

17 OCTOBER 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR isinama ang kabataan sa solid waste management activities



October 16, 2021 @ 5:09 PM 13 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang maituwid ang ugali ng publiko particular na ang mga kabataan inilunsad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noong Biyernes ang nationwide Solid Waste Management Advocacy Campaign sa pangangalaga sa kapaligiran at tamang pangangasiwa at pagtatapon ng basura.

Sa press release ayon sa DENR sa pamamagitan ng DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS), ang kampanyang ito ay ginawa upang mapabilis ang pagkakaroon ng malusog, luntian at malinis na Pilipinas sa gitna ng mga banta sa kalikasan sa bansa at sa buong mundo.

“Creating a better and healthier environment through efficient solid waste management is one of the biggest challenges that we, at the DENR, are faced today,” saad ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa paglulunsad ng kampanya noong Oktubre 15 sa DENR Central Office.

“We really need the support of the people, especially our youth sector. It is important, therefore, to impress to them that unless we do something right today by diligently practicing sound solid waste management, the future will be bleak,” dagdag nito.

Upang mapalaganap ang kamalayan at mahikayat ang publiko na suportahan ang kampanya, palalakasin ng DENR ang pakikiisa at pakikipagtulungan, teknolohiya at maging ang information, education at communication campaign.

“While this program is intended to be a whole-of-nation approach, we designed this to be more focused on the youth who would later serve as our environmental champions,” sabi naman ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns at SCIS Supervising Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda.

Kaugnay nito kabilang sa DENR solid waste management campaign ay ang Basura Buster, isang free, web-based game application para sa mga batang may edad na 5 hanggang 8 taon.

Ang application na ito na pwedeng ma-download sa Android devices sa pamamagitan ng Google Play Store. Ang manlalaro na maaaring makapag-ipon ng puntos sa pamamagitan ng paghihiwalay ng iba’t-ibang uri ng basura sa paraan ng “educational at entertaining.”

Sa pamamagitan naman ng social media accounts, umaasa ang DENR na maimpluwensiyahan ang “behavioral change” sa pamamagitan ng mga videos ukol sa tamang pangangasiwa at pagtatapon ng basura sa pang-araw-araw na sitwasyon.



Kabilang na dito ang paghihiwalay ng basura, pagdadala ng sariling eating utensils sa restaurants, at pagbebenta ng basura o ang tinatawag na “Pera sa Basura.”

Samantala ang SWM Advocacy campaign ay inilunsad sa pamamagitan ng “blended platform” kasama ang mga opisyal at empleyado ng DENR Central Office, regional at field offices, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices, Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices, bureaus at attached agencies. **Santi Celario**



People take Saturday morning stroll at Manila Bay dolomite beach

Published October 16, 2021, 12:22 PM

by [Andrea Aro](#)

People spent their Saturday morning at the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach after it was reopened to the public.



MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH OPENS: People are seen having fun at the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach Saturday morning, the first day of the implementation of Alert Level 3 measures in Metro Manila. (Manny Llanes / MANILA BULLETIN)

The controversial dolomite beach was reopened to the public on Saturday (Oct. 16), the first day of the implementation of Alert Level 3 in the National Capital Region.

Under Alert level 3, cinemas and amusement parks are allowed to operate.

The beach is open daily between 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Staff can be seen holding signages to remind the people to observe physical distancing.

Minimum health protocols such as wearing of face mask and face shield and practicing social distancing will be observed in the beach, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



Manila Bay dolomite beach reopens

[Ghio Ong](#) - The Philippine Star October 17, 2021 | 12:00am



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources held a soft opening of the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach along Roxas Boulevard on Saturday morning.

KJ Rosales

MANILA, Philippines — The man-made dolomite beach at Manila Bay was reopened yesterday after Metro Manila was eased into Alert Level 3 status.

Crowds gathered and lined up along the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard before the beach was opened to the public at 8 a.m.

As the fences opened, visitors – armed with cell phones – rushed into the attraction.

The man-made beach could accommodate 300 to 500 people at a time, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which manages the site.

Open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., adults and children – whether vaccinated against COVID-19 or not – should wear a face mask and a face shield at all times, the DENR said.

Food and drink are prohibited at the beach.

The Manila Bay dolomite beach project costs P389 million, with P28 million used for overlay of crushed dolomite turned into sand.

It opened last July, with people allowed on the “sand” for only five minutes.



Dolomite beach in Manila reopens to public

Published October 16, 2021 10:10am

Updated October 16, 2021 10:38pm

The man-made dolomite beach by Manila Bay was reopened to the public on Saturday, the first day the National Capital Region quarantine status was downgraded to Alert Level 3 from Alert Level 4.

Visitors went to the beach early on Saturday armed with their mobile phones with cameras, eager to see for themselves the controversial man-made attraction.

"Masaya po kasi nakakalabas na yung mga bata. Boryong boryo na sa bahay," a woman said in Katrina Son's report on "24 Oras Weekend."

(I am happy because children are now allowed to go outside. They got bored of staying at home.)

Police meanwhile were visible in the area to ensure minimum health protocols are observed. Only 300 to 500 individuals at a time will be allowed on the beach, according to a report by Jhomer Apresto on Super Radyo dzBB.

DZBB Super Radyo @dzbb · Oct 16, 2021

Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach, muling binuksan ngayong araw kasabay ng pagsasailalim sa Metro Manila sa Alert Level 3. | via @jhomer_apresto

DZBB Super Radyo @dzbb

WATCH: Sitwasyon papasok sa Dolomite Beach sa Maynila. | via @jhomer_apresto

8:26 AM · Oct 16, 2021

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The visitors may stay for as long as they want but the limit of 300 to 500 individuals will have to be observed. Previously, visitors could stay only for five minutes the last time the beach was opened to the public.

Visitors are not required to be vaccinated to enter the premises. They however need to wear face masks and face shields.

No food and drinks will be allowed inside.

Children will be allowed inside in accordance with Inter-Agency Task Force rules.

"This is just a soft opening, so unti-unti na nating bubuksan iyan hanggang sa dulo," said Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

(This is just a soft opening, so eventually we would open the entire stretch of the dolomite beach.)

The dolomite beach will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. —**KG/VBL, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/807217/dolomite-beach-in-manila-reopens-to-public/story/?fbclid=IwAR2csIysfVWcosdXNmBDiQnuyVcE4nI6Zk7LTF1XXzEgCaD8915OK893QoQ>



Dolomite beach muling binuksan sa publiko

ni [Jasmin Joy Evangelista](#) | October 16, 2021



Photo: Screen grab from PTV

Muling binuksan sa publiko ang Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach ngayong Sabado, Oktubre 16, kasabay ng pagpapatupad ng Alert Level 3 COVID-19 quarantine restrictions sa Metro Manila.

Mayroong mga pulis sa paligid ng man-made beach upang siguruhing nasusunod ang minimum health protocols.

Kung noon ay hanggang limang minuto lamang puwedeng mag-stay ang mga bumibista, ngayon ay puwede kahit gaano katagal pero limitado lamang sa 300-500 ang maaaring pumasok.

Hindi kinakailangan na bakunado para makapasok dito.

Gayunman, ang mga bibisita ay kailangang magsuot ng face mask at face shield.

Hindi pinapayagan ang pagpapasok ng pagkain at inumin.

Bukas ang Dolomite beach mula 8 a.m. hanggang 11 a.m. at sa hapon hanggang 6 p.m



DOLOMITE BEACH, MULING BINUKSAN SA PUBLIKO

written by **Judith Estrada-Larino** October 16, 2021



Muli binuksan sa publiko ang dolomite beach sa Manila bay ngayong araw na ito.

Dinagsa ng maraming tao ang dolomite beach kaninang umaga bitbit ang kanilang celfon para muling masilyaan ang man made attraction.

Samantala, bantay sarado naman ng mga otoridad ang area para tiyaking nasusunod ang health and safety protocols.

Nasa 300 hanggang 500 individuals lamang ang kada batch na pinapayagang bumisita sa dolomite beach.



Dolomite Beach binuksan, dinagsa sa unang araw

By [Ludy Bermudo](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - October 17, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones, ang nangyaring pagbubukas kahapon ay 'soft opening' lamang at iba aniya sa dry run na ginawa noon.

The STAR / Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Indikasyong sabik na sa pamamasyal ang marami, dinagsa kahapon ang pagbubukas ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach kasabay sa unang araw nang pagpapatupad ng Alert Level 3 o mas maluwag na quarantine restriction sa Metro Manila.

Sinabi ni Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones, ang nangyaring pagbubukas kahapon ay 'soft opening' lamang at iba aniya sa dry run na ginawa noon.

Aniya, upang mabigyan ng kasiyahan ang mga mamamayan na matagal na nalungkot dahil namalagi sa loob ng kanilang bahay sa mahabang panahon kaya maaaring maging alternatibong pasyalan ang Dolomite Beach.

Bukas ang beach simula alas-8:00 ng umaga hanggang alas-11:00 ng tanghali at alas-3:00 ng hapon hanggang alas-6:00 ng gabi.

Hindi na kailangang pang magpakita ng vaccination card at hindi na rin limitado sa 5 minuto ang pananatili sa beach.

Mahigpit naman ang pagpapatupad ng mga health protocols at ang paalala sa pamamagitan ng mga staff na may hawak na signages na 'observe physical distancing'.

"We will make sure that we strictly observe 'yung health protocol natin. Face mask importante, pero face shield optional," aniya pa.

Kahit aniya, may nakikita pang mga basura, dala lamang umano ito ng masamang panahon tulad ng bagyo.

Mas malaki umano ang pagbabago ng water quality sa nasabing beach kumpara noon at posible na ring payagang makapaligo roon sa mga susunod na buwan sakaling mag-improve pa ang kalidad ng tubig.

Bubuksan din ang ibang bahagi ng beach sa mga susunod na linggo.

"Continuous ang rehabilitation natin, ito 'yung ating dolomite area.

Napapansin niyo ongoing ang works kasi nagkakaroon tayo ng problema sa weather. Nakita niyo ang lalakas ng ulan, nandiyan ang basura, inaayos natin," dagdag pa niya.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2021/10/17/2134705/dolomite-beach-binuksan-dinagsa-sa-unang-araw/amp/>



Dolomite Beach sa Manila Baywalk, dinagsa

[Ludy Bermudo](#) - Pang-masa October 17, 2021 | 12:00am



Dinagsa agad ng mga tao ang unang araw nang pagbubukas sa publiko ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach kasabay sa unang araw nang pagpapairal ng Alert Level 3 sa Metro Manila.

KJ Rosales

MANILA, Philippines — Binuksan na kahapon ang Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach kasabay sa unang araw nang pagpapatupad ng Alert Level 3 sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay ni Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones, ang nangyaring pagbubukas kahapon ay 'soft opening' lamang at iba aniya sa dry run na ginawa noon.

Layunin nang pagbubukas ay upang mabigyan ng kasiyahan ang mga mamamayan na matagal na nalungkot dahil namalagi sa loob ng kanilang bahay sa mahabang panahon kaya maaaring maging alternatibong pasyalan ang Dolomite Beach.

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Bubuksan din ang ibang bahagi ng beach sa mga susunod na linggo.



DENR opens dolomite beach anew

October 16, 2021 11 min read

Following the easing of Covid-19 Alert 4 to Alert Level 3 on Saturday, 16 October 2021, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources also opened to the public the now famous Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach along Roxas Boulevard in Malate, Manila on October 16, 2021.

(Jhun Mabanag: BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/10/16/denr-opens-dolomite-beach-anew/?fbclid=IwAR38JhUkuVlgtfM4wo-zJgQLY3I4DMPF-ry0iAY0Ijw3yGCNe-yIxDbrWo>



GMA News

21h · 🌐



Kasalukuyang sitwasyon sa kontrobersyal na "dolomite beach" sa Maynila. | via Jhomer Apresto, @Super Radyo DZBB 594khz

BASA HIN: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/.../dolomite-beach-in.../story/>



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WATCH | The Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach reopens to the public on Saturday, as Metro Manila downgrades to Alert Level 3. The area is open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Swimming, eating, and bringing pets are not allowed. (via News5)

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Binuksan na ulit sa publiko ang kontrobersyal na Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach ngayong Sabado, Oct. 16. Kasabay ito ng pagsasailalim ng Metro Manila sa Alert Level 3. Bukas ito mula 8 a.m. hanggang 11 a.m. at 3 p.m. hanggang 6 p.m. Ipinagbabawal ang paglangoy, pagkain, at pagdadala ng alagang hayop sa lugar.

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH, BINUKSAN NA ULIT SA PUBLIKO



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Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDPhEzIVy1E>



Butuan cops go green through ‘Bike and Plant’ program

By Alexander Lopez October 16, 2021, 2:25 pm



GOING GREEN. Participants from various organizations plant tree seedlings in Sitio Iyao, Barangay Anticala in Butuan City during the launch of the city police’s “Bike and Plant” program on Saturday (Oct. 16, 2021). The program aims to promote environmental awareness among police personnel, partners, and other stakeholders. *(Photo courtesy of BCPO)*

BUTUAN CITY – The Butuan City Police Office (BCPO) launched on Saturday its “Bike and Plant” program, hoping to promote environmental awareness among its personnel, partners, and other stakeholders.

“The program also intends to foster unity among the partners and other stakeholders of BCPO in the conservation and preservation of our natural resources,” the city police said in a statement.

More than 50 participants from various organizations in Butuan City joined the launch that began with them biking 20 km. from the BCPO headquarters to Sitio Iyao in Barangay Anticala here, where they planted about 100 seedlings of indigenous and agroforestry tree species.

“The clean air that we breathe as we paddle in our bikes comes from these plants,” BCPO chief, Col. Excelso Lazaga Jr., said during the tree planting activity in Sitio Iyao.

He added that more areas in Butuan would be planted with different species of trees as the “Bike and Plant” continues.

The program is in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources 13 (Caraga) and the Father Saturnino Urios University.

“We encourage the different sectors in our city, including the biking enthusiasts, to join and support the program,” Lazaga said. **(PNA)**



Seabed quarrying, offshore mining threaten coastal, marine biodiversity

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA OCTOBER 17, 2021



The scenic Tayabas Bay is an important fishing and staging ground of migratory waterbirds.

Environmental and antimining groups are up in arms against applications for seabed quarrying and offshore mining applications currently flooding government regulatory bodies.

Seabed quarrying is being eyed for land-reclamation or dump-and-fill projects in the pipeline. The lifting of the “mining moratorium,” following the signing of Executive Order (EO) 130 by President Duterte on April 14, has now opened the floodgates for new mining projects, including massive extraction of magnetite sand in coastal and marine areas.

Both seabed quarrying and offshore mining involve the massive extraction of sand and other minerals, like magnetite sand.

Massive mineral extraction

Silverquest Mining Resources Inc. (SMRI), an offshore mining firm, for instance, is eyeing the massive extraction of sand and other quarry materials in the municipal waters of Ternate and Naic in Cavite.

The firm is currently in the process of securing its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the P12-billion SMRI Government Seabed Quarry Project.

The dredging of mud, silt, sand and other materials from the seabed is for the 318-hectare Manila Waterfront Project, a five-year, P34.377-billion land-reclamation and development project of the local government of Manila and Waterfront Manila Premier Development in Manila’s South Harbor in Manila Bay.

The project has yet to secure an area clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which is the last and final permit needed to start seabed quarrying and mining that include offshore mining operation.

Strict regulatory process

Seabed quarry projects, even by the government, however, go through the proverbial eye of the needle, because of the various laws, rules and regulations that include the Philippine Mining Act.

In May 2021, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) canceled a technical session with experts to discuss and formulate recommendations on the issue of two government seabed quarry permit applications in Tayabas Bay in Tayabas, Quezon.

The Tayabas Bay is an important fishing ground in Southern Luzon. It is also important as a staging ground of migratory waterbirds that pass through the East Asian-Australasian Flyway of which the Philippines is a part.



The BFAR also nixed in March 2021 a total of 13 similar applications permits requested by the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) which will be conducted by various project proponents within Manila Bay.

BFAR Director Eduardo Gongona cited that Manila Bay is currently the subject of rehabilitation by the government as part of a continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court.

Direct impacts

During a webinar on seabed quarrying organized by the group of Tanggol Kalikasan on September 30, Dr. Fernando Siringan of the UP Marine Science Institute said applications for seabed quarry should specifically identify the materials to be dredged or extracted.

Siringan warned that even sediments under the sea are home to important organisms that is part of the food chain in the ecosystem.

Coastal and marine, ecosystems, he added, are interconnected, such that disturbing an area have direct, as well as indirect impacts, to the network of ecosystems under the sea.

Siringan pointed out that the government, or the Environmental Management Bureau, as well as MGB, should first identify the living organisms in an area to be disturbed by the proposed quarrying or offshore mining operations.

“They should know what are the direct benefits of the organisms in the ecosystems” to get the bigger picture of the impact of seabed quarrying in a particular area.

“In the food chain, what are their importance? The direct impact when you disturb an area, the sediment can also be the nesting ground of organisms because they are sometimes picky of areas to spawn,” he said in Filipino.

According to Siringan, corals will also be affected by seabed quarrying. Sediments may eventually be carried by ocean current and brought to areas with corals. Once covered with fine-grade materials, there’s a big chance that corals may die, he said.

Offshore mining

Besides seabed quarrying, another serious threat to the country’s coastal and marine environment is offshore mining. Applications for various projects are expected to flood the doorstep of government mining regulatory bodies with the signing of EO 130.

In her presentation titled, “Impact of Offshore and Onshore Mining on Biodiversity in the Lingayen Gulf and Surrounding Waters and its Implication on the Socio-economic Activities in the Area,” Nilda S. Baling said among the threats of offshore mining is the disturbance of the seafloor. The event was part of Tanggol Kalikasan’s Webinar Series on Offshore and Onshore Mining held on October 7,

Baling, the chief and Supervising Environmental Management specialist of the Integrated Coastal Management and Partnership Section of the Coastal Marine Division of the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), expressed alarm over the potential adverse impact of massive seabed quarrying and offshore mining.

“The scrapping of the ocean floor by machines can alter or destroy deep-sea habitats, leading to the loss of species and fragmentation or loss of ecosystem structure and function,” she said. A zoologist, Baling talked about the importance of keeping the coastal and marine biodiversity intact and discussed the DENR-BMB’s mandate on the management of coastal and marine resources.



Black sand mining

The webinar was held as an offshore mining firm is seeking to extract magnetite sand in the Lingayen Gulf, stretching over five coastal towns in Pangasinan province.

The Iron Ore, Gold and Vanadium Resources (Phils.) Inc.'s proposed Iron Ore Pangasinan Offshore Magnetite Mining Project in the municipalities of Sual, Labrador, Lingayen, Binmaley and City of Dagupan is an environmentally critical project that involves the massive extraction of metallic and nonmetallic minerals, including oil and gas.

The company is eyeing to extract magnetite, also known as black sand, from a total of 9,252.4506 hectares of seabed areas, in the next 33 years at an annual extraction rate of 25,000,000 dry metric tons.

Ecosystems interconnectivity

During the open forum, Baling, underscored the importance of protecting and conserving the country's coastal and marine ecosystem.

Because of their interconnectivity, massive extraction of resources, she said, have direct impact to fisheries, underscoring the need for local government units (LGUs) to look into the potential impact of the proposed projects to the livelihood of coastal communities.

She said even the destruction of the environment in the highland can be felt in the lowland and agricultural ecosystems, the urban ecosystem, down to the coastal and marine ecosystem.

"Sometimes, when we are along the coasts or we belong to the coastal community, we do not know the connection of the watershed, as the communities in the watershed that they are creating impact at the lowland and also to the coastal communities," she said.

Gearing for battle

During the webinar, Jaybee Garganera, national coordinator of the antimining group Alyansa Tigil Mina, said they are gearing up for battle against seabed quarrying and offshore mining in the country.

The group has been stiffly opposing black sand mining because of its environmental and social impact on affected communities.

According to Garganera, they were blindsided by the offshore mining projects last year.

The river dredging issue, he said, raised red flags in late 2019 and early 2020 and said they were totally linked to coastal extraction activities.

"The offshore mining project was never presented to local communities. We're not sure if LGUs knew about this project," he lamented.

He added that the DENR failed to disclose offshore mining projects in its database.

Even groups like Bantay Kita, Publish What You Pay-Phil. and EITI-Philippines were surprised by the influx of the offshore mining projects, they acknowledged the fact that media announcements and references were the only sources of information of offshore mining activities.

Garganera said: "With EO 130, we can expect more mining applications, faster approval of mining contracts and permits, and easier operations of mining projects. This project in Pangasinan is covered by this."



Moreover, Garganera concluded that offshore mining and black sand mining projects will expand, mainly because of the demand from China.

“While we may not have the paper trail, the logical end-buyer is China [with its big] demand for iron and nickel, as Indonesia has tightened its supply chain,” he said.

As such, Garganera said it is important to pin the campaign against offshore mining to the campaign platforms of candidates to the 2022 elections.

“Long-term, offshore mining will definitely contribute to climate-change impacts, especially to coastal areas,” he said.

Image courtesy of Tanggol Kalikasan Photo



Negros Catholics, Protestants unite against proposed reclamation project

BYCBCP NEWS OCTOBER 17, 2021



Faith leaders gather in prayer to oppose the proposed 174-hectare reclamation off the coast of the iconic Rizal Boulevard in Dumaguete City.

DUMAGUETE CITY—Catholic and Protestant leaders in central Philippines have shown their mutual concern against the proposed 174-hectare reclamation off the coast of Dumaguete City.

Despite the rain, church people in Negros Island have recently united in a call to prayer against the P23 billion project at the city's iconic Rizal Boulevard.

In a statement, the faith leaders said that it is the responsibility of the Church as “steward of creation” to protect nature.

“The building of two artificial islands disrupts the ocean topography and burying of coral reefs that sustain life on land and in the oceans will cause incredible damage to the biodiversity, affecting generations to come,” they said.

Catholic Bishop Julito Cortes of Dumaguete, Bishop Allan Caparro of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente and Rev. Marlen Villaflor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines were among those present in the ecumenical service.

They also raised concerns on the effects of the reclamation on local fishing industry.

“This will all the more damage and lead to unwarranted abuse of our God-given natural resources,” they added.

The church leaders also pointed out that the damage that the reclamation would cause “outweighs the good it intends to achieve.”

Various environmental groups and private individuals leading the opposition to the reclamation project also joined the activity.

Ryan Sorote/CBCP News

Image courtesy of Judy Partlow

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/10/17/negros-catholics-protestants-unite-against-proposed-reclamation-project/>



Bishop: Protect IPs, environment from planned Kaliwa Dam project

BYCBCP NEWS OCTOBER 17, 2021



Bishop Valentin Dimoc of Bontoc-Lagawe celebrates Mass to mark this year's Indigenous Peoples' Sunday at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Sagada, Mountain Province, on October 10.

A church official marked this year's Indigenous Peoples' Sunday by urging Filipinos to protect the IPs and the environment from the "threats" posed by the planned China-funded Kaliwa Dam project.

Bishop Valentin Dimoc, head of the bishops' Commission on Indigenous Peoples, said the P12.2 billion project "threatens the integrity and the way of life" of the Dumagat-Remontado tribes.

"They need to be protected because their lives are being threatened by this kind of project," said Dimoc, who is also the Apostolic Vicar of Bontoc-Lagawe.

The prelate made the statement in his homily during Mass at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Sagada, a town in Mountain Province.

The Commission on Audit has earlier flagged the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for implementing the project without proof of compliance of environmental prerequisites and submission of necessary permits.

The IP Sunday concluded the Philippine Church's observance this year of the Season of Creation, which started on September 1.

Dimoc pointed out that the celebration is also an invitation for the people to promote the protection and recognition of rights of indigenous peoples.

He said that when people respect the rights of IPs, they are also protecting the integrity of the environment.

"We protect the IPs, we protect the integrity of the environment. We exert effort to protect nature, we also protect the IPs," the bishop added.

"This is what it means to celebrate the Season of Creation and conclude it with the IP Sunday," he also said.

CBCP News

Image courtesy of CBCP News

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/10/17/bishop-protect-ips-environment-from-planned-kaliwa-dam-project/>



DOST-PTRI researchers developing greener bamboo textiles

BYS&T MEDIA SERVICES
OCTOBER 17, 2021



Kawayan tinik (*Bambusa blumeana*) culms and pretreated bamboo textile fiber

Bamboo textiles have become increasingly popular as part of a sustainable and eco-friendly solution to textile materials and manufacturing.

Because of this development, the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PTRI), is initiating the establishment of sustainable technologies to create greener bamboo textile materials.



The DOST-PTRI Bamboo fiber extraction technology was developed in 2015. It has applied for intellectual property protection with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines for the technologies that include the mechanical, chemical and biological processes to pull out the fibers from the bamboo culm.

The extracted bamboo textile fiber is treated to obtain highly cellulosic textile fibers while preserving the inherent properties of bamboo, such as antimicrobial and UV-blocking properties.

The technology that is applied to natural extraction of different bamboo species in the Philippines—such as kawayan tinik (*Bambusa blumeana*), bolo (*Gigantochloa levis*), yellow bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris*) abBamboo fibers.

Considerably mild and eco-friendly, coupled with the simplicity of the extraction and treatment technique, the technology makes it highly suitable for textile fiber processing in remote bamboo-rich local areas leading to economic gains for the bamboo textile industry.

A more popular commercial process of converting bamboo into textile material is through cellulose regeneration. The process makes the bamboo culms break down into chips, dissolved and extruded through spinnerets to produce fine staples or filaments.



In this synthetic technique, new fiber properties are introduced while the natural integrity of the bamboo textile fibers is not conserved.

Also, the toxic and hazardous substances involved in the production of regenerated bamboo viscose fibers implicate the environmental downside of the process.

To promote the increased utilization of natural textile fiber processing from bamboo, the DOST-PTRI has been using sustainable and improved fiber extraction techniques for the bamboo species currently under study: laak (*Bambusa philippinensis*), anos (*Schizostachyum lima* [Blanco] merr.), and puser (*Cyrtocoloa puser s. dransf.*).

The greener and milder conditions in the transformation of bamboo culms into natural textile materials promote an ecological and community-centered approach.

This puts the initiative squarely on bamboo farmers, farm owners, and textile fiber producers, and ensures that the socio-economic and environmental benefits of the bamboo textile fiber technology redound to the direct benefit of the many bamboo-rich rural communities.

This year, the Technical Working Group of Republic Act 9242 or the Act Prescribing the Use of the Philippine Tropical Fabrics for Uniforms of Public Officials and Employees and for other Purpose, has included in the proposed revised implementing rules the inclusion of other natural textile fibers, including bamboo, to help widen the scope of textile fiber sources and promote employment generation in the countryside.

This market represents 635,000 kg of treated bamboo fiber input material for the production of spun yarns that will meet just 25 percent of the requirements for government uniforms. This represents a huge potential and market opportunity for bamboo producers in the country. ***DOST-PTRI RDD and TTIPS/S&T Media Services***



UPLB names gumamela after Briones

Published 5 hours ago on October 17, 2021 12:30 AM

By **TDI** @tribunephil



The University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) has named a new gumamela flower hybrid in honor of Secretary Leonor Briones of the Department of Education.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis “Leonor M. Briones” was so named for the education chief’s “outstanding contributions to society” and for her “basic education reform initiatives.”

Developed by the Institute of Plant Breeding, the new hybrid dedicated to Briones was formally presented and awarded to her on Saturday by plant breeder Agripina Rasco.

Now in its 21st year, the Women in Public Service series names Gumamela or “Hibiscus rosa-sinensis” hybrids after women who have dedicated their time and effort to public service.

“I am humbled and deeply honored to have a wonderful variant of gumamela named after me. As a nature lover and educator, I appreciate UPLB’s Women in Public Service series that recognizes outstanding Filipino women in government,” Briones said.

Briones was nominated by Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio, director of Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture, to receive the honor.

A teacher for most of her life, Briones has taught young children in church schools and students in undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral studies.

She was conferred the title Professor Emeritus of the University of the Philippines — National College of Public Administration and Governance.

Recently, Briones pushed for the prioritization of teachers in the vaccination program of the national government and the pilot implementation of face-to-face classes in low-risk areas.



Climate change: the next global challenge

[BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C.](#) - [Ambassador B. Romualdez](#) - The Philippine Star October 17, 2021 | 12:00am

As the current chairman of the ASEAN Committee in Washington (ACW) an organization composed of ambassadors of ASEAN member-nations in Washington – we have organized a list of activities aimed at elevating the concerns of Southeast Asian nations and further strengthening the political and economic ties with the United States.

Last Wednesday, we chaired the ASEAN committee meeting at our embassy where we invited former State Secretary, now Special Presidential Envoy on Climate John Kerry, to discuss climate change and its inherent consequences affecting the world which could be equated with COVID-19.

Secretary Kerry gave us a rundown on what the US wants to accomplish together with other countries – the reduction of carbon emissions and a commitment to phase out fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum and natural gas. President Biden has pledged to cut US greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent (based on 2005 levels) by 2030, create a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035 and a net zero emissions economy by no later than 2050.

According to Secretary Kerry, we have less than 10 years – by 2030 in fact – to get the world on the right path and avoid a potential climate catastrophe. He believes we can reverse the dangerous warming of the planet by limiting the rise in our temperature to that level of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Secretary Kerry spoke about the upcoming 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland this November where leaders are expected to step up on their commitment to reduce carbon emissions. Each country that signed up on the 2015 Paris Agreement committed to a target known as a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Finance Secretary Sonny Dominguez, the chairperson-designate of the Climate Change Commission, will be our representative to COP26, but perhaps Secretary Teddy Locsin may be joining him at that important two-week summit with an estimated 30,000 delegates that include world leaders as well as scientists and environment advocates.

All eyes will be on the COP26 (which was postponed from last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic), acknowledged as the biggest and most important climate conference and dubbed by many as “the world’s best last chance” to keep the worst consequences of the climate crisis at bay.

A major factor in helping countries move forward in the goal to reduce their carbon footprint is new technology, such as “green hydrogen” using a chemical process that extracts hydrogen from water using electricity from renewable sources, which can be a replacement for fossil fuels. Secretary Kerry discussed opportunities for alternative sources of energy – green energy – which can be a driver in reversing the impact of global warming and climate change.

He mentioned the technology that develops small, modular nuclear reactors as sources of renewable energy that require smaller investment capital plus greater scalability. In fact, Bill Gates – who authored “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster” – founded TerraPower, an advanced nuclear innovation company that aims to develop carbon-free small modular reactors, the first of which will be built in an abandoned coal station in Wyoming.



Scientists have long been saying that nuclear energy can combat climate change because it is low carbon, and power plants do not emit greenhouse gases during operation. In the Philippines, one of the most passionate advocates of nuclear energy is former Pangasinan Congressman Mark Cojuangco, who has been calling for the revival of the Bataan nuclear power plant to boost the supply in Luzon and avert a power shortage as it could add 600 megawatts of reliable power.

Mark believes reviving the BNPP will help provide consumers with a stable source of electricity at a lower cost. He also cites NEDA estimates that the Philippines will need 13,000 megawatts of electricity to cope with the rising demand, and small modular reactors with a capacity of up to 300 megawatts could address this rising need in the electricity grid. This is something that we should continue to study and, hopefully, the next administration will seriously look at alternative sources of energy as the only way to go.

During our meeting with Secretary Kerry, I precisely asked him about his thoughts on nuclear energy. The secretary was very clear: he was a firm believer in nuclear energy. As I said, the United States is already developing a safe modular type of nuclear energy power plant that will be ultra-safe and can be easily installed in many countries. The US plans to share this technology as soon as it is fully developed.

To this day, the impact of Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) can still be felt, with people in low-lying coastal areas getting distressed every time strong rains start pouring. A few days ago, Severe Tropical Storm Maring (Kompasu) battered several provinces in northern Luzon, dumping more than a month's worth of rain that submerged many towns, with damage to agriculture estimated at P1 billion.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is a global concern, climate change is an "existentialist threat" that also poses the "greatest threat" to global public health, increasing the number of heat-related deaths and illnesses, causing a rise in infectious diseases and impacting the mental health of people, with lives and livelihoods lost due to droughts, floods, fires and other disasters.

As Secretary Dominguez noted, the pandemic is a problem – but climate change issues that we have faced and will continue to face will impact the next generation. Hopefully, leaders – especially those from the G20 economies – will deliver on their climate change commitments because the time to act is now, not tomorrow.

* * *

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Closing the loop on plastic

[Paco Pangalangan](#) - Philstar.com October 16, 2021 | 10:40am



File photo shows flood waters, along with garbage from Manila Bay, overflow toward Roxas Boulevard.
The STAR/KJ Rosales, File

Earlier this year, a World Bank report found that globally, about 4.8 to 12.7 million tonnes of mismanaged plastic enter the ocean every year. Of that amount, about 80% comes from Asia. But the Philippines alone contributes an estimated 0.75 million metric tons of plastic waste in the ocean and is the third-largest contributor globally.

Not only that, but a journal article also published earlier this year identified the Pasig River as the world's top plastic pollution source. Unfortunately, the Philippines did not only top this list but another six of its rivers were also among the world's ten worst plastic waste emitters.

Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has only further contributed to increased plastic waste in the ocean. According to a research team led by Professor Yong Sik Ok from Korea University, because of the pandemic, the consumption of plastic skyrocketed in 2020. Based on their estimates, twice the amount of plastic waste was generated globally last year than was the previous year.

However, this spike in the use of plastic cannot solely be attributed to the sudden demand for disposable face masks, face shields, and personal protective equipment. As a result of the lockdowns that were put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19, getting take-out and ordering in— which often involve the use of single-use plastic packaging and disposable cutlery— have become all the more common.

This worsening global plastic waste situation led the research team to conclude that “in the long-term, though, current plastic waste management schemes alone cannot keep pace with the estimated growth in plastic waste generation, even if capacity is increased.” In their article published in the *Nature Reviews Earth & Environment*, the researchers further argued that COVID-19 has only magnified the already existing plastic crisis and emphasized the need to shift to a plastic circular economy immediately.

However, for this transition to a plastic circular economy to happen, everyone must do their part.

And like any good movement, it has to begin at home. Take proper waste segregation, for instance. According to Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, segregation at source is mandatory. However, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' figures, only 30% of barangays in the country segregate waste.

It is high time Filipinos realize those three differently colored trash cans beside each other in the mall aren't one trash can plus two extra just in case the first one gets full. They are for segregating biodegradable, compostable, and reusable waste.

Furthermore, as consumers, we can also be more mindful of the amount of plastic we use. This could mean reducing our use of single-use plastics like straws and plastic bags. It could also mean becoming conscious that the products you buy are using reusable or recyclable materials. But, of course, the decision to shift consumption towards more environmentally-friendly alternatives isn't always an option for households living sachet-to-sachet.



For this reason, it is also crucial that government does its part by improving its waste collection and its materials recovery and recycling facilities. In fact, according to the study conducted by Ocean Conservancy, the most significant driver of plastic leakage into the ocean is waste that remains uncollected. Hence, the government must expand collection services and close or improve dump sites near waterways.

Industries, too, play a crucial role in the transition towards a plastic circular economy. Technological breakthroughs in the manufacturing process and the materials used in consumer goods are essential to closing the plastic loop. And more often than not, it is industry that drives innovation in this space.

Take the familiar beverage maker Coca-Cola for example; they recently announced that the country's first food-grade bottle-to-bottle recycling facility is set to start operations by the first quarter of 2022. The facility can recycle PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles into food-grade materials. It is estimated that this high-tech plant will be able to recycle around two billion plastic bottles in its first three years of operation and instantly accelerate the companies use of recycled PET materials in its beverage bottles.

During an online forum on its World Without Waste Program, the company also said that it was well on its way to meeting its commitment of making 100% of its packaging recyclable by 2025; and using at least 50% recycled material in its packaging by 2030.

The company also recently phased out the use of plastic straws and introduced paper straws. It also announced that it would be exiting the sachet business as part of its World Without Waste Program.

In addition to innovating its processes and materials used, the company also works closely with the informal waste collection sector to ensure its initiatives not only close the loop but are inclusive as well. According to Coca-Cola Philippines president Tony del Rosario, their goal is to create closed-loop systems, extracting the maximum value from packaging materials and products while in use, preventing them from becoming waste through recovery, recycling and reuse.

Even before the pandemic, the demand for plastic and the generation of plastic waste was already rising. However, studies show that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this plastic problem.

But on the flip side, the pandemic— now ubiquitous with disposable masks and disposable cutlery — might also increase awareness of the importance of plastic waste management. At the same time, it looks like more and more companies are increasing their commitment to innovation and improving how products are made and how materials are recycled.

In their article on the need for sustainable waste disposal, Prof. Ok said that “closing the loop on plastic might not be a reality just yet. However, heightened consumer awareness, increased industry innovation, expanded government investment, and continued research can mitigate plastic burdens on the environment and develop a society guided by a circular economy.” For all of our sakes, let's hope he's right.

Paco Pangalangan is the executive director of think tank Stratbase ADR Institute.



Britain's queen irritated by leaders who are just talk on climate change

By **Reuters** - October 15, 2021 - 6:00 PM



Britain's Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by the Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, attends the opening ceremony of the sixth session of the Senedd in Cardiff, Britain October 14, 2021. (Jacob King/Pool via Reuters)

LONDON — Britain's Queen Elizabeth has been overheard saying that she was irritated by world leaders who talk about climate change but then do very little or nothing to address the crisis.

The queen, who is due to attend the 26th United Nations climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow, said she still did not know who was coming.

"Extraordinary isn't it. I've been hearing all about Cop," the 95-year-old monarch told Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, the wife of her son, Charles, Prince of Wales and the presiding officer of the Welsh assembly. "Still don't know who is coming..."

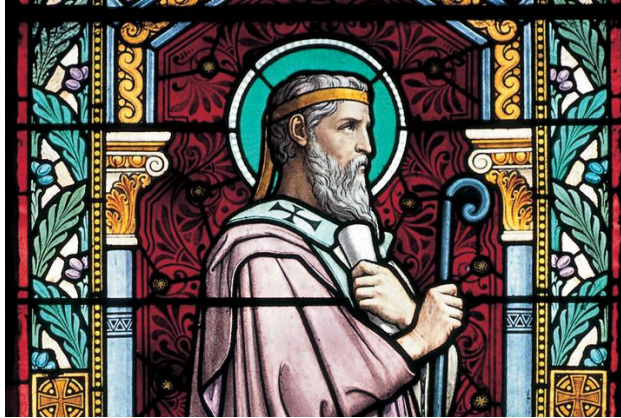
"We only know about people who are not coming... It's really irritating when they talk, but they don't do," Elizabeth said in a conversation picked up by a microphone. —**Reporting by Guy Faulconbridge; editing by John Stonestreet**

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/10/15/202533/britains-queen-irritated-by-leaders-who-are-just-talk-on-climate-change/>



Catholics have long been caring for environment before Pope Francis

BY THE CONVERSATION OCTOBER 17, 2021



A stained-glass window by Lucien Bégule depicting St. Irenaeus at the Church of St. Irenaeus in Lyon, France.

Pope Francis led dozens of religious leaders on October 4 in issuing a plea to protect the environment, warning that “future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home.”

The appeal, which calls for net-zero emissions, was released after months of meetings leading up to the United Nations’ November climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

The pope has voiced support for green policies before, including his 2015 encyclical letter to the entire Catholic Church “On Care for Our Common Home.”

But Francis is not the first Catholic leader to emphasize care for the planet. In fact, every pope for the past half-century—except John Paul I, who died after just one month in office—has addressed environmental issues in their official publications.

As a scholar whose research focuses on the medieval Church, I see many of these concerns deeply rooted in the history of the Catholic tradition.

Early tradition

One of the basic beliefs of Christianity is that the material world was created directly by God and, thus, fundamentally connected with God’s goodness.

This is clearly expressed in the creation narrative in the book of *Genesis*, part of the sacred scripture shared by Christians and Jews.

As God completes each element of the world—day, night, land, sea, etc.—he sees that “it was good.”

On the sixth day, when God creates human beings in God’s own image, they are given “dominion” or “rule” over everything that lives on the Earth.

Early Christians insisted that the beauty of creation reflected God’s glory. But as Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire, they had to defend this view of the basic goodness of creation when challenged by another religious viewpoint.

This movement—called Gnosticism, from the Greek word meaning “knowledge”—taught that the physical world was created not directly by God, but by a lesser spiritual being, out of malice or ignorance.



At best, the material world was a worthless distraction; at worst, an evil snare for human souls. Gnostic teachers offered to teach their followers how to free their spirits from attachment to their physical bodies and the material world. In this way, after death they could return to the realm of spiritual reality and reunite with the divine.

Many theologians and bishops criticized this interpretation of their faith. Several wrote lengthy, detailed critiques of Gnostic teaching; at stake, they believed, was the salvation of souls.

The most prominent of these was St. Irenaeus of Lyons, who lived in the second century A.D. On October 7 Francis announced that he would declare Irenaeus a “Doctor of the Church,” a title reserved for saints whose writings have had a profound impact on the life of the Church.

In Irenaeus’s treatise “Against the Heresies,” a passionate defense of the teaching of the scriptures and apostles, he states that creation itself reveals God and God’s glory; the only higher revelation is Jesus Christ Himself.

At the beginning of the Middle Ages, however, Western Christianity was left with a lingering suspicion of “worldly things,” despite this early stress on the basic goodness of material creation.

Benedictine tradition

By the third century, some Christians began to seek a life more fully focused on God by removing themselves from society to pray and work together in communal groups. This kind of monasticism swept across Western Europe during the medieval period.

The most influential of these monastic orders were the Benedictines, who balanced their lives between daily prayer services and work—which often involved agriculture and care of the surrounding environment.

Each monk or nun pledged to remain at the same monastery for life, unless its abbot or abbess—the monk or nun in charge—ordered them to move to another. Because of this, Benedictines became known as “lovers of place.”

Today, one Benedictine saint has become especially connected with environmental concerns: St. Hildegard of Bingen, who died in A.D. 1179.

This German abbess was one of the most accomplished women of the Middle Ages. An expert on herbal medicines and botany, she also wrote religious plays, composed liturgical chants and hymns, and authored theological works and poems based on her mystical experiences.

She insisted that God loved the Earth as a husband loves a wife, and espoused a kind of “green” theology, called “viriditas,” condemning the harm that human activity could do to nature.

Hildegard has been acclaimed as an unofficial patron saint of environmentalists. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI declared her a “Doctor of the Church,” like Irenaeus.

The Franciscan tradition

St. Francis of Assisi, son of an Italian cloth merchant, has over the centuries become renowned for his love of the natural world. After time as a soldier and prisoner of war, Francis underwent a spiritual conversion.

Rejecting his father’s wealth, he chose to live a life of radical poverty and public preaching until his death in A.D. 1226.



Early on, male members of his new mendicant movement, the Franciscans, took religious vows but traveled from town to town with no fixed residence, begging for food and lodging.

One of Francis's few documents is a poem, the "Canticle of the Sun," which lyrically expressed his belief in the kinship between human beings and the rest of the natural world.

Even the Sun and the Moon are addressed as "brother" and "sister." And as he lay dying, it is said that he asked to be laid on the bare Earth.

Legends about his preaching and miracles circulated widely, and some involved his concern for animals, treating them with the same dignity as human beings.

One story holds that he preached to birds and convinced a vicious wolf to live in peace with nearby townspeople.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II named St. Francis the patron saint of ecology because he "revered nature as a wonderful gift of God." And in 2015, Pope Francis used the first words of the Canticle of the Sun, "Laudato si'," to open his encyclical on the environment and serve as its official title.

Although often overshadowed by the notion that the material world is only a passing distraction, reverence for a creation deeply loved by God has also been an important part of Catholic tradition. Contemporary teaching on the environment is only its most recent expression.

Joanne M. Pierce, College of the Holy Cross/The Conversation via AP (CC)

Image courtesy of G erald Gabier/Wikiedia via CBCP News



La Niña pumasok na sa bansa

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - October 17, 2021 - 12:00am



Ayon sa PAGASA, sa panahong ito ay asahan na ang above normal rainfull conditions mula Oktubre 2021 hanggang March 2022.
Boy Santos, file

MANILA, Philippines — Kailangang magdala ng payong o kapote o anumang pananggalang sa ulan ang publiko na lalabas sa kanilang bahay.

Ito ay dahil pumasok na sa ating bansa ang La Niña phenomenon o ang panahon na mas marami ang ulan.

Ayon sa PagAsa, sa panahong ito ay asahan na ang above normal rainfull conditions mula Oktubre 2021 hanggang March 2022.

Inaasahan ding may apat hanggang 6 na bagyo ang maaaring pumasok sa ating bansa.

Sinasabing ang silangang bahagi ng ating bansa na palagiang pinapasok ng maulang panahon ang posibleng higit na maapektuhan ng La Niña.

Ayon pa sa PagAsa, nasa panahon ngayon ng transition period na unti-unting kumakawala ang hanging habagat at inaasahang papasok na ang hanging amihan o ang malamig na panahon na palagiang nararansan kapag malapit na ang panahon ng Kapaskuhan.

17 OCTOBER 2021, SUNDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



1.6K pad PH Covid-19 recovery tally to nearly 2.6M

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **October 16, 2021, 6:17 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday said 1,634 more have recovered from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), raising the total to 2,587,881.

In its latest case bulletin, the DOH also reported 7,772 new infections, pushing the total active cases to 85,048.

The death toll, meanwhile, climbed to 40,580 with 156 new fatalities.

The country's Covid-19 tally since the pandemic began stood at 2,713,509.

At least 81.7 percent of those undergoing treatment have mild symptoms while 6.3 percent are asymptomatic, 1.5 percent are critical, 3.6 percent are severe, and 6.87 percent are in moderate condition.

The positivity rate was pegged at 13 percent based on the 54,174 persons tested on October 14.

One laboratory failed to submit its data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System on the same day, according to the DOH.

The lab contributed an average of 0.1 percent of the samples tested and 0.1 percent of positive individuals over the last 14 days.

Currently, about 64 percent of the country's intensive care unit (ICU) beds for Covid-19 patients are occupied, including 49 percent of isolation beds and 48 percent of the ward beds.

In Metro Manila, 62 percent of the 1,500 ICU beds are in use, including 39 percent of the 4,900 isolation beds, and 44 percent of the 4,300 ward beds. **(PNA)**



Philippines logs 7,772 more coronavirus infections

Philstar.com October 16, 2021 | 4:32pm



A mother with her daughter show their vaccination card after the inoculation of children at the Pasig City General Hospital on Oct. 15, 2021. The hospital is one of the sites for the pilot run of vaccinations for children ages 12 to 17 years old.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated 4:45 p.m.**) — Health authorities on Saturday reported 7,772 new coronavirus infections, bringing the total number of cases to 2,713,509.

- **Active cases:** 85,048 or 3.1% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 1,634 bringing the number to 95.4%
- **Deaths:** 156, or now 40,580 overall

Over 1,000 kids vaccinated

- The Department of Health reported that 1,151 adolescents with comorbidities have been inoculated against COVID-19 on the first day vaccinations for this age group kicked off in eight pilot hospitals in Metro Manila.
- The DOH said that among those who have been given the shots, no one reported adverse reactions.
- The Philippines received [720,000 more doses of the Russian-made Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine](#) that the government procured.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/10/16/2134608/philippines-logs-7772-more-coronavirus-infections>



Unang araw ng pagbabakuna sa kabataan walang naitalang side effect – DOH

By [Ludy Bermudo](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - October 17, 2021 - 12:00am



A health worker looks at the lists during vaccination of minors at the Pasig City General Hospital on Oct. 15, 2021. The hospital is one of the sites for the pilot run of vaccinations for children ages 12 to 17 years old.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Walang nakitang adverse reaction sa mga kabataang kabilang sa “Pediatric A3 group” na naturukan ng COVID-19 vaccines sa unang araw ng rollout ng pamahalaan noong Biyernes.

“Wala po tayong na-i-report na untoward, adverse reaction among these [vaccinated] children,” ayon kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire.

Una nang iniulat ng National Task Force (NTF) against COVID-19 na umabot sa 1,151 kabataan ang naturukan nila nitong Biyernes, Oktubre 15, na unang araw ng vaccine rollout para sa mga batang may comorbidities.

Idinaos ang pagbabakuna sa walong ospital sa Metro Manila na kinabibilangan ng National Children’s Hospital, Philippine Children’s Medical Center, Fe Del Mundo Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Pasig City Children’s Hospital, PGH, St. Luke’s Medical Center BGC, at Makati Medical Center.

Unang binakunahan ang mga 15-17 taong gulang habang isusunod ang nasa 12-14 year-old age bracket.

Sa pagtaya ng DOH, mayroong 1.2 milyong kabataang edad 12 hanggang 17 na may comorbidities sa bansa.



PNP to deploy more cops as NCR eases to Alert Level 3

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Oct 16, 2021 2:12:21 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, CNN Philippines, October 16) — The Philippine National Police plans to deploy more police officers in public areas and establishments as the pandemic response task force eased Metro Manila's COVID-19 alert level status, its chief said Saturday.

Despite the downgrade in the capital's alert level, PNP chief Guillermo Eleazar said the police will still strictly enforce health protocols to avoid another surge in new infections.

"Sa pag-uumpisa ng implementasyon ng Alert Level 3 sa Metro Manila, inatasan ko na ang ating mga unit commanders sa Kalakhang Maynila na maging alerto at aktibo sa pagpapatupad ng minimum public health safety dahil baka maging kampante ang ating mga kababayan sa pagluwag ng patakaran na mauwi lamang sa muling pagtaas ng mga kaso ng COVID sa ating bansa," he was quoted as saying in a statement Saturday.

[Translation: With the implementation of Alert Level 3 in Metro Manila, I have instructed our unit commanders in Metro Manila to be alert and active in the implementation of minimum public health safety because our countrymen may become complacent, which may lead to a resurgence of COVID cases in our country.]

Eleazar said police officers must also cooperate not just with local government units, but also with business establishments. He instructed more police to patrol these areas.

The Inter-Agency Task Force earlier this week decided to place the capital region under Alert Level 3 from Saturday, Oct. 16 to 31.

This allows establishments to expand their operations, with 50% outdoor venue capacity and an indoor venue capacity of 30% for fully vaccinated individuals.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/10/16/PNP-to-deploy-more-cops-as-NCR-eases-to-Alert-Level-3-.html>



EDITORIAL - Huwag magkampante kahit nasa Alert Level 3

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - October 17, 2021 - 12:00am



Simula kahapon (Oktubre 16) ay nasa Alert Level 3 na ang Metro Manila na tatagal hanggang Oktubre 31. Pagsapit daw ng Nobyembre, baka mas maging maluwag pa. Ang pagluluwag sa Metro Manila ay inaprubahan ng Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) dahil sa patuloy na pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID-19. Sa ilalim ng Alert Level 3, magluluwag na sa operational capacity ang mga establisimento gaya ng restaurant, barber shop, spa, gym, derma clinics, saloon at iba pa. Madadagdagan na ang bilang ng mga parukyano nang mga nabanggit na establisimento. Puwede na rin umanong buksan ang mga sinehan pero 30 percent lamang at pawang bakunado ang papapasukin. Nananatili pa ring bawal ang teatro, bar, amusement park at playgrounds.

Sa pagbaba ng Alert Level sa NCR, inaprubahan din ng IATF ang pagsasailalim sa modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) ng mga sumusunod na lugar: Apayao, Kalinga, Batanes, Bataan, Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal, Laguna, Naga City, Zamboanga City at Zamboanga del Norte.

Magandang pangitain ang pagsasailalim sa Alert Level 3 ng Metro Manila sapagkat ito ang sentro ng negosyo. Kung patuloy na bababa ang kaso ng COVID sa Nobyembre, baka lubusan nang magluwag at gugulong na ang negosyo. Kung magpapatuloy ang pagbaba ng kaso sa Disyembre, magiging masaya na ang Pasko.

Pero hindi naman dapat kalimutan ang pag-iingat sapagkat may posibilidad na muling tumaas ang kaso kapag nagpabaya ang mga tao. Huwag magpakampante nang todo. Kahit mababa na ang kaso, ipagpatuloy ang pagsusuot ng face mask. Dapat magkaroon pa rin ng social distancing at parating maghugas ng kamay.

Magkaroon din ng pagsubaybay ang mga awtoridad sa mga mataong lugar gaya ng Divisoria, Quiapo at Baclaran na karaniwang pinupuntahan ng mga tao ngayong Kapaskuhan. Ipagpatuloy din ang pagbabakuna sa general public para maabot ang herd immunity bago matapos ang 2021. Apurahin ang pagbakuna sa mga menor-de-edad. Ang pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID sa Metro Manila ay dahil marami na ang nababakunahang indibidwal. Kung lahat ng taga-MM ay mababakunahan, tiyak na ang pagbangon ng ekonomiya at malalasap na ginhawa sa 2022.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2021/10/17/2134715/editorial-huwag-magkampante-kahit-nasa-alert-level-3/amp/>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 581

OKTUBRE 16, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

3.1%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
85,048

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

95.4%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,587,881

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.50%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
40,580

MGA BAGONG KASO **7,772**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,634**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **156**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,713,509**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING OKTUBRE 14

DATOS NGAYONG OKTUBRE 16
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG OKTUBRE 14

13.0%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

54,174

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS

88.0%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

BAWAL
WALANG MASK
AT FACE SHIELD

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS)

64% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (21.0K TOTAL BEDS)

49% Utilized

WARD BEDS (15.0K TOTAL BEDS)

48% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

47% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.5K TOTAL BEDS)

62% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.9K TOTAL BEDS)

39% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS)

44% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

46% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 81.7%

6.3% Asymptomatic

1.5% Critical

3.6% Severe

6.87% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Tiyakin nating lahat ang mahigpit na pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** upang makamit ang lubos na proteksyon laban sa anumang variant ng COVID-19 sa bansa. Upang mabawasan ang peligro, lalo na sa sariling tahanan, agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS o One COVID Referral Center** para sa karampatang gabay kung makaranas ng anumang sintomas. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333.**

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



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

17 OCTOBER 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

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


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