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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





# These before and after images of two Pasig River tributaries give hope

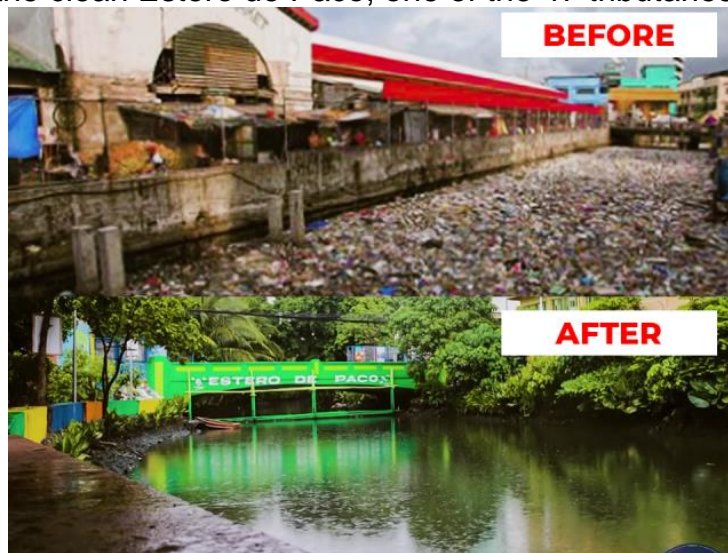
Published August 21, 2021 4:16pm

Given the escalating problem of trash, plastic pollution, and the reality of a climate crisis, it's all too easy to get mad, turn fearful, panic, and lose hope.

But a recent i-Witness documentary of Sandra Aguinaldo about the River Warriors of Pasig River gives hope.

It doesn't just show you the helpers already doing something about the problem, it also helps you realize that you can actually do something about it. Best of all, it puts the spotlight on the good that can happen when more people extend their helping hand.

For instance, there's the clean Estero de Paco, one of the 47 tributaries of the Pasig River.



Estero de Paco. Screenshot from 'River Warriors' / YouTube

It used to be a sorry pile of garbage but thanks to the combined efforts of the River Warriors and the local government unit, the influx of trash has been controlled and informal settlers have been relocated, allowing the body of water to breathe and flower better.

The same is true for the now lush-looking Estero de Magdalena, which has been cleared of trash, thanks to the efforts of the River Warriors.



Estero de Magdalena. Screenshot from 'River Warriors' / YouTube



These small wins give hope and strength to the River Warriors, a group of do-gooders under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources tasked to clean the 28 dirtiest tributaries of the Pasig River. Their job is never quite done.

"We're doing our best in cleaning, but the problem of solid waste is behavioural change," said Pasig River Coordinating and Management Officer Asec. Joan Lagunda.

"Hangga't hindi natin ma-convince yung ating mga naninirahan diyan at mga tao mismo na hindi magtapon, mamatay na lang ang ating mga river patroller," she added.

"In fact, dekada na sila [naglilinis]. You can ask them, they've been there decades from the time na sinimulan ni Gina Lopez hanggang ngayon, 'yun pa rin ang ginagawa nila."

Lagunda said their main goal is to help the Pasig River reach a Class C classification. "At the moment, wala siyang class because the scientists don't know how to identify the river," she said almost jokingly.

According to the PRCMO, more than 5M kilos of solid waste have been retrieved from the Pasig River and its tributaries between January and June 2021 alone.

The work is never easy and the trash just keeps piling up, but with consistency and persistence, the River Warriors are proud to show the improvement of the Pasig River and its tributaries. — **Jannielyn Ann Bigtas/LA, GMA News**



# Protecting Mount Arayat National Park

From a forest reserve to a protected landscape

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA AUGUST 22, 2021



Mount Arayat

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is pushing for the enactment of a measure that will boost the status of the Mount Arayat National Park (MANP) in Pampanga province as an area set aside for conservation.

House Bill 9206, sponsored by Reps. Aurelio D. Gonzales Jr., Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr. and Eric Go Yap, will establish MANP as a Protected Landscape under Republic Act 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act of 1992.

Established as a protected area by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 594 series of 1933, Mount Arayat was among the first National Parks in the Philippines under Republic Act 3915, or the First National Park Law.

## From forest reservation to protected landscape

Essentially a wilderness, or a forest reservation, the 3,715.22 hectares national park straddles 12 barangays—five in Magalang, namely Ayala, Sto. Nino, San Vicente, San Agustin and Turu, and 7 in the Arayat side, namely San Juan Bano, San Mateo, Gatiawin, Bitas, Panlinlang, Baliti and La Paz Turu.

As it became an initial component of Nipas Act upon the law's enactment in 1992, the status of MANP as a protected area became the subject of review by experts.

The requirements, such as maps with technical description, conduct of suitability assessment and public consultation and preparation of Protected Area Management Plan were already conducted from 2015-2018, while the deliberation of the Regional Nipas Review Committee and Regional Development Council were held in 2019.

The recommended appropriate category was as Protected Landscape, wherein it refers to areas of national significance, which are characterized by the harmonious interaction of man, land and water while providing opportunities to public enjoyment through recreation, tourism, and other economic activities.

## Biodiversity consideration

According to the DENR-Pampanga, the rich biodiversity of Mount Arayat is the main consideration in its establishment as a protected area.

Among the considerations are the irreplaceability or presence of restricted range and congregation species; its vulnerability or the presence of globally threatened and endemic species; its naturalness or its intact natural cover forest cover; abundance and diversity of flora and fauna; and the uniqueness or outstanding cultural, geological, and aesthetic features that support biodiversity and sustain ecological processes and functions.



Another important consideration is the value of ecosystem services in terms of recreation, educational, traditional use, heritage and other sustainable uses.

The MANP is home to notable species of flora and fauna. A total of 70 species of trees and plants; 86 species of wild birds; 14 species of mammals; and 11 species of reptiles have been recorded in the area.

It also has threatened species of flora like the Arayat pitogo, kamagong and tindalo, and the newly discovered endemic species, *Pyrostria arayatensis*, a plant that belongs to the coffee family

### **Socioeconomic importance**

In 2016, the DENR initiated the Ecotourism Development Program on Mount Arayat. A management plan and business plan were also developed, opening up livelihood opportunities to people in the community.

According to the DENR, ecotourism remains the most suitable activity on Mount Arayat in order to ensure environmental protection and conservation, while supporting local communities.

The DENR helped established people's organizations whose involvement helped promote sustainable tourism practice in the area.

Currently, the MANP has recreational and resort area that continue to draw tourists.

It has a recreation and resort area in San Juan Baño with agreement between the local government unit of Arayat and the DENR.

For religious pilgrimage, the MANP has a "Station of Cross" in Barangay Ayala in Magalang town

Meanwhile, for mountaineering and trekking, it boasts of four destinations, namely White Rock, South Peak, North Peak and Pinnacle Peak.

### **Rivers and waterfalls**

The existence of rivers and waterfalls highlights the importance of protecting the MANP. It provides crystal-clear for domestic use and irrigation to subsistence farmers living around the mountain.

Being a forest reserve, MANP has three waterfalls that continue to attract tourists wanting to beat the summer heat. They are in the resort area in San Juan Baño, Brgy. San Agustin, and the Pau falls in Brgy. Baliti.

### **Rich biodiversity**

Laudemir Salac, Pampanga's Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Officer (Penro), told the BusinessMirror that Mount Arayat, being rich in biological diversity, was recognized by no less than former President Manuel L. Quezon who signed the law establishing the MANP as a protected area with the category of Forest Reservation.

"During that time, they already recognized the beauty of Mount Arayat as a biodiversity area and as an ecotourism area. It is rich in natural resources. It has a natural spring that supplies the resort area. We have endemic flora and fauna on Mount Arayat," Salac said in an interview via Zoom on August 6.





According to Salac, these are the reasons why the mountain is a popular tourist destination in Pampanga.

Since March 2020, however, the MANP is closed to tourists to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Protecting Mount Arayat

Ever since its establishment as a forest reserve, Mount Arayat is under a strict management regime, Salac said, but the threats of migration continue.

He said the DENR-Pampanga is currently conducting a study to determine the number of people living within the MANP.

But because the area is already occupied by tenured migrants, the DENR is giving out tenurial instruments—a 25-year lease agreement for them to practice sustainable agriculture and help protect Mount Arayat.

“They are allowed to stay there but we strictly prohibit the cutting of trees for charcoal making. They are also our National Greening Program [NGP] partners,” Salac said in a mix of English and Filipino.

“We’ve involved the community and the people’s organization in protecting Mount Arayat. Now, we plant both native trees and fruit-bearing trees and some are already harvesting atis and guyabano,” he added.

### **Development partners**

Salac is referring to the Samahan ng mga Magsasaka ng Ayala sa Mataas na Lupa Inc., or SMAMLI, in Barangay Ayala, Magalang municipality.

It is the DENR’s primary partner in the implementation of its greening program and in implementing the Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise program in the area.

On the other hand, the New Maria Sinukuan Upland Farmers Association Inc. (NMSUFAI) is the DENR’s partner in Barangay San Juan Baño, in implementing the NGP and in ecotourism Threats to Mount Arayat

According to Salac, slash-and-burn farming and charcoal-making is no longer a big problem because livelihood opportunities are made available through ecotourism.

Other threats include hunting of monkeys thriving in the area.

“We hear there were hunters targeting long-tailed macaque for food,” he said.

### **Communicating biodiversity**

Don Guevarra, the chief of the DENR Region 3 Public Affairs Office (RPAO 3), said the area is important with the recent discoveries of new species, such as on Mount Arayat, underscores the importance of protecting areas set aside for conservation.

“A group of students discovered a new species of coffee that exist nowhere else in the world. This is unique to Mount Arayat,” Guevarra said. Making it a legislated protected area, he said, gives additional protective layer to the biodiversity-rich mountain.

He said the DENR RPAO 3, in partnership with their counterparts in the DENR-Pampanga, is communicating its importance in the communities around Mount Arayat.



“Actually, the people in the community already know the richness of Mount Arayat, but we are continuously doing it [communication] to remind the people to help protect and conserve the rich biodiversity,” Guevarra said.

To strengthen the protection and conservation and put in place a strict management regime, Salac said they are pinning their hope on the enactment of a law that will establish Mount Arayat as a protected landscape.

“Actually, in the House [of Representatives, the approval of the bill] is almost done, and there’s a counterpart bill in the Senate. Our champions in Congress have given their assurance that before the end of the year, President Duterte will sign it into law,” Salac said.



## Palawan's Mount Mantalingahan mapped to protect, develop Pts265 billion worth of resources

BYBUSINESSMIRROR AUGUST 22, 2021



Upland farmers now practice sustainable agriculture on Mount Mantalingahan, protecting its forests and producing agricultural commodities and products.

THE highest peak in Palawan will now be preserved, protected and developed through a land-use plan (LUP), mapping its economic resources valued at P265 billion.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that 206,567 hectares of Mount Mantalingahan's protected landscape had been zoned, a news release said.

The LUP is part of DENR's technical assistance program called "Protect Wildlife Project" funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The zoned area also includes forest land outside the protected area of 153,836 hectares.

### Mapping for economic benefits

THE mapping of Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) is a powerful tool in defining the activities appropriate for each zone and prescribing what is allowed in each area. With its 120,457 hectares of forest, Mount Mantalingahan is the headwater for 33 watersheds, according to the DENR.

The agency said it is important to preserve the habitat of many important species of animals in Mount Mantalingahan—the Philippine cockatoo, the talking mynah, the blue-naped parrot and the Philippine pangolin, among other highly endangered wildlife.

Production area totaling to 82,469 hectares of protected area and 71,367 hectares of conservation area have also been designated under the Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) of Southern Palawan.

Ecosystem services from MMPL's rich natural resources bring about economic benefit to the community valued at P265 billion (\$5.5 billion), according to Jeanne G. Tabangay, managing director of Palawan Biodiversity Conservation Corridor.

"This was based on a 2008 study conducted by Conservation International as there were claims that the mining resources in Palawan bring huge economic value. But this study showed the natural resources themselves have value for ecosystem services," Tabangay said.

### Conserving biologically significant sites

THE Protect Wildlife Project of USAID targets to conserve around 750,000 hectares of biologically significant sites. These are protected areas, forestlands, watersheds, mangrove forests, and coastal and marine areas.





The biggest ecosystem services in MMPL, based on the Conservation International study, include indigenous people (IP) land-based livelihood, P2 billion; water resources, P83 billion; and ecotourism, P84 billion.

Marine biodiversity's indirect use was valued at P13 billion and carbon, P34 billion. Ecosystem services of tropical forests was valued at P108 billion and recreation, P6 billion.

The Water Wildlife Project leveraged P368 million of commitments from private and public sector partners to fund conservation activities, including support for sustainable livelihood and social enterprises.

### **Highest peak in Palawan**

THE highest peak in Palawan, Mount Mantalingahan straddles the towns of Bataraza, Brooke's Point, Rizal, Quezon and Sofronio Española.

It plays an important role as a deterrent to flashfloods and other destructive forces.

However, even Mount Mantalingahan faces natural and man-made threats from illegal logging, wildlife poaching, mining and kaingin (slash and burn) farming.

It also faces the risks of high poverty incidence, unclear or inconsistent regulatory policies on resource uses, communities that lack tenure rights, weak enforcement systems and the vulnerability to climate risks, such as drought and intense rainfall, according to the USAID.

### **LUP now compliant to policies**

THE Protect Wildlife Project aligned the LUP with prevailing policies as it found that the actual land use of several areas differed from what the policies prescribed.

USAID said that this caused much of the degradation within the protected area and adjoining forest lands.

The LUP is now compliant to the policies on Environmentally Critical Areas Network strategy for Palawan, National Integrated Protected Areas Systems Act, Forestry Code, the Local Government Code and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

Land use includes forest lands designated into protection, conservation and production areas. Production areas are further divided into sub-zones, such as agriculture, tourism and special areas.

"Each zone and sub-zone have corresponding evidence-based land and resource use prescriptions—the rules for how an area of land may be legally used. Zoning decisions are derived from spatial analysis but also consider socioeconomic and political realities," USAID said.

USAID added, "Land use zoning provides a solid basis for LGUs [local government units] and the DENR to make informed decisions for investments on natural assets enhancement, restoration, basic infrastructure, social services and enterprises."

### **Project partners**

THE DENR said the project's partners for its livelihood programs are Lutheran World Relief, Abraham Holdings Inc. and Sunlight Foods Corp.

These partners support the establishment of enterprises in five LGUs within the MMPL.



Participating in an ube (purple yam) production are upland communities in tenured areas in Bataraza, Brooke's Point and Sofronio Española, while 14 communities with a total of 1,500 households are involved in conservation agriculture and agroforestry.

Image courtesy of Incredible Palawan



## Occidental Mindoro bamboo growers seek IP rights over unique products and designs

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA AUGUST 21, 2021



Beautiful Filipino engineered bamboo for finishing, flooring or walling.

A bamboo community in Occidental Mindoro has filed with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for intellectual property (IP) rights over their distinct bamboo crafts that have raised their income opportunities.

The filing is expected to protect the business interest of the Ansiray Tree Planters Development Association Inc. (ATPDAI) as they developed their own products and designs.



Ansiray community developed its own designs for bamboo crafts.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) implemented the “Handicraft Industry for Sustainable Community Development and Environmental Protection” in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

As the DENR project helped maximize their production of bamboo, ATPDAI was able to produce 31 types of bamboo products.

These are four types of lampshades, two types of wine holders, two types of centerpiece table, placemats, hamper, mobile speaker, tower racks, curtains, pitcher, cup, necklace, earrings, bracelet, key chains, ballpen holder, and tray.

There are also two types of baskets, accessory organizer, Chinese design bamboo sala set, bilao, television rack, modern crib, modern style sala set, and mugs and pitcher.

The government is promoting the use of bamboo as a substitute to wood as it is as durable as any wood, and it contributes to deforestation.

The Ilin Island in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro has abundant natural stands of bamboo. Ansiray, one of the island’s barangays, has been known for its bamboo furniture-making community.





More than 30 households possess furniture-making skills. Eighteen households, on the other hand, are engaged in bamboo tree production.

The DENR initiative, with a project cost of P868,000, included capacity building, enterprise development and marketing, operations management, and project management.

The project generated a product trademark and label that qualify for IPR and a business plan for the bamboo enterprise operations.

The local government unit (LGU) of San Jose provided an area in San Jose población to be used by ATPDAI as display area to showcase their bamboo products.

The San Jose LGU has also been planning to establish a bamboo eco-park in Ilin Island. It has been committing to engage in a project on diversification of the use of bamboo.

Another collaborator, the Divine Word College of San Jose-Occidental Mindoro, is extending training for the community's financial and technical literacy.

DENR's attached agency, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), is training the Ilin islanders on bamboo propagation and best practices in bamboo farming.

Bamboo has huge benefits to the environment—one major function is fighting soil erosion, along with carbon sequestration.

Bamboo can be used for posts, roofs, walls, floors, beams, trusses and fences. It is also a raw material for mats, baskets, tools, handles, hats, toys, musical instruments and furniture. Bamboo shoots are considered a delicacy in some communities.

Most bamboo species are fast growing. But its use has not been increasing in the same pace. Lack of investment, weak institutional framework, and limited skilled people in the bamboo craft are among the reasons blamed for the slow growth of the bamboo industry.

The absence of reliable raw material source also discourages investments in bamboo processing.

Barangay Ansiray has a total of 224 households with an average of eight members per household with a usual income per capita of P3,000 per month. With the DENR project, the households have been observed to have raised their income.

Almost 60 percent to 70 percent of Barangay Ansiray's agricultural area is planted with bamboo.

DENR is promoting sustainable kind of forest management in Occidental Mindoro as the forests are heavily threatened with illegal human activities such as charcoal making and kaingin. These result in degradation of soil and forest destruction.

ATPDAI has a tenure over 382.15 hectares of forestland under DENR's Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA). They have 152 hectares of bamboo plantation that are now under the management of the National Greening Program.

DENR's city environment and natural resources office (CENRO) in San Jose has conceived the bamboo project as the community's income from beds and sala set, their traditional products, is not enough to sustain their livelihood.



DENR is asking assistance from other government agencies in maximizing business opportunities of ATPDAI. Department of Science and Technology (DOST) can lend assistance in machineries and product design.

Bamboo is a very versatile construction material that some experts have developed “engineered, laminated bamboo.” It is beautiful design of wood finishing for flooring and walling that can command a high price in the market.

Infrastructure should also be improved in Ansiray as their production area is in an island. As such, they need a boat for the efficient transportation of their products.

Image courtesy of DOST



## Pangolin nareskyu sa Muntinlupa



August 21, 2021 @ 10:17 AM 21 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nareskyu ang isang endangered pangolin sa Barangay Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City, batay sa ulat.

“Nung kinakausap ko siyang ganyan, hello, hello, ‘yun nag uncurl siya tapos tinitignan niya kami,” lahad ni environmentalist Anna Varona.

“They are very docile, pag natakot ‘yan, they’ll just curl up in a ball.”

Sinabing humingi ng tulong ang mga opisyal ng barangay.

“There was a commotion, dogs are barking and they saw an odd-looking animal. They didn’t know what kind it was. So they called the security and security came over and caught the animal,” kwento ni security coordinator Antonio Lazo.

Aniya, ang pangolin na pinanalalang Pandi ay nasa mabuting kondisyon na.

“Pandi was very healthy. He’s actually probably the biggest Pangolin that was ever rescued by DENR-BNB. Smooth pa siya tapos wala pa siyang mucus sa ilong.”

“Kasi kapag nagkaka mucus sa ilong ibig sabihin noon para bang humihina ‘yung resistensya nila sa surroundings nila. Most likely, kararating lang niya dito sa Maynila, kasi mayroon pang laman ‘yung tyan niya nung in-x-ray siya,” dagdag pa nito.

May bigat na 4.9 kilo ang nahuling Pangolin. **RNT/FGDC**





## Asean greening initiative targets 10 million trees in 10 years

BY BUSINESSMIRROR AUGUST 22, 2021



As part of its recent 54th founding anniversary celebration, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) launched a region-wide greening program that will ramp up restoration efforts and plant at least 10 million native trees within 10 years.

The Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Asean Secretariat led the virtual launch of the Asean Green Initiative (AGI), together with representatives of the Asean Member States (AMS), civil society organizations and the private sector, ACB said in its news release.

Demonstrating the strong cooperation and commitment among the 10 AMS to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration in the region, the AGI aims to set standards for the recognition of tree-planting activities and programs across the region that not only regrow our forests but contribute to peoples' well-being, livelihood improvement and resilience-building.

"Across the Asean, there are ongoing commendable efforts in nature restoration. With the AGI, we hope to give recognition to the outstanding initiatives that comprehensively address the concerns of the people and the environment," ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim said.

Lim cited various tree planting movements in the Asean, such as the aim of Singapore to plant a million trees over a period of 10 years and Malaysia's 100 million tree-planting campaign.

H.E. Kung Phoak, Asean Deputy Secretary-General for Asean Socio-Cultural Community, and Norsham binti Abdul Latip, Senior Undersecretary for Biodiversity and Forestry Management, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Malaysia, opened the virtual launch.

Kung emphasized that among the main objectives of the AGI are to continue building and sustaining momentum for more robust collective actions in raising awareness and enabling ownership, which can be done by "as simple as planting trees in your backyard."

Convention on Biological Diversity Executive Secretary Elizabeth Maruma Mrema took part in the event through a video message.

In a talk show dubbed "BiodiversiTalks," representatives of the Communities Organized for Resource Allocation, Metro Pacific Investments Corporation, Boon Rueang Wetland Forest Conservation Group of Thailand and the AMS exchanged insights and updates on ongoing biodiversity conservation efforts that may be aligned with the AGI.



The AGI is supported by the European Union and the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of the Protected Areas in Asean Project and the Institutional Strengthening of Biodiversity Sector in the Asean II Project, respectively.

Ambassador to the Mission of the European Union to Asean, H.E. Igor Driesmans, and Deputy Head of Mission of Germany in Jakarta, Indonesia Thomas Graf also delivered their messages. The launch and implementation of the AGI are aligned with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a global movement to accelerate restoration goals and commitments, which commenced this year.

The campaign is a rallying call on the urgent need to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide to “end poverty, combat climate change, and eliminate mass extinction.”

The region plays a vital role in this global call for ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation. At least 60 percent of the world’s tropical peatlands, 42 percent of mangroves and 15 percent of tropical forests are located in the region.

While the region is known for its rich biodiversity, it is also vulnerable to climate-related risks and human-driven activities that drive biodiversity loss.

“Restoring the condition of our ecosystem to its healthy state will take a whole-of-society approach. Through concerted and collaborative efforts that support this initiative, we can achieve incredible results and transform a more sustainable future for the Asean community,” Lim said.



# 1 million coconut trees to be planted in Mindanao via Century Pacific, GCash, HOPE partnership

By KAELA MALIG, GMA News Published August 21, 2021 9:35pm



Female farmers comprise 40 percent of the farmers in the coconut tree planting program.

Some one million coconut trees are expected to be planted in South Cotabato and Sarangani in the next two years through a joint initiative of Century Pacific Food, Inc. (CNPF), mobile wallet GCash, and non-profit organization HOPE.

Billed as GForest, the project allows GCash users to use a feature on its mobile app to help the environment by using various GCash cashless services to gain "green energy" which can then be collected to plant virtual trees.

For every virtual tree planted, CNPF, GCash and HOPE will plant a real tree in southern Philippines.

With the tree-planting partnership, coconut farmers in Mindanao will not only benefit from improved farming productivity and profitability but also have a positive effect on female farmers, who comprise 40% of the farmers in the program.

According to CNPF, the project will specifically cover the areas of Banga, Surallah, Norala, Koronadal, General Santos City, Malungon, Glan, Alabel, Malapatan, Maasim, Kiamba, Maitum, Polomolok, Tampakan, and Tupi.

"We are thankful to our partners, GCash and HOPE, for giving us an opportunity to expand our sustainability program holistically - involving consumers and leveraging cashless technology," Noel Tempongko, Vice President and General Manager of CNPF's coconut division, said.

"The program enables us to boost the livelihoods of the coconut farming community in Mindanao and at the same time improve coconut farming productivity and quality of supply, which are all beneficial to our growing coconut business. This also accelerates our journey towards carbon neutrality."

Meanwhile, Nanette Medved-Po, HOPE chairperson and president, said, "Through this initiative, we are able to reach out to millions of GCash users, encouraging them to preserve the environment while helping to support smallholder farmers." -**Kaela Malig/MDM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/hobbiesandactivities/800302/1-million-coconut-trees-to-be-planted-in-mindanao-via-century-pacific-gcash-hope-partnersh/story/>





## CCC to conduct 10th NPTE forum

Published on: August 21, 2021 By PIA-NCR

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) invites all sectors to join the 10th National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) Forum on Tuesday, 24 August 2021 through Zoom online and CCC Facebook Live.

With the theme, “**Climate Action Onwards - Next Steps for Philippines' Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation,**” this NPTE Forum shall discuss the urgent work on capacity and knowledge building for all facets of climate action.

The forum will feature the following presentations:

- El Niño droughts: A predictive tool we can use and how climate change complicates things, by Dr. Carlos Primo C. David;
- Slow onset events and our required response, by Ms. Lourdes V. Tibig;
- Sea level rise and its impacts on our country, by Dr. Fernando P. Siringan;
- Safeguarding projects against maladaptation, by Dr. Rosa T. Perez;
- Challenges and opportunities in risk transfer mechanism as climate adaptation strategy, by Dr. Felino P. Lansigan; and
- Formulating the mitigation component of the NDC, by Dr. Leoncio A. Amadore.

This Forum also aims to stimulate constructive discussions on improving multi-sectoral cooperation for successful implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution which the country submitted this year.

Started in 2017, the NPTE Fora encourages knowledge exchange among members of the academe, local government units, youth, business and industry, civil society, gender and faith-based groups, and the general public on climate change-related issues, policies, and practices through plenary presentations and open discussions.

The topics relate to various adaptation strategies to build resilience to climate impacts, and areas with potential for carbon emissions reduction.

For more updates on the NPTE forum, visit the Facebook Page of CCC at <https://www.facebook.com/cccpnl>. ###

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/08/21/ccc-to-conduct-10th-npte-forum>



# 1 billion children live in 'extremely high-risk' countries of climate impacts – UNICEF

Published August 21, 2021, 1:07 PM

by [Xinhua](#)

UNITED NATIONS — About 1 billion children — nearly half the world's 2.2 billion children — live in 33 countries classified as “extremely high-risk” of the impacts of climate change, according to a report of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched Friday.

These children face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks with a high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services, such as water and sanitation, health care, and education, says the report.

Children living in the Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau are the most at risk, threatening their health, education, and protection, and exposing them to deadly diseases, it says.

Launched in collaboration with Fridays for Future, also known as School Strike for Climate, the report is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child's perspective.

It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.

“For the first time, we have a complete picture of where and how children are vulnerable to climate change, and that picture is almost unimaginably dire. Climate and environmental shocks are undermining the complete spectrum of children's rights, from access to clean air, food, and safe water; to education, housing, freedom from exploitation, and even their right to survive. Virtually no child's life will be unaffected,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF executive director.

The report finds that 240 million children are highly exposed to coastal flooding; 330 million children are highly exposed to riverine flooding; 400 million children are highly exposed to cyclones; 600 million children are highly exposed to vector-borne diseases; 815 million children are highly exposed to lead pollution; 820 million children are highly exposed to heatwaves; 920 million children are highly exposed to water scarcity; 1 billion children are highly exposed to exceedingly high levels of air pollution.

While nearly every child around the world is at risk from at least one of these climate and environmental hazards, the data reveal the worst-affected countries face multiple and often overlapping shocks that threaten to erode development progress and deepen child deprivations.

An estimated 850 million children — one in three worldwide — live in areas where at least four of these climate and environmental shocks overlap. As many as 330 million children — one in seven worldwide — live in areas affected by at least five major shocks.

The report also reveals a disconnect between where greenhouse gas emissions are generated and where children are enduring the most significant climate-driven impacts. The 33 “extremely high-risk” countries collectively emit just 9 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions. Conversely, the 10 highest emitting countries collectively account for nearly 70 percent of global emissions. Only one of these countries is ranked as “extremely high-risk.” “Climate change is deeply inequitable. While no child is responsible for rising



global temperatures, they will pay the highest costs. The children from countries least responsible will suffer most of all,” said Fore. “But there is still time to act. Improving children’s access to essential services, such as water and sanitation, health, and education, 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.”



## Children in Philippines at ‘extremely high risk’ of the impacts of the climate crisis – UNICEF

For the first time, UNICEF ranks countries based on children’s exposure and vulnerability to climate and environmental shocks, with Filipino children the world’s 31st most vulnerable.

BY **BUSINESSMIRROR** AUGUST 20, 2021



Young people living in the Philippines are among those most at risk of the impacts of climate change, threatening their health, education and protection, according to a UNICEF report launched today.

[“The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children’s Climate Risk Index”](#) is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child’s perspective. It ranks countries based on children’s exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.

Launched in collaboration with [Fridays for Future](#) on the third anniversary of the youth-led [global climate strike movement](#), the report finds approximately 1 billion children – nearly half the world’s 2.2 billion children – live in one of the 33 countries classified as “extremely high-risk”. The findings reflect the number of children impacted today; figures likely to get worse as the impacts of climate change accelerate.

The Philippines is among these countries, with a ranking of 31. The report found that Filipino children are highly exposed to coastal floods and tropical cyclones, but also that investments in social services, particularly child health and nutrition, can make a significant difference in our ability to safeguard their futures from the impacts of climate change.

“The climate crisis is a child’s rights crisis,” said UNICEF Philippines Representative Oyunsakhan Dendevnorov. “Filipino children face many dangers within their lifetimes, but if we act now we can prevent it becoming worse. If we invest to make the services they depend upon to survive and thrive resilient – such as water, healthcare and education – it will help to protect their futures from the impacts of a changing climate and degrading environment.”

The Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI) reveals:

- 240 million children are highly exposed to coastal flooding;
- 330 million children are highly exposed to riverine flooding;
- 400 million children are highly exposed to cyclones;
- 600 million children are highly exposed to vector borne diseases;
- 815 million children are highly exposed to lead pollution;
- 820 million children are highly exposed to heatwaves;
- 920 million children are highly exposed to water scarcity;
- 1 billion children are are highly exposed to exceedingly high levels of air pollution





An estimated 850 million children – 1 in 3 worldwide – live in areas where at least four of these climate and environmental shocks overlap. As many as 330 million children – 1 in 7 worldwide – live in areas affected by at least five major shocks.

The report also reveals a disconnect between where greenhouse gas emissions are generated, and where children are enduring the most significant climate-driven impacts. The 33 extremely high-risk countries collectively emit just 9 per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Conversely, the 10 highest emitting countries collectively account for nearly 70 percent of global emissions. Only one of these countries is ranked as “extremely high-risk” in the index.

“The frightening environmental changes we are seeing across the planet are being driven by a few but experienced by many,” Oyunsaikhan adds. “Filipino children know climate change is a threat to their future, and they are calling on the world leaders to act. So far, too little has been done, but we still have time. We must urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions and work as a global community to build a better world for all children.”

Without the urgent action required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, children will continue to suffer the most. Compared to adults, children require more food and water per unit of their body weight, are less able to survive extreme weather events, and are more susceptible to toxic chemicals, temperature changes and diseases, among other factors.

UNICEF is calling on governments, businesses and relevant actors to:

1. **Increase** investment in climate adaptation and resilience in key services for children. To protect children, communities and the most vulnerable from the worst impacts of the already changing climate, critical services must be adapted, including water, sanitation and hygiene systems, health and education services.
2. **Reduce** greenhouse gas emissions. To avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis, comprehensive and urgent action is required. Countries must cut their emissions by at least 45% (compared to 2010 levels) by 2030 to keep warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.
3. **Provide** children with climate education and [green skills](#), critical for their adaptation to and preparation for the effects of climate change. Children and young people will face the full devastating consequences of the climate crisis and water insecurity, yet they are the least responsible. We have a duty to all young people and future generations.
4. **Include** young people in all national, regional and international climate negotiations and decisions, including at [COP26](#). Children and young people must be included in all climate-related decision making.
5. **Ensure** the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is green, low-carbon and inclusive, so that the capacity of future generations to address and respond to the climate crisis is not compromised.

Image courtesy of (c) Outcast85 | Dreamstime.com



# Local communities want South Cotabato mining ban lifted

[John Unson](#) - Philstar.com August 21, 2021 | 3:47pm



Pro-mining Blaans Jona Jolie Daway, (left) Bai Dalena Samling and Junina Datao (right) show the forest tree seedlings intended for their ancestral lands in Tampakan as part of the tribe's environmental-protection efforts.

Philstar.com / John Unson

KORONADAL CITY, Philippines — Ethnic Blaans and thousands of rice farmers in South Cotabato province were elated with current consultations on mounting public clamor to lift a provincial ban on mining activities.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan started the dialogues on the issue two weeks ago to generate multi-sector consensus on strong cross-section appeals for the provincial law-making body to allow mining activities in South Cotabato, particularly in Tampakan town.

Thousands of indigenous Blaans and non-tribal settlers in Tampakan, proven to have large deposits of copper, and the business groups in South Cotabato have, for so many years now, been vocal in opposing the provincial open-pit mining ban.

European mining engineers, geologists and experts from Australia have placed, based on longtime extensive field studies, at no less than €5.8 billion (Euro currency) their least estimate of the value of copper deposits in Blaan ancestral lands in Tampakan.

“We have been wishing for this to happen since 1995. Only by allowing mining operations in Tampakan can our tribe have peace, security and progress,” a senior Blaan tribal representative, Bai Dalena Samling, told reporters Saturday.

Samling is among dozens of influential representatives from the Blaan women sector in Tampakan and nearby towns who have long been urging the provincial board to rescind its province-wide anti-mining ban.

The Blaan communities, the non-Blaan settlers and local officials in Tampakan and in nearby Columbio, Malungon, and Kiblawan towns in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and Davao del Sur, respectively, have also been openly expressing support for the extraction of copper in tribal domains.

Municipal executives said the Blaan and non-Blaan residents of Columbio, Malungon and Kiblawan are also to prosper if mining operations in Tampakan proceed, owing to the proximity of hinterland tribal enclaves in the three areas to the copper-rich municipality.

Kiblawan Mayor Carl Jason Rama and his counterpart in Malungon, Mayor Theresa Constantino, are both anticipating what is for them foreseeable socio-economic developments in Blaan villages in their respective towns as a consequence of mining activities in Tampakan.

Mayor Edwin Bermudez of Columbio also wishes for the lifting soon of the mining ban in South Cotabato by its provincial board.



Many Blaans, among them teachers and health workers, are ranting on what they call affront to the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Republic Act 8371) the opposition by small outsider groups, citing possible hazards to the environment, to any extraction of copper in Tampakan.

The RA 8371 empowers indigenous communities to utilize the natural resources obtainable in their ancestral domain, based on regulations of the national government, for their benefit.

A group of senior officials from the central office of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources discussed mining prospects and other issues with South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo, Jr. in a dialogue here last month.

Samling and Vicente Gatuslao, indigenous people's representative in Tampakan, separately said the dialogue was, for the Blaan communities, something so positive.

"We want our voices heard too on why we favor mining operations in Tampakan." Gatuslao said.

Marlon Macera, top official of a local irrigators' association with more than 2,000 members engaged in rice farming, said Saturday no fewer than 20,000 farmers in this city and nearby towns belonging to various organizations are to benefit from a P400 million water impoundment dam a prospective mining promised to construct in Tampakan once the mining ban gets lifted.

"We have been having shortages of water from irrigation facilities we presently have. Here is a firm that promises to build for us a dam up there in Tampakan. Lifting the mining ban shall be a pro-poor, pro-farmer initiative. Letting it stay is like a 'kiss of death' for us, rice producers," Macera said

The mining firm planning to operate in Tampakan since 1995 has assured to provide at least P400 million for the construction of the dam by the National Irrigation Administration.

Another official of an equally large irrigators' group, Judy Laranjo, said the construction of the dam will address shortages of water for their rice fields, a problem besetting them for about two decades now.

"Opposing mining operations in Tampakan is killing thousands of rice farmers softly. Production has been getting low every year due to shortage of water to irrigate these farms. We need to have a responsible mining firm up there to help us cope with this constraint through social responsibility programs, Laranjo said.

Outsider Catholic Church leaders in Koronadal City are against proposals to lift the provincial board's ban on mining activities in the province.

However, many Catholics, among them members of the business communities, are for mining operations in Tampakan, aware of its benefits like generation of employment for Blaan and non-Blaan residents of South Cotabato province and revenues for the government.

"The ban should be lifted now. Our government has been made debt-ridden by the COVID-19 pandemic. Economy has gone down as a consequence. We need to let copper extraction activities in Tampakan happen now," an owner of a big roadside fuel station here said Saturday.

He described as "hypocrisy and anti-peace" the opposition by outsiders to mining operations in Tampakan.





# Scientists warn vs ‘smart city’ reclamation in Dumaguete

By: Karlowe Brier - Philippine Daily Inquirer|August 21,2021 - 10:17 AM



WILL IT DISAPPEAR? A view of Dumaguete City's popular Boulevard, which will be affected by the proposed 174-hectare reclamation project —PHOTO COURTESY OF KENZO LAXINA

DUMAGUETE CITY—An environmental scientist warned not only of coral reef destruction if the proposed 174-hectare reclamation project here would push through but also of its vulnerability to destruction by an earthquake.

Dr. Janet Estacion, director of the Silliman University's Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences, said that while officials of Dumaguete City floated the possibility of relocating the marine ecosystems in the area, it would not address the real problem of coral reef destruction.

“The thing about relocation now is that the technology is not yet there. The study about coral relocation is unbelievable considering the irreversible damage in transferring the corals,” she said before the city council on Aug. 18.

Estacion said it would take three years to determine if the corals that were transferred to another location survived, and 30 years to find out if they have fully recovered.

Making sure the corals survived would cost P2.7 billion, while maintaining them until they fully recovered could amount to P27 billion, she said.

Estacion also cited the active Negros Oriental fault line, which will make the reclamation project vulnerable to earthquakes.

“When an earthquake will shake the land, it will cause loosening and displacement of sediments, causing pore spaces, thus destabilizing the soil. So, if you have a weight over that, it will sink,” she said.

Estacion recalled the liquefaction or the sinking of land areas in Guihulngan City in Negros Oriental when a strong earthquake shook parts of Negros Island in 2012.

“There are inherent causes which we do not see right now, but which will very much occur in the future,” she said.

## Marine mammals in danger

Another scientist, Lemnuel Aragon, professor of the University of the Philippines Diliman and former director of the school's Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, also asked the city to reconsider the project.





He said the “dump and fill” project would also affect the water’s “productivity” that ensures food for many marine animals including dolphins and whales in the nearby Tañon Strait, the largest marine protected area in the Philippines and home to many species of whales and dolphins.

“There have already been so many environmental disasters due to miscalculations in the Philippines. Do not let this be another one. Please do the right thing to ensure the continuity of our ecological integrity,” Aragonés said in a recent letter to Dumaguete Mayor Felipe Remollo.

The Dumaguete reclamation project, which local officials dubbed “Smart City,” is envisioned to be a mixed-use commercial and residential area, featuring malls, condominiums, hospitals, business hubs and a docking port for a planned yacht club, among others.

Several groups, including environmental advocates, have opposed the project which they said was deliberated hastily and would destroy marine life in the city.

On July 7, the city council authorized Remollo to sign a joint venture agreement with Manila-based construction firm E.M. Cuerpo Inc.

The Inquirer tried but failed to reach E.M. Cuerpo on Friday. Remollo promised to send a text message in response to the plea of Estacion and Aragonés but no reply was sent as of press time.

Remollo has previously asked residents to be “enlightened” about the objectives of the reclamation and promised to hold a public forum to explain the economic benefits of the project.

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/395574/scientists-warn-vs-smart-city-reclamation-in-dumaguete?fbclid=IwAR0jOeNQfYD2hMkMwGIUf9CDyvtjLjytebxwIYMCOCCGizilGeiPyf076mk#ixzz748dlaSfX>



# SM commits support to climate disclosures

The Philippine Star August 21, 2021 | 8:00am

MANILA, Philippines — SM Investments Corp. (SMIC) sealed its commitment as a supporter of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) in a strong bid to ensure its businesses meet global sustainability targets.

“We recognize the material role we play in the Philippines. We understand our responsibilities and we commit to using the TCFD recommendations to be part of the solution to climate change,” said Frederic DyBuncio, SMIC president and CEO.

TCFD is a globally recognized set of recommendations by the Financial Stability Board and is one of the frameworks recommended by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines on environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) reporting.

Joining more than 2,300 supporters in demonstrating a commitment to building a more resilient financial system and safeguarding against climate risk through better disclosures, the adoption of these recommendations helps for more effective climate-related disclosures.

These could promote more informed investments and in turn could enable stakeholders to better understand the financial system’s exposures to climate-related risks.

“Ours is a responsibility to help build and protect our vulnerable country,” Tim Daniels, SMIC head of investor relations said. “Today we refresh our commitment to strengthen the resilience of our communities by signing up as a TCFD supporter.”

SM has consistently taken the agenda of climate change as an integral part of its business strategy and how this creates lasting value for all its stakeholders, identifying UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, Climate Action as one of its focus SDGs.

Its Climate Action Strategy advances two priorities that go hand-in-hand: resilience to equip its stakeholders and host communities for climate emergencies and sustainability to help mitigate the climate crisis.

Through SM’s leadership role in UN ARISE, the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, it calls for a collective effort to incorporate disaster resilience as a core strategy of its business.

Leading by example, it allocates 10 percent of its capital expenditures to disaster resiliency and sustainability in the design of its malls and integrated lifestyle cities. This includes water catchment facilities which reduce flooding in neighboring communities; science-based designs such as its SM City Marikina mall that sits on 246 stilts to enable it to withstand water level rise; and building the 60-hectare SM Mall of Asia complex 4.5 meters above mean lower low water level, among others.



## Tropical stork ends up in New York, dies after eating litter

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AUGUST 22, 2021



This wood stork was spotted standing in the water on Staten Island, New York, on August 1.

NEW YORK—A wood stork typically seen in tropical and subtropical regions migrated to New York City but died 10 days after it was first spotted on Staten Island, apparently after eating a large piece of hardened foam, researchers said.

The juvenile wood stork was first seen by bird researcher Anthony Ciancimino on July 31 in a saltwater marsh near Staten Island's Amazon warehouse, the Staten Island Advance reported.

Lawrence Pugliares, a nature photographer and administrator of a Staten Island wildlife Facebook group, received a call on August 9 from a group member who said the stork appeared to be choking, the newspaper reported. The bird died soon after Pugliares arrived to check on it.

José Ramírez-Garofalo and Shannon Curley, two adjunct biology professors at the College of Staten Island, brought the stork to the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan, where a necropsy revealed a piece of insular foam more than 3 feet (1 meter) long in the bird's stomach.

"It was in the gut of the animal so it presumably ate it thinking it was a prey item like an eel or a snake," Curley told the Advance.

Ramírez-Garofalo and Curley said that despite the bird being found near the Amazon facility, it could have come across the debris somewhere else.

Wood storks typically breed in Florida, Georgia and coastal South Carolina and are rarely seen as far north as New York.

The species is the only stork breeding in the United States and was put on the federal endangered species list in 1984, but its status was changed to threatened in 2014.

Ciancimino, who maintains records of rare birds reported on Staten Island in the bird database eBird, said the last time a wood stork was spotted in the borough before this year was 1973. **AP**

Image courtesy of Chris Seminara via AP

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/08/22/tropical-stork-ends-up-in-new-york-dies-after-eating-litter/>



22 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

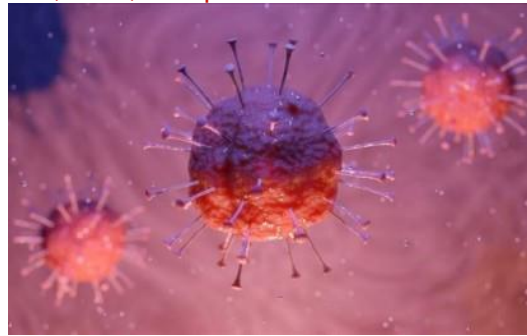
**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





# 15.8K new Covid-19 recoveries raise PH total to 1.6M

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora August 21, 2021, 5:41 pm



**MANILA** – A total of 15,805 new recoveries on Saturday pushed the number of those who have recuperated from coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) to 1,668,520, the Department of Health (DOH) reported.

In its latest case bulletin, the agency also logged 16,694 new infections, increasing active cases to 123,935.

The death toll, on the other hand, has reached 31,596 following the death of 398 more Covid-19 patients.

The overall cases since the pandemic started have hit 1,824,051, of which 6.8 percent are undergoing treatment, 91.5 percent have recovered, and 1.73 percent died.

Of the active cases, 93.5 percent have mild symptoms, 3.7 percent are asymptomatic, 0.7 percent, 1.2 percent are severe, and 0.95 percent are moderate.

**DOH COVID-19**  
CASE BULLETIN # 525

**AGOSTO 21, 2021**  
Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: <https://ncotracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

**6.8%**

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
**123,935**

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

**91.5%**

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
**1,668,520**

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

**1.73%**

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
**31,596**

MGA BAGONG KASO **16,694**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **15,805**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **398**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **1,824,051**

**MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 19**  
DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 21  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 19

**25.2%**  
PORSYENTO NG MGA NAGPOSITIBO

**65,808**  
BILANG NG TINEST

**HALOS 97.2% ANG MILD AT ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!**

**KABUANG PILIPINAS**  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)	73% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.6K TOTAL BEDS)	61% Utilized
WARD BEDS (14.4K TOTAL BEDS)	66% Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	52% Utilized

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)	74% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)	61% Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)	72% Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	58% Utilized

**KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO**

Mild	93.5%
Asymptomatic	3.7%
Critical	0.7%
Severe	1.2%
Moderate	0.95%

**RESBAKUNA KASANGGA NG BIDA**

**UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

Para sa kaligtasan ng lahat, sunding mabuti ang ating **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Agad na ding makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas ng COVID-19. Laging nakahanda ang mga serbisyong ito na maghatid ng karampatang gabay. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, nariyan din ang telemed services mula sa ating mga telemedicine partners at mga pasilidad. Pumuntaan ang <http://bhi.ly/doh11thmedcom> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bhi.ly/doh11thhospitalhotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa ilalung mabilis na panahon.

Ibananap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:  
SMART: 0919 977 3333  
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777  
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00

May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na sa KIRA!  
VIBER: Kita Kontra COVID by DOH  
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH  
KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph

Manatiling ligtas! I-download ang StaySafe App @Gaming ang WEBAAP @pamunta sa StaySafe.ph

MAHYON PANG KATUNOGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov 
 @DOHgovph 
 doh.gov.ph 
 (02) 894-COVID / 1555



Out of the 65,808 people tested on Aug. 19, the DOH data showed that 25.2 percent or 16,583 were positive for SARS-CoV-2.

It was noted that all laboratories that day were operational but four failed to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The four laboratories make up at least 2.7 percent of all the samples tested and 4.2 percent of the positive individuals over the past 14 days.

Nationwide, about 73 percent of the 4,200 intensive care unit (ICU) beds are occupied, including 61 percent of the 20,000 isolation beds, and 66 percent of the 14,400 ward beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients.

In the National Capital Region, the occupancy rate of 1,400 ICU beds for Covid-19 cases is 74 percent.

Also in use is 61 percent of 4,600 isolation beds and 72 percent of its 4,100 ward beds. **(PNA)**



# DOH: Second highest Covid-19 cases recorded at 16,694

BY CLAUDETH MOCON-CIRIACO AUGUST 21, 2021



In file photo: Philippine Red Cross volunteers set up an Emergency Field Hospital at the Lung Center of the Philippines premises to augment the facilities for treating Covid-19 patients needing hospital admission.

The Department of Health (DOH) logged the second -highest number of Covid-19 cases in a day since the pandemic began at 16,694, bringing the total number of infections in the country to 1, 824,051 on Saturday.

There were also 15,805 recoveries and 398 deaths recorded.

Of the total number of cases, 6.8 percent (123,935) are active, 91.5 percent (1,668,520) have recovered, 1.73 percent (31,596) have died.

The DOH said that 443 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 426 are recoveries.

Moreover, 211 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

All laboratories were operational on August 19, 2021 but 4 were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the last 14 days, the 4 non-reporting labs contribute, on average, 2.7 percent of samples tested and 4.2 percent of positive individuals.

Image courtesy of File photo from Philippine Red Cross



# PNP to implement strict granular lockdown in NCR

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) - The Philippine Star August 22, 2021 | 12:00am



A cop joins rounds as the local government imposed a seven-day granular lockdown on Block 41 Zones 4, 5, and 9 at Barangay Addition Hills in Mandaluyong City on Friday midnight, March 12, 2021 to limit the movement of residents and curb the spike in COVID-19 related cases.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — The police will not let its guard down, even when the National Capital Region (NCR) is now under modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ), and would continue to strictly implement granular lockdowns to help curb the spread of COVID-19 infections.

Although restrictions in the NCR were downgraded, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar directed his commanders to intensify the enforcement of granular lockdowns in areas with a high number of COVID cases.

“I have tasked police chiefs to prepare their men for this,” he said in a statement yesterday.

A total of 149,963 persons were apprehended for violating COVID-19 protocols in the NCR when the region was under ECQ from Aug. 6 to 20, or an average of 9,998 a day, according to the latest report from the PNP. If the adjoining provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Cavite are to be included, the number of violators is 437,598.

Nationwide, policemen apprehended 690,320 violators.

Eleazar urged the public to cooperate with government efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, especially now with the presence of the more infectious Delta and Lambda variants.

Meanwhile, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said authorities will do away with region- or province-wide lockdowns by September.

DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing said the policy on intensified granular lockdowns on specific streets or barangays is being threshed out by the national government to take effect next month.

“Come September, we will do away with the province-wide or region-wide type of granular lockdowns in ECQ. Let’s focus on doing granular lockdowns for streets, puroks and barangays. But this would entail the imposition of full lockdowns. (There will be) no mobility of people when a specific place is put into lockdown,” Densing said partly in Filipino during an interview with “The Chiefs” on One News.

Local government units (LGUs), he added, would be empowered to implement the granular lockdown instead of elevating it to the Inter-agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Densing noted though that once this expanded policy is approved, all residents, except for health care workers, will not be allowed to exit or enter the area for about 14 days.





“Once the authorized person outside of residence leaves, he will not be allowed to go back,” he added.

According to Densing, both the LGUs and Department of Health (DOH) favor the revised protocols on lockdowns, especially now that the country’s COVID epidemiological curve has been going up.

Data showed that the country has not gone back to the 1,000 to 2,000 cases per day level prior to the surge in March. The country logged its highest number of cases on Thursday at over 17,000 cases.

“Because of the current epidemic curve, we are looking at smarter ways to do lockdowns and to make efficient use of the logistics and money that the government has right now,” Densing said, adding that both the national government and LGUs would provide lockdown assistance in the form of food packs, instead of cash, when the granular lockdown is in place.

The DOH, in a statement yesterday, supported the proposal, saying the country cannot always rely on general quarantine classifications because “it is costly to the economy and livelihood of people.”

However, it stressed that the shift to MECQ should be accompanied with “targeted restrictions and monitoring of granular lockdowns and specific high-risk activities.”

Under this quarantine classification, high-risk activities such as dine-in services, whether indoor or al fresco, and personal care services are still not allowed. Religious gatherings are limited to online only.

“We will continue to see a dramatic increase in cases in the coming days and this is not the time to be complacent,” the DOH said.

### **Go warns vs complacency**

With the downgrading of quarantine status in Metro Manila, Laguna and Bataan, Sen. Bong Go urged the public not to be complacent in observing minimum health standards.

He stressed that the move to reclassify these areas to a less stringent status is aimed at balancing the country’s economic and health interests, which would allow more industries to open and operate in a limited capacity.

Go, who chairs the Senate committee on health, reminded everyone to continue complying with health protocols to protect their lives and that of their loved ones and, for Filipinos eligible in the priority list for vaccines, to get their jabs and contribute to the country’s efforts to achieve herd immunity.

“We have gone back and forth to ECQ several times. This means that our enemy also keeps on evolving. Thus, we should not relax our guard and we should continue to be responsible citizens,” he said in Filipino.

He pointed out that when more of the population are vaccinated and the number of COVID cases start to go down, the quarantine restrictions may also be relaxed to allow more businesses to open and people to work. – **Sheila Crisostomo, Romina Cabrera**



# DOH finally concedes that there may be community transmission of Delta

[Xave Gregorio](#) - Philstar.com August 21, 2021 | 12:33pm



Members of the Manila Police District Station 11 conduct profiling on 28 residents, including eight minors, after they were temporarily detained at a covered court in Binondo, Manila on Aug. 19, 2021 for violating the curfew hours in line with the prevailing enhanced community quarantine in Metro Manila.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — After weeks of denying that there is community transmission of the Delta variant in the country, the Department of Health finally conceded Saturday that the more infectious coronavirus variant may have reached that level of transmission.

“Base po doon sa mga nakukuha nating samples and the results coming from the Philippine Genome Center, mukhang ‘yan po talaga yung pinapakita na, that the community transmission is there,” DOH spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire told state TV.

(Based on the samples that we see and the results coming from the Philippine Genome Center, it looks like community transmission is there.)

This is a marked departure from the DOH’s previous statements that tend to reject notions that there is community transmission of the Delta variant, as there was supposedly not enough evidence to prove this.

There is community transmission when people contract a disease despite having no known contact with a person infected with or exposed to the disease.

Early in August, the DOH said it is assuming that there is community transmission of the Delta variant to “better manage” the rising cases, but did not officially declare that there is that level of transmission.

The DOH’s concession came after the executive director of the PGC, which screens for coronavirus variants in select samples collected from patients, told DZBB that there is community transmission in the country.

“Para sa amin sa Philippine Genome Center, mayroon ng community transmission ng Delta variant sa bansa. Marami nang kaso na hindi alam kung saan nagmula,” PGC executive director Cynthia Saloma said.

Saloma also told the radio station that the Delta variant is probably driving the rise in coronavirus cases, which hit an all-time high on Friday.

Philippine health authorities have so far detected 807 Delta variant cases.

The presence of the Delta variant prompted the government to place Metro Manila under enhanced community quarantine from August 6 to August 20, but government officials admitted that it did not have any impact in lowering the number of cases.

Despite this, the government decided to ease restrictions in the capital region and in the province of Laguna, which is under the laxer modified ECQ until the end of the month.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/08/21/2121624/doh-finally-concedes-there-may-be-community-transmission-delta-variant>





**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**





# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 525

## AGOSTO 21, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 6.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
123,935

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 91.5%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
1,668,520

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.73%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
31,596

MGA BAGONG KASO **16,694**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **15,805**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **398**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **1,824,051**

### MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 19

DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 21  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 19

# 25.2%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 65,808

BILANG NG  
TINVEST

HALOS

# 97.2%

ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!



### KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)  
**73%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.0K TOTAL BEDS)  
**61%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.4K TOTAL BEDS)  
**66%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
**52%** Utilized

### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)  
**74%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)  
**61%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)  
**72%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
**58%** Utilized

### KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 93.5%

3.7% Asymptomatic

0.7% Critical

1.2% Severe

0.95% Moderate



## UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Para sa kaligtasan ng lahat, sunding mabuti ang ating **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Agad na ding makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas ng COVID-19. Laging nakahanda ang mga serbisyong ito na maghatid ng karampatang gabay. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, nariyan din ang telemed services mula sa ating mga telemedicine partners at mga pasilidad. Puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

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



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

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

MARYOON PANING KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

[doh.gov.ph](https://doh.gov.ph)

(02) 894-COVID / 1555



22 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY



**DENR**

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MANILA

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Kuya Sam

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