

22 JANUARY 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## DENR suspends mining firm in Davao Oriental due to river siltation

Published January 21, 2022, 2:31 PM  
by [Faith Argosino](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has suspended the operations of a mining company in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental due to water discoloration and heavy siltation in two of the province's rivers.



(Photo from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources)

According to a statement released Thursday, Jan. 20, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said he ordered the immediate suspension of the extraction activities of Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corporation/Arc Nickel Resources, Inc., after he received a report saying that the Mapagba and Panatatagan rivers "had turned red."

The siltation of the rivers was attributed to the extraction activity of the said mining firm, according to an initial investigation and assessment conducted by DENR-Davao Region in collaboration with the region's Mines and Geosciences Bureau and Environmental Management Bureau.

Siltation is a type of pollution in which fine sand, mud, and other pollutants get suspended in water, which results in destroyed fish spawning sites, flooding, and poor water quality that may badly affect humans and animals.

The DENR issued a cease and desist order (CDO) and a notice of violation to the company on Jan. 17.



## DENR suspends mining firm in Davao Oriental due to river siltation

“This is for them to face the consequences [of their actions] immediately. If they will be suspended, so be it. If [there is] penalty, or combination of the two, then better to avoid this from happening again,” Cimatu said.

“The disturbed surface of the mining company, their stockpiles, and their pond has overflowed due to heavy rains which had been going on for a couple of days. When it reached the river, the residents raised their concerns, particularly the fishermen,” he added.

Cimatu vowed that the DENR will continue to monitor the mining activities in the area with the help of the Banaybanay local government.



## DENR suspends Davao Oriental mining firms over river siltation

January 20, 2022 | 10:14 pm



TWITTER.COM / DENROFFICIAL

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered mining companies to suspend their operations following heavy siltation and water discoloration at the Mapagba and Pinatatagan rivers in Banaybanay.

“I received the report yesterday (Jan. 17) confirming that the river has turned red due to extraction activities. I have instructed our regional office to immediately address the incident and to suspend the operations of the mining company(ies),” Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a statement.

### ADVERTISEMENT

The investigation, led by the DENR and its Davao regional office, attributed the extraction activity to Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corp. and Arc Nickel Resources, Inc.

Residents reported the changes observed along the rivers on Jan. 14. Heavy rains are believed to have caused the mines’ silt ponds to overflow, according to the DENR.

On Jan. 17, the miners were served a cease-and-desist order and notice of violation.

Separately, the Mindanao Development Authority’s new chair called for a review of mining operating practices.

“While the minerals industry continues to be cited as among the country’s economic drivers, some industry practices need thorough review and operations require close monitoring,” Secretary Maria Belen S. Acosta said in a statement.

Ms. Acosta said keeping mining operations in check was vital “to prevent pollution and contamination, distortion of the ecological balance and damage to water systems.”



## DENR suspends Davao Oriental mining firms over river siltation

“Economic development and environmental protection should go hand in hand. They should not cancel each other out,” she added.

DENR Regional Director Bagani A. Evasco said further assessment is ongoing to determine possible penalties, operational adjustments, and the extent of environmental damage to the area.

“Our legal team is also evaluating further action with regard to any of the violations,” Mr. Evasco said. “Further evaluation is being conducted as to the extent of environmental impact.”

The local government of Banaybanay said it will be conducting regular monitoring of the area as the mining firm implements measures to address the siltation. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



## Taytay holds bamboo-planting activity in line with YES to Green Program

[MetroNews](#)

Manila Bulletin January 21, 2022

By Khriscielle Yalao

Five hundred bamboo seedlings were planted in communities within Taytay, Rizal during a municipal-wide activity held on Thursday, Jan. 20, as part of the Ynares Eco System (YES) to Green Program.

The YES to Green program is the local government's response to drastic environmental changes brought about by the climate crisis. It was also launched in preparation for unexpected natural disasters that may hit the province.

Bamboo seedlings were distributed and planted in three barangays in Taytay.

The local government said 100 seedlings were distributed in Simona Subdivision, Brgy. San Isidro; 100 seedlings in Lower Purok 17, Brgy. San Juan; and 300 seedlings in Sitio Sala, Brgy. San Juan.

The planting activity was spearheaded by Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares, Rizal Vice Gov. Jun Rey San Juan, Taytay Mayor Joric Gacula, and Taytay Vice Mayor Mitch Bermundo.

It was made possible in cooperation with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) headed by Rodolfo de Leon Jr, the Rizal Tourism Office, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the municipal councils of San Isidro and San Juan.

The activity aims to strengthen the cooperation between the local government and the communities in protecting and conserving the province's natural resources and environment.

The municipality of Taytay is considered one of the "catch basins" in the province of Rizal, making the town prone to flooding during the rainy season.

According to the Rizal Public Information Office (PIO), the local government has chosen bamboo trees because their stability can strengthen the lands near the rivers to prevent landslides and flooding.

In 2020, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recommended the planting of bamboo as part of the rehabilitation program for the Cagayan River for its higher survival rate and faster growth rate compared to other trees.

The provincial government of Rizal also conducted a bamboo tree-planting activity on Wednesday, Jan. 19, in Brgy. Punta in Jalajala, Rizal.

Around 2,000 bamboo seedlings were planted in Hinulugang Taktak in Antipolo City on Dec. 17, 2021.

Bamboo tree-planting events were also held in the municipality of Binangonan on Dec. 21, and the municipality of Pililla on Dec. 30, 2021.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/01/21/taytay-holds-bamboo-planting-activity-in-line-with-yes-to-green-program/?amp>



## New MinDA chair wants thorough review of mining practices

[MindanaoNews](#)

Antonio Colina IV January 21, 2022

DAVAO CITY – Newly-appointed Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) chair Maria Belen Sunga Acosta said extractive industry practices need thorough review and operations of mining firms require close monitoring.

In a statement, Acosta acknowledged the contribution of the industry as one of the country's economic drivers.

She added though that the review and monitoring of the mining industry are needed to “prevent pollution and contamination, distortion of ecological balance and damage to water systems.”

The siltation pond of a mining company overflowed to Mapagba River, and causes discoloration of the Pintatagan and Maputi Rivers in Banaybanay town, Davao Oriental, prompting the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)-Davao to issue a Cease and Desist Order to its operation.

“Economic development and environmental protection should go hand in hand. They should not cancel each other. Sustainable growth is the way to go,” said Acosta, a former councilor of Davao City's First District.

Acosta said that the siltation and spill from a mining operation indicate early signs of environmental degradation, which could severely affect the river systems and coastal areas.

The Provincial Government of Davao Oriental announced, in a press release issued on January 17, that MGB undersecretary Atty. Wilfredo Moncano directed its regional office here to release an immediate stoppage order “to give way to a joint detailed investigation to find out the causes and the means to mitigate the damages” after a heavy siltation was observed in the affected rivers following a continuous downpour last January 14.

It said the MGB assured the company will be barred from resuming its operation unless it undertakes the corrective measures and comply with appropriate sanctions.

Governor Nelson Dayanghirang said that irresponsible mining is unacceptable because it “poses serious, long-term threats to communities and waterways” and that the “preservation and conservation of the environment should come first above everything else.”



## Dolomite Beach planong gawing vaccination site

[Danilo Garcia](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon  
January 21, 2022 | 12:00am



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources held a soft opening of the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach along Roxas Boulevard on Saturday morning.

KJ Rosales

MANILA, Philippines — Pinaplano na rin ngayon ni Manila City Mayor Isko Moreno na gawing ‘vaccination site’ para sa mga menor-de-edad at mga senior citizen ang Manila Bay Walk Dolomite Beach.

Sinabi ni Moreno na mas mainam na mapakinabangan ang denibelop na beach bilang vaccination site dahil sa pagiging ‘open space’ nito. Matapos makapagpabakuna, maaaring mag-relaks muna ang tao sa beach.

“Kung feasible, bakit hindi? That’s a very good idea? Tapos na ba ‘yung construction nila, safe ba sa mga tao? ‘Yun naman ang concern natin palagi eh, ‘yung safety ng mga tao,” mungkahi ni Moreno.

“Pansinin nyo, kapag pumipili tayo ng lugar, secluded halos lagi ‘yung mga lugar. Geographically feasible sa gagawing function doon sa particular na action plan, Pero okay ‘yun, bakunahan sa dolomite,” katwiran pa ng alkalde.





## Dolomite Beach planong gawing vaccination site

Ito ay makaraang buksan ni Moreno ang Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden bilang ‘vaccination site’ at pasyalan na rin pagkatapos ng tao matapos nilang magpabakuna.

Patuloy na hinikayat ng alkalde ang publiko na magba-booster shot na para may dagdag na proteksyon laban sa bagong Omicron variant ng COVID-19.

Ipinaalala niya sa mga manggagawa na bagama’t hindi na sila kasali sa ‘no vaccination, no ride policy’, hindi naman umano ito dahilan para hindi na sila magpabakuna kahit kailan.



## 'Mali': Atienza hits baywalk dolomite beach project

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 21 2022 01:18 PM

MANILA – Former Manila Mayor and [vice presidential aspirant](#) Lito Atienza on Friday hit the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach project, saying the costly rehabilitation effort was not the right solution to the bay's problem.

On TeleRadyo, Atienza was made to respond to a viewer who asked, “Bilang dati ring ([Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#)) Secretary at alkalde ng Maynila, ano ang masasabi niyo sa pagtatayo ng dolomite beach?”

The former mayor answered, “Mali. Mali sapagkat hindi naman talaga yan ang problema ng Manila Bay.”

“Ang problema ng Manila Bay, dahil may lason ang tubig ng Manila Bay. Bakit may lason? Dahil yung tubig ng poso negro, kasama na yung dumi ng tao, sa buong Metro Manila, dyan bumubuhos yan sa Manila Bay araw-araw,” Atienza explained.

“Pagagandanhin mo yung buhangin, yung tubig naman may lason pa rin. Eh hindi mo pa rin pupuwedeng sabihin na mag-swimming doon. Pagka pinag-swimming tayo ng gobyerno ngayon diyan, at merong nadisgrasyang sinuman, pwede nating panagutin ang gobyerno.”

“Hindi ligtas ang tubig ng Manila Bay up to now. Although yung dolomite beach maganda, hindi yun ang solusyon,” he stressed.

Atienza recalled that in 2008, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of residents who claimed that the Metro Manila Development Authority and 12 other agencies neglected to protect and clean up the waters of Manila Bay.

The country's top tribunal also ordered issued a continuing mandamus that required the government agencies to rehabilitate the waters of the bay.

“Ang desisyon napakabilis, naglabas agad ng desisyon ang Korte Suprema, forcing, in a continuing mandamus, all governments concerned, national and local, and private enterprises, tumulong kayo sa paglilinis ng tubig ng Manila Bay. Tubig--hindi naman sinabi ng Korte Suprema na linisin yung buhangin dyan ha. Gastusan niyo ng P1 bilyon.”

“That is a waste of money. At hindi naman dapat gumastos na diyan ang gobyerno eh,” he said.

Atienza said Manila Bay will be cleaned up when water concessionaires build wastewater treatment plants.

“Malilinis ang tubig ng Manila Bay kapagka yung dalawang water concessionaire, Manila Water and [Maynilad], ay ipatupad sa kanila yung bahagi ng kontrata nila sa gobyerno na sila ang bubuo ng wastewater treatment facility para yung tubig na galing sa poso negro natin, bago lumabas sa dagat, napurify na, malinis na. Yun ang dapat na proseso ngayon,” he said.

Various groups have questioned the dumping of fake white sand on the shores of Manila Bay, saying it is in violation of several environment and heritage laws.

Some groups also questioned the timing of the project, as it was conducted while millions of Filipinos struggled to make ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## 'Mali': Atienza hits baywalk dolomite beach project

Government officials, however, have repeatedly defended the project.

Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, for one, has said that complaints about the project were “misplaced.”

In an interview in September, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones told ANC that they sought P1.6 billion for the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project in 2022.

The funds, he said, will be used for rehabilitating waterways that lead to the bay.



shutterstock.com • 428739817



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/2165747740135352/posts/4907669489276483/?app=fbl>



## ‘IBONG ADARNA’ SEEN IN ANTIQUE

[January 21, 2022](#) 1 min read

ANTIQUE — A local bird known as “Ibong Adarna” was captured in a photo by Ricardo Go who shared the picture of the magnificent bird on Discover Antique Facebook.

The Golden Pheasant was spotted and seen in Semirara Island in Antique.



“In my 27 years of experience, this is the first time I saw this bird called “Ibong Adarna” with my own eyes,” he said.

The bird can be found in China. It is famous for its vivid feathers and long tail and is considered a prototype of the mythical phoenix. (AI/MTVN)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/2165747740135352/posts/4907492519294180/?app=fbl>



## From wastewater to fertilizer: DLSU's faculty-student team-up recognized for sustainable, pioneering research



[BYBUSINESSMIRROR](#)

JANUARY 22, 2022

2 MINUTE READ

A TEAM of researchers from De La Salle University (DLSU) and De La Salle-Araneta University (DLSAU) placed second in the Philippine Water Challenge (PhLWC) for “Project NexCities [Water-Energy-Nutrient Nexus in Cities of the Future]: Wastewater to Fertilizer.” The awarding ceremony was held on December 14, 2021.

Project NexCities is an initiative that aims to demonstrate ways fertilizers can be produced from septic-tank wastewater and used in agriculture.

DLSU faculty members involved in the undertaking were Prof. Michael Promentilla, Dr. Aileen Orbecido and Dr. Arnel Beltran of the Department of Chemical Engineering. Maria Eda Apple Suplido, executive director of DLSAU-Agrivet Sciences Institute, is the main proponent for the project. She was joined by Elma Pulgarinas, Elmer Montebon, Emmie Marie Rosales, and Rey Arniel Japay.

Master of Science Chemical Engineering student Regina Damalerio, Science Research Specialist and MS Environmental Engineering graduate Engr. Alberto Longos, as well as University of Surrey PhD student Engr. Carla Mae Pausta, were also part of the award-winning group.

Aside from DLSU and DLSAU, Project NexCities partnered with University of Surrey and the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands.

The Project NexCities concept identifies factors involved in efficient energy and resource-wastewater management to improve water resources, enhance water quality, develop sustainable-food production, and create positive social impact.

It aims to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals No. 6 on “Clean Water and Sanitation” and No. 11: “Sustainable Cities and Communities.”

For the PhLWC, the researchers submitted a small-scale solution for less than 1,000 households for community access to safe sanitation facilities (Theme No. 2). According to them, over 2 billion people worldwide have no or limited access to sanitation, and more than two-thirds of these unserved people are also found in the rural communities.

The team added that many areas in the country use septic-tank systems, with most of the sewage being discharged without proper treatment. This contributes to “nutrient pollution” in water bodies, and that poorly designed or maintained septic tanks may also result in an increased incidence of waterborne diseases.

“Our innovative approach to solve the underlying problems is to rethink the sanitation system as a resource-oriented system to reduce cost burden and losses of nutrients relative to existing sanitation systems in the Philippines,” says Promentilla. “The main product from the resource recovery is a recovered phosphate fertilizer which can be used by our farmers for crop cultivation or by social enterprises to promote circular bio-economy.”



## **From wastewater to fertilizer: DLSU's faculty-student team-up recognized for sustainable, pioneering research**

Organized by the United States Agency for International Development or USAID's Safe Water Project, the PhIWC is a platform to promote innovations, support improvements, and scale-up the application of such innovations. The team received P100,000 partnership fund and five mentorship package sessions.



## Women as climate action and sustainable development champions

By Ludwig Federigan  
January 22, 2022

THE Philippines has consistently been among the top in the gender equality rankings since the World Economic Forum launched its annual Global Gender Gap Report.

The Philippines is said to have closed 78 percent of its overall gender gap, showing good performance in the key areas of economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

There is still a clarion call, however, to sustain dialogues on the role of women in nation-building and to strengthen their agenda. We must build on the gains made and continue to improve on policies to address the challenges women face in this era of globalization.

Most are in the poverty trap: vulnerable, are paid less than men or forced to take on non-remunerated work due to gender roles imposed by society, starting in the households. The barriers women face include inadequate access to and control over production resources and markets, segregation or discrimination into lower-paying jobs and the lack of market-driven skills and knowledge.

Existing gender and social inequalities have also been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, worsening their vulnerabilities.

### The private sector's role in climate action

We cannot deny the fact that the role of women in society has evolved along with the progress we have achieved. In line with this, the government has moved to create an environment that will allow women to pursue social enterprises and other opportunities and ensure sustainability and growth.

We have the Magna Carta for MSMEs, which requires lending institutions to set aside at least 8 percent of their loan portfolios for micro and small enterprises. It allows the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. to provide collateral-free fixed and working capital loans to micro and small enterprises.

The Barangay Livelihood and Skills Act, meanwhile, mandates the establishment of livelihood and skills training centers in 4th, 5th and 6th class municipalities for employment generation. It ensures that livelihood and skills training offered by the national government are properly coordinated and implemented at the municipal level.





## Women as climate action and sustainable development champions

We also have the Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act, which requires banks to allocate 25 percent of their loanable funds to the agriculture sector to finance the acquisition of work animals, farm equipment or machinery, seeds, fertilizers, livestock, feed and/or other similar items.

Environmental engineers at the forefront of climate action

Empowering women does not merely involve providing them privileges. More importantly, doing so will boost our chances of realizing sustainable development, inclusive growth and improved lives for our people. We have to strengthen and invest in women's economic rights toward a greener and more sustainable economy.

We also have to take into consideration other factors that may impede the growth of microenterprises: climate change and disaster risks.

Climate change is a great threat, especially to the agricultural value chain. Extreme weather events, such as droughts or excessive rains, greatly affect agriculture. In fact, crop yields are estimated to decline toward the end of the century in the absence of climate change interventions.

Social enterprises can build resilience by knowing the risks and how climate change can affect them. They can create business continuity plans that highlight resiliency as a core feature of operations and develop strategies that advocate for ecosystems protection and consider environmental changes ahead.

Areas of cooperation for a net-zero economy

Addressing risks that could disrupt the chain and adopting sustainable practices will not only ensure continuity but also higher quality products.

We can also integrate women's participation in the aim to shift to a green economy. We have to support the promotion of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities that are aligned with sustainability, resilience and other principles of a circular economy that I have been pushing.

A study conducted by James Heintz on how Covid-19 can lead to a paradigm shift in economic futures implies that the sense of urgency engendered has provided a window of opportunity to spearhead a feminist paradigm — one that integrates care for people and planet and uses it to inform policy pathways toward sustainable development.



## Women as climate action and sustainable development champions

The role of science in building resilience

By embracing gender-responsive policies and programs, we can attain a greener, cleaner and more sustainable development trajectory. Women are part of the solution.

We have to pursue the drive to serve the grassroots and alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development while preserving our culture and championing climate action and the environment. We can only do this if we also champion women's and children's rights.

It is time for us to provide more opportunities for women in education, the workplace, rural development, governance and leadership. We must also give equal importance to providing women better access and control over the resources they need to be empowered economically.

Women should have financial independence and confidence to generate their own incomes. They should be empowered to make use of their skills and talents via the provision of viable income alternatives, training and opportunities for start-ups for those who want to be entrepreneurs.

Women should be given the needed support to have the confidence and wherewithal to lead and be at the forefront of efforts to improve Filipino communities and pursue initiatives that will contribute decisive actions toward sustainable and equitable progress.

I dedicate this to my mother, who celebrated her 76th birthday this week.

## Baguio, Ilagan named ASEAN clean tourist cities for 2022

By [Rosette Adel](#)

- January 21, 2022 - 12:30 PM



This Sept. 2, 2020 photo shows residents visiting Burnham Park during its reopening. CEPMO Assistant Department Head Rhenan Diwas via (Baguio Public Information Office / Facebook)

The cities of **Baguio**, the country's summer capital and **Ilagan**, Isabela were recently awarded for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations clean cities for 2022.

Aside from these, several Philippine hotels and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Convention and Exhibition) venues also earned recognition at the 2022 ASEAN Tourism Standards Awards.

Here's a rundown of the awardees:

### **Best in ASEAN Green Hotel Award for 2022**

- Nobu Hotel
- Nuwa Hotel
- Hyatt Regency
- Conrad Manila

### **Top five ASEAN MICE Venue Award for meeting room category**

- Conrad Manila's Forbes Ballroom
- Quest Plus Conference Center Clark's Magellan Ballroom
- Baguio Country Club's William Cameron Forbes Ballroom
- Astoria Palawan's Mangrove Conference Convention Center



## Baguio, Ilagan named ASEAN clean tourist cities for 2022

- Widus (Clark Marriott Hotel) Marriott Grand Ballroom.

### MICE Venue awardees exhibition venue category

- The World Trade Center in Metro Manila
- Cordillera Convention hall in Baguio City

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat last Tuesday said recognition of these cities and hotels is a “reflection of the commitment of the industry to maintain the highest standards of tourism despite the pandemic.”

Likewise, she said this shows the country’s strong commitment to uphold the best tourism standards. The Philippines has been positioning the country to become a destination of MICE.

In April this year, the country is set to host World Travel & Tourism Council’s [21<sup>st</sup> Global Summit](#).

The event was moved to April 20 to 22, 2022, a month after its original date.

“The current health crisis is a bane of the industry. Nevertheless, local tourism offices and our stakeholders aren’t backing down from this. By collaborating to help find solutions, they have proven that they can adapt despite the current limitations on their operations,” Puyat said.

22 JANUARY 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

**NEWS**

**ALERTS**

**COVID-19**

**NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## Recoveries surpass 3 million as 32,744 new COVID-19 cases logged

(Philstar.com)

- January 21, 2022 - 4:05pm



Individuals get inoculated with AstraZeneca vaccine in a health clinic in Bocobo, Ermita, Manila on Jan. 21, 2022 as part of the government program dubbed as "Resbakuna sa Botika."

MANILA, Philippines — The number of individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 in the Philippines exceeded three million on Friday, the Department of Health said as it recorded over 32,000 additional infections.

The DOH logged 16,385 new recoveries, raising the total to 3,012,156.

The agency also tallied 32,744 additional infections, pushing the COVID-19 caseload to 3,357,083.

Of the newly reported cases, 96% occurred from January 8 to 21.

The regions with the highest number of additional infections during that period were Metro Manila (22%), Calabarzon (20%) and Central Luzon (13%).

The number of active cases was at 291,618—a new record high. Around 95% of active cases have mild illness.

The country's death toll rose by 156 to 53,309.

According to the DOH, 44% of 75,335 samples on January 19 tested positive for COVID-19, way above the threshold set by the World Health Organization.

Three testing laboratories did not submit data to the department.



## Recoveries surpass 3 million as 32,744 new COVID-19 cases logged

### Vaccine hesitancy shrinks

- [Vaccine skepticism continued to decline](#), polling firm Social Weather Stations said, after only 8% of adult Filipinos said they were unwilling to get immunized against COVID-19 in December.
- Commuters and transport workers can get [vaccinated at transport hubs, train stations, and even tollways](#) soon.
- Malacañang said Filipinos who still test positive in required pre-departure COVID-19 test even after recovering recently [may be allowed to enter the Philippines](#), provided they meet certain conditions.
- Generic drug manufacturers will make a [cheaper version of Merck's anti-COVID pill](#) for 105 nations, including the Philippines.
- Makabayan bloc urged the House of Representatives to conduct an [inquiry into the restrictions imposed on the unvaccinated](#), which groups said could be violative of human rights.

— Gaea Katreena Cabico



# PH logs 32.7K new Covid-19 cases, 16.3K recoveries

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz January 21, 2022, 4:49 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 32,744 new Covid-19 infections, higher than Thursday’s 31,173, and 16,385 new recoveries.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH said the new cases bring active cases to 291,618 or 8.7 percent of all known infections nationwide.

Of these active cases, it said most have mild symptoms at 277,833, followed by the asymptomatic at 9,015, those with moderate symptoms at 2,979, those with severe symptoms at 1,487, and those in critical condition at 304.

The country’s total recovery is 3,012,156 or 89.7 percent of all recorded cases.

There were 156 new Covid-19-related deaths, with the country’s total at 53,309 or 1.59 percent of all Covid-19 cases.

Based on the latest testing data, there were 75,335 Covid-19 tests administered on Wednesday with a positivity rate of 44 percent.

Meanwhile, a moderate amount of healthcare facilities is currently occupied, with the country’s 3,900 beds at intensive care units (ICU) at 51 percent occupancy, 20,400 isolation beds at 52 percent occupancy, 14,700 ward beds at 54 percent occupancy, and 24 percent of 3,100 ventilators are in use.

In the National Capital Region, there are 1,300 beds at ICUs at 49 percent occupancy, 4,900 isolation beds at 48 percent occupancy, 4,600 ward beds at 56 percent occupancy, and 27 percent of 1,000 ventilators are currently in use. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1166067>



## Boosters provide the best protection against Omicron variant, CDC studies show, raising new questions about what it means to be fully vaccinated

By John Bonifield and Elizabeth Cohen, CNN  
Published Jan 22, 2022 1:07:27 AM



Courtesy: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

(CNN) — Three large new studies from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highlight the importance of getting a booster shot to provide the best protection against the Omicron coronavirus variant.

This is the first real-life data to examine the effect of boosters against Omicron, which now accounts for more than 99% of coronavirus cases in the United States. The studies, released Friday, raise the question of whether people with just two vaccine doses should still be considered fully vaccinated.

"I think we have to redefine fully vaccinated as three doses," said Dr. William Schaffner, a longtime CDC vaccine adviser who was not involved with the studies.

The studies have an enormous scope, involving millions of cases, hundreds of thousands of visits to emergency departments and urgent care centers, and tens of thousands of hospitalizations among adults.

Getting boosted was 90% effective at preventing hospitalizations during a period in December and January when Omicron was the dominant variant, according to a CDC study that looked at nearly 88,000 hospitalizations across 10 states.

In comparison, getting two shots was 57% effective when it had been at least six months past the second shot



## Boosters provide the best protection against Omicron variant, CDC studies show, raising new questions about what it means to be fully vaccinated

Getting boosted was 82% effective at preventing visits to emergency rooms and urgent care centers, according to the study, which looked at more than 200,000 visits in 10 states.

In comparison, getting two shots was only 38% effective at preventing those visits when it had been at least six months past the second shot.

"I think it's the third dose that really gives you the solid, the very best protection," Schaffner said.

That study was published Friday in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. A second study, also published in Friday's MMWR, concluded that people with three shots were less likely to get infected with Omicron. Looking at data from 25 state and local health departments, the CDC researchers found that among those who were boosted, there were 149 cases per 100,000 people on average each week. For those who had only two doses, it was 255 cases per 100,000 people.

A third study, published in the medical journal JAMA, showed that having a booster helped prevent people from becoming ill with Omicron. That study of just over 13,000 US Omicron cases found that the odds of developing a symptomatic infection were 66% lower for people who were boosted compared to those who had only received two shots.

All three studies found that unvaccinated people faced the highest risks of becoming sick with Covid-19.

The CDC currently says a person is considered fully vaccinated after they've received their primary Covid-19 vaccines -- two weeks after receiving their second dose of an mRNA vaccine, or two weeks after their first dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Booster doses are recommended for everyone age 12 and older five months after their primary vaccination series.

Less than half of those eligible to receive booster shots have gotten one, and only about a quarter of the total US population is fully vaccinated and boosted, according to CDC data.

Nearly 20% of the US population eligible to be vaccinated -- those age 5 and older -- has not received any dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2022/1/22/US-CDC-study-boosters-against-Omicron-variant.html>



## PAGPAPARAMI NG COVID TEST FACILITY GAWIN AGAD



January 21, 2022 @ 5:53 PM 12 hours ago

INIUTOS mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kamakailan ang pagpaparami ng COVID-19 testing facility sa buong bansa.

Kabilang sa mga naatasang isagawa ito ang Bureau of Quarantine, Department of Transportation at siyempre pa, ang Department of Health.

Nang tanungin si DOH Secretary Francisco Duque, sinabi nitong may nakalaang P7 bilyon para rito, sabay sabing paglalagyan nito ang bawat lalawigan.

Kapag may pondo nang handa sa isang proyekto, pwede nang simulan agad ang proyekto at dapat na mabilis.

Hindi naman problema ang gusali dahil napakaraming ospital at iba pang gusali ng gobyerno o pribadong bakante pupwedeng pagtayaran ng mga testing facility na ito.

Sa pagbili ng mga kagamitan para mabuo ang isang laboratoryo, pagtatayo ng linyang pangkomunikasyon at pagkakaroon ng mga ispesyalista na may training lamang magtatagal.

Mabubuo ba ang testing center, kasama ang katiyakan na ligtas ang mga tauhan nito at paligid na komunidad?

Kung pupwede, aba, dapat masimulan na ang proyekto lalo't walang nakatitiyak kung kailan magtatapos ang pandemya!

### REKLAMO NG MGA OFW, PUNERARYA

Alam ba ninyong hindi lang ang mga overseas Filipino worker ang nagrereklamo sa bagal ng paglabas ng resulta kundi mga punerarya at namatayan?



## PAGPAPARAMI NG COVID TEST FACILITY GAWIN AGAD

Sabi ng mga OFW, mahal at malaki ang gastos nila sa bawat araw na pagtira nila sa mga quarantine hotel at bawat araw na lumipas makaraan silang ma-swab test at maghintay ng 2-4 araw na resulta, lalo silang nabibigatan sa gastos.

Ayon naman sa mga punerarya na hindi pinapayagan ng mga namatayan na ilibing kaagad ang bangkay, nagagastusan sila sa paglalagay sa freezer ng mga bangkay ng kung ilang araw na paghihintay ng resulta ng swab test na kanilang isinasagawa.

Dahil na rin dito, nagagastusan din ang mga pamilya sa mga pribadong testing center na nangangakong mas mabilis ang proseso sa kanila at may mga nag-aalok pa nga ng 24 oras lang na resulta pero mahal.

Meron bang suhulang nagaganap para mapabilis ang paglabas ng resulta?

### REKLAMO NG MGA OBRERO

Dagsa rin ang reklamo ng mga obrero na naghanap ng testing center para sa pag-aaplay o pagbabalik nila sa trabaho dahil ayaw mag-swab test ang mga taga-Rural Health Unit sa rasong nakalaan lang umano ang testing nila sa mga may sintomas ng COVID.

May mga nagbahagi ng kanilang mga karanasan na taga-Sta. Ana at taga-Sta. Praxedes sa lalawigan ng Cagayan.

Dahil sa kawalan ng swab test center malapit sa kanila, kinakailangan nilang pumunta sa Cagayan Valley Medical Center, Tuguegarao City.

Alam ba ninyo ang distansya? 200 kilometro, mga Bro, at kinailangan nilang umarkila ng sasakyan na napakamahal, P3,000-P4,000 para sa round trip, at maghihintay pa sila ng 3-4 araw na resulta.

May bayad din ang reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction na P3,000 hanggang P4,000.

Malaki talagang perwisyo ang kakulangan ng mga testing center kaya dapat nang umaksyon nang mabilis ang mga kinauukulan.



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 678

## ENERO 21, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 8.7%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
**291,618**

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 89.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
**3,012,156**

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.59%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
**53,309**

MGA BAGONG KASO **32,744**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **16,385**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **156**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,357,083**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 19

DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 21  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 19

# 44.0%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 75,335

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS  
**98.4%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

**D** UMISTANSYA NG  
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN  
ANG PISIKAL NA  
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUANG PILIPINAS  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA  
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>51%</b> Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.4K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>52%</b> Utilized
WARD BEDS (14.7K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>54%</b> Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	<b>24%</b> Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>49%</b> Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.8K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>48%</b> Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>56%</b> Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	<b>27%</b> Utilized

9,015 Asymptomatic
277,833 Mild
2,979 Moderate
1,487 Severe
304 Critical

### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

[bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines](https://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines)

### DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777  
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

[bit.ly/OHCCHotline](https://bit.ly/OHCCHotline)

### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

[bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine](https://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine)

SeeYouDoc  
✉ seeyoudoc.com  
📞 SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD  
✉ konsulta.md  
📞 KonsultaMD

CloudPx  
✉ cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate  
✉ medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck  
✉ medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD  
✉ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph  
📞 TelAventusMD

HealthNow  
📍 healthnow.ph/  
✉ help@healthnow.ph  
📱 HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App  
o gamitin ang WEBAPP  
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?  
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)  
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?  
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH  
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH  
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

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

[\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)

22 JANUARY 2022, Saturday



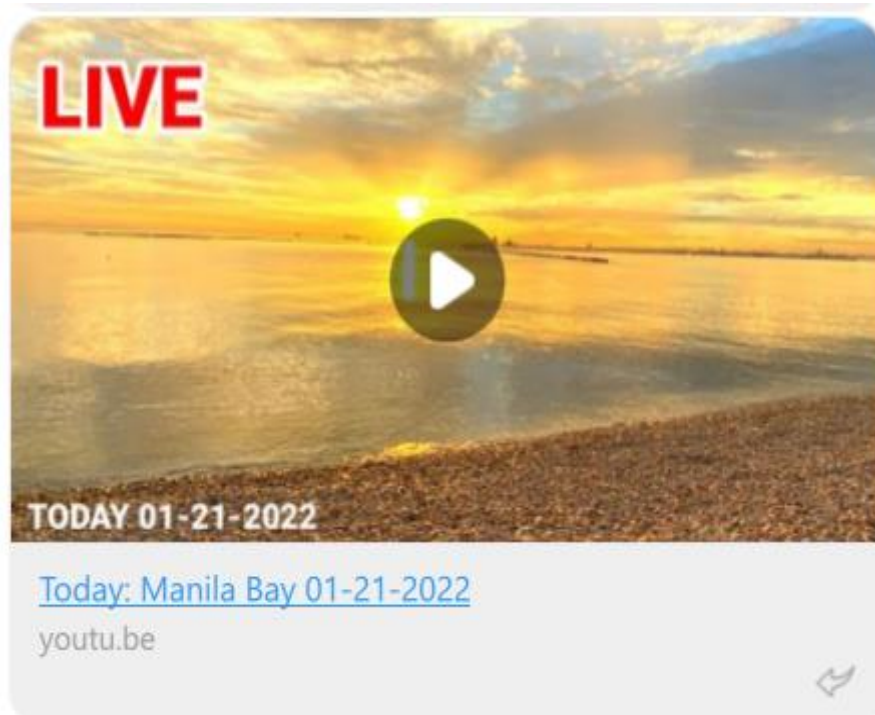
**DENR**

**NEWS**

**ALERTS**

**VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/aaPmrScOdwg>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH  
Today: Manila Bay 01-21-2022  
522 views • Streamed live 12 hours ago

50 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...

**KUYARONS TV**  
99.1K subscribers

#manilabay  
SHOW MORE

**SUBSCRIBE**






**Please click this link:**

Source: [https://youtu.be/Mp\\_OVHuo7hk](https://youtu.be/Mp_OVHuo7hk)

#ManilaBay #DolomiteBeach #WhiteSand  
 May mga pagbabago sa Manila Bay ano ano ito?  
 782 views • 21 Jan 2022

👍 37    🗨 DISLIKE    ➦ SHARE    ≡+ SAVE    ...

 **Lights On You**  
 128K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

Manila Bay Update as of January 20, 2022.

#ManilaBay  
 SHOW MORE




Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/5r8B8ujyHRI>

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay  
MINI-DOLOMITE BEACH GANITO PALA KAHABA?  
5,200 views • 21 Jan 2022

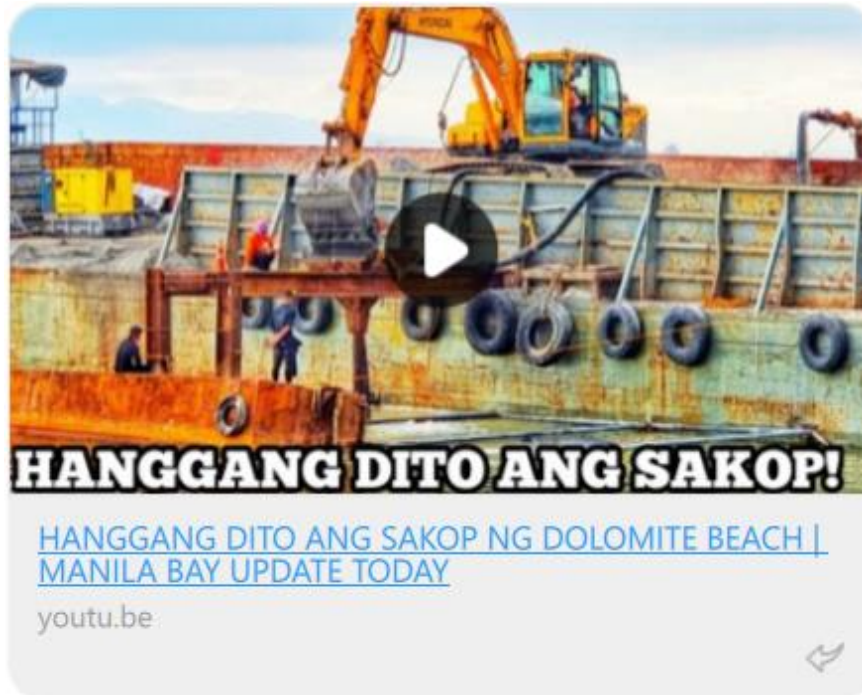
👍 186    🗨️ DISLIKE    ➦ SHARE    ⚙️ SAVE    ...

 **engr. berto**  
192K subscribers

[#ManilaBayUpdate](#) [#DolomiteBeach](#)  
[#BattleForManilaBay](#)

SHOW MORE

[JOIN](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)



**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/ZcZjJ-br2I8>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

HANGGANG DITO ANG SAKOP NG DOLOMITE BEACH | MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY

1,307 views • 21 Jan 2022

44 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...

**KUYARONS TV**  
99.1K subscribers

[#manilabay](#)  
[#dolomitebeach](#)  
MANILA BAY UPDATE 01-21-2022

SHOW MORE

**SUBSCRIBE**



**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/b7RhiY9VrTc>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

### MALA-TITANIC NA BARKO DUMAONG SA MANILA BAY

3,789 views • 21 Jan 2022

👍 98    🗨️ DISLIKE    ➦ SHARE    ≡+ SAVE    ...



**KUYARONS TV**  
99.1K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

mala-titanic na barko dumaing sa manila bay  
[#manilabay](#)

SHOW MORE



**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/3BofBVBU4A4>

#TVPatrol #ABSCBNNews #LatestNews

DOH nakapagtala ng higit 32,000 na bagong kaso ng COVID-19 ngayong January 21 | TV Patrol

376 views • 21 Jan 2022

👍 3    🗨 DISLIKE    ➦ SHARE    💖 THANKS    ⌵ SAVE    ...



**ABS-CBN News** ✓  
13.3M subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 32,744 na bagong kaso ng COVID-19 ngayong araw, January 21.

SHOW MORE