21 AUGUST 2021, Saturday

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





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DENR: Dispose health care wastes properly

August 19, 2021 Cory Martinez

FOR the nth time, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) urged the public to dispose properly the household health care wastes in order to protect garbage collectors and haulers from COVID-19 and other diseases.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu reiterated his call as many households still do not segregate their used face masks, face shields, and disposable gloves, which 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," said Cimatu adding that since the start of the pandemic last year, they has consistently and repeatedly reminded households to properly disposa their healthcare waste.

"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.

Cimatu 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.

He 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, Benny Antiporda, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns, 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," Antiporda stressed.

Antiporda further suggested that the household health care wastes must be labeled properly when they will be disposed so that these will be properly handled by the garbage collectors.

He further 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.

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



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DENR: Dispose health care wastes properly

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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.

Source: <u>https://journalnews.com.ph/denr-dispose-health-care-wastes-properly/?fbclid=IwAR3Rd0EJv0sj-</u> m0vbvvMa2pITuzWIPy03cGcNba6hQfiQtFDPbKMMeVK40g





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NBI probe sought into Cebu City trash woes

By <u>Caecent No-ot Magsumbol</u>(The Freeman) - August 21, 2021 - 12:00am



The council made the decision through a resolution authored by Councilor Nestor Archival following a series of meetings and sessions on the matter.

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City Council has decided to seek the help of an independent body, in this case, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)-7, on the many issues that have stemmed from its problem on garbage collection and disposal.

The council made the decision through a resolution authored by Councilor Nestor Archival following a series of meetings and sessions on the matter.

The Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC), the Visayas Ombudsman, and the Philippine National Police were also considered but Vice Mayor Michael Rama said it is better to let one agency handle the investigation for faster results.

The issue first surfaced during the second quarter general assembly of the Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB) during which LnB President Franklyn Ong, himself an ex-officio member of the City Council, disclosed that the landfill in Barangay Binaliw would no longer accept trash directly from the city as the trash must come from a transfer station starting June 17.

Barangay Inayawan Captain Kirk Repollo would disclose later that garbage trucks coming from barangays in the city's North and South districts would line up at the transfer station.

Rama who was acting mayor at that time decided to check the situation in Inayawan, a move that led to more issues getting unearthed, including alleged environmental violations allegedly committed by the management of the transfer station, as well as the haulers.





NBI probe sought into Cebu City trash woes

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-7 issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) against the operation.

The transfer station was managed by RMI Solid Waste Management and Hauling Services while trash was being hauled by DOCAST Construction.

A check on the bid results and purchase order of DOCAST led to more questions, especially when the city's Department of Public Services asked for more funds via Supplemental Budget 1 after its P400 million budget for 2021 was already depleted. The Council did not grant the request.

Department of Public Services (DPS) lead lawyer Jigo Dacua said DPS had to collect more garbage that the city's former contractor, Jomara, allegedly left behind. Jomara said, however, that DPS already gave it a certificate of completion after it lost the bid to DOCAST.

Archival, the Council's minority floor leader, reached out to ARN Central Waste Management, the operator of the landfill in Binaliw, to get details on the garbage the city has dumped from January to the end of May 2021.

ARN's representative told the Council during the session on Thursday, August 19, that DOCAST dumped a total of 35,038 tons. DPS, meanwhile, dumped 19,943 tons while barangays dumped 17,766 tons. This totals to 72,747 tons.

Archival questioned why the city paid DOCAST P250 million when the total garbage the company collected would only be equivalent to about P63 million.

Rama also disclosed that three checks were released for payment to DOCAST even without his knowledge and consent as acting mayor at that time.

With many questions left unanswered, the Council decided to end discussions on the matter and have independent eyes take a look into the issues.

Dacua said the department respects the decision of the Council and will cooperate in any investigation that will be undertaken.- JMO (FREEMAN)





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Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article



Isang endangered pangolin ang natagpuan sa isang barangay sa Muntinlupa City nitong Lunes, Agosto 16. Ayon kay Anna Varona, isang environment and conservation advocate at tumulong sa pag rescue sa pangolin, natagpuan si "Pandi" ng isang residente sa Barangay Ayala Alabang.

Sa tulong ni Anna, Edward Lorenzo ng Conservation International, veterinarian na si Dr. Glenn Maguad ng National Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center at ng mga security guard ay maingat na kinuha si Pandi at dinala ito via DENR ambulance sa Biodiversity Management Bureau sa Quezon City.

Tiningnan ni Dr. Maguad ang kondisyon at kalusugan ng panggolin. Ayon kay Anna, napirmahan na ang release papers nito at kasalukuyang naghihintay ang DENR ng flight para sa panggolin upang maibalik ito sa Palawan.

Mensahe ni Anna sa publiko, makipag-ugnayan sa mga awloridad sa DENR kung may nakitang pangolin dahil kailangan nitong mamuhay sa kanilang natural habitat bilang isang endangered species.

Courtesy: Anna Varona Bisitahin ang www.gmanews.tv 🥝 para sa mga balita ngayong araw.

See Translation



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TINGNAN: Nasagip ang isang Philippine hawk eagle sa Barangay Alegria, San Isidro, Northern Samar Huwebes.

Agad itong na-turn-over sa mga kinatawan ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office. Anila, nanganganib nang maubos ang naturang ibon kaya ipinagbabawal ang pag-aalaga rito.

Isasailalim sa pagsusuri ang ibon at nakatakdang ibalik sa kaniyang natural habitat. (iii: San Isidro PNP) | via Ranulfo Docdocan

BASAHIN ang kaugnay na ulat: https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../look-philippine-hawk-eagle... 🤗

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<u>Scientists find that some baby bats babble like human</u> <u>infants</u>

AUG 20, 2021, 2:57 PM



Rose De La Cruz Columnist

The babbling of 20 baby bats was recorded in Costa Rica and Panama between 2015 and 2016 by researcher Ahana Fernandez, also affiliated with the Museum of Natural History in Berlin, who spent hours with the bats in the forest.

Human babies are not the only babblers. Some bats are also very talkative in their infancy and make sounds that recall the googoo-gagas of human babies, said a study published Thursday.

Babbling in human children is key to developing the careful control over the vocal apparatus necessary for speech.

The study published in the journal Science indicates the same is true for the greater sac-winged bat, or Saccopteryx bilineata, native to Central America.



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Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article

<u>Scientists find that some baby bats babble like human</u> <u>infants</u>

"Human infants seem to babble on the one hand to interact with their caregivers, but they also do that when they're completely alone, seemingly happily just exploring their voice, and that's the same what our bats are doing," study co-author Mirjam Knornschild, behavioral ecologist at the Museum of Natural History in Berlin, told AFP.

Bats communicate by ultrasound, sound waves at frequencies above human hearing, but they can also make sounds audible to people.

"It sounds like a high- pitched twittering to our ears... it's melodic," said Knornschild, who has worked with bats since 2003.

Saccopteryx bilineata don't hide away in gloomy caves, but prefer to live in trees, making them easier to observe.

The babbling of 20 baby bats was recorded in Costa Rica and Panama between 2015 and 2016 by researcher Ahana Fernandez, also affiliated with the Museum of Natural History in Berlin, who spent hours with the bats in the forest.

Up to 43 minutes

The mammals, like us, have a larynx, and start babbling about three weeks after birth, for about 7 to 10 weeks -- until they are weaned.

During this period, the bats spend around 30 percent of their days babbling, with sessions lasting on average about seven minutes, the researchers calculated.

But one bat babbled for a full 43 minutes, a long stretch considering adult communication generally lasts but a few seconds.

"That's something really, really peculiar that the other bat species that have been studied to date simply don't do," said Knornschild.

"They're very chatty."

The vocalizations were converted into images, called spectrograms.

"Each syllable has a very specific shape, so to say, and they are easy to distinguish by eye," Knornschild added.

The researchers analyzed more than 55,000 produced syllables, finding universal characteristics of babbling in human infants in the bats, such as repetition, lack of meaning, but also that the sounds followed a certain rhythm.

On top of that, like with humans, the learning curve is not linear.

Out of 25 syllables in the adult repertoire, young bats have not yet mastered all of them by the time they are weaned, suggesting that they continue to learn.

Song

The researchers were able to show that the young bats learned early on a six-syllable song used by males to mark their territory and attract females.



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<u>Scientists find that some baby bats babble like human</u> <u>infants</u>

"The pups listen to adult males singing and then imitate that song," Knornschild said.

Baby females also learn the song, even though they won't reproduce it as adults. But the study suggests learning it may help them judge the performance of their potential future partners.

Very few other species babble -- only some birds, two species of marmosets and perhaps some dolphins or beluga whales.

Why would certain animals need to develop in this way and others not?

"Navigating and communicating in a dark, 3d environment, seems to be a huge selective pressure for vocal learning," Knornschild said.

But no matter the reason, the researchers underscore that developing a complex vocal system opens a world of possibilities -- as demonstrated in humans, and now also in bats.





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isko Moreno Domagoso 🥝 👘

Nag-umpisa na ang paglilinis ng DPS Estero Rangers sa Estero de Tripa de Gallina na s'yang pinakamahabang sapa sa buong Metro Manila — ngayong Biyernes, Agosto 20. Sakop ng Barangay 730 Zone 80 at Barangay 755 Zone 82 ang nasabing estero.

Ang Estero de Tripa de Gallina ay may kabuuang haba na 7.6 kilometro. Ang tubigrito ay dumadaloy sa Pasig River bago mapunta sa Manila Bay.

Ilang araw rin ang ilalaan ng DPS Estero Rangers na kanilang clean-up drive dito. Kanina pa lang ay nakapaghakot na sila ng iba't-ibang uri ng basura.

Hindi po magsasawa ang Pamahalaang Lungsod na magpapaalala sa lahat na bawal magtapon ng basura sa mga estero.

Ang mga esterong barado ng basura ay nagiging sanhi ng pagbaha. Bukod pa rito, ang basurang nakababad sa tubig ay kadalasang pinamamahayan rin ng iba't ibang insektong nagdadala ng sakit gaya ng mga lamok na may dalang dengue.

Hindi po madali ang ginagawa ng mga kawani ng DPS na mabusising paglilinis sa mga estero. Kailangan po na tayong lahat ang magmalasakit sa mga estero ng Maynila. Alagaan po natin ang ating lungsod.

See Translation





"From reflection to action": Finance sector called for greening economy

Published on: August 20, 2021 By ACB



LAGUNA -- The financial sector has a huge role to play in greening the economy and driving positive change, particularly in resource allocation and influencing business and policy decisions, the fourth session of the webinar series Economics of Biodiversity emphasised.

"Money is at the very heart of the issue on biodiversity. The financial system determines resource allocation and decides which investment ideas get funded and which ones do not. This makes it a powerful force. It can be a destructive force or it can be a driver of positive change," the European Union (EU) Ambassador to the ASEAN Igor Driesmans said in his opening remarks.

Driesmans and ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim opened the webinar series' fourth and last installment titled Transforming Budget and Financial Institutions: Learning from Existing Work and Sharing Future Plans, which was attended by representatives of various sectors in the ASEAN, including economic planning, finance, and budget agencies.

The Economics of Biodiversity webinar series was supported by the EU, German Development Bank (KfW), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP) Project, Small Grants Programme (SGP), and the Institutional Strengthening of Biodiversity Sector in the ASEAN II Project, respectively.

Lim noted that discussions on the crucial role of the financial sector in protecting nature are timely with the release of the report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change showing that the global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"This change in the climate is unprecedented and will likely cause grave consequences to each and everyone of us, disrupting lives, communities, and economies. Protecting nature to stop the catastrophic consequences of climate change needs to be dealt with urgency and earnest collaboration of various sectors," Lim said.



"From reflection to action": Finance sector called for greening economy

The past sessions of the webinar series tackled ideas and experiences relating to the broad transitions to sustainable paths laid out in the Dasgupta Review, a groundbreaking analysis on the Economics of Biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta.

Increasing global investments

In his presentation, Dr. Andrew Seidl, senior technical advisor of the UN Development Programme Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), shared the components of a biodiversity finance plan, which includes the review of policies and actors that influence biodiversity finance, and assessments of biodiversity expenditure and finance needs.

"In the biodiversity finance plan, we identify mechanisms that will help us bridge the gap (in biodiversity expenditures and needs) in the private and public sectors in a prioritised and systematic manner," Seidl said.

He stressed that 26 countries in the world have completed the Biodiversity Expenditure Review, and four of which are member states of the ASEAN.

Based on the cross-analysis done by BIOFIN, global public biodiversity investments have increased to an average of USD 121 billion annually, or 0.19-0.25 per cent of the global GDP.

Countries with biodiversity hotspots, more protected areas, and more threatened and endangered species should invest more in biodiversity protection.

Likewise, he said investing in biodiversity matters as funds allocated to biodiversity are associated with a reduction in the number of threatened species and the rate of biodiversity loss of about 1 per cent per year.

He added that every USD 1 billion invested in biodiversity results in 0.57 per cent reduction in the proportion of threatened to total species.

'Means good business'

"Investing in protected areas means good business for local economies," Dr. Giovanni Ruta, lead environmental economist of the World Bank, stressed in his keynote presentation.

Ruta shared some of the highlights in the country case studies on the economics of protected areas and the study Global Deal for Nature.

The country case studies in Nepal, Fiji, Brazil, and Zambia show the effect of tourists spending a dollar in protected areas--being a "multiplier" that provides significant returns.

An additional dollar spent by visitors raises local incomes in the local economy by USD 1.5 to 1.9 across the five parks. Consistent multipliers also show that a healthy tourism sector provides similar income gains to local households.



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"From reflection to action": Finance sector called for greening economy

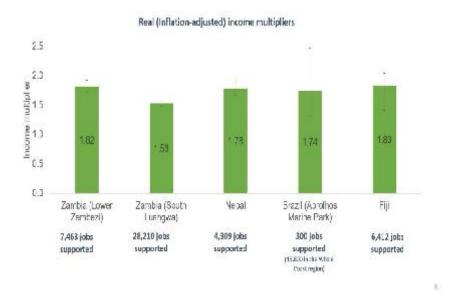


Figure 1. Screen-grabbed from the presentation of Dr. Giovanni Ruta, lead environmental economist of the World Bank

For each dollar spent by tourists in the local economy, more income is generated for non-poor households in Nepal, Fiji, and Brazil, and for poor households in Zambia.

In a roundtable discussion, Lao PDR's Deputy Finance Minister Bounleua Sinxayvoravong and Dr. Dian Lestari, director of the Center for Climate Change Financing and Multilateral Policy in Indonesia, shared developments in their respective countries' financial institutions, government policies, and the challenges they currently face.

The Lao PDR deputy minister said that in financing the operations in biodiversity, the government supports the mobilisation of domestic and foreign fund sources. Private sectors are also encouraged to be involved in environmental conservation through investments in ecotourism, local communities' participation during environmental protection activities, among others.

For Indonesia, Lestari noted that it has mainstreamed biodiversity considerations into the country's budgeting systems in order to allocate financing for environmental and climate actions.

The estimated allocation per year for biodiversity conservation activities is around 0.87 per cent of total government budget, and 4.1 per cent of the total budget on the average for activities.

To augment the financing for biodiversity and close the funding gap, the Indonesian government partnered with organisations to identify and mobilise financing sources.

Under the programme Green Sukuk, Indonesia, since 2018, has managed to mobilise around USD 3.5 billion to finance green projects, including biodiversity conservation.

The entire recorded livestream of the webinar can be accessed on the ACB's Facebook page. It was moderated by Dr. Bruce Tolentino, member of the monetary board of the Philippines' central bank. (ACB)

Source: <u>https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/08/20/from-reflection-to-action-finance-sector-</u> called-for-greening-economy

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Unicef: 1.1-B kids at 'extreme risk' from climate impact

AUG 20, 2021, 2:47 PM



Rose De La Cruz Columnist

"Children are uniquely vulnerable to climate hazards. Compared to adults, children require more food and water per unit of body weight and are less able to survive extreme weather events."

Half of the 2.2 billion children of the world are now at "extremely high risk" from the impacts of climate crisis and pollution and the Unicef is calling the situation "unimaginably dire."

The Guardian reported that nearly every child in the world was at risk from at least one of these impacts including heatwaves, floods, cyclones, disease, drought, and air pollution. But 1 billion children live in 33 countries facing three or four impacts simultaneously.

These countries are India, Nigeria and the Philippines and much of sub-Saharan Africa.

The report is the first to combine high-resolution maps of climate and environmental impacts with maps of child vulnerability, such as poverty and access to clean water, healthcare and education.

"It essentially [shows] the likelihood of a child's ability to survive climate change," said Nick Rees, one of the report's authors.



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<u>Unicef: 1.1-B kids at 'extreme risk' from climate impact</u>

Greta Thunberg

The report was launched with youth climate activists on the third anniversary of Greta Thunberg's first school strike, which sparked a global movement. After a pause in public demonstrations during the coronavirus pandemic, a global climate strike is planned for Sept. 24.

Henrietta Fore, Unicef executive director, said: "For the first time, [this report gives] a complete picture of where and how children are vulnerable to climate change, and that picture is almost unimaginably dire. Virtually no child's life will be unaffected."

"Children are uniquely vulnerable to climate hazards. Compared to adults, children require more food and water per unit of body weight and are less able to survive extreme weather events," she stressed.

Climate negotiators

The report calls for the inclusion of young people in all climate negotiations and decisions, including at the UN Cop26 (the 26th Conference of Parties) summit in Glasgowin November. "The decisions will define their future," said Fore. "Children and young people need to be recognized as the rightful heirs of this planet that we all share."

Thunberg said: "We are not just victims, we are also leading the fight. But [the world] is still not treating the climate crisis like an emergency. We are still just talking and greenwashing things instead of taking real action. But, on the other hand, there have been many millions of people mobilized, especially young people, and that is a very important step in the right direction."

Most precious natural resource

Nkosilathi Nyathi, a climate activist from Zimbabwe, said: "Climate change is very personal to me." He said heatwaves and floods had interrupted his schooling and farmers in his village were struggling with unpredictable weather. "I'm passionate about the inclusion of young people in decision-making platforms – young people are the world's most precious natural resource."

The Unicef report said the impacts of the climate crisis were "deeply inequitable" and very likely to get worse. Rees said: "The top 10 countries that are at extremely high risk are only responsible for 0.5% of global emissions."

The report found 920 million children are highly exposed to water scarcity, 820 million to heatwaves, and 600 million to vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, which are likely to get worse as suitable climate conditions for mosquitoes and pathogens spread.

There's still time to act

"But there is still time to act," said Fore. "Improving children's access to essential services can significantly increase their ability to survive these climate hazards. Unicef urges governments and businesses to listen to children and prioritize actions that protect them from impacts, while accelerating work to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions."



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<u>Unicef: 1.1-B kids at 'extreme risk' from climate impact</u>

Mitzi Jonelle Tan, a youth campaigner from the Philippines who also helped launch the report, said: "One of the reasons I'm a climate activist is because I was born into climate change like so many of us have been. I have such vivid memories of doing my homework by the candlelight as typhoons raged outside, wiping out the electricity, and growing up being afraid of drowning in my own bedroom because I would wake up to a flooded room."

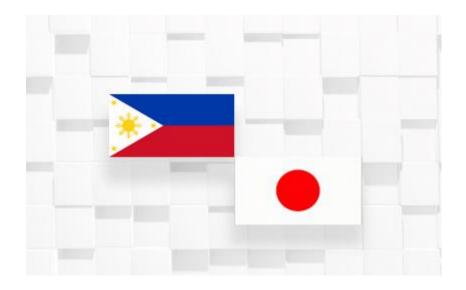
"[Cop26] has to be the one that changes something because we've gone for so long having these conferences only coming up with empty promises and vague plans," she said.

Thunberg said: "We cannot stress enough how big a responsibility the UK government has now. But there is a lie that the UK is a climate leader and that they have reduced their CO2 emissions by more than 40 percent since 1990. If you include things like aviation, shipping, outsourcing and imports and the burning of biomass, it doesn't really look that good – they are very good at creative carbon accounting. We want them to stop talking and start acting."



PH secures 10-B yen post-disaster standby loan from Japan

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora August 20, 2021, 6:39 pm



MANILA – The Japanese government on Friday disbursed JPY10 billion (approximately PHP4.59 billion) to the Philippines, the fourth and final tranche of the Post-Disaster Standby Loan Phase 2 (PDSL 2).

Released through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the PDSL 2 is intended to supplement the country's response measures in times of catastrophes and health emergencies.

In a statement, the Japanese Embassy in Manila said the disbursement was in view of the recent declaration of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the National Capital Region (NCR) and the need to support vulnerable sectors and further enhance institutional health capacities in the country.

"On this basis, the government of Japan received a disbursement request from the government of the Philippines for the allocation of the remaining portion of the PDSL 2 to the Philippines' pandemic response and recovery interventions such as the provision of emergency subsidies and strengthening of preventive mechanisms," it said.

The loan accord for the PDSL 2 was signed between JICA and the Department of Finance (DOF) in September 2020, establishing a contingency fund from which Manila could withdraw up to JPY50 billion (around PHP23 billion).

The first tranche of the PDSL 2 worth JPY10 billion was released in October 2020, following the extension of the state of calamity in the Philippines due to the pandemic.

The two other disbursements were made this year-- the JPY10 billion in January 2021 to aid rebuilding efforts after Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses; and the JPY20 billion (around PHP9 billion) in June 2021 to augment the country's Covid-19 war chest.



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"Along with other provisions from Japan during this health crisis, the government of Japan expressed high hopes that the PDSL 2 served its purpose as a quick-disbursing budgetary support that would open the way for the Philippines to fully recover from the impact of the current pandemic," the Embassy said. (PNA)

21 AUGUST 2021, Saturday

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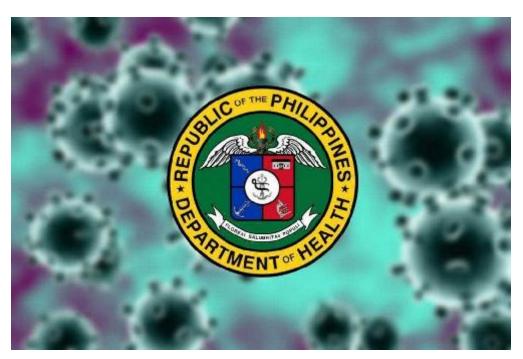


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PH sets new daily high for COVID-19 cases at 17,231

Published August 20, 2021, 4:11 PM by Analou de Vera



DOH/MB

The Philippines hit its biggest single-day increase of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) infections after the Department of Health (DOH) reported 17,231 new cases on Friday, Aug. 20.

The number surpassed the previous high of 15,310 on April 2, 2021— wherein the country was also experiencing a surge in cases at that time.

The country's running case tally is now at 1,807,800, of which, 6.8 percent or 123,251 are active cases or those who are still ill, the DOH said in its latest case bulletin.

Of active cases, 94.1 percent are experiencing mild symptoms, 3.2 percent are without symptoms, 0.7 percent are critical, 1.2 percent are severe, and 0.86 percent are in moderate condition.

The death toll also jumped to 31,198—representing 1.73 percent of the COVID-19 case total — after 317 more people died.

Meanwhile, the recovery tally increased by 5,595 to 1,653,351–which is equivalent to 91.5 percent of the case tally.

The DOH urged the public to immediately self-isolate if they start to experience symptoms of COVID-19.

"We commonly observe transmission in households. Hence, we continuously remind our kababayan to ensure safety even in our homes, immediately isolate and seek medical attention, and coordinate with BHERTs (Barangay Health Emergency Response Team) to facilitate facility isolation and testing. These measures will help cut transmission even in households," said DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire.





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PH sets new daily high for COVID-19 cases at 17,231

Vergeire emphasized that any age group can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

"COVID-19 may be milder in young children than in adults but parents and caregivers should understand that children can be infected with the coronavirus, can develop complications requiring hospitalizations, and can transmit the virus to others," she said.

Vergeire said that children can also develop serious lung infection and become "very sick with COVID-19 and deaths have occurred."

"While we do not vaccinate our children yet, it is important to follow the minimum public health standards and immediately get vaccinated as these strategies also protect our children at home," she said.



All-time high: Philippines logs 17,231 new infections

By <u>Shiela Crisostomo</u>(Philstar.com) - August 21, 2021 - 12:00am



Health workers at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute attend to patients at the triage set up at the hospital lobby on Aug. 15, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines yesterday registered a new all-time high daily tally for new coronavirus infections at 17,231, data from the Department of Health (DOH) showed.

Based on the DOH Case Bulletin, the 17,231 cases surpassed the previous peak of 15,310 documented last April 2. Since Aug. 11, the country's daily tally for COVID -19 has not gone below 10,000 cases.

The health department attributed the increase to a combination of factors, such as breaches in the minimum public health standards and Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate-Vaccinate (PDITR-V) strategies.

It may also have been "aggravated by the presence of variants," the DOH said.

This ranked the Philippines at 19th place among countries with the highest cases, according to the COVID-19 Dashboard of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Friday's tally brought to 1,807,800 the total number of COVID -19 cases recorded in the country. Of the total cases, 123,251 or 6.8 percent are active. The positivity rate among those tested is 26.1 percent.

The bulletin showed that 5,595 patients have recovered, bringing the recoveries to 1,653,351. Meanwhile, fatalities rose to 31,198 after 317 patients succumbed to COVID-19.

The DOH said two COVID testing laboratories failed to submit reports through the COVID-19 Document Repository System (CDRS).





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All-time high: Philippines logs 17,231 new infections

No spike

DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire maintained there is no spike in cases among pregnant women, after 30 mothers at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila tested positive for COVID-19.

"As we are observing an increasing trend in the overall COVID-19 cases in the country, there will also be increases across different populations, including pregnant women," Vergeire said.

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año ordered local government units (LGUs) to reactivate their respective 'coordinate operations to defeat epidemic' or CODE teams to detect and isolate COVID-19 cases in the community.

"We have to act decisively and scale up our efforts to contain the virus," Año said in an Aug. 18 memo, urging LGUs to implement the government's PDITR-V strategy.

Global COVID ranking

In the Johns Hopkins tally, the country took the 19th slot after posting a total of 1,791,003 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 30,881 deaths last Aug. 19.

Other Asian countries in the Top 20 are Indonesia (3,930,300 cases) at 5th place, Thailand (989,859) at 10th place, Malaysia (1,489,460) in 12th place and Japan (1,232,532) in 14th place. Vietnam (312,611) was in 21st.

Overall, the United States ranked the highest with 37,293,969 cases, followed by India (32,322,258), Brazil (20,494,212) and Iran (4,587,683).

The Dashboard of the Maryland-based school showed that globally, there were 209,934,849 COVID-19 cases, including 4,402,002 fatalities.

Meanwhile, Sen. Nancy Binay yesterday urged the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to conduct more RT-PCR tests in zones where community cases are high.

The senator mentioned that LGUs like Navotas City have come up with policies and strategies that would enable them to test as many individuals as possible, for free, in order to limit community infection.

"The goal is to test more, not to test all. What we need is a rationalized, more targeted cluster approach to suppress the spread of the virus at the community level – not a shotgun approach," she added. – With Emmanuel Tupas, Paolo Romero





5.5K Covid-19 recoveries, 17.2K new cases: DOH

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz August 20, 2021, 4:51 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 5,595 new recoveries from coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

In its Covid-19 bulletin, the agency said this brings the total recovery tally to 1,653,351 or 91.5 percent of a total of 1,807,800 recorded infections in the country since the beginning of the health crisis.

However, the country also saw its highest daily number of cases, with 17,231 new infections. This brought the total number of active cases to 123,251 or 6.8 percent of all cases.

Of these active cases, the majority at 94.1 percent are showing mild symptoms, followed by the asymptomatic at 3.2 percent, those with severe symptoms at 1.2 percent, those with moderate symptoms at 0.86 percent, and those in critical condition at 0.7 percent.

New deaths were reported at 317, with the country's death toll now at 31,198 or 1.73 percent of all Covid-19 infections in the country.

Based on the latest data on Covid-19 testing, a total of 64,934 Covid-19 tests were administered on Wednesday, with 26.1 percent found to be infected.

Meanwhile, health care utilization in the National Capital Region (NCR) is rising, with its 1,400 beds at intensive care units (ICU) at 74 percent occupancy, 4,600 isolation beds at 61 percent occupancy, 4,100 ward beds at 70 percent occupancy, and 57 percent of 1,100 ventilators are currently in use.

In the entire country, there are 4,100 ICU beds at 73 percent occupancy, 20,100 isolation beds at 61 percent occupancy, 14,200 ward beds at 66 percent occupancy, and 52 percent of 3,100 ventilators are currently in use. *(PNA)*

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1151125





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Eased too early? Concerns over lifted ECQ despite steep spike in COVID-19 cases

By <u>Catalina Ricci S. Madarang</u> - August 20, 2021 - 7:44 PM



A police officer mans a checkpoint as the country's capital returns to stricter lockdown measures amid rising coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases, in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, March 29, 2021. (Reuters/Lisa Marie David)

Metro Manila, which has the highest COVID-19 cases, shifted to a relaxed quarantine phase again despite the continuous surge of infections in the past eight days.

On Friday alone, the Philippines saw its highest-ever single-day tally of new infections at 17,231.

Concerns were raised on social media following the <u>eased quarantine classifications</u> announced on Friday, August 20.

The National Capital Region, Laguna and Bataan are now among provinces under the modified enhanced community quarantine starting on August 21.

The rest of the country, meanwhile, are covered by the general community quarantine with heightened restrictions and GCQ.

The implementation of all quarantine phases will end on August 31.

Filipinos, however, cited the steep climb of COVID-19 infections while the healthcare system struggles to cope.

"Today is the craziest day we've had at the ER since the start of ECQ. Most of the rapid antigen tests we did came back positive (crying emoji) including entire families. Multiple DOAs (death on arrival). People begging to be admitted because everywhere else is full. Things aren't better!" one user said.





Eased too early? Concerns over lifted ECQ despite steep spike in COVID-19 cases

"We went to ECQ to prevent hospitals from reaching full capacity, help our HCW from being overworked, and lower the daily cases but were we able to achieve that in the 2 week lockdown? I know we need to do something for the economy. But do you think this ECQ/MECQ is enough?" another user <u>wrote</u>.

Others lamented anew on the government's clear priority on the economy over public health and science.

"MECQ without seeing decrease in cases. This pandemic response has been unscientific from the start. See you ECQ in the next few weeks," one user <u>said.</u>

"If the basis of loosening from ECQ to MECQ is economic rather than preventing COVID, It just means the government would rather let you live and die with the virus than stopping its spread and help people not get sick or hungry w/ proactive, progressive, and sufficient policies," one user<u>wrote</u>.

Some users even noted that the IATF only approved the shift to MECQ so that the government will not be responsible to release financial aid any longer.

"Basically the same quarantine measures. Ginawa lang MECQ so the government won't be obliged to provide assistance to the Filipinos," one user <u>said.</u>

"So basically, it's still ECQ but without *ayuda*," another user <u>said</u>.

How long should the lockdowns be?

It takes three to four weeks before infections start to go down, according to OCTA Research fellow Dr. Guido David based on the country's history of the health crisis.

David expressed this in an interview with CNN Philippines last August 14.

"Whatever happens, we probably don't see a downward trend yet on August 20. Even if maging effective ang ECQ, hindi natin makikita agad ang decrease. Maso-slow down muna yung increase, bababa yung reproduction number, then finally magkakaroon ng downward trend," he <u>said.</u>

As of that day, OCTA noted that the reproduction rate of the COVID-19 transmissions in Metro Manila is 1.85 and that of Cavite is "almost two."

"Ibig sabihin nito, dalawang tao na may dalang COVID - 19, tatlo ang nahahawaan nila," David said.

The Philippines saw the eighth straight day of five-digit increases in COVID-19 cases on August 18.

Reports on the ground have also showed parking lots, tents and corridors and <u>even a chapel</u> being converted into makeshift reception areas as hospitals are slowly running out of capacities to handle COVID-19 patients.

Source: https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/08/20/198568/eased-too-earlyconcerns-over-lifted-ecq-despite-steep-spike-in-covid-19-cases/





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Granular lockdowns, mass testing, contact tracing at isolation mas palalakasin - MMDA

By <u>Ludy Bermudo</u>(Pang-Masa) - August 21, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos na hindi pa man MECQ, nagpatupad na ng granular lockdowns ang mga lokal na pamahalaan na mas palalakasin pa ngayong nasa MECQ na ang Metro Manila. The STAR/Boy Santos, file

MANILA, Philippines — Aprub sa Metro Manila Council (MMC) ang naging pasiya ng Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IAFT-EID) na ilagay ang National Capital Region sa modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) simula ngayong araw, Agosto 21-31, 2021.

Sinabi ni Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos na hindi pa man MECQ, nagpatupad na ng granular lockdowns ang mga lokal na pamahalaan na mas palalakasin pa ngayong nasa MECQ na ang Metro Manila.

Dobleng pagsisikap rin ang ipatutupad na mas makontrol ang pagkakaroon ng hawaan ng COVID-19 sa pamamagitan ng mas pinaigting na mass testing, agarang paglalagay sa isolation sa mga tinamaan ng virus, at contact tracing.

Mas kampante ngayon ang mga lokal na pamahalaan sa Metro Manila na mas mabilis at mas marami ang matuturukan ng COVID-19 vaccines dahil sa pagdating sa bansa kahapon ng nasa 585,000 doses ng AstraZeneca vaccines, kung saan 79 porsyento ang ibibigay sa LGUs at MMDA habang ang 21 porsyento ay sa mga pribadong kumpanya.



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OCTA Research sees slow rise in COVID-19 cases in Cavite, Laguna; 'sharp' increase in Rizal

Published August 20, 2021, 4:22 PM by Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

	LGU	New	Last	Change	ADAR	нв	ICU
1	Bacoor	188	174	8%	27.34	71%	93%
2	lmus	173	132	31%	36.61	91%	100%
з	Santa Rosa	169	121	40%	42.68	83%	90%
4	Dasmariñas	165	114	45%	21.39	97%	100%
5	General Trias	136	92	48%	36.97	100%	100%
6	Calamba	122	90	36%	23.98	94%	87%
7	Antipolo	117	63	86%	13.31	78%	100%
8	San Pedro	105	88	19%	28.79	92%	54%
9	Biñan	100	79	27%	26.82	62%	58%
10	Tanza	95	52	83%	35.88	100%	100%
11	Cabuyao	94	64	47%	27.20	81%	71%
12	Cainta	93	57	63%	25.49	92%	100%
13	Taytay	60	32	88%	16.61	75%	N/A
14	Silang	54	46	17%	18.60	91%	100%
15	San Pablo	53	35	51%	17.80	72%	100%
	Cavite	1,127	809	39%	26.18	75%	93%
	Laguna	799	587	36%	23.52	79%	82%
	Rizal	460	265	74%	14.08	81%	100%
	Batangas	280	196	43%	9.01	84%	78%
	Quezon	117	95	23%	5.12	64%	70%
	Low	Mo	derate	High	Cr	itical	

(OCTA RESEARCH)

Independent research group OCTA observed a surge in new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in Rizal province, based on its monitoring report for Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) released on Friday, Aug. 20.

In its monitoring from Aug. 13 to 19, the average daily cases in Rizal has significantly increased by 74 percent, from 265 to 460 cases.

"Antipolo, Cainta, and Taytay had sharp one-week growth rates, while healthcare utilization remained above 70 percent," OCTA said.



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OCTA Research sees slow rise in COVID-19 cases in Cavite, Laguna; 'sharp' increase in Rizal

"The positivity rate in Rizal over the past seven days was 29 percent," it added.

Meanwhile, the seven-day growth rates of COVID-19 cases in Cavite and Laguna have increased to 39 percent and 36 percent, respectively.

The average daily cases have increased from 809 to 1,127 cases in Cavite, and from 587 to 799 cases in Laguna, from Aug. 13 to 19.

"The increase in new COVID-19 cases in Cavite and Laguna have slowed down," OCTA said.

However, it noted that Cavite was still considered a critical risk area in terms of COVID-19 incidence as it recorded an average daily attack rate (ADAR) of 26.18 cases per 100,000 population.

Hospital bed occupancy in Cavite remained "high risk" at 75 percent, while intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy was critical at 93 percent.

The province's positivity rate, or the percentage of PCR tests that yielded a positive result, was 30 percent.

OCTA said that Bacoor, Imus, General Trias, and Tanza have critical ADAR.

Local government units in Cavite that have critical ICU occupancy were Imus (100 percent), Dasmariñas (100 percent), General Trias (100 percent), Tanza (100 percent), and Silang (100 percent).

"Only Baccor was not yet in critical level in terms of COVID bed occupancy," OCTA said.

The research group pointed out that the rise in new cases has slowed down in Bacoor with a sevenday growth rate of only 8 percent and a reproduction number of 1.61 from 1.92 in the previous week.

Moreover, OCTA said that Laguna was at high risk in terms of ADAR (23.52) and healthcare utilization (79 percent).

Santa Rosa, Calamba, Cabuyao, and San Pablo have registered above 70 percent healthcare utilization, while San Pedro and Biñan were still at low risk in terms of ICU occupancy.

Laguna has had a positivity rate of 37 percent in the past seven days.



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ico quidelines: What to expect in NCR

August 2021 MECQ guidelines: What to expect in NCR, Laguna and Bataan

(Philstar.com) - August 20, 2021 - 2:43pm



Residents in Barangay 342, Manila wait for distribution of cash aid on Wednesday (August 18, 2021).

MANILA, Philippines (Updated 4:28 p.m.) — The national pandemic task force has approved the transition of Metro Manila and the provinces of Laguna and Bataan to Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine until end of August, amid rising COVID-19 cases and threat of more infectious Delta coronavirus variant.

Based on August 19 resolutions of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, Metro Manila and Laguna will be under MECQ from August 21 to 31, while Bataan will transition to MECQ on August 23 and will be under the same status until end of the month.

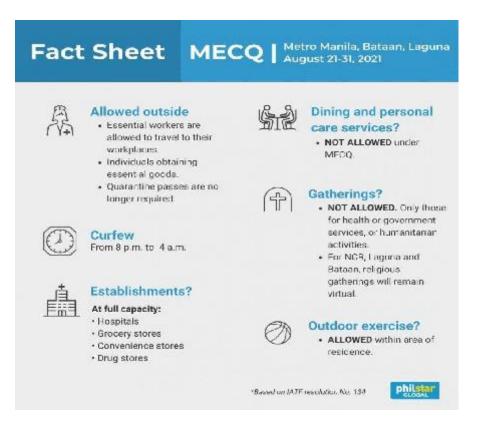
The IATF recommends quarantine classifications and other pandemic-response policies to President Rodrigo Duterte, who often approves them.

Thirteen other localities are also under MECQ status, including the Metro Manila neighboring provinces of Bulacan, Cavite and Rizal, but there are some differences between protocols in these areas and the NCR, Laguna and Bataan.



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August 2021 MECQ guidelines: What to expect in NCR, Laguna and Bataan



A full copy of updated IATF community quarantine guidelines may be accessed <u>here</u>, but here is a quick refresher for MECQ protocols:

Are quarantine passes need?

For the National Capital Region, Metro Manila Council chairman Edwin Olivarez, also mayor of Parañaque, said they will no longer implement quarantine passes, which was required in some localities during ECQ period.

But the IATF stressed that movement is limited to accessing goods and services from permitted establishments, for work in such establishments and for other activities allowed under this period.

Will there be curfews and liquor ban?

Olivarez said curfew, as of Friday, in Metro Manila remains at 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. Imposing a liquor ban meanwhile will be up to each LGU.

Who should stay at home?

Those below 18 years old and over 65, with immunodeficiency, comorbidity and other health risks and pregnant women must stay at home, except when obtaining essential goods and services, or for work in industries and offices or activities allowed during the period.

Local governments, however, may relax the minimum age range down to 15 years old, depending on COVID-19 situation in their locality.



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August 2021 MECQ guidelines: What to expect in NCR, Laguna and Bataan

Are gatherings allowed?

Gatherings outside residences and in residence with persons outside the immediate household are still banned. Exempted from this are gatherings for provision of health or government services, or humanitarian activities authorized by government agency or instrumentality.

Will I be able to dine in?

In Metro Manila, Laguna and Bataan, indoor and al fresco dine in services are not allowed.

Can I go to beauty salons or spas?

During MECQ period of Metro Manila, Laguna and Bataan, "personal care services including beauty salons, beauty parlors, barbershops and nail spas shall not be allowed."

Will religious gatherings be allowed? How about wakes?

In MECQ areas, religious gatherings are allowed up to 10% of venue capacity, so long as the LGU where it is held will take place.

But for Metro Manila, Laguna and Bataan, religious gatherings will remain virtual until end of August.

"Pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, or other religious ministers and their assistants may conduct religious services performed through online video recording and transmission and they shall be allowed to move for such purposes," the task force said in its Resolution No. 134.

For wakes, the IATF said that immediate family members of the deceased who died of other causes other than COVID-19 may be allowed to attend wake or internment, "upon satisfactory proof of their relationship with the latter, fully complying with the prescribed minimum public health standards for the duration of the activity."

Will there be public transport?

Yes. The Department of Transportation said public utility buses and jeepneys are allowed to operate at 50% maximum capacity on a "one-seat apart" rule.

Motorcycle taxi services and Transport Network Vehicle Services (TNVS) shall also continue operating. For tricycles, only one passenger is allowed, as allowed by LGUs.

Services of the Philippine National Railways, LRT-1, LRT-2 and MRT-2 shall also continue.

Meanwhile, domestic and sea travel in Metro Manila shall also continue during MECQ, subject to restrictions of passenger's destination.

Will courts be open?

The Supreme Court and its offices shall be physically open starting August 23 and will operate on up to 25% on-site capacity. Court filings, however, must be done through registered mail or services of accredited private couriers or electronic mail, except for "exceptionally urgent matters" and only after approval from concerned Office is obtained.



August 2021 MECQ guidelines: What to expect in NCR, Laguna and Bataan

All other courts in Metro Manila, however, shall remain physically closed but operations will continue online. They may be reached through their hotlines and email addresses posted on the SC website.

What establishments will remain operational?

Establishments, persons and activities allowed to work or operate during ECQ will still be allowed under MECQ. A list of these is included in <u>this earlier refresher</u>.

All others that were not permitted to operate, work or be undertaken during ECQ can resume operations during MECQ at 50% on-site capacity, while work-from-home and flexible arrangements are encouraged.

"Notwithstanding the foregoing, and without prejudice to the authority of the [Department of Trade and Industry] to issue a negative list of industries which shall remain prohibited even in areas under MECQ," the following shall not be permitted to work or operate under MECQ:

- Entertainment venues with live performers such as karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, theaters, and cinemas
- Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, and similar venues
- Amusement parks or theme parks, fairs/peryas, kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom and kiddie rides
- Outdoors sports courts or venues for contact sports, scrimmages, games or activities
- Indoor sports courts or venues, fitness studios, gyms, spas or other indoor leisure centers or facilities, and swimming pools
- Casinos, horse racing**, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops***, and other gaming establishments except for the draws conducted by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
- Indoor visitor or tourist attractions, libraries, archives, museums, galleries and cultural shows and exhibits
- Outdoor tourist attractions





August 2021 MECQ guidelines: What to expect in NCR, Laguna and Bataan

- Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions
- Personal care services* which include beauty salons, beauty parlors, medical aesthetic clinics, cosmetic or derma clinics, make-up salons, nail spas, reflexology, aesthetics, wellness, and holistic centers, and other similar establishments; acupuncture and electrocautery establishments, and massage therapy including sports therapy establishments. It also includes establishments providing tanning services, body piercings, tattooing, and similar services. Home services for these activities are likewise not permitted.
- Indoor dine-in services of food preparation establishments such as commissaries, restaurants and eateries*.

*inclusion in the negative list of industries not allowed to operate suspended pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 113 s.2021, issued on April 29, 2021. Per IATF Resolution No. 134, s.2021, issued August 19, 2021, personal care services and indoor and al fresco dining shall not be allowed to operate in NCR, Laguna and Bataan until August 31.

**inclusion in the negative list of industries not allowed to operate suspended pursuant to IATF resolution No. 114 s.2021 issued on May 6, 2021. May operate only on a no-audience set-up.

***inclusion in the negative list of industries not allowed to operate suspended pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 115 s.2021 issued on May 13.

Government agencies and instrumentalities will also be fully operational, but with a skeleton work-force on-site and the remainder of the workforce under alternative work arrangements.

Can I do outdoor exercises?

Individual outdoor exercises like outdoor walking, jogging, running or biking are <u>permitted within</u> <u>the barangay</u>, <u>purok</u>, <u>subdivision or village</u>. But minimum public health standards and precautions, such as wearing of face masks and physical distancing</u>, must be observed.

In Metro Manila, outdoor exercises will be allowed starting August 21, but only from 6:00 to 9:00 in the morning only.

Can I register to vote?

The Commission on Elections in an earlier resolution said voter registration can only resume in areas that transition to General Community Quarantine or Modified GCQ.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez reiterated this earlier <u>this week</u>. He also disclosed that the poll body rejected calls to move the deadline for voter registration beyond September 30. It has, instead, approved longer hours and added Saturday and holidays for sign-ups until end of September. — Kristine Joy Patag; Infographic by Rhovin Manlaqui

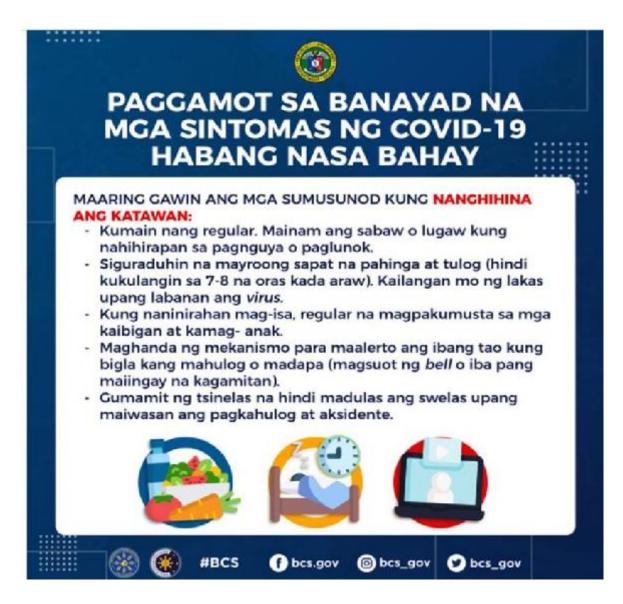
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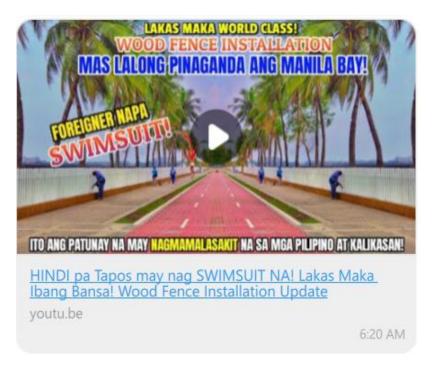


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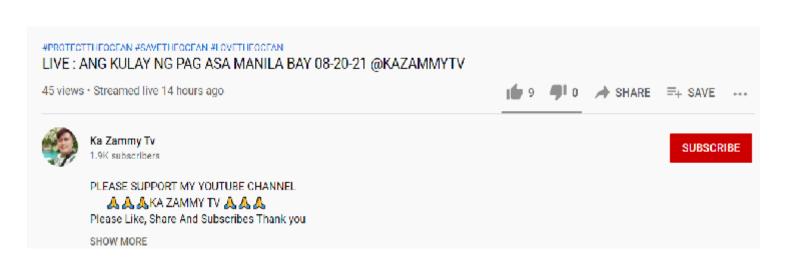
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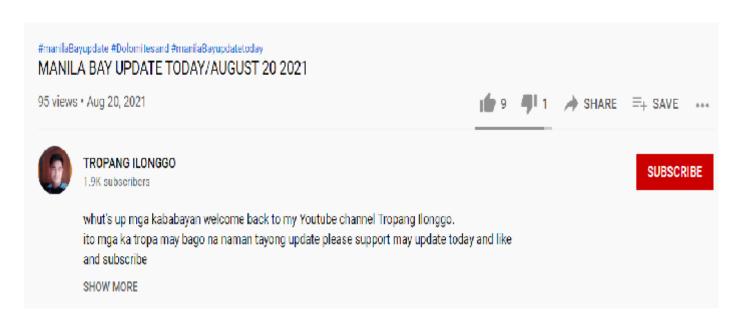
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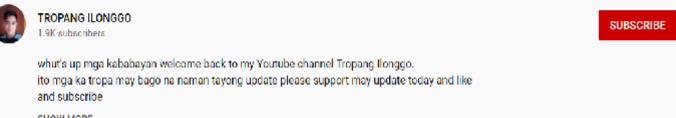
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