala Brand, who has lived for two decades on a 50-acre homestead, watched as flames came within a few hundred yards (meters) of her house.

As the fire grew closer, she saw firefighters, neighbors and the National Guard racing into her rural neighborhood to fight it. She had to evacuate her beloved home twice in less than 24 hours.

“Of course it was scary,” she said. “But I had faith that the strong, the brave and the talented, and along with nature and Akua, which is our name for the universal spirit, would take care.”

Demonstrating the tenacity of many Native Hawaiians in her farming and ranching community, Brand said, “I only worry about what I have control over.”

Down the mountain in Waikoloa Village, a community of about 7,000, Linda Hunt was also forced to evacuate. She works at a horse stable and scrambled to save the animals as flames whipped closer.

“We only have one and a half roads to get out — you have the main road and then you have the emergency access,” Hunt said of a narrow dirt road. “Everybody was trying to evacuate, there was a lot of confusion.”

The fire was eventually put out just short of the densely populated neighborhood, but had flames reached the homes, it could have been disastrous on the parched landscape.

“When you have high winds like we get here, it’s difficult no matter how big your fire break is, it’s going to blow right through,” Hunt said.

While fires are becoming more difficult to fight because of dry and hot conditions associated with climate change, experts say the Pacific islands still can help prevent these blazes from causing ecological damage and property losses.

“Fire presents a pretty interesting component of kind of all these climate change impacts that we’re dealing with in the sense that they are manageable,” said Trauernicht, the University of Hawaii wildfire expert.

In addition to education and arson prevention, he said, land use — such as grazing practices and reforestation that reduce volatile grasses — could help.

“It’s within our control, potentially, to reduce the impacts that we’re seeing with fires,” Trauernicht said. “Both in terms of forest loss as well as the impacts on coral reefs.”



The burning and flooding of the planet

By Fr. Shay Cullen August 15, 2021

Anyone watching on television the images of burning forests, the raging floods destroying lands and villages, and massive landslides burying homes and people have no reason to deny the truth. The latest United Nations report on the climate crises by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC), signed by 159 nations, once again informs us that we humans are responsible for this terrible crisis.

We humans are bringing disasters upon ourselves by tolerating and allowing through corrupt politicians the coal, oil and gas energy companies to promote their extraction and continual burning of fossil fuels. By financially supporting the election campaigns of friendly politicians, they are getting massive government subsidies to continue to produce and burn coal, oil and gas.

In the [United States](#), fossil-fuel subsidies to the energy industry are massive while money for renewable energy is much less. Worldwide, this is also the case. As much as \$447 billion in taxpayers' money has been paid out in subsidies to billion-dollar companies in the coal, oil and gas industries since 2014 whereas support for renewable energy sources development is a mere \$128 billion. The [International Renewable Energy Agency](#) (Irena) says, "the continued imbalance remains staggering. In 2017, the costs of unpriced externalities and the direct subsidies for fossil fuels (\$3.1 trillion) exceeded subsidies for renewable energy by a factor of 19."

[https://www.irena.org/-](https://www.irena.org/)

[/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2020/Apr/IRENA_Energy_subsidies_2020.pdf](#)

The global warming seen in unequaled temperatures that have engulfed the world is caused only by burning fossil fuels. Coal, oil and gas extraction and burning has been essential for economic growth and development for the last 100 years. But now, it must stop. Carbon dioxide and methane gases are trapping the heat of the sun like a blanket around the globe, and we are slowly cooking ourselves and all living creatures and plants to death. Over a million animals and reptiles died in Australian fires last year alone. How many more this year in the US, the [European Union](#) and Russia?

Renewable carbon neutral sources of energy must be speedily expanded: geothermal, wind turbines, solar panels, wave and tide power. These will be generating electricity to drive industry, heat and cool homes and power electric vehicles without damaging the planet. But will it succeed in time to save the planet? The scientists and environmentalists and the IPCC can tell us the terrible truth that if the heating goes on beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius, there will be even worse climate-induced disasters. More droughts, fires, greater floods and crop failures. Millions will be displaced by violence and war over water, food and arable land. Millions of hungry desperate people will be migrating to safer countries for food and survival.

We have reached and passed the tipping point where the melted Arctic ice and mountain glaciers will take hundreds of years to freeze up again. So, the poor people in coastal towns, villages and low-lying Pacific islands and atolls will have to evacuate and migrate. Some are already doing so.

They are the victims and yet they have not caused any global warming. Besides, the health costs world-wide of the damaging pollution since 2017 is a whopping \$2263 billion, according to the Irena.



The greedy Chinese military stealing and occupying Philippines islands will have to evacuate, Philippine islands and atolls will be inundated in a few more years. The Chinese are the biggest producers of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and methane, in the world with thousands of coal-fired power plants, followed by the United States. The Philippines has its share of coal-fired power plants when it could have geothermal and solar power plants.

If you want the dollars spent on renewable energy power sources, here they are: "The International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena) has estimated supply-side support to renewables at around \$166 billion in 2017. [Total](#) support to renewable power generation was around \$128 billion in 2017, and transport sector support added a further \$38 billion for biofuels."

"The European Union accounted for around 54 percent (\$90 billion) of total estimated renewable subsidies in 2017, followed by the United States, with 14 percent (\$23 billion), [Japan](#) with 11 percent (\$19 billion), [India](#) with 2 percent (\$4 billion) and the rest of the world with slightly less than 9 percent (\$15 billion). Subsidies for renewable power generation were dominant in Japan (99 percent), China (97 percent), the EU (87 percent) and India (76 percent). Subsidies for biofuels dominated in the United States (61 percent) and the rest of the world (71 percent)."

Big oil corporations [Shell](#), [BP](#), [Chevron](#), [ExxonMobil](#) and Total and their lobbying groups have tried to influence EU law in their favor by watering down laws that would curb the extraction and burning of fossil fuels. Their DNA corporate culture and goals cannot condone or support renewable energy. They are ferocious influencers and a report in [The Guardian](#) shows that they spent \$253.3 million lobbying and influencing politicians and EU institutions between 2010 and 2018, according to a report by [Corporate Europe Observatory](#), Food & Water [Europe](#), Friends of the Earth Europe and Greenpeace. That spending is just the tip of a massive iceberg of additional spending that has not been officially reported and kept secret. Let me quote the impact they have had in expanding the climate crises on the world. The Guardian article of one year ago says: "The report comes after the Guardian's Polluters series, which revealed that 20 oil and gas companies--including BP, Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil and Total - can be directly linked to a third of greenhouse gas emissions since 1965. The companies - which include multinationals and state-owned firms - are continuing to expand their operations and driving the climate emergency, despite having been aware for decades of their industry's devastating impact on the planet."

There is a global conspiracy, it seems, to deny climate change, to play down the urgency of the crises for the sake of getting more taxpayers' money as pay-outs to billionaire oil companies when millions of people are suffering the drastic effects of climate change. We must do all we can to get political and influence the decisions that will save the planet and get out there and stop polluting and plant more trees.

www.preda.org



The climate change challenge: To live and not just survive

By [Marit Stinus-Cabugon](#) August 16, 2021

"A PLANET might deteriorate even if human beings existed upon it if the society were itself abnormal and did not understand the importance of preserving the environment." - [Bliss](#) of the planet Gaia in Isaac Asimov's *Foundation and Earth*.

There is no doubt about the human hand in climate change. The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)'s recently released report, "The Physical Science Basis," confirms that climate change is man-made and much of the effects are irreversible. Sea levels rise while typhoons, flooding, drought and heat waves increase in frequency and intensity. These weather conditions impact all life forms on our planet.

"I don't want to survive, I want to live!" These words came to my mind. They are spoken by the captain of the spaceship Axiom in the animated movie "[WALL-E](#)." Human beings and big corporations, such as [Buy N Large Corp.](#), have polluted and contaminated Earth thousands of years earlier, forcing the human population to live off-planet on the Axiom. But Captain [B. McCrea](#) would rather risk returning to the polluted Earth and make it green and livable again than merely "survive," drifting aimlessly in space in the safe but sterile spaceship.

Fact is that on today's Earth, millions of people are not living. They are barely surviving. The Covid pandemic - with its strain on government resources and the massive job losses - has made it worse and possibly wiped out decades of gains in uplifting living conditions of populations in poor countries and communities.

The lifestyle of people in affluent societies is looked up to by the rest of the world as something to aspire for, something that defines success and happiness. Fashion, travel, shopping, high-tech, wine and dine - the good life that most of us dream about. To live, not just survive.

The world pursued this aspiration as the ultimate goal of development for decades. Increased demand for consumer goods has in turn created millions of jobs in factories and other sectors of the economy. Capitalism - even in [communist China](#) - has fostered the endless cycle of production, trade and consumption. Tourism too has become a major consumer good, and correspondingly, a source of jobs and livelihood. All this economic activity has enabled governments to spend more on health care and education, thus uplifting the quality of life for more people to live, not just survive. It also led to the climate crisis.

The call for action in addressing climate change is primarily directed at governments, especially the governments of the wealthy nations, as much of the action required is beyond the power of individual citizens. We can say no to single-use plastics, reduce road trips and air travel, plant trees, become vegetarians - but it won't amount to much vis-à-vis climate change if we are the only ones taking action. We cannot approach climate change this way. It's too little, too late. What needs to be changed is not just how we do things but what we do on a global scale. The world's nations must act as one. Unfortunately, the way that the rich nations have tackled the [Covid-19](#) vaccination issue gives rise to doubts whether these countries can truly lead the world out of the climate change crisis.

The Covid pandemic has turned lives upside down. It has shown how interdependent we are - how lockdowns in one corner of the world disrupted shipping, delivery and production schedules in another. Millions of workers lost their jobs resulting in untold misery. But this global consumption-production or demand-supply system plays the biggest part in the climate change crisis. How do we reconcile the need for short-term economic activity to sustain jobs, livelihood, governments and societies with the need to save the planet?



"I don't think it would be possible for human beings to fail to understand the importance of retaining the very factors that are keeping them alive," Janov Pelorat, Bliss' lover in Foundation and the Earth, replies to Bliss' above quoted comment. Maybe what we fail to fully understand is that these factors - the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere - are being destroyed as a result of our way of life. Meaning, the destruction is seldom deliberate or direct. We are not abnormal but our horizon is limited to the immediate, not the planetary, not the future. It takes someone like [Greta Thunberg](#) to put climate change from the proper perspective and demand radical action before it's too late.

Good living has long been associated with consumerism. A paradigm shift is needed. While science and technology are bound to develop processes and products that leave smaller and smaller ecological footprints, a post-consumerist society could be the sustainable path to pursue for now: where a good life is living with the knowledge that we restore and return to Mother Earth more than we destroy and take.



Singapore zoo breeds first panda cub

posted August 15, 2021 at 01:00 pm

by [AFP](#)

A panda bred via artificial insemination was born in Singapore's zoo on Saturday, the first cub to be born in the city-state.



This handout photograph made available by Wildlife Reserves Singapore on August 15, 2021 shows female giant panda Jia Jia holding her first panda cub, born on August 14, 2021 at an off-exhibit at River Safari in Singapore. AFP

Jia Jia, the zoo's 12-year-old female giant panda, gave birth to the cub after she was inseminated with frozen semen from 13-year-old Kai Kai, Wildlife Reserves Singapore announced on Sunday.

After several failed attempts in previous years, the zoo's animal carers—working with experts from China—hoped the pandas would mate naturally but ultimately decided to use artificial insemination.

"Jia Jia's first pregnancy and birth of a cub is a significant milestone for us in the care of this threatened species in Singapore," said Cheng Wen-Haur, Wildlife Reserves Singapore's deputy CEO, in a press release.

"This is the result of good animal care, assisted reproductive science, and sheer perseverance on the part of our staff coupled with valuable advice from the China panda experts."

The pandas are on a 10-year loan from China and arrived in Singapore in 2012.

Panda reproduction—in captivity or in the wild—is notoriously difficult, experts say, as few of the animals get in the mood or, even when they do, do not know how to mate.

Further complicating matters, the window for conception is small since female pandas are in heat only once a year, for about 24-48 hours.

The giant panda is listed as a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with fewer than 2,000 thought to remain in the wild.



unit responsible for enforcing environment legislation.

Crocodiles and lions' claws, skin or bones are illegally trafficked from Africa to the Far East, where they are used in traditional medicine or

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF
NEW ZEALAND DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION/XINHUA

ONE pekapeka, an elusive, rare, long-tailed bat is among many found near Franz Josef, New Zealand for the first time in decades. The discovery follows survey by a local tourism business funded through the Jobs for Nature program.



against the promise of Quebec's Covid-19 vaccine passport, which will go into effect early next month.

Holding signs that said "Freedom!" and "We are not laboratory rats," the demonstrators, many of whom came with their families, paraded peacefully under a blazing sun in downtown Montreal.

Quebecers wanting to eat at a restaurant, go to a bar, exercise at the gym or attend a festival will need to present proof of vaccination against the coronavirus beginning 1 September, under a measure introduced by the province earlier this week.

"It should be the choice of each



#JohnSutter #CNNOpinion #News

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Lilly Geisler goes to a lot of trouble to recycle. So she left CNN a voicemail asking: How much of my recycling actually gets recycled? John Sutter travels to Muncie, Indiana, to find out. See more from our 'Let's Talk About the Climate Apocalypse' series.

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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4iBH3TQPYE&ab_channel=CNN



LPA to dump rain over Northern Luzon

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Sta) - August 16, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — A low-pressure area (LPA) that entered the Philippine area of responsibility over the weekend will bring rain in areas in Northern Luzon.

In a bulletin issued at 4 p.m. yesterday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the weather disturbance was spotted 155 kilometers southeast of Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

The LPA has a slim chance of developing into a storm as it is likely to dissipate within 24 hours, according to PAGASA weather specialist Ana Clauren.

Cagayan Valley and the Cordilleras will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers due to localized thunderstorms.



'Hazy' conditions in northern, central Luzon unlikely due to volcanic activity —Solidum

Published August 16, 2021, 12:06 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



Science and Technology Undersecretary and Phivolcs OIC Dr. Renato Solidum Jr. (MANILA BULLETIN)

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) clarified on Sunday, Aug. 15, that the poor visibility observed in some areas in northern and central Luzon was not caused by volcanic smog or “vog.”

Science and Technology Undersecretary and Phivolcs OIC Dr. Renato Solidum Jr. said it is unlikely that this was caused by the eruption of the Fukutoku Okanoba submarine volcano in Japan.

“Dapat kung talagang sulfur dioxide ‘yan maaamoy nila ‘yung asupre (If it was really sulfur dioxide, it should smell of sulfur),” he said in a GMA interview.

“Yung sa Japan hindi dapat sabihin na humahalo at nagkakaroon ng fog dahil sa volcanic eruption...plume na nasa mataas na kilometrahe ang lipad niyan mula sa ibaba (It cannot be said that there was fog because of the volcanic eruption in Japan. The plume stretching for several kilometers is from the ground up),” Solidum explained.

He said there are several factors that may have caused the fog.

“Dahil meteorologic dahil sa dagat sila magfa-fog. Pero kung volcanic smog ‘yan, ang kasalukuyan at kahapon na direksiyon ng sulfur dioxide ay papuntang western. Hindi tayo sigurado kung umabot diyan sa Zambales. Pero kung mababa lang talaga ‘yan ay dapat nalanghap nila ‘yan (It could be meteorologic. Because they are close to the sea, they could experience fog. But if that is volcanic smog, the current and previous direction of the sulfur dioxide was towards the west. We are not sure if it reached Zambales. But if the sulfur dioxide is present then they should have smelled and inhaled it,” he added.

Vog is a type of air pollution caused by volcanoes.

Phivolcs said vog contains fine droplets of volcanic gas, such as sulfur dioxide, which is acidic and can cause eye, throat, and respiratory tract irritation in severities depending on the gas concentrations and durations of exposure.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/16/hazy-conditions-in-northern-central-luzon-unlikely-due-to-volcanic-activity-solidum/>

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10.7K new Covid-19 survivors hike PH recovery tally to 1,608,528

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 15, 2021, 6:10 pm



MANILA – The country's overall tally of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) patients who have beaten the disease reached 1,608,528 as 10,720 new recoveries were recorded Sunday.

The Department of Health (DOH) said the figure is equivalent to a 92.4-percent recovery rate from a total of 1,741,616 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

The DOH also tallied 14,749 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number of active cases in the country to 102,748 or 5.9 percent of all cases.

Of the active cases, 95.9 percent are mild, 1.1 percent are asymptomatic, 1.3 percent are severe, 0.93 percent are moderate, and 0.8 percent are in critical condition.

Also logged were 270 new fatalities, raising the death toll to 30,340 or 1.74 percent of the total cases.

The DOH said 364 duplicates were removed from the total case count as 360 of those were actually recoveries.

Meanwhile, five cases previously tagged as recoveries have been validated to be active cases and 141 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

According to DOH data on Aug. 13, about 23.5 percent of 59,857 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on Aug. 13 while three laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the last 14 days, the three non-reporting labs contribute, on average, 0.9 percent of samples tested and 1.1 percent of positive individuals.

To date, 70 percent of 3,900 intensive care unit beds, 60 percent of 20,100 isolation beds, 61 percent of 13,600 ward beds, and 51 percent of 3,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

In Metro Manila, 71 percent of 1,300 intensive care unit beds, 64 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 63 percent of 3,900 ward beds, and 56 percent of 1,100 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are being used. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1150519>



PHL logs 2nd biggest one-day tally: 14,749 new Covid-19 cases

BY CLAUDETH MOCON-CIRIACO AUGUST 15, 2021



Medical workers at the Covid-19 wards of PGH

THE Philippines recorded the second biggest single-day tally of Covid-19 cases since April after 14,749 additional infections were logged on Sunday, bringing the total number of cases in the country to 1,741,616.

The Department of Health (DOH) also reported 10,720 recoveries and 270 deaths.

Of the total number of infections, 5.9 percent (102,748) are active, 92.4 percent (1,608,528) have recovered, and 1.74 percent (30,340) have died.

The DOH said 364 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 360 are recoveries.

Moreover, five cases previously tagged as recoveries have been validated to be active cases. The 141 cases tagged previously as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

All laboratories were operational on August 13, 2021 while 3 laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the last 14 days, the three non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 0.9 percent of samples tested and 1.1 percent of positive individuals.



DOH detects 1st Lambda infection, 182 more Delta cases

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [August 15, 2021, 6:41 pm](#)



MANILA – Authorities have detected 182 additional cases of the more transmissible Delta variant of the coronavirus, raising the total to 807, the Department of Health (DOH) reported on Sunday.

In a statement, the DOH said that aside from the Delta variant, there were also new cases of the Alpha variant (41), Beta (66), Theta (40), and the first case of Lambda variant, based on the latest whole-genome sequencing report of the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health.

Of the 182, the 112 are local cases, 36 are returning overseas Filipino (ROFs), and 34 are being verified if they are local or ROF cases.

One is still active, 176 have been tagged as recovered, four died, and one case is being verified.

Of the 112 local cases, 42 cases had indicated addresses in the National Capital Region, 36 cases are from Central Luzon, eight cases from Calabarzon, six cases from Mimaropa, six cases from Northern Mindanao, four from Central Visayas, three from Davao Region, three in Caraga, two in Western Visayas, and one case each in the Cordillera Administrative Region and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Other details are being validated by regional and local health offices.

“Upon verification, it was determined that two cases that were initially tagged as Delta cases from NCR last Aug. 4 were Beta variant cases,” the DOH said.

Meanwhile, of the new 41 Alpha variant cases, 38 were local cases, one is an ROF, and two are being verified.

Two have died, 36 recovered, and three are being verified.

To date, cases of the Alpha variant, first detected in the United Kingdom, are at 2,232.

For the 66 new Beta variant cases, 56 are local cases and 10 cases are being verified as either local or ROF cases. Two have died, 63 recovered, and one outcome is under verification.

The Lambda variant case is a 35-year-old female but is still unknown if it is a local or ROF case.



She was asymptomatic and tagged as recovered after undergoing the 10-day isolation period.

The DOH is currently conducting back tracing the contacts.

The Lambda variant, first identified in Peru in August 2020, was classified as a Variant of Interest by the World Health Organization on June 14, 2021.

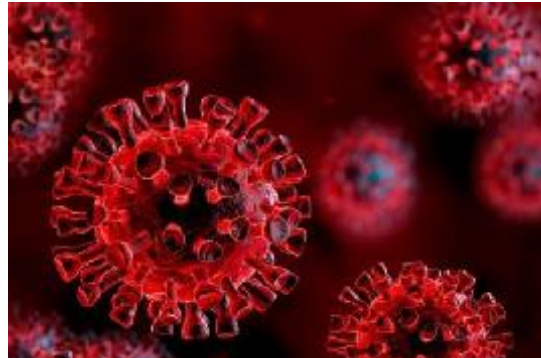
The DOH reiterated to the public that strict adherence to the minimum public health standards, strengthened Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate strategy, and vaccination are effective regardless of any variant of concern. **(PNA)**



Now there's Lambda, too

Published 6 hours ago on August 16, 2021 12:20 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



The Palace on Sunday said it was “too early” to predict whether the two-week hard lockdown in the National Capital Region (NCR) will be enough as Covid-19 cases in the country continue to rise, especially with the arrival of a new variant called “Lambda.”

Labor groups rejected an extension of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila which is supposed to end Friday, 20 August.

In a text message to the Daily Tribune, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said it would take two weeks for the government experts to know whether there is a need for an extension.

“It takes two weeks (for experts) to know this,” Roque said who is also the spokesperson of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

The statement came as the country logged another record 14,794 new cases of Covid-19, bringing the total caseload to 1,741,616.

The Department of Health (DoH) also reported its first case of the Lambda variant, a 35-year-old female which is currently being verified as to whether a local or returning overseas Filipino (ROF) case.

The Lambda variant, which was first identified in Peru in August last year, was classified as a Variant of Interest (VoI) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

WHO said this VoI has the potential to affect the transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 and is currently being monitored for its possible clinical significance.

Aside from Lambda variant case, the DoH also reported additional 182 cases of the highly transmissible Delta variant, which brought the total Delta variant caseload to 807.

Of the latest Delta variant cases, 112 are local cases, 36 are ROF, and 34 cases are currently being verified if these are local or ROF cases.

The agency said of the 112 local cases, 42 cases had indicated addresses in the NCR, while 36 cases had indicated addresses in Central Luzon, eight cases in CALABARZON, six cases in MIMAROPA, six cases in Northern Mindanao, four cases in Central Visayas, three cases in Davao Region, three cases in Caraga, two cases in Western Visayas, and one case each in the Cordillera Administrative Region and BARMM.

Based on the case line list, one is still active, 176 cases have been tagged as recovered, four cases have died, and one case has an outcome that is being verified.



MMC to meet this week
Four days before the ECQ expires on Friday, the Metro Manila Council (MMC) which is composed of the city mayors and chief executive of a lone municipality in NCR, will meet either this week to discuss the possibility of extending the lockdown in the metropolis.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Benjamin “Benhur” Abalos Jr. said he will meet the 17 NCR’s local chief executives on either “Tuesday or Wednesday.”

Abalos said factors needed to consider whether ECQ will be extended are the “number of people who will be unemployed as a result of the possible ECQ extension, hospitalization rates and the number of vaccinated persons in Metro Manila.”

He also warned that the Metro Manila mayors are not keen on the idea of extending the ECQ — the strictest quarantine qualification — if there will not be another round of cash aid for affected residents.

The MMDA chief clarified that the MMC has yet to make a final agreement on whether or not to extend the imposition of ECQ, contrary to a news report over the weekend.

Labor groups oppose
ECQ extension
Four major labor groups in the country from different industries rejected the possible extension of ECQ in Metro Manila, as the lockdown will severely affect the workers and businesses.

“As long as there is no support, as long as there is no help (from the government), the lockdown is over,” Trade Union Congress of the Philippines spokesperson Alan Tanjusay said.

Tanjusay backed the call of employer groups in the country who are also seeking support from the government to their affected businesses.

Defend Jobs Philippines spokesperson Christian Lloyd Magsoy also supported the claims that lockdowns are not the solution to curb the spread of the virus as this only amplify the unemployment rate in the country.

According to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) the imposed lockdown in NCR would further increase the number of poor people by up to 177,000 while 444,000 more will be unemployed.

Aside from the increase in the number of poor families and unemployment, NEDA also projected that the economic loss due to ECQ in Metro Manila and other areas will cost around P105 billion per week.

Kilusang Mayo Uno and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino both agreed that the current lockdown should be used to improve the government’s testing, contact tracing, isolation, as well as to ramp up its vaccination program.

Moderna vaccines arrive
Meanwhile, the country received a total of 469,200 doses of the American-made Moderna vaccine which arrived at Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Sunday afternoon.

The latest shipment was composed of government-procured 319,200 doses and 150,000 doses purchased by the private sector led by International Container Terminal Services Inc.



The latest bulk of vaccine was welcomed National Task Force Against Covid-19 Chief Implementer and vaccine czar Secretary Carlito G. Galvez Jr., US Embassy's Environment, Science, Technology, and Health unit chief Clare Bea and Department of Health-Bureau of International Health Cooperation director Dr. Maria Soledad Antonio.

Galvez expressed his gratitude to the US government and Moderna for the continuous shipment of the vaccines.

"I would like to thank the US government and Moderna for allowing us to have access to these very effective vaccines. We are very thankful that Moderna has given us regular deliveries," he said.

So far, the country received a total of 4,296,060 Moderna vaccines, of which 3,000,060 doses were donated by the US government through COVAX facility and the rest are procured.

The Philippine government and the private sector ordered 20 million doses of Moderna vaccine.

with Gab villegas and Alvin Murcia



‘Vax-resistant’ Lambda in PH

DOH confirms 35-year-old Filipino 1st case of ‘more transmissible variant of interest’

posted August 16, 2021 at 01:30 am

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta and Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Health on Sunday confirmed the country's first case of the COVID-19 Lambda variant, a “variant of interest” which is supposed to be more transmissible and vaccine-resistant than other strains.



PANDEMIC POST. The sign on the tarpaulin is clear enough to send two patients away from the FEU Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation in Quezon City on Sunday, August 15, 2021. Danny Pata

The DOH said the case was a 35-year-old female but said it has not determined if she is a returning overseas Filipino. She was asymptomatic and has already recovered after undergoing the 10-day isolation period, the department said.

Meanwhile, the DOH reported 14,749 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, the second highest number since the pandemic started last year. The highest incidence was registered on April 2, at 15,310 cases.

It was the second straight day with over 14,000 new cases.

This developed as the independent OCTA Research Group said the number of cases is expected to rise next week as the lockdown may not be that effective or the Delta variant is becoming dominant.

Guido David, OCTA Research fellow, said the National Capital Region's reproduction rate was at 1.90.

"The COVID-19 transmission is almost one-is-to-two in the NCR," Guido said.

Guido also said the country's coronavirus reproduction number, which refers to the number of people that each COVID-19 case can infect, has gone up to 1.46 this past week.

This was for August 8 to 14, the group said, when the country had an average of 11,000 new COVID-19 cases per day.

The Lambda variant, first detected in Peru last year, is more infectious than the original coronavirus strain emerging from Wuhan, China, and is more resistant to COVID-19 vaccines. Also, there were 270 new fatalities Sunday, bringing the COVID-19 death toll to 30,340. It was the third consecutive day with more than 200 new deaths reported.

Total active cases in the country again breached 100,000 on Sunday, after nearly four months below that level. There were 102,748 active cases, or 5.9 percent of the country's total caseload.

Recoveries were up by 10,720, bringing total recoveries to 1,608,528.

Interviewed on Super Radyo dzBB, Dr. Rontgene Solante, chairman of the Adult Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine unit of the San Lazaro Hospital, said Lambda variant's mutations are similar to the Delta variant first detected in India.

The Lambda variant was classified as a variant of interest by the World Health Organization on June 14.

The WHO identifies a coronavirus variant as a "variant of interest" (VOI) if, among other criteria, it "has been identified to cause community transmission...or has been detected in multiple countries."



At the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, a medical front line worker assists a patient admitted to the state-run hospital. NKTi, despite being at full capacity, says it will not turn away patients infected with COVID-19.

A variant of interest becomes a "variant of concern" (VOC) when it is associated with an "increase in transmissibility or detrimental change in COVID-19 epidemiology; [an] increase in virulence or change in clinical disease presentation; or [a] decrease in effectiveness of public health and social measures or available diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics."

Solante said the Lambda variant could be more transmissible and become resistant to vaccines like what has been seen from Delta and Alpha, which are already variants of concern.

"We don't have a lot of data yet on the Lambda variant because the countries that have experienced it are South American countries—Peru, Argentina—and it is one of the variants that is being monitored as it may become a variant of concern," he said.

"I believe this could cause death among people with low immune responses. It may be more transmissible too," the doctor added.

Solante urged the public to get vaccinated and strictly follow health protocols.

"The approach is the same. We must protect ourselves. We have to be careful," he said.

The number of Delta variant cases rose to 807 as 182 more infections were detected.

Of the additional 182 Delta variant cases, 112 are local cases, 36 are returning overseas Filipinos and 34 cases are currently being verified.



Of the 112 local cases, 42 cases had indicated addresses in the National Capital Region, while 36 cases were from Central Luzon.

Other areas with Delta cases were Calabarzon (eight), Mimaropa (six), Northern Mindanao (six), Central Visayas (four), Davao Region (three), Caraga (three), Western Visayas (two), Cordillera Administrative Region (one) and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (one).



MODERNA vaccines, about 469,200 doses, arrive at the NAIA Terminal 3 in Pasay City mid-afternoon of Sunday to help Filipinos in the battle against the coronavirus (COVID-19) which has infected and killed thousands since March last year. PNA

One case is still active, 176 cases have been tagged as recovered, four cases have died, and one case has an outcome that is being verified.

In other developments:

- The Philippine General Hospital said most children recover from COVID-19 even if they become severely or critically ill. The country's largest COVID-19 referral center has eight virus patients occupying its 12-bed pediatric ward, with four more patients waiting to be admitted, said Dr. Jonas del Rosario, PGH spokesman. The patients' ages range from a few days old up to 15 years old, he said.
- PGH will temporarily stop accepting sick people who are not infected with COVID-19. The hospital has 262 virus patients out of its 250 bed capacity but has added 50 more beds to its COVID-19 ward, Del Rosario said.
- Vice President Leni Robredo said poor contact tracing would limit the number of tests being conducted to detect the virus. In her weekly radio program, Robredo said the country's positivity rate as of Aug. 14 was 24.9 percent, which is higher than the international standard of less than 5 percent. Even if tests are available, as long as contact tracing remains weak, the country's line-up for tests is insufficient because it is not testing enough, she said.



Mahigit 400-K doses ng Moderna vaccine dumating na sa bansa

By [Bombo Jovino Galang](#) - August 15, 2021 | 9:50 PM

Nakatanggap muli ang bansa ng karagdagang 469,200 doses ng Moderna vaccine.

Nitong Linggo ng hapon ng lumapag sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport ang nasabing bakuna.

Sa nasabing bilang ang 319,200 doses nito ay nabili ng gobyerno ng bansa habang 150,000 naman ang binili ng mga private sectors.

Pinangunahan ni vaccine czar Carlito Galvez ang nasabing pagsalubong ng mga dumating na bakuna na sinamahan ni Clare Bea ang unit chief ng Environment, Science, Technology and Health ng US Embassy at sina Dr. Maria Soledad Antonio, director ng Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of International Health Cooperation; at Dr. Ariel Valencia, director, DOH.

Sa kabuuan ay aabot na sa 4,296,060 na Moderna vaccines ang dumating sa bansa kung saan 3,000,060 ang donasyon mula sa US sa pamamagitan ng COVAX facility at ang iba naman ay binili ng gobyerno.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/mahigit-400-k-doses-ng-moderna-vaccine-dumating-na-sa-bansa/>



PNP supports moves against illegal booster jabs

For those who are already vaccinated, let's not compete with our countrymen who also need protection.

Published 4 hours ago on August 16, 2021 01:30 AM

By Paula Antolin @tribunephil_phau



The Philippine National Police (PNP) expressed its support for ordinances that would prevent fully vaccinated persons from availing as boosters extra Covid-19 jabs, particularly those freely given by local government units.

General Guillermo Eleazar said, "Let's not be greedy for vaccines. Many of us are still not vaccinated, even the first dose, due to the limited supply reaching the country."

"Furthermore, the experts do not yet have a recommendation on whether the booster shots are safe and whether they are truly effective in protecting against Covid-19 and its various variants," he added.

Benhur Abalos, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairman, had called on mayors in the National Capital Region to come up with ordinances that will impose sanctions on persons who are getting booster shots using vaccine doses procured by the national government.

Abalos pointed out the country still has an insufficient supply of vaccines.

The PNP chief appealed to the public to think of the welfare of others who have not yet received even their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

"For those who are already vaccinated, let's not compete with our countrymen who also need protection," Abalos said.

"This is also for everyone's safety because we are not sure if the booster shots have a bad effect on the body, especially if different brands have been injected into us," he added.

The Department of Science and Technology is still conducting tests on the safety and efficacy of combining Covid-19 vaccine brands.

In Quezon City, two persons were slapped with complaints after getting booster shots in the city despite being fully vaccinated against Covid-19. They were charged with violating an ordinance prohibiting Covid-19 vaccination fraud.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/08/16/pnp-supports-moves-against-illegal-booster-jabs/>



The Delta variant: How companies should respond

BY **BUSINESSMIRROR** AUGUST 16, 2021



By Jeff Levin-Scherz & Patricia Toro

The spread of the highly contagious Delta variant of Covid-19 is causing infections and hospitalizations to rise again in the United States, even in communities with high vaccination rates.

Hopes that the pandemic would soon fade away have been dimmed by the spread of the variant, which appears to evade at least some of the immunity conferred by a past infection or vaccination.

And with low global vaccination rates, there are likely to be new variants that could be even more threatening. Consequently, we can expect sporadic cases and periodic outbreaks of Covid-19 in the months and years ahead. Given this prospect, how can employers fulfill their difficult obligation to protect their workers, customers and communities while continuing to grow and prosper?

By being creative, flexible and adaptive in their approaches, leaders can contain the threat now and handle other outbreaks as they arise. Here are some broad measures they can apply:

- Encourage vaccination: Vaccination remains the best way to prevent serious illness, hospitalization and death from Covid-19, and many employers have been encouraging their workers to get vaccinated. Communication is most effective when it draws attention to short-term benefits and incorporates stories; statistics on their own are much less compelling. Communication should be culturally appropriate: Diverse influencers can help spread the word on the importance of vaccination throughout the workforce.
- Weigh whether to mandate vaccination: The Delta variant has increased employer interest in mandates that require workers be vaccinated to perform their jobs on site. About 6% of Americans say they will only get vaccinated if it is required. Houston Methodist, an academic medical center comprising eight hospitals in Houston, offers guidelines that could prove helpful to employers currently considering vaccination mandates.
- Consider local transmission rates: The risk of workplace Covid-19 transmission is highly correlated with the community infection rate. Businesses can feel comfortable about having their remote workers return to their facilities in many communities where the current weekly infection rate is low (less than 10 per 100,000). However, in communities with weekly infection rates that exceed 50 per 100,000 the likelihood that an employee will bring Covid-19 into the workplace is very high.
- Reduce exposure through social distancing: Flexible schedules and remote work have helped create adequate social distancing. Moreover, employers are transitioning remote employees back to the workplace gradually or on a staggered basis to increase safety as they adopt new ways of working. Employers can use behavioral economics techniques to “nudge” employees to maintain social distancing in the workplace. If the capacity of a conference room is two people, be sure there are only two chairs in it!



- **Improve ventilation:** Ventilation in a building affects transmission, and increasing the amount of air that's exchanged indoors decreases the likelihood of infection in the workplace. Improving ventilation doesn't always require expensive renovations; employers could choose to open windows in the office, add more air exchanges and improve the filtration systems on existing air-handling systems.
- **Decide when to recommend or require masks:** Masks provide protection against both being infected with Covid-19 and infecting others. More and more localities are reinstating universal indoor masking. We expect mask mandates to expand with increased infection rates. Employers can avoid complaints under the Americans with Disabilities Act about masking requirements by abiding by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's guidelines.
- **Encourage testing:** While few employers were performing Covid-19 screenings last spring, many will take another look at this tool as the Delta variant continues to spread. Antigen tests are now readily available, and the cost is modest. Employers can instruct employees to test themselves at home and can arrange follow-up confirmatory tests for those who have no symptoms but are positive. And the golden rule about sickness in the workplace still holds true: All employees should be instructed not to come to work if they feel ill.
- **Be cautious about reinstating travel:** Most companies eliminated international business travel earlier in the pandemic, and many curtailed domestic trips as well. The more contagious variants mean that leaders should err on the side of caution in allowing employees to travel to places where risks of Covid-19 infection are fairly high. In those instances, business meetings should be conducted by videoconference.
- **Communicate exposures:** Many workplaces will experience Covid-19 cases over the coming months. Employers should honestly communicate about exposures in given facilities, while respecting the medical privacy of employees who have reported that they have caught the virus.
- **Support mental health care:** Attending to your employees' mental health needs will be even more important in the coming months. Rates of depression and anxiety have surged during the pandemic, and last year saw the largest number of drug overdose deaths ever in the US. Many are mourning the deaths of friends and loved ones. Employers can continue offering access to virtual and digital mental health care, although they should take into account the fact that scientific evidence of the effectiveness of many digital mental health apps is still limited.
- **Stay current on the effectiveness of interventions:** Last, we recommend that businesses keep up to date on which interventions are effective in limiting the spread of Covid-19 and which ones have limited value. For example, 60% of businesses we surveyed in May reported that they were conducting temperature screenings when employees entered the workplace, and only a third of these intended to remove the practice in the coming months—even though temperature screening has been proved to be ineffective in decreasing workplace transmission. We also now know that normal cleaning is adequate to protect against Covid-19 infections in most instances, and disinfection can be reserved for high-touch, high-traffic surfaces and workplaces with a known Covid-19 case. Employers can create more bandwidth for effective pandemic or business initiatives by eliminating those which minimally increase safety.

Covid-19 has been a humanitarian tragedy and has upended business plans across the globe. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not going to end soon. Employers and their workers must continue to remain nimble in how they cope with it. As the local situation dictates, employers must remain vigilant and implement existing and new processes that are proven to keep employees, customers and communities safe while meeting organizational needs.

Jeff Levin-Scherz is an assistant professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Patricia Toro is a senior director in the Health Management Practice of Willis Towers Watson.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/08/16/the-delta-variant-how-companies-should-respond/>



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 519

AGOSTO 15, 2021

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<p>ICU BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS) 70% Utilized</p> <p>ISOLATION BEDS (20.1K TOTAL BEDS) 60% Utilized</p> <p>WARD BEDS (13.6K TOTAL BEDS) 61% Utilized</p> <p>VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS) 51% Utilized</p>	<p>ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS) 71% Utilized</p> <p>ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS) 64% Utilized</p> <p>WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS) 63% Utilized</p> <p>VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS) 56% Utilized</p>	<p>Mild 95.9%</p> <p>1.1% Asymptomatic</p> <p>0.8% Critical</p> <p>1.3% Severe</p> <p>0.93% Moderate</p>

RESBAKUNA KASANGGA NG BIDA

UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ang pagpapaigting ng ating pag-iingat ang susi sa muling pagbangon ng buong bansa. Sa lahat ng lugar, sitwasyon, at oras, **iwasang maging kampante** upang lubos na malayo sa peligro ng COVID-19. Sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas ng COVID-19, agad na makipag-ugnayan sa ating **BHERTS o One COVID Referral Center** para mapigilan ang higit pang pagkakahawa. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

Mangyari lamang din na **gamitin natin ang mga hotline** 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.



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

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TANONG NG BAYAN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ON
VACCINATION
DURING ECQ



RESBAKUNA
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Healthy
Pilipinas





1. Will vaccination still continue even in areas under ECQ?



Yes. Regional and Local Vaccine Operation Centers (R/LVOCs) shall make sure that vaccination services continue uninterrupted, even in areas under ECQ.

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2. Is pre-registration needed for vaccination?



Yes. Strict scheduling will be implemented and pre-registration is required to avoid mass gatherings and prevent transmission of COVID-19.

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3. Are walk-in vaccine recipients allowed?



No. However, LGUs may allow senior citizens to get vaccinated without prior registration, as long as minimum public health standards are observed.

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4. Where do I register?



You can access the online registration of the different LGUs or contact your LGU for manual registration.

You can check the link to your LGU's online registration at bit.ly/VaccineRegistrationDirectory.

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5. Who will be prioritized for pre-registration and vaccination?



Priority for pre-registration and vaccination will be for **senior citizens (priority group A2)** and **persons with controlled comorbidities (priority group A3)**.

Other priority groups should still be allowed to register.

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6. Will vaccination in medical centers and hospitals continue during ECQ?



No. Vaccination in medical centers and hospitals shall be temporarily suspended.

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7. Will transportation be provided for scheduled vaccine recipients during ECQ?



LGUs are highly encouraged to provide transportation services for scheduled vaccine recipients and vaccination work force.

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8. What other transport options are available?



The IATF has allowed the continued operation of public transport in NCR during ECQ from **August 6 to August 20**.

However, only Authorized Persons Outside Residence (APORs) will be accommodated by public transport services.

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9. Is the “no vaccine, no work” policy allowed?



No. Employees who choose not to get vaccinated or fail to get vaccinated shall not be discriminated against in terms of employment.

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
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