

17 JANUARY 2022, MONDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## DENR intensifies environmental law enforcement in NCR

JAN 16, 2022, 6:05 PM

Santiago Celario  
Writer

### ***DENR creates Metro Manila offices to intensify environmental law enforcement.***

**TO** strengthen the enforcement of environmental laws and solid waste management programs as well as hasten the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has created Metropolitan Environmental Offices (MEOs) for the National Capital Region (NCR).

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the DENR field offices in Metro Manila will be transitioning to MEOs and are tasked to strictly implement Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The move was also aimed at complying with the Writ of Continuing Mandamus for Manila Bay issued by the Supreme Court in 2008.

*"We have to strengthen our field offices to capacitate the local government units (LGUs) and to meet our audacious goals. Also, to take on more challenges that will be on our way this 2022," he said.*

*Cimatu also expressed hope that the MEOs will "serve as the DENR's overseer in the different areas of the metro on a micro-level."*

*"We hope the public would feel the presence of the DENR even in their respective barangays or residences so that they will be reminded of their responsibilities in the proper disposal of their wastes for the greater good of their communities," he pointed out.*

Under the DENR administrative order, each MEO will be supervised by an undersecretary, assistant secretary, and director.

The functions of the MEOs include serving as frontline units for the enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and regulations in NCR; intensifying coordination efforts with partner government agencies and non-government organizations in cleaning up the rivers and other water bodies; and capacity-building.



MEOs will also be providing technical assistance to the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, and LGUs in monitoring the quality of water bodies and proper disposal of solid waste in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

The offices are also mandated to coordinate with the Department of Health, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and water concessionaires, and LGUs to facilitate the completion of a sewerage system and achieve international standards of sanitation in the entire region.



## NCR offices binuo ng DENR sa pagpapaigting ng implementasyon ng environmental laws



January 16, 2022 @ 4:15 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Upang palakasin ang pagpapatupad ng environmental laws at solid waste management programs para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay naglabas ng administrative order ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang lumikha ng Metropolitan Environmental Offices (MEOs) sa National Capital Region (NCR).

Sa press release ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang DENR field offices sa Metro Manila ay magiging MEOs na tungkuling higitan ang pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 at sumunod sa Writ of Continuing Mandamus para sa Manila Bay na inisyu ng Supreme Court noong 2008.

“We have to strengthen our field offices to capacitate the local government units (LGUs) and to meet our audacious goals. Also, to take on more challenges that will be on our way this 2022,” aniya.

Kaugnay nito umaasa din si Cimatu na ang MEOs will “serve as the DENR’s overseer in the different areas of the metro on a micro-level.”

“We hope the public would feel the presence of the DENR even in their respective barangays or residences so that they will be reminded of their responsibilities in the proper disposal of their wastes for the greater good of their communities,” pagbibigay-diin nito.

Samantala nakasaad sa DENR administrative order na ang bawat MEO ay pangangasiwaan ng undersecretary, assistant secretary, at director.

Kabilang sa mga tungkulin ng MEOs ay pagiging frontline units para sa pagpapatupad ng environmental laws, rules and regulations sa NCR, palakasin ang pakikipagtulungan sa partner government agencies at non-government organizations sa paglilinis ng mga ilog at iba pang anyong tubig at ang capacity-building.

Magbibigay din ang MEO ng technical assistance sa Department of the Interior and Local Government, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, at LGUs sa pag-monitor ng kalidad ng water bodies at tamang pagtatapon ng solid waste sa mga lugar na kanilang nasasakupan.



Mandato rin nito ang pakikipag-ugnayan sa Department of Health, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System at water concessionaires, at LGUs upang mapadali ang pagkakaroon ng sewerage system at makamit ang international standards ng kalinisan sa buong rehiyon.

Noong 2019, bumuo ang DENR ng apat na field offices sa Metro Manila upang mapalakas ang pagpapatupad ng environmental laws sa bansa partikular na sa mga lugar na maraming naninirahan at mapadali rin ang pagbibigay serbisyo ng gobyerno sa mga tao partikular na sa NCR. **Santi Celario**





# DENR to establish training center for solid waste management

January 16, 2022 | 9:12 pm



BW FILE PHOTO

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it plans to establish a National Ecology Center (NEC) to serve as a training hub for solid waste management.

In a statement, the DENR said the center will be run in conjunction with the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

The commission, which is chaired by the DENR, derives its authority from Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“With the eventual establishment of the NEC as the prime organization for information dissemination, consultation, education, and training, solid waste management in the country will certainly progress. Local government units and industries will be further capacitated, solid waste management systems will improve, and the public will be educated and contribute to the overall goal of environmental protection for the country,” Undersecretary and NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda said in a statement.

In coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry, the NEC will establish a solid waste management database and consolidate best practices for solid waste management, including practices observed in other countries.

The NEC is tasked with developing a model for waste minimization and reduction auditing procedures, and establish a “national recycling network” that will build the market for recycling materials.

It will also develop an accreditation and certification system for solid waste management programs of various training institutions.

The NEC will be headed by the director of the DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau and will be staffed by solid waste management experts, including academics, inventors, and scientists.

“I’m elated that another achievement under solid waste management will finally soon come to fruition. It’s been 20 years since the enactment of RA 9003 which mandated the establishment of NEC,” Environment Secretary and NSWMC Chair Roy A. Cimatu said. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-to-establish-training-center-for-solid-waste-management/>



## Water to flow into farms, faucets in Negros, Davao

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JANUARY 17, 2022

A 4.6-million euro grant from the German government's International Climate Initiative will secure drinking water for 500 households and irrigation to 3,000 hectares of agricultural land in Negros and Davao Region, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced on Sunday.

The project "Ecosystem-based Adaptation in 2 River Basins" (E2RB) is a partnership project with the German-commissioned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It will be implemented by the DENR through the River Basin Control Office (RBCO).

The project is due to begin implementation this year despite delays due to government measures to stem the Covid-19 infection.

According to RBCO Executive Director Nelson V. Gorospe, a "project management committee has already been created."

"We can start implementation this year after some delays due to Covid 19," Gorospe added.

The E2RB will be carried out in Ilog Hilabangan in Negros and Tagum Libuganon (mainly Davao del Norte) in Davao Region.

The E2RB will strengthen the river basins' ecosystem services, protect their biodiversity and important, reduce their vulnerability to climate change as destructive flooding have been experienced in the river basins.

"One of the basis for the choice of the site is perennial flooding," Gorospe said.

E2RB is in line with DENR's program on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap 2018-2022. It also aligns with the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and enhanced National Greening Program.

"The effective protection of forests in river basins supports the objectives of the Philippines's 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions,' or INDC, in the area of mitigation through the contribution of forest sector to the planned total greenhouse gas reduction of 70 percent in 2030," according to the DENR-GIZ agreement.

The project's target output include the coordinated implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation for reliable water supply, better water quality and optimized disaster risk management and targeted biodiversity protection.

The project also aims to ensure the use of ecosystem services valuation instruments in government policies, plans and monitoring procedures for conservation financing for protected area.

Lastly, 20 municipalities around the river basins should have reduced vulnerability to climate change with improved biodiversity protection (from landslide, flood risk in four watersheds reduced by 10 percent).

Another target output is the prevention or reduction of the extinction of important species in the forests in the river basins. Among the threatened species in the Ilog Hilabangan watershed are hornbills (*Penelopides panini* and *Aceros waldeni*), the endangered Philippine spotted deer (*Cervus alfredi*) and the Philippine warty pig (*Sus cebifrons*).

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/01/17/water-to-flow-into-farms-faucets-in-negros-davao/>



# A timely move

[Philequity Corner](#) - [Wilson Sy](#) - The Philippine Star January 17, 2022 | 12:00am

In a timely move, the Philippines lifted the nationwide ban on open-pit mining which had been in effect since 2017. Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III who pushed for the “revival of the mining industry” last year, said lifting the ban would raise government tax revenues, attract private investments, and generate jobs among locals in rural areas. This development comes at an opportune time when prices of nickel, copper, and other industrial metals are surging to fresh highs amid dwindling supplies, increased demand from economies reopening, and the aggressive global pivot towards clean energy.

## Generating jobs, exports

According to Secretary Dominguez, lifting the ban will help bolster the economy. He cited DENR estimates that 11 pending projects could start immediately, generating P11 billion of yearly government revenue and creating 22,800 jobs. Those projects will also expand the country’s mining exports by 20 percent to P36 billion.

## EVs and the clean energy revolution

The long-term prospects of metals like nickel, copper, and lithium are bright. The rapid worldwide transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and clean energy are very reliant on mining and critical minerals. Our top mineral export, nickel, is vital in lithium-ion batteries used in EVs. Our third largest mineral export, copper, is used in renewable energy systems to generate solar, hydro, thermal, and wind energy.

## Nickel, copper hit fresh highs

Last week, nickel settled 7.5 percent higher at \$22,417 per metric ton, the highest since 2011



Copper surged above \$4.50 per lb in intraday trading last week and closed at \$4.42 on easing concerns over the property slowdown in top metals consumer China.







## Untapped mining potential

While the Philippines is considered the fifth most mineralized country globally, its resources are largely untapped. The country has nine million hectares of mineralized land and established reserves of 13 known metallic and 29 non-metallic minerals. According to the MGB, the Philippines ranks among the world's biggest in terms of gold, copper, nickel, and chromite mineral deposits. Unfortunately, there is a large gap between the ranking of our mineral deposits and actual output. While the country's gold and copper deposits are ranked second and third biggest globally, our gold and copper output are ranked 25th and 31st, respectively.

Mineral	Rank in deposits	2019 Rank in output	2019 %Share
Gold	2nd	25th	0.6
Copper	3rd	31st	0.3
Nickel	5th	2nd	11.9

Source: Worldminingdata.info

## A booster for the Philippines

The lifting of the ban is a shot in the arm for the Philippines, especially at this time when fuel and energy prices are soaring. It will also pave the way for the much-needed investments to boost the Philippine mining industry, create jobs, generate revenues for the government, increase exports, reduce the budget deficit, and unlock economic opportunities for the country's communities.

*Philequity Management is the fund manager of the leading mutual funds in the Philippines. Visit [www.philequity.net](http://www.philequity.net) to learn more about Philequity's managed funds or to view previous articles. For inquiries or to send feedback, please call (02) 8250-8700 or email [ask@philequity.net](mailto:ask@philequity.net).*



# De Lima seeks Senate probe into lifting of ban on open-pit mining

Published January 16, 2022, 10:13 AM by [Hannah Torregoza](#)

Opposition Senator Leila de Lima has called on the Senate to conduct an inquiry into the recent decision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to lift the ban on open-pit mining in the country.

De Lima in filing the resolution urged the Senate to review the said decision and explore other avenues for generating wealth without compromising people's safety and damaging the environment.

"There is a need to conduct a thorough review of this policy decision as this can potentially open up the country once more to irresponsible mining practices which could further compromise the environment and pose health and safety risks to people and their communities," De Lima said in the Senate Resolution which has been electronically filed to the Senate Legislative Bills and Index Service last January 10.

"It beehoves the government to exert all efforts to explore other avenues before resorting to possibly catastrophic means of generating wealth for our country at the cost of sustainability and the welfare of present and future Filipinos," added the senator, who is seeking re-election in the upcoming May 2022 elections.

The resolution has yet to be numbered as the Senate is still currently under total closure for disinfection purposes against COVID-19.

Last Dec. 23, 2021, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu signed Administrative Order No. 2021-40, lifting the four-year ban on open-pit mining instituted by his predecessor in the department, Regina Lopez.

The government defended the move as against environmental groups who criticized the decision as "shortsighted and misplaced development priority" saying it is part of attempts to revitalize the economy that is reeling from the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

De Lima agreed with the environmental groups saying open-pit mining poses great risks to human life. She said it is imperative for the State to always err on the side of caution.

The senator said the adverse environmental impacts of unregulated open-pit mining are well-documented, citing, among others, the 1996 Marcopper mining disaster in the province of Marinduque.

"It is evident from the numerous mining disasters that have occurred in the country that we have still yet to figure out how to consistently extract our mineral resources in a safe and efficient manner and reduce or altogether prevent such accidents from occurring," she said.

"In this case most especially, when open-pit mining has been time and again proven to virtually eliminate any biologic life at the surface of earth, the State must first ask whether it would be prudent to think of only short-term benefits even when confronted with proof that open-pit mining results in the stripping of vegetation which leaves the surface of every dig site completely barren," she added.

De Lima said it is also imperative to determine whether policies on replanting have been put in place before the lifting of the moratorium.



“It must also first be determined whether policies on replanting and restoring the ecosystem have been put in place before lifting the moratorium given that open-pit mining sites take decades to recover,” she explained.

The lawmaker also said there is need for an evaluation of DENR’s present regulatory capacity “to ensure that the present safeguards can be implemented and that our regulators will not be overwhelmed by the operations of the mining companies.”





## De Lima pinatatalupan pagbasura sa mining ban

By Abante News — Last updated Jan 16, 2022

NEWS



Pinasisiyasat ni Senador Leila de Lima sa Senado ang desisyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na alisin ang ban sa open-pit mining sa bansa.

Naghain si De Lima ng resolusyon na humihiling na rebyuhin ang desisyon at maghanap na ibang paraan para kumita ang gobyerno sa likas na yaman ng bansa na hindi makokompormiso ang kaligtasan ng tao at pagkasira sa gobyerno.

Noong Disyembre 23, 2021 ay nilagdaan ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang Department Administrative Order No. 2021-40, na nag-aalis sa apat na taong ban sa open-pit mining.

Bagama't kinokonsidera ng gobyerno ang nasabing hakbang bilang daan para maingat ang ekonomiya ng bansa sa gitna ng pandemya, binatikos naman ng mga environmental group ang naturang desisyon bilang "shortsighted and misplaced development priority of the government." (Dindo Matining)



# Leyte town maintains 50-year mining ban

By [Nestor L. Abrematea](#) January 17, 2022

**ABUYOG, Leyte:** This coastal municipality in the fifth district of Leyte is opposed to the entry of all forms of mining.

Vice Mayor [Octavio Traya Jr.](#) over the weekend said their 50-year ban against mining stands as it is destructive to the environment.

Traya noted that their municipal ordinance against mining that was enacted more than five years ago has maintained the ban.

He said the law was in support of a call of then-Environment Secretary [Gina Lopez](#) to protect and help preserve the environment.

Traya disclosed that some mining firms

"These 42 barangay are rich in black sand," he said.

Traya blames black sand mining in the nearby town of MacArthur for the flooding that the people there experienced during the recent onslaught of Typhoon "[Odette](#)."

"I blame this mining in MacArthur town as the cause of this flooding and this is an ill-effect of mining," he said.

Around [12](#) Chinese are alleged to be illegally conducting black sand mining in Barangay Maya, MacArthur town, and farmers complain that their rice farms have been affected as a result.

The Department of Labor and Employment in Eastern [Visayas](#) is conducting an investigation after it found numerous violations of mining rules and regulations.



## Blacksand mining sa Cagayan

[DIPUGA](#) - [Non Alquitran](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon January 16, 2022 | 12:00am

Saksi ang mga mamamayan sa walang habas na pagnanakaw ng black sand sa baybayin ng Aparri.

Mga Chinese ang nakikita nilang nagnanakaw ng black sand.

Ang mayor ng Aparri mismo ang nagpapatunay na may black sand mining sa kanyang nasasakupan sa kabila na wala itong permiso mula sa lokal na pamahalaan.

Ngunit pinasusubalian naman ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 2 ang akusasyon at sinabing dredging lang daw ito ng buhangin.

Ngunit ang Simbahang Katoliko sa Aparri ang naninindigang apat na beses nang nakapag-haul ang Chinese vessel Hongchang mula noong huling tatlong buwan ng 2021.

Ang dredger vessel Endeavour 1 ay may kakayahang maglulan ng 8,000 metric tons bawat biyahe at ikinakarga sa Hongchang. Kayang maglulan ng Hongchang ng 64,000 metric tons.

Iba ang nakikita ng mamamayan at mangingisda ng Aparri. Nag-ooperate ang dredger vessels hindi lamang sa Cagayan River kundi sa dagat malapit sa Babuyan Channel.

Kung river restoration ang pakay ng dredging, bakit nakakaabot sa karagatan?

\* \* \*

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# MANILA'S PRIDE

January 17, 2022



Only the lucky ones witnessed this spectacular sunset in Manila on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022, a welcome view to end the week. PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA



# Things about greenhouse gases

Published 1 day ago on January 16, 2022 02:20 AM

By **TDI** @tribunephil



Wind farms generate electricity and reduce reliance on coal-powered energy. / Photograph courtesy of UN

News stories about the climate crisis often contain mentions of greenhouse gases, and the greenhouse effect. Whilst most will find the analogy easy to understand, what exactly are these gases, and why are they contributing to the warming of the Earth?

In a greenhouse, sunlight enters, and heat is retained. The greenhouse effect describes a similar phenomenon on a planetary scale but, instead of the glass of a greenhouse, certain gases are increasingly raising global temperatures.

The surface of the Earth absorbs just under half of the sun's energy, while the atmosphere absorbs 23 percent, and the rest is reflected back into space. Natural processes ensure that the amount of incoming and outgoing energy is equal, keeping the planet's temperature stable.

However, human activity is resulting in the increased emission of so-called greenhouse gases which, unlike other atmospheric gases such as oxygen and nitrogen, becomes trapped in the atmosphere, unable to escape the planet. This energy returns to the surface, where it is reabsorbed.

Because more energy enters than exits the planet, surface temperatures increase until a new balance is achieved.

This temperature increase has long-term, adverse effects on the climate, and affects a myriad of natural systems. Effects include increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events — including flooding, droughts, wildfires and hurricanes — that affect millions of people and cause trillions in economic losses.



# 190-anyos na pagong, pinarangalan ng guinness bilang ‘oldest living animal’!

[MGA PANGYAYARING KAGILA-GILALAS](#) - [Arnel Medina](#) - Pang-masa

January 17, 2022 | 12:00am

ISANG 190-anyos na pagong na dineklara noon bilang oldest tortoise ay nakatanggap ng pangalawang titulo mula sa Guinness, ang World’s Oldest Living Land Animal!

Ang pagong na pinangalanang Jonathan ay 50-anyos na nang natagpuan sa tabing dagat ng St. Helena, isang British overseas territory sa Atlantic Ocean noong 1882.

Dahil sa matandang edad ni Jonathan, binigyan na siya ng St. Helena government ng sarili niyang veterinary team.

Ayon sa head ng veterinary team ni Jonathan na si Dr. Joe Hollins, kahit wala na itong paningin at mahina na ang pang-amoy, magana pa rin itong kumain at madalas pa rin makipag-socialize makipag-mate sa mga kapwa niya pagong.



17 JANUARY 2022, MONDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

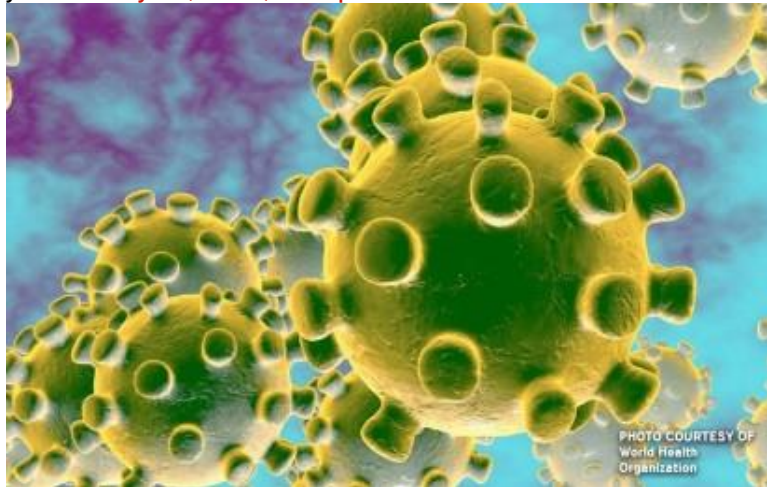
**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





# New infections, recoveries hover above 30K; cases now at 287,856

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [January 16, 2022, 5:36 pm](#)



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) logged 37,154 daily coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections and 30,037 new recoveries on Sunday.

Active cases rose to 287,856 while total recoveries jumped to 2,864,633, or 89.4 percent of the 3,205,396 infections recorded since the pandemic started in March 2020.

Among the active cases, 273,924 are mild, 2,940 are moderate, 9,212 are asymptomatic, 1,475 are severe, and 305 are critical.

“Of the 37,154 reported cases today, 36,303 (98 percent) occurred within the recent 14 days - - Jan. 3, 2021 to Jan. 16, 2022,” the DOH said.

The regions with the most cases in the past two weeks were the National Capital Region (NCR) with 15,591 or 43 percent of new infections; Calabarzon, 8,384 or 23 percent; and Central Luzon, 3,232 or 9 percent.

Fifty new fatalities hiked the death toll to 52,907, or 1.65 percent of overall cases.

“Of the 50 deaths, 30 occurred in January 2022 (60 percent), 1 in November 2021 (2 percent), 1 in October 2021 (2 percent), 12 in September 2021 (24 percent), 3 in August 2021 (6 percent), 2 in July 2021 (4 percent), and 1 in June 2021 (2 percent) due to the late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya,” the DOH stated.

According to the January 14 data, 47.4 percent of the 81,381 who were tested for Covid-19 turned out positive.

“(A total of) 137 duplicates were removed from the total case count as 85 of these are recoveries and one is a death,” the department said.

Meanwhile, 27 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after validation.

All laboratories were operational on January 14 but 12 were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH said the 12 laboratories contribute, on average, 2.7 percent of samples tested, and 3.4 percent among positive individuals based on data in the past 14 days.



To date, 49 percent of 3,400 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 48 percent of 20,300 isolation beds, 51 percent of 14,000 ward beds, and 21 percent of 3,000 ventilators are used by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 57 percent of 1,100 ICU beds, 50 percent of 4,900 isolation beds, 66 percent of 4,500 ward beds, and 28 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the NCR. (PNA)



# PH's active COVID-19 cases at new record high with 37,154 new infections

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 16, 2022 4:54:34 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 16)** – The number of Filipinos currently sick with COVID-19 hits a record high for a fifth straight day at over 287,000 after the Department of Health reported 37,154 new infections on Sunday.

Active cases have reached 287,856, which account for 9% of the country's total case tally at 3,205,396.

The number of new cases recorded is also the third highest count since the pandemic struck. This is despite the non-submission of data of 12 testing laboratories, which contributed an average of 2.7% of all samples tested and 3.4% of all positive results in the last two weeks, the DOH said.

The positivity rate, meanwhile, is at its second highest at 47.4% based on over 81,000 tests reported on Jan. 14. This means nearly one in two people tested for COVID-19 is positive.

Metro Manila is the region with the most number of new cases with 15,591 infections, followed by Calabarzon with 8,384, and Central Luzon with 3,232.

The DOH also confirmed 30,037 more recoveries, bringing the total to 2,864,633.

The death toll, meanwhile, rose to 52,907 with 50 more fatalities. Of the new deaths, 30 occurred this month while the other 20 happened from June to November 2021 and were just encoded late.

After final validation, the DOH said 27 cases it previously declared as recoveries were reclassified as deaths. It also removed 137 duplicate entries from its data.

The DOH further noted that 273,924, or around 95%, of the active cases are mild. There are 1,475 severe cases (0.5%) and 305 critical cases (0.1%), while the rest are moderate (1%) and asymptomatic (3.2%).

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/16/PH-covid-cases-update.html>





# DOH: Community transmission ng Omicron sa Metro Manila, kumpirmado

[Ludy Bermudo](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon January 16, 2022 | 12:00am



A health worker attends to patients at the Manila Manila COVID-19 field hospital at Quirino Grandstand on Thursday, January 13, 2022. The National Capital Region (NCR) is experiencing a "severe outbreak" as its COVID-19 average daily attack rate climbs to 111.80, OCTA Research said Thursday.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Kinumpirma kahapon ng Department of Health (DOH) na may community transmission na sa Metro Manila ng mas nakahahawang COVID-19 Omicron variant.

Sa public briefing, sinabi ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na may natukoy nang local cases ng variant of concern sa National Capital Region (NCR).

Ayon sa World Health Organization (WHO), masasabing may community transmission kapag ang mga koneksyon sa pagitan ng local infections ay hindi na makita sa pamamagitan ng positive test results ng routine sampling.

“Dito po sa National Capital Region, we are seeing the community transmission nitong Omicron variant.

Bagama’t hindi po nakakahabol ang ating genome sequencing, we already have determined that there are local cases already,” paliwanag ni Vergeire.

“Sa nakikita nating trend ngayon, ito po ‘yung characteristic talaga ng Omicron variant, na mabilis na pagkalat, ‘yung very steep rise in the number of cases . . . And doubling time po na every 2 days,” dagdag niya.

Ang naitalang daily cases sa nakaraang linggo na nag-average rin ng 17,124, ay mahigit sa doble ng 6,500 average number of cases sa naunang linggo.

Sa NCR na may 149,000 active COVID-19 infections, ay halos kalahati na sa kabuuang active cases ng buong bansa.

Nakikitaaan din ng pagtaas ng mga bagong kaso sa iba pang rehiyon, na malamang ay dulot din ng Omicron variant.

Bukod sa Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Bicol Region ay nakikitaaan na rin ng pagsipa ng mga kaso sa 2-linggong growth rate.

Maaring may panahon na ang Omicron strain ay mapalitan na ang Delta bilang dominant variant sa bansa.

Source <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2022/01/16/2154226/doh-community-transmission-ng-omicron-sa-metro-manila-kumpirmado>



# With fewer people outside, MMDA says no need yet for curfew in NCR

By [Currie Cator, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Jan 15, 2022 5:40:00 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 15)** — There is no need yet to reimpose curfew in the National Capital Region, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Benhur Abalos said.

He pointed out more people are now "self-regulating" amid fears of catching the rapidly spreading virus.

"Sa nakita namin, kumonti ang tao sa kalye, kumonti ang tao sa mall. Sa gabi, halos wala ka nang makita. [Kaya] napag-isipan namin, for the meantime, there is no need for a curfew," Abalos said over state-run PTV on Saturday.

[Translation: Based on what we saw, there are fewer people in malls and out on the streets. Hardly anyone is outside at night. So, we thought there is no need for a curfew for the meantime.]

"In a way, siguro, ang ating mga kababayan, after all of these variants — UK; Delta; South Africa; ngayon, Omicron — on our own, natuto na tayo to self-regulate. Hindi mo na kailangang sabihan, "Wag kang lumabas," he added.

[Translation: In a way, people may have already learned to self-regulate after all of these variants — UK, Delta, South Africa, and now, Omicron. You no longer need to tell them to stay home.]

The general curfew in NCR was lifted in November last year to prevent overcrowding in malls ahead of the holidays.

After New Year, however, Metro Manila and several other areas were placed under the stricter Alert Level 3 due to soaring COVID-19 cases.

The government has extended the alert status until the end of the month — just as the Health Department [confirmed](#) there is an ongoing community transmission of the Omicron variant in the capital region.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/15/Metro-Manila-no-curfew-for-now-COVID-19.html>



# 'Retroactive' testing, quarantine rules okayed

Published 4 hours ago on January 17, 2022 02:10 AM

By **Jom Garner**



The country's Covid-19 pandemic task force has approved the retroactive application of the new policy on testing and quarantine for international travelers who arrived in the Philippines on or before 13 January.

In a statement, acting presidential spokesperson and Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said that the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) has approved the retroactive application of Resolution 157, which will make the testing and quarantine protocols retroactive for those who came from green and yellow list countries.

Under the Resolution 157, fully vaccinated international travelers from green countries should present negative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) taken within 48 hours prior to their departure from the county of origin.

"Upon arrival, they shall no longer be required to observe mandatory facility-based quarantine but shall self-monitor for any sign or symptom for seven days with the first day being the date of arrival," the resolution said.

Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travelers, will be required to present a negative RT-PCR test taken within 48 hours prior to their departure from the county of origin.

Additionally, they shall be required to undergo facility-based quarantine until the release of their negative RT-PCR test taken on the fifth day. After which, they are enjoined to self-monitor for any symptoms for 14 days, with the first day being the date of arrival.

Meanwhile, fully vaccinated travelers from Yellow List countries are required to present a negative RT-PCR test prior to their departure from the county of origin.

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/01/17/retroactive-testing-quarantine-rules-okayed/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=retroactive-testing-quarantine-rules-okayed](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/01/17/retroactive-testing-quarantine-rules-okayed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=retroactive-testing-quarantine-rules-okayed)





# UP researchers recommend lagundi for COVID-19 patients

[Ranier Allan Ronda](#) - The Philippine Star January 17, 2022 | 12:00am

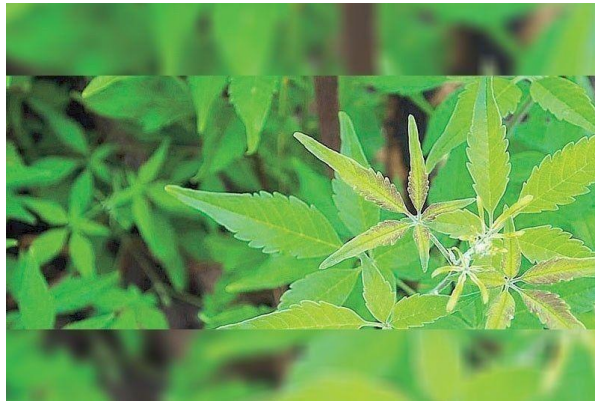


Photo shows the lagundi or chaste tree, vitex negundo, now being tested as treatment for COVID-19.

The STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Science Secretary Fortunato dela Peña has urged those afflicted with COVID-19 who are taking lagundi to follow the guidelines recommended by experts, particularly scientists from the University of the Philippines - Manila who had conducted a clinical trial on the medicinal plant as an adjunct treatment for the viral disease.

In his weekly virtual Bayanihan briefing, Dela Peña said UP Manila clinical trial team leader Dr. Cecilia Maramba-Lazarte had advised the public to follow prescribed dosage to ensure that the use of lagundi to treat cough symptoms of COVID-19 will yield positive results.

“Adult patients may take the 600-milligram tablet or 5 milliliters of the 600-mg syrup thrice daily. Meanwhile, the dosage requirement for pediatric patients would vary, depending on their age range. The 300-mg syrup may be taken thrice daily by children, following the suggested dosage per intake: 2.5-5 mL for ages two to four, 5 mL for ages four to six and 7.5-10 mL for ages six to 12,” Dela Peña said.

“Teens aged 12 and older may also take the 600-mg tablet thrice a day. Following these guidelines, the use of the medicine may alleviate mild COVID-19 symptoms, especially the loss of sense of smell for patients,” he added.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-funded clinical trials on lagundi as an adjunct therapy for COVID-19, conducted by the Lazarte-led UP Manila research team, released positive results of their clinical trial in October last year, which showed that lagundi tablets administered to mild COVID-19 cases without comorbidities had relieved the various symptoms of patients.

Dela Peña noted that the lagundi plant-based formulations, which have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), have long been used for cough and asthma relief.

Lagundi, according to the DOST chief, was included in the homecare kit for mild COVID-19 patients of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

## FDA-approved VCO

As this developed, a group of coconut processors is already starting the tedious work of getting virgin coconut oil (VCO) approved by the FDA, with a lot of technical assistance by the DOST, for indications for mild COVID-19 cases.





VCO Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines Inc. president engineer Marco Reyes said their group has identified VCO makers that could join the first batch of applicants to submit applications before the FDA.

“Documentary evidence is needed together with the application. This will be provided by the DOST from their VCO versus COVID-19 trials,” Reyes told The STAR.

“What is being applied for is VCO as functional food for ‘disease risk reduction’ such as COVID-19,” he added.

VCO makers joining the first batch are those who had provided VCO samples used in the DOST clinical trials, according to Reyes.

“The reason is that they have already undergone prior screening in compliance with the Product National Standards and FDA permits such as license to operate and certificate of product registration,” he said.

DOST Undersecretary for research and development Rowena Cristina Guevara had previously said that the DOST’s Research Group led primarily by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) would provide technical as well as research and development documentation assistance to the group for the accreditation of VCO as an adjunct therapy for mild COVID-19.

“They will apply with the FDA for additional indications for VCO that it can be used for mild COVID-19,” Guevara told reporters in an interview late last month.

“It will require a huge amount of paperwork so it will take time,” she added.

Guevara pointed out that two finished research and clinical studies have already shown that VCO is effective in hastening the recovery of COVID-19 patients or can cure COVID-19 at “low viral load.”

One of the studies referred to by Guevara was the clinical trial on VCO as a functional food versus COVID-19 in Santa Rosa, Laguna that was conducted by the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute. It showed that VCO, when added to meals of probable and suspected COVID-19 cases, shortened their recovery period by at least five days.

The study was published on May 25 last year in the international Journal of Functional Foods.

The other study, conducted by the Ateneo de Manila University and Duke University - National University of Singapore and led by professor Fabian Dayrit, yielded results that showed VCO was at least “helpful during the early stages of infection or at low viral load.”

VCO Philippines had earlier called on the DOST and the Department of Health to support moves to endorse VCO as a prophylaxis against COVID-19, not as a cure.

### **‘Solidarity trials for COVID vaccines’**

The DOST-supervised Philippine-World Health Organization (WHO) “Solidarity Trials for COVID-19 Vaccines (STV)” clinical trials are now enrolling participants in 10 sites in Metro Manila.

Dela Peña said the 10 sites, which include eight government hospitals and two community-based locations, would be the centers for recruitment of participants as well as the vaccination sites for them.



The 10 sites were identified as the Philippine General Hospital, Lung Center of the Philippines, Makati Medical Center, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, Medical Center Manila, Baguio General Hospital and San Juan de

Dios Hospital, while the two community-based sites are in Sampaloc, Manila and Crame, Quezon City.

As of Jan. 3, Dela Peña said 5,901 individuals have been vaccinated with the first dose while 3,840 participants have completed the two-dose schedule of the first study vaccine.

Guevara had earlier said four vaccines would be administered in the Philippine-WHO STV project, and these four are entirely different from the COVID-19 vaccines being administered in the nationwide immunization with emergency use authorization (EUA) issuances from the FDA.

"You have to remember, we are looking for vaccines that are, first, effective and safe; second, those that just need one shot and do not require multiple or booster shots in one year; and third, of course, those that are affordable to all countries," she said in an interview with science reporters last Dec. 30.

"That's why we are doing this 'WHO Solidarity Trial for Vaccines.' All the vaccines are coming from the WHO," she added.



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**





# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 673

## ENERO 16, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 9.0%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
**287,856**

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 89.4%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
**2,864,633**

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.65%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
**52,907**

MGA BAGONG KASO **37,154**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **30,037**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **50**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,205,396**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 14  
DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 16  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 14

# 47.4%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 81,381

BILANG NG  
TINIST

HALOS  
**98.4%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

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

KABUANG PILIPINAS  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA  
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.4K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>49%</b> Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.3K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>48%</b> Utilized
WARD BEDS (14.0K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>51%</b> Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	<b>21%</b> Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.1K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>57%</b> Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.9K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>50%</b> Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>66%</b> Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	<b>28%</b> Utilized

9,212 Asymptomatic
273,924 Mild
2,940 Moderate
1,475 Severe
305 Critical

### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

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

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

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

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

### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

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

SeeYouDoc  
seeyoudoc.com  
SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD  
konsulta.md  
KonsultaMD

CloudPx  
cloudpx.ph/

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

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

TelAventusMD  
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph  
TelAventusMD

HealthNow  
healthnow.ph/  
help@healthnow.ph  
HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

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



Walang internet or load?  
Report via SMS

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



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

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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

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[02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:028940000)



17 JANUARY 2022, MONDAY



**DENR**

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



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