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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# DENR unit to pilot database that can fast-track land titling in Laguna

August 17, 2021 | 8:26 pm



Republic of the Philippines

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

**LAND MANAGEMENT BUREAU**

Kawanihan ng Pamamahala sa mga Lupain

THE ENVIRONMENT Department's Land Management Bureau (LMB) will soon launch an online database that aims to expedite land titling procedures and address related conflicts, with the town of Bay in Laguna as pilot area.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the platform will contain tax declaration records from the local government unit (LGU) of Bay, and scanned land records and geospatial information system (GIS) data from DENR's regional office.

The database will be updated in real-time and will help establish a coordinated approach in land titling, the department said.

"The data linkage will improve the land titling processes of the DENR by using the information from the tax declaration information in screening and validating the rightful owner of land property. Applicants no longer need to submit hard copies of their tax declarations to the DENR," it added.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu described the data-sharing project between their regional office and the Bay municipal government as "the first in the country."

"With this new data-sharing development, land titling processes administered by the DENR and the Bay LGU will significantly improve, especially in the harmonization of geospatial information and the validation of property owners," he said. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: [https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-unit-to-pilot-database-that-can-fast-track-land-titling-in-laguna/?fbclid=IwAR3vBTSst\\_bIvONRQ5pt0NuPgBkOezXrgn7fPNuciDkUF9fG54z0GQ7XoVw](https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-unit-to-pilot-database-that-can-fast-track-land-titling-in-laguna/?fbclid=IwAR3vBTSst_bIvONRQ5pt0NuPgBkOezXrgn7fPNuciDkUF9fG54z0GQ7XoVw)



## Data-sharing technology sa Laguna para sa land transactions sisimulan ng DENR-LMB



August 17, 2021 @ 7:48 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sisimulan ng Land Management Bureau (LMB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang online data-sharing system sa munisipalidad ng Bay sa probinsiya ng Laguna upang mapabilis ang proseso ng land titling at mabigyan ng solusyon ang land titling conflicts.

Ayon sa DENR sa ilalim ng proyekto, ang tax declaration records ng local government unit (LGU) ng Bay at ang scanned land records at geospatial information system (GIS) data ng DENR-CALABARZON ay naka-link online at ito ay updated in real-time upang magkaroon ng “coordinated approach” sa pagproseso ng land titling.

Sa press release sinabi ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang land data-sharing innovation sa pagitan ng DENR at ng Bay municipal government ay ikinokonsedera na una sa bansa.

“With this new data-sharing development, land titling processes administered by the DENR and the Bay LGU will significantly improve, especially in the harmonization of geospatial information and the validation of property owners,” saad ni Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito nilagdaan nina DENR-CALABARZON Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria at Bay Mayor Jose O. Padrid ang memorandum of partnership agreement para sa implementasyon ng data linkage project noong Hulyo 28.

Sinabi naman ni DENR-LMB Director Emelyne V. Talabis, ang ahensiya ay umaasa na mas marami pang LGUs ang makikibahagi sa proyektong ito sa mga darating na taon.

Ang data linkage sa pagitan ng DENR Digital Cadastral Database at Bay LGU’s tax declaration database ay padadaliin sa pamamagitan ng Land Administration Management System (LAMS) ng DENR-LMB.

Sa pamamagitan ng online interface LAMS Gateway, ang palitan ng land information ay gagawin sa pamamagitan ng standard communication protocol kung saan ang external parties tulad ng sa LGU ay magkaroon ng koneksiyon sa pamamagitan ng Real Property Tax System computer software.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang LGUs sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Assessor’s Office ang nagmamantine ng computer system na naprocure mula sa private software developers na namamahala at nag ta-track ng land records at spatial data na ginagamit sa pag-isyu ng tax declarations at para sa Comprehensive Land Use Plan.



Ang pag procure at pamamahala ng computer system ay kinakailangan ng pag-invest ng pera o pag-loan mula sa bangko para sa low-income LGUs. Sakaling may pagbabago sa parcels, ang spatial data ay tinuturing na “not updated and is rendered outdated and useless over time.”

Dahil din sa outdated spatial data, ang posibleng duplicate o multiple tax declarations para sa iisang lote ay hindi makita na maaaring humantong na magkaroon ng multiple titles para sa iisang lote. **(Santi Celario)**



## [To promote urban gardening: DENR-NCR, Megawide roll out Community PanTREE'](#)

AUG 17, 2021, 7:33 PM

Santiago Celario  
Writer

**Megaworld will host and setup Community PanTREE booths in their malls and distribute free seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetable crops to be given for free to interested patrons.**

**THE** Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – National Capital Region (NCR) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Megaworld Corporation on the rollout of the Community PanTREE project recently.

The MOU was signed by DENR National Capital Region Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caanca and Megaworld Corporation Vice President and Head of Marketing and Business Development, Ms. Tefel Pesigan-Valentino.

Forester Arturo Calderon, Chief of the Production Forest Management Section (PFMS) and his staff and counterparts from Megaworld Corporation, were also present in the ceremonial signing.

The Community PanTREE project is DENR National Capital Region's contribution to efforts to assist Metro Manilans deal with, among others, quarantine fatigue and food security, through urban gardening.

Under the agreement, Megaworld will host and setup Community PanTREE booths in their malls and distribute free seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetable crops to give to interested patrons.

*"We want to help people to be productive during these critical times, for them to have sustainable sources of food, and to minimize their pandemic-induced stress at the same time by encouraging them to plant and start nurturing nature," Caanca explained.*

Several studies, she added, have shown the effectiveness of exposure to nature—to green vegetation in particular—in reducing stress.

The project was first launched on April 22 in time with the celebration of Earth Day and has since been replicated by other DENR offices.



Eastwood Mall at Eastwood City, Quezon City; Venice Grand Canal Mall at McKinley Hill, Taguig City; and, Arcovia Mall at Pasig City will be hosting the Community PanTREEs.

Those who want to avail of free seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetables may visit said malls after the termination of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila.



## DENR-Megaworld PanTREE project

posted August 17, 2021 at 10:50 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the National Capital Region and Megaworld Corp. have partnered to roll out a community PanTREE project.

DENR and the real estate developer recently signed a memorandum of understanding under the arrangement that Megaworld would host and set up community PanTREE booths within its malls and distribute free seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetable crops for interested shoppers.

NCR executive director Jacqueline Caanca, and Megaworld Corp. vice president and marketing and business development head Tefel Pesigan-Valentino forged the deal.

The community PanTREE project is DENR-NCR's contribution to efforts to assist the resident of Metro Manila deal with quarantine fatigue and food security through urban gardening.

"We want to help people to be productive during these critical times, for them to have sustainable sources of food, and to minimize their pandemic-induced stress at the same time by encouraging them to plant and start nurturing nature," Caanca said. Rio Araja

She said studies have shown the effectiveness of exposure to nature, particularly green vegetation in reducing stress.

The project was first launched on April 22 in time with the celebration of Earth Day and has since been replicated by other DENR offices.



# Daily garbage collection up by 2,500 tons in Metro since pandemic began; DENR exec blames two things for this

Published August 17, 2021, 12:13 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The average quantity of solid waste collected in the National Capital Region (NCR) has jumped by over 2,500 tons per day compared to the time when there was no coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.



(Photo from EcoWaste Coalition)

This was evident in the numbers provided by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda to reporters Tuesday, Aug. 17.

The culprits in the increased garbage generation in Metro Manila? Antiporda named two: the discarded packaging from online shopping deliveries and household healthcare wastes, including disposable face masks.

“Let’s talk about NCR since the number of COVID cases is concentrated here. In 2019, we had about 9,333 tons per day [regarding] solid waste collected here in NCR.

“But now, in 2021, because of the population and the increasing number of online transactions, ‘yung mga packaging materials ang nakita nating dumami and of course mayroon ding tinatawag nating household healthcare waste na nahahalo, ang collection natin ngayon is about 11,953 tons per day (we saw an increase in the use of packaging materials and of course in our so-called household healthcare waste, our collection now is about 11,953 tons per day),” he said.

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020.

Antiporda, alternate chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), had earlier warned online retailers and merchants against the [abusive use of bubble wrap](#) in packing their items before shipping them out to customers.

He said that more environment-friendly materials like old newspapers, which provide the same type of cushion for items, should be used instead amid the growing popularity of online shopping platforms.

“On the COVID-19 healthcare waste, the NSWMC came up with resolution no.1364 series of 2020 wherein [we created a] COVID-19 waste management plan. And it was given to DILG [Department Interior and Local Government] and DILG came out with the memorandum circular instructing the local government units (LGUs) to act on the COVID-19 solid waste management,” recalled the DENR official.





DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (File photo/ Photo from Antiporda's office)

Antiporda said that the response of the Metro LGUs to the waste management plan leaves something to be desired.

“Hindi ganun kalakas ‘yung implementation nila ‘no...Sila naman ay kailangang gumalaw din lalo na yung kanilang service provider (Their implementation isn’t that strong...They also have to act on this, especially their service provider),” he noted.

He said that the national government through the DENR had previously turned over yellow trash bins to the different LGUs in NCR to help them tackle the problem of household healthcare waste. The yellow trash bins can help ensure that COVID-contaminated wastes don’t get mixed with domestic refuse.

Antiporda said that while he understood the plight of the LGUs amid the ongoing public health crisis, the solid waste problem shouldn’t be neglected.

“It boils down to funding. Sinasabi nila it was spent on the COVID-19, yung solutions nila. Nale-left behind ‘yung issue tungkol sa basura. Ang sinasabi lang natin dito, huwag nating ipag walang-bahala. (They’re saying that they’ve spend their funds on their COVID reasons. The garbage issue gets left behind. What were saying here is, don’t neglect it),” he said.

“Kapag hindi ho maayos ang pagkakatapon [ng face mask] babalik at babalik po satin ‘yang virus na yan...’Yan po yung kinakatakot namin. Kapag tinamaan po ‘yung ating mga garbage collectors [ng virus], isang cycle nanaman po ‘yan (If the face masks aren’t disposed of properly, then the virus will keep coming back to us...That is our fear. If our garbage collectors get infected, that will trigger another cycle of infection),” added Antiporda, who is himself a COVID-19 survivor.



# Iloilo strengthens watershed preservation campaign

Published August 17, 2021, 1:02 PM

by [Tara Yap](#)

ILOILO CITY – The Western Visayas regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-6) is leading a multi-sectoral approach in preserving other major watersheds of Iloilo province.



The watershed being revitalized by the Manaripay Upland Framers Association Inc. in Calinog town, Iloilo province.  
(FMP PENRO DENR-6/MANILA BULLETIN)

“It is important that all stakeholders—our local leaders, our communities, our environmental allies—are taking the responsibilities of saving our watersheds,” said DENR-6 Regional Director Livino Duran at the online launch of the Save our Watershed (SOW) campaign.

Governor Arthur Defensor Jr., the chairperson of the Iloilo Watershed Management Council (IWMC), vowed that the Iloilo provincial government will back DENR’s SOW by continuing its reforestation.

The SOW campaign takes off from the 10-year Forestland Management Project (FMP), which is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and will end next year.

The DENR-6 is looking at replicating the FMP that has been implemented in the more than 13,027 hectares of the Jalaur Watershed since 2012.

DENR-Iloilo Director Salvador Manglinong Jr. explained that FMP utilized Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) that integrates conservation and development-oriented projects by providing livelihood to 22 peoples organizations in the towns of Calinog, Janiway and Lambunao.

Forester Antonio Latoza Jr. has earlier explained that FMP revitalized the forestlands in the area that were once degraded.

Meanwhile, the SOW has a series of online lectures and other activities including a virtual bike tour and a photo contest.



# Small-scale miners urged to apply for 'Minahang Bayan'

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) August 18, 2021



**QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya:** The Mines and [Geosciences Bureau](#) (MGB) in Region 2 is urging illegal settlers and small-scale miners (SSMs) in the gold-rich village of Runruno here to look for a viable "Minahang Bayan" area where they can legally continue their livelihood after they have been ordered to stop their illegal operations.

The MGB Region 2, under the auspices of the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR), has recently dismantled various illegal mining equipment in Runruno in a series of operations with the [National Bureau of Investigation](#), Philippine [National Police](#) and the Philippine Army.

In coordination with London-based mining firm [FCF Minerals Corp.](#), the MGB Region 2 cracked down on ball mills, shafting, diesel engines, pulleys, among others used in illegal small-scale mining activities at Runruno.

Engineer [Mario Ancheta](#), MGB Region 2 director, identified the SSMs operating illegally within the financial or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) contract area of [FCF Minerals Corp.](#)

"This is illegal and the best way for these settlers and miners is to look for an area and apply with proper government regulating agencies for their operation of a Minahang Bayan so they can continue with livelihood properly and legally," Ancheta said.

He said the reason why they dismantled mining equipment like improvised ball mills in Runruno village was that these illegal SSMs tend to dig and drill with no proper control on extractive operations.

Citing Environment Secretary [Roy Cimatu](#), Ancheta said these unregulated mining activities pose dangers to the environment, and even to human lives, particularly in Runruno village which has been declared as a geohazard area.

Ancheta said the area where the illegal small miners conduct their operation has not yet been utilized or developed by FCF Minerals Corp. but still it cannot be declared as a Minahang Bayan site.

"I have previously proposed to these illegal miners to look for other areas that can be declared as Minahang Bayan since the area in Runruno where they operate is prohibited and yet they continue to extract minerals from the area," he added.



Meanwhile, some groups of SSMs claim they have sighted areas in nearby towns of Dupax del Norte and Alfonso Castañeda in the province and are in the process of completing their documents for submission to the MGB and the [Provincial Mining Regulatory Board](#) (PMRB) for possible Minahang Bayan area.

In 2014, the provincial government started conducting various activities in a bid "to regulate small-scale mining in the province."

The Provincial Environment and [Natural Resources Office](#) (Penro) said it had participated in the consultation and dialogue among SSMs and local officials of affected local government units.

This time, the Penro said the PMRB could start anew to address the concerns of illegal SSMs in the province who have expressed apprehensions of totally losing their livelihood in the implementation of the MGB's cease and desist orders.

Ancheta explained the absence of documents, permits or authority in the conduct of mining operations and the transport of minerals or mineral products and by-products will be considered as prima facie evidence of illegal mining.

"This shall cause the seizure of the minerals or mineral products and by-products and the tools, conveyances and equipment used in the commission of the offense in favor of the government," Ancheta said.

The MGB Region 2 is preparing charges which will be filed against illegal miners in Runruno for violation of [Republic Act](#) (RA) 7942 or the "[Philippine Mining Act](#) of 1995" and RA 7076 or the "People's [Small-Scale Mining Act](#) of 1991."

"No small-scale mining shall be undertaken outside a Minahang Bayan and no entity shall engage in small-scale mining without a small-scale mining contract," Ancheta said citing RA 7076.

Also, he said they will continue monitoring any activities in the area since a landslide occurred in November 2020 which killed at least 10 individuals and has recommended to the local government here to relocate the illegal settlers left in the area.



# Single-use plastics: Convenience isn't worth it

Published August 17, 2021, 1:51 AM  
by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

- **Plastic management is the main problem for single-use plastics because it does not decompose, causing havoc in other ecosystems**
- **The Philippines produces 1.01 million metric tons of mismanaged plastics annually**
- **Plastic, made of fossil fuels, emits a significant amount of greenhouse gases from production to disposal**
- **Banning these items is easier said than done because RA No. 9003 states that before we ban any item, we need to come up with an alternative and it should not exceed 10 percent of the cost of the banned item**
- **That provision in the law is a legal strait jacket on the government, which aims for the total stoppage of single-use plastics**

As the name implies, single-use plastics (SUPs) are made so that they may be thrown away after just one use.

But it's not that simple. Environmentalists swear it creates a complicated problem.

Dr. Deo Florence Onda, a marine scientist at the Marine Science Institute in University of the Philippines (UP)-Diliman, said the Philippines is the fifth-largest contributor of marine plastics in the world. Just ahead of the Philippines are Indonesia, India, US, Thailand, and Brazil.

By marine plastics, he means discarded plastic that end up in the ocean. "Plastic management is the main problem, specifically on single-use plastics. These are hard to recuperate, use[d] only once and does not degrade/ decompose causing havoc in other ecosystems," he said during a Facebook Live event last June dubbed, "Walang Plastikan."

Onda said the Philippines produces 1.01 million metric tons (MMT) of mismanaged plastics annually. Of this, 0.28-0.75 MMT per year leak to the oceans.

Plastic bags, plastic utensils (spoons, forks, knives), plastic bottles, plastic food containers, and plastic straws are among the SUPs that are used frequently.

Coleen Salamat refers to SUPs as a "bane" to humans. He is the plastic solutions campaigner of environment and toxics watchdog EcoWaste Coalition.

"Plastic is made of fossil fuels. At each of its lifecycle, it emits a significant amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs). From production to disposal, a single-use plastic adds to the already alarming state of climate crisis," she said.

Climate change is accelerated when high volumes of GHGs accumulate within the atmosphere and trap heat close to the earth's surface.





“When discarded, it breaks down into tiny pieces called micro or nano plastics that have found its way not just in the seafood we eat but the water we drink. Scientists are also studying traces of nano and microplastics in the air we breathe.

Salamat doesn’t believe that the convenience brought by SUPs counts as a positive. “Single-use plastic is cheap and convenient. These products are only used once for a few minutes but lasts forever. Its convenience and cheapness does not equate as a ‘positive trait’ when it actually pollutes during its entire life cycle,” she said.

But what if a piece of plastic, say a plastic shopping bag, is reused? Is this a way of diminishing its threat to the environment as an SUP? The answer is a big, fat no.

“Once it [SUP] is manufactured, it already has a negative effect on the environment. We need to broaden our view on the plastic issue. GHGs are emitted during the extraction, manufacturing, and distribution of plastic,” said Xian Guevarra, Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP) national coordinator. “If we really want to address the climate crisis, we really need to stop all the stages of the plastic life cycle, which is cutting it at the source.”

Oceana Philippines campaigner specialist Mae Chatto agrees. She also emphasized the innate permanence of plastic that make such a profound problem.

“We should look at the whole picture of the SUP problem. Using plastic twice does not count. Plastic, once it is produced and released into the environment, stays there forever. That’s what most of our countrymen don’t realize. It is ingested by marine animals and eventually, it ends up on our plates. We have to contend with it forever. So we really have to stop it at the source,” Chatto said.

Every discussion on SUP and waste management in general have involved comments on Republic Act (RA) No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

At the heart of RA No. 9003 is the list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging, or NEAPP. NEAPPs are defined as “products or packaging that are unsafe in production, use, post-consumer use, or that produce or release harmful products.”

The law mandates the National Solid Waste Management Council (NSWMC) to prepare, within one year from effectivity of the law and in consultation with stakeholders concerned, to create the NEAPP and ban the items that would be listed there.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, alternate chairman of the NSWMC, is not one to sugarcoat the existing “plastic menace.”

“Banning these items is easier said than done because we have a law [RA No. 9003] saying that before we ban any item, we need to come up with an alternative and it should not exceed 10 percent of the cost of the banned item. That provision in the law is a legal strait jacket on the government, which aims for the total stoppage of single-use plastics,” Antiporda said.

Sources said that, while the government has found possible alternatives to SUPs, these products are between 200 and 300 percent more expensive than the items to be prohibited.



Last July, Antiporda began an attempt to work around this “legal strait jacket” by proposing to the NSWMC a definition for “unnecessary” plastic products. He hopes that this would achieve a “common ground” with the SUP issue, and more importantly, result to the outright ban of harmful plastic items.

“As provided by law, we need alternatives for the items being banned; [but] those that are deemed to be unnecessary need no alternative and can be declared as [NEAPP] already,” he explained.

Asked what his notion of unnecessary plastics are, the DENR official mentioned plastic straws, stirrers, balloon sticks, and cotton earbud stalks as few examples. “These are the plastics that we can live without. Those have a lot of alternatives that don’t have to go through the long process of life cycle assessment. We need to come up with a realistic solution.”

It was February 2020 when DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, the NSWMC chairman, signed a resolution implementing a ban on the use of SUPs by national government agencies, local government units, and other government-controlled offices. The banned items include plastic bags, straws, and spoons and forks.



# Business chamber urges SMEs to upgrade wastewater facility

BY TYRONE JASPER C. PIAD AUGUST 17, 2021

The German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI) is urging the Philippine small and medium enterprises (SME) to boost sustainability through wastewater upgrade, which is in line with the country's water quality compliance.

"Given that the country is often struck by the effects of climate change and particularly with the issue of water shortage, companies have to establish a business case that is mindful of the environment and aligns with the resources that we have," GPCCI President Stefan Schmitz said in a news statement.

GPCCI said this is parallel with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Administrative Order (AO) 2016-18 or the Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards of 2016 as well as its updated version which is AO 2021-19.

Ambassador of Germany to the Philippines Anke Reiffenstuel said that Germany has recently passed the Supply Chain Due Diligence Act. This mandates companies with over 3,000 employees to be held responsible for their whole supply chain networks by 2023 onwards.

"Concerning bilateral business relations, this will affect business partners in the Philippines because it encompasses all business sectors," Reiffenstuel said. "Hence, it is timely for stakeholders to learn about wastewater upgrades and how to report about the achievements of implementing these upgrades successfully."

In relation with this, the GPCCI recently held workshop series on the matter in cooperation with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation Inc., Global Compact Network Philippines and DENR.

The program covered the different aspects of a system upgrade, including understanding of the industry policies, financing and crafting sustainability report following the implementation.

"We are pleased that we are able to provide this platform of exchange to allow almost 800 Philippine companies to address their environmental impacts," Schmitz said.

The business group said it will be holding a virtual business mission in November with 10 German solutions providers engaged in water and wastewater management.

Recently, the GPCCI called for the lifting of the deployment cap for Filipino health-care workers (HCW) in Germany amid the high demand. GPCCI said that the European country needs about 50,000 HCWs, noting that the Philippines has 2,000 HCWs waiting for deployment.

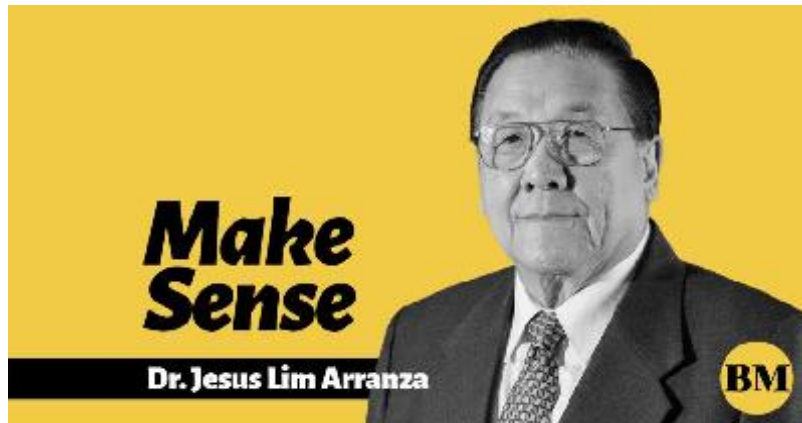
Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III said that the 6,500 deployment cap was already maximized this month. The Labor department is seeking to increase the deployment cap for HCWs by another 1,500 slots or a total of 8,000 this year.





# Practical solution to unclog waterways

BY DR. JESUS LIM ARRANZA AUGUST 17, 2021



Believing that the passage of House Bill 9147 or the Proposed Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act can stop the perennial problem of floods in Metro Manila, the proponents of the Bill in the 18th Congress firmly believe that the measure will significantly ease our plastic pollution crisis.

Hopefully, with flooding in some low lying areas in Metro Manila significantly reduced, if not stopped because of less plastic trash on rivers, lakes and other water tributaries, residents of the National Capital Region will be greatly relieved. However, I am amazed why the Bill zeroed in on regulating single-use plastic and Styrofoam only, when we see much bigger non-biodegradable trash such as old furniture, old appliances and used tires, among others that also clog our water tributaries. Would their exclusion not make HB 9147 a shortsighted legislation?

All forms of trash thrown indiscriminately on waterways help clog rivers and lakes, resulting in the flooding of low-lying areas in Metro Manila. And knowing that garbage, including plastics, are inanimate objects that can't think, and much more get into rivers, creeks and lakes on their own, unless hastily thrown into such waterways by irresponsible people, who mostly live illegally along creeks and river banks, the government should have sought other solutions to the perennial problem of floods in Metro Manila, without necessarily hurting the business and industry sectors, including consumers.

On that note, I find the Bill just a stopgap measure that won't address the root cause of a problem that is costing the government billions of pesos each year for its various flood control programs. Like in a termite infested house, for instance, will you do a total repair of the entire house or have it demolished for a new house to be constructed, if only two posts are infested with termites? Of course not. For practical and financial reasons, you will only do the repairs on the affected posts and call pest control experts to address the problem.

When I told my wife about the problem, we discussed a lot of practical solutions that would not hurt the industry and business community, while reducing waste on creeks, rivers and lakes at the same time. Already emphatic on the issue, as Chairman of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), we will submit a proposal for local government units to pass a uniform ordinance where any person who can take photos of people throwing garbage in rivers, creeks and seashores, that can lead to the apprehension and/or imposition of fines to the culprits, will be rewarded with 50 percent of the amount of fines collected. The photo will be submitted to a community-based committee to verify and confirm its authenticity. The committee, which would include FPI, will endorse the photo to the local government units (LGU) to facilitate the collection of fines and penalties. As expected, the reward system will motivate more people to be involved in the program.



Like the purpose of putting up CCTV cameras in public places to document traffic violations and criminality in the area, rewarding people who can provide photos of people actually throwing garbage in creeks and water tributaries will help prevent indiscriminate disposal of waste in these waterways. LGUs will also be encouraged to establish recycling plants, or at least a garbage depot in communities along water tributaries, where residents can sell their trash, instead of throwing them into rivers, creeks and lakes.

Why would these solutions be practical to the problem on flooding and joblessness? First, this will instill fear in people who indiscriminately throw trash in rivers, creeks and lakes, among other water tributaries, knowing that anybody in their community could be watching with their cellphone ready for the shot. This would eventually result in less floods and cleaner waterways in the Metropolis.

Second, with proper waste management now in place, this will encourage investors to establish recycling plants because of the availability of more recyclable waste materials, a problem hounding many existing recycling plants. And third, with joblessness significantly high in these communities, the cash incentive to photo shooters could well be a source of income, especially for those in need.

All these practical solutions are feasible and viable, without necessarily hurting the business and industry sector. The Federation strongly suggests for the government to consider these proposed measures. FPI will fully support this government endeavor.

For my next column, I will discuss how these proposed solutions can help save rivers, creeks and lakes, while helping consumers maintain their lifestyle, especially those who belong to the *tingi* market, or consumers who prefer sachet packed foods for financial reasons. And most importantly, I will also discuss how these proposed measures can help save billions of pesos in flood control funds for the government, making them a win-win solution to all sectors.

*Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza is the chairman of the Federation of Philippine Industries and Fight Illicit Trade; a broad-based, multisectoral movement intended to protect consumers, safeguard government revenues and shield legitimate industries from the ill effects of smuggling.*



## [Losing biodiversity; invasive fish species have taken over our rivers and tables](#)

AUG 17, 2021, 2:10 PM

Rose De La Cruz  
Columnist

**ASEAN member states have identified 112 invasive alien species affecting their forests, agriculture, and aquatic ecosystems.**

**GROCERIES** and supermarkets teem with fish like cream dory and tilapia which are not native to our waters but are considered invasive species.

Indigenous river fish species like biya (bottom-dwelling gobies), spear-shaped halfbeaks called kasuswit, climbing perch called martiniko which can briefly crawl on land to reach the next muddy pool and colorful gouramis and other fish are now being replaced rapidly by these invasive species.

### **Bad news**

Today, invasive fish have taken over the river. Hailing mostly from Africa, South America and Indochina, they have successfully adapted to Philippine waterways – which is bad news for our native fish, recalled Gregg Yan, an environmentalist who founded Best Alternatives.

*“During my last trip (to the Marikina river after the long habagat), local fishers caught black chin tilapia (called Gloria or Arroyo because like the former President, the fish have cute little moles on their faces), Nile tilapia, African catfish, janitorfish, pangasius or cream dory, plus smaller fish- like guppies and mollies which eat mosquito larvae,” Yan said.*

*“These fish have one thing in common – they aren’t native to the Philippines. In fact, the only native fish the fishers caught that day were several kanduli, brackish water catfish usually caught along Manila Bay,” he added.*

### **Disappearing**

*“Our native fish are slowly disappearing. Sadly, this seems to be the norm and not the exception for many of our rivers and lakes. Even protected biodiversity bastions like Taal Lake, with its unique freshwater sardines called tawilis and trevally called maliputo, have not been spared from the introduction of exotics,” he lamented.*

He gave two reasons for such imported species: 1) for food (which gave rise to tilapia farms all over the archipelago) and second the aquarium trade.



*“So successful are tilapia at colonizing waterways that most Pinoy now think the ubiquitous fish are native to the country. Newcomers to the country’s aquaculture industry include pangasius, giant catfish from Indochina which are marketed as ‘cream dory’ to make the bland fish sound a bit more delicious,” he explained.*

The aquarium trade-- best exemplified by the janitor fish which are now becoming more common in our rivers-- many fish are sold when they are young, cute and still colorful.

As many fish mature though, they lose their bright coloration and grow larger than most fish keepers think.

*“Unwilling to kill their beloved grown fish, aquarists sometimes release them in local waterways and hope for the best – not knowing that fish which come from similar climates as the Philippines can survive and even breed in our waters, Yan added.*

So now our rivers and lakes host giant knifefish and snakeheads from Indochina, janitorfish from the meandering rivers of the Amazon, plus territorial cichlids from Africa.

### **What happened in Africa?**

In East Africa’s Lake Victoria, the introduction of Nile perch has proven disastrous.

To ‘boost fisheries productivity,’ the predatory fish were introduced to the lake in the 1950s.

Growing over six feet long, they soon preyed on over 100 other fish species, practically wiping out 60 percent of the lake’s native cichlids in what may be the largest vertebrate extinction of the 20th century.

As you read this, thousands of brightly- colored cichlids (one species alone is worth P2,000 apiece, compared to Nile perch which sells for P200 per kilogram) are being eaten hourly. The Philippines has already experienced a similar phenomenon, with at least 15 fish species declared extinct in Lake Lanao.

### **Not the first time**

*“This is not the first time we are witnessing the impacts of invasive alien species, which eat or outcompete native species,” says Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim, executive director for the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, an intergovernmental body which protects and conserves the ASEAN’s biological diversity.*

*“While the introduction of invasive alien species like tilapia or pangasius may be perceived as valuable for livelihoods, food production or pest control, science-based assessments should be undertaken to determine if it leads to adverse impacts on the environment and biodiversity. We should ensure that this will not bring more harm in the long run. The extinction of native and edible fish species affects nutrition, food security and dietary diversity. This leads to numerous local, national and regional implications,” adds Lim.*

According to the ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook 2, ASEAN member states have identified 112 invasive alien species affecting forests, agriculture, and aquatic ecosystems.

*“Given that we have all these introduced species already being considered as economically important and are being used in aquaculture, it is imperative that we focus our research and technology development on the breeding, propagation and culture of our native species like ayungin, tawilis, maliputo, igat and native hito, both for conservation and sustainable aquaculture,” explains Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia, a geneticist from SEAFDEC/AQD, an international body which promotes sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia.*



## Farming invasive species

Best Alternatives, an NGO based in the Philippines and VB Consultancy, a research firm based in Europe, are working to highlight the dangers of farming invasive species.

Instead of farming potentially invasive foreign fish, the two groups are working to convince governments and private institutions to farm native species instead.

*“In addition to conserving genetic diversity, farming native fish has many benefits,” explains Jonah van Beijnen, head of VB Consultancy. “They are often best suited to local climates, giving them better chances of surviving adverse weather effects like storms or droughts. Local species can better resist both disease and parasites. Lastly, they are typically in demand and fetch better prices than invasive fish.”*

Institutions like SEAFDEC/AQD, DA-BFAR, DA-NFRDI and the University of the Philippines are already experimenting with rearing and farming ayungin, tawilis, maliputo and other native fish.

## Sustaining native species

This is a vital step in protecting and sustainably managing the populations of native fish still thriving in our country’s rivers and lakes.

Biodiversity – once lost – is gone forever. Though people will always pull fish (and the occasional softshell turtle) from the Marikina River and other waterways of the Philippines, there might soon come a time when our beautiful native fish are relegated to the memories of those who used to visit our rivers.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/losing-biodiversity-invasive-fish-species-have-taken-over-our-rivers-and-tables?fbclid=IwAR09-c4F-BRZh30YpyWMGexXlvx4RwI8culvdP2aAoYWKiD1pHyIdQ4IHT8>



# Retiring coal plants

[BIZLINKS](#) - [Rey Gamboa](#) - The Philippine Star August 17, 2021 | 12:00am

For years now, environmental activists have been pressuring the finance sector to withhold their banking services on fossil fuel-based power generating projects as a way of slowing down the construction of multi-million dollar projects. Generally, this call had failed; for banks, the opportunity to make big money is just too irresistible to ignore.

More recently, though, new indicators are making it easier for banks to turn away from energy projects that burn fossil fuels – coal, oil, and natural gas – and instead, to consider the monetary opportunities that renewable energy projects offer. No pangs of conscience or an admission of the devastating effect of fossil fuels on the environment is apparent here, however.

In developing and emerging economies where growth rates are highest, new power projects are still needed to sustain progress. While fossil fuels have been considered as the cheapest energy source in the past, this has now changed to favor renewables.

A recent report released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) showed that an increasing number of renewable power generation projects added last year were, in fact, cheaper than those powered by fossil fuels.

More data and research supplied in a blog published in Our World in Data showed that over the last decade, the price of electricity from solar and wind declined by 89 and 70 percent, respectively, to levels far cheaper than coal, which had been the long-standing flag bearer among fossils.

## Irreversible shift to renewables

The trend is seen as irreversible, mainly because renewables have reaped the advantage of technological improvements that have made possible cheaper mass production. Add to this the fact that renewables use an energy source that is virtually free, and their leveled cost of energy drops significantly compared to fossils.

Take the example of solar. The cost of photovoltaic models that capture the sun's energy and convert it to electricity are now a fraction of what it was a half century ago, making it the world's lowest electricity source today at \$40 per megawatt hour compared to coal's \$109.

No wonder that many countries are now ditching planned fossil energy-powered generating plant projects in favor of renewables – and the Philippines is no exception. Last year, Ayala Corp.'s energy arm, AC Energy, announced it would make a full exit from coal projects by 2030.

And just last month, the DOE released the names of three projects of San Miguel Corp.'s SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. that were delisted from the lineup of proposed coal power plants for the country, a signal that the Philippine conglomerate was also withdrawing from coal.

The low cost of renewable energy, however, is just part of the plausible reasoning behind these two big companies' moves. In 2017, in line with the Renewable Energy Act, electricity producers were required to source or produce at least one-third of their electricity requirements through renewable sources.

The exodus of big companies from coal projects is being cheered on by environment activists who decry "dirty" energy projects as not just harmful to local residents' health – even with the new circulating fluidized bed coal-firing technologies, but also because of the greenhouse gas emissions that aggravate global warming and climate change.



## Reduced power rates

The impact of a significantly reduced cost in solar and wind energy is timely, but more importantly, opens a window that could bring down the country's current power rates, now regarded as one of the highest in the region.

I remember a number of years ago how Oscar Reyes, then CEO of Meralco, explained the solid economics of coal use by its sister company in power generation as reason for the construction of several plants despite the strong community protestations. Then, renewables was still a costly option. Today, the situation has completely reversed, with renewables being the cheapest source of energy.

Of course, we may not immediately see power rates drop, even with new solar or wind power projects coming on stream, and this is because our energy mix is still predominantly fossil-fuel based, with coal as the preference because of its lower cost.

## Phase-out scheme

Even as the DOE announced a moratorium on the construction of new coal-fired thermal plants last October, the country still has a sizeable number in existence – and good for a couple of decades. For this, the Asian Development Bank's scheme to retire coal plants would be most welcome.

For now, the Philippines is on a shortlist of countries being considered, alongside Vietnam and Indonesia, for a workable "buy-back" plan that would hinge on the cooperation of owners of existing coal plants, a robust financial feasibility plan during the phase-out transition, and a renewable power plant replacement plan.

So far, the ADB has successfully corralled a number of private sector banks that are enticed by a framework that unleashes cheap development money to finance the acquisition of existing coal plants, and the eventual investment spending for a new power plant.

The Philippine government should make a strong pitch to be part of the proposed ADB scheme. Compared to Vietnam or Indonesia, the Philippines would need only \$5 billion to \$9 billion to buy out half of its coal generating capacity, whereas the other countries would required double or more.

The ADB wants to get the scheme gaining ground by next year with the first buy-back deal signed and sealed. A successful template where coal plants could successfully be retired in 15 years should convince more banks to adopt the framework, and more importantly, dissuade them from entertaining new fossil fuel-based power plant financing initiatives.

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# Iloilo City conducts cleanup to arrest increasing dengue cases

By Perla Lena August 17, 2021, 7:50 pm



**CLEANUP DRIVE.** Photo of old tires that serve as breeding places for mosquitoes. The Iloilo City government will again launch its campaign against dengue through a simultaneous cleanup activity on Saturday (Aug. 21, 2021). *(PNA photo courtesy of City PIO)*

**ILOILO CITY** – Iloilo City, for the third straight year, will relaunch its sustainable cleanup drive in response to the increasing dengue cases here and to remind residents of the importance of clean surroundings.

Councilor Alan Zaldivar, the chairperson of the committee on health of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, said on Tuesday that for the third time, they will launch the citywide cleanup drive at 6:30 a.m on Aug. 21.

Following the launching, officials expect barangays to continue with the cleanup drive, which was first launched in 2019, every Saturday or Sunday.

“We target neighboring barangays to join in the launching that will be held at Barangay Tanza Esperanza gym,” Zaldivar said in an interview.

He added that the cluster of Barangays Tanza Esperanza, Rizal Pala Pala 1, Malipayon, and Timawa Zones 1 and 2 are swampy and have stagnant waters.

Fire trucks of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) will be sounding their sirens while church bells will be tolling to awaken residents and join the campaign dubbed “Ugsaran Tinluan Para Balatian Malikawan sa Tion sang Pandemya (Clean Surroundings to Avoid Sicknes amid the Pandemic)”.

During the launching, barangays will be taught the proper conduct of cleanup to remove breeding grounds of mosquitoes.

They will also be giving out larvicides to be used in swampy areas.

Zaldivar said the latest figure from the City Health Office (CHO) showed that as of July this year, the metro has recorded 194 cases.

The Public Information Office (PIO) reported that 83 of the city’s 180 barangays have recorded dengue cases from January to July this year.

“We should not be complacent, especially that we are still facing the challenge of Covid-19,” he said. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1150773>





## To boost its flood mitigation efforts in Bulacan: SMC, Taliptip relocatees team up with gov't in coastal cleanup

August 17, 2021 5 min read

MANILA — Former residents of Barangay Taliptip in Bulacan town—where the country's future premier gateway is to be built—have joined efforts to help address widespread flooding in Bulacan province, after San Miguel Corporation (SMC) partnered with the government to initiate a coastal cleanup that will complement its river rehabilitation initiative, and provide extra income for locals.

Relocatees from Taliptip comprised the first batch of workers hired under the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program under the joint initiative of SMC, Barangay Taliptip, the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of the Provincial Government of Bulacan, Office of Sen. Joel Villanueva, and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

Under the emergency employment program by the government, the relocatees will receive minimum wage per day to help remove trash and other plastic wastes from communities and the shoreline off Barangay Taliptip.

While TUPAD is a government program, SMC helped push for its implementation to enable some former residents to gain additional employment, even as it continues to provide training and livelihood opportunities for relocatees from the area.

SMC also shouldered cleanup costs, including the purchase of all needed equipment, supplies, and protective gear, and handled the coordination work for the cleanup activities.

"This initiative shows how government, the local barangay, private sector, and local communities can partner and work together to make a big difference not just in helping our less-fortunate countrymen, but also teaching them about environmental stewardship," said SMC president Ramon S. Ang.

"Too often, when it comes to plastic pollution of our rivers and seas, we have gotten so used to seeing the problem everyday that most of the time, it just seems too big to solve. But I think we just have to start. The task is no less daunting, but together, we've got the ball rolling; we're teaching locals the importance of cleaning our bodies of water, and at the same time, many of them earn from helping the environment," Ang added.



Ang credited the national government agencies, the provincial government, and the Office of Senator Joel Villanueva, who endorsed the project, for making the cleanup possible.

He added that regular coastal cleanups would complement SMC's upcoming river cleanup and channel improvement project for the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system (MMORS), a major component of its flood mitigation initiative for Bulacan, and Taliptip.

Last year, SMC completed an initiative to help provide around 300 former settlers from Taliptip their own titled house-and-lot properties in safer, nearby areas.

SMC has also partnered with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to train relocatees on various courses to prepare them for jobs at the airport project, or to become home-based entrepreneurs.

Recently, groups of former residents have also banded together to become part of SMC's growing network of community resellers of its popular and trusted food brands nationwide.

"We want the airport project to be a sustainable model of development that will take into account the need to improve the lives of people in our communities, as well as enhancing and preserving the environment," Ang added.

Plastic waste, according to Ang, is a major concern globally, and wastes coming from our tributaries have made their way into oceans and threatened traditional fishing grounds.

The nearby Meycauayan River is one of seven Philippine rivers that contribute the most plastic waste to the oceans, according to a report released by scientific online publication, "Our World in Data" early this year.

Other Philippine rivers in the list are the Tullahan River, Pasig River, Pampanga River, Libmanan River in Camarines Sur, Rio Grande de Mindanao River, and the Agno River in Pangasinan.

Under SMC's river channel improvement program for the MMORS, it will dredge, clean, widen, and deepen the Alipit or Taliptip River, Sta. Maria River, and the Meycauayan River, to enable more floodwaters to naturally flow in them, thereby reducing flooding.

The company has undertaken the P1 billion Tullahan River Cleanup that helped reduce severe flooding in the cities of Navotas, Malabon, and Valenzuela.

As of August 12, a total of 359,677 metric tons of silt and solid waste was extracted from the Tullahan River.

SMC will also implement a P2 billion cleanup project for the Pasig River that aims to extract 50,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste monthly or a total of 3 million metric tons for five years.

Apart from partnerships with the government in line with its sustainability goals, SMC has also cutting its Group-wide utility water use by 50% 2025, and through its power unit and other business units, is eyeing to plant more than 7 million trees and mangroves nationwide.

The company also dropped all future coal power projects in favor of cleaner and renewable technologies under its long-term power capacity expansion. (ai/mtn)

Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2021/08/17/to-boost-its-flood-mitigation-efforts-in-bulacan-smc-talipient-relocatees-team-up-with-govt-in-coastal-cleanup/?fbclid=IwAR3YAnlthRzCu4YXWczqcTzXXGPfQWPaYMyB\\_pM3JVFLDuv\\_7kIT0q0ECe0](https://maharlika.tv/2021/08/17/to-boost-its-flood-mitigation-efforts-in-bulacan-smc-talipient-relocatees-team-up-with-govt-in-coastal-cleanup/?fbclid=IwAR3YAnlthRzCu4YXWczqcTzXXGPfQWPaYMyB_pM3JVFLDuv_7kIT0q0ECe0)



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News5  
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Nasa 74 na sako ng basura ang nakolekta ng Philippine Coast Guard mula sa isinagawang coastal clean-up drive sa baybayin ng Ormoc City Bay kasabay ng kanilang 10th founding anniversary. Nakiisa sa kanila sa paglilinis ang Philippine National Police, Philippine Army, Bureau of Fire Protection at ang PCG Auxiliary na nasa probinsiya.

📍: PCG District Eastern Visayas



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# Soil erosion kills 2

ITOGON, Benguet – Soil erosion buried a man and his wife on Monday along the Antamok River in Barangay Loacan – the mining town of Itogon, Benguet.

Police identified the victims as Nestor Talangcag, 54, miner and his wife Maureen Talangcag, 57, of sitio Beda of this town.

The couple were conducting gold panning along the river bank with their son when the erosion transpired.

Search and retrieval of their bodies is being conducted at press time. ALDWIN QUITASOL



Charred trees remain following a wildfire in the region of Chefchaouen of northern Morocco on August 16, 2021. Firefighters in northern Morocco are battling to put out two forest blazes, a forestry official said as the North African kingdom swelters in a heatwave. Firefighting planes were being used to tackle the conflagrations which had already destroyed some 200 hectares (500 acres) of forest.

AFP/Fadel Senna

## Three in four say climate 'tipping points' close

[Patrick Galey](#) (Agence France-Presse) - August 17, 2021 - 7:45am

PARIS, France — Some 73% of people now believe that Earth's climate is approaching abrupt and irreversible "tipping points" due to human activity, according to a global opinion poll released Tuesday.

The survey, conducted before the publication of a bombshell UN climate science report last week, showed that more than half (58%) of respondents in G20 nations feel very or extremely concerned about the state of the planet.

Scientists are increasingly concerned that some feedback loops in nature — such as irreversible melting of icesheets or permafrost — may be close to being triggered as mankind's mind-boggling carbon emissions show no signs of slowing, despite a pandemic.

The IPCC report warned that Earth is on course to be 1.5C hotter than pre-industrial times around 2030 — a full decade earlier than it projected just three years ago.

It said that "low likelihood, high impact" tipping points, such as the Amazon degrading from a carbon sink to source, "cannot be ruled out".

Tuesday's survey, conducted by the Global Commons Alliance and Ipsos MORI, found four out of five respondents wanted to do more to protect the planet.

"The world is not sleepwalking towards catastrophe. People know we are taking colossal risks, they want to do more and they want their governments to do more," said Owen Gaffney, the lead author of a report based on the poll's findings.

Tuesday's survey showed that people in developing nations were more likely to be willing to protect nature and the climate than those in richer countries.

Ninety-five percent of respondents in Indonesia, and 94% in South Africa, said they would do more for the planet, compared with just 70% and 74% in Germany and the United States, respectively.

And although 59% of people surveyed said they believed in the need for a rapid transition away from fossil fuels, just eight% acknowledged the need for large-scale economic shifts this decade.



Gaffney said the survey showed "people really want to do something to protect nature, but report that they lack information and face financial constraints to what they can do."

"The vast majority of people in the world's wealthiest countries... are worried about the state of the planet and want to protect it," said Kenyan environmentalist Elizabeth Wathuti.

"They want to become planetary stewards. This should be a wake-up call to leaders everywhere."



## [Is Earth doomed? 3 out of 4 in G20 say planet's climate nears tipping point](#)

AUG 17, 2021, 2:09 PM

Rose De La Cruz  
Columnist

***People in developing nations were more likely to be willing to protect nature and the climate than those in richer countries, according to a survey.***

**RESPONDENTS** in G20 nations in a survey conducted before the release of the UN Climate report last week showed that 3 out of 4 (or 75 percent) are extremely concerned about the planet reaching its 'tipping points' closely.

A report from AFP said those surveyed now believe that Earth's climate is approaching abrupt and irreversible "tipping points" due to human activity, according to a global opinion poll released Tuesday.

The survey, conducted before the publication of a bombshell UN climate science report last week, showed that more than half (58 percent) of respondents in G20 nations feel very or extremely concerned about the state of the planet.

### **Feedback loops in nature**

Scientists are increasingly concerned that some feedback loops in nature -- such as irreversible melting of ice sheets or permafrost -- may be close to being triggered as mankind's mind-boggling carbon emissions show no signs of slowing, despite a pandemic, AFP said.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report warned that Earth is on course to be 1.5C hotter than pre-industrial times around 2030 -- a full decade earlier than it projected just three years ago.

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*"The world is not sleepwalking towards catastrophe. People know we are taking colossal risks, they want to do more and they want their governments to do more," said Owen Gaffney, the lead author of a report based on the poll's findings.*

### **People in poorer countries want to protect nature**

Tuesday's survey showed that people in developing nations were more likely to be willing to protect nature and the climate than those in richer countries.



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### **Planetary stewards**

Gaffney said the survey showed "people really want to do something to protect nature, but report that they lack information and face financial constraints to what they can do."

*"The vast majority of people in the world's wealthiest countries... are worried about the state of the planet and want to protect it," said Kenyan environmentalist Elizabeth Wathuti.*

*"They want to become planetary stewards. This should be a wake-up call to leaders everywhere."*



# OCBC Climate Index finds large gap between sustainability awareness and adoption

The new index finds that Singapore residents have a relatively high understanding of sustainability issues, but this awareness is not reflected in their adoption and advocacy of sustainable habits.



Singapore's first climate rally in September 2019, organised by SG Climate Rally, gathered close to 2000 people at Singapore Speakers' Corner. Although millennials are huge advocates for climate action, are they walking the talk? Image: Eco-Business

By [Sonia Sambhi](#) Aug. 17, 2021

Singapore residents may have a good understanding of sustainability and climate issues, but this knowledge does not necessarily equate to action, the new OCBC Climate Index has found.

The inaugural [Climate Index](#) by OCBC Bank in partnership with Eco-Business, launched on Tuesday, measures the current levels of sustainability awareness, action and advocacy among Singapore residents across four themes of urban living: transport, home, food and goods.

Based on the survey results, Singapore residents scored an average of 6.7 out of 10.

Overall, the survey found that although Singapore residents have a good grasp of environmental issues (8.3), they fell short in the adoption category (6.5), and even fewer were advocates for climate action (5.6).

The index is an assimilation of results from an online survey sent to a nationally representative demographic of 2,000 Singapore residents aged 18 to 65 who responded to 106 questions relating to the four themes from 19 May - 3 June 2021.

“In line with the push for greater climate action, the OCBC Climate Index gives an indication of where Singaporeans are in terms of our knowledge and lifestyle habits that affect climate change. We hope that the index can raise Singaporeans’ awareness on the carbon emissions driven from human activities and to nudge more environmentally sustainable behavioural change,” said Koh Ching Ching, head of group brand and communications at OCBC Bank.

Cost and inconvenience were cited as top barriers to adopting climate action, followed by people struggling to maintain sustainable habits. Others felt that the status quo is sufficient and believe that individual action is too small to make an impact.

This year, the government unveiled the [Singapore Green Plan 2030](#), a nation-wide approach towards sustainable development that encompasses five key areas: city in nature, energy reset, sustainable living, green economy and resilient future.

The survey found that of the five key areas, Singapore residents ranked ‘sustainable living’ (80 per cent) as the most important, followed by ‘energy reset’ (61 per cent) and ‘city in nature’ (55 per cent), green economy (54 per cent) and resilient future (49 per cent).

In line with the push for greater climate action, the Climate Index also serves as an educational platform for Singapore residents on climate issues to cultivate positive behavioural change and achieve its shared national targets on sustainability.

“We hope that these findings can help to inform policy and business decisions for consumer behaviour. For example, the top reasons cited for the lack of climate action were cost and inconvenience—can we think about integrating these sustainable behaviours into our system so it’s designed into our infrastructure in the first place?” commented Jessica Cheam, founder and managing director of Eco-Business, at a media conference for the launch of the OCBC Climate Index.

The average Singapore resident generates over 8,000 kg of carbon emissions annually according to the SP Group’s My Carbon Footprint calculator, more than twice the world’s average and far above the target to maintain a sustainable footprint.

Across all four themes, Singapore residents ranked the lowest in terms of climate action in the ‘food’ theme. Of the respondents who eat meat, 76 per cent are aware that their choice of food has a huge impact on the environment, yet almost half of them consume red meat more than twice a week, on average.

Other questions under this theme included food wastage, and purchasing locally sourced or regional produce, which respondents also scored relatively poorly on.

Food waste is one of the biggest waste streams in Singapore and the amount of food waste generated has grown by around 20 per cent over the past 10 years, according to government statistics.

### **Differences across generations**

The survey found that although millennials (aged 25-40 years old) are among the most knowledgeable and vocal generation in advocating for climate action, they are not necessarily walking the talk.

Although millennials outperformed the national average on the ‘awareness’ and ‘advocacy’ pillars, they had the lowest average ‘adoption’ scores.

In addition, millennials comprised the highest proportion of Singapore residents to regularly drive a car, with a higher likelihood of owning larger cars above 1,600cc.

Lifestyle habits for this demographic might be the hardest to change, as millennials are most likely to have kids aged 12 and below, and elderly parents to ferry around. As the [wealthiest generation](#) so far, the additional cost of taking private transport is currently not top of mind for millennials’ lifestyle habits.

Nearly 70 per cent of millennials with young children cited ‘inconvenience’ as the top reason for not choosing sustainable practices.

On the other hand, baby boomers (above 57 years old) were the top performers under the ‘awareness’ and ‘adoption’ pillars. Survey findings suggest that they are more likely to adopt sustainable and economical habits such as travelling by public transport and saving on electricity and water at home.



Nearly 80 per cent of respondents in this demographic cited costs as the top reason for not adopting sustainable practices. They are also the least likely to purchase eco-friendly products if they cost more. OCBC Bank suggested that many in this age group are planning to retire or are retired, and keep a closer eye on their budgets.

Generation Z (aged 18-24 years old) did not fare well in adopting sustainable practices at home, according to the survey findings. For example, Gen Z represent the highest proportion of respondents who use air-conditioning units at home for more than seven hours a day — close to twice the percentage of baby boomers. A possible reason could be because Gen Zs are not yet responsible for household electricity bills and have less understanding of the costs associated with the usage of air-conditioning.

“At the end of the day, habits die hard and a change of mindset is needed. That’s why educational efforts are really important in this respect. We always talk about the three R’s, reduce, reuse and recycle. I would also encourage everyone to consider an extra three R’s—rethink, refuse and repair,” Cheam said.

*Want to know where you stand on your climate awareness, action and advocacy? Take the [OCBC Climate Index](#) now.*



# PANDEMIC, GLOBAL WARMING, FOREST FIRES, DROUGHT, STORMS, TALIBAN INVATION!

August 18, 2021



Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/18/opinion/editorial-cartoon/pandemic-global-warming-forest-fires-drought-storms-taliban-invasion/1811343>



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15h · 🌐

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1050, series of 1997 declaring the month of September as the Civil Service Month, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) will be spearheading the 121st Anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service in September 2021. This is in observance of the establishment of the Philippine Civil Service by virtue of Public Law No. 5 (An Act for the Establishment and Maintenance of an Efficient and Honest Civil Service in the Philippine Islands) on 19 Se...  
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18 AUGUST 2021, WEDNESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# PH Covid-19 recovered cases reach 1,629,426

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 17, 2021, 6:03 pm



**MANILA** – An additional 10,858 patients have beaten the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the country's overall recovery count to 1,629,426 on Tuesday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) said those who have beaten the illness account for 92.3 percent of the Philippines' total case tally of 1,765,675 since the pandemic started last year.

The agency also reported 10,035 new confirmed cases and 96 new deaths.

These figures bring the overall tally of active cases to 105,787 and the death toll to 30,462.

The latest figures showed 96.1 percent of the active cases are mild, 0.9 percent are asymptomatic, 1.3 percent are severe, 0.90 percent are moderate, and 0.7 percent are in critical condition.

"There were 206 duplicates removed from the total case count as 201 of these are recoveries. Moreover, 39 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it said.

DOH data likewise showed that 22.2 percent of 38,243 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on August 15 while six laboratories failed to submit data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the last 14 days, the six non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 1.2 percent of samples tested and 1.4 percent of positive individuals.

To date, 71 percent of 4,000 intensive care unit beds, 59 percent of 20,300 isolation beds, 65 percent of 13,800 ward beds, and 52 percent of 3,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

Meanwhile, 69 percent of 1,400 intensive care unit beds, 59 percent of 4,600 isolation beds, 68 percent of 4,000 ward beds, and 57 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are being used in the National Capital Region. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1150758>





# Philippines sees 10,035 new COVID-19 cases

Philstar.com August 17, 2021 | 4:01pm



Commuters waiting for a ride at the EDSA bus carousel at Bagong Barrio Station during the Metro Manila-wide hard lockdown on August 10, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Health authorities on Tuesday tallied 10,035 new coronavirus cases to bring the country's total to 1,765,675.

August 16 marks a week, or seven straight days, of officials reporting more than 10,000 additional infections.

The Department of Health said six laboratories did not submit test results. "The relatively low number of cases today is due to lower laboratory output last Sunday."

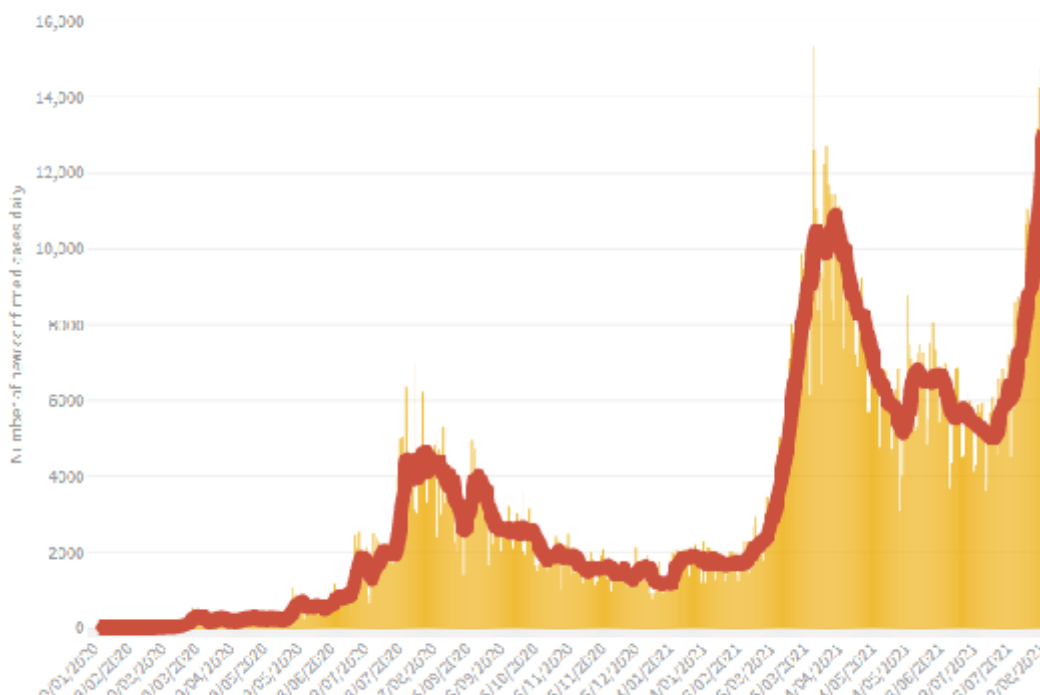
Active cases: 105,787 or 6.0% of the total

Recoveries: 10,858, bringing the number to 1,629,426

Deaths: 96, or now 30,462 in total

## COVID-19 cases in the Philippines

■ Seven day moving average   ■ Number of new confirmed cases





### **Solons back COA after Duterte tirade**

Several lawmakers [objected](#) to President Rodrigo Duterte's comments telling state auditors to refrain from doing their annual reports on government agencies.

Labor Secretary Silvestre [Bello](#) III is the latest Duterte Cabinet member to contract the COVID-19. DOLE said he is asymptomatic and is under isolation.

The Philippine Hospital Association said health facilities still have not received more than [P86 billion](#) in their claims from the state insurer PhilHealth from January 2020 to end-June this year.

A health official said the government's One Hospital Command Center is now getting the same number of [calls](#) per day as it did in March to April, or an average of 450 to 480 calls daily.



## 12.5M Pinoys now fully vaccinated

There are also a total 396,658 individuals who belong to the marginalized sector who are now fully vaccinated after completing the required two Covid-19 shots or single-dose vaccine. Partially vaccinated from this sector stood at 787,294.

Published 4 hours ago on August 18, 2021 02:00 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



Over 12.5 million Filipinos are now fully vaccinated against coronavirus disease (Covid-19), the latest vaccine statistics report said Tuesday.

Based on the latest vaccine statistics from the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC), as of 15 August, a total of 27,806,881 doses have been administered, of which 12,565,017 have already gotten the complete protection of the Covid-19 vaccines.

Of the above-mentioned doses, a total of 18,697,647 individuals have already been vaccinated while 6,132,630 are partially vaccinated.

For the A1 priority group which is composed of frontline healthcare workers and expanded population, a total of 1,854,154 are now fully vaccinated while 515,070 are partially vaccinated.

For the senior citizens or A2 priority group, a total of 3,691,663 have completed the required doses while 747,537 are partially vaccinated.

Part of more than 12 million individuals who are now fully vaccinated are 4,738,847 persons with comorbidities. Partially vaccinated individuals from this priority group are now at 1,609,682.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,883,695 are now fully vaccinated in the A4 priority group or frontliners in economic sectors. Partially vaccinated individuals have reached 2,473,011.

There are also a total 396,658 individuals who belong to the marginalized sector who are now fully vaccinated after completing the required two Covid-19 shots or single-dose vaccine. Partially vaccinated from this sector stood at 787,294.

The total doses administered in the 24th week of our national vaccination reached 3,327,131 doses.

Over the past week the average daily administered doses increased to 475,304 with 1,509 active reporting vaccination sites across the country.



# Palace: Population protection first before boosters

By [Alexis Romero](#)(Philstar.com) - August 17, 2021 - 12:00am



A person gets vaccinated at the Epifanio Delos Santos High School in Malabon City on April 23, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang yesterday urged the public to wait until a majority of the population gets vaccinated against COVID-19 before seeking a booster shot, as the Philippines contends with a limited supply of pandemic jabs.

Authorities have vowed to look into reports that a man was able to avail himself of a Moderna jab in Quezon City this month despite getting fully vaccinated with Sinovac shots in Mandaluyog last May.

The health department has not approved the administering of booster shots to fully vaccinated persons, citing the lack of data on safety.

“We are not tolerating that (getting booster shots) because many remain unvaccinated. Our appeal is since all vaccines provide protection, so let us wait for the majority of our countrymen to be vaccinated before we seek booster shots,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque said at a press briefing.

“Vaccine is the only way to end this pandemic. Let us allow everyone to achieve population protection before we get booster shots,” he added.

Roque said exceptions can be made for overseas Filipino workers, including seafarers whose employers require specific vaccine brands.

“But at the same time, if you are a seafarer and you need a particular brand, do not get yourself injected with another brand. Get a brand required by your employers so we can give the other vaccines to others who also need them,” the Palace spokesman said.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has ordered the filing of charges against persons who allegedly got third doses of pandemic jabs in the city.

A total of 27.8 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the Philippines as of Aug. 15. More than 15 million have received their first dose while 12.56 million have had their second shot.

Metro Manila mayors aim to administer 250,000 doses of COVID-19 jabs per day while the capital region is on a two-week lockdown, which started last Aug. 6 and will end on Aug. 20.

The capital region, home to more than 12 million people, has been classified as “high risk” because of the rapid increase in COVID-19 infections.



## Not bad

Asked if the Palace is satisfied with the vaccine rollout in Metro Manila, Roque replied: “Cases are on the rise so many people are hesitant to go out. But it (number of vaccines administered daily) is not that low. If our target is (250,000), we are reaching about 230,000 a day. So, that is not bad at all.”

“If we continue, we will achieve our goal to distribute four million (doses) in Metro Manila before the end of our ECQ (enhanced community quarantine). So we are on our way to vaccinating at least 50 percent of our population here in Metro Manila,” he added.

The government aims to vaccinate at least 50 million people before the end of the year.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said yesterday it was backing proposals for local government units to pass ordinances penalizing the use of government-procured COVID-19 vaccines for booster shots.

“I support the idea of MMDA chairman Benhur Abalos. We need to inoculate as much as we can. Those selfish individuals wanting booster shots would deny the opportunities for others to be fully vaccinated,” Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said in a message to reporters.

Philippine National Police chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, for his part, urged the public to strictly follow minimum public health standards and quarantine protocols amid the detection of a COVID-19 Lambda variant case in the country.

Data from the PNP showed that from Aug. 6 to 15, a total of 401,979 violators have been flagged nationwide – 29,176 from Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna and Bulacan.

“It’s saddening that in the middle of a continuous surge in COVID-19 cases, the number of violators also continues to rise, especially in Metro Manila and nearby provinces,” he said.

Eleazar said that he had directed all police officers to closely monitor developments in the detection of Lambda variant in the country.

The Department of Health said that the first Lambda variant case is a 35-year-old female who has already recovered from the disease.

The Lambda variant – a variant of interest – is believed to be more transmissible and vaccine-resistant than the original COVID strain.

## Better Christmas

Despite alarming developments including the detection of Lambda variant in the country, National Task Force against COVID-19 chief implementer and vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. reported to President Duterte on Sunday that the government is on the right track in its vaccination program, and that a better Christmas is on the horizon.

In an executive summary of his report on the vaccination program dated Aug. 13, Galvez said the Philippines has administered over 26 million doses of anti-COVID-19 vaccines.

“Philippines has administered a total of 26,677,269 doses with 14,495,263 individuals had taken the first dose while 12,182,006 Filipinos are now fully vaccinated, which represent 17.19 percent of the targeted eligible population and 11.05 percent of the Philippines’ total population,” Galvez said.



He cited last week's daily average of "496,869 doses and a total throughput of 3,478,082 jabs for the past 7 days."

"On our supply, Philippines already received a total of 42,106,150 doses. For August, we already received a total of 8,245,450 doses and we are expecting to receive a total of 22,841,100 doses before the end of August," Galvez said.

He also thanked the US government and Moderna for providing the country with "very effective vaccine."

On Sunday, 469,200 doses of US-made Moderna vaccine arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

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

Meanwhile, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said experts are now looking for other COVID-19 vaccines that can be used as second dose for those already given Sputnik V jabs as first dose.

"The components of the first dose and second dose are different and that's why we are waiting for the shipment of second dose," she noted.

Vergeire added the government has already written the manufacturer of Sputnik V vaccines to demand the delivery of the second dose on schedule.

"If they cannot deliver, then they should advice us already so we can properly identify options for our citizens who were given the first dose of Sputnik V vaccines," she said.

But experts are currently studying the different vaccines available in the country to determine "what would be the most appropriate to partner with Sputnik V."

"As of this time, we don't have complete evidence yet whether it would be AstraZeneca or Sputnik Light. We still do not have complete evidence (on vaccine mixing)," she added.

Eight COVID-19 vaccines have been granted emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration.

Of these vaccines, only AstraZeneca and Janssen are made of technology platform "viral vector (non-replicating)" just like Sputnik V.

AstraZeneca, however, is a two-dose regimen vaccine while Janssen is given in a single dose. – **Sheila Crisostomo, Neil Jayson Servallos, Jose Rodel Clapano**



# 15,687 granted Covid 'Safety Seals'

BY PAULA ANTOLIN  
*@tribunephil\_phau*

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), along with local government units (LGU) across the land, has awarded 15,687 private and public establishments with "Safety Seals," signifying their compliance with the minimum public health standards set by the government to stop the spread of Covid-19.

DILG spokesperson and Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said that of the total given, around 4,000 are government establishments that were visited by department officials to verify compliance and also to install the seals.

Malaya said the seals are mutually beneficial to the private and public entities as the public is assured that they have complied with health protocols. The establishments also benefit from increased consumer confidence and patronage, he added.

The Safety Seal program is an inter-agency initiative by the DILG, Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment and Department of Tourism.

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**Malaya said the seals are mutually beneficial to the private and public entities as the public is assured that they have complied with health protocols.**

Said seals are conspicuously displayed in the establishments and buildings.

Compliance with minimum health requirements prevents more people from getting infected with Covid-19 as those handed the seal undertake regular disinfection and fully enforce social distancing and other measures.

Malaya said the National Capital Region has the highest total number of establishments issued with the Safety Seal at 9,638, both public and private.

To be awarded a seal, establishments assess their own compliance with the health protocols before inviting inspections teams on predetermined dates. Lastly, the seal issuer may conduct surprise inspections.



## Easy Q

[SKETCHES](#) - [Ana Marie Pamintuan](#) - The Philippine Star August 18, 2021 | 12:00am

Perhaps it's part quarantine fatigue, part vaccine (over)confidence. And there are those who feel they must break pandemic restrictions or protocols so they can earn a living.

A week into the return of enhanced community quarantine or ECQ in the National Capital Region and several other areas, the COVID infection numbers remain distressingly high. Nearly two-thirds of the cities and one town in the NCR have some of the highest cases.

OCTA Research, tracking the infection trend, says cases are expected to remain high this week. Even the Department of Health is saying that the impact of the ECQ in bringing down cases would take two to three weeks to be manifested.

COVID hospitals are at full capacity. Healthcare workers, several of whom have been hit by breakthrough infections, are again exhausted; the ECQ isn't giving them the timeout that they need.

This is because, as several health experts who supported the lockdown have noted, the current ECQ is not the same one that was implemented when the country had only a few dozen (but quickly jumping to hundreds of) cases at the start of the pandemic last year.

In consideration of livelihoods, more businesses are open in this ECQ. To allow people to go to their workplaces and vaccination centers, public transport is available. In jeepneys, the minimum one-meter physical distancing is rarely observed.

\* \* \*

Even government offices aren't completely locked down, with limited on-site services continuing.

Yesterday I spent over two hours at the Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame to get my gun license, believing (correctly) that the waiting lines would be much shorter under ECQ. Applicants must be physically present for the written and oral neuropsychiatric exam, for providing a urine sample for the drug test, and to get a PNP clearance.

Despite the ECQ, the waiting area for the PNP clearance was full, although with physical distancing observed. A policewoman told me the typical non-ECQ crowd was about three to four times larger. Only the office providing the gun safety seminar was shut down for the ECQ.

At the Firearms and Explosives Office, I was told that there was a recent COVID outbreak, but the FEO wasn't completely shut down under ECQ. Instead staff rotation is being implemented, with only half physically reporting at the office and the rest working from home.

We mustn't forget that cops are also frontliners in the war against SARS-CoV-2. As of yesterday, the PNP had lost 96 members to COVID. I disinfected my hands at every step of my gun license application and quickly changed my clothes upon reaching our newspaper office.

Compared to the original ECQ, there are fewer police checkpoints within Metro Manila, whether at daytime or at night. Maybe the PNP is focused on manning the borders of the NCR with several provinces.

Even the ECQ restriction on children is not fully enforced. At past 10 p.m. last Monday, there were minors from toddlers to teenagers freely roaming Roxas Boulevard near T.M. Kalaw street in Manila.

Late at night past the 8 p.m. curfew, there are still many vehicles on the road, and a lot of delivery motorcycles.





I wouldn't call it the hard lockdown that was suggested to curb Delta. In fact people are calling it "Easy Q."

\* \* \*

Even Easy Q, however, is a heavy burden for the average businessman. The National Economic and Development Authority, which estimated the economic losses from ECQ at P150 billion a week, wants no more extension of the lockdown beyond the original Aug. 20 timetable.

But can the public health system afford an easing of restrictions if daily cases are still hitting 10,035, as was recorded yesterday?

Health experts have warned that the impact on cases of the superspreader bedlam at vaccination sites on the eve of ECQ in the cities of Antipolo, Las Piñas and Manila would be manifested only after two weeks.

The highly contagious Delta is now in all regions except Caraga. We now have what the DOH believes is a local case of the Lambda variant first detected in Peru, which is believed to be as transmissible as Delta.

In his latest public address aired at ungodly hours, President Duterte warned that the coronavirus "will circulate in the air for years" and there is no alternative to lockdowns no matter how unpopular.

\* \* \*

Certain businessmen acknowledge that other countries which previously enjoyed low infection rates such as Australia, but which are now facing the threat of Delta, are also locking down.

The difference is that their hard lockdowns are accompanied by intensified testing and focused contact tracing – two critical components of the pandemic response that businessmen in our country lament are disappointingly weak.

In our case, the government is relying heavily on getting the target population vaccinated, without sufficiently attending to the other components of the pandemic response. Apart from the limited supply of jabs, however, the government is also contending with continuing vaccine hesitancy, now aggravated by certain anti-vaxxer doctors.

COVID variants slip like sand through the fists (no matter how tightly clenched) of our officials in charge of the pandemic battle. The grains of sand then fall to the ground, untraceable, randomly hitting the unfortunate.

With this movement of the COVID virus, lockdowns have become the administration's go-to response.

But being Easy Q, and without the accompanying boosts in testing and contact tracing (and therefore efficient isolation), the costly lockdown may not produce the expected full impact in containing the virus.



## GRUPO LABAN SA COVID-19; SIRAAAN SA PULITIKA ISANTABI



August 17, 2021 @ 12:53 PM 17 hours ago

TANGGAPIN man natin o hindi, hindi maganda ang nagaganap sa mahal kong Pinas kaugnay ng coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Sa nakalipas na isang linggo, may libong nadaragdag sa mga tinatamaan ng COVID-19.

‘Yung bang === mula sa mahigit lamang na 8,400 biktima noong Agosto 10, lumundag na ang bilang ng mga biktima sa halos 15,000 kahapon.

Ang masakit pa, habang dumarami ang nagkakasakit, dumarami rin ang namamatay mula sa mahigit 100 lamang sa humigit-kumulan sa 200 na ngayon.

Ayon sa Department of Health, hindi natin mapipigilan ang pagdami ng mga biktima lalo ngayong umaatake na ang Delta variant kahit saan.

Katangian ng Delta variant ang pagkakaroon ng mahigit 1,000 virus sa isang tao kumpara sa 1 lang sa orig na COVID-19 kaya gayun na lamang kung makahawa ang may dala nito.

At dahil sa rami ng virus na dala ng Delta variant, hindi nakapagtataakang kung pumatay ito ng biktima ay gayun na lamang.

### **PINAS, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA**

Sa Indonesia na inaatake nang todo ng Delta variant, kapag umabot sa 20,000-30,000 ang biktima, may patay silang nasa 1,200-1,500 at ‘pag lumagpas sa 30,000 ang tinamaan, naglalaro na 2,000 ang patay nila.

Ang Malaysia at Thailand, bagama’t hindi pa nila naaabot ang markang milyon na biktima at ‘di kagaya ng Pilipinas na meron nang mahigit sa 1.7 milyon, naglalaro sila sa 20,000 may sakit araw-araw ngayon.

At kinakikitaan sila ng nasa pagitan ng 200-300 patay araw-araw rin.

Sa Pilipinas, umaabot na tayo sa halos 15,000 at gayundin na nasa pagitan ng 200-300 ang patay araw-araw.

Kung magpapatuloy ang pagdami ng mga biktima sa Pilipinas, maaaring magkakaroon tayo ng higit na maraming patay kumpara sa Malaysia at Thailand.

### **SERYOSONG KALAGAYAN**

Nakapaloob tayo sa seryosong kalagayan lalo ngayong sinasabi ng DOH na may mga rehiyon na napakabilis ang pagdami ng mga biktima.

Sa 10 biktima, 9 ang hindi bakunado sa mga naoospital naman gaya ng rekord ng Philippine General Hospital.



Ganito rin ang rekord ng isang pribadong ospital na mayayaman lang ang may kakayahang doon magpa-confine.

Magkaiba nga lang ang sitwasyon kaugnay ng pagbabakuna.

Sa mga ospital ng gobyerno, mga Bro, ang 9 na hindi bakunado ay nasa hanay ng mga mahihirap o hindi pa naaabot ng bakuna o kaya'y ayaw magpabakuna.

Pero sa mga pribadong ospital na pangmayayaman, anak ng tokwa, ang pagiging choosy nila sa bakuna ang problema.

Hindi sila bakunado dahil hinihintay ang mga gawang Amerika o England o Europa.

### **MASAMANG BUNGA**

Gaya ng nagaganap sa Amerika, higit na nanghahawa sa iba ang mga hindi bakunado kahit pa sabihing parehong kinakapitan ng virus ang mga bakunado at hindi.

At pareho silang nanghahawa.

Pero dahil higit na madaling kapitan ang hindi bakunado kaysa bakunado, nandiyan ang pagkakaiba na higit na nakapanghahawa ang hindi bakunado.

Sampol na lang ang mga nakaospital ngayon.

Siyam sa bawat isa ang hindi bakunado kaya naman, masasabi nating higit na nakapanghahawa ang mga hindi bakunado.

### **GRUPO ANG LABAN**

Hindi sapat na kaya ng mga indibiduwal ang lumaban sa hawaan.

Kung gusto natin talaga ang epektibong laban sa pandemya, dapat grupo tayo kung kumilos.

Gaya ng ginagawa ng pamahalaan na grupo ang inter-agency task force, dapat grupo rin ang mga mamamayan.

Sa grupo, kapag nagsama-sama ang mga tao, makakayanan nilang bumili ng sapat na mga gamit para sa health protocol gaya ng mga face mask, disinfectant, face shield, antigen kit, vitamins at pagkain na pampalakas ng katawan.

Sa grupo, nariryan din ang epektibong pagpatupad sa hanay ng mga mamamayan sa social distancing, contact tracing, tulungan sa pagdadala sa quarantine facility ng may tama at mas malakas na pwersang kaagapay ng pamahalaan laban sa pandemya.

### **MAPANIRANG PAMUMULITIKA ITIGIL**

May panawagan naman tayo sa mga politiko.

Alam ba ninyong milyon-milyon ang ginagastos ngayon ng mga ito sa paninira nila sa isa't isa?

Milyon ang gastusan sa mga propagandista nila sa social media o kaya'y maging sa mga tradisyunal na media gaya ng mga radio, telebisyon at diaryo.

Higit pa, milyon ang gastos nila sa agawan sa mga taong kakampi nila para lang makatiyak sila ng malawakang boto sa darating na halalan.

Sana, ibuhos muna nila ang kanilang yaman sa giyera sa pandemya at dito nila higit na ipadama sa taumbayan ang halaga nila bilang mga politiko.



## EDITORIAL - Hospitals overwhelmed, again

The Philippine Star August 18, 2021 | 12:00am



Some hospitals are now converting even administrative offices and conference rooms into COVID wards, according to the Department of Health. A few others have been turning away COVID patients because the special wards are full.

Driven by more infectious variants led by Delta, COVID is again overwhelming hospitals in many parts of the country. Health frontliners are again looking ready to collapse from exhaustion. Delayed payment of their special allowances and benefits is compounding the problem. Metro Manila and several other areas are into the second week of enhanced community quarantine with nursing groups threatening a mass resignation over the delayed payments.

Hospital operators have stressed that it is easy to add more beds and rooms dedicated to COVID cases. But COVID facilities need healthcare workers with the special training needed to attend to patients particularly the severe or critical cases. The HCWs, including the fully vaccinated, must also be knowledgeable about the extra safety precautions needed in going about their work.

The HCWs must be able to determine when a patient is recovered enough to allow transfer to a regular quarantine facility or even to home care. The stepping down must be recommended with a reasonable assurance that the threat of a deadly cytokine storm, which usually occurs late into the infection, has passed. The cytokine storm aggravates COVID-induced respiratory distress, which causes widespread tissue damage that leads to multiple organ failure and death.

The One Hospital Command Center has reported a spike in calls for referrals, similar to the levels seen in the killer surge from March to April this year. The OHCC has since hired more personnel to field calls and speed up the search for hospitals. Online medical consultation has also been launched.

Private hospital operators say their members lost approximately 40 percent of their nurses in 2020, with more following amid the COVID spikes this year. Government hospitals, where nurses generally get higher pay, are also losing the frontliners and having trouble finding replacements.

This problem has festered even before the pandemic. With President Duterte warning that COVID could be around for many years, the problem calls for a decisive, long-term solution.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/08/18/2120728/editorial-hospitals-overwhelmed-again>



# **#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**

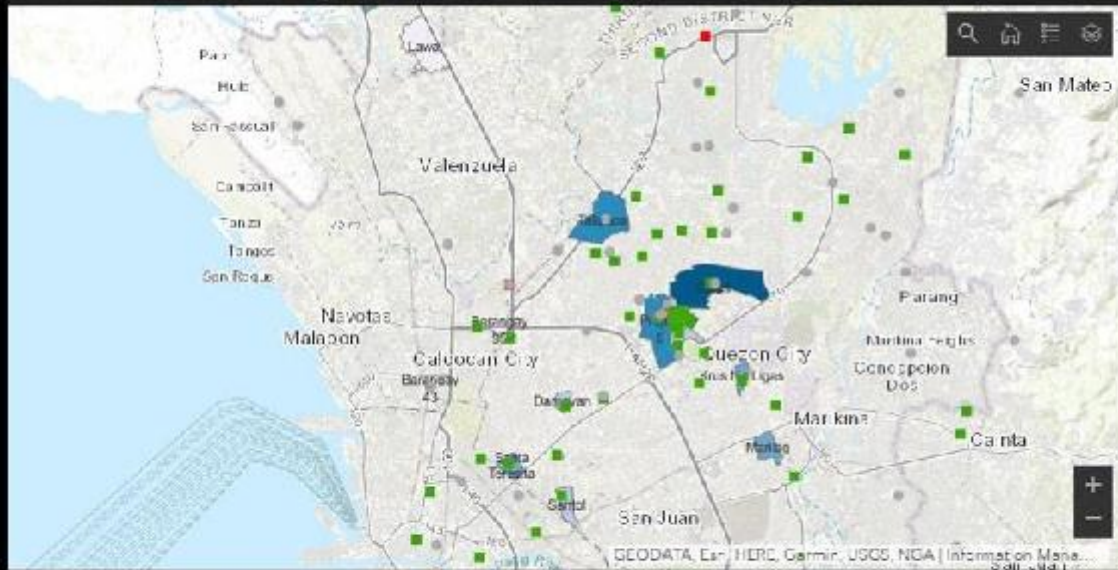
# DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Control Office.



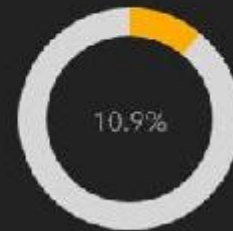
## Residence of affected personnel



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel, and do not necessarily provide exact location addresses of the cases.

[Map](#) [Map Legend](#)

## % COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in DENR-CO



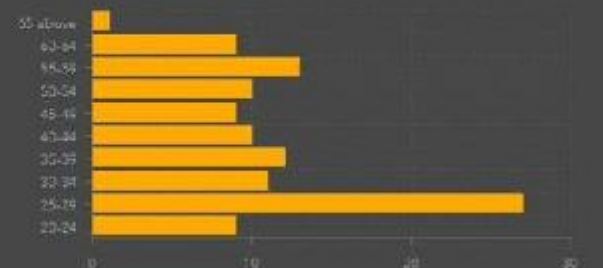
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## Daily Confirmed Cases



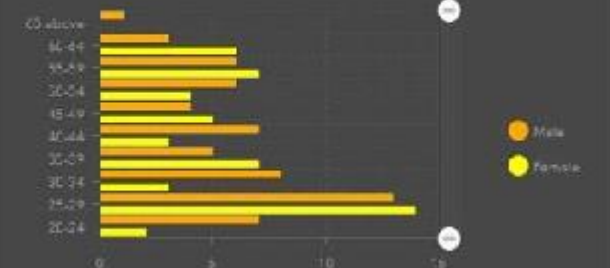
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## Age Group



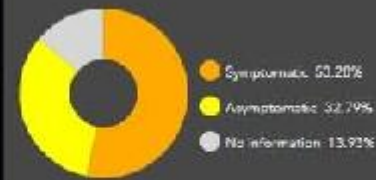
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## Age Group by Sex



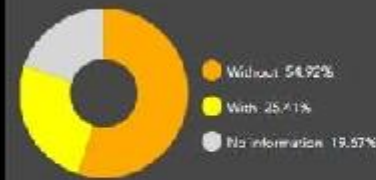
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## Health Status



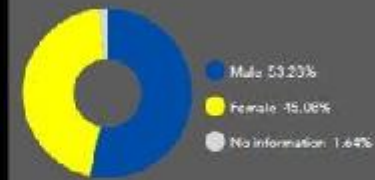
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## Comorbidity



Last update: a few seconds ago

## Sex



Last update: a few seconds ago



# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 521

## AGOSTO 17, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 6.0%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
105,787

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 92.3%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
1,629,426

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.73%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
30,462

MGA BAGONG KASO **10,035**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **10,858**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **96**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **1,765,675**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 15  
DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 17  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 15

# 22.2%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 38,243

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS  
**97.1%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!



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 (4.0K TOTAL BEDS) **71%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.3K TOTAL BEDS) **59%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (13.8K TOTAL BEDS) **65%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **52%** Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS) **69%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS) **59%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS) **68%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **57%** Utilized

Mild 96.1%

0.9% Asymptomatic

0.7% Critical

1.3% Severe

0.90% Moderate



## UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Tiyakin natin ang masusing pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards**, tungo sa lubos na proteksyon ng ating mga tahanan at komunidad mula sa peligro ng COVID-19. Iwasan din nating manghula sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa ating **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** upang maiwasan ang dagdag pang pagkahawaan. 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, nariyan din ang mga hotline ng ating mga pasilidad. 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.



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

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



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



Manatiling ligtas!  
I-download ang StaySafe App  
O Gamiting ang WEBAPP  
at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](http://Staysafe.ph)

MARYOON PANNG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555



# NAGPOSITIBO SA COVID-19?

AGAD NA MAKIPAG-UGNAYAN SA INYONG BHERT.  
SILA ANG MAMAMAHALA PARA SA IYONG REFERRAL  
SA OSPITAL O ISOLATION FACILITY.

BATAY SA ASSESSMENT NG IYONG BHERT,  
AY MAAARI KANG I-REFER SA OSPITAL KUNG  
IKAW AY NAKAKARANAS NG:



HIRAP SA PAGHINGA KAHIT NAKA-LIPO;



LIBO, LAGNAT, AT HUMIHIRAP NA  
PAGHINGA;



LUMULUBHANG PAG-LIBO;



PAGKALITO O BIGLAANG PAGBABAGO  
NG KALAGAYAN NG PAG-IISIP;



PAGSAKIT NG DIBDIB;



MABABANG OXYGEN LEVEL;



MATINDING PAGKA-ANTOK O  
HINDI MAGISING; AT



KULAY BUGHAW O PANGINGITIM NG  
MUKHA O LABI.

KLING MAY IBA PANG NARARANASANG MGA SINTOMAS NA  
NAKAKABAHALA, AGAD NA TUMAWAG SA INYONG BHERT.



Healthy  
Pilipinas





# JOIN THE NUMBER OF THOSE THAT GOT VACCINATED WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN!

**27,806,881\***

VACCINE DOSES GIVEN\*

REPORTED  
REACTIONS TO  
VACCINATION \*\*

**0.23%**



## TOP 5 VACCINE REACTIONS

PAIN/REACTION AT THE  
INJECTION SITE

DIZZINESS, HEADACHE,  
SYNCOPE, ETC.

BACK, JOINT, AND ARM PAINS

INCREASED BP DURING THE  
PROCEDURE, ETC.

COLD SWEAT, RASH, AND  
REDNESS OF THE SKIN

**MOST UNTOWARD REACTIONS ARE MILD, RESOLVE  
SPONTANEOUSLY, AND DO NOT NEED HOSPITALIZATION**

\*AS OF 15 AUGUST 2021 (1ST AND 2ND DOSES/FULLY VACCINATED)  
\*\*AS OF 8 AUGUST 2021 (1ST AND 2ND DOSES/FULLY VACCINATED)



**RESBAKUNA**  
KASANGGA NG BIDA

# CONCERNED ABOUT SAFETY OF COVID-19 VACCINES?



TAKE A LOOK AT THE DATA:

DIED **FROM COVID-19**

**29,128\***

DIED **FROM COVID-19 VACCINES**

**0**

RECEIVED **1ST DOSE**

**13,087,781\***

RECEIVED **2ND DOSE**

**11,391,969\***

\*AS OF 9 AUGUST 2021

**VACCINES ARE SAFE!  
BE PART OF THE  
BIDA BAKUNATION!**



Healthy  
Pilipinas



**RESBAKUNA**  
KASANGGA NG BIDA

For any COVID-19 concerns and emergencies, you may call the  
**COVID-19 HOTLINE NUMBERS**  
 These numbers are operational 24/7



**CALOOCAN**  
 0947-883 4430  
 0977-239 3931



**MALABON**  
 8921-6009  
 8921-6029  
 0942-372 9891  
 0919-062 5588



**NAVOTAS**  
 8281-1111  
 0922-888 8578  
 0908-886 8578  
 0915-260 1385



**VALENZUELA**  
 137-160 CESU  
 (Mega Contact Tracing Center)  
 8822-2463  
 (VCVax Help Desk)



**MANILA**  
 8926-2385  
 8926-2380  
 8926-2386  
 0961-062 7013  
 0915-065 6335  
 0968-438 9304  
 0927-559 7180  
 0961-628 1414  
 0995-496 6176



**MAKATI**  
 8870-1442  
 8870-1443  
 8870-1444  
 8870-1447  
 8870-1448  
 8882-6316 (OsMak)  
 168



**MANDALUYONG**  
 8533-2225  
 8533-1897  
 0963-164 6410  
 0956-150 2808  
 0956-427 3727  
 0961-696 5141



**SAN JUAN**  
 7979-8358  
 0947-483 0478  
 0926-617 4377  
 137-135



**PASIG**  
 8643-0000  
 #72744 (#PASIG)  
 (for Smart users only)



**PATEROS**  
 8642 5159  
 0949-811 5332  
 0995-0211699



**MARIKINA**  
 8997-1013  
 8646-2436 to 38  
 0961-767 3850  
 0945-517 6926  
 0961-470 3326  
 0917-584 2168  
 0956-467 0870  
 0961-7454848  
 0928-559 3341  
 161



**TAGUIG**  
 8789-3200  
 0966-419 4510



**QUEZON CITY**  
 Helpline: 122  
 8988-4242 loc 8407  
 0919-067 0096  
 0919-067 9236  
 0927-861 9733  
 CESU:  
 8703-2759  
 9703-4398  
 0916-122 8628  
 0908-639 8086  
 0931-095 7737



**MUNTINLUPA**  
 8925-4351  
 0977-240 5218  
 0929-858 7689  
 137-175



**PARANAQUE**  
 8820-7783  
 HEMS:  
 8826-7464  
 0929-877 7779  
 0927-774 6525  
 CHIS:  
 8829-2808  
 0968-768 8543  
 0927-733 0532



**LAS PINAS**  
 0949-624 6824  
 0977-672 6211  
 8994-5782  
 12 hrs operational  
 (8AM-8PM)



**PASAY**  
 0956-778 6524  
 0908-993 7024

**ONE COVID REFERRAL CENTER**  
 1555 | 0919-977-3333 | 0915-777-7777 | (02)886-505-00



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
 METRO MANILA CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT**

#AGoal4All



Wear a mask



#AGoal4All



Clean your hands



#AGoal4All



Keep physical distance



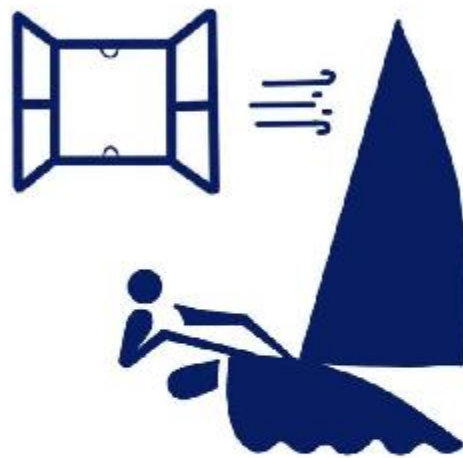
#AGoal4All



Cough & sneeze  
away into your elbow



#AGoal4All



Open windows  
as much as possible



18 AUGUST 2021, WEDNESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**


**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**Please click this link:**

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#ManilaBayUpdate #ManilaBayWarriors #BattleForManilaBay  
**WOOD-FENCING PARA SA BAYWALK UUMPISAHAN NA!**  
1,949 views · Aug 17, 2021 👍 121 💬 5 ➦ SHARE 📌 SAVE ⋮

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168K subscribers SUBSCRIBE

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#BattleForManilaBay

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MANILA BAY  
MANILA BAY UPDATE AS OF AUGUST 17, 2021 | KALBARYO NG WATER LILY MULING UMATAKE  
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 **Alvin Tv**  
36.7K subscribers [SUBSCRIBE](#)

August 17, 2021

Manila Bay Muling Dinagsa ng Water lily to the RESCUE naman agad ang Trash skimmer ng

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MANILA BAY  
PARA SAAN ITO? Kontra KRITIKO? Bagong Aabangan! August 17, 2021  
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#ManilaBayUpdate #BeachNourishment #BattleForManilaBay

ANG BILIS! DAMBUHALANG TUBO INILATAG NA!

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 MANILA

MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY 08-17-2021 | KAABANG-ABANG NA AKSYON SA MANILA BAY

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#ManilaBayUpdate #BeachNourishment #BattleForManilaBay  
TANONG NG KARAMIHAN, BOYA PARA SAAN NGA BA?  
1,656 views · Aug 17, 2021

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#ManilaUpdate #BasecoBeach #NoypMind

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#Baseco #ManilaCity #InformalSettler  
KABAHAYAN SA GILID NG DAGAT MAHIRAP MAN ISIPIN ISA ITO SA PINANGGAGALINGAN NG BASURA

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#Baseco #ManilaCity #InformalSeller

NAKU PO! KALAGAYAN SA BASECO APLAYA MGA BASURA AT PUTIK SA DALAMPASIGAN PARIN

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Live May Bagol  
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For Inquiries Feel Free to E-mail me @  
[mangyanwanderer2019@gmail.com](mailto:mangyanwanderer2019@gmail.com)



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#manilaBayupdate #dolomitesand #manilaBayupdate:today  
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#battleofmanilabay #longbeach #dolomitesand

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#manilaBayupdate #DolomiteSand #manilaBayupdateToday

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what's up mga kababayan welcome back to my Youtube channel Tropang Ilonggo. ito mga ka tropa may bago na naman tayong update please support may update today and like and subscribe

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#battleofmanilabay #manilabayphilippines

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