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**DENR**

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU NAIS NG DENR NA SERTIPIKAHANG PRIORITY NI PRRD



July 19, 2021 @ 11:20 PM 1 day ago

SA katatapos na online 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement Summit ay hiniling ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na sertipikahan bilang “priority bill” ng Malacañang ang Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau bill sa Kongreso.

Naniniwala ang DENR na sa pamamagitan ng paglikha ng isang enforcement bureau ay mas higit na maipapatupad ng Kagawaran ang mandato nitong bigyan ng proteksyon ang kalikasan at kapaligiran, at paghabol sa mga high profile parties at maging sa mga sindikato na nasa likod ng mga illegal environmental activities.

May mga nakahaing panukala sa Kongreso sina senators Nancy Binay at Bong Revilla, representatives Loren Legarda ng Antique, Angelo Marcos Barba ng Ilocos Norte, Ferdinand Hernandez ng South Cotabato, at Luis Raymund Villafuerte ng Camarines Sur.

Ilan sa mga mahahalagang batas na dapat epektibong maipatupad ng DENR ay ang –

- Forestry Code;
- Clean Air Act;
- Clean Water Act;
- Ecological Solid Waste Management Act;
- Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act;
- Philippine Mining Act;
- Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act;
- National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act;

At marami pang ibang batas pangkalikasan.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/environmental-protection-bureau-nais-ng-denr-na-sertipikahang-priority-ni-prrd/>



# DENR tags 2 biodiversity corridors

By [Frederick M. Nasiad](#)

July 21, 2021

Central [Mindoro](#) and Eastern [Mindanao](#) has been identified by the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) as pilot areas for "biodiversity corridors" under a Global Environment Facility (GEF) project.

The biodiversity corridor project aims to help conserve threatened species and reduce deforestation while promoting infrastructure development and jobs opportunities in the area.

The creation of the two pilot corridors, defined as "terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems promoting conservation of biodiversity with sustainable use," will strengthen management of 11 protected areas covering 300,000 hectares.

It will be financed with a total budget of \$74.961 million (approximately P3.8 billion) of which \$12.26 million will be from the GEF Trust Fund and \$62.701 million from various Philippine agencies.

Included in the protected areas are Mt. Iglit-Baco National Park; Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary; Agusan Marsh; Alamio, Buyaan, Carac-an, Panikian Rivers and Sipangpang Falls Watershed; Cabadbaran Watershed; Mainit Hot Spring; Mati Protected Landscape; Surigao Watershed; Mt. Hamiguitan; Andanan River Watershed; and Aliwagwag Protected Landscape.

The project will establish at least 200,000 hectares of key biodiversity areas that are now outside of the protected area system through indigenous people (IP) management.

It will benefit the environment with carbon sequestration of 44.3 million metric tons over 20 years.

"At least 65,000 individuals, 30 percent IPs (belonging to 15,000 households) will directly benefit through sustainable natural resource management and livelihood improvement. It will result in an increase of 15 percent in average economic benefit (at least 50 percent of beneficiaries are women, 25 percent are IP women)," according to a project primer.

The two pilot areas were chosen based on importance as flora and fauna endemism, biodiversity threats, and economic significance.

Other criteria include poverty incidence, vulnerability, extent of extractive industries and extent of land use conversion and infrastructure development, and land degradation.



# MPD to enforce health protocols at Manila Bay 'white beach'

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan July 20, 2021, 11:19 am



Manila Bay sunset (*File photo*)

**MANILA** – Manila police have been instructed to ensure that health safety protocols are observed by visitors at the newly reopened dolomite sand beach in Manila Bay.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar also appealed to visitors who plan to frolic on the shores during the last day of “viewing” Tuesday to adhere to the protocols by wearing face masks and face shields and maintaining physical distancing.

“I have tasked the Manila Police District to deploy additional policemen in the area to ensure that persons who visit the beach observe minimum public health safety standards and follow quarantine protocols,” Eleazar said.

Since its opening last July 18, the public is allowed to roam and walk along the beach for only five minutes to avoid overcrowding.

Tourists cannot swim on the bay yet as its waters still have not reached a safe and acceptable level. It is open to the public only until July 20.

Marshalls are stationed in the area to implement the safety guidelines during the three-day public viewing. (**PNA**)



## Expect to see more cops in Manila's famed 'dolomite beach' – PNP Chief

Published July 20, 2021, 2:29 PM by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

Visitors who are out to see the newly-opened “dolomite beach” along the stretch of Roxas Boulevard in Manila Bay should brace not only for refreshing sceneries but also for more police personnel that will remind them to strictly observe the minimum public health standards (MPHS).



The Manila Bay dolomite beach. (Photos by Noel Pabalate)

Police Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), ordered the deployment of additional forces in the so-called dolomite beach in Manila Bay after it was opened for public viewing on Tuesday, July 20.

“I have tasked the Manila Police District to deploy additional policemen in the area to ensure that persons who visit the beach observe minimum public health safety standards and follow quarantine protocols,” Eleazar said.

“Kailangan ng masusing pagpa-plano at regular na monitoring sa lugar upang matiyak na hindi na maulit ang nangyari last year na hindi nasunod ang social distancing ng mga taong bumibisita (We need a deliberate planning and regular monitoring in the area to ensure that there won't be a repeat of the incident last year where social distancing was not followed by the flocking visitors),” he added.

On September 19, 2020, the white beach attracted thousands of visitors after it was launched and opened to the public for the first time. Out of excitement to see the new tourist attraction, the visitors failed to observe social distancing which tainted what was supposed to be a joyous occasion.

The incident resulted in the relief of Lt. Col. Areil Caramoan as the station commander of Ermita Police Station for command responsibility.

“Mahigpit ang bilin ng SILG Secretary Eduardo Ano na iwasang mangyari ang super spreader events lalo ngayon na may mga report ng local transmission ng COVID-19 Delta variant (Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Ano has a stern warning to avoid super spreader events especially since there are reports about the local transmission of COVID-19 Delta variant),” Eleazar said.

The PNP chief also appealed for the public's cooperation on the matter.

“Sa mga kababayan naman natin na nagpapalano pumunta sa dolomite beach, sumunod tayo sa mga alituntunin at huwag na tayong maging pasaway dahil para din ito sa inyong kaligtasan (To the public who are planning to go to the dolomite beach, follow the rules and do not disobey them because these are for your own safety),” Eleazar said.



Visitors are allowed to roam and walk around the beach for only five minutes to avoid overcrowding.

The white sand beach is actually filled by crushed dolomite rocks and part of the government's efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

However, the beautification project worth P389 million and led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sparked public outrage after it was started at a time when the country was struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Tighter watch at dolomite beach

Careful planning and regular monitoring of the area are needed to ensure that what happened last year is not repeated.

Published 3 hours ago on July 21, 2021 03:30 AM

By [Paula Antolin @tribunephil\\_phau](#)



The Manila Police District (MPD) has been tasked to add more men to ensure that minimum public health safety standards will be observed by visitors at the dolomite beach in Manila Bay.

Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, Philippine National Police chief, said, “I have tasked the Manila Police District to deploy additional policemen in the area to ensure that persons who visit the beach observe minimum public health safety standards and follow quarantine protocols.”

“Careful planning and regular monitoring of the area are needed to ensure that what happened last year is not repeated without the social distancing of the people visiting,” he added.

Eleazar said visitors continued to flock to the beach for its soft opening. It was open to the public until yesterday.

He reminded the public who intend to visit the beach to wear masks and face shields, which are mandatory, and observe physical distancing.

He also said visitors are allowed to roam and walk around the beach for only five minutes to avoid overcrowding.

Last year, visitors to the dolomite beach failed to observe social distancing, resulting in the relief of an MPD official for failure to enforce the said rule.

The PNP chief noted Interior Secretary Eduardo Año has particularly ordered lawmen to help prevent “super spreader events,” especially now that there have been confirmed cases of the highly-transmissible Covid-19 Delta variant.

He also appealed for the public’s cooperation on this matter.

“For our compatriots who are planning to go to the dolomite beach, let’s follow the rules, and let’s not be reprimanded because it is also for your safety,” Eleazar explained.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/21/tighter-watch-at-dolomite-beach/>



# PNP deploys more cops to impose health protocols in Manila's 'white sand beach'

By: [John Eric Mendoza](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:25 AM July 20, 2021



**MANILA BAY'S WHITE SAND BEACH: A number of people have been allowed to walk in and view the 500-meter stretch of white sand that now covers a portion of the Manila Bay, but police allowed a limited number of people to observe health protocols.**

**INQUIRER FILE PHOTO / MARIANNE BERMUDEZ**

MANILA, Philippines — More police personnel were deployed in Manila Bay to ensure health protocols are observed among people wanting to see the “dolomite white sand” beach despite the threat of the Delta variant, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Tuesday.

Police chief Guillermo Eleazar said he tasked Manila Police District (MPD) to deploy more personnel in the “white sand” beach that remains open until Tuesday. The dolomite beach was opened to the public on Sunday.

“I have tasked the Manila Police District to deploy additional policemen in the area to ensure that persons who visit the beach observe minimum public health safety standards and follow quarantine protocols,” Eleazar said in a statement.

Eleazar added that the area needs regular monitoring “to make sure that the incident when visitors failed to observe social distancing will never happen again.”

To recall, the [police chief of Ermita district was sacked](#) from his position for alleged failure to impose physical distancing among visitors in Manila Bay white sand beach. H

“May pulis na na-relieve sa pwesto dahil sa insidente noong nakaraang taon kaya’t babala ko din sa ating kapulisan na huwag mag-pabaya at siguraduhing mababantayan nila ang lugar para hindi na magkatanggalan pa,” Eleazar pointed out.

(There was a policeman who was relieved from his position because of the incident last year, which is why I remind the policemen not to be neglectful and keep watch the area to avoid termination.)

JPV

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1461858/more-police-personnel-tasked-to-watch-dolomite-beach-eleazar>





## More cops to enforce health protocols at ‘dolomite beach’

Published 15 hours ago on July 20, 2021 02:23 PM

By [John Roson](#)



National Police chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar tasked the Manila Police District to add more men to the dolomite beach in Manila Bay to ensure that visitors observe health protocols.

“Kailangan ng masusing pagpapalano at regular na monitoring sa lugar upang matiyak na hindi na maulit ang nangyari last year na hindi nasunod ang social distancing ng mga taong bumibisita,” Eleazar said.

According to the PNP, visitors continued to flock the dolomite beach for its soft opening. The beach is open to the public until July Tuesday.

Wearing of face masks and face shields are mandatory and observing physical distancing is a must for visitors.

People are allowed to roam and walk around the beach for only 5 minutes to avoid overcrowding.

Last year, visitors to the dolomite beach failed to observe social distancing, so an MPD official was relieved for failure to enforce that health protocol.

“Babala ko sa ating kapulisan na huwag magpabaya at siguraduhing mababantayan nila ang lugar para hindi na magkatanggalan pa,” Eleazar said.

The PNP chief noted that Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Ano has particularly ordered lawmen to help prevent “super spreader events,” especially now that there have been confirmed cases of the highly-transmissible COVID-19 Delta variant.

“Sa mga kababayan naman natin na nagpapalano pumunta sa dolomite beach, sumunod tayo sa mga alituntunin at huwag na tayong maging pasaway dahil para din ito sa inyong kaligtasan,” Eleazar added.

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/20/more-cops-to-enforce-health-protocols-at-dolomite-beach/?\\_cf\\_chl\\_jschl\\_tk=\\_pmd\\_50752b842b1f7663e0575e1c7368658394371a0a-1626817762-0-gqNtZGzNAjjcnBszQl6](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/20/more-cops-to-enforce-health-protocols-at-dolomite-beach/?_cf_chl_jschl_tk=_pmd_50752b842b1f7663e0575e1c7368658394371a0a-1626817762-0-gqNtZGzNAjjcnBszQl6)



Eleazar said he directed the MPD to deploy more police officers at the beach to prevent a repeat of an incident last year wherein physical distancing protocols were not observed after hundreds flocked to the area.

KJ Rosales, file

## More cops deployed at Manila beach

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 21, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar yesterday ordered the Manila Police District (MPD) to beef up its presence at Manila Bay's dolomite beach to ensure visitors are strictly complying with COVID-19 protocols.

Eleazar said he directed the MPD to deploy more police officers at the beach to prevent a repeat of an incident last year wherein physical distancing protocols were not observed after hundreds flocked to the area.

"There is a need for thorough planning and regular monitoring of the area," he said in Filipino in a statement.

The government recently allowed people to visit the 500-meter stretch of the bay's shoreline covered with artificial white sand.

In September last year, the commander of the Ermita police station was sacked for failure to implement health and safety protocols at the dolomite beach.

Eleazar earlier ordered police units to strictly enforce quarantine protocols at possible superspreader events after the Department of Health detected the more transmissible Delta variant of COVID-19.



People gather at a pedestrian overpass to see the controversial sand made of crushed dolomite boulders along the shoreline of Manila Bay while viewing the sunset on September 6, 2020.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

## PNP orders close watch on 'dolomite beach' soft opening

(Philstar.com) - July 20, 2021 - 1:42pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police is ordering the Manila Police District to deploy cops to the "dolomite beach" in Manila Bay to prevent a repeat of last year's mass gatherings, it said Tuesday.

"I have tasked the Manila Police District to deploy additional policemen in the area to ensure that persons who visit the beach observe minimum public health safety standards and follow quarantine protocols," Police Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, PNP chief, said in a statement.

"Careful planning and regular monitoring of the area is needed to ensure that what happened last year is not repeated without the social distancing of the people visiting," he added.

This comes amid mounting fears over confirmed cases of the more infectious Delta variant of the coronavirus in the Philippines.

According to the PNP, visitors continue to flock to the beach for its soft opening after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources reopened it on Sunday despite the Delta variant.

To recall, then-PNP chief Camilo Cascolan ordered the removal of Police Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan, commander of Manila Police District Police Station 5, from his post for his failures in controlling the crowds that built up in the area in September 2020.

The project has not sat well with environmental advocates and scientists, who argued that dumping the faux sand in the area [would only do more harm than good](#) in the rehabilitation of the bay.

Manila City Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso admitted that he was not informed about the dumping of sand in April of this year but still defended the project, saying he saw nothing wrong with it.

"I also warn our police not to be negligent and make sure that they can guard the area so that they will not be relieved again," Eleazar said.

"For our people who are planning to go to the dolomite beach, let's follow the rules and not be reprimanded because it is also for your safety," he added.



The dolomite beach is open to the public until Tuesday. Wearing face masks and face shields is mandatory and observing physical distancing is still required, the PNP said.

Visitors are allowed to roam and walk around the beach for only five minutes to avoid overcrowding, the PNP chief added. — **Franco Luna**



## PNP deploys more cops to enforce health protocols at Manila Bay dolomite beach

Robie de Guzman • July 20, 2021



**MANILA, Philippines** – Philippine National Police (PNP) chief General Guillermo Eleazar on Tuesday ordered the deployment of more personnel at the Manila Bay dolomite beach to ensure the enforcement of minimum health protocols amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

“I have tasked the Manila Police District to deploy additional policemen in the area to ensure that persons who visit the beach observe minimum public health safety standards and follow quarantine protocols,” Eleazar said in a statement.

“Kailangan ng masusing pagpapalano at regular na monitoring sa lugar upang matiyak na hindi na maulit ang nangyari last year na hindi nasunod ang social distancing ng mga taong bumibisita,” he added.

Eleazar recalled that an MPD official was relieved after failing to enforce the social distancing rule among visitors during the beach’s brief opening last year.

The PNP chief urged the public to cooperate with authorities and follow health protocols when visiting the beach.

“Mahigpit ang bilin ng SILG Secretary Eduardo Año na iwasang mangyari ang super spreader events lalo ngayon na may mga report ng local transmission ng COVID-19 Delta variant,” Eleazar said.

“Sa mga kababayan naman natin na nagpaplanong pumunta sa dolomite beach, sumunod tayo sa mga alituntunin at huwag na tayong maging pasaway dahil para din ito sa inyong kaligtasan,” he added.

The beach was opened again to the public on Sunday. Visitors may visit the area until July 20.



## PANSAMANTALANG PAGBUBUKAS NG DOLOMITE BEACH, MAHIGPIT NA BINABANTAYAN NG PNP

written by **Jennelyn Valencia- Burgos** July 20, 2021



© ERWIN DIZON / CNN PHILIPPINES

Mahigpit na binabantayan ng PNP ang pansamantalang pagbubukas ng dolomite beach sa lungsod ng Maynila hanggang ngayong araw.

Ayon kay PNP Chief P/Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, inatasan na niya ang Manila Police District na magdagdag ng kanilang tauhan para tutukan ang pagpapatupad ng health and safety protocols kontra COVID-19.

Magugunitang nasibak sa puwesto ang Station Commander ng pulisya na nakasasakop sa lugar nuong isang taon dahil sa kabiguan nitong panatilihin ang physical distancing.

Para maiwasan ang overcrowding, bibigyan lamang ng limang minuto ang mga bibisita sa lugar basta't nakasuot sila ng face mask, face shield at kailangang magkakalayo upang maiwasan ang hawaan ng virus.



ONE News July 19 at 11:14 AM · 🌐

"Manila Bay Sands"

Visitors make the most of five minutes allotted to take photos in the Manila Bay dolomite beach. (via News5/Justinne Punsalang)



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## Helping save PH's True Giant Clams from extinction

posted July 21, 2021 at 12:13 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

On a quest to remove the Philippines' native true giant clam species, the *Tridacna gigas*, out of local extinction, Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) and its partners are restocking the clams in effectively managed marine-protected areas (MPA's) in Northern Palawan and Verde Island Passage.



Dubbed as the String of Pearls project, the initiative aims to help revive the natural stocks of giant clams, abalone, and top shell in select Philippine reefs through marine restocking in partnership with the Western Philippine University (WPU), the Palawan State University, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development.

"We at MFI, together with our advocacy partners, envision a wider distribution of the Philippines' native true giant clam *Tridacna gigas* throughout the country's protected reefs by 2025. With the continued protection of restocked reefs in effectively-managed MPAs, the *Tridacna gigas* may come out of extinction status in 15 to 20 years," said Malampaya Foundation Inc. executive director Karen Agabin.

In 2012, MFI partnered with the WPU to help improve the hatchery production of abalone and top shell juveniles to catalyze trial culture as potential livelihood for fisherfolk in MPAs. The initiative evolved into the String of Pearls Project when giant clams were added as focal species through the guidance of the late MFI Trustee and National Scientist Dr. Edgardo Gomez.

In 2017, after a lead from WPU, five breeders of *Tridacna gigas* were confirmed by Dr. Gomez as Philippine-native. Declared to be locally-extinct since the 1980s, the five healthy clam breeders have been thriving well under the care of a private resort in Honda Bay, Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

Due to its low population and survival rate of less than 1 percent in the wild, the *Tridacna gigas* species is hard to propagate, thus the need for hatchery facilities. Upon reaching the size of a thumbnail, the baby clams are transferred to nursery sites in the wild and are kept for 8 months to a year before the larger ones are carefully selected and released into the wild.

MFI and its partner institutions and representatives from the private resort spearheaded the first in situ spawning of the clam species to help increase their number. The hatchery facility of the WPU in Binduyan, Puerto Princesa City houses the majority of activities for the String of Pearls Project.





As of February 2021, a total of 2,300 clams have been restocked in various MPAs in Northern Palawan.

MFI has been helping establish, expand, and manage over 335,000 hectares of marine-protected areas (MPAs) and marine management zones with communities, local governments, and national agencies in Palawan, Batangas, and Oriental Mindoro since 2013.

“This has been one of our major investments,” Agabin said.

“There is a stark contrast between poorly-managed reefs and properly-managed MPAs. If effectively managed, MPAs can help accelerate the restoration and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. They can also help regenerate and rebound fisheries of the country,” she added.

In as early as three to five years’ time, an effectively-managed MPA can result in increase in fish abundance, the return of endangered species, a capacitated community to manage natural resources, and more resilient local ecosystems compared to poorly managed reefs. MFI’s conservation strategy for MPAs employs a four-pronged approach: social mobilization and advocacy, socio-economic improvement, ecological assessments, and ecological rehabilitation. The foundation also highlights the importance of conservation through community involvement.

“The best environment stewards are nearby human dwellers like people who live near the coastlines and relevant ecosystems. They get involved with the planning, decision-making, enforcement and actual implementation. That’s an example of exemplary conservation action,” Agabin said.

To adopt shells and/or marine protected areas (MPAs) visit [www.adoptashell.ph](http://www.adoptashell.ph) and [www.adoptmpa.ph](http://www.adoptmpa.ph)



### Tree planting activity sa Tanay, Rizal

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# Fishers, coalition oppose planned Dumaguete City reclamation project

July 19, 2021 | 8:31 pm



DUMAGUETECITY.GOV.PH

GROUPS OPPOSING the proposed 174-hectare reclamation project in Dumaguete City are reinforcing their actions to pressure the government for more transparency and reconsider the plan. “The environmental catastrophe that the reclamation project would bring to the marine ecosystem is one thing, but having a Chinese firm as its subcontractor is quite another. We all know how China rampantly occupies our exclusive economic zone and exploits our marine resources at the expense of the livelihood of our fisherfolks and the national patrimony,” said fishers’ group PAMALAKAYA National Chairperson Fernando L. Hicap in a statement on Monday. PAMALAKAYA, which stands for Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, said it aims to unite the local fishing communities with environmental and science groups in voicing out their opposition against the reclamation project, and the ‘creeping Chinese encroachment’ in different parts of the Philippine seas. Mr. Hicap said aside from its environmental effects, the P23-billion reclamation project should be strongly opposed since it would involve China-based Poly Changda Overseas Engineering Co. as a subcontractor. The developer of the reclamation project is E.M. Cuerpo, Inc., a Filipino construction firm based in Quezon City. Recently, PAMALAKAYA urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to reject the project due to its adverse impact on the marine environment, coastal communities, and local fish supply. “Having China in the picture makes the Dumaguete reclamation project not only an environmental and socio-economic concerns, but also a matter of national patrimony. This is not development, this is profit-driven project and foreign takeover in disguise,” he said.

## CONSULTATIONS

Meanwhile, a coalition called NO to 174DGTE also announced its opposition against the reclamation project, which is touted to become a “smart city.” The reclaimed area will host a clubhouse, heliport, yacht club, retirement villas, high-rise commercial and residential buildings, and malls. In a position paper, the coalition called for “respectful” dialogue and “meaningful” public consultations that will check the social, cultural, ecological, and economic implications of the reclamation project. “We have been told that the island will be a ‘smart city’ but a smart city is an informed city. The public was not informed of the unsolicited proposal by E.M. Cuerpo, nor of E.M. Cuerpo’s prior arrangements with the Chinese company Poly Changda Overseas Engineering Co., nor of the negotiations between Dumaguete City and E.M. Cuerpo in Feb. 2020 that led to a draft joint venture agreement,” the group said. “We object (to the reclamation) because an unnatural island along the coast will concentrate malodorous pollutants from our canals and drains in the narrow stream of water between the coast and island. It will increase



flooding in our low-lying coastal communities as the natural flow of rivers and creeks is disrupted,” it added. Aileen P. Maypa, a representative of NO to 174DGTE, said in a mobile phone message that the coalition consists of environmental groups, youth groups, private institutions, and environmental lawyers, among others. The Dumaguete City government, in a project brief posted on its website, said it will “make sure the concerns of all stakeholders” will be submitted to the Philippine Reclamation Authority and the Environment department. The local government said the project will give “tremendous revenues” from business and real property taxes as well upgrade the city’s classification to highly-urbanized from a 3<sup>rd</sup> class. “There will be public consultations,” it said, as soon as the engineering and other technical studies are completed. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/fishers-coalition-oppose-planned-dumaguete-city-reclamation-project/?fbclid=IwAR1ZMS96G2fqbiSM1EvFlvIYfeH1vHQwbmZIRzRlZT-5V8KRDn6gIIkWQoQ>



# Snorkelers video live corals, debunk reclamation planners



[GOTCHA](#) - [Jarius Bondoc](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 21, 2021 - 12:00am

Circulating online is a video of live corals just off the coast of Dumaguete, heightening debates against a city reclamation plan. Shown are snorkelers wading a few meters from shore to an area to be landfilled into a 174-hectare artificial island. In shoulder-deep water, colorful tropical fish are seen feeding in the sea grass and vari-hued corals. Filmed last weekend, it debunks city officials' claim that their project won't be destructive. Concreting will smother the corals where fish spawn and grow. Gone will be poor folk's source of free food and natural social security.

Eight eminent Dumaguete citizens lament that reclamation "will destroy, literally bury, the few remaining coral reef, sea grass and soft-sediment eco-systems that support small-scale fisheries." More than 200 fish species will be affected. Local fishermen rely on 60 percent of these for livelihood and subsistence.

Dumaguete's seafloor is steep, the eight scientists note. Reclamation will require "enormous amounts of material... likely to be sourced from land or dredged from deeper areas." Damage to deeper marine eco-systems can decimate 84 percent of the fish species.

More than seven kilometers of landfill will mar Dumaguete's 8.5-kilometer-long coastline. Four nearby marine protected areas (MPAs) will be choked and die, the eight warn. The eco-systems of the rest of Negros Island and Cebu across the Tañon Strait will be affected.

National Scientist Angel Alcala, one of the eight, originated the MPA concept in the 1970s. It has been replicated worldwide to benefit small fishermen. Alcala, a former secretary of environment and natural resources, initiated the protest. Seven signed with him: Drs. Betty McCann and Ben Malayang, present and past presidents of Silliman University in Dumaguete; Hilconida Calumpong, PhD, director, SU-Institute of Environmental & Marine Sciences (IEMS); Rene Abesamis, PhD, SU-Center for Research and Environmental Management; Dr. Enrique Oracion, dean, SU graduate school and director, Research and Development Center; Janet Estacion, PhD, assistant director, IEMS; and Robert Guinoo, PhD, SU Biology Department.

About 10,000 have signed an online petition against the reclamation. A number of them are from Dumaguete and Central Visayas.

Legal questions also bug the project. City Hall gave only 26 days instead of 60 for Swiss challenge to the original proposal, as required by the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, Atty. Golda Benjamin alleges. Reclamation will be by joint venture with a private proponent, which violates the city ordinance on such works, she adds.

There have been no submissions, much more approval, by the National Economic and Development Authority, Benjamin says. Proponent E.M. Cuerpo, Inc. has entered into a "secret subcontractor agreement" with a Guangdong firm, the lawyer reveals. The latter, Poly Changda Overseas Engineering Co., supposedly has no license to operate in the Philippines and is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.



She also questions the capability of E.M. Cuerpo, a quadruple-A rated constructor with P1.4-billion net worth, to undertake the P23-billion project. The venture is 51 percent city-owned and 49 percent private.

City hall is to build a “Smart City” on the reclamation. Development includes 5G-ready connections, coastal wastewater treatment facility, shoreline, slope and water protection, esplanades, modern ferry boats, marina and open area for sports facility, hospitals, residences, condominiums, malls and other business hubs. To be completed in three years, the P23-billion investment will multiply in value.

City officials plan to relocate the corals. Alcala and colleagues find it infeasible. “Recreation of entire functional marine ecosystems simply does not exist. The vast majority of coral reef rehabilitation around the world has been unable to scale up” to the original hundreds to thousands of hectares, due to huge costs.

The technical, legal and due-diligence reviews have not been revealed, they say. “Absent this, the sociology, ecology and economics of the project are unclear.” There has been no free and prior informed public consent, they add. There must first be “full public disclosure and scrutiny.”



# Lazatin: Conserve water for future generations

[REYNALDO G. NAVALES](#)

July 20, 2021

ANGELES City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin Jr. has underscored the need to conserve water for future generations.

The mayor said the City Government, in cooperation with environment groups, has initiated programs to rehabilitate the water shed in Barangay Sapangbato.

Lazatin has assigned the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, led by Archie Lazatin, to plant an additional of 9,576 fruit-bearing trees at the Angeles City Watershed in Sapangbato.

"We want to plant more trees at our watershed areas to protect the environment and ensure sufficient water supply in the future," Lazatin said.

The additional seedlings were donated by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), he said.

Lazatin said the seedlings will be planted with the assistance of Angeles Watershed Advocacy Council Inc. (Araw-ACI), led by businessman and environmentalist Renato Tayag.

The City Government has received a total of 13,896 seedlings from the DOTr. This is part of the long-term plan of Lazatin to plant 45,000 more trees at the watershed to increase water reserves, which will benefit the city and the Metro Clark area.

"Having water is a must. These efforts being done at the present time will help conserve water for the use of future generations," Lazatin said.

"Isa lang naman po ang goal natin, ang maseguro ang kapakanan ng ating mga kababayan, habang pinangangalagaan ang kalikasan," he added.



# Pursuing development through responsible stewardship

(The Philippine Star) - July 21, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Through the years, cultures have developed alongside nature, with earliest communities thriving along riverbanks. While at most times, nature has sustained our communities to grow, we have had to find ways to thrive with the cycles of nature, protecting ourselves from weather patterns and natural hazards.

Now, more than ever, we have arrived at a point where we enjoy a wealth of lessons learned from centuries of development and have at our disposal innovative technologies that can aid us in pursuing more responsible ways of progress.

**Building to protect communities: The story of Netherlands**

One of the most interesting cases is the story of the Netherlands. The Dutch have a saying, ‘God created the earth, but the Dutch made the Netherlands.’

The Netherlands is a country that had been vulnerable to the effects of climate patterns way before the threat of climate change. With almost one-third of the country located below average sea level, the Dutch have fallen victim to sea level rise, storm surges, and flooding as early as 1134 AD.

To protect their people, livestock and even natural habitats, they embarked on a massive building of dikes to serve as protective barriers.

For effective land reclamation, drainage canals and systems were built. Seeing that the reclamation protected their homes, lands and livestock, communities took on the responsibility of draining their surplus water into the outside waters. This showed the active involvement of the communities and their support for the genuine intention of their reclamation project.

Improvements in reclamation processes continued on through modern times, bringing countless benefits to the Dutch people.

Thanks to the improvements of drainage techniques, there has been a significant decrease from the dangers of river floods and storm surges. They were able to cultivate extensive new areas of supporting food security. Water management systems complemented the reclamation designs, allowing proper flow of water from riverbanks to an organized system of channels. Today, the benefit of these early reclamation interventions is enjoyed by the people of the Netherlands, serving as an inspiration to many other modern cities.

## **Protecting Pasayños:**

A similar story in the SM Mall of Asia Complex

Not far from us is an integrated lifestyle city on reclaimed land which shares some similarities with the journey of the Netherlands.

Manila is one of the busiest cities in the world, home to more than 10 million people. With the vision to build responsible businesses that help improve life in its communities, SM built the SM Mall of Asia Complex. Faced with threats of rising sea levels, storm surges, and flooding, SM has employed global best practices to mitigate these effects.

In order to protect the communities inland, the SM Mall of Asia was built 4.5 meters higher than the average lower low water levels. This feature acts like a sea wall to serve as a barrier for





rising water levels and storm surges.

It is complemented with strategically placed drainage channels to support the flow of water to the bay.

It is also one of the pioneers in building a sewage treatment plant (STP) for water recycling and proper treatment for water discharge. Being located in the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines is also vulnerable to earthquakes.

As such, driven piles and bored piles were installed underground, along with proper construction excavation methods, which provides protection against soil liquefaction and strength against the constant seismic events.

These design features allowed SM Mall of Asia to help protect inland communities through



# Syringes used for COVID jabs found improperly disposed of in Cebu City

Published July 19, 2021, 4:51 PM

by [Calvin Cordova](#)

CEBU CITY – Syringes that were used for COVID-19 vaccination were found to have been disposed of together with other waste materials in one of the inoculation centers here.

The improper disposal is already being investigated but the Cebu City Health Department (CHD) said it was an isolated incident.

“We are trying to find out what happened but this is an isolated incident,” said Dr. Jeffrey Ibones, chief of CHD.

Photos of the used syringes were posted on Facebook by Ramil Ayuman, chief of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, on Facebook.

Ibones emphasized that there are protocols to follow in all vaccination centers when disposing of potentially bio-hazardous wastes.

The city has six vaccination centers that can accommodate 500 individuals a day.

“Actually, there are protocols for proper disposal. Someone is assigned to that. The risk management is also there but all the same, we will investigate the incident,” said Ibones.



# Giant gas firm linked to California wildfires

By [Associated Press](#) July 21, 2021



[Jessica Bell](#) takes a video as the [Dixie Fire](#) burns along Highway 70 in Plumas [National Forest](#), Calif., on Friday, July 16, 2021. [AP](#) Photo/[Noah Berger](#)

**SAN FRANCISCO:** [Pacific Gas & Electric](#) reported to [California](#) utility regulators that its equipment may have been involved in the start of a fire burning in the Sierra Nevada that is threatening hundreds of homes.

PG&E said in a report on Sunday to the [California Public Utilities Commission](#) that a repairman responding to a circuit outage on July 13 spotted blown fuses in a conductor atop a pole, a tree leaning into the conductor and fire at the base of the tree.

The utility said its system showed around 7 a.m. that the [Cresta](#) Dam off Highway 70 had lost power but because of the steep, rough terrain, the worker sent to check it couldn't reach the area until nearly 5 p.m.

The employee reported the fire to his supervisor who called 911 and the dispatcher said they were aware of the fire and responding. Firefighters with the [California Department of Forestry](#) and Fire Prevention began dropping water and fire retardant about 5:30 p.m., the utility said.

By that night, the blaze had grown to 10 to 15 acres and firefighting crews on the ground had problems accessing the area, it said. California Fire investigators collected portions of a power line including the conductor, jumpers, insulators, and fuse cutouts, and parts of the tree.

The Dixie Fire roared to new life on Sunday, prompting evacuation orders in rural communities near the [Feather River](#) Canyon and had grown to nearly 47 square miles on Monday, largely in remote wilderness. It was reported to be 15-percent contained.

The fire is burning northeast of the town of [Paradise](#) where survivors of a 2018 fire that was started by PG&E equipment killed 85 watched warily.



Based on the IEFA report “Global Investors Move into Renewable Infrastructure,” global financiers are backing low carbon energy transition assets which are creating investment opportunities and have demonstrated significant resilience amid the COVID-19-induced global economic crisis.

STAR/File

## Global investors to continue to invest in renewable energy

[Danessa Rivera](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 21, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Global debt and equity investors continue to pour in capital into the renewable energy sector, which is consistently providing investment opportunities despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

Based on the IEFA report “Global Investors Move into Renewable Infrastructure,” global financiers are backing low carbon energy transition assets which are creating investment opportunities and have demonstrated significant resilience amid the COVID-19-induced global economic crisis.

“Global investors are accelerating their collective move away from the massive climate-related risks associated with fossil fuel assets and building capacity so as to increasingly deploy huge amounts of capital into renewable energy infrastructure projects,” said Tim Buckley, report co-author and IEEFA’s director of energy finance studies in Australia/South Asia.

“The continued expansion of investment shows the resilience of the renewable energy sector despite the economic disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic,” he said.

IEEFA’s report also highlighted that the top debt and equity investors are providing the funds to drive decarbonization, as well as showcasing some of the biggest deals in the renewable energy sector.

It listed 10 global commercial banks which together lent \$30 billion to renewable energy projects worldwide in 2020.

More commercial banks came from Asia, particularly from Japan, namely Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Group, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc., and Mizuho Financial Group Inc., the report said.

The list was also dominated by European banks namely Banco Santander, CaixaBank, BNP Paribas, Societe Generale, Cooperative Rabobank, Credit Agricole Group, and ING Groep.

The IEEFA report also pointed out that banks’ investment trends are starting to pivot into clean energy assets.



It said leading global banks are ramping up on delivery of their commitment towards reduced fossil fuel exposure, building momentum to start to align with the exceptionally ambitious pledges of the 1.5°C goal under the Glasgow Net Zero Banking Alliance announced in April 2021.

Report co-author and IEEFA research analyst Saurabh Trivedi said this is a massive step-change in ambition by these financial institutions, which have a combined worth of more than \$88 trillion in assets, to advance the Paris Agreement's decarbonization goal.

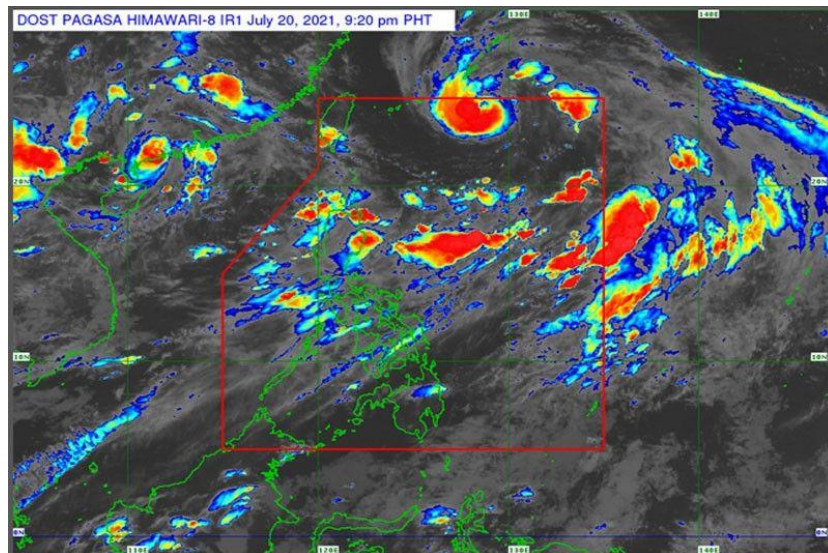
"US banks are conspicuous by their absence from our list of debt investors, having only recently started to join the global movement of investment into climate-focused sectors," he said.

"Debt investment by large banks will be critical to achieving the Paris goals given that they own assets worth of hundreds of trillions of dollars," Trivedi said.

Typically, infrastructure projects also require a larger component of debt capital at 60 to 80 percent compared to equity capital of 20 to 40 percent.

In the Philippines, several big banks have started to adopt green financing and are starting to shy away from lending to fossil-fuel projects.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) was the first bank to adopt climate and environmental risk preparedness initiatives, dedicating a sustainable development finance (SDF).



It was forecast to move west northwest at 15 kph, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

PAGASA

## Fabian intensifies into typhoon

[Helen Flores](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 21, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Fabian intensified into a typhoon yesterday afternoon as it hovered over extreme Northern Luzon, bringing monsoon rains over the country.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the eye of Fabian was estimated at 895 kilometers east northeast of extreme Northern Luzon, with maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph.

It was forecast to move west northwest at 15 kph, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

Apart from Fabian, Typhoon Cempaka, which was outside the Philippine area of responsibility, was also enhancing the southwest monsoon, according to PAGASA.

Monsoon rains will be experienced in the next 24 hours over Metro Manila, Ilocos region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Cavite, Batangas, Occidental Mindoro, northern Palawan, including Calamian and Cuyo Islands, Batanes and Babuyan Islands, PAGASA said in its 5 p.m. bulletin.

“The latest forecast scenario for Fabian shows that there is an increasing likelihood that Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal Number 1 may be hoisted over Batanes and Babuyan Islands,” the weather bureau said.

PAGASA said the enhanced southwest monsoon would also bring rough to very rough seas of up to 4.5 meters over the seaboards of Batanes, the northern seaboard of Cagayan, including Babuyan Islands, and the western seaboard of Palawan, including Kalayaan and Calamian Islands and Occidental Mindoro, including Lubang Islands.

“Sea travel is risky for small seacraft over these waters,” the agency said.

Fabian may further intensify and reach its peak intensity of 155 kph tomorrow evening or Friday early morning, according to PAGASA.

It was expected to move generally west until Friday.



“On the forecast track, the tropical cyclone will pass close to or make landfall in the vicinity of Yaeyama, Miyako and Senkaku Islands in the Ryukyu Archipelago on Thursday,” PAGASA said.

It was also expected to make landfall in the vicinity of northern Taiwan by Friday evening or Saturday early morning.

21 JULY 2021, WEDNESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# PH lists 4,516 new COVID-19 infections; active cases at 46,806

Robie de Guzman • July 20, 2021



**MANILA, Philippines** – The Philippines on Tuesday recorded 4,516 new cases of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), bringing the nationwide tally to 1,517,903.

The Department of Health said in its latest bulletin that the number of active cases in the country went down to 46,806.

Of these cases, 91.7 percent are mild, 21 percent are asymptomatic, 1.90 percent are moderate, 2.7 percent are severe, and 1.6 percent are critical.

The DOH, however, noted that 10 accredited testing laboratories failed to submit their data on time.



The DOH also reported 5,240 more patients who recovered from the illness, pushing the total recoveries to 1,444,253.

The death toll climbed to 26,844 with 58 new fatalities.

Data from the DOH also showed that 54 percent of the country's ICU beds are occupied and 36 percent of ventilators are being used.

In the National Capital Region, 42 percent of the ICU beds are occupied while 34 percent of the ventilators are in use.

The DOH also reported the positivity rate of 10.9 percent out of 34,562 tests reported last July 18.

Source: <https://www.untvweb.com/news/ph-lists-4516-new-covid-19-infections-active-cases-at-46806/>

# OCTA: COVID-19 reproduction number in NCR increased to 1.06

July 20, 2021



*The National Capital Region showed an uptick in new COVID-19 cases and average daily new cases this past week, the OCTA Research group said in its monitoring report on Tuesday (July 20). Photo courtesy of Rico Borja via PNA*

**By Christine Fabro**

The National Capital Region (NCR) showed an uptick in new COVID-19 cases and average daily new cases this past week, the OCTA Research group said on Tuesday (July 20).

“The reproduction number in the NCR increased to  $R_t = 1.06$ , the first time it went above 1 since since April 18, 2021, when the region was still under ECQ (enhanced community quarantine),” the OCTA said in its monitoring report.

“The average daily new cases in the NCR increased by 11% to 701 as of July 13 to 19, 2021. The daily average has remained less than 700 over the past four weeks,” it added.

However, the independent research team said this uptick is not yet a cause for alarm, as it is “still too early to determine if this will continue to be an increasing trend.”

OCTA said Mariveles, Bataan is classified as very high risk, while classified as high risk areas are Davao City, Cebu City, Bacolod, Iloilo City, Makati, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio City, General Santos, Laoag, Lapu Lapu, and Butuan.

It added that very high reproduction numbers were observed in Cebu City, Laoag, Lapu Lapu, and Mariveles, while very high incidence rates of average daily attack rate were observed in Laoag and Mariveles.

Moreso, the places with very high care utilization rates are Taguig (100%), Iloilo City (97%), and Davao City (96%). – *jlo*

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/octa-covid-19-reproduction-number-in-ncr-increased-to-1-06/>



# DOH patuloy na nakabantay sa 7 active Delta variant cases

By **Bombo Dave Vincent Pasit** - July 20, 2021 | 11:02 AM

Patuloy ang pag-monitor ng Department of Health (DOH) sa pitong active Delta variant cases ng COVID-19 virus mula sa 35 cases na natukoy sa Pilipinas.

Ayon kay Health undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, ang pitong active Delta variant cases ay hindi naman nakapaghalubilo sa komunidad at kasalukuyan ay nasa isolation.

Nilinaw ni Vergeire na ang mga kasong ito ay hindi pa maikukonsidera bilang local transmission.

Magkaiba aniya sa pagitan ng local cases at local transmission.

Ang local cases kasi aniya ay mga kaso sa iba't lugar na mayroong magkaibang timelines sa pagkahawa.

Pero ang local transmission naman ay kapag mayroon nang ebidensya ng linkage sa pagitan ng mga indibidwal na nagpositibo sa Delta variant.

Sa ngayon, kailangan aniya nila ng sapat na ebidensya para maideklara kung mayroon nga ba talagang local transmission na sa bansa.

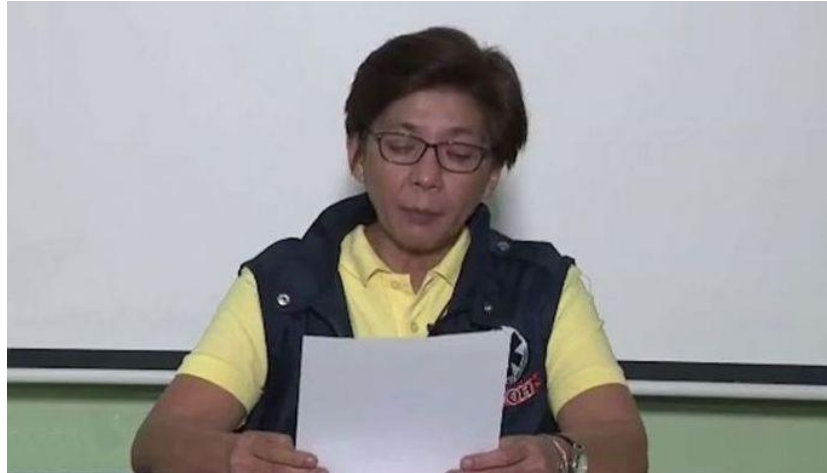
Pero habang hinihintay ito, kailangan talaga na mag-ingat ng husto ng lahat.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/doh-patuloy-na-nakabantay-sa-7-active-delta-variant-cases/>



# Nakahalubilo ng 16 Delta case nasa 91 na

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pang-Masa) - July 21, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Health Usec Maria Rosario Vergeire na patuloy ang ginagawang contact tracing o back tracing upang mahanap ang iba pang nakasalamuha ng 16 na local cases ng Delta variant sa bansa.

MANILA, Philippines — Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH) umabot na sa 91 na indibiduwal na “close contact” o nakahalubilo ng 16 na “recent” Delta cases sa bansa ang na-contact trace o nakita na.

Sa pinakahuling tala nitong July 19 ang mga close contacts na natukoy sa naturang mga lugar ay 8 ang natukoy sa National Capital Region; 10 sa Region 6; 27 sa Region 10; at 46 ang returning overseas Filipinos o ROFs

Sinabi ni Health Usec Maria Rosario Vergeire na patuloy ang ginagawang contact tracing o back tracing upang mahanap ang iba pang nakasalamuha ng 16 na local cases ng Delta variant sa bansa.

Pinapalagay ng DOH, sa ibang bansa pa rin nanggaling ang mga natukoy na local cases ng Delta variant.

Una na ring sinabi ng mga local expert na hindi natural o nag-evolve ang Delta variant sa Pilipinas, pero inaalang pa rin ito ng DOH.

Ang Philippine Genome Center o PGC naman ay patuloy ding nag-aanalisa sa mga sample at ang lineage ng mga ito.



The building of the Philippine Genome Center at the University of the Philippines-Diliman via  
[Facebook](#)  
[Interaksyon](#)

## DOH taking steps to improve genome sequencing as Delta variant threat looms

[Christian Deiparine](#) (Philstar.com) - July 20, 2021 - 4:46pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Tuesday said it is taking steps to improve its detection of COVID-19 variant cases, including a plan to extend its genome sequencing process in Visayas and Mindanao.

Authorities have acknowledged that the country's capacity to do so is still limited, more than a year into the pandemic and as it braces for the threat of the highly contagious Delta variant.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire told reporters that countries follow different targets in this process, but the World Health Organization puts it at 5%.

"We have not attained that yet," she said in Filipino, adding that roughly 1% of total positive samples have only been through genome sequencing.

That poses a challenge for the country as it detects more individuals with the Delta variant. Earlier Tuesday, Vergeire said they reclassified eight recovered Delta cases as active after retests.

The Philippine Genome Center, for one, could only run 750 samples per week. Still, the health official denied they only saw the need to ramp up genome sequencing capacity recently.

"We have been doing [this] ever since the UK variant became a threat across the globe," she said, referring to the Alpha variant. "We saw this last December and by January, we were able to plan how we are going to do genome sequencing."

Vergeire said the center has procured additional machines, but it also needs skilled personnel for the efforts, as well as more reagents and resources.

The agency is also eyeing to tap the Visayas and Mindanao campuses of the University of the Philippines to widen its whole genome sequencing process throughout the country, Vergeire said.

"We will use the UP network," she added. "We're trying to capacitate them right now. The forward plans are there..and hopefully before the year ends we can already expand to these areas."



## Making ends meet

Limited capacity means the DOH has to prioritize some areas for genome sequencing. The health official said this is done through purposive sampling.

Tests are focused on areas with unusually high increase in cases, in places where hospitals are reporting more severe types of COVID-19, in centers of infection, and among returning overseas Filipinos.

Vergeire said authorities collect more samples from ROFs for genome sequencing.

"This is because they may be carrying the variants of concern from outside the Philippines," she added in Filipino.

The country has so far reported 35 cases from the Delta variant, but that also goes with acknowledging a limited capacity to detect these infections.

Vergeire told CNN Philippines earlier that while local transmission has not been confirmed, it's best to "assume there already is" for the public to be more cautious.



UK-based Pantheon Macroeconomics senior Asia economist Miguel Chanco said the Delta variant's relatively longer period to circulate in the Philippines could be due to the travel restrictions still in effect nationwide.

AFP/Arun Sankar

## Mobility curbs limiting impact of Delta variant

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 21, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — With mobility still limited particularly in the National Capital Region, the economic impact of the more dangerous coronavirus Delta variant would not be felt until the last quarter of the year, an international think tank said.

UK-based Pantheon Macroeconomics senior Asia economist Miguel Chanco said the Delta variant's relatively longer period to circulate in the Philippines could be due to the travel restrictions still in effect nationwide.

Nonetheless, he emphasized that it is only a matter of time before the more transmissible variant of COVID-19 becomes the dominant strain in the country, causing yet another surge in cases.

"There's no reason to believe that the country is immune to the problem now facing most ASEAN member states," Chanco said.

"It's just that mobility levels were largely depressed compared with the likes of Indonesia and Thailand, where conditions were closer to near-normal prior to their Delta spikes," he said.

Mobility and travel indicators have been showing that the country is still recovering from the lull caused by the second wave in March and April.

In its latest monitor, Pantheon also affirmed this, saying the economic hit is unlikely to come until the fourth quarter with the expectations of another last-minute tightening of curbs.

"Admittedly, the economy's prospects in the current quarter are likely to be spared, not least because the government has demonstrated consistently an unwillingness to impose the stringent social distancing measures needed until the very last minute," Chanco said.

"At this point, it seems inevitable. Countries with much higher rates of vaccination like Indonesia and Thailand have been left with little choice but to reimpose new restrictions," he said.

According to Pantheon, when the Delta variant was spotted in Indonesia last April, trips to retail and recreation venues were 14 percent below the pre-pandemic norm, higher than the current -22 percent print for the Philippines.



Google's mobility data also show that the time people are spending at home in the Philippines presently is 10 percentage points higher than in Indonesia three months ago.

Footfall in transit stations showed the largest disparity at -27 percent in Indonesia versus the -40 percent in the Philippines.





# Delta variant may force return to stricter quarantine protocols

BY SAMUEL MEDENILLA JULY 20, 2021



President Duterte

PRESIDENT Duterte is now eyeing the reimposition of stricter quarantine protocols amid the increasing local cases of the Delta variant of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

In his public address late Monday, Duterte expressed concern over how the variant caused a surge in Covid-19 cases in several countries including India and Indonesia.

The Delta variant is said to be 60 percent more transmissible than the Alpha Variant of SARS-CoV-2.

Health officials said there are currently 36 cases of Delta variants detected in the country, although they admitted this could be higher since the government's surveillance capacity for new variants remain limited. The national genome center only tests randomly for variants.

"We may need to reimpose stricter restrictions to avoid mass gathering and prevent super-spreader events," Duterte said.

## LGU guidelines

Prompted by the instruction from Duterte, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) announced it will be coming up with guidelines for local government units (LGU) to prepare for the possible spread of the Delta variant.

"In the coming days, the DILG will come out with a memorandum to remind local government units to prepare as soon as possible a strategy [to fight] the local transmission of the Covid Delta variant," Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.

The measures includes tightening border controls in international airports and seaports as well as intensifying vaccination, contact-tracing, testing, isolation efforts for suspected Covid patients among others.

Interior Undersecretary Epimaco Densing said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) will meet on Thursday to further discuss the stricter quarantine protocols, particularly for interzonal travel and localized lockdowns.

Densing said concerned LGUs will be consulted on the crafting of such measures.

Duterte approved earlier this month several measures to ease quarantine restrictions, which included reducing documentary requirements for fully vaccinated people as well as allowing children 5 and above to finally go outside of their homes.



## Keeping children at home

LGUs, particularly in the National Capital Region (NCR), also expressed alarm over the Delta variant after the Department of Health (DOH) confirmed that a person in Manila was infected with it.

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Benjamin Abalos said the incident prompted NCR mayors to ask the IATF to suspend the policy allowing those in the 5 to 17 age group to go outside of their homes.

“Maybe it could be suspended in Metro Manila since there is a case [of Delta variant] and there is also increasing [Covid-19] cases here. This is because those in the 5 to 17 [age group] are still not vaccinated and they are the possible super spreaders,” Abalos said.

Vaccine Expert Panel member Dr. Rontgene Solante backed the mayors’ appeal.

He noted while children have a lower risk of getting Covid-19, they could still serve as carriers of the virus when they go home.

“That is the danger there if we continue allowing them outside while there is still the Delta variant,” Solante said in an interview with PTV last Tuesday.



# No kids outdoors, gov't urged

Published 4 hours ago on July 21, 2021 02:00 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephl\_MJB



Metro Manila mayors have urged the pandemic task force to rescind its recent decision allowing minors to step outside their homes amid the threat of the Covid-19 Delta variant.

Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, said on Monday that local officials in the capital region unanimously voted to suspend the policy since individuals in such an age group may turn into "superspreaders" of the deadly and highly-contagious virus type.

"Perhaps we can suspend it in Metro Manila because there are cases (of the Delta variant) and Covid-19 cases are increasing here," Abalos said during President Rodrigo Duterte's televised meeting with members of the Inter-Agency Task Force Against for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

"The kids aged 5 to 17 have yet to receive their vaccines and may therefore become superspreaders," he said, speaking partly in Filipino.

During the meeting, neither Duterte nor any IATF member responded to the suggestion raised by Abalos.

The Delta variant raised concern among health experts since it was found to be 60 percent more infectious than other variants, including the strain which first emerged in Wuhan, China. The Philippines has so far detected 35 individuals with Delta variant cases, three of whom have died.

Earlier this month, the task force approved a resolution which stated that minors residing in places under general community quarantine without "heightened restrictions" and those under modified GCQ were allowed to step outside their homes and visit open spaces.

These include parks, playgrounds, beaches, biking and hiking trails, tourist sites and attractions accredited by the Department of Tourism, outdoor non-contact sports courts and venues, as well as al fresco dining establishments.

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/21/no-kids-outdoors-govt-urged/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=no-kids-outdoors-govt-urged](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/21/no-kids-outdoors-govt-urged/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=no-kids-outdoors-govt-urged)



## Manila sets up drive-thru vac center

In preparation for more Delta variant cases being reported in Manila, the city government has bought high-flow oxygen in order to avoid intubation among those who may develop severe or critical cases of Covid-19.

Published 3 hours ago on July 21, 2021 03:30 AM

By [Pat C. Santos](#) @tribunephil\_pat



In an effort to speed up vaccination against Covid-19, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso and Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna are planning to put up a drive-thru vaccination system in order to accommodate motorists and public utility vehicle drivers who find this more convenient than going to a designated vaccination site.

It was learned that Domagoso and Lacuna are polishing a plan to be implemented soon when the city government's vaccine allotment for first dose becomes available.

This will serve as the 25th vaccination site of the city.

In preparation for the possibility of more Delta variant cases being reported in Manila, the mayor bared he and Lacuna have decided to buy high-flow oxygen in order to avoid intubation among those who may develop severe or critical cases of Covid-19.

He said they ordered 750 tanks each containing 50 liters of oxygen, on top of the regular orders for Covid and non-Covid patients in the six city-run hospitals.

"The additional order of tanks is equivalent to 37,500 liters of oxygen. We are using the incidents taking place in other parts of the world. We are ready pero sana di magamit (but I hope they won't be used)," Domagoso said.

The Manila city government also bought 5,521 units of Remdesivir and 1,140 of Tocilizumab. Both expensive and hard to find, these medicines are usually used for those suffering from severe or critical cases of Covid-19.

As this developed, Manila Health Department chief Dr. Arnold "Poks" Pangan reported that the total number of vaccines given to Manila residents as of 6 p.m. of 19 July has reached 1,019,618.

Pangan said the total number of persons vaccinated with the first dose is 663,649, while those who received their second dose have reached 355,969.

These figures are expected to increase as the vaccination for first and second doses continues.



Meanwhile, Mayor Domagoso appealed to his constituents to practice discipline among themselves, following the reported incident at San Andres Complex where some of those who did not make it to the vaccination cut-off for the day still forced their way through.

He said there are many vaccination sites, consisting of 18 schools and four malls, where residents can go to.



**BUSINESS**

# Global retreat over Delta persists

Published 3 hours ago on July 21, 2021 03:00 AM

By [TDI](#) [@tribunephil](#)



People visit the Grand Place in Brussels, Belgium which has witnessed a rise in Covid-19 cases recently despite having among the highest inoculation rate in the region. / Zhang Cheng/Xinhua

Asian equities extended losses Tuesday following another rough day for global markets as the fast-spreading Covid Delta variant fuels concerns over the expected economic recovery. The Philippine market paused yesterday for the Muslim Feast of Sacrifice or Eid'l Adha.

Investors have been rattled in recent weeks by data showing the highly transmissible virus surging across the world, forcing some governments to reimpose containment measures.

Even countries with elevated vaccination rates have seen a big increase in new cases, though observers point out that hospitalizations and deaths are being kept down thanks to the jabs.

The selling has also been blamed on other factors including lingering worries about possible central bank policy tightening as the economy recovers, profit-taking with markets sitting around record or multi-year highs, and investors jockeying as the corporate earnings season begins.

Bubbling geopolitical tensions were also an influence after the United States accused Beijing of carrying out a massive hack of Microsoft and charged four Chinese nationals, while rallying allies in a rare joint condemnation of "malicious" cyber activity. China has denied the claims as "totally groundless and irresponsible," and "fabricated" by Washington.

Spikes in most markets "What is likely concerning markets now is that there is also a surge in infections occurring in developed markets with high levels of vaccination," said National Australia Bank's Tapas Strickland.

This showed "that fully vaccinated people while being protected from severe cases and hospitalisation, can still transmit the virus."

"Virus restrictions may need to be in place for longer (or even re-introduced) until vaccination rates lift further and full vaccination is available to everyone who wants it," Strickland added.

Wall Street's three main indexes all ended deep in the red, with the Dow shedding more than two percent while the Nasdaq and S&P 500 were more than one percent off.



And the selling filtered through to Asia, where Tokyo suffered a fifth straight loss, while Shanghai, Hong Kong, Sydney, Seoul, Mumbai, Bangkok, Wellington and Taipei were also well in retreat.

London, Paris and Frankfurt all rose more than one percent in opening trade, a day after each losing more than two percent.



# The Delta wave



[SKETCHES](#) - [Ana Marie Pamintuan](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 21, 2021 - 12:00am

Over the weekend I visited a large mall for the first time in about six weeks. It was disheartening to see even more shops shuttered, with no more intent to reopen.

You can tell which ones are closed for good because the store spaces are already boarded up, with no sign of a possible replacement coming up.

Those temporarily closed still have their merchandise intact, which can be seen through tempered glass walls and padlocked doors.

There was a long line at a sporting goods store (beside three shuttered shops), but only because it was holding a closing out sale, everything must go, with some merchandise offered at giveaway prices.

Even at the food court, with dine-in capacities extended, about half of the tenants had packed up, again with no potential replacements advertised, as the mall used to do pre-pandemic.

The large fast-food and casual dining chains that remained open at least had more customers, particularly those dining in. But you can tell that the business environment remains challenging.

\* \* \*

With slower foot traffic, there are fewer personnel in dining places and service suffers. Last week in another mall, I spent nearly 15 minutes waiting for just one take-out hotdog at S&R, even if the place wasn't even full.

At a new Thai fast-food, I was told that I would have to wait 20 minutes to take out an order of pad Thai noodles. In 20 minutes, with some instant condiments, I can whip up my own pad Thai at home, at a fraction of the cost. In 15 minutes, I can prepare several hotdogs with all the fixings.

Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion had told us on One News' "The Chiefs" last year that his family's RFM Corp. in fact saw an increase in its processed food products such as sausages as the pandemic forced people to stay home and cook their own food.

At the mall that I visited over the weekend, the lines in the supermarkets remained long. The supermarkets continue to see brisk business even amid the pandemic.

Other businesses that are thriving amid COVID are the gardening supplies. Also sprouting all over are enterprises providing pet supplies, grooming and health care. The acute lack of face-to-face human interaction is reportedly driving more people worldwide to keep pets.

As for the shops that have shut down, it can only be because they don't see better times ahead in the near future, at least for their brick-and-mortar operations (some might have migrated completely to online retail).

The investment analysts have been saying it in recent days: the threat posed by the Delta variant is again dampening investor confidence, with fears that economically crippling lockdowns might again be imposed.





\* \* \*

Undoubtedly, the analysts are seeing trends not only in our country and within the region but worldwide, as Delta wreaks havoc on economic reopening plans even in places where COVID vaccination is highest.

Indonesia is now being referred to as the new epicenter of the pandemic, although the cases remain high in India where Delta was first reported. Thailand is also grappling with surges attributed to Delta, and even Singapore is seeing a spike in cases.

With vaccinations increasing, people were eager to brush aside warnings from the World Health Organization that the planet isn't out of the woods yet, that in fact the pandemic could be entering a more dangerous phase as more virulent variants emerge, evading existing vaccines.

There are increasing stories of breakthrough serious infections even among people fully vaccinated with the Pfizer jab, aside from infections and deaths among people with two doses of China's Sinovac. Indonesia is giving Moderna booster shots to its health workers who have received the two full doses of Sinovac, despite the WHO's repeated admonition that there is still no need for boosters.

The rush for boosters has been fueled partly by Pfizer's application for US regulatory approval for booster shots as the Delta variant becomes the dominant COVID strain in the United States and several other countries.

In the Philippines, the government is heeding the WHO advisory on booster shots. Infectious disease specialist Dr. Rontgene Solante, a member of the vaccine expert panel, stressed to us on The Chiefs Monday night that the country can't consider boosters at this time particularly because the vaccination rate is still too low. The focus, he said, must be on fully vaccinating enough people first to achieve herd immunity before we can even talk about booster shots.

\* \* \*

The world's eyes are again on Britain – the first country to administer the Pfizer shot, the first vaccine to be approved by the world's stringent regulatory authorities for emergency use against COVID-19.

Despite concerns raised by health experts, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson pushed ahead with "Freedom Day" on Monday, lifting COVID restrictions such as mandatory mask wearing, social distancing and work-from-home guidelines. On the same day, however, Johnson had to go into isolation after being exposed to his health minister, who was infected with COVID. Freedom Day was also marked by skyrocketing COVID infections in Britain, which was already grappling with the Alpha variant before Delta arrived.

While the UK has a much better healthcare capacity than India, there are fears that a Delta-fueled surge could eventually overwhelm British hospitals because of the lifting of COVID restrictions.

Such restrictions are being reimposed in several areas in the US, for example, where case spikes attributed to Delta forced President Joe Biden to put off declaring "Independence Day" from COVID to coincide with the Fourth of July celebrations.

Biden is now at pains to persuade US anti-vaxxers to get their shots. There are talks of a COVID "fourth wave" brewing in the US (and in France).



The US and Britain are two of the countries with the highest vaccination rates. And yet look what's happening.

Will we also be forced to restore restrictions amid the Delta threat? Solante told us that health experts are reconsidering the decision to allow children aged five and older to go outdoors.

Local officials may also lose their discretion to accept vaccination cards in lieu of RT-PCR tests for inbound travelers – an easing intended in particular to revive tourism. Instead the test requirement may be reimposed.

At the Monday night briefing, President Duterte warned of possible tighter restrictions to prevent the local transmission of Delta.

Vaccination and sustained adherence to health protocols are the best ways to prevent a Delta-driven wave.



## COVID-19: 500 PARI, MADRE PATAY SA INDIA; 292 PARI SA ITALY; 250 PARI SA MEXICO



July 20, 2021 @ 9:52 PM 8 hours ago

NAPAKABAGSIK talaga ang coronavirus disease-19 at mga variant nito.

Walang sinasanto at dini-Diyos ng mga ito.

Kaya naman, bukod sa pagdarasal, dapat sumali tayo lahat sa giyera laban sa pandemyang dulot ng COVID-19 at mga variant nito.

### SA ITALY

Lumalabas ang mga balita sa mga araw na ito ukol sa bagsik ng COVID-19 sa mga relihiyoso, partikular na sa mga lider ng Simbahang Katolika.

Ayon sa SIR o Servizio Informazione Religiosa/Religious Information Service, mula nang mapasok ang Italy ng pandemya noong Enero 31, 2020, may 292 pari nang namatay na naghalong orig na virus ang mga variant nito.

Pero hanggang Marso 2021 lamang ang rekord na ito at iba pa ang mga madre na namatay ngunit walang gaanong balita, kasama ang lima sa isang kombento sa Turin.

### 9 OBISPO PATAY SA ISANG LINGGO

Nito namang Enero 8 hanggang Enero 13, 2021, sabay-sabay o sunod-sunod na Obispo ang namatay rin, ayon sa Catholic News Agency.

Unang namatay si Bishop Cástor Oswaldo Azuaje, ng Trujillo, Venezuela noong Enero 8 at sumunod si Bishop Adam Dyczkowski ng Poland noong Enero 10 at sina Bishop Luis Adriano Piedrahita Sandoval ng Colombia at Archbishop Oscar Rizzato ng Italy ang nasawi naman noong Enero 11.

Enero 12 naman nang masawi si Bishop Florentin Crihalmean ng Romania at kinabukasan, Enero 13, sabay-sabay na nasawi sina Archbishop Philip Tartaglia ng Poland, Bishop Moses Hamungole ng Zambia, Bishop Mario Cecchin ng Italy, Cardinal Eusébio Oscar Scheid ng Basil.

### IPINAGLUKSA SA INDIA DAAN-DAAN

Nakalulungkot ding malaman na umabot sa 500 daang pari a madre ang nagbuwis din ng buhay sa India, lalo na sa kasagsagan ng Delta o India variant mula Marso hanggang Mayo ngayong taon.

Karaniwan sa mga namatay ang pari at madre na nagtatrabaho sa nasa 500 Katolikong ospital na itinayo at nakakalat sa bansa.



Ayon kay Suresh Mathew na paring Capuchin at editor-in-chief ng Indian Currents, nagkaroon ng kabuuang 204 pari, 212 madre at 4 obispo ang namatay mula 2020 hanggang Mayo 30, 2021 at iba pa ang mga sumunod na namatay.

Pinakahuling namatay na obispo, nitong Hunyo 15, 2021 lang, si Bishop Paul Alois Lakra, Gumla.

Dahil sa tindi ng tama ng COVID-19 sa mga Indian, halos ayaw na umano ng mga ordinaryong mamamayan ang tumulong sa mga gawain sa ospital bilang volunteer workers.

Kaya naman, mga pari at madre na ang naging mga trabahador na ikinahawa-hawa naman nila, ayon kay Redemptorist Father Thomas Abraham, executive director of the Catholic Healthcare Association of India.

Hindi lang pag-aasikaso sa mga maysakit ang naging trabaho ng mga pari at madre kundi maghatid na ring ng mga pagkain at iba pang mga pangangangailangan ng mga Indian sa labas at loob ng mga ospital.

Kabilang ang Indian Missionary Society sa mga biktima na namatayan ng tatlong pari at Missionaries of Charity na namatayan naman ng 14 na madre.

### **250 SA MEXICO, 65 SA BRAZIL**

Ayon kay Msgr. Alfonso Miranda Guardiola, auxiliary bishop ng Monterrey sa Mexico, umabot sa 250 obispo at pari ang namatay sa Mexico hanggang Abril 2021.

Kasama sa mga namatay si Msgr. Arturo Lona Reyes, Bishop Emeritus ng Tehuantepec na tinawag na Bishop of the Poor.

Sa 65 namatay na pari sa Brazil, pito rito ang Obispo at pinakahuling namatay si Monsignor Pedro Carlo Zilli na namatay.

### **LIBO SA KABUUAN**

Libo nga ang mga pari at madre na kinalawit ng COVID-19

Ang Pilipinas ay may mahigit sa limang paring namatay at ang United States ay namatayan din ng mga pari at madre.

Kabilang sa mga namatay sa Pilipinas sina Agustinian priest Father Arnold Santa Maria Cañoza, ng St. Agustin Church, Manila; Jesuit priest Father Timoteo Ofrasio, ng Ateneo de Manila, Quezon City; at SVD priest Fr. Valentino D. Darunday, ng Christ the King Seminary, Quezon City.

Mismong si Bishop Oscar Cruz na dating Pangulo ng Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines ay nasawi rin sa COVID-19.

Walang gaanong rekord ang Simbahang Katolika sa US subalit marami rin ang namatay rito gaya nina Fr. Jorge Ortiz-Garay ng St. Brigid Church sa Brooklyn, New York pinaniniwalaang unang paring namatay rito at Fr. Reginald Foster ng Wisconsin pero namatay sa Milwaukee.

Ang Felician Sisters, namataya din ng 21 madre.

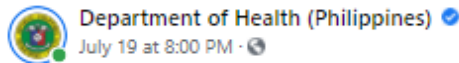
Mayroon pang mga namatay sa ibang bansa gaya sa Tunisia at mga bansa sa Latin Amerika.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/covid-19-500-pari-madre-patay-sa-india-292-pari-sa-italy-250-pari-sa-mexico/>



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



Department of Health (Philippines) ✓

July 19 at 8:00 PM · 🌐

KNOW YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE: Johnson & Johnson's Janssen  
Data as of June 2, 2021

Information you need to know about the J&J's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine:

- ✓ How many doses and interval in which each dose is taken;
- ✓ Storage and cold chain requirements;
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- ✓ Common adverse events you can expect following the latest Phase III clinical trials data;
- ✓ Serious adverse events you can expect following the latest Phase III clinical trials data; and
- ✓ Clinical trials data with the inclusion of special populations (i.e. elderly, immunocompromised, etc.)

To know more about the eight 🇵🇭 COVID-19 vaccines on our current portfolio, click this link 🙌  
<https://doh.gov.ph/vaccines/know-your-vaccines>

#RESBAKUNA  
#BIDABakunatian  
#BIDASolusyon Plus sa COVID-19  
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## JOHNSON & JOHNSON'S JANSSEN

( DATA AS OF 02 JUNE 2021 )

Clinical Trials (Preclinical; Phase 1-3)	Country with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)	Application for EUA to Philippine Food and Drug Administration	Philippine FDA EUA Approval
<b>Done</b>	42 Countries with EUA Approval, including USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, South Africa, Philippines  With WHO Emergency Use Listing	<b>March 31, 2021</b>	<b>April 19, 2021</b>

Technology Platform	Viral Vector (Non-replicating)
Dose and Frequency [a]	1 dose
Storage Requirements [a]	2°C - 8°C (3 months)
Age Group Covered by Phil FDA EUA Approval [a]	18 y/o and above
Vaccine Efficacy (VE) [b]	66.9% (95% CI 59.0-73.4) against confirmed moderate to severe/critical COVID-19, 14 days after vaccination  66.1% (95% CI 55.0-74.8) against confirmed moderate to severe/critical COVID-19, 28 days after vaccination  ~77% effective in preventing severe/critical COVID-19 occurring at least 14 days after vaccination and 85% effective in preventing severe/critical COVID-19 occurring at least 28 days after vaccination
Common Adverse Events Reported in Phase III Clinical Trials (CT) [c]	Local: pain, redness swelling Systemic: tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea
Serious Adverse Events Reported in Phase III CT [d]	An ongoing Phase 3 Study (COV3001) (NCT04505722) is being conducted in the United States, South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Mexico to assess a single-dose COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in adults aged ≥18 y.o. The study allowed for the inclusion of individuals with stable pre-existing medical conditions, as well as individuals with stable human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.  A total of 44,325 individuals were randomized equally to the vaccine or placebo. The primary efficacy analysis population of 39,321 individuals (19,630 in the vaccine group and 19,691 in the placebo group) include 38,059 SARS-CoV-2 seronegative individuals at baseline and 1,262 individuals with an unknown serostatus.
Specific populations included (elderly, immunocompromised, etc.) in Phase III CT [e]	US and Mexico arm: targets 30,000 enrollments, ≥18 y/o medically stable adults  UK arm: targets 15,000 enrollments, 18-84 years y/o

References: [a] FDA Philippines Drug Approval; [b] US FDA Published Vaccine Fact Sheet; [c] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; [d] US FDA Published Vaccine Fact Sheet; [e] clinicaltrials.gov

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