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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cimatu calls for proper disposal of wastes

posted August 18, 2021 at 11:20 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Wednesday reiterated his call for proper disposal of healthcare wastes to protect trash collectors from COVID-19 and other diseases.

“If we really want to stop the spread of this virus, then we must all be responsible not only for ourselves but also for others,” he said.

Amid the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources appealed to the public to dispose of their health-care wastes and help safeguard the health of the garbage collectors and haulers as frontliners.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the DENR has consistently and repeatedly reminded households to segregate their used face masks, face shields and disposable gloves because these are potentially contaminated and infectious waste, Cimatu said.

“Our garbage collectors are also our front liners. They are at a very high risk of infection every time they collect unsegregated and improperly disposed household health care waste,” he said.

He warned that it only takes one infected garbage collector to spread a disease.

“Think of the members of his family, his co-workers, his community, and you arrive at a possible exponential transmission of the virus. Let us protect those who protect us,” he stressed.

The environment chief earlier reminded local government units to prioritize the handling of pandemic-related trash by imposing strict waste segregation in households and implementing an effective collection system.



WASTONG PAGTATAPON NG HEALTH CARE WASTE, IPINAALALA NG DENR

August 18, 2021 Rannie Lao



SA patuloy na pakikipaglaban upang mapigilan ang pagtaas ng kaso ng corona virus, muling nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa wastong pagtatapon ng household health care waste para maprotektahan ang garbage collectors at haulers mula sa COVID-19 at iba pang sakit.

Nabatid na simula nang pandemya noong Marso 2020, tuloy-tuloy ang pagpapaalala ng DENR sa mga household na ihiwalay ang mga ginagamit na face masks, face shield, at disposable gloves dahil posible itong “potentially contaminated and infectious waste.”

“Our garbage collectors are also frontliners. They are at a very high risk of infection every time they collect unsegregated and improperly disposed household health care waste,” paliwanag ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

“If we really want to stop the spread of this virus, then we must all be responsible not only for ourselves but also for others,” dagdag nito.

Nagbabala rin ang DENR chief na kahit isa lamang sa mga garbage collectors ang magkaroon ng sakit ay posible nang kumalat ang COVID-19. “Think of the members of his family, his co-workers, his community, and you arrive at a possible exponential transmission of the virus. Let us protect those who protect us,” saad ni Cimatu.

Dati nang pinaalalahanan ng DENR secretary ang local government units (LGUs) na bigyan ng prayoridad ang tamang pangangasiwa ng pandemic-related trash sa pamamagitan ng mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng paghihiwalay ng basura sa bawat bahay at ipatupad ang epektibong collection system.

Sinabi naman ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na “the DENR has not wavered in warning the public that the lives of garbage collectors are at stake if there is utter disregard for proper waste disposal.”

“If they get sick, then we are faced with the even bigger and more serious problem of collection and disposal of these household health care waste,” wika ni Antiporda.

“Pakinggan po natin ang panawagan ng ating mga garbage collectors na ihiwalay at itali ng mabuti ang mga basurang ito upang maiwasan ang posibilidad na makuha nila ang COVID-19 virus mula sa mga ganitong uri ng basura,” apela ng DENR official.

“These household health care wastes – face masks, face shields and gloves – that we use every day should not be mixed with the residual wastes. Lagyan po natin ng label na household health care wastes ang mga ito, so that these will be properly handled by our garbage collectors,” pahayag pa ni Antiporda.



Pinaalalahanan din ni Antiporda ang LGUs sa kanilang tungkulin upang matiyak ang pagsunod sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act kung saan nakasaad ang ligtas na pagtatapon ng basura hindi lamang yung mula sa mga kabahayan bagkus ay maging yung galing sa medical at health care facilities.

Ang DENR, sa pamamagitan ng Environmental Management Bureau, ay mayroon nang mga patnubay sa pangangasiwa ng hazardous waste at ito ay nakasaad sa memorandum circulars 2020-14, 2020-15 at 2020-16 sa pag-iisyu ng “Special Permit to Transport for the Treatment and Disposal of Health Care Waste.”

Sumusunod din ang ahensiya sa inilabas na standards ng Asian Development Bank sa ilalim ng Due Diligence on the Philippine COVID-19 Immunization Waste Management Plan. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



Protect garbage collectors! DENR reiterates call for proper disposal of medical waste

AUG 18, 2021, 8:16 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

The DENR is consistently and repeatedly reminding households to segregate their used face masks, face shields, and disposable gloves because these are potentially contaminated and infectious waste.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reiterated its call for the proper disposal of household health care waste to protect garbage collectors and haulers from Covid-19 and other diseases.

This, as the whole country struggles to cope with the rising number of coronavirus cases.

Since the start of the pandemic in March last year, the DENR has consistently and repeatedly reminded households to segregate their used face masks, face shields, and disposable gloves because these are potentially contaminated and infectious waste.

“Our garbage collectors are also our frontliners. They are at a very high risk of infection every time they collect unsegregated and improperly disposed household health care waste,” DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu pointed out.

“If we really want to stop the spread of this virus, then we must all be responsible not only for ourselves but also for others,” he added.

The environment chief also warned that it only takes one infected garbage collector to spread Covid-19.

“Think of the members of his family, his co-workers, his community, and you arrive at a possible exponential transmission of the virus. Let us protect those who protect us,” Cimatu said.

The DENR secretary has also previously reminded local government units (LGUs) to prioritize the handling of pandemic-related trash by imposing strict waste segregation in households and implementing an effective collection system.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny Antiporda said the DENR has “not wavered in warning the public that the lives of garbage collectors are at stake if there is utter disregard for proper waste disposal.”

“If they get sick, then we are faced with the even bigger and more serious problem of collection and disposal of these household health care waste,” Antiporda said.

“Pakinggan po natin ang panawagan ng ating mga garbage collectors na ihiwalay at itali ng mabuti ang mga basurang ito upang maiwasan ang posibilidad na makuha nila ang COVID-19 virus mula sa mga ganitong uri ng basura,” the DENR official appealed.



“These household health care wastes – face masks, face shields and gloves – that we use every day should not be mixed with the residual wastes. Lagyan po natin ng label na household health care wastes ang mga ito, so that these will be properly handled by our garbage collectors,” he added.

Antiporda also reminded LGUs of their duty to ensure compliance with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which covers the safe disposal of waste not only from households but also from medical and health care facilities.



Proper Disposal of Health Care Waste to Protect Trash Collectors from Diseases

by  **Village Connect** about 16 hours ago



As the whole country struggles to cope with the rising number of coronavirus cases, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reiterated its call for the proper disposal of household health care waste to protect garbage collectors and haulers from COVID-19 and other diseases.

Since the start of the pandemic in March last year, the DENR has consistently and repeatedly reminded households to segregate their used face masks, face shields, and disposable gloves because these are potentially contaminated and infectious waste.

"Our garbage collectors are also our frontliners. They are at a very high risk of infection every time they collect unsegregated and improperly disposed household health care waste," DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu pointed out.



"If we really want to stop the spread of this virus, then we must all be responsible not only for ourselves but also for others," he added.

The environment chief warned that it only takes one infected garbage collector to spread COVID-19. *"Think of the members of his family, his co-workers, his community, and you arrive at a possible exponential transmission of the virus. Let us protect those who protect us," Cimatu said.*

The DENR secretary has also previously reminded local government units (LGUs) to prioritize the handling of pandemic-related trash by imposing strict waste segregation in households and implementing an effective collection system.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said the DENR has "not wavered in warning the public that the lives of garbage collectors are at stake if there is utter disregard for proper waste disposal."

"If they get sick, then we are faced with the even bigger and more serious problem of collection and disposal of these household health care waste," Antiporda said.



“Pakinggan po natin ang panawagan ng ating mga garbage collectors na ihiwalay at itali ng mabuti ang mga basurang ito upang maiwasan ang posibilidad na makuha nila ang COVID-19 virus mula sa mga ganitong uri ng basura,” the DENR official appealed.

He added, *“These household health care wastes – face masks, face shields and gloves – that we use every day should not be mixed with the residual wastes. Lagyan po natin ng label na household health care wastes ang mga ito, so that these will be properly handled by our garbage collectors”*.

Antiporda also reminded LGUs of their duty to ensure compliance with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which covers the safe disposal of waste not only from households but also from medical and health care facilities.

He has previously called on LGUs to provide personal protective equipment to garbage collectors to protect them from waste potentially contaminated with coronavirus.

The DENR—through its Environmental Management Bureau—already has an existing set of guidelines on managing hazardous waste as stated in memorandum circulars 2020-14, 2020-15 and 2020-16 on the issuance of Special Permit to Transport for the Treatment and Disposal of Health Care Waste.

The agency also follows the standards set forth by the Asian Development Bank under its Due Diligence on the Philippine COVID-19 Immunization Waste Management Plan.



DENR muling nanawagan sa tamang pagtatapon ng health care waste para sa proteksyon ng trash collectors



August 18, 2021 @ 6:10 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa tamang pagtatapon ng household health care waste upang maprotektahan ang mga garbage collectors at haulers mula sa COVID-19 at iba pang sakit habang ang bansa ay patuloy na nakikipaglaban upang mapigilan ang pagtaas ng bilang ng kaso ng coronavirus.

Ayon sa DENR nang magsimula ang pandemya noong Marso ng nakalipas na taon ay tuloy-tuloy ang pagpapaalala ng DENR sa mga household ng ihiwalay ang mga ginamit na face masks, face shield, at disposable gloves dahil posible na ang mga ito ay “potentially contaminated and infectious waste.”

“Our garbage collectors are also frontliners. They are at a very high risk of infection every time they collect unsegregated and improperly disposed household health care waste,” paliwanag ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

“If we really want to stop the spread of this virus, then we must all be responsible not only for ourselves but also for others,” dagdag nito.

Kaugnay nito nagbabala rin ang environment chief na kahit isa lamang sa mga garbage collectors ang magkaroon ng sakit ay posible nang kumalat ang COVID-19. “Think of the members of his family, his co-workers, his community, and you arrive at a possible exponential transmission of the virus. Let us protect those who protect us,” saad ni Cimatu.

Dati nang pinaalalahanan ng DENR secretary ang local government units (LGUs) na bigyan ng prayoridad ang tamang pangangasiwa ng pandemic-related trash sa pamamagitan ng mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng paghihiwalay ng basura sa bawat bahay at ipatupad ang epektibong collection system.

Samantala sa kanyang panig, sinabi naman ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na “the DENR has not wavered in warning the public that the lives of garbage collectors are at stake if there is utter disregard for proper waste disposal.”

“If they get sick, then we are faced with the even bigger and more serious problem of collection and disposal of these household health care waste,” sabi ni Antiporda.

“Pakinggan po natin ang panawagan ng ating mga garbage collectors na ihiwalay at itali ng mabuti ang mga basurang ito upang maiwasan ang posibilidad na makuha nila ang COVID-19 virus mula sa mga ganitong uri ng basura,” apela ng DENR official.



Dagdag ni Antiporda: “These household health care wastes – face masks, face shields and gloves – that we use every day should not be mixed with the residual wastes. Lagyan po natin ng label na household health care wastes ang mga ito, so that these will be properly handled by our garbage collectors”.

Pinaalalahanan din ni Antiporda ang LGUs sa kanilang tungkulin upang matiyak ang pagsunod sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act kung saan nakasaad ang ligtas na pagtatapon ng basura hindi lamang yung mula sa mga kabahayan bagkus ay maging yung galing sa medical at health care facilities. **Santi Celario**

DENR renews call for conservation of rare civet cat

August 18, 2021



The injured civet cat rescued by a group in Guiuan, Eastern Samar in this July 24, 2021 photo. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Eastern Visayas has renewed its call for conservation of civet cats following the recent rescue of the animal in Guiuan town. (Photo courtesy of Guiuan Marine Resource Protected Landscape and Seascape via PNA)

By Sarwell Meniano/Philippine News Agency

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas has renewed its call for the conservation of civet cats following the recent rescue of an injured rare animal species in Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

In a statement sent to reporters on Aug. 5, DENR Eastern Visayas director Tirso Parian Jr. reiterated his call to the public to report wildlife crimes and violations immediately since these are considered threats to the ecosystem.

“[The] civet cat plays an important role in the ecosystem by propagating the seeds it spews after eating. This natural process contributes to growing a variety of plants and fruit trees in the forests,” Parian said.

The Guiuan Marine Resource Protected Landscape and Seascape (GMRPLS) office rescued a Philippine palm civet locally known as “garong” at the town center of Guiuan on July 24.

Rescuers discovered the adult civet cat had injuries on its left eye and mouth. It was immediately brought to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)-Guiuan field office for proper care and treatment.

After recovering, the civet cat was released back to its natural habitat in Guiuan town on July 29.

“Our office is grateful to everyone who shows concern for our wildlife and their natural habitat. Our call continues – let’s keep our wildlife such as the civet cats alive and protected in their natural habitat,” Parian added.

Civet cats are considered one of the country’s rare and endemic species. This wildlife excretes coffee seeds considered as the world’s most expensive coffee, making it a high-value animal for some households and coffee manufacturers. **(PNA) – jlo**

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/denr-renews-call-for-conservation-of-rare-civet-cat/>



PTV Philippines state-controlled media · August 16 at 1:37 PM · 🌐



BASAHIIN:

Ang dalawang dekadang Supreme Court (SC) mandamus na nag-uutos na linisin ang Manila Bay ay ipinatupad ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Sa ilalim ng administrasyong Duterte, ipinasara ang mga negosyo na nagtatapon ng dumi sa Manila Bay at ini-relocate ang mga informal settlers sa lugar.

Umarangkada rin ang beach nourishment project kung saan nilagyan ng puting buhangin o mas kilala bilang dolomite ang baybayin upang maibalik ang dating ganda ng Manila Bay.

Manila Bay Rehabilitation

Noon



Source: PNA

Marumi, mabaho, at puno ng basura, plastic bottles, at maging human waste ang makikita sa Manila Bay.

Maging ang tubig ay tila nawalan na ng buhay dahil sa iba't-ibang uri ng basurang lumulutang at puno rin ng informal settlers ang paligid nito.

Ngayon



Source: PNA

Malaki na ang ipinagbago ng Manila Bay, malinis na ito at maari nang gawing pasyalan dahil sa rehabilitasyong ginawa ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Source: DOTr

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MENRE, partners assess Sacred Mountain Nat'l Park in Marawi

Published on: August 18, 2021

By Apipa Bagumbaran

MARAWI CITY, Lanao del Sur (PIA)--In a bid to formulate legislation for the protection and preservation of the Sacred Mountain National Park here, a team of environmental actors climbed the mountain on August 10, to conduct an assessment.

Composing the team were the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy's (MENRE) provincial office in Lanao del Sur, representatives from the National Power Corporation -Watershed Management Division, Mindanao State University – College of Forestry and Environmental Studies (MSU-CFES), Marawi City and barangay local government units, and the Office of Member of Parliament Maisara Dandamun-Latiph.

The activity aimed to record the mountain's vulnerabilities and establish policies for its development and conservation. The team also conducted a tree planting activity.

The 94-hectare Sacred Mountain National Park, dominated by the 900-foot Mount Mupo, is located in the barangays of Guimba and Papandayan. It was established as a national park on August 5, 1965, by the virtue of Republic Act No. 4190.

Provincial ENRE Officer Asmarie Labao said the park needs an actual delineation considering the continuous encroachment of the community. "The remaining forest cover must be conserved and protected," he said.

According to Labao, MSU-CFES Professor Mark Gregory confirmed the existence of exotic species like the African Tulip trees and Buyo Buyo plants, which may be harmful to the few native species remaining in the mountain.

"With the help and assistance of the experts from MSU-CFES, we have now the initial data of the existing flora and fauna found at Mount Mupo, especially the endemic species we have and the presence of exotic species," he added.

He also noted that the involvement of MP Latiph may be a way to have new legislation reinforcing rehabilitation and reforestation programs for the park. (Bangsamoro Information Office)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/08/18/menre-partners-assess-sacred-mountain-natl-park-in-marawi>



3 nagtapon ng toxic waste sa kanal, arestado!

By [Mer Layson](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - August 19, 2021 - 12:00am



Kinilala ni Pasig City Police chief, P/Col. Roman Arugay ang mga nadakip na sina Ryan Policarpio, driver at mga helper niyang sina Glenn Correche, 28, at Eduardo Manozo, 51.

STAR/ File

MANILA, Philippines — Kalaboso ang tatlong katao nang maaktuhang nagtatapon ng mga toxic wastes sa isang kanal sa Brgy. Bagong Ilog, Pasig City kamakalawa.

Kinilala ni Pasig City Police chief, P/Col. Roman Arugay ang mga nadakip na sina Ryan Policarpio, driver at mga helper niyang sina Glenn Correche, 28, at Eduardo Manozo, 51.

Batay sa ulat ng Pasig City Police, dakong alas-9:00 ng umaga nang maaresto ang mga suspek sa Yakal St., Brgy. Bagong Ilog, Pasig City habang nagtatapon umano ng toxic waste sa lugar.

Nauna rito, nakatanggap ang mga opisyal ng Brgy. Bagong Ilog ng sumbong mula sa isang concerned citizen hinggil sa nagaganap na pagtatapon ng mga toxic waste sa kanal sa Yakal St., na maaaring magdulot ng masamang epekto sa kapaligiran, gayundin sa kalusugan ng mga residente.

Kaagad namang nagtungo sa lugar ang mga miyembro ng Barangay Security Force (BSF) ng Brgy. Bagong Ilog na sina Mario Babiano at Fernando Abad upang beripikahin ang ulat.

Mabilis ding dinakip ng mga ito ang mga suspek nang maaktuhang nagtatapon ng mga toxic waste at binitbit sa pulisya para maimbestigahan at masampahan ng kaso dahil sa umano'y illegal disposal ng toxic waste na paglabag sa Republic Act 9003 o The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2002.

Narekober mula sa kanila ang isang puting Isuzu Elf na may plakang RKF 417 at waste container na nakatago sa likuran ng sasakyan.

Nabatid na inisyuhan rin ang mga suspek ng OVR ticket ng Pasig City Hall Solid Waste Management Office personnel at inimpound ang dala nilang sasakyan na pagmamay-ari ng kanilang kumpanyang pinagtatrabahuhan.



Search on for 2 miners buried in Itogon landslide

Published August 18, 2021, 7:29 AM

by [Philippine News Agency](#)

ITOGON, Benguet – Emergency responders are in the thick of a search and retrieval operation for two miners who are believed to have been buried in a landslide that occurred around 10:40 a.m. Tuesday, August 16 in Barangay Loacan here.



SEARCH OPS. Emergency responders from the Itogon Municipal Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, barangay officials, and volunteers are still trying to find two persons believed to have been buried in a landslide at Barangay Loacan in Itogon, Benguet on Tuesday (Aug. 17, 2021). (Photo courtesy Col. Elmer Ragay/PIA/MANILA BULLETIN)

Staff Sergeant Bryan Dintan, of Itogon Municipal Police Station, reported the two miners were doing gold panning activity at the Antamok River in Barangay Loacan around 10:30 a.m. when the landslide occurred.

Authorities identified the suspected victims as Nestor Talangcag, 54, married; and Maureen Talangcag, 57, married. Both miners are residing at Beda, Loacan, Itogon, Benguet. Relationship of the two missing miners is not yet ascertained.

The report said personnel from the municipal police, Itogon Bureau of Fire Protection, barangay officials, and civilian volunteers are still in the area trying to find the missing miners.

The province of Benguet has experienced weeks of continuous heavy rains that could have saturated the soil.



AMERICAS AND EMEA

Climate's tipping point very close – report

[By Agence France-Presse](#) August 19, 2021

COPENHAGEN: Some 73 percent 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 on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

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 Group of Twenty 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 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.

The [IPCC](#) report warned that Earth is on course to be 1.5 Celsius 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 toward 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.



By chance, ozone treaty prevented 'scorched Earth' climate

By MARLOWE HOOD, Agence France-Presse

Published August 18, 2021 11:47pm



Even if nations manage against all odds to cap global warming below the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5°C, the extra heat avoided thanks to the ozone treaty would have created an unlivable 4°C world, the modeling study suggests. Chris Larsen/NASA/AFP

PARIS — A 1987 treaty to repair a thin layer of ozone in the atmosphere that shields life on Earth from cancer-causing ultraviolet rays probably had the unintended benefit of preventing runaway climate change, even if that danger persists for other reasons, researchers said Wednesday.

If the Montreal Protocol had not banned the man-made gases that dissolve naturally occurring ozone, by 2100 they would have heated up the planet's surface 2.5 degrees Celsius above-and-beyond warming caused by the carbon pollution humanity is struggling to curb today, they reported in the journal Nature.

An increase of barely 1°C since the mid-19th century has seen climate change amplify deadly heat waves, rainfall and coastal storms made more destructive by rising seas.

Even if nations manage against all odds to cap global warming below the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5°C, the extra heat avoided thanks to the ozone treaty would have created an unlivable 4°C world, the modeling study suggests.

It was already understood that the outlawed CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) would have added roughly 1.5 degrees to the global thermometer had they been allowed to further proliferate.

Besides their corrosive effect on the ozone layer, CFCs—widely used in the 1970s and 1980s as a refrigerant—are also a potent greenhouse gas that traps heat up to 10,000 times more efficiently than carbon dioxide.

But what researchers have neglected to investigate until now is the impact that extra UV radiation would have had on nature's capacity to absorb greenhouse gases.

Since about 1960, forests and soil have soaked about 30 percent of all the CO₂ humanity has chucked into the atmosphere—even as those emissions have increased by half. Oceans have siphoned off another 20 percent.

Researchers led by Paul Young from Lancaster University in England created models combining data on ozone depletion, plant damage caused by UV, Earth's natural carbon cycle, and climate change.



An alternate future avoided

They discovered that the ability of plants to absorb CO₂ would have been severely degraded by the ozone-destroying molecules.

"A world where these chemicals increased and continued to strip away at our protective ozone layer would have been catastrophic for human health," said Young.

"But also for vegetation," he added. "The increased UV would have massively stunted the ability of plants to soak up carbon from the atmosphere, meaning higher CO₂ levels and more global warming."

Continued growth in CFCs would have led to a worldwide collapse in the ozone layer by the 2040s, the model showed.

The researchers calculated that by century's end there would have been more than 2,000 billion fewer tonnes of CO₂ stored in forests and soils—equivalent to 50 years' worth emissions at current levels.

That alone would have added nearly a full degree Celsius to global temperatures by 2100.

"This analysis reveals a remarkable linkage—via the carbon cycle—between two global environmental concerns: damage to the ozone layer and global warming," said co-author Chris Huntingford, a researcher at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

Following the Montreal Protocol's entry into force, global concentrations of CFCs declined steadily until about 2012.

But in 2018 startled scientists discovered that the pace of that slowdown had dropped by half during the preceding five years.

Because the chemical does not occur in nature, the change in pace could only have been produced by new emissions.

Evidence pointed to factories in eastern China. Once CFC production in that region stopped, the ozone layer's healing process appeared to be back on track.

A recent study, however, found that the ozone layer—which varies in altitude from 10 to 40 kilometers—is unexpectedly declining in the lower stratosphere over the planet's populated tropical and mid-latitude regions.

Up to now, CFCs and other molecules have mainly eroded ozone in the upper stratosphere, and over the poles.

Scientists are investigating two possible culprits: industrial chemicals not covered by the Montreal Protocol called "very short-lived substances" (VSLs), and climate change. — **AFP**

Southeast Asia pins hopes on carbon capture to cut emissions

Carbon capture is seen as essential if energy-hungry Southeast Asia is to reach climate goals. But critics maintain that the technology remains unproven and may never deliver the deep emissions reductions needed.



Chemical plants release toxic smoke. Hard-to-abate heavy industries such as cement production, iron and steel manufacturing and chemicals account for almost 20 per cent of Southeast Asia's energy-related emissions today. Image: Shutterstock

By [Tim Ha](#) Aug. 18, 2021

Southeast Asia's climate fight was never going to be easy. As the region's energy transition continues to lag and planet-cooking emissions skyrocket, governments are pinning their hopes on carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) technologies to help hit climate targets.

Speaking at a virtual dialogue held by the Asean Centre for Energy, a Jakarta-based energy think tank, experts and officials from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines said last week that amid persistent concerns over the costs and intermittency of renewable energy, CCUS was critical to achieving energy security objectives while curbing emissions.

Southeast Asia's growth in energy demand has been among the fastest in the world, at an average of 6 per cent per year, second only to China. Yet adverse policies, political inertia and a lack of finance have seen renewables struggle to keep pace with Southeast Asia's ballooning energy needs, and fossil fuels have met almost 90 per cent of the demand increase since 2000.

Dirty energy is set to remain a mainstay of supply for decades to come, with installed coal capacity to increase from 103 gigawatts (GW) in 2020 to 207 GW in 2040, and gas capacity to rise from 90 GW last year to 154 GW in 2040, according to the [6th Asean Energy Outlook's](#) targets scenario, which assumes that states do what is required to fully achieve their current climate commitments and national energy efficiency and clean energy targets.

As a result, emissions from power generation could more than double by 2040, and industrial emissions could grow by 75 per cent.

Technological optimism

"We need new tools to combat climate change," said Abdul Razib Dawood, chief executive officer of Malaysia's Energy Commission, a regulator of the energy industry, and chairman of the Asean Forum on Coal, a regional working group that advocates for less-polluting coal technology. "CCUS is one of the many tools at our disposal."

Carbon capture technologies allow high-emitting industries such as fossil fuel extraction plants or cement manufacturers, for instance, to siphon off carbon dioxide before it is emitted into the atmosphere. The greenhouse gas is then either stuffed away in geological formations deep underground or used as a resource to create different products such as carbonated drinks, concrete, fertilisers, and fuels.

Tutuka Ariadji, director-general of oil and gas at Indonesia's energy and natural resources ministry, said while Indonesia deemed renewables and energy efficiency measures central to emissions cuts, CCUS was key to achieving "energy sovereignty" in an affordable, sustainable, and competitive manner. Indonesia plans to retire its last coal-fired power plant as late as 2056.

Adam Baylin-Stern, an energy analyst at the CCUS unit of the International Energy Agency (IEA), a Paris-headquartered intergovernmental organisation, stated that without CCUS, Southeast Asia's carbon emissions would be tough to rein in, and meeting the Paris Agreement's temperature goals would be "virtually impossible".

According to a recent IEA [report](#), CCUS could help put the bloc on a path to net-zero emissions by limiting emissions from existing power and industrial assets while underpinning new economic opportunities associated with low-carbon hydrogen production ammonia.

CCUS is also one of the few scalable, cost-competitive solutions available to decarbonise challenging heavy industries such as cement production, iron and steel manufacturing and chemicals, which account for almost 20 per cent of Southeast Asia's energy-related emissions today.

Policy action and money needed

CCUS development has moved at a snail's pace globally, consistently making up less than 0.5 of total investment in clean energy and efficiency technologies, [according to the IEA](#). High costs remain one of the biggest obstacles facing the industry, particularly as those of solar, wind, and batteries continue to drop.

But the sector has gathered momentum amid increasingly dire warnings of climate change ahead of COP26, a United Nations climate change conference in November. Since early 2020, governments and industry around the globe have committed at least US\$12 billion in funding for CCUS projects and programmes.

Interest in CCUS has been on the rise in Southeast Asia, with at least seven CCUS projects at present in early development across Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Timor-Leste. Several countries are also exploring potential uses for waste carbon dioxide, including as a feedstock to produce synthetic fuels, chemicals, and building materials.

Under the IEA's sustainable development scenario, which would see the world achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, CCUS in Southeast Asia could reach at least 35 megatons of carbon dioxide per year by 2030, roughly equal to the current level of carbon dioxide captured globally. This includes retrofit opportunities in industry, capture opportunities in fuel supply sectors, and retrofitting of coal power plants.

Achieving this level of CCUS deployment in the region will require about US\$1 billion of investment a year between 2025 and 2030, according to the IEA.

"This investment can't fall on governments of the region alone. There has to be a role for international public finance institutions," said Baylin-Stern. "There's a lot of money available and intended to be used for clean energy technologies. But it's not necessarily finding its way to the countries and sectors where it's needed most."

Various technical, economic, societal and political challenges will need to be addressed for CCUS technologies to be deployed at scale.

Abdul Razib Dawood, chief executive officer, Energy Commission, Malaysia, chairman, Asean Forum on Coal

Southeast Asia's ability to deploy CCUS at scale will hinge on governments' ability to collaborate and introduce international technology standards, said Ariadji. Policymakers will also need to establish robust regulatory frameworks and develop carbon storage sites to bring certainty to investors and make projects more viable.

Last month, all member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [announced](#) their intention to join the Asia CCUS Network Forum, a new platform that aims to boost knowledge sharing and spur CCUS investment.

But while Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia all recognise that CCUS must play an essential role in long-term emissions-reduction strategies, the fiscal incentives needed to attract private capital are lacking.

Governments could also introduce carbon taxes to push firms to have their emissions sequestered, experts have [said](#). In Southeast Asia, Singapore remains [the only nation](#) with carbon pricing in place, although Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia are mulling the implementation of such schemes.

CCUS' growing pains

CCUS projects on the ground continue to yield mixed results, further stalling its progress as a viable technology to cut emissions.

New [research](#) by Cornell University in New York casts doubt on the green credentials of blue hydrogen, an energy carrier that is widely considered a key technology in a future decarbonised world, where it could be used to power industry and transport, heat buildings, and generate electricity.

Today, most hydrogen is classified as “grey” hydrogen because it is supplied through steam reforming of methane in natural gas, with high emissions. But industry experts call for CCUS to be used to reduce these emissions and create a low-carbon alternative called “blue” hydrogen.

However, the study, the first analysis to examine the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of blue hydrogen, finds total carbon dioxide equivalent emissions are only around 10 per cent less than grey hydrogen. It also stresses that the assumption that captured carbon can be stored indefinitely is “optimistic and unproven”.

Another [study](#), released in 2019 by Stanford University in California, found that a carbon capture technology used in a coal power station only slashed emissions by roughly 10 per cent. Spending on carbon capture instead of renewables increases the social cost of energy substantially, the analysis concluded.

Until now, most CCUS projects around the globe have also relied on revenue from the sale of carbon dioxide to oil companies who inject the gas into wells to squeeze out more oil.

The recent controversy surrounding Chevron’s [Gorgon project](#), a US\$54 billion liquefied natural gas plant equipped with one of the world’s biggest CCUS facilities in Western Australia, is likely to further tarnish the industry’s image.

Touting the venture as a [standard-bearer](#) for carbon capture technologies, Chevron promised a decade ago to store 100 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. But the energy giant recently admitted it had failed to meet the Australian government’s requirement to lock away 80 per cent of emissions generated within its first five years of operation, blaming “technical challenges”.

“CCUS can help Asean member states to transition to a low-carbon economy, but various technical, economic, societal and political challenges will need to be addressed for CCUS technologies to be deployed at scale,” said Dawood.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/southeast-asia-pins-hopes-on-carbon-capture-to-cut-emissions/>



AMERICAS AND EMEA

Raging wildfires sweep California

[By Associated Press](#)

August 19, 2021

GRIZZLY FLATS: Firefighters faced dangerously windy weather on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) as they struggled to keep the nation's largest wildfire from advancing toward a [Northern California](#) city while a portrait of devastation emerged in a small mountain community hit by another inferno.

Winds spawned by the arrival of a new weather system on Monday afternoon pushed the monstrous [Dixie Fire](#) to within about 12.8 kilometers of [Susanville](#), a population of about 18,000, while to the southeast a small blaze called the Caldor Fire exploded through Grizzly Flats, a town of about 1,200.

Very few homes were left standing in Grizzly Flats where streets were littered with downed power lines and poles. Houses were reduced to smoldering ash and twisted metal with only chimneys rising above the ruins. A post office and elementary school were also destroyed.

Two people with serious or severe injuries were airlifted to hospitals from the Grizzly Flats area, fire officials said.

[Derek Shaves](#) and [Tracy Jackson](#) were helping their friend salvage food and other supplies from the Grizzly Pub & Grub, a business in the evacuation zone that wasn't touched by the blaze.

Shaves said he visited Grizzly Flats on Tuesday and saw his home and most of the houses in his neighborhood had been destroyed by the fire.

"It's a pile of ash," he said. "Everybody on my block is a pile of ash and every block that I visited - but for five separate homes that were safe - was totally devastated."

At the Dixie Fire, numerous resources were put into the Susanville area where residents were warned to be ready to evacuate, said [Mark Brunton](#), an operations section chief. "It's not out of play and the next 24 hours are going to be crucial to watch as to what the fire is going to do there," he told an online briefing.

To the east, spot fires became established south of the small community of Janesville, which had been ordered evacuated. Some structures were lost there - images captured by The Associated Press showed a home consumed by flames - but a surge of firefighters was able to herd the fire around the majority of the town, Brunton said.

The Dixie Fire is the largest of nearly 100 major wildfires burning across more than a dozen Western states that have seen historic drought and weeks of high temperatures and dry weather that have left trees, brush and grasslands as flammable as tinder.

Climate change has made the US West warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make the weather more extreme and wildfires more destructive, according to scientists.



Susanville is the seat of [Lassen County](#) and the largest city that the Dixie Fire, named for the road where it started, has approached since it broke out last month. The former [Sierra Nevada](#) logging and mining town has two state prisons, a nearby federal lockup and a casino.

Ash fell from the advancing fire, and a police statement urged residents "to be alert and be ready to evacuate" if the fire threatens the city.



The world's future under climate change

BREAKTHROUGH - [Elfren S. Cruz](#) - The Philippine Star

August 19, 2021 | 12:00am

We are a world in crisis. The pandemic was thought to be in its final stages. Now doctors and public health experts have warned us that there will be future surges. The vaccines were supposed to protect us from the virus. Suddenly we are told that new variants have made it necessary for us to continue wearing masks and avoiding crowds even if we are vaccinated.

Then there is Afghanistan which is just one facet of the Middle East problem. This is causing terrorism to increase and migrations to increase correspondingly. The refugee problem has created a class of people that seems to accept that they will be a permanent group. In fact, there is already a refugee commission that chooses athletes to represent refugees in the Olympics.

Believe it or not, these are not the most serious problems the world is facing. In the near, medium and long term, it is still global warming and the impending climate disaster that all countries – rich and poor – must prepare for.

A new United Nations report has concluded that countries and corporations have delayed reducing fossil fuel emissions for so long that we can no longer stop the impact of climate change from intensifying over the coming years and decades.

The climate crisis that scientists have been predicting has arrived. It is here and it is not going to disappear by itself. In fact, it is going to get worse before it will get better, assuming the human population will attempt to try and control it now.

We have seen the beginning of this climate change – heat waves, wild fires, floods, glaciers melting, droughts and their effects on people. There are other sicknesses that are the after effects. For instance, in areas where there have been severe wildfires due to heat waves, exposure to smoke has caused several deaths. The allergy season has also become longer because of warmer weather.

It is the world economy that will have serious effects. There will be droughts and floods that cause havoc to food production. Marine life is also being adversely affected by pollution like plastics and destruction of reefs. Fish and other marine life is the biggest source of protein for a large proportion of the earth's population.

Governments should be on the forefront of this fight to avoid a climate disaster. Unfortunately, governments are run by politicians whose main focus is staying in power.

The other group in the forefront is the business sector who produce the products that cause these emissions. While business says that they are committed to the struggle to avoid a climate disaster, an article by William Nordhaus shows examples of blatant violations of corporate social responsibility by major corporations. Here are a few he cited:

Volkswagen not only hid the emissions of its diesel automobiles and fabricated the results but designed equipment to falsify results. It did this to save money on the production of "clean" diesel engines.

Philip Morris destroyed research showing the lethal nature of smoking while increasing the addictiveness of cigarettes.



ExxonMobil which, while fully aware of the dangers of climate change, suppressed the science and funded climate deniers.

These are just some of the companies Nordhaus mentioned, whom he called companies in the Ninth Circle. When Dante wrote the novel "Inferno" he described the ninth circle as the deepest one where treachery resides and where hosts betray their guests.

Again I ask everyone to ask themselves, will the world we leave to our children and grandchildren be a better world than our world now?

Martyrdom of Ninoy

On Aug. 21, 1983, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was shot and died a martyr at the tarmac of the international airport. He decided to return from exile in the United States knowing that he would be immediately imprisoned or killed once he returned. He had a prepared speech intended for his return which was never delivered.

Here are excerpts from that speech;

"I have returned of my own free will to join the ranks of those struggling to restore our rights and freedom through nonviolence.

"I seek no confrontation. I only pray and will strive for a greater national reconciliation founded on justice.

"I am prepared for the worst, and have decided against the advice of my mother, my spiritual adviser, many of my tested friends and a few of my most valued political mentors.

"A death sentence awaits me. Two more subversion charges, both calling for death penalties, have been filed since I left three years ago and are now pending with the courts.

"I could have opted to seek political asylum in America, but I feel it is my duty as it is the duty of every Filipino to suffer with his people, especially in times of crisis.

"I have never sought nor have I been given the assurances or promise of leniency by the regime. I return voluntarily, armed only with a clear conscience and fortified in the faith that, in the end, justice will emerge triumphant."

Ninoy's martyrdom was the spark that ignited what would later be called People Power and the return of democracy to the Filipino people.

* * *

Young Writers' Hangout on August 21 with Kate Osias, 2-3 p.m.

Contact writethingsph@gmail.com. 0945.2273216

Email: elfrencruz@gmail.com



Forget massive seawalls, coastal wetlands offer the best storm protection money can buy

August 17, 2021 | 7:35 pm

The Conversation

By Robert Costanza



WIRESTOCK-FREEPIK

Coastal communities around the world are facing increasing threats from tropical cyclones. Climate change is causing rising sea levels and bigger, more frequent storms.

Many coastal communities are pondering what to do. Should they build massive seawalls in a bid to protect existing infrastructure? Do they give up on their current coastal locations and retreat inland? Or is there another way?

In the US, the US Army Corps of Engineers has proposed building a 20-foot-high giant seawall to protect Miami, the third most populous metropolis on the US east coast. The \$6-billion proposal is tentative and at least five years off, but sure to be among many proposals in the coming years to protect coastal communities from storms.

But seawalls are expensive to build, require constant maintenance and provide limited protection.

Consider China, which already has a huge number of seawalls built for storm protection. A 2019 study analyzed the impact of 127 storms on China between 1989 and 2016.

Coastal wetlands were far more cost effective in preventing storm damages. They also provided many other ecosystem services that seawalls do not.

Coastal wetlands reduce the damaging effects of tropical cyclones on coastal communities by absorbing storm energy in ways that neither solid land nor open water can.

The mechanisms involved include decreasing the area of open water (fetch) for wind to form waves, increasing drag on water motion and hence the amplitude of a storm surge, reducing direct wind effects on the water surface, and directly absorbing wave energy.

Wetland vegetation contributes by decreasing surges and waves and maintaining shallow water depths that have the same effect. Wetlands also reduce flood damage by absorbing flood waters caused by rain and moderating their effects on built-up areas.

In 2008, colleagues and I estimated that coastal wetlands in the US provided storm protection services worth \$23 billion a year.



Our new study estimates the global value of coastal wetlands to storm protection services is \$450 billion a year (calculated at 2015 value) with 4,600 lives saved annually.

To make this calculation, we used the records of more than 1,000 tropical cyclones since 1902 that caused property damage and/or human casualties in 71 countries. Our study took advantage of improved storm tracking, better global land-use mapping and damage-assessment databases, along with improved computational capabilities to model the relationships between coastal wetlands and avoided damage and deaths from tropical cyclones.

The 40 million hectares of coastal wetlands in storm-prone areas provided an average of \$11,000 per hectare a year in avoided storm damage.

The degree to which coastal wetlands provide storm protection varies between countries (and within countries). Key factors are storm probability, amount of built infrastructure in storm-prone areas, if wetlands are in storm-prone areas, and coastal conditions.

The top five countries in terms of annual avoided damage (all in 2015 US dollar values) are the United States (\$200 billion), China (\$157 billion), the Philippines (\$47 billion), Japan (\$24 billion), and Mexico (\$15 billion).

In terms of lives saved annually, the top five are: China (1,309), the Philippines (976); the United States (469), India (414), and Bangladesh (360).

Coastal wetlands also provide other valuable ecosystem services. They provide nursery habitat for many commercially important marine species, recreational opportunities, carbon sequestration, management of sediment and nutrient run-off, and many other valuable services.

In 2014, my colleagues and I estimated the value of other ecosystem services provided by wetlands (over and above storm protection) at about \$135,000 a hectare a year.

But land-use changes, including the loss of coastal wetlands, has been eroding both services. Since 1900 the world has lost up to 70% of its wetlands (Davidson, 2014).

Preserving and restoring coastal wetlands is a very cost-effective strategy for society, and can significantly increase well-being for humans and the rest of nature.

With the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones and other extreme weather events projected to further increase, the value of coastal wetlands will increase in the future. This justifies investing much more in their conservation and restoration.

Robert Costanza is a Professor and VC's Chair, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University.

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/forget-massive-seawalls-coastal-wetlands-offer-the-best-storm-protection-money-can-buy/?fbclid=IwAR3q1S26bDQ-q9NsU0_z5kcM1b_Hdm6k51EvexcKVI80D3R5wl_WbvEiiias

19 AUGUST 2021, THURSDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

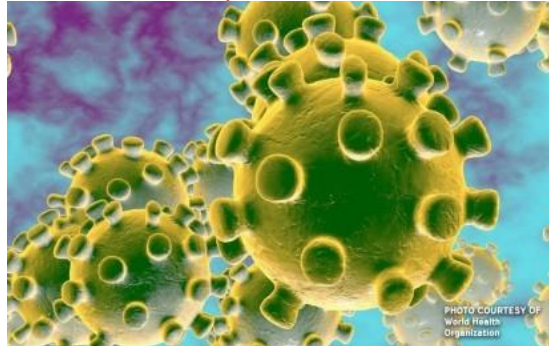
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH Covid-19 recoveries rise by 11.6K to 1,640,721

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 18, 2021, 4:48 pm



MANILA – The nation's overall tally of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) survivors has reached 1,640,721, as 11,628 new recoveries were recorded as of Wednesday.

The Department of Health (DOH) said the figure is equivalent to a 92.4-percent recovery rate from a total of 1,776,495 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

The DOH also tallied 11,085 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number of active cases in the country to 105,151 or 5.9 percent of all cases.

Of the active cases, 96 percent are mild, 1.0 percent are asymptomatic, 1.3 percent are severe, .91 percent are moderate, and 0.7 percent are in critical condition.

Also logged were 161 new fatalities, raising the death toll to 30,623 or 1.72 percent of the total cases.

The DOH said 265 duplicates were removed from the total case count as 259 of those were actually recoveries.

Meanwhile, 74 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

According to DOH data on Aug. 16, about 23.4 percent of 46,644 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on Aug. 16 while nine laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the last 14 days, the nine non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 3.9 percent of samples tested and 5.6 percent of positive individuals.

To date, 68 percent of 4,000 intensive care unit beds, 60 percent of 20,000 isolation beds, 66 percent of 13,900 ward beds, and 53 percent of 3,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

In Metro Manila, 61 percent of 1,400 intensive care unit beds, 58 percent of 4,500 isolation beds, 69 percent of 4,100 ward beds, and 59 percent of 1,100 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are being used. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1150885>



OCTA: Philippines' reproduction number at 1.54; ADAR in several areas at critical level

By CONSUELO MARQUEZ, GMA News

Published August 18, 2021 7:08pm

The reproduction number in the Philippines rose to 1.54 from 1.50 as COVID-19 cases continue to increase amid the strict lockdown, OCTA Research Group said Wednesday.

The reproduction number refers to the number of people that each COVID-19 case can infect.

In its latest National COVID-19 report, OCTA said fresh cases of COVID-19 rose by 41% from 9,088 during the period of Aug. 4 to 10 to 12,788 cases from Aug. 11 to 17.

The average daily attack rate (ADAR) in the country, meanwhile, was at 11.76% and occupancy rate of intensive care units was at 71%.

Nation's positivity rate or the percentage of positive swab tests was at 23%.

For the National Capital Region, OCTA indicated that new cases went up by 52% from 2,315 cases during Aug. 4 to 10 to 3,527 during Aug. 11 to 17.

ADAR in Metro Manila was also at critical level with 25.25% while utilization rate of ICU is at 69%.

Metro Manila's reproduction number went down to 1.78 from 1.9 recorded on Aug. 16.

ADAR at critical level

OCTA also flagged Tuguegarao with an ADAR of 57.11%, the highest among local government units in the country.

New cases in the area rose by 42% from 66 to 94.

Tuguegarao's ICU occupancy rate is also at a critical level with 91%.

Followed by Tuguegarao is Mariveles, Bataan with 52.14% ADAR while fresh cases soared from 49 to 73.

Makati City has 44.47% ADAR with new cases up from 191 to 281.

Santa Rosa, Laguna registered 41.67 ADAR with new cases increased from 99 to 165.

Navotas City's ADAR was at 36.95% while its new cases rose from 92 to 100.—**AOL, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/799886/octa-philippines-reproduction-number-at-1-54-adar-in-several-areas-at-critical-level/story/>



IATF adviser in favor of placing Metro Manila under MECQ

Published August 18, 2021, 6:22 PM
by [Analou de Vera](#)



Village officials from Barangay 63, Zone 8 put a barricade along Natividad St. in Pasay City on August 16, 2021 after being placed under special concern lockdown as a precaution against the virus spread. (Ali Vicoy/Manila Bulletin)

The government should consider shifting Metro Manila under the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) after Aug. 20, but stricter localized lockdowns must be implemented in areas experiencing a spike in coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases, a special adviser to the Interagency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) said.

“Kung opinion ko lang ang masusunod, kung ako ang namumuno sa IATF, bababa ako sa MECQ at paiginging ko iyong mga Mayor iyong mga LGU iyong localized lockdown, testing (If only my opinion is to be followed, if I am in charge of the IATF, I will de-escalate to MECQ and I will intensify the implementation of localized lockdown, testing),” said Ted Herbosa on Wednesday, Aug. 18.

Herbosa also acknowledged that it is hard to decide on the next quarantine classification for Metro Manila since both health and economic factors should be considered.

“Kasi kung medical lang ang titingnan mo eh mas maganda ituloy natin iyong ECQ para tuluy-tuloy na mabawasan iyong transmission at kumonti ang bagong kaso (If you only look at the medical side, it’s better that we continue the ECQ to further reduce transmission and to lower down the number of new cases),” he said.

“Pero ang daming nawawalan ng trabaho, nagugutom, hindi kumikita. So, talagang parang nagba-balancing act iyong ating IATF at magdidesisyon talaga (But many are losing their jobs, starving, or are not earning. So, our IATF is really balancing the situation),” he added.

If Metro Manila will be placed under MECQ, Herbosa urged local government units to intensify the implementation of localized lockdowns and their testing efforts.

“Very important din na makapag-implement tayo, let’s say mas maluwag na MECQ ang i-implement after Aug. 20, importante na iyong mga local chief executive mag-implement ng mga localized ECQ lalo na doon sa mga area na may outbreak pa or clustering of cases (Let’s say MECQ will be imposed after August 20, it is important that the local chief executives will implement localized ECQ, especially in areas with outbreaks or clustering of cases),” said Herbosa.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/18/iatf-adviser-in-favor-to-place-metro-manila-under-mecq/>

Metro Manila mayors: Decision on next quarantine status up to IATF

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Aug 18, 2021 8:19:42 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 18)— Metro Manila mayors will not recommend an easing or extension of the COVID-19 quarantine status in the region, leaving the decision instead to the Inter-Agency Task Force, an official said Wednesday.

"The Metro Manila council will defer to the decision of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the next community quarantine status to be implemented in the National Capital Region," Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Benhur Abalos said in a media briefing, as he underscored the importance of balancing economic and health factors.

The country's capital is currently under the strictest enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) until August 20 amid the spike in coronavirus cases and the threat of the highly contagious Delta variant.

San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora told CNN Philippines earlier in the day that local chief executives had a hard time deciding on their final recommendation due to these factors.

"It's the first time we had an ECQ with the Delta variant. This has really further complicated the situation," he said. "It's very difficult at this point because if you allow ECQ to continue, the businesses will really suffer. If you open up at this point, more people will die. That's really the situation now. It's very hard to make a decision."

Abalos vowed that whatever quarantine classification is imposed, LGUs will be ready to ramp up COVID-19 testing, isolation, and vaccination efforts.

"Ito po ang mako-commit ng mayors: One, hindi kami titigil sa pagba-bakuna. Number two, we will make sure na ang testing namin kumpleto. Number three, 'yung ating isolation facilities, binibilang namin araw araw, ilan pa ba," Abalos said.

[Translation: This is something the mayors can commit: One, we will not stop with the vaccination. Number two, we will make sure that our testing is complete. Number three, we'll constantly check the status of our isolation facilities.]

President Rodrigo Duterte will still make the final decision as to what happens to Metro Manila after the ECQ status lapses on Friday.

Will there be new 'ayuda' if ECQ extended?

Abalos pointed out that one of the main concerns about a possible ECQ extension was if the national government can still afford to provide a new round of cash aid.



"Ang tanong, kung mag-ECQ pa for another two weeks, I'm not sure about the ayuda. Baka wala nang ibigay ang national (government)," the MMDA chief said.

[Translation: The question is, if we extend the ECQ for another two weeks, I'm not sure about the cash aid. Maybe the national government won't be able to provide anymore.]

The Department of Budget and Management earlier told CNN Philippines that it is looking for more funds for additional cash aid in case Metro Manila and select provinces are placed under a longer lockdown.



MAGHANDA SA MALA-INDIA, INDONESIA NA SUMPA MULA SA DELTA VARIANT



August 18, 2021 @ 6:33 PM 11 hours ago

KINUMPIRMA na mismo ng Philippine Genome Center na kalat na ang Delta variant sa buong Pilipinas.

Sinabi ni Dr. Cynthia Saloma, executive director ng PGC, namamayani na ang Delta variant kumpara sa ibang mga variant.

Paliwanag niya, sa kabuuan, mayroon nang nadiskubreng 807 Delta variant sa buong Pilipinas at 359 mula rito ang nadiskubre nitong Agosto 11 at 12 lamang.

Sa bagong tuklas na 359, higit nang marami ito sa 142 kasong Alpha o UK variant, 125 Beta o South Africa variant at 54 P.3 o Philippine variant.

Kasama ng Alpha at Beta variants, tiyak nang variant of concern sa bansa itong Delta variant. Tinatawag na variant of concern ang virus na nagbubunga ng severe o critical na kalagayan, hawaan at paghina ng bisa ng bakunang laban sa COVID-19.

MALA-INDIA, INDONESIA, US NA KALAGAYAN PAGHANDAAN NA

Delta variant ang pumapatay ng nasa 5,000 katao araw-araw sa India nitong nakaraang Abril hanggang Mayo at mula Mayo hanggang sa kasalukuyan, pumapatay naman ito ng 1,000-2,000 sa Indonesia.

Delta variant din ang nagpabalik ng daan-daan o libong kamatayan sa United States gaya ng 1,099 nitong Agosto 13 at nasa 500-800 ilang araw bago nito.

Ayon sa PGC, iisang rehiyon, ang Caraga, na lang sa 17 rehiyon sa bansa ang walang Delta. Bagama't wala pang 1,000 na kasong Delta na naitatala, malamang na libo na ang nahawa rito lalo na kung iisipin na mabagal ang genome sequencing na isinasagawa ng PGC.

Kaya lang ng PGC ang magsuri ng nasa 750 kaso kada araw at may panukalang magtayo ng sangay nito sa Visayas at Mindanao upang kahit papaano ay makapagsuri man lang ang mga ito ng tig-50 kada araw.

Kinakailangan ang P100 milyong pondo para sa pagtatayo ng dalawang satellite station ng PGC.

Positibo naman para rito ang Malakanyang ngunit wala pang katiyakan kung kailan ito aaprubahan.



Dahil kalat na nga ang Delta variant, dapat nang maghanda tayo sa mala-India, Indonesia at US na kalagayan.

BAKUNA ANG KAILANGAN

Bakuna ang pangunahing panlaban sa Delta variant upang mapigilan ang maramihang kamatayan at pagkakasakit.

Subalit, sadyang maliit ang bulto ng mga bakuna na nabibili ng Pilipinas sa mga vaccine maker sa mundo na matatagpuan sa United States, United Kingdom, European Union, China at Russia.

Nasa 80 porsyento kasi ng suplay sa buong mundo ang nasa kamay ng nasabing mayayamang bansa at pinag-aagawan ng maliliit at mahihirap na bansa ang natitirang 20 porsyento.

MALIIT NA SUPLAY LALALA

Ngayong nagsimula nang magbakuna ng booster shot laban sa Delta variant ang Israel, UK, US, Germany, France at iba pa, tiyak na lalong magkakagipitan sa suplay ng bakuna.

Gaya ng World Health Organization, may salapi naman ang Pilipinas subalit pareho ang WHO at Pilipinas na walang gaanong mabiling bakuna dahil hino-hoard nga ng mayayamang bansa ang suplay nito.

At alam ba ninyong nagsimula nang magtaas ng presyo ang mga kompanyang gumagawa ng Pfizer at Moderna kaya malamang na lalong magigipit sa pagbili ang mga mahihirap na bansa, kasama na ang Pilipinas?

Upang mapwersa ang mga mayayamang bansa na luwagan ang hoarding nila sa bakuna, nakiisa na rin ang Pilipinas sa maraming bansa na manawagan na itigil na ang hoarding.

Binabalewala naman ng mayayamang bansa ang panawagan ng WHO na huwag munang magsagawa ng booster shot at sa halip ay ilaan muna ang mga sobrang bakuna para sa mahihirap at maliliit na bansa.

PAGSUNOD SA HEALTH PROTOCOL ISABAY

Dahil wala talaga tayong magagawa sa pagpaparami ng suplay ng bakuna sa bansa kundi makiusap lamang sa mga mayayamang bansa at vaccine maker, isabay na lang natin ang pagsunod sa mga health protocol na pinaiiiral.

Pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield, social distancing, paghuhugas ng kamay at at iba pa. Inaasahan din ang mga mamamayan na tumulong sa mga contact tracing, magtayo ng mga border control, pagdadala ng mga positive sa mga quarantine facility at iba pa.

AWA SA DIYOS, GAWA SA TAO

Sa huli, hiling natin kay Bathala na tumulong ito sa pagharang sa pagdami ng mga magkakasakit at mamamatay, lalo na sa Delta variant.

Pero dapat tandaan ang sinasabi ng mga matatanda, nasa Diyos ang awa, nasa tao ang gawa. Bigyang-buhay natin ang paniniwalang “faith without work is dead.”



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 522

AGOSTO 18, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

5.9%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
105,151

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

92.4%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
1,640,721

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.72%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
30,623

MGA BAGONG KASO **11,085**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **11,628**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **161**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **1,776,495**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 16

DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 18
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 16

23.4%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

46,644

BILANG NG
TINVEST

HALOS
97.0%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS)	68% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.1K TOTAL BEDS)	60% Utilized
WARD BEDS (13.9K TOTAL BEDS)	66% Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	53% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)	61% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)	58% Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)	69% Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	59% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 96.0%
1.0% Asymptomatic
0.7% Critical
1.3% Severe
0.91% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Tiyakin natin ang ating kaligtasan mula sa peligrong dala ng COVID-19 sa pamamagitan ng mahigpit na pagsunod sa ating **Minimum Public Health Standards**, upang makaiwas sa pagkahawa. Protektahan din natin ang ating mga tahanan, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa ating **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center**, upang mapigilan ang pagkakahawa ng ating pamilya. 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 telemed services mula sa ating mga telemedicine partners at 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.



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: [kontracovid.ph](https://www.kontracovid.ph)



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://www.staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

19 AUGUST 2021, THURSDAY



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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el=enr.berto](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4gGrvYMO34&ab_chann
el=enr.berto)

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

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#savemanilabay #dolomitesand #kuyasam

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Kuya Sam

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