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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## DENR's benefit-sharing scheme to aid rural communities, IPs

BY BUSINESSMIRROR MAY 22, 2022



The Nagoya Protocol is a multilateral treaty that sets up a legal framework for utilizing genetic resources.

The government will implement a benefit-sharing scheme to ensure the Philippines' own "genetic" wealth from endemic plants and animals and give economic opportunities to indigenous people (IP) and poverty-stricken rural communities.

The Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework from the country's genetic wealth will be adopted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in compliance to the Nagoya Protocol, a news release said.

The Nagoya Protocol is an international agreement which aims at sharing the benefits from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. It entered into force on October 12, 2014.

A genetic resource is a physical object of biological origin and the intellectual information associated with it such as traditional knowledge. An example is a native people's knowledge on the use of a plant as treatment for illness.

The poorest of society that come from ancestral domains, such as IPs, in the mountains and rural communities are among targeted beneficiaries of the treaty.

The DENR project will be carried out over six years to be financed under the seventh cycle of the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Development Program.

"The project will increase economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and IPs stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits," according to a memorandum from Director Natividad Y. Bernardino of the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau.

The project costs a total of \$26.015 million. Of this, \$4.384 million is taken up by GEF and \$21.631 million is co-financed by the Philippine government.

Over the last decade, scientific research activities have surged due to the rise of intellectuals and Filipino "Balik Scientists," or returning scientists, from abroad.

These intellectuals were given incentives by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to participate in the local "brain gain."

Filipino researchers have been exploring the production of drugs, pharmaceutical products, natural ingredients for food, clothing and raw materials for home furnishings, commercial products, and industrial products, such as commercial vehicles' accessories.



They have been tapping the country's natural resources of plants and animals from its rich biodiversity.

"Research undertaking with the private sector for possible uptake will be established," according to the report submitted by Assistant Director Sabrina R. Cruz of DENR-Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Services.

The first component of the project, titled "Implementing the National Framework for Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge," is harmonizing policies with the Nagoya Protocol on bioprospecting policies and scientific research.

The policies include commercialization of genetic resources on flora and fauna, or plants and animals.

The Philippines was one of the first countries to implement access and benefit sharing under Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity through Executive Order 275 of 1995.

It has since been amended by the Wildlife Act, or the Republic Act (RA) 9147 and supported by the Indigenous People's Rights Act, or RA 8371 of 1997.

With the DENR-BMB as the lead group in the project, other implementing partners are Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, DENR Regions 3 and 4, Department of Agriculture, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Sorsogon, National Commission on Indigenous People, DOST and local government units.

The second component consists of information dissemination on the national policy on access to these genetic resources.

Policies on Intellectual Property Rights, such as patents and commercial licensing instruments, will be strengthened.

It will carry out capacity building for IPs and local communities in asserting their rights over their Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices.

The third component consists of facilitating negotiation for ABS agreements.

"It will support community protocols for security Prior Informed Consent and Mutually Agreed Terms to ensure fair and equitable sharing of both the monetary and non-monetary benefits of genetic resources."

Image credits: [Learnnagoya.com](http://Learnnagoya.com)



# SAPAs seen giving economic access to IPs

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) May 22, 2022

THE [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) urged holders of memoranda of agreement (MoA) for projects that are considered as special uses in all protected areas, including the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL), to apply for a special use agreement in protected areas or SAPA.

This, as the DENR said that SAPAs aim to provide access and economic opportunities to indigenous peoples.

A SAPA is an agreement between the DENR and a project proponent, which has a term of 25 years and renewable for another 25 years.

Under the [National Integrated Protected Areas System](#) (Nipas) Act of 1992 or the Expanded Nipas (Enipas) Act, special uses may be allowed within protected areas except in strict protection zones and strict nature reserves, subject to compliance with the environmental compliance certificate and payment of corresponding user fee.

The law also states that the Environment secretary has the authority to determine a system-wide set of fees and charges to ensure sustainable financing of protected areas.

"The law requires a certain type of agreement with the DENR on special uses of protected areas. We are bound by this law. The conversion of a MoA into a SAPA is also an opportunity for the DENR to correct its course and to cure defects in the MoA. Such defects include unconstitutional provisions, and provisions that violate the [Enipas Act](#), and the Indigenous Peoples' [Rights Act](#)," DENR Acting Secretary [Jim Sampulna](#) said in a statement on Saturday.

The implementing rules and regulations of the Enipas Act provide that MoAs issued by DENR within protected areas prior to the effectivity of the [Nipas Act](#) shall be converted into SAPA upon satisfactory compliance with requirements.

According to Sampulna, this is the "best possible solution" that the DENR has come up with so far after a series of consultations and meetings with various stakeholders.

The 1987 Constitution sets a limit of 25 years, renewable for another 25 years, for the term of agreements that the state enters into for the exploration, development, and use of natural resources.

A SAPA is the type of agreement applicable to special uses of protected areas.

The rules and regulations implementing the Nipas Act provide that ecotourism is one of the special uses of protected areas.

## Providing economic opportunities

SAPAs aim to provide access and economic opportunities to Indigenous peoples, tenured migrant communities and other [protected area](#) stakeholders; optimize the development of special-use projects consistent with the principles of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in cooperation with stakeholders; guide the development of the zones of protected areas under their management objectives; and provide a revenue stream for the sustainable management of protected areas.



Under a MoA signed in 2017, the DENR has given a perpetual land trust to the [Masungi Georeserve Foundation](#).

The MoA did not have the free, prior informed consent of the Indigenous people whose ancestral domain overlaps with the 2,700 hectares covered by the MoA. It also does not provide for the payment of user fees.

In 2018, the DENR issued DENR Administrative Order 2018-05, Addendum to DENR Administrative Order 2007-17 on the Rules and Regulations Governing Special Uses within Protected Areas, which states that "all existing Memorandum of Agreement on Special Uses within Protected Area shall be converted into SAPA in accordance with DAO 2007-17 and this order."

Meanwhile, [Biodiversity Management Bureau](#) (BMB) Director [Natividad Bernardino](#) said the DENR welcomes development partners that are as passionate as the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

"I believe that the aims of the DENR and the foundation are the same. We just have to ensure that cooperation with development partners conform with the law and policy, such as provision of sustainable financing of the protected areas system through payment of user fees," Bernardino said.

She vowed to work with the concerned stakeholders and government officials in determining a fair, equitable, and sustainable agreement towards common goals.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/05/22/business/sunday-business-it/sapas-seen-giving-economic-access-to-ips/1844519?fbclid=IwAR2wzuW6rpEYCBsZbxaE4qcK7AupJqsZIYcgbZU3LvVQLEArvNmIZpXSauw>



# Coral nursery, pawikan site rise at Subic

By [Mahatma Randy V. Datu](#) May 22, 2022



PARTNERSHIP OF STAKEHOLDERS SBMA Chairman and Administrator Rolen Paulino (center) signs the Memorandum of Partnership Agreement with Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer of Zambales Marife Castillo (second from left), Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc. Chairman Mark Dayrit (second from right), Jose Rodriguez of Sangkalikasan, and Col. Fernando Cunanan Jr. of the PNP Regional Maritime Unit for the protection of marine turtles and rehabilitation of coral reefs in Subic Bay. PHOTO BY MAHATMA RANDY DATU

A [CORAL](#) garden nursery and pawikan preservation site will soon rise at the [Subic Bay Freeport](#).

Representatives from the Subic Bay [Metropolitan Authority](#) (SBMA) and other stakeholders inside this premier freeport signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) on Friday at the [All Hands Beach Resort](#).

SBMA Chairman and Administrator [Rolen Paulino](#) said the sea turtle nest preservation and coral garden nursery construction projects shall be constructed in partnership with the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#)' (DENR) Provincial Environment and [Natural Resources Office](#) (Penro), PNP [Regional Maritime](#) Unit 3, [Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc.](#), and [Sangkalikasan Producer Cooperative](#).

"The SBMA aims to restore balance in our ecosystem, which will also be beneficial to our tourism industry. We want to preserve the wildlife inside the Subic Bay Freeport while maintaining the area as the number one tourist destination in Central Luzon," Paulino said.

He said that All Hands Beach Resort is one of the tourist destinations in Subic Freeport that has maintained a good balance between tourism and eco-conservation.

"It is not just the responsibility of the agency to clean and preserve the ecosystem of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. This should also be the responsibility of the various stakeholders here," he said.

Penro Zambales Director [Marife Castillo](#) said that May has been declared the Month of the Ocean and the best way to celebrate it is to establish a coral garden nursery.

The garden is a coral augmentation project that aims to grow corals within an area, she said.

According to the agreement, Penro will assist in monitoring and managing marine turtle hatcheries, solicit the participation of stakeholders, rehabilitate degraded marine turtle habitats by enhancing the recovery of mangroves and coral reefs, and assign a wildlife enforcement officer.



Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc., the company that owns and operates the All Hands Beach Resort, has also collaborated with the SBMA and the DENR in the implementation of the marine turtle nesting site project inside its resort.

Brighterday Chairman [Mark Dayrit](#) said the resort has already released around 8,000 sea turtle hatchlings since it opened in 2012. Under the MoA, the company will monitor the pawikan sightings and the coral augmentation work.

Dayrit added that the company will also provide logistical support to the SBMA Harbor Patrol in the conduct of maintenance and protection activities.

Sangkalikasan Producer Cooperative, meanwhile, will conduct a baseline assessment and monthly monitoring of reef buds. The cooperative will spearhead the monitoring, maintenance and protection of the site of the coral nursery garden.

Meanwhile, Regional Maritime Unit 3 chief Col. [Fernando Cunanan Jr.](#) said that aside from their usual mandate as police officers, part of their duty is to protect the environment.

He said that his unit has arrested thousands for illegal poaching and 30 people involved in the illegal trade of wildlife.

The official said they cannot do this without the help of the community, citing that to protect the community needs the involvement of each and every one.

The agreement included a coastal cleanup drive where "Scubasureros" collected underwater trash near the All Hands Beach Resort.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/05/22/news/regions/coral-nursery-pawikan-site-rise-at-subic/1844574?fbclid=IwAR13czhNLstjmfKQV1pPTpD-4BjggWgV-8Hejfx57F8oJh7xjSgHN27OZ9w>



## War on waste in Cavite

A school principal's advocacy can help save the rivers.

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 22, 2022



[Gregg Yan/Pemsea photo](#)

School Principal Rhodora Sacramento of Mabolo Elementary School in Bacoor, Cavite, shows how easy it is to stuff junk food plastic packages into used bottles and turn them into something useful like bottle bricks.

For school principal Rhodora Sacramento, it is best to teach schoolchildren what they need to learn other than solving math, doing their science assignments or coming up with amazing science projects.

The principal at Mabolo Elementary School in Bacoor, Cavite, Sacramento said they should also learn how to be neat and tidy, including how to make their environment clean and green.



[Gregg Yan/Pemsea photo](#)

Bottle bricks can be used as fence or pathway guide in schools and homes.

This was how she began her advocacy when she was still a teacher at Real Elementary School in 2016. Sacramento led a project teaching the more than 800 elementary pupils to turn used plastic bottles into bottle bricks.

They collect wrappers of candy or junk food, cut them into small strips and stuff them tightly inside the plastic bottles.

When full, the bottle bricks were used as fence and pathway guides in the school or even at the children's homes.

### Turning garbage into gold

"It's fun and easy," she told the BusinessMirror in a mix of English and Filipino on May 17.





Sacramento has been waging War on Waste (WOW) with the help of an army of young public-school students.

She is leading the program to minimize garbage in school by convincing students to stuff plastic wrappers into bottles, giving them eco-bags and persuading them to throw used bottles and cans in convenient wire-framed baskets.

Sacramento said there's money in garbage if you know how to find them.

She said the collected bottles and cans from school projects can be sold to recyclers.

One time the school's sales proceeds reached P2,500 in just the first three months of the program, that was enough to fund one of the school organization's Christmas party.

### **Construction materials**

In one of Sacramento's school projects, bottle bricks were traded with Robinsons Hypermart Bacoor for canvas eco-bags.

The bottle bricks were used to build homes for the Yangil tribe in Zambales, while the eco-bags were distributed to Cavite students' use.

Meanwhile, to motivate students to maintain the school's cleanliness, certificates and prizes were awarded to the cleanest rooms at the end of the school year.

### **War on Waste**

"Our War on Waste has drastically reduced the garbage [the school] has been generating. From around 20 garbage bags a week, they were down to five," said Sacramento, now the principal at Mabolo Elementary School that is waging its own war against solid waste.

Getting rid of plastic waste prevents them from ending and clogging canals, creeks and rivers—or worse, polluting oceans and breaking down into smaller but even deadlier microplastics.

She said there are more solutions that can be developed and shared by other schools across the country that will lead to a cleaner, healthier environment, which she admitted needs a lot of care.

### **Advocacy**

"When we started our advocacy in Real [Elementary School], there was a river that I really love and want to see it clean. Sadly, I haven't been there for a while," she confided.

She added that her transfer from one school to another never stopped her from her advocacy.

Sacramento expressed hope that her campaign in Real will be sustained, and that her colleagues will continue even after they transfer to other schools by teaching the schoolchildren the discipline to help cut down the country's perennial garbage problem.

However, because of the pandemic schools were closed to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and the projects stopped, said Evelyn Resuello, a science teacher at Real Elementary School.

### **Discipline instilled**

Nevertheless, Resuello told the BusinessMirror on May 18 that the projects on solid waste in Real instilled in every pupil the discipline that needs replication in schools.

"When we implemented the project, we were very happy to see our students participating in the activities. Sometimes, we could see them racing to fill their plastic bottles [with plastic scraps] and you could see them picking up plastics within the school compound," she said



“Right now, our face-to-face [classes] is very limited. The [pupils] that are required to go to school don’t go to canteens because they only spend half of the day, then go straight home,” she said. “In case regular [face-to-face] classes resume, we will continue to implement this project,” she added.

‘We need champions’

Sought for comment by the BusinessMirror, Vice Chairman Crispian Lao of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) said the Philippines need more real-life champions in schools to teach the younger generation to learn the value of proper solid waste management.

“By teaching them to properly dispose of their waste, you solve half of the problem already,” said Lao, who sits as a private sector representative to the NSWMC.

Lao said the NSWMC is working closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Education (DepEd) in order to integrate a module on solid waste management to be taught in schools.

He added that if every student learns the discipline to dispose of their plastic waste properly, they can also adopt this at home and help to effectively cut down the country’s garbage problem.

## **Garbage producer**

Cavite is one of the biggest producers of solid waste because of its big population.

According to the Environmental Management Bureau, Cavite generated an average of 1,514 tons of solid waste daily in 2018, with 22 percent, or 333 tons, of which could be recycled.

With this huge volume of waste, the threat that some of them could end up in Manila Bay is real.

For one, the Imus River that traverses the highest waste-generating cities in Cavite—Bacoor, Dasmariñas and Imus—has become a conveyor belt for leaked plastic waste flowing out to Manila Bay,

## **Project Aseano**

An international initiative is aiding in making Imus River plastic-free.

Project Aseano that is funded by the government of Norway is being led by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research, and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies Indonesia.

It is in close collaboration with the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (Pemsea) Resource Facility and the Asean Secretariat under the purview of the endorsing Asean sectoral body, the Asean Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment.

Project Aseano promotes the development of sound and sustainable measures to reduce the impacts of plastic pollution and their implications on socio-economic development and the environment.

The project focuses at the local level, with Cavite’s Imus River as one of two sites in Southeast Asia.

The results of the project will be synthesized into knowledge products, such as an LGU toolkit and best practices policy handbook, monitoring tools, and technologies for plastics management that can be used as a reference by local governments across the Asean region with similar priority management concerns.



## Reducing garbage

In a news release, Dr. Ed Lineses of De La Salle University Dasmariñas, who led part of the Project Aseano's series of studies, said residents could do a lot to minimize the trash they generate.

"On the household level, they should start with proper segregation, separating waste from items that can still be reused, salvaged or recycled," he said.

"Households can also choose not to use plastic. There are many things we can buy without using plastic packaging. Policy-makers should also be more creative in finding ways to incentivize the refusal of plastics by collaborating with sellers, giving them sensible incentives to minimize their reliance on single-use plastics," Lineses added.

Through the efforts of local champions like school principal Rhodora, Asean waterways might soon become a bit cleaner and clearer, he said.

"If a war on waste is what it takes to clean our rivers, then so be it. Schools are one avenue, apart from households, to educate young people on the three Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle. The youth are destined to inherit the future, but how it looks shall depend on what they choose to do today," said Pemsea Executive Director Aimee Gonzales.

Image credits: [Gregg Yan/Pemsea photo](#)



# 10-metrong sinkhole lumutang sa Taal, Phivolcs inalerto

By [Arnell Ozaeta](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - May 22, 2022 - 12:00am



Ang sinkhole na lumutang sa harapan ng bahay ng isang residente sa Brgy. Apacay sa bayan ng Taal sa Batangas nitong Miyerkules.  
Arnell Ozaeta

## Dahil sa mga pag-ulan at pagbaha...

BATANGAS, Philippines — Inalerto kahapon ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Taal ang Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) matapos na lumutang ang may 10-metrong lalim na sinkhole sa isang barangay kasunod ng walang humpay na mga pag-ulan at pagbaha sa lalawigang ito.

Ayon sa residenteng si Pepito Balbacal, nadiskubre nito ang paglitaw ng sinkhole sa entrance gate ng kanilang bahay matapos ang malakas na pag-ulan sa Barangay Apacay.

“Bago pa man mabuo ang sinkhole ay may mga bitak na akong nakita sa bahay bunsod ng pagputok ng bulkan pero ‘di naman gumuho ang lupa nito,” ani Balbacal

Naniniwala si Balbacal na posibleng lumambot na ang lupa sa ilalim ng kanilang bahay na nagbunsod para lumikha ng sinkhole matapos ang pagbaha sa kanilang lugar. Agad niyang ipinaalam ito sa kanilang barangay at munisipyo sa pangambang tuluyan nang gumuho ang kanyang bahay.

Mabilis namang kinordonan ang bahay ni Balbacal para maiwasan ang aksidente. Suwerte naman at walang nasaktan o namatay na residente sa pagbitak ng lupa o paglitaw ng sinkhole sa Barangay Apacay.

Bunsod nito, iniutos ni Taal Mayor Pong Mercado na isarado ang barangay road na apektado ng sinkhole.

Sa kabila nito, hiniling ni Balbacal sa mga local officials na tabunan na lang ang sinkhole pero tumanggi si Mercado habang inaantay ang mga opinyon ng mga eksperto mula sa Phivolcs at Department of Environment and Natural resources (DENR) Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Humingi na rin ng tulong si Mercado sa Office of Civil Defense para ma-survey ang lugar at alamin kung anong lugar ang hindi na maaaring tayuan ng bahay dahil sa sinkhole.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2022/05/22/2182807/10-metrong-sinkhole-lumutang-sa-taal-phivolcs-inalerto/amp/>



ABS-CBN News

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Isang 10-talampakang sawa at mga itlog nito ang nakita sa kasagsagan ng pag-ulan sa Barangay Natividad, Guagua, Pampanga Huwebes.

Nakita ito sa bakuran ng pamilya ni Thom Serrano nang mag-ingay ang mga manok, na ang isa'y tinuklaw na pala ng ahas.

Pinatay ng mga residente ang sawa sa takot na makapanuklaw pa ito ng iba. Pinisa rin nila ang 10 itlog nito.

Madalas na payo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na kapag nakakita ng sawa o iba pang wildlife, ipaalam ito sa mga awtoridad para masagip. (📷: Serrano) | via Gracie Rutao

BASAHIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../alamin-bakit-may-lumalabas...>

See Translation



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# Averting the carbon tsunami

[BREAKTHROUGH](#) - [Elfren S. Cruz](#) - The Philippine Star May 22, 2022 | 12:00am

Our struggle to combat climate change is described as “fighting the last war” by Kelly Sims Gallagher in her article “The Coming Carbon Tsunami” in the January/February 2022 issue of Foreign Affairs, an American magazine published six times a year by the Council on Foreign Relations, a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization and think tank specializing in US foreign policy and international affairs. Its first issue dates back to September 1922, a few months short of a hundred years today.

As it said then, it “will tolerate wide differences of opinion. Its articles will not represent any consensus of beliefs. What is demanded of them is that they shall be competent and well informed, representing honest opinions seriously held and convincingly expressed....”

It is a favorite journal of mine and today, the article on climate change draws special interest, especially because of the author’s credentials. Gallagher is academic dean and professor of energy and environmental policy and director of the Climate Policy Lab at Tuft University’s Fletcher School. She was also Senior Policy Adviser in the White House’s Office of Science and Technology during the Obama administration.

So what is the grim news of tsunami proportion? Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, countries have released one and a half trillion metric tons of carbon dioxide into the world’s atmosphere, with the largest coming from, in this order, United States, European countries, China, Russia. Today, they have all emerged prosperous enough to be able to afford policies that can place them on the path to net-zero emissions by the middle of the century. Thus, the top emitting countries would come from the developing world, from countries such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa. These are countries which face the “herculean task” of freeing millions from poverty and adapting to the often painful realities of climate change.

Note how we have in our own country acknowledged how vulnerable we are geographically to nature’s wrath and how the very segment of our population that can least build up and pick up their lives after such ravages is lamentably, always the most adversely affected.

The scenario is not easy to accept. While the efforts of today’s largest polluters to curb emissions is noteworthy, these remain futile if less developed countries cannot pursue their own low-carbon development strategy. The environment needs to be preserved, but simultaneous with such efforts must be to address the poverty problems of millions of people.

Despite four major climate agreements and dire warnings from scientists, greenhouse gas emissions from all sources increased by 58 percent between 1990 and 2020. Why have global efforts seem unable to meet set goals?

First, in the Paris agreement as with other global environmental agreements, countries do not face harsh consequences for missing their set targets. There is no enforcement mechanism to make the 193 countries honor their submitted nationally determined targets.

Second, emerging economies and industrialized economies have not successfully developed a model of economic growth that does not rely on “fossil fuels and energy-intensive industrialization.” It is pointed out that Japan, South Korea and China adopted the East Asian development model and have emerged among the top ten emitters today. China is attempting to reduce its carbon intensity by switching to renewables and nuclear energy, “but its abandonment of coal” has been slow.



Third, public and private capital for developing countries has not been sufficient for green energy projects. It is said that the International Energy Agency has estimated \$4 trillion in annual investments in clean energy is required to decarbonize the global energy system. In Paris, there was the commitment made to mobilize \$100 billion each year for developing countries by 2020. That pledge has not been kept.

There is an encouraging tone about arresting the next wave of emissions, as the article concludes, as both developed and developing countries manifest leadership in meeting the challenge that the crisis presents. An example is Indonesia, which is about to institute a modest carbon tax on coal plants, with Mexico and South Africa with carbon taxes already in place. China has finalized a national emission-trading system for power plants and Kazakhstan has its own emission-trading regime. Ethiopia has an economic strategy that focuses on green development with plans to expand electricity supply from renewables – and a reforestation program to boot.

One wonders and fervently hopes the Philippines is developing its own program to address climate change.

It must again be repeated that these developing countries cannot do it all, entirely on their own – financing and policy support is needed, even as the world's two largest economies, the United States and China, have not shown climate leadership.

Gallagher calls this “abdication of leadership” as a sign that the ball is now in the court of major developing countries, like India, Indonesia and South Africa to lead the way to a new approach. They have shown their capability for innovation but again, need assistance in terms of resources and policy from developed countries to transition to low-carbon development medals.

This support from the rich economies who have, after all, become wealthy by “pumping the lion’s share of carbon into the atmosphere” is the only way to go, to meet this carbon tsunami head on.

\* \* \*

Young Writers’ Hangout on May 28 with Joyce Bernales (“The Secret of Good Stories”), 2 -3 p.m. Write Things’ six-day summer workshop “Writefest” (now on its 8th year) has begun with guest author Edgar Samar and continues till May 27, 3-4:30 pm every session. Our second special guest is poet Dinah Roma. Workshop facilitators are Roel SR Cruz and Sofi Bernedo. It’s high time our young writers get to know our Philippine authors!

Contact [writethingsph@gmail.com](mailto:writethingsph@gmail.com). 0945.2273216  
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## Storytelling and climate science

[POINT OF VIEW](#) - [Carissa Pobre](#), [Padmapani L. Perez](#) - The Philippine Star May 22, 2022 | 12:00am

Science and policy dominate the arenas of decision-making on climate change. From multilateral negotiations to pivotal assessment reports and international conferences, science and policy are essential to understanding the scale of the crisis and the pathways that can bring humanity back to safer shores. They are essential but also insufficient, especially if we aim to restore a sense of collective public agency – something so sorely lacking in negotiations for our common future.

More than ever, we need storytelling, arts and the humanities to generate new ways of responding to the challenge we face, which science has already sketched out for policymakers. Art touches our deepest emotions. Often we are compelled to act and move by our feelings more than by reason or logic. Artists and writers can make the invisible visible, revealing surprising connections we may have never considered before. They can change the way we perceive things and the way we act. We need their work – we need the humanities – far more than we think. Even science and policy rely on stories.

Today, language wielded in climate discourse is riddled with jargon, clichés and hot keywords. The words feel tired and worse, alienating, in the way they describe the state of our world: carbon footprint, mitigation, adaptation, slow onset events, fossil fuel, mainstreaming and sustainable development.

When technical expertise is privileged as the penultimate solution to climate-related issues, we tend to lose sight of the personal loss and grief accompanying the changes taking place in our very homes. Worse, we also lose the buoyancy of hope we will need as many confront deadly tides of despair and accelerated dispossession.

The impacts of climate change go beyond numbers defining degrees of temperature increase, billions of pesos in damage, thousands of families displaced, kilowatt hours of energy wasted or the cold economics behind reducing emissions. Yet we forget, and this forgetting leads many to believe the crisis is a far off reality or someone else's concern. But it isn't.

Consider this instead:

“Maybe forsaking my village and living in the city makes me a coward like everybody else. But I have to be a man and do what is necessary to get on with life. And am I not better off now? Here I am. I am back and I am ready to take my parents with me to a life of comfort in the city. But when Ibu hears my invitation, she retreats into the house. Bapak turns away from me as I plead with him to leave Limboto Lake.”

This is from the short story *Legacy*, written in Bahasa Indonesia by Darmawati Majid and translated into English by Nabiha Shahab. The story alludes to the complex histories and painful decisions that lead many young people to leave their homes, not just in Indonesia but also in the Philippines, Botswana, Colombia and other places hammered by droughts, floods, super typhoons and the violence of mining and logging. Reading this story is so different from studying policy papers on climate-related migration. We do not call ourselves climate refugees. Not yet.

Of the moot but persistent question on whether climate change is anthropogenic, the Congolese writer Fiston Mwanza Mujila counters in the poem, *Prayer of a Child of the World*:

“but is Bende to blame?”





has anyone actually seen Bende putting his nose to the grindstone of this nonsense?

is it Bende who butchers the forests?

... have you seen Bende manufacturing trains, boats, planes and other things of that sort?"

For the Luba people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bende connotes God.

What if the urgent calls to end coal and fossil fuels were also a loving mother's words of advice?

"One sniff would be too much... Released from Earth, it becomes a Monster. Kept in Earth, all is at peace."

So speaks a woman widowed by a coal mining accident in the story Full Moon by Xiaojun Wang. As the woman's daughter prepares for marriage, she hopes to protect her child from the pain and loss she went through.

In Nice Voice, the Marshallese poet and climate envoy Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner writes of the way stories are tempered or erased in climate negotiations.

"Don't focus so much on the 'doom and gloom' they keep saying. We don't want to depress. Everyone. This is only our survival."

These excerpts are from the anthology Harvest Moon: Poems and Stories From the Edge of the Climate Crisis. Contributors to the anthology were given a list of 32 words and phrases that they were not allowed to use. The list included mainstays such as "global warming," "natural disaster," "adaptation finance," "paradigm shift," "neoliberal" and "climate change" itself.

Contributors were asked to respond to black and white photographs that captured people and their environments. The result of this creative process is a collection of over 30 literary pieces reshaping how climate change is conveyed and given meaning.

We do not need to lean on jargon. On the contrary, the very institutions that produce jargon need stories to get their messages across.

We still have time to do what's necessary in order to prevent the more cruel and devastating impacts of climate change from worsening. In challenging assumptions and reimagining how we can survive and thrive together, art and the humanities can and will move and guide us through this period of planetary crisis.

\* \* \*

The authors are strategists for creative collaboration and communication of the Agam Agenda, a special project of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC). Harvest Moon is available in selected bookstores and on Shopee and Lazada.



# Tarlac residents, fisherfolk receive training to protect rivers

By [Jerry M. Hernandez](#) May 22, 2022

SAN CLEMENTE, Tarlac: Realizing the need to help protect the planet's bodies of water, 40 residents and fisherfolk here took part in a training to invigorate and rehabilitate the [Maasin River](#). The training was organized by the [Bureau of Fisheries](#) and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) under its Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (Basil) program. Locals were trained to safeguard and repopulate inland water resources including lakes and rivers, dams and reservoirs toward sustainable fish production. BFAR Central [Luzon Regional](#) Director [Wilfredo Cruz](#) noted the potential for socioeconomic advancement upon the proper implementation of the Basil program in the area. "I did not think twice about coming here because there is a need to raise people and the local government's awareness of what the river has to offer and what can be done to keep it abundant with fish," he said. Aside from the training, Cruz also led the communal stockpiling of fingerlings. Basil is a nationwide program that seeks to grow the volume of fish in inland water resources and increase the income of fisherfolk. It was set up to solve the virtually decimated indigenous fish species in the major lakes and rivers of the country.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/05/22/news/regions/tarlac-residents-fisherfolk-receivetraining-to-protect-rivers/1844558?fbclid=IwAR1od7CIcwzzUrD0OpIU8LExUqmwzwhbUFhqsUVDRzXQub4ynrys3cO50rY>



# MMDA PUSPUSAN ANG PAGLILINIS NG MGA ESTERO SA KAMAYNILAAN

by [Airiam Sancho](#) May 21, 2022



Puspusan ang paglilinis ng MMDA o Metropolitan Manila Development Authority sa mga daluyan ng tubig sa Kamaynilaan para maiwasan ang pagbaha ngayong tag-ulan.

Ayon kay MMDA general manager Frisco San Juan Jr., nililinis na ng kanilang mga tauhan ang mga estero at kanal para masigurong hindi ito barado.

Nabatid na idineklara na ng pagasa ang pagsisimula ng panahon ng tag-ulan nitong Miyerkules.



# Bangkay ng balyena napadpad sa Davao Occidental

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 21 2022 10:50 PM



*Kuha ni Matthew Rafael Medel*

Isang patay na balyena ang napadad sa dalampasigan ng Barangay Sugal sa bayan ng Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental nitong Sabado ng umaga.

Ayon kay Matthew Rafael Medel na nakakuha ng mga litrato at video, hindi napansin ng mga residente ang balyena dahil may kalayuan ang lugar sa mga bahay.

Sabado ng hapon, dumating ang Philippine Coast Guard sa lugar. Nakatakdang isailalim sa necropsy ang mga labi ng balyena para malaman ang dahilan ng pagkamatay nito.

Ayon kay Darrell Blatchley, isang marine biologist at bone collector, isang adult sperm whale ang nasabing balyena.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/21/22/bangkay-ng-balyena-napadpad-sa-davao-occidental?fbclid=IwAR1aYzR0bvvxEQhAJxrhP3aKk4yNp\\_kUfN\\_YrY\\_LJK\\_QyrI\\_yLNQC4jt9Nk](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/21/22/bangkay-ng-balyena-napadpad-sa-davao-occidental?fbclid=IwAR1aYzR0bvvxEQhAJxrhP3aKk4yNp_kUfN_YrY_LJK_QyrI_yLNQC4jt9Nk)



## Pollution kills 9M people a year

BYBLOOMBERG NEWS MAY 22, 2022

### Killer Pollution

Premature deaths from all sources of pollution in 2019

Country	Deaths
India	2,357,267
China	2,177,460
Nigeria	357,760
Pakistan	308,800
Indonesia	263,344
Bangladesh	215,824
United States	142,883
Ethiopia	126,538
Egypt	111,790
Democratic Republic of the Congo	101,587

Source: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation; Pure Earth

**Bloomberg Green**

Premature deaths from common pollution sources have risen by two-thirds globally since 2000, a dark consequence of the economic development that has lifted millions from extreme poverty this century.

More than 90 percent of the deaths have occurred in rapidly developing low- and middle-income countries, according to research published on Wednesday in *The Lancet Planetary Health*.

As population and wealth in poorer countries have increased over the last two decades, so have the number of power plants, goods manufacturers and cars on the road.

This is having deadly consequences in areas where pollution mitigation standards have not been put in place, according to Richard Fuller, lead author and founder of both the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution network and the nonprofit Pure Earth.

“Growth without care can be very costly, with the impact on future generations being far more expensive than the immediate benefit,” he said.

Pollution causes more than 9 million deaths each year globally. While most of those are attributed to air pollution, lead and other chemicals are responsible for at least 1.8 million deaths each year—and the actual number might be much higher.

The study notes that the ubiquity of chemical pollutants in the modern environment has made them a silent threat.

“I assumed that we would see these problems in air pollution,” Fuller said. “But I was really stunned to see that the chemicals agenda is almost as big as the air pollution agenda.”

Around two-thirds of the world’s chemical production is now in low- and middle-income countries.

Globally, chemical production has grown at a rate of 3.5 percent a year since 2000 and today’s output is expected to double by 2030.

Only a small percentage of industrial chemicals have gone through rigorous safety studies, which means that their actual impact is unknown, according to the research.



Lead remains a top-level concern and was linked to 900,000 premature deaths in 2019, despite every country in the world removing it from gasoline.

Pure Earth and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund in 2020 estimated that up to 800 million children have high lead levels in their blood—one in three.

The causes range from unsafe recycling of car batteries to use of lead in turmeric as a color enhancer.

Lead poisoning can reduce a child's IQ by three to five points. That means, Fuller said, they lose the equivalent of a year of education and resulting earnings potential, and that mass lead poisoning can shave points of GDP off of entire countries.

Not all the health impacts of economic development have been bad. Poverty reduction brought benefits to some of the world's poorest people as cases of disease from sanitation and indoor cooking ticked down, a rare encouraging conclusion in the analysis.

Potential solutions include air- and water-quality monitoring, chemical safety programs and comprehensive government policy, all of which have been proven to work in developed countries, where some pollution has declined for decades.

Specific collaborations between public and private institutions, called Health and Pollution Action Plans, have led to advances in countries where industrial and health ministries previously hadn't worked together to prioritize the problem.

Air pollution kills 6.7 million people a year. A little less than two-thirds of the premature deaths come from fine particulate matter.

The number of men whose deaths were attributable to this form of pollution was 44 percent higher than the number of women, who were slightly more susceptible to water pollution.

The trends were similar to the those in The Lancet Commission on pollution and health's 2017 review, a sign that countries are failing to address persistent, avoidable causes of premature death.

Fuller said acute crises, such as the pandemic, draw attention away from more chronic plagues.

"The reality is we can multitask and do multiple things at once," he said.

The analysis is based on global health data collected by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. **Bloomberg News**

22 MAY 2022, SUNDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



TITLE:

## Mining sector delivered even during pandemic -- DENR

By Joel dela Torre

**ENVIRONMENT** Acting Secretary Jim Sampilna has cited the mining sector's contribution to the country's economy saying even during the pandemic stretch, it delivered.

According to Sampilna, the mining industry has played a major role in the economic discovery through sustained support for responsible mining and establishment of mineral processing plants.

In his speech during the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Joint Consultative Meeting on mining concerns in Northern Mindanao and Zamboanga Peninsula, the DENR chief said, "Even during the pandemic, the mining industry was able to boost our country's gross domestic product (GDP) by P102.3 billion in 2020, and by P22.3 billion in the first quarter of 2021."

The speech was read by

Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.

Adobo pointed out that if responsible and sustainable utilization of resources continues, the mining industry's contribution to GDP would be "100 percent of what the sector is contributing today, and maybe more."

"There are even numbers saying it would be in trillions," he said.

However, the official emphasized that mining activities should be done with due regard to the en-

vironment.

For his part, MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said the DENR aims to reach a globally competitive mineral sector with the establishment of mineral processing plants across the country.

"The economic contribution of having mineral processing plants in the country is 7 to 12 times more than the current set-up; and that is direct shipping of minerals produced.

If we have these processing plants, we will have bigger shares of exports, revenues, taxes, and fees," Moncano said.





# DENR, NBI offices score lowest in energy efficiency ratings

By MYRNA M. VELASCO

The regional offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) scored the lowest rating in terms of energy efficiency and conservation measures being implemented on government agencies all over the country.

Based on the report from spot checks carried out by the Department of Energy (DOE), which is spearheading the Inter-Agency Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee (IAEECC), the DENR office in Region VI and the NBI regional office in La Union just registered 2-star rating in their energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) performance.

The DOE has set 5-star as the highest rating for EE&C performance and a failing mark of 1-star, which will also entail penalty payment by the head of the agency.

Another agency that logged 2-star rating had been the Pangasinan regional office of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), a government body that is overseeing and protecting the well-being of Filipino workers overseas.

As prescribed under Republic Act 11285 or the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, government agencies are mandated to achieve 10-percent savings on their electricity consumption as well as on fuel usage of their transport fleet with regular monitoring of their performance by the DOE-led IAEECC.

Government agencies that will register ratings of 2-star, 3-star and 4-star will have to be instructed to improve on their energy efficiency and conservation practices until they can hurdle the highest score of 5-star rating.

Of the national agencies already subjected to spot checks, the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) registered relatively low rating of 3-star while the Department of Agriculture (DA) got 4-star rating.

As culled from the report, the DOE and other agencies in the energy sector garnered 5-star rating, including the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and its subsidiary PNOC-Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC) as well as the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), National Electrification Administration; National Transmission Corporation, Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and the National Power Corporation.

Further, the agencies managing the

country's economy also scored highest 5-star rating and these included the Department of Trade and Industry; Department of Finance, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Philippine Statistics Authority; National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Tariff Commission.

The other agencies which secured 5-star EE rating are: the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; National Telecommunications Commission (NTC); Land Transportation Office; National Water and Resources Board (NWRB); Department of Information and Communications Technology; Dangerous Drugs Board; Department of Agrarian Reform; Philippine Coconut Authority; National Food Authority; Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority; and the Mindanao Development Authority.

The others which clinched the highest EE rating have been: the national headquarters of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology; Court of Tax Appeals; Philippine Competition Commission; Office of the Ombudsman; Governance Commission for Government-owned and Controlled Corporations; Development Bank of the Philippines; Manila Naval Hospital; Philippine Navy; Philippine Institute for Development Studies; National Intelligence Coordination Agency, Commission on Audit; Civil Service Commission and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The energy department indicated that most of the agencies given 3-star and 4-star ratings are regional offices sited in various parts of the country.

The DOE report showed that those with 3-star rating had been the regional offices VI and VII of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); PSA regional office VI; Region VII office of the National Youth Commission (NYC); Davao-Region XI office of the Commission on Human Rights; Davao-Region XI DENR office; Davao-Region XI office of the DOT; La Union Region I Office of the Civil Defense (OCD); La Union Region I office of the PSA; Region VI office of the DICT; Region VII office of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA); Region VII DOT office; Region VIII LTO office; Region XI CHR office; Region VII office of the Department of Education; Region VII CHR office; Region VII office of the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority; Cebu provincial office of NCIP; Region XI office of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG); Region XI Prosecution Office of the Department of Justice (DOJ); and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority-Mactan Economic Zone.



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# Microplastics no small harm to PH fishermen

## SPECIAL REPORT

By **Krixia Subingsubing**  
@krixiasINQ

(First of two parts)

For decades, the fisherfolk of Mambacayao Island—a small islet that is part of the Bantayan group of islands in northern Cebu—depended on the rich Tañon Strait for their livelihood.

John Ortega said that in the past, the small boats that he and other fishermen used would almost capsize from the weight of the 20 kilos of fish that each of them caught daily. They would sell their haul of groupers, mackerel, herring and even manta rays and baby sharks in the local markets and some they'd whip into sumptuous dishes at home.

Now, he said they would be lucky to get two kilos from a whole day out at sea. What are now caught in their nets are mostly plastic and other garbage that are contaminating one of the largest marine protected areas in the country.

"Before, we would only see that on TV images of turtles that have straws in their noses," Ortega said. "Now when we cut open some fish, we would find traces of plastic. [We're] worried that we've been eating contaminated fish."

Science is backing his fears. A 2021 study by the Coastal Resources and Ecotourism Research, Development and Extension Center (Crerdec) of the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) have found traces of microplastics, or plastic debris, in at least 10 marine sites across the archipelago.

The study found that the highest concentration of plastic pollutants was in Tañon Strait, the 160-kilometer emerald waters separating Negros and Cebu islands and one of the most productive fishing grounds in the country.

Jon Alfonso Horvidalla, science research specialist and study leader, said the findings were "alarming" as they affect both the marine life in the strait and the communities around it.

"We're no longer certain that what (they) are eating has not yet been contaminated by plastic," said Jim Padin, Crerdec supervisor.

### Damage at cellular level

Nearly all microplastics originate from plastic waste products that are dumped directly into the ocean or in inland waterways that empty into the sea.

Due to weathering, wave action, exposure to sunlight and other elements in the open sea, plastic degrades into microscopic sizes of between 20 to 5,000 microns (half a centimeter). One micron is one-millionth of a meter.

Citing multiple international studies, Horvidalla said these microplastics were found to be "retained inside body tissues of living things" and can cause damage to cell walls. It also compromises coral health and can "amplify coral exposure to other stressors."

At present, most studies on microplastics focus on its impact on marine life. However, there is considerable literature showing that microplastics can cause inflammation, cell death and DNA damage in laboratory animals and cell cultures.

### Lifeline for many

The Tañon Strait protected seascape is home to several rare and endangered marine animals moving between the Visayan Sea in the north and

the Bohol Sea in the south. In 1998, it was declared a protected seascape in honor of the 14 species of whales and dolphins living there.

It's also a major fishing ground for Cebuano fisherfolk, who became increasingly dependent on its bounty during the pandemic. The Philippine Statistics Authority reported last year that at least 530,000 Cebuanos sank below the poverty threshold following the drop in tourism revenue in the previous two years.

They included some of the fishermen of Mambacayao and Barili, another coastal municipality southwest of Tañon. Before the pandemic, they used to sell their catch to beach resorts, said fisherfolk leader Ven Carbon.

"When they closed down (during the pandemic), not only were we catching fewer fish, but we struggled to sell them because everyone was hard up, too," Carbon said. Many small fishermen left for the city to work as carpenters or drivers to put food on the table, he said.

### Huge problem

As in most coastal areas in the country, plastic is a huge problem for the Tañon fisherfolk, said Ortega, who leads the local Tañon Strait Fisherfolk Federation.

Plastic sachets, bottles and *labo* end up on the seafloor where marine animals mistake them for food, or they are washed up on the shores, which locals call "gapnod."

"We would sometimes wake up to see garbage lined up along the shore especially when there are strong waves. It's mostly single-use plastic, but there are also batteries (disposed by fishermen during their night fishing)," said Vicente Dacomos.



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During one of their regular coastal cleanups, Dacomos, 26, and his friends were able to fill an entire sack with discarded batteries in less than one hour.

In Barili, plastic ends up entangled in the roots of the mangrove forests on the shoreline.

"Because mangroves are also nurseries for fish like sardines and *bolinao* (whitebait fish), the plastic ends up choking them," Carbon said.

This is not an isolated case. Most of the country's waters are heavily polluted with plastic and other garbage, mostly because of weak enforcement of environmental and waste management laws, said Oceana vice president Gloria Ramos.

#### Dearth of research

Even so, there is still a dearth of research on the extent of plastic contamination.

To fill this gap, the ERDB-Crerdec launched its study of microplastics in 2019 in Tañon, Manila Bay (near Maragondon, Cavite), Subic Bay, Lamong Bay, Boracay Island, Taklong Island National Marine Reserve, Davao Gulf, Butuan Bay, Iligan Bay and Apo Reef Natural Park.

To measure this pollutant, the researchers collected water samples at depths of 5, 15 and 30 meters as well as along the shoreline.

The most concerning finding was that all 10 sites were already contaminated with microplastics. Despite being a marine protected area, Tañon recorded the highest amount of plastic, at least 58 pieces of microplastics per liter.

Padin believes the water currents, running from north to south, turned it into "a deposition area" for plastics and microplastics.

#### Fragile biodiversity

Though microscopic, microplastics can wreak immense havoc on the ocean's fragile biodiversity as they can be ingested by fish, damage coral reefs, enter the food chain and pervade water, Padin explained.

No one knows where all this plastic waste found in Tañon exactly comes from. The research team cites studies estimating that at least 80 percent of it comes from land-based sources, and only 20 percent from ocean-based sources like fisheries and vessels.

What's clear is that "there is no significant difference [in terms of plastic pollution] between protected areas, fishing grounds and industrial grounds," according to Horvidalla. "Even if it's a protected area, it can still be contaminated [because] oceans have no known boundaries."

Most of the plastic they found are microfragments from single-use plastic, like plastic utensils and sachets, Horvidalla said.

This is a huge problem for a country like the Philippines where most poor people can only afford to buy small quantities of certain necessities, which are typically retailed in packets or sachets.

Now the fisherfolk's problems are layered because they catch more plastic than fish, and the fish they catch have plastic in them.

#### Social justice issue

This is why environmentalists consider plastic pollution as a social justice issue: large corporations that continue to inundate the Global South with consumer products in low-priced, single-use plastic containers

are shifting the burden of managing and disposing them on communities and governments, which are ill-equipped to do that in the first place.

Countries like the Philippines become doubly vulnerable to marine pollution and the climate crisis because more than 99 percent of all plastics are derived from fossil fuels that induce planet-warming emissions.

In its 2021 annual pollution audit, the international group Break Free From Plastics tagged corporate giants Coca-Cola Co., Universal Robina Corp. and Nestle as the country's top three polluters.

"There's this notion of [wanting] to blame ordinary people [for our status as] the third worst plastic polluter in the world," said Antoinette Taus, Oxfam Pilipinas ambassador for resilience. "We feel this is unfair [because] these are communities that are working every day to meet their basic needs."

Oceana's Ramos said consumers should not be blamed for this because they have no alternatives. "The duty-bearer here is the government," she said.

#### Holistic solution

Both Taus and Ramos are calling for "holistic, intersectional" solutions that take into account the entire life cycle of plastic: from manufacturing, distribution and disposal.

The government has a gamut of environmental laws it only needs to implement to curb all kinds of pollution.

Local governments must also strengthen environmental education of their constituents "because plastic pollution requires participatory governance and accountability between both government and communities," said ERDB Director Malou Ferrer.



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PH Fishermen

This is also why Oceana and other environmental and youth groups last year asked the Supreme Court to compel the multiagency National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to implement Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001.

The law mandates the NSWMC to prepare a list of nonenvironmentally acceptable products and packaging within a year of the measure's approval—something that the commission has not done in more than 20 years since the law was passed.

Ramos urged communities to push harder for the government to move. "[Where] the people lead, then the government follows," she said.

That is why communities like Mambacayao and Bari-li have been taking initiatives to protect and preserve Tañon Strait: encouraging their youth to participate in coastal and free-diving cleanups, incentivizing residents to exchange garbage for money and mangrove planting to preserve their shoreline.

"Tañon only has us to protect it," Ortega said. "If it suffers, we suffer." INQ

(Editor's Note: This series is written and produced with the support of Oxfam Pilipinas.)



**COASTAL CLEANUP** Despite being a marine protected area, the Tañon Strait carries with it garbage and plastic that wash into the fishing communities. While single-use plastic is not uncommon, the most surprising were the thousands of discarded batteries that end up on their shores regularly. These are discarded by fishermen who do spear-fishing at night. —JOHN ORTEGA



*Editorial* **EDITORIAL** *Editorial*

**PROBLEMA SA BASURA, PALALA  
NANG PALALA**

**P** ATULOY ang pagdami ng mga nakokolektang basura sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Metro Manila. Maaaring nakadagdag ang mga naiwan ng eleksyon pero grabe pa rin ang mga nakukuha mula sa mga bahay.

Nakakabahala ito lalo't pumasok na ang tag-ulan na sinusundan ng baha.

Ayon sa Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), sa halos araw-araw nilang paglilinis ay tila hindi nauubos ang mga basura.

Nakipag-ugnayan na sila sa mga local government units (LGUs) para atasan ang palagiang paglilinis sa mga nasasakupan.

Malaking bagay sana kung magsisimula ang lahat sa bawat tahanan. Sa kabila ng alam naman natin ang masamang naidudulot ng basura lalo na 'yung mga hindi naitapon nang maayos, tila dedma pa rin ang karamihan.

Pamilyar na tayo sa pagre-recycle pero bakit parang hindi pa rin magawa? May iba na nagagawa nang umiwas sa paggamit ng plastik dahil sa mga alternatibong lalagyan.

Makatutulong din ang patuloy na pagpapaalala ng mga opisyal ng barangay sa kanilang mga nasasakupan na laging maglinis.

Ito ang problema na hindi kakayanin ng gobyerno o ng mga grupong nangangalaga sa kapaligiran, lahat ay kailangang kumilos.

Nakikita naman natin kung gaano kalala ang epekto 'pag may mga basurang nakabara sa mga daluyan ng tubig. Bukod sa baha, iba't ibang sakit din ang puwedeng magsulputan.

Kaya pakiusap sa lahat, maging responsable, disiplinado at mapagkalinga sa ating kalikasan, para din ito sa ating mga anak.





Editorial

## Paghandaan ang tag-ulan

**A**YON sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) noong Huwebes, opisyal nang pumasok ang tag-ulan. Ang pagdedeklara ng tag-ulan ay binase ng PAGASA sa limang sunud-sunod na pag-ulan sa maraming bahagi ng Luzon at Visayas.

Sa pagkakatukdeklara ng tag-ulan nararapat maghanda ang mamamayan sa mga problemang dala ng tag-ulan. Unang problema ay ang baha, sunod ang basura at ikatlo ay ang dengue. Ang tatlong ito ang mga nangungunang problema sa panahon ng tag-ulan particular sa Metro Manila. Ito ang pinapasan ng mamamayan taun-taon.

Hindi masolusyunan ang pagbaha sa Metro Manila. Marami nang ginawang proyekto na ginastusan nang malaking halaga subalit nananatili pa rin ang pagbaha. Kaunting ulan lang at baha agad. Kabilang sa mga kalye na laging binabaha ay ang Araneta Avenue sa Quezon City, España Blvd., Taft Avenue at Rizal Avenue sa Maynila.

Basura ang itinuturing dahilan kaya may pagbaha sa mga nabanggit na kalsada. Maraming basurang



plastic sa drainages, estero at iba pang daluyan ng tubig. Wala nang umaagos na tubig sa mga estero at kanal dahil sa dami ng basurang plastic.

Ang mga walang disiplinang mamamayan ang dapat sisihin sa pagkalat ng basura. Tapon dito, tapon doon ang ginagawa nila kaya tumatambak sa mga daanan ng tubig. Hindi lamang mga plastic na basura gaya ng botelya ng softdrink, cup ng noodles, sache ng shampoo, toothpaste tube, 3-in-1 coffee at nadagdag ang mga ginamit na face masks.

Kapag maraming tambak ng basura, dito namumugad ang mga lamok na nagdadala ng dengue. Paboritong tirahan at iniitluga ng mga lamok ang basurang plastic na may tubig. Sa report ng Department of Health (DOH)

idineklara na ang dengue outbreak sa Zamboanga City kung saan may naitala ng 900 kaso mula Enero 1 hanggang Abril 1, 2022. Sa bilang na ito, 11 na umano ang namamatay at karamihan ay mga bata. Bukod sa Zamboanga, may mga kaso rin ng dengue sa Davao Region, Western Visayas at Cagayan Valley. Sintomas ng dengue ang mataas na lagnat na tumatagal ng isang linggo, kulay kapeng ibi, pagkakaroon ng pantal-pantal sa balat at pananakit ng katawan.

Ipagpatuloy ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang paglilinis sa drainages at estero upang maiwasan ang pagbaha. Magkaroon naman ng disiplina ang mamamayan sa pagtatapon ng kanilang basura lalo ang mga plastik na bumabara sa daluyan ng tubig. Maglilinis ng kapaligiran para hindi mabuhay ang mga lamok na nagdadala ng dengue.



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# DOES 'GREEN ENERGY' HAVE HIDDEN HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS?

**T**HERE are a number of available low-carbon technologies to generate electricity. But are they really better than fossil fuels and nuclear power?

To answer that question, one needs to compare not just the emissions of different power sources but also the health benefits and the threats to ecosystems of green energy.

Production of electricity is responsible for about a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions, and demand is poised to rise as underserved populations connect to the grid, and electronics and electric vehicles proliferate.

So stopping global warming will require a transformation of electricity production.

But it is important to avoid various environmental pitfalls in this transition, such as disrupting ecosystems and wildlife or

causing air pollution.

In a research paper, we analyzed the impact of electricity generation from renewable sources, nuclear fission power plants and fossil fuels, with and without carbon dioxide capture and storage technology for separating CO<sub>2</sub> and storing it underground.

We accounted for the environmental effects associated with the production, operation and dismantling of facilities, as well as the production, transport and combustion of fuels.

We then compared a baseline scenario to a low-carbon electricity scenario that would prevent global average temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius (2°C) above preindustrial levels by 2050—the point climate scientists say will avoid dangerous climate change.

Our study emphatically confirms that fossil fuels—mainly coal—place a heavy burden on the environment and that most renewable power projects have lower pollution-related impacts on ecosystems and human health.

Nonetheless, no energy source is without adverse environmental side effects. Power plant siting, project design and technology choice are critical issues that investors and governments should consider very carefully.

## Solar shines

REPLACING fossil fuel power plants with renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, hydropower and geothermal power, would reduce diverse types of pollution.

The magnitude of difference in pollution between fossil and some renewable energy

options is stunning.

For example, we found that the entire process of manufacturing, setting up and operating photovoltaic (PV) panels causes less pollution than only delivering fuel to a coal-fired power plant when mining is included.

What about the environmental footprint of actually making renewable energy systems?

Photovoltaics come out very well in our analysis. Today, the production of PV cells uses much less energy than previously.

The carbon emissions per unit of PV electricity is one-tenth or less of even the most efficient natural gas power plants.

Human health problems, such as respiratory disease from particulate matter exposure, are around one-tenth of those of modern coal-fired power plants with advanced pol-

lution control equipment.

Similar conclusions hold for water and soil pollution on ecosystems, we found.

But solar panels require much more space to generate the same amount of power as fossil fuel or nuclear power generators.

Shouldn't covering huge areas with solar panels be a problem?

Not necessarily. The amount of land needed to generate a kilowatt-hour from PV is comparable to that of coal power, when the land associated with mining coal is accounted for.

And about half of the PV installations in our future scenario in 2050 could be placed on rooftops.

Producing PV panels does require various metals, many of which are produced only in limited locations. Some of those metals are

highly toxic. Waste treatment and recycling, which we did not include in our assessment, are therefore important.

PV, of course, delivers electricity only when the sun shines. However, a different solar technology—concentrating solar thermal power, which concentrates light to make heat—may be a viable way forward as it delivers a similar performance in terms of pollution reduction yet offers the option to store heat and, thus, generate electricity in the evening.

We assumed concentrating solar power technology, which currently has very low adoption compared to PV, would provide one quarter of solar electricity in our low-emissions scenario. **Edgar Hertwich, Norwegian University of Science and Technology/The Conversation CC via AP**



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# Renewable energy steers world out of climate crisis

It is just a matter of time before we see another warmest year on record. Our climate is changing before our eyes

The State of the Climate 2021 indicates that extreme weather – the day-to-day face of climate change – wreaked a heavy toll on human lives, triggered shocks for food and water security, and led to hundreds of billions of dollars in economic losses last year.

The report, which describes yet more clear signs that human activity is causing harm on a planetary scale – to our land, ocean and atmosphere – also confirms that the past seven years have been the warmest on record, with global temperature in 2021 reaching about

1.1°C above pre-industrial levels.

“It is just a matter of time before we see another warmest year on record. Our climate is changing before our eyes. The heat trapped by human-induced greenhouse gases will warm the planet for many generations to come,” World Meteorological Organization chief Petteri Taalas warned. “Sea level rise, ocean heat and acidification will continue for hundreds of years unless means to remove carbon from the atmosphere are invented.”

## A plan for renewables

Calling the report a “dismal litany of humanity’s failure to tackle climate disruptions,” UNITED Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said that while time is running out to prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis, there is a “lifeline” right in front of us.

“We must end fossil fuel pollution and accelerate the renewable energy transition before we incinerate our only home... Transforming energy systems is low-hanging fruit,” he emphasized in a video message.

Highlighting that renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar are readily available and, in most cases, cheaper than coal and other fossil fuels, the UN chief proposed five critical actions to jump-start the energy transition, which he called the “peace project of the 21st century”.

### 1. Treating renewable energy technologies as essential global public goods

This means removing obstacles to knowledge sharing and technological transfer, including intellectual property constraints.

Guterres called for a new global coalition on battery storage led by governments and bringing together tech companies, manufacturers and financiers to fast-track innovation and deployment.

### 2. Secure, scale up and diversify the supply components and raw materials for renewable energy technologies

Supply chains for renewable energy technology and raw materials are concentrated in a handful of countries, and more international coordination is needed to overcome this obstacle.

### 3. Build frameworks and reform fossil fuel bureaucracies

The UN chief is calling for governments to fast-track and streamline approvals of solar and wind projects, modernize grids and set ambitious renewable energy targets that provide certainty to investors, developers, consumers and producers.

### 4. Shift subsidies away from fossil fuels

Each year, governments around the world pour around half a trillion dollars into artificially lowering the price of fossil fuels – more than triple the subsidies given to renewables.

“While people suffer from high prices at the pump, the oil and gas industry is raking in billions from a distorted market. This scandal must stop,” Guterres highlighted.

### 5. Private and public investments in renewable energy must triple

The UN chief is calling for and adjustment to risk frameworks and more flexibility to scale up renewable finance.

“It’s time to jump-start the renewable energy transition before it’s too late,” the Secretary-General urged.





## Climate change likely to reduce the amount of sleep

MOST research looking at the impact of climate change on human life has focused on how extreme weather events affect economic and societal health outcomes on a broad scale. Yet climate change may also have a strong influence on fundamental daily human activities – including a host of behavioral, psychological, and physiological outcomes that are essential to wellbeing.

In a recent study, researchers found that increasing ambient temperatures negatively impact human sleep around the globe.

They said that by the year 2099, suboptimal temperatures may erode 50 to 58 hours of sleep per person per year. In addition, they found that the temperature effect on sleep loss is substantially larger for residents from lower income countries as well as in older adults and females.

It's long been known that hot days increase deaths and hospitalizations and worsen human performance, yet the biological and behavioral mechanisms underlying these impacts have not been well understood.

"In this study, we provide the first planetary-scale evidence that warmer-than-average temperatures erode human sleep," SAID first author Kelton Minor of the University of Copenhagen. "We show that this erosion occurs primarily by delaying when people fall asleep and by advancing when they wake up during hot weather."

To conduct this research, the investigators used anonymized global sleep data collected from accelerometer-based sleep-tracking wristbands. The data included seven million nightly sleep records from more than 47,000 adults across 68 countries spanning all continents except for Antarctica. Measures from the type of wristbands used in this study had previously been shown to align with independent measures of wakefulness and sleep.

The study suggested that on very warm nights (greater than 30 degrees Celsius, or 86 degrees Fahrenheit), sleep declines an average of just over 14 minutes. The likelihood of getting less than seven hours of sleep also increases as temperatures rise.

Early controlled studies in sleep labs found that both humans and animals sleep worse when the room temperature is too hot or too cold. But this research was limited by how people act in the real world: they modify the temperature of their sleeping environment to be more comfortable.

In the current research, the investigators found that under normal living routines, people appear far better at adapting to colder outside temperatures than hotter conditions. "Across seasons, demographics, and different climate contexts, warmer outside temperatures consistently erode sleep, with the amount of sleep loss progressively increasing as temperatures become hotter," Minor added.

The researchers also noted that because they uncovered compelling evidence that the impact of warming temperatures on sleep loss is unequal globally, new research should especially consider more vulnerable populations, particularly those residing in the world's hottest – and historically poorest – regions.

(Cell Press/ScienceDaily)



## Study: Pollution behind 1 in 6 global deaths in 2019

Paris (AFP) — Pollution caused some 9 million people to die prematurely in 2019, according to a new global report published Wednesday, with experts raising alarm over increasing deaths from breathing outside air and the "horrifying" toll of lead poisoning.

Human-created waste in the air, water and soil rarely kills people immediately but causes instead heart disease, cancer, respiratory problems, diarrhoea and other serious illnesses.

The Lancet Commission on pollution and health said the impact from pollution on global health remains "much greater than that of war, terrorism, malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, drugs and alcohol".

Pollution is an "existential threat to human health and planetary health, and jeopardises the sustainability of modern societies," it added.

In general, the review found, air pollution — accounting for a total of 6.7 million deaths globally in 2019 — was "entwined" with climate change because the main source of both problems is burning fossil fuels and biofuels.

"If we can't manage to grow in a clean and green way, we're doing something terribly wrong," said the report's lead author Richard Fuller, of the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, adding that chemical pollution also harms biodiversity — another major global threat.

"These things are terribly connected and strategies to deal with one have ripple effects all the way through," he said.

Overall, one in six premature deaths globally — or nine million — were caused by pollution, a figure unchanged since the last assessment in 2015.

Researchers noted a reduction in mortality linked to indoor air pollution, un-

safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation, with major improvements seen in Africa.

Researchers said the causes of particularly air pollution are largely the same as those driving climate change. Nikolay DOYGHINOV AFP/File

But early deaths associated with industrialisation — outdoor air and chemical pollution — are on the rise, particularly in southern and eastern Asia.

Ambient air pollution caused some 4.5 million deaths in 2019, according to the study, published in Lancet Planetary Health, compared with 4.2 million in 2015 and just 2.9 million in 2000.

Chemical pollution is also increasing, with lead poisoning alone causing 900,000 deaths. Even that, the report warned, is likely a "substantial undercount" in light of new research suggesting there is no safe level of exposure.

**Harmful to children**  
Algeria banned lead in petrol in 2021, the last country to do so.

But people continue to be exposed to the toxic substance, largely due to unregulated recycling of lead-acid batteries and e-waste. Contaminated culinary spices are also a culprit.

"The fact that lead is getting worse, mostly in poorer countries, and ramping up in terms of the number of deaths, is horrifying," said Fuller.

Heart disease is the cause of almost all early deaths from exposure to lead, which hardens arteries, said Fuller.

But elevated lead levels in blood — estimated to affect hundreds of millions of children — also harm brain development and are linked to serious losses of cognitive function.

The report said lead is also linked to a spike in behavioural disorders and diminished economic productivity, with global economic losses estimated at almost \$1 trillion annually.

In Africa, economic losses from lead-related IQ loss are equivalent to about four percent of gross domestic product, while in Asia it amounts to two percent.

**Silent killer**

Overall, excess deaths due to pollution have led to economic losses totalling \$4.6 trillion in 2019, or around six percent of global economic output, researchers said.

Low- and middle-income countries are by far the most affected, with more than 90 percent of deaths in these regions.

There is also increasing evidence of pollution crossing national boundaries in wind, water and the food chain.

Wealthier nations that have reduced domestic outdoor air pollution effectively "displace" it overseas to countries with higher levels of manufacturing, the report said.

Prevailing global winds transport air pollution from east Asia to North America, from North America to Eu-



Researchers said the causes of particularly air pollution are largely the same as those driving climate change. Nikolay DOYGHINOV AFP/File

rope, and from Europe to the Arctic and central Asia.

Meanwhile, cereals, seafood, chocolate and vegetables produced for export in developing countries can be contaminated as a result of soil and water polluted with lead, arsenic, cadmium, mercury and pesticides.

This "increasingly threatens global food safety", the report said, adding that "toxic metals found in infant formula and baby foods are of particular concern."

Fuller said the threat of pollution — particularly air and lead pollution — is underappreciated, with more attention focused on the health implications of microplastics.

"We can show a million people dying from lead pollution right now — more than die from malaria, more than die from HIV — and that's not even discussed," he said.



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# Migratory bird day focuses on light pollution

Artificial light alters natural patterns of light and dark within ecosystems, and contributes to the deaths of millions of birds each year

The issue that was in the spotlight on World Migratory Bird Day, observed on Saturday, 14 May, fell under the theme "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night."

Light pollution is increasing, with artificially lit outdoor areas rising by 2.2 percent per year from 2012 to 2016, according to one study cited by the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), a United Nations environmental treaty.

Currently, more than 80 percent of the world's population is estimated to live under a "lit sky," and the figure is closer to 99 percent in Europe and North America.

"Natural darkness has a conservation value in the same way as clean water, air and soil. A key goal of World Migratory Bird Day 2022 is to raise awareness of the issue of light pollution and its negative impacts on migratory birds," Amy Fraenkel, the CMS Executive Secretary, said.

Artificial light alters natural patterns of light and dark within ecosystems, and contributes to the deaths of millions of birds each year.

Light pollution can cause birds to change their migration patterns, foraging behaviors and vocal communication, resulting in disorientation and collisions.

Migrating birds are attracted to artificial light at night — particularly when there are low cloud conditions, fog, rain, or when flying at lower altitudes — luring them to dangers in cities.

Birds become disorientated and, as a result, may end up circling in illuminated areas. With their energy reserves depleted, they risk exhaustion, or worse.

"Many nocturnally migrating birds such as ducks, geese, plovers,

sandpipers and songbirds are affected by light pollution causing disorientation and collisions with fatal consequences," said Jacques Trouvilliez, Executive Secretary of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), another UN treaty.

"Seabirds such as petrels and shearwaters are attracted by artificial lights on land and become prey for rats and cats."

Two years ago, countries that are party to the CMS endorsed guidelines on light pollution covering marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds.

The recommendations call for Environmental Impact Assessments to be conducted for projects that could result in light pollution.

Projects should consider the main sources of light pollution at a certain site, the likely wild species to be affected and facts about proximity to important habitats and migratory pathways.

New guidelines focused on migratory landbirds and bats are currently being developed and will be presented for adoption at a CMS conference next year.

Solutions to light pollution are readily available, Fraenkel said. More and more cities worldwide are taking measures to dim building lights during migration phases in spring and autumn, according to the UN Environment Programme.

World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and October, in recognition of the cyclical nature of bird migration and the different peak migration periods in the northern and southern hemispheres.

It is organized by a collaborative partnership among the two UN wildlife treaties and the non-profit organization, Environment for the Americas (EFTA).

"World Migratory Bird Day is a call to action for international migratory bird conservation," Susan Bonfield, the EFTA Director, said.

22 MAY 2022, SUNDAY



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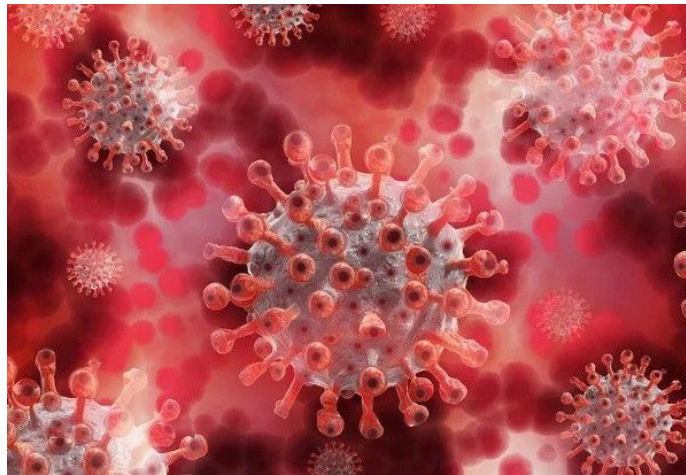
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Philippines detects Omicron subvariant BA.4 in Filipino who returned from Middle East

[Angelica Y. Yang](#) - Philstar.com May 21, 2022 | 3:35pm



Artist's rendition of coronavirus  
geralt via Pixabay

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health said Saturday that it has detected the Omicron subvariant BA.4 from a Filipino national who flew in from the Middle East on May 4.

It explained that the Filipino tested positive for the subvariant on May 8, but was asymptomatic.

The Omicron BA.4 is considered as a variant of concern by the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control. This means it is likely to spread faster or cause worse illness, compared to a variant of interest. According to the DOH, BA.4 is likely to be transmitted faster "because of its ability to evade immune protection induced by prior infection and/or vaccination, particularly if this has waned over time."

In a statement on Viber, DOH said it has been coordinating with the concerned local government units since the confirmation of the case to quickly implement detection and isolation activities.

"All LGUs are strongly advised to proactively seek the unvaccinated and those eligible for boosters, and to make it convenient to get a jab," the agency said.

It also urged the general public to get inoculated with the life-saving COVID-19 jab and to get boosted as soon as possible, while following health protocols.

***This is a developing story. Kindly check back for updates.***

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/05/21/2182727/philippines-detects-omicron-subvariant-ba4-filipino-who-returned-middle-east>



# Arawang kaso ng COVID-19 sa Metro Manila, tumaas

[Danilo Garcia](#) - Pang-masa May 21, 2022 | 12:00am



At least 700 market vendors line-up to receive their first dose of the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine on Sept. 6, 2021.

The STAR / Victor Martin

MANILA, Philippines — Inihayag kahapon ng OCTA Research na tumaas ng 19 porsyento ang arawang kaso ng COVID-19 sa Metro Manila sa nakalipas na halos dalawang linggo matapos ang halalan.

Subalit, ayon sa OCTA na nananatili namang nasa “low risk” ang Metro Manila sa kabila ng naitalang pagtaas sa 71 arawang kaso mula Mayo 13-Mayo 19 mula sa dating 59 ng sinundang linggo.

Tumaas rin ang reproduction number ng NCR sa 0.90 mula sa dating 0.76. Ikinukunsidera itong “moderate” mula sa dating “low classification”.

Nananatili naman ang positivity rate sa 1.2% ng ikinakasang 11,476 average na Covid tests kada araw. Ang hospital rate naman ay nasa 22% sa rehiyon.

Umakyat rin ang isang linggong average daily attack rate (ADAR) sa 0.50 mula sa dating 0.42. pero ito ay “very low risk”.

Kaya’t patuloy ang panawagan ng Department of Health sa publiko na hindi pa bakunado na magpabakuna na at sa mga nabakunahan ay magpa-booster shot dahil sa bumababang immunity upang maiwasan ang mga Omicron variants.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2022/05/21/2182637/arawang-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-metro-manila-tumaas>

22 MAY 2022, SUNDAY



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
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






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