

16 JANUARY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR seeks protection of Sierra Madre

Published 1 day ago on January 15, 2022 12:03 AM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — To stave off climate change, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has sought the protection of the 500-kilometer Sierra Madre Mountain Range (SMMR).

During a visit to Aurora Province, Cimatu said that the SMMR has been Luzon's natural barrier against inclement weather that breaks upon impact on the mountain range. He cited that the protection of the mountain range is critical in protecting the island from storm surges brought about by climate change.

"Prioritize the protection and conservation of Sierra Madre. Saving this mountain range is equivalent to saving the lives of many people from damage and destruction brought by natural calamities," Cimatu said.

Home to the largest remaining tract of old-growth tropical rainforest, the SMMR is the longest mountain range in the country, spanning a total of 1.6-million hectares of land area in Luzon. Cimatu said that the SMMR is also considered a megadiverse ecosystem, as it homes hundreds of wildlife species that is endemic in the Philippines.

DENR Central Luzon Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. cited that Secretary Cimatu prioritizes forest protection and biodiversity conservation programs in the provinces of Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan, where the SMMR traverses.

He added that the agency has deployed 130 forest rangers and protection officers in SMMR, providing security to 15 protected areas, and 21 watersheds within the mountain range's vicinity. These 130 personnel have been instrumental in protecting standing trees in the forest areas from illegal loggers, saving the country's remaining natural resources.

Eight forest product monitoring stations were erected by the agency to safeguard the SMMR from illegal loggers and poachers. Moreno said that these are located at the entry and exit points of major routes of forest products in Pangasinan-Zambales-Bataan-Pampanga-Bulacan-Manila Road, Bataan-Pampanga Road, Manila North Road via Mc Arthur Hiway, Tarlac-Sta. Rosa Road, Quirino-Aurora Road, Cabanatuan-Bongabon Road, Dingalan-Cabanatuan Road, Dingalan-Gen. Nakar Road, and San Miguel and Norzagaray roads in Bulacan.

The DENR here likewise intensified its information, education and communication program on the importance of SMMR's forests and biodiversity, and launched with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) the Protect Wildlife program in 2018 to combat wildlife trafficking.



Moreno appealed to the public to remain vigilant in reporting to the nearest DENR office in their area any destructive activities within the SMMR to prevent unscrupulous groups from conducting illegal logging, poaching and encroachment.

These illegal activities and other environmental violations may be reported through the DENR Region 3 hotline number: 0945-368-5303.



DENR turns over P111.8M projects in Nueva Vizcaya

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) January 16, 2022

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: At least P111.8 million worth of infrastructure projects under the Forestland Management Project (FMP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 were turned over in separate ceremonies to five local government units in the province.

The agroforestry support facilities were turned over to Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma of the lone congressional district of Nueva Vizcaya by DENR Region 2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan and DENR provincial chief Giovannie Magat.

Irrigation pipeline systems were turned over to Barangay Nansiakan, Kayapa and Carolotan in Dupax del Sur; Barangay Nantawakan in Kasibu; and Barangay Salingsingan in Ambaguio town. Also turned over to the local government were the pathway in Barangay Bit-nong in Dupax del Norte; access road in Barangay Palabotan in Dupax del Sur; and two bridges in Barangay Canabay in Dupax del Sur.

Cuaresma expressed her gratitude to the DENR for allocating funds that will improve the lives of her constituents, whose livelihood depends on agriculture.

"The communities should support the DENR in protecting the environment by not practicing kaingin farming, joining in the protection against forest fires and being stewards of the environment," she said.

Local officials of Ambaguio, Kayapa, Dupax del Sur, Dupax del Norte and Kasibu towns and representatives from people's organizations also attended the turnover ceremonies.

Village officials, meanwhile, expressed their commitment to take care and maintain the infrastructure projects given to them.

Bambalan said these projects are primarily intended to provide convenient access to the more than 5,000-hectare plantations established by the DENR and people's organizations under the FMP.

She said these projects will also facilitate economic activities as the produce of the farmers will be easily transported from the farm to the market. "While we support your livelihood, we hope you will not forget to conserve and develop our environment," Bambalan told villagers.

Bambalan also expressed hopes that the projects will bridge partnership among the national government agencies, local government and the community in the protection and rehabilitation of the forestlands.



#NoFilter: Heavy siltation turns river, coastal waters to orange



ACE JUNE RELL S. PEREZ January 15, 2022

RESIDENTS of Banaybanay, Davao Oriental are concerned over the heavy siltation incident that caused the town's river and coastal waters to turn to orange.

A set of photos uploaded Friday, January 14, on Facebook by Emelyn Q. Morillo and Rudolph Delacruz Espe showed that the Mapagba River in Barangay Maputi, Banaybanay, Davao Oriental is currently far from its natural state due to discoloration.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Davao Region (DENR-Davao), in a public statement released Friday, said it created an investigating team to assess and evaluate what caused the incident.

The team, composed of personnel from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Davao, Environmental Management Bureau-Davao, and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Lupon, were deployed Saturday, January 15, to investigate the area.

However, DENR-Davao initially said the heavy siltation incident may have been caused by the large volume of water following "heavy rains [that] occurred for more than 12 hours with an accumulated rainfall intensity of 111 millimeter from January 13 at 12 noon to January 14 at 5 a.m."

Siltation, as defined in Encyclopedia of Environmental Health (Second Edition), 2019, is water pollution most often caused by soil erosion or sediment spill.

Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) Executive Director Mark Peñalver told SunStar Davao that residents attributed the incident to a mining operation in the area.

"We are still gathering information regarding the situation. We are also closely coordinating with some members of the community for us to have a better assessment of the situation," he said.

"We at Idis have always been an anti-mining advocate as this kind of activity does more harm than good to the people and the environment. Should we continue to allow this kind of activity, we will see more of these situations in the future, worse, dead rivers," Peñalver added.

DENR's immediate response, he said, was a welcome development.

"It is good to know that DENR has responded to the issue and will conduct an investigation. I hope they will also listen to the people on the ground as they are greatly affected," he said.

(This is a developing story. Please refresh page for more updates.)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1918194/davao/local-news/nofilter-heavy-siltation-turns-river-coastal-waters-to-orange>



GMA News

17h

Ikinagulat ng mg residente sa Banaybanay, Davao Oriental na nag-kulay orange ang dagat sa Barangay Maputi.

Sa initial assessment ng DENR 11, nagkaroon ng malakas na ulan sa lugar na nagdulot ng 'massive siltation' na posibleng dahilan ng discoloration ng tubig. Iniimbestigahan pa ito ng ahensya para matukoy ang dahilan ng naturang insidente.

Nag-aalala naman ang mga residente na maapektuhan ang kanilang pangangisda na isa sa kanilang pangunahing hanapbuhay. Ayon sa mga residente at environmental advocates, maaaring epekto ito ng laterite mining na malapit sa nasabing lugar.] via One Mindanao



One Mindanao is with Kint Lloyd Siodina and Zhaimer Lee Young.

23h

ORANGE SEA?

Nakurat karon ang mga residente sa Banaybanay, Davao Oriental nga nahimong color orange ang sapa ug dagat sa barangay Maputi ug Mapagba.

Nabalaka ang mga residente nga maapektuhan ang ilang panginabuhian nga sagad pagpangisda.

Sa initial assessment sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources 11, migawas nga epekto kuni sa kusog nga ulan nga nasinati sa lugar nga milungtud og 12 oras. Hinungdan sa 'massive siltation' nga maoy posibleng hinungdan sa discoloration sa tubig.

Apan pipila sa mga residente ug environmental advocates, nagtuo nga epekto kuni sa laterite mining nga anaa duol sa maong lugar.

#OneMindanao

#GMARegionalTV

See Translation

3.1K

666 Comments 402 Shares



TINGNAN: Isang sawa ang nakita sa compound ng City Social Welfare and Development Office sa General Santos City noong Martes.

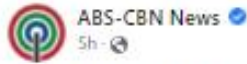
Ang nakitang ahas ay may timbang na 40 kilo at habang 12 talampakan. Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Soccsksargen, nakatakdang pakawalan ang ahas sa natural nitong tahanan matapos masuri ng beterinaryo. (📷: DENR) | via Hernel Tocmo

BASA HIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../alamin-bakit-may-lumalabas...>



👍👎👏 117

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TINGNAN: Isang patay na spinner dolphin ang napadpad sa karagatang sakop ng Barangay Marita, President Roxas, Capiz Miyerkoles.

May haba itong 1.83 metro at bigat na 40 kilo. Pumasok umano sa lambat ang dolphin na nagmula pa sa karagatan ng Pilar, Capiz.

Ayon sa Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, ito ang pinakaunang pagkakataon na may napadpad na dolphin sa lugar.

Paalala ng CaPENRO sa mga residente na kung may makitang dolphin o kaparehong marine mammal ay huwag itong hulihin at pabayaang lang. Kaagad namang inilibing ang dolphin. (CaPENRO) | via Rolan Escaniel

Kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../tingnan-2-grupo-ng-mga...>



👍👍 213

12 Comments 6 Shares



TINGNAN: Isang patay na pawikan ang napadpad sa dalampasigan ng Barangay Casanayan, Pilar, Capiz noong Linggo.

Ayon sa nakakita na si Jose Borres, naaagnas na ang pawikang may habang higit 2-talampakan at lapad na lagpas 2-talampakan. Tinatayang higit 100 kilo naman ang timbang nito.

Kaagad na inilibing ang pawikan matapos makuhanan ng detalye ng mga awtoridad. (📷: Jose Borres/CAPENRO) | via Rolan Escaniel

BASA HIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/PAWIKAN>



👍👍 376

16 Comments 10 Shares



Building back better agenda to help minimize impacts of climate change

BYRIZAL RAOUL REYES JANUARY 16, 2022

Being a disaster-prone country, it is said that the “Build Back Better” philosophy is needed in the Philippines for it to be able to at least minimize the impacts of severe typhoons and other natural disturbances caused by climate change.

However, it seems the country has not learned its lesson well as Super typhoon Odette (international name code Rai) mercilessly pummeled large parts of Visayas and Mindanao.

Renato Redentor Constantino, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities executive director, told the BusinessMirror in a recent phone interview that the local government units (LGUs) in the affected provinces did not even have solar powered units and satellite phones as part of the contingency plans.

“Bohol, Cebu, Siargao and Puerto Princesa should have benefitted from the lessons of Typhoon Yolanda [in November 2013],” he said.

Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners fellow Nathaniel von Einsiedel told the BusinessMirror in an e-mail interview that implementing Build Back Better is easier said than done.

He said there were various reasons why the destruction wrought by Odette was severe despite the popular acceptance of the Build Back Better philosophy.

One is the still inadequate integration and operationalization of disaster-risk reduction and climate change-adaptation measures by certain LGUs in their full range of functions, which may be because of financial limitations, as in the case of fourth to sixth class municipalities.

Another is the inability of certain LGUs to effectively enforce land-use regulations and other development controls that are aimed at preventing settlements on disaster-prone and other danger zones.

“Related to this is the inability of certain LGUs to provide resettlement sites with adequate job and livelihood opportunities, thus, resulting in people displaced by the disaster returning to their previous neighborhoods,” explained Einsiedel, also a principal urban planner of Consultants for Comprehensive Environmental Planning Inc.

He said architects, together with civil engineers, have long been involved in designing and promoting disaster-resilient houses and buildings.

He noted that a number of architects have been involved in the formulation and updating of the National Building Code that has integrated higher standards in consideration of more recent disaster risks.

Amid the current disasters, he said architects can craft local building codes suited to the particular disaster risks that a province, city or municipality faces, instead of just relying on the National Building Code which is too generalized.

“However, the preparation of a Build Back Better roadmap cannot be left to architects alone. It requires the involvement and commitment of a much broader set of stakeholders, including local communities and the business sector,” Einsiedel said .

If the Build Back Better agenda or roadmap is implementable, Einsiedel pointed out that it has to be formulated by the LGUs’ key stakeholders, such as the business sector, civil society organizations and the academe, among others.



Another major lesson was the failure of LGUs to build genuine evacuation centers by the LGUs. Einsiedel cited one reason is that there are LGUs which do not own land to build the centers on.

“[This] technically can be addressed by the use of eminent domain, but which many elected officials do not want to exercise because of its political sensitivity,” he said.

Furthermore, he cited the dearth of financial resources to pay for the land to be acquired is a major constraint to pursue the plan.

“Assuming these two constraints are overcome, a ‘genuine’ evacuation center should, at least, have adequate sanitation and kitchen facilities. Ideally, it should be multi-functional, meaning it should serve functions, in addition to accommodating evacuees, such as income-earning spaces for concessionaires that can help cover maintenance costs,” Einsiedel pointed out.

Although the Philippines is a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development and other related manifestos, including the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals, the challenge is that the policy is not translated into implementation.

As a disaster-prone country, he said disaster resiliency should really be on top of its development agenda. For it to gain traction, Einsiedel believes it requires nothing less than the president’s support.



Government bans fossil fuels, mining from green financing schemes

[Elijah Felice Rosales](#) - The Philippine Star January 15, 2022 | 12:00am



Fossil fuels, when burned, release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, making them major contributors to global warming.

Steve Buissonne via Pixabay

MANILA, Philippines — The government has moved to mitigate the damage of fossil fuel production and extractive mining to the environment by restricting investors' access to sustainable financing schemes.

Under the Sustainable Finance Framework, the government listed ways to raise funds through green, social or sustainable bonds, loans and similar debt instruments.

The financing instruments, proceeds of which will be used to fund social projects, should comply with the International Capital Market Association's green bond principles, social bond principles and sustainability bond guidelines, as well as the ASEAN Green Bond Standards and the Loan Market Association's Green Loan Principles.

The framework requires the government to deploy proceeds from sustainable finance to eligible projects that promote environmental protection and social intervention. These projects include access to essential goods, affordable basic infrastructure and food security.

The government can also use sustainable finance to bankroll measures that will generate employment opportunities, advance socioeconomic rights and provide affordable housing.

In response to the pandemic, funds can also be allocated for COVID expenditures, such as the manufacture of essential supplies and medical products.

Likewise, proceeds from sustainable finance must be directed to efforts to promote clean transportation, adapt to climate change and manage environmental assets.

Resources should be poured as well into projects mainstreaming the development, operation and distribution of renewable energy like biomass, geothermal, hydropower, solar and wind.

On the other hand, the framework disallows spending any proceeds from sustainable finance on fossil fuel production and extractive mining.

Similarly, it prohibits funding projects that manufacture alcoholic and tobacco products, produce lethal weapons and military equipment, encourage gambling activities, involve conflict minerals, and engage in the logging business. The framework allows investments in palm oil plantations if these are accredited by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil.

The framework also excludes projects associated with child and forced labor and the involuntary displacement of residential communities.



Further, it bars the government from using sustainable finance for activities that infiltrate indigenous lands or are situated near protected areas.

The government plans to offer its first-ever green bonds this year to maximize public and private funds in pursuing sustainable projects.

In doing so, it intends to widen its financing options for raising infrastructure that can contribute in reaching the national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030.



Scientists explore Thwaites, Antarctica's 'doomsday' glacier

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS JANUARY 16, 2022



This 2020 photo provided by the British Antarctic Survey shows the Thwaites glacier in Antarctica.

A team of scientists is sailing to “the place in the world that’s the hardest to get to” so they can better figure out how much and how fast seas will rise because of global warming eating away at Antarctica’s ice.

Thirty-two scientists are starting a more than two-month mission aboard an American research ship to investigate the crucial area where the massive but melting Thwaites glacier faces the Amundsen Sea and may eventually lose large amounts of ice because of warm water.

The Florida-sized glacier has gotten the nickname the “doomsday glacier” because of how much ice it has and how much seas could rise if it all melts—more than two feet (65 centimeters) over hundreds of years.

Because of its importance, the United States and the United Kingdom are in the midst of a joint \$50 million mission to study Thwaites, the widest glacier in the world by land and sea.

Not near any of the continent’s research stations, Thwaites is on Antarctica’s western half, east of the jutting Antarctic Peninsula, which used to be the area scientists worried most about.

“Thwaites is the main reason I would say that we have so large an uncertainty in the projections of future sea level rise and that is because it’s a very remote area, difficult to reach,” Anna Wahlin, an oceanographer from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, said in a recent interview from the Research Vessel Nathaniel B. Palmer, which was scheduled to leave its port in Chile hours later.

“It is configured in a way so that it’s potentially unstable. And that is why we are worried about this,” she said.

Thwaites is putting about 50 billion tons of ice into the water a year.

The British Antarctic Survey says the glacier is responsible for 4 percent of global sea rise, and the conditions leading to it to lose more ice are accelerating, University of Colorado ice scientist Ted Scambos said from the McMurdo land station last month.

Oregon State University ice scientist Erin Pettit said Thwaites appears to be collapsing in three ways:

Melting from below by ocean water.

The land part of the glacier “is losing its grip” to the place it attaches to the seabed, so a large chunk can come off into the ocean and later melt.

The glacier’s ice shelf is breaking into hundreds of fractures like a damaged car windshield. This is what Pettit said she fears will be the most troublesome with six-mile (10-kilometer) long cracks forming in just a year.



No one has stepped foot on the key ice-water interface at Thwaites before. In 2019, Wahlin was on a team that explored the area from a ship using a robotic ship but never went ashore.

Wahlin's team will use two robot ships—her own large one called Ran which she used in 2019, and the more agile Boaty McBoatface, the crowdsource named drone that could go further under the area of Thwaites that protrudes over the ocean—to get under Thwaites.

The ship-bound scientists will be measuring water temperature, the sea floor and ice thickness. They'll look at cracks in the ice, how the ice is structured and tag seals on islands off the glacier.

Thwaites "looks different from other ice shelves," Wahlin said. "It almost looks like a jumble of icebergs that have been pressed together. So it's increasingly clear that this is not a solid piece of ice like the other ice shelves are, nice smooth solid ice. This was much more jagged and scarred." **AP**

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DENR

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COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Philippines breaks record COVID-19 cases again with 39,004 new infections

Philstar.com January 15, 2022 | 4:00pm



Health workers attend to patients at the Mandaluyong City Medical Center on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022.
The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines logged 39,004 new coronavirus infections on Saturday, topping the previous record of 37,207 cases set just a day before.

The new infections bring the country's total caseload to 3,168,379. Of this, 280,813 are currently sick.

The country also reported that 43 more patients died due to COVID-19, pushing the death toll to 52,858, while recoveries increased by 23,613 to 2,834,708.

The positivity rate stood at 47.1% out of 78,774 tests, which is way above the 5% threshold set by the World Health Organization for opening economies.

Fourteen laboratories did not submit data to the DOH.

Community spread of Omicron in Metro Manila

- Weeks after the country began seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases, primarily in Metro Manila, the Department of Health says there is **community transmission of the Omicron variant** in the capital region.
- OCTA Research fellow Guido David says the daily growth rate of COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila is "**steadily declining**," noting that this decreased to 3% on Saturday from 5% a day before.
- Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the Department of Health has also noticed a slowing down of the increase in cases in Metro Manila, but cautioned that infections are still rising.
- The government's pandemic task force has allowed quarantine hotels to **also serve as isolation facilities** for people who test positive for COVID-19.

— Xave Gregorio

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/15/2154073/philippines-breaks-record-covid-19-cases-again-39004-new-infections>



COVID-19 surge accelerating in provinces – OCTA

[Janvic Mateo](#) - The Philippine Star January 16, 2022 | 12:00am



A policeman checks the vaccination cards of commuters at a checkpoint in Cotabato City yesterday.
John Unson

MANILA, Philippines — The surge in COVID-19 cases is either “maturing” or “accelerating” in more provinces outside Metro Manila, a member of the OCTA Research Group said yesterday.

While the increase in new cases appears to be slowing down in Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan, OCTA fellow Guido David said the surge is maturing in Laguna, Pampanga and Benguet.

David had earlier explained that maturing means the outbreak is in the middle to peak stage.

The classification is a notch lower than the “severe” outbreak, which OCTA said is happening in Metro Manila.

David said the outbreak in Batangas and Isabela is accelerating and is in the early stages in Cebu, Pangasinan, Quezon, Iloilo, Camarines Sur, Davao del Sur and Negros Occidental.

OCTA’s outbreak classification is based on the increase in new cases, average daily attack rate (ADAR) and reproduction number.

Cavite recorded the highest number of average new cases from Jan. 8 to 14 with 2,399 (up 258 percent from the preceding week) followed by Rizal with 1,903 (up 254 percent) and Bulacan, 1,733 (up 295 percent).

While still considered very high, the one-week growth rate of less than 300 percent in the three provinces was the lowest.

Camarines Sur, which logged an average of 197 new cases, has the highest growth rate at 745 percent followed by Cebu, with 632 percent (average of 354 daily new cases), and Davao del Sur, 615 percent (average of 165 daily new cases).

Baguio, Naga, Angeles, Santiago, Dagupan and Lucena may be considered as critical risk along with the entire National Capital Region among highly urbanized cities, David said.

He said the five cities logged “very high” ADAR and reproduction number based on data from Jan. 8 to 14.



Pangasinan, which recorded only two cases on Jan. 1, logged 290 new infections on Friday. The average daily tally in the past week increased to 181.

Calasiao, which logged 94 active cases; Urdaneta City, 85; Lingayen, 80; San Carlos City, 62; Malasiqui, 60; Sta. Barbara, 59; Binmaley, 50; Mangaldan, 49; Asingan, 41, and Bautista, 38, are on the COVID watchlist.

In Davao City, COVID-19 task force spokesperson Dr. Michelle Schlosser said granular instead of total lockdown would be imposed in areas that reported an increase in infections.

Schlosser said a government office has been placed on granular lockdown.

Davao logged 307 new cases on Thursday, 243 on Wednesday, 110 on Tuesday and 40 on Monday.

'No vax, no entry'

As this developed, the Cotabato city government imposed a "no vaccine card, no entry" policy at its borders starting yesterday.

A number of commuters, passengers of private vehicles and cargo truck drivers and their crew were denied entry for failing to present their vaccination cards.

The no vaccination or no negative COVID test, no entry policy will also be implemented at the Clark Freeport Zone starting yesterday.

The Clark Development Corp. (CDC) said the policy would apply to freeport workers being picked up by company buses at the gates.

The CDC said the only unvaccinated persons to be allowed entry are those going to hospitals and other health facilities. – **Eva Visperas, Edith Regalado, John Unson, Ding Cervantes**



Omicron cases may double in February: DOH

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor January 15, 2022, 4:17 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) is seeing a community transmission of the Omicron coronavirus variant in the National Capital Region although a peak in the number of cases is not expected until next month.

In a televised public briefing on Saturday, DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire noted that local cases of the Omicron variant have been detected despite a lag in the whole genome sequencing.

Community transmission happens when the transmission of an infectious disease within a group is extensive.

To date, the country has confirmed 43 Omicron variant cases – 21 local cases and 22 from international travelers.

World Health Organization country representative Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe previously said the Omicron variant may soon replace Delta as the dominant variant in the Philippines.

Vergeire said the number of active cases may double by next month.

“We are still yet to see the peak *na baka mangyari sa dulo ng buwan na ito* (which may happen at the end of this month) or even later in the second week of February,” she added.

Considering all factors, Vergeire said efficiently managing available resources is the government’s strategy now.

On Saturday, the country logged 39,004 new infections which pushed the active cases to 280,813 and the total case tally to 3,168,379.

There were also 23,613 new recoveries or an overall 2,834,708 representing 89.5 percent of total cases. **(PNA)**



Alert level escalation depends on hospital utilization rate

By Lade Jean Kabagani **January 15, 2022, 4:09 pm**



Philippine Red Cross emergency field hospital, Lung Center of the Philippines (Photo courtesy of PRC)

MANILA – The shift to Alert Level 4 status in the National Capital Region (NCR) and neighboring areas is possible but only if the hospital bed utilization rate for coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) patients increases to 71 percent.

Acting Presidential Spokesperson, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, explained on Saturday that the escalation of the quarantine classification would also take into consideration the two-week growth rate, average daily attack rate (ADAR), and health care utilization rate.

The ADAR is the number of new cases over a certain period divided by the population.

The hospital bed utilization rate in NCR is at 60.03 percent, while the intensive care unit bed utilization is at 55 percent as of January 13.

"We are *talagang* (really) actively monitoring our total bed utilization rate. So right now, *nasa* 60 percent *pa siya. Hindi pa pumapalo ng* (it is still at 60 percent. It has not yet hit) 71 percent," Nograles said in a radio interview.

The government also monitors the classification of the patients using the hospital beds, he added.

"We want to emphasize *na dapat 'yung mga hospital beds po natin ay naka-reserve po iyan para sa mga severe at critical na mga patients ng Covid, (the) elderly, and those with comorbidities o 'yung mga tinatawag na mga vulnerable population natin* (We want to emphasize that hospital beds should be reserved for Covid-19 patients with severe and critical symptoms, the elderly, and those with comorbidities or those we call our vulnerable population)," Nograles said.

Mild and asymptomatic patients can quarantine at home or stay in facilities if they have no area where they could isolate. **(PNA)**



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 672

ENERO 15, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

8.9%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
280,813

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

89.5%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,834,708

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.67%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
52,858

MGA BAGONG KASO **39,004**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **23,613**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **43**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,168,379**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 13

DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 15
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 13

47.1%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

78,774

BILANG NG
TINVEST

HALOS
98.3%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

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

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.4K TOTAL BEDS)	48% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.3K TOTAL BEDS)	48% Utilized
WARD BEDS (13.4K TOTAL BEDS)	51% Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	22% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.1K TOTAL BEDS)	55% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (5.0K TOTAL BEDS)	52% Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)	69% Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	26% Utilized

8,928 Asymptomatic
267,185 Mild
2,925 Moderate
1,472 Severe
303 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
seeyoudoc.com
SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
konsulta.md
KonsultaMD

CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

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

TelAventusMD
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
TelAventusMD

HealthNow
healthnow.ph/
help@healthnow.ph
HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

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



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

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



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

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

16 JANUARY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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[#manilabay](#)



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MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY TAGONG BURAK DATI! NGAYON PUTING BUHANGIN NA! Miz July

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Miz July

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Manila Bay UPDATE MYC
maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
#SaveManilaBay

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Malapit ng matapos ang termino ni Pangulong Duterte. Nawa ang susunod na lider ng bansa ay syang magpapatuloy ng mga proyektong kanyang ginawa. Bukod tanging ang Pangulong Duterte ang nagbigay ng atensyon na maipaayos ang Manila bay.

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
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
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