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DENR to get tough on LGUs that can't 'take out the trash' properly—Cimatu

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by Ellson Quismorio

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has warned local government units (LGUs) not to neglect proper waste disposal in the absence of open dumpsites.



(Photo from DENR)

Cimatu made the call after DENR received reports that some LGUs haven't been following the law when it comes to disposing of their garbage.

“It has come to our attention that after closing the illegally operating dumpsites, there are LGUs that are not properly disposing of their solid waste,” he said, noting reports that some garbage has been left uncollected.

“We are warning these LGUs to seriously manage their wastes. Or else face consequences [for] violating Republic Act (RA) 9003,” added Cimatu, referring to the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Section 10 of the two-decade-old law states that the collection of non-recyclable materials and special waste is the responsibility of the municipality or city.

Segregation and collection of solid waste shall be conducted at the barangay level. Waste shall be sorted according to type—biodegradable, compostable, and recyclables.

One of the DENR's major accomplishments this year was the shutdown of all 335 illegally-operating open dumpsites in the country. The dumpsite closures were led by Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda.

Antiporda echoed Cimatu's warning, saying the DENR will not tolerate negligence of solid waste management and will not hesitate to call out erring LGUs.

If anything, the dumpsite closures provided a big challenge to the LGUs as to how they should take out the trash, so to speak.



As required in the 10-year solid waste management plan of LGUs, in instances that an LGU does not have a facility for final disposal of its residual wastes, it is required to put up a residual waste disposal system while planning for the establishment of its sanitary landfill (SLF).

If the LGU is not capable of putting up its own SLF, it is encouraged to cluster up with neighboring LGUs for the establishment of a clustered SLF.



DENR to LGUs: Segregate waste or face raps

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star August 23, 2021 | 12:00am



“It has come to our attention that after closing the illegally operating dumpsites, there are LGUs that are not properly disposing of their solid waste. We are warning these LGUs to seriously manage their wastes or face the consequences of violating Republic Act 9003,” said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu in a statement yesterday.

[Philstar.com / File](#)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reminded local government units (LGUs) to collect and dispose garbage regularly in their areas or face sanctions and charges.

“It has come to our attention that after closing the illegally operating dumpsites, there are LGUs that are not properly disposing of their solid waste. We are warning these LGUs to seriously manage their wastes or face the consequences of violating Republic Act 9003,” said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu in a statement yesterday.

He cited Section 10 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which says the collection of non-recyclable materials and special wastes is the responsibility of LGUs.

“Segregation and collection of solid waste shall be conducted at the barangay level. Waste shall be sorted according to type – biodegradable, compostable and recyclables,” the DENR said.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the DENR will not hesitate to impose sanctions against erring LGUs.

He cited, as example, the closure last month of a garbage transfer station in Cebu City over the failure to transfer garbage to a sanitary landfill within 24 hours, which brought the pile of waste to 10.8 meters high. This, according to him, technically made the transfer station an open dumpsite.

Antiporda said a notice of violation was also issued to the Gapan City government in Nueva Ecija over the reoperation of an open dumpsite in Barangay Macabaklay that had been ordered closed.

He also noted that the Environmental Management Bureau in Region 3 inspected a transfer station in Barangay Pambuan, also in Gapan City, and found the “accumulation of solid waste which were directly in contact with the soil surface as well as infestation of flies.”

Antiporda said the DENR is ready to provide technical assistance to LGUs that intend to set up their own disposal facility and urged them to pool resources to establish a clustered sanitary landfill.

Earlier this year, the DENR closed 335 open dumpsites that were illegally operating nationwide.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/08/23/2121972/denr-lgus-segregate-waste-or-face-raps>



TAON: 9 EDISYON: 3877 BIYERNES AGOSTO 20, 2021

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Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni **ANDY VERDE** DZRH anchorman

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HABANG ang bansa ay patuloy na nakikipaglaban upang mapigilan ang pagtaas ng bilang ng kaso ng coronavirus ay muling nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa tamang pagtatapon ng household health care waste upang maprotektahan ang mga garbage collectors at haulers mula sa COVID-19 at iba pang sakit.

Nang magsimula ang pandemya noong Marso ng nakalipas na taon ay tuloy-tuloy ang pagpapaala-

la ng DENR sa mga household ng ihiwalay ang mga ginamit na face masks, face shield, at disposable gloves dahil posible na ang mga ito ay "potentially contaminated and infectious waste."

"Our garbage collectors are also frontliners. They are at a very high risk of infection every time they collect unsegregated and improperly disposed household health care waste," paliwanag ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimat.

"If we really want to stop the spread of this vi-

rus, then we must all be responsible not only for ourselves but also for others," dagdag nito.

Nagbabala rin ang environment chief na kahit isa lamang sa mga garbage collectors ang magkaroon ng sakit ay posible nang kumalat ang COVID-19.

Dati nang pinaalalahanan ng DENR secretary ang local government units (LGUs) na bigyan ng prayoridad ang tamang pangangasiwa ng pandemic-related trash sa pamamagitan ng mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng paghihiwalay ng basura sa bawat bahay at ipatupad ang epektibong collection system.

Sa kanyang panig, sinabi naman ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns

Benny D. Antiporda na "the DENR has not wavered in warning the public that the lives of garbage collectors are at stake if there is utter disregard for proper waste disposal."

"Pakinggan po natin ang panawagan ng ating mga garbage collectors na ihiwalay at itali ng mabuti ang mga basurang ito upang maiwasan ang posibilidad na makuha nila ang COVID-19 virus mula sa mga ganitong uri ng basura," apela ng DENR official.

Dagdag ni Antiporda: "These household health care wastes – face masks, face shields and gloves – that we use every day should not be mixed with the residual wastes. Lagyan po natin ng label na household health care

wastes ang mga ito, so that these will be properly handled by our garbage collectors"

Pinaalalahanan din ni Antiporda ang LGUs sa kanilang tungkulin upang matiyak ang pagsunod sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act kung saan nakasaad ang ligtas na pagtatapon ng basura hindi lamang yung mula sa mga kabahayan bagkus ay maging yung galing sa medical at health care facilities.

Nanawagan na rin ito sa LGUs na magbigay ng personal protective equipment sa mga garbage collectors upang maprotektahan ang mga ito sa basura na posibleng kontaminado ng coronavirus.

ITAPON SA TAMANG LUGAR HEALTH CARE WASTE

DENR-led Cabinet Cluster palalakasin ang PH climate actions



August 22, 2021 @ 8:45 AM 21 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang mapalakas ang bansa sa pagtugon sa pagbabago ng klima nangako ang Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) na pinamumunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na palalakasin ang pagtugon ng bansa sa climate change matapos na ilabas ang pinakabagong Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report.

Sa press release ang United Nations-led IPCC report ay kayang magbigay ng “most compelling and comprehensive information” sa lagay ng climate ng mundo ngayon.

Ayon sa DENR batay sa pahayag ni UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, sinabi ni CCAM-DRR Cluster chairperson at DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na ang resulta ng report ay maituturing na “code red for humanity” kaya’t kinakailangan ang sabay-sabay at mapag-pasyang desisyon ng lahat.

“With the urgent call set forth by the latest IPCC report, we will continue to prioritize actions and investments that will reduce the long-term impacts, and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change,” saad ni Cimatu.

Ayon sa IPCC report, kitang-kita na ang ebidensiya na ang human influence ang nagiging dahilan ng mabilis na pag-init ng planeta at dumarami rin ang rehiyon na nakararanas ng epekto ng climate change.

Kaugnay nito tiniyak ni Cimatu ang national government ay gumagawa ng mas malawak na reporma para sa pagsasaayos ng environmental governance, sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, tamang pamamahala sa climate at disaster solutions.

“The CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster adopted the Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) as its convergence program to truly help protect our communities, especially in climate-vulnerable provinces and major urban centers, from climate-induced disasters and spare future generations from the worst impacts that climate change could bring about,” saad nito.

Bilang convergence program ng cluster, layunin din ng RRP na maragdagan ang adaptive capabilities ng vulnerable communities, matiyak na may sapat na suplay ng clean air, water at iba pang likas na yaman, madagdagan ang resilience ng critical infrastructures, at mapataas ang kaalaman at access sa impormasyon at institutional capabilities ng komunidad.

Ang prayoridad na programa ng cluster ay ang tamang pamamahala ng watersheds, protected areas at wetlands, coastal at marine ecosystems, groundwater resources, water quality, at water conservation.



Sa taong 2022, may approved budget ceiling ang DENR sa halagang Php 25.295 billion.

Ayon kay Cimatú, nakatuon ang Pilipinas sa “Nationally Determined Contribution to a projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions” na mabawasan at maiwasan ito ng 75 percent mula sa 2020 hanggang 2030.

Mula sa numerong ito, 2.71 percent ang unconditional at 72.29 percent ang conditional na kumakatawan sa ambisyon ng bansa sa GHG mitigation sa pagitan ng 2020 at 2030 mula sa mga sektor ng agriculture, wastes, industry, transport at energy.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na ang Task Force Build Back Better na isang inter-agency body kung saan co-chair nito si Public Works ang Highways Secretary Mark Villar ay minamadali na ang pagsisikap na maisaayos ang “adaptive capacities” ng ecosystems at komunidad sa Cagayan, Marikina at Bicol River Basins na napinsala ng mga bagyong Rolly at Ulysses noong 2020.

Ipinaliwanag pa ni Cimatú ang oportunidad na gamitin ang green recovery mula sa COVID-19 upang magkaroon ng investments at reforms na siyang tutugon sa “underlying vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience.” **Santi Celario**



Illegal logging sa Cantilan, pinaiimbestigahan sa DENR, DILG



August 22, 2021 @ 2:53 PM 16 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Makaraang personal na pamunuan ang raid sa isang lumber yard sa Cantilan municipality, hiniling ni Surigao del Sur Governor Alexander “Ayek” Pimentel sa dalawang ahensya ng gobyerno ang illegal logging activities sa probinsya.

Dahil dito, hiniling ni Pimentel sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) na magsagawa ng malalimang imbestigasyon hinggil sa posibleng pagkakdawit dito ng ilang lokal na opisyal.

Nitong nakaraang Biyernes, Agosto 20, 2021, bandang alas-3:00 ng hapon, kasama sina Surigao del Sur Police Provincial Office chief, Police Col. James Goforth, mga tauhan ng Cantilan Municipal Police Station sa pamumuno ni Police Major Ferdinand Tavares at Forester Charles Sullano ng CENRO Cantilan, ay sinalakay nina Gov. Pimentel ang isang riverside compound sa Purok-2 Brgy. Tapi, Cantilan.

Ang nasabing raid ay nagresulta sa pagkakakumpiska sa illegally cut assorted forest products, na tinatayang aabot sa kabuuang 17,000 board feet at may market value na P500,000.

Ayon kay Governor Pimentel, ang illegal lumbers ay pag-aari umano ni Barangay Tapi Chairman Noel Azarcon, alyas Tiger.

Labis na ipinagtataka naman ng gobernador kung bakit sa lahat ng mga munisipalidad sa Surigao del Sur, sa bayan lamang umano ng Cantilan laganap ang illegal logging kung saan malapit lang ang tanggapan ng CENRO.

“This area of barangay captain Azarcon is only 15 minutes away from the CENRO and the Mayor’s office. The illegal logging activities are striving and happening almost right on the tip of the nose of public officials supposed to be protecting our environment and implement the law properly,” tahasang sabi pa ni Governor Pimentel.

Bunsod nito, nanawagan ang Surigao del Sur governor sa dalawang nabanggit na mga ahensya na siyasating mabuti at alamin ang posibleng pagkakasangkot ng mga public official, gayundin ang magkaroon ng karampatang aksyon at mawakasan na ang naturang ilegal na gawain na siyang sumira sa likas na yaman ng kanilang lalawigan. **RNT**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/illegal-logging-sa-cantilan-pinaiimbestigahan-sa-denr-dilg/>



DENR, DILG KINALAMPAG SA ILLEGAL LOGGING

10 hours ago jp admin



PINAIMBESTIGAHAN ni Surigao del Sur Governor Alexander “Ayek” Pimentel sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang illegal logging activities umano sa bayan ng Cantilan sa naturang lalawigan.

Nais ipasilip ng gobernador ang reklamong pagkakadawit umano ng ilang lokal na opisyal sa nasabing ilegal na gawain makaraan niyang pamunuan ang pagsalakay sa isang lumber yard sa nasabing bayan.

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of public officials supposed to be protecting our environment and implement the law properly,” tahasang sabi pa ni Governor Pimentel.

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Source: http://saksingayon.com/probinsiya/denr-dilg-kinalampag-sa-illegal-logging/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0_bll5EbKt86ZyY1iWeT0XP8ie5Sm-vH6Tkpc71IJRWntbA4v15QqDGKk



Mining company gets gov't nod to resume Palawan operation

Environmental clearance in line with Palace pronouncement to open mines for economic revival, says exec

By: [Romar Miranda](#) - Correspondent / [@RVMirandaINQ](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 05:04 AM August 21, 2021



TREE CUTTING This 2017 photo provided by Brooke's Point Mayor Mary Jean Feliciano shows piles of logs that she says came from thousands of trees cut by Ipilan Nickel Corp. (INC) in areas that covered her town's watershed. Feliciano led the demolition of some of INC's structures, but she was suspended for a year by the Ombudsman due to a complaint filed by the mining company.

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Antimining advocates here suffered a setback after the controversial mining firm in Brooke's Point town in southern Palawan was granted a strategic environmental plan (SEP) clearance to resume operations.

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), a government environmental agency mandated to protect the natural resources of the province, on Thursday overturned itself and granted the SEP clearance, a necessary requirement for all environment-related undertakings in the province, to the Ipilan Nickel Corp. (INC). The decision was a reversal from the council's earlier rejection of INC's application in Brooke's Point, saying that granting the SEP now was in line with Malacañang's latest policy pronouncements to favor mining projects.

Lawyer Teodoro Jose Matta, executive director of PCSD, said in a phone interview on Friday that the national government has reiterated its earlier order to allow mining operations to resume in an effort to revive the economy crippled by the coronavirus pandemic.

"The policy direction of the national government is to open up (mining) kasi wala na raw pera (because we no longer have money). Mining is one of the industries that actually made money this year and last year, so the national government is really, really promoting the industry," Matta said.

Eriberto Saños, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office chief, confirmed that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had also reinstated INC's environmental compliance certificate and mineral production sharing agreement from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

INC is a subsidiary of Global Ferronickel Holdings, the country's second-largest nickel producer. Its Palawan mine site of around 2,800 hectares that encompassed four villages in Brooke's Point, is projected to annually produce 1.538 million wet metric tons of nickel.

PCSD, during its board meeting on Thursday, also approved the expansion of three other mining companies in southern Palawan, including Berong Nickel Corp. in Quezon, Rio Tuba Nickel in Bataraza, and Citinickel Mines and Development Corp. in Narra.



‘Very disappointed’

The PCSD turnaround was the latest setback suffered by antimining advocates campaigning against the project in Brooke’s Point led by the town’s suspended mayor, Mary Jean Feliciano.

Feliciano was suspended for a year without pay in late July by the Ombudsman for “grave abuse of authority” on account of a complaint filed against her by INC when, as town mayor in 2018, she led the demolition of company structures after its mining claims lapsed and the company was facing charges for illegal cutting of trees.

Feliciano said she was “very disappointed” by PCSD’s decision.

She said it was sad that ordinary people who would cut even a single tree without a permit were charged and penalized while wealthy corporations involved in mass cutting of trees were “feared.”

INC has yet to issue a statement about the latest PCSD action.

“The company has yet to receive any official notice about the matter so we cannot issue any statements as of now,” the company stated in its email reply to the Inquirer.

‘Approval in principle’

Dispelling criticisms against PCSD for changing its stance on the mining project, Matta qualified the council’s decision as an “approval in principle,” pointing out that its SEP clearance was not automatically granted.

He explained that the actual SEP clearance will be issued only upon compliance by the company of certain conditions, including securing a mayor’s permit and a validation by the PCSD staff that the mining operations will not conflict with the “environmentally critical areas network” (Ecan) zoning classification of the municipality.

He also said that their earlier decision denying the company’s SEP clearance application was made “without due process.”

“The 2017 order (of the) PCSD canceling (the SEP was without) due process. Unilaterally, (it was canceled) as a matter of policy. The proposal was to reinstate the SEP clearance, provided that we will not issue it unless certain conditions are met. So, in principle lang ang approval ng SEP clearance,” Matta said.

In July 2017, PCSD revoked INC’s SEP clearance on the grounds that it was not in accordance to the Ecan map approved in 2006. However, Matta said there was an expansion in Ecan zoning that was approved in 2018 by the Ecan board, which is composed of PCSD, other government agencies and nongovernment organizations.

Acting mayor of Brooke’s Point Georjalyn Joy Quiachon-Abarca, who succeeded Feliciano, did not reply when asked if her office would issue a mayor’s permit.



Philippines has yet to establish net zero emission goal

[Danessa Rivera](#) - The Philippine Star August 23, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has set strong emission reduction targets, but it has yet to establish its net zero goal as the energy sector grapples with clearer policies and as the net zero initiative is still something new to local companies, according to Massachusetts-based global management consultancy Bain & Co.

Bain & Co.'s latest report, Southeast Asia's Carbon Markets: A Critical Piece of the Climate Puzzle, said the move to achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions or carbon neutrality, has become a race as governments, corporations, and societies create ambitious targets to decarbonize and act against climate change.

Between 2019 and 2020, it found that the number of global corporations with net zero goals soared by 200 percent to over 1,500 companies, of which nearly a quarter are from Asia Pacific, according to Science Based Targets initiative or SBTi.

SBTi is a partnership between CDP, World Resources Institute (WRI), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the United Nations Global Compact (UN Global Compact) which sets net-zero science-based targets in line with a 1.5°C future.

While this is the case, Bain & Co. found that few CEOs and leaders have set clear plans to deliver on these goals.

The same is observed in the Philippines, which "has set strong emissions targets, but there is a need to put words into action," Bain & Co.'s Global Sustainability Innovation Center partner and co-director Dale Hardcastle said in an e-mail response to The STAR.

"While no net zero target is set yet, the Philippines has committed in Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce emissions by 75 percent below business as usual by 2030 (compatible with two degrees), which is the highest of Southeast Asian countries, but only 2.7 percent of this is unconditional, one of the lowest in the region," he said.

And while the country has commendable support for renewable uptake and energy efficiency with 38 percent target capacity by 2035, Hardcastle said "this is still less ambitious than for example Indonesia's 48 percent target by 2030."

To chart a firm path towards decarbonization, the country needs to lay down clearer policies and roadmaps to reach its targets.

"The coal moratorium is a good start, but recent plans to expand natural gas sector may lock in fossil fuel infrastructure and become a barrier to moving to net zero," Hardcastle said.

The government, through the Department of Energy, is pushing for the development of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) sector for energy security, with six proposed LNG terminal projects underway, especially since the contract for the Malampaya gas field – the country's largest and only gas source – is about to expire in 2024.

Hardcastle also cited some efforts to align budgets with decarbonization ambitions, "but these steps are not yet comprehensive."

"Recent stimulus packages only cover agriculture and food security/disaster risk mitigation, while latest state budgets cover cleaner transport and water treatment facilities," he said.



Based on its assessment, Bain & Co. said the Philippines only has two major organizations that have committed to SBTi – the Ayala Group and Nestle Philippines.

Globe Telecom, the telco arm of the Ayala Group, is the first Philippine company committed to SBTi and targets net zero by 2050. AC Energy Corp., the group's energy arm, is boosting investments in renewable energy, while property arm Ayala Land Inc. is pursuing sustainable developments.

Nestle Philippines is targeting net zero by 2050 in line with its global push, and this will be done by switching to renewable energy and implementing significant circularity practices.

Meanwhile, green office developer NEO has achieved five-star certifications for net zero carbon energy in three of its buildings – namely One/NEO, Four/NEO and Six/NEO – under the Philippine Green Building Council's Advancing Net Zero Rating Scheme (ANZ/PH) pilot program, which verifies a development's net zero carbon energy emissions.

Hardcastle said Philippine companies can further their net zero efforts by raising their overall net zero ambition and developing a holistic plan with operational, strategic, and compensatory measures to drive value from decarbonization efforts.

They can also explore investing in digital innovations to scale emissions measurement/reductions cost effectively across the organization and building/transforming business models to thrive in the low-carbon economy, such as developing green products and services, he said.

Philippine companies can also look at supporting suppliers and other companies in value chain on their journey, through providing incentives, knowledge transfer, etc., and partnering across and beyond the ecosystem to scale impact, Hardcastle said.

The Bain & Company report also said the Southeast Asian region has significant untapped potential to meet the global net zero challenge as it offers \$10 billion in carbon markets opportunity for regional economies along with environmental and social benefits.

Achieving Net Zero goals requires deep organizational transformation and a holistic approach that pulls multiple levers at once, the consultancy firm said.

Although eliminating emissions as much as possible is a critical part of the net zero journey, carbon offsets will play an important role in compensating for hard-to-abate emissions.

“Inaction has consequences and significant reputational, regulatory, strategic, and financial impacts lie ahead for businesses that ignore climate change and continue to rely on finite resources. Regardless of industry, company size, or ambition, the time to act is now as the cost of complacency is far greater than the risk of not getting it perfect,” Hardcastle said.

Although offsets are not a silver bullet for decarbonization, they serve as an important lever on the pathway to net zero, the firm said.



Generation Z and the environment

The Philippine Star August 23, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — With the threat of climate change looming in the background, Generation Z is beset with data on how catastrophic the future will be for all of us if we do not drastically act today.

This is the generation, generally born between 1997 and 2012, that grew up seeing firsthand the devastating effects of climate change globally, from the havoc made by Super Typhoon Haiyan to the Philippines in 2013, the deadly wildfires in Australia in 2019, and most recently, the extreme heat waves that hit the United States in 2021.

Millennials and Gen Z, who already take up 37 percent and 16 percent of the Philippine population respectively, believe that there is power in their collective voices and choices. Armed with their personal experience and information, they are now setting the tone on a new way of life – a more sustainable one. What does this look like for them?

Greener products and sustainable choices

Plastic straws are out; reusable straws are in! In 2018, a video of a turtle with a plastic straw stuck in its nose turned viral in the internet and sparked plastic straw bans in many cities. Since then, more and more sustainable products options have become mainstream in the market and are being patronized by the younger generation. In fact, 90 percent of millennials are willing to switch to brands that are sustainable or mindful of their impact to the environment.

Meanwhile 72 percent of Gen Z are willing to spend on products and services that are sustainable and match their values.

Green and smart cities

The new generation puts a high premium on convenience – seeking new, integrated and smart city designs. With people looking for alternative ways of going around amid the COVID-19 pandemic, biking has become the new ‘in’ thing – not just in terms of safety, but also in staying fit and going green! Millennials and Gen Z now look at cities with bike lanes, eco-friendly transport systems, green open spaces, and shaded walkways.

Related to this, they are also advocating for clean and renewable energy. Eighty-one percent of the younger generation believe that the public and private sectors are both responsible in helping us transition to cleaner and greener technology, while 84 percent think that the government should invest more on renewable energy. This is part of the green agenda and their quest for a more sustainable and climate-ready living environment.

Advocating for green

Gen Z ranks underlying environmental issues over economics. According to a study, 40 percent of the younger generation named climate change as the biggest challenge that the world would have to face in the next decade. They are conscious with their own footprint, as well as air and water pollution, preservation of natural resources, global warming and the availability of clean water. They advocate for sustainable alternatives for energy sources, seek funding to support the green agenda.



Climate change and PH insurance industry's response

By [Michael Rellosa](#) August 23, 2021

THE [UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) released the first installment of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) on August 9, the complete version of which is supposed to be released in 2022. This report is of the utmost importance and should be made known to all, as in effect, it is a warning to mankind.

This first installment is officially known as the IPCC Working Group 1 report or "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis." According to IPCC Chairman [Hoesung Lee](#), the report reflects "extraordinary efforts under exceptional circumstances"; he states further that "the innovations in this report and the advances in the climate science it reflects provide an invaluable input into climate negotiations and decision-making."

A long read but the main takeaways are:

1. Faster global warming. The chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5 degrees Celsius in the next decade or so is more imminent and so are the effects. The global plan to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius or even 2 degrees Celsius will be beyond reach at the rate humankind is going.
2. Every region is facing increasing changes, some more drastic than others. For example, warming over land is larger than the global average, and it is twice as much in the Arctic. Climate change is affecting countries in multifarious ways. For example, archipelagic countries, such as the [Philippines](#) and Maldives, stand to lose major portions of their land due to sea level rise. Countries as disparate as [China](#), [Italy](#) and [Germany](#) are experiencing record rainfall and disastrous floods not seen in thousands of years. The changes are expected to multiply with little or no warning.
3. It is not just about temperature. Climate change includes wetness and dryness, wind patterns, snow, ice, erosion of coastal areas and even changes in oceanic patterns. Examples include more intense rainfall and resultant flooding or the opposite - drought in places that did not have them before, changes in the monsoon patterns, continued sea level rise where extreme sea level events previously occurring once every 100 years could occur yearly. Loss of glaciers and ice cover, permafrost thawing, marine heat waves, oceanic acidification, the destruction of marine ecosystems and the attendant losses to sea life and fisheries are also examples.

The Sixth Assessment Report will provide a more detailed regional assessment of climate change and will focus on useful information that will influence risk assessment, mitigation, adaptation and how to remain resilient in the face of all these.

Insurance is one of the industries that can help mitigate the impact of these changes and assist in a post-catastrophe scenario where the insured populace can rebuild and reestablish their lives and livelihoods greatly increasing their resilience to disasters.

The Philippine insurance industry, with the help of its regulators, the [Insurance Commission](#), and direct or indirect assistance from the [World Bank](#), the GIZ and other organizations are rushing to cobble together a program called the Philippine Catastrophe Insurance Facility (PCIF) with four core objectives:



1. A stronger nonlife insurance industry: The PCIF will enable more insurers to provide coverage against disasters and, thus, promote the financial resilience of the populace and the country's businesses against disasters like floods, typhoons and earthquakes. This includes ensuring that insurers provide timely claims settlement after each natural disaster.
2. Higher insurance penetration over a period: The enhanced ability to develop and offer catastrophe insurance solutions is aimed to be converted into a marked increase in insurance penetration. This requires complementing the advanced supply with complementary measures, primary of which is an education campaign to increase awareness.
3. Adequate and sustainable catastrophe premium rates: As the local insurance industry has limited financial capacity to adequately retain [Cat Risks](#), the PCIF is envisioned to increase [Nat Cat](#) premiums of an estimated 30 percent to 50 percent of current market rates via the use of technical proven rates. To ensure the affordability of the Insuring public, this is to be done in increments that would be acceptable to all. The purpose is to ensure a more resilient industry where the premium reserves are sufficient to respond to disasters.
4. Increased local catastrophe retention: When currently, the providers of Cat insurance reinsure primarily abroad, the PCIF will provide the opportunity to leverage on the retention of the Philippine companies in a way that the premium base can be grown internally. Nevertheless, given the nature of Cat Risks, some level of international reinsurance is likely to remain necessary.

Still, in the initial stages of its formation, this initiative needs to be coddled and coaxed into being finalized as a minority of players still need to be convinced to throw their considerable weight and support behind what all seem to agree is an initiative with a noble and timely purpose.



Rotary gives mangroves a fighting chance

August 23, 2021



Rotarians and volunteers plant mangrove seedlings in Barangay Pahanocoy, [Bacolod City](#). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A thousand mangrove seedlings were planted by volunteers on the shoreline of Aning in Barangay Pahanocoy, Bacolod City.

This is the third mangrove planting by the [Rotary Club](#) of Bacolod-Marapara as part of its "Project [Green](#)," a long-term initiative designed to help raise awareness of the importance of protecting our environment.

"Around the world, mangroves are threatened, but they are important to the ecosystem. Their protection and restoration should be a high priority," said Marapara Rotary president [Rolando Corona](#).

"Mangroves really matter because they form a natural barrier against violent storm surges and floods as well as absorb carbon. Their dense network of roots prevents contamination of downstream waterways, protecting sensitive habitats, humans and animals alike."

Planting the seedlings were volunteers from the Rotary Club of Bacolod Marapara, the [Rotaract Club of Marapara](#), Eco Folks, [Bacolod Tugboat Services](#), Bredco and USLS High School Batch '87, the [Real Estate Brokers Association](#) of the [Philippines](#) and Brgy. Pahanocoy councilors.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/23/public-square/rotary-gives-mangroves-a-fighting-chance/1811950>



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#CATHrowback: Kung hindi agad masosolusyunan ang problema sa plastik, ano nga ba ang magiging epekto nito sa ating kalikasan at sa susunod na henerasyon? Alamin 'yan mamayang 4PM sa [ABS CBN Integrated News & Current Affairs Facebook page](#).

PLASTIC POLLUTION SA PILIPINAS



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Hunt on for climate killing gas

[By Agence France-Presse](#) August 23, 2021

Peotone, [United States](#): After finding a rusty gas canister near his midwest US home, [Rick Karas](#) checked online if it was worth anything. Incredibly, it turned out to be a coveted commodity in the battle against climate change.

His roughly basketball-sized container was filled with CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), a potent greenhouse gas that is perfectly legal to possess but which has been globally banned from manufacture for decades.

Absent a government mandate to destroy the ample existing stocks, a handful of companies have stepped in to hunt down the gases in a process funded by selling carbon credits they earn from destroying the chemicals.

Karas connected online with a company called Tradewater, which subsequently led to one of its staffers picking up the can at his home in tiny Peotone, [Illinois](#), about an hour's drive from Chicago.

Minutes later he had a \$100 bill and the gas - once standard in car air conditioners or refrigerators and packed into cans that leak over time - was on its way to the incinerator.

"I feel good. A little cash in the pocket and it helps the environment," Karas, who raises bees, told [Agence France-Presse](#) (AFP), though he was completely unaware of the climate connection.

That's the way the Chicago-based firm prefers it.

They make no mention of their mission in online ads targeting would-be sellers and they even do business under a different name, Refrigerant Finders, to sidestep what remains a politically charged subject in the United States.

[Chad Dorger](#), who picked up Karas's tank, noted that 80 percent of customers don't care what happens to the gas, but for the rest it can get tricky.

"They will flat out refuse (to sell) and they'll say, 'No, I want this to be used. Or I don't believe in that climate change hoax," he said.

Still, the taming of CFCs has been one of the success stories in humanity's patchy efforts to tackle the manmade emissions that are driving stronger storms, drier droughts and the massive, deadly wildfires that have come roaring after them this summer.

The right to pollute?

The [United Nations](#) trumpets the 1987 [Montreal](#) Protocol, which barred making CFCs so as to repair a thin layer of ozone in the atmosphere that shields life on Earth from cancer-causing ultraviolet rays, as the "only UN treaty ever that has been ratified by every country on Earth."

It's hard to debate the logic. Besides their corrosive effect on the ozone layer, CFCs are also a potent greenhouse gas that traps heat up to 10,000 times more efficiently than carbon dioxide.

Global CFC concentrations fell steadily until about 2012 after the Protocol took effect, but startled scientists discovered in 2018 that the pace of that slowdown had dropped by half during the preceding five years.



Evidence pointed to factories in eastern China. Once CFC production in that region stopped, the ozone layer's healing process appeared to be back on track.

There's not many voices against destroying CFCs, but carbon offsets are more complicated.

Under the scheme, a polluting company or individual buys a credit equivalent to a metric tonne of carbon dioxide, with the money going directly or indirectly into an emissions reduction plan, like planting trees or investment in renewable energy sources.

But some critics accuse big business of paying for a quick fix rather than seeking to truly overhaul the environmental impact of their operations, while some botched offset projects have failed to deliver.

"For some hardcore environmentalists, that is giving someone the right to pollute and we shouldn't pollute," said [George Washington University](#) economics professor [Michael Moore](#).

Tradewater's leaders, however, are very clear about what they do and why.

"If companies like ours don't destroy this refrigerant, it will leak into the atmosphere," chief operating officer [Gabe Plotkin](#) told AFP.

"There's no government mandate to do it. There's no financial incentive to do it. And in some cases there's no will to do it," he added.



RECONNECT COLOMBIA

Piranhas and pink dolphins lure visitors to remote Lake Tarapoto

Lucy Sherriff, CNN • Updated 19th August 2021

(CNN) — Pink dolphins, piranhas and black caiman. It sounds like the stuff of legend, but in fact they're the inhabitants of a protected wetlands system in the Amazon, home to thousands of rare animal species and fascinating tales of tribal gods turning men into dolphins.

Storytelling is part of the culture for the indigenous groups who live in the Amazon rainforest, and the wetlands play an important part in the yarns that have been spun for centuries. The stories told by the Ticuna people are no different; one in particular involves a pink dolphin disguised in human form who attends the tribe's traditional festivities to enchant women who become enamored by this tall, strange man. He then takes her down to the river, and turns her into a dolphin, too.

But the waters of the Lagos de Tarapoto aren't just home to tall tales. They're such an important habitat for animal species that they were granted protected status in 2018, following a five-year battle to petition for the wetlands region to be internationally recognized by the Swiss conservation body Ramsar.



Visitors can take guided boat tours in Lake Tarapoto.

Courtesy Sergio León-Ecodestinos

Scientists have been conducting research in the wetlands -- which include Lake Tarapoto as well as a network of other waterways -- for years. The lake is fed by the Amazon River and is interconnected to numerous smaller lakes by a complex system of creeks.

Experts have identified as many as 900 plant species, 300 bird species, 176 fish, 56 reptiles, 46 mammals and 30 amphibians. The wetlands, which cover 400 square kilometers, have one of the highest presence of river dolphins in the Colombian Amazon.

Recently, Omacha, alongside the WWF and with the help of local groups, began a satellite monitoring project of the cetaceans in the Amazon region.

The wetlands are a key place for dolphin breeding, as well as a fish breeding site -- a vital source of food and income for the 22 indigenous communities that live in the region. The pirarucú fish, one of the largest freshwater fish, is a species of arapaima, which are native to the Amazon River. They have been a key food source for indigenous communities for centuries and are eaten fresh, dried or salted -- and can grow up to 10 feet long.



Fish and tourism are key sources of income for local indigenous communities.

Raul Arboleda/AFP/Getty Images

Tourism and conservation at work

The indigenous communities also rely on tourism for income, and the preservation of this water system means they can have a sustainable income for years to come. Visitors to the region can hire local indigenous guides to boat them around the lake and through the river networks, pointing out wildlife and explaining the historical importance of the site.

The wetland region is best known for Lake Tarapoto, a 37-square-kilometer body of water which is a short ride from Puerto Nariño, a town in the Amazonas region of Colombia, perched on the edge of the Amazon River.

Tourists who make it to the remote region flock to the lake in the hopes of catching a glimpse of the rare pink dolphin or trying their hand at piranha fishing. The Centro de Interpretación Ambiental Natütama, run by a non-profit, offers a host of information on the pink dolphin and manatee species.

There is still no consensus about why the pink dolphin is pink, as some of the mammals, known locally as "boto," remain gray. Coloration varies, with adult males being the most pink, perhaps, experts surmise, because they fight a lot -- and it is their scar tissue that is pink. Another theory is that they camouflage themselves to match the red mud that appears in some of the rivers following heavy rains.



Tourists come to the area in hopes of spotting rare pink dolphins. The river dolphin here is pictured in the Amazon River in neighboring Brazil.

Schafer & Hill/Moment Mobile RF/Getty Images

Although you can swim in the lakes, they are piranha-infested, so perhaps check with your tour guide before taking a dip.

The motorized boats that were once involved in some tours, as well as logging, hunting and overfishing were threatening the biodiversity of the wetland complex, so scientists joined forces with local indigenous groups who inhabit the area to petition Ramsar, the Swiss conservation body, to declare Tarapoto a "wetland of international importance" in 2018. The area is the first wetland region in the Colombian Amazon to achieve such a status.

"Wetlands with Ramsar status are internationally recognized because of their unique characteristics of biodiversity and natural wealth, and must be conserved and used sustainably to maintain their quality and permanence over time. Large-scale mining and major infrastructure construction cannot be carried out at Ramsar sites," says Saulo Usma, Freshwater Specialist at WWF Colombia.

Visitors wishing to experience the lake can stay at Puerto Nariño, a small town of 6,000 residents, mostly indigenous, that touts itself as an ecological community. No cars or



vehicles of any kind are allowed in the town -- meaning all tours are done by wooden boats.

The town is reachable by plane from Bogotá, Medellín or Cartagena. Accommodation and facilities are basic, but it's a wonderful jumping off point to explore all the Amazonas region has to offer, and a chance to experience indigenous culture in its fullest.



Conservation is a priority in the area. The wetlands received protected status in 2018.

Courtesy Sergio León-Ecodestinos

Working with locals to protect the wetlands

Designating the site as protected means there is the ability to finance conservation projects, according to the leaders of the local community.

"The designation of the Tarapoto lakes as a Ramsar site is an opportunity to strengthen, protect and conserve our natural, cultural and social resources," says Lilia Isolina Java Tapayuri, community leader of the Cocama ethnic group.

Working with the local indigenous groups has been a vital part in the protection process. Sinchi Institute, another of the Colombian environmental groups that collaborated to get the lake protected, has been working with local fishermen to ensure they are involved.



A view of the Lagos de Tarapoto wetlands complex in Colombia's Amazonas department.

Raul Arboleda/AFP/Getty Images

"Sinchi has collaborated in the construction of the management plan for the site," says biologist Mariela Osorno, who specializes in the Amazon region. "We've also accompanied fishermen from the Tarapoto system, training them to collect data, community monitoring and fishing uses of the area."

The institute is also working with communities to produce a bird guide for the area, as well as training up villagers so they can use their skills to start bird-focused tourism ventures.

"Participants have been trained in methodologies for bird watching, species identification and use of bird guides," explains Osorno, adding that Sincha has also worked with locals to recover the names of birds in the native languages of the territories.

"It is essential to promote its conservation and proper management, to ensure the permanence of the genetic richness of species, ecosystems and landscapes, and to safeguard the culture and knowledge of the native communities that inhabit it, particularly the Ticuna (also known as the Maguta), Cocama and Yagua ethnic groups."

If you do get the chance to visit this beautiful and underdeveloped corner of the world, you'll certainly leave with a renewed sense of living simply, side-by-side with nature.

Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/lake-tarapoto-colombia/index.html>



SYLVAIN THOMAS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

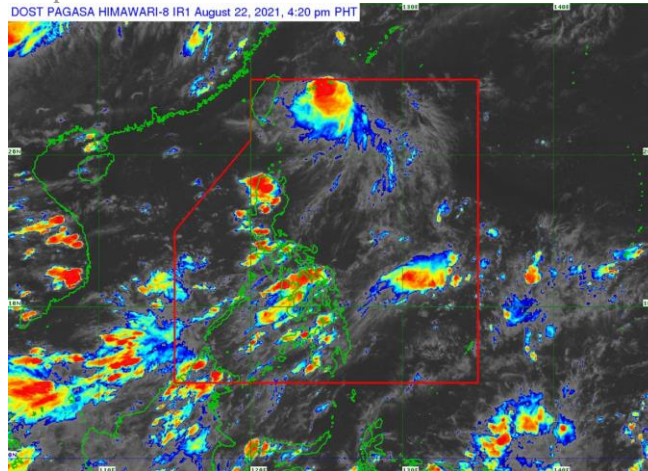
DOMINIQUE Guicheteau, scientific director of the 'Plaine des Maures' Nature Reserve, holds up a Hermann's turtle which survived the recent forest fires at La Garde-Freinet in the Var region of southern France. In a burned and lunar landscape, volunteers discovered some of the turtles, a protected species, burned. But about 30 others were found safe and sound after taking refuge under rocks and were able to be watered.



PAGASA: Isang weakens, exits the PAR

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

Published August 22, 2021 5:56pm



Isang weakened into a tropical storm and is now outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility, PAGASA said Sunday.

Isang weakened into a tropical storm and is now outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility, PAGASA said Sunday.

In its 5 p.m. severe weather bulletin, the weather agency said Isang exited the PAR at 1:10 p.m.

PAGASA said the center of Isang was located 605 kilometers northeast of Itbayat, Batanes with maximum sustained winds of 85 kilometers per hour near the center, gustiness of up to 105 kph, and central pressure of 994 hPa.

It is moving north-northwestward at 15 kph, PAGASA added.

In the next 24 hours, PAGASA said Isang remains less likely to affect sea conditions within the coastal waters of the country. — **DVM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/800371/pagasa-isang-weakens-exits-the-par/story/?fbclid=IwAR00r-0c9muX52Q4SMaIynlabRWXJYfXLi6XryimepdN_fAv_nNOVrHXV0Q

23 AUGUST 2021, MONDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

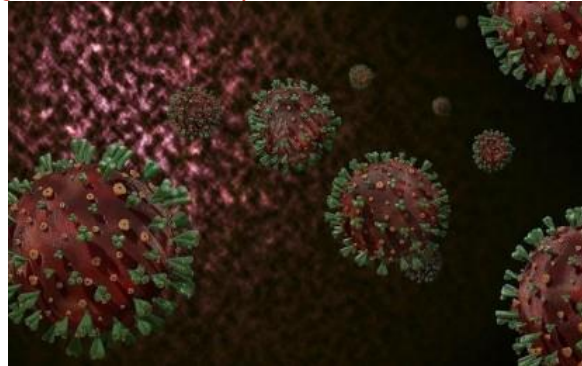
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH logs almost 14K recoveries, 16K new Covid-19 cases

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 22, 2021, 5:25 pm



MANILA – The country's total number of recovered coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases has reached 1,681,925 after 13,952 new recoveries were reported on Sunday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) noted that recoveries account for 91.4 percent of the total case count which has reached 1,839,635 since the start of the pandemic in March last year.

Meanwhile, 16,044 new infections brought the total number of active cases to 125,900.

About 93.8 percent of these active cases are mild, 3.4 percent are asymptomatic, 0.6 percent are critical, 1.2 percent are severe, and 0.94 percent are moderate.

Some 215 new deaths were also reported, pushing the country's total Covid-19 fatalities to 31,180.

According to DOH data on Aug. 20, about 25.5 percent of 65,583 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"About 460 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 427 are recoveries and one is death. Moreover, 120 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it added.

All laboratories were operational on Aug. 20 while six laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH noted the six non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 2.9 percent of samples tested, and 3.4 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 73 percent of 4,100 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 62 percent of 20,200 isolation beds, 66 percent of 14,300 ward beds, and 51 percent of 3,100 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 71 percent of 1,400 ICU beds, 62 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 72 percent of 4,100 ward beds, and 56 percent of 1,100 ventilators are in use in the National Capital Region. **(PNA)**



DOH reports 16,044 more COVID-19 cases in 3rd-highest daily increase

Philstar.com August 22, 2021 | 3:44pm



COVID-19 patients pictured inside the chapel of Quezon City General Hospital on Aug. 19, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Sunday reported 16,044 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,839,635.

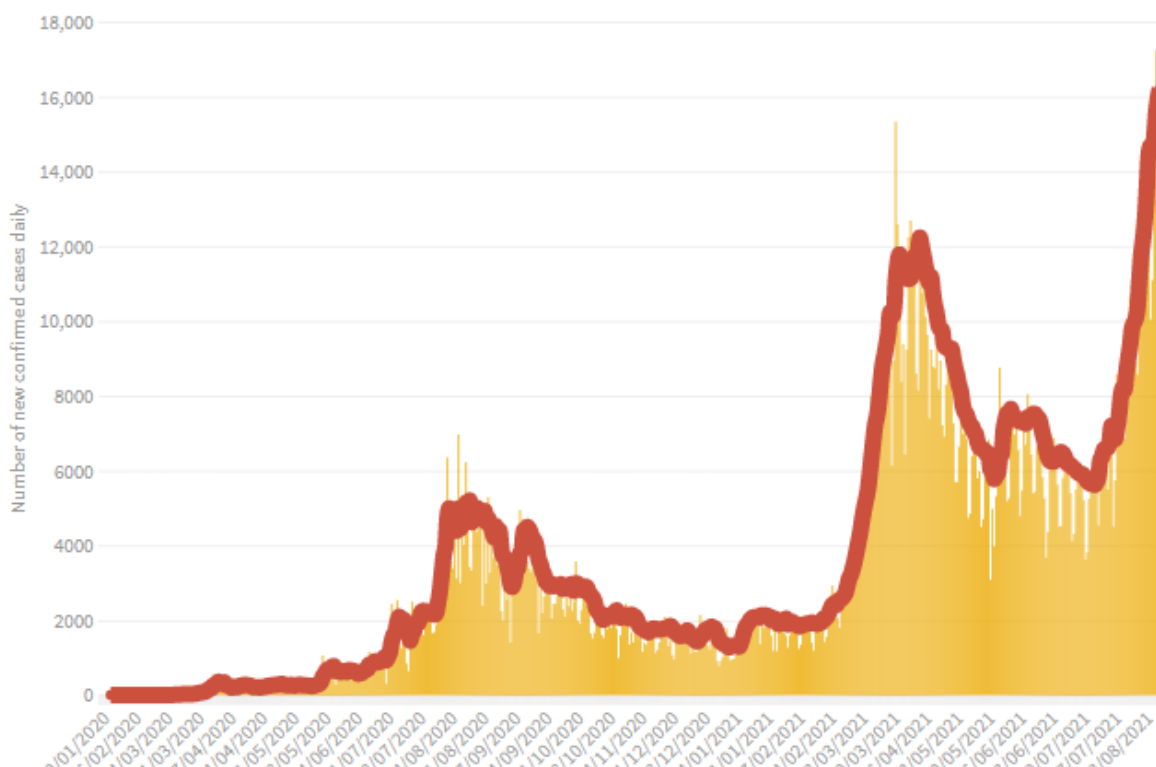
- Active cases: 125,900 or 6.8% of the total
- Recoveries: 13,952, pushing total to 1,681,925
- Deaths: 215, bringing the total to 31,810

Today's cases mark the third-highest daily increase recorded since the pandemic began.

The Department of Health said six laboratories did not submit test results, which accounted for some 2.9% of all samples tested.

COVID-19 cases in the Philippines

■ Seven-day moving average ■ Number of new confirmed cases



Source: Department of Health • As of August 22, 2021, 4 p.m.



Enforcement of MECQ continues

- After a two-week enhanced community quarantine that saw 149,000 quarantine violators accosted by cops, the Philippine National Police is urging personnel to be stricter with violators doing outside exercise and those caught not following health protocols in public transportation.
- In the wake of reports of people being poisoned after taking ivermectin pills meant to treat worms in horses, the US Food and Drug Administration issued an advisory reminding the public that the animal drug is only authorized for use by humans in very specific ways.
- Another lawmaker is urging the Senate to investigate the reported low utilization of funds of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board under its service contracting program which led to delayed benefits for drivers and operators of public utility vehicles.



COVID-19 surge sa Metro Manila bumagal na – OCTA

By [Mer Layson](#), [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - August 23, 2021 - 12:00am



2-week ECQ epektibo

MANILA, Philippines — Epektibo umano ang ipinatupad na dalawang linggong ‘enhanced community quarantine (ECQ)’ sa Metro Manila makaraang bumaba na ang ‘growth rate’ ng mga bagong kaso ng COVID-19.

“The lockdown in the form of enhanced community quarantine helped reduce the growth rate of new COVID-19 cases,” ayon sa OCTA Research Group.

Ayon sa OCTA, nangangahulugan na bumagal na ang ‘surge’ sa Metro Manila. Ngunit hindi pa rin umano kailangang magkumpiyansa ang nasyunal at lokal na mga pamahalaan maging ang publiko dahil sa maaaring maulit pa ito kung magpapabaya.

Sa kanila datos, mula sa 3,088 na arawang average na kaso mula Agosto 8-14, umakyat ito sa 3,819 daily average mula Agosto 15-21. Bumababa naman ang reproduction number sa National Capital Region (NCR) mula 1.90 patungo sa 1.67 ngunit mas mataas pa rin ito sa ideal na 1.0.

Mas mabagal din ang pagbaba ng bilang ng mga bagong kaso ngayong Agosto kumpara noong Abril dahil sa presensya ngayon ng mas nakahahawa na Delta variant. May epekto rin ang patuloy na paggalaw ng maraming tao sa kabila ng pagpapatupad ng ECQ.

Upang mapanatili ang pagbaba, sinabi ng OCTA na kailangang magtuluy-tuloy ang paghihigpit sa publiko sa loob ng apat na susunod na mga linggo.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/08/23/2121962/covid-19-surge-sa-metro-manila-bumagal-na-octa/amp/>



DoH: Expect rise in virus cases

The newly-confirmed infections are the second highest daily infections reported since 2 April when new cases reached the record 15,310.

Published 4 hours ago on August 23, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



The Department of Health (DoH) on Sunday warned the public against the possibility of higher coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections in the country in the next few days.

This, as the Health department recorded 16,044 — the second highest daily infections reported since 2 April when new cases reached the record 15,310.

“In the next few days, Covid-19 cases might continue to increase. We urged the public to adhere to minimum public health standards, PDITR strategies, and get vaccinated as it is the best defense against Covid-19,” the DoH said in a statement.

Based on DoH Covid-19 case bulletin, the latest infections also pushed the country’s total caseload to 1,839,635.

The number of active cases, on the other hand, rose to 125,900 — the highest recorded active cases in four months — and of the total, 93.8 percent are mild, 3.4 percent are asymptomatic, 1.2 percent are severe, and 0.94 percent are in critical condition.

DoH also recorded 13,952 new recoveries to bring the total to 1,681,925, while the death toll now stands at 31,810 following 215 new fatalities recorded.

The positivity rate stood at 25.5 percent out of the 65,583 individuals who were screened for the dreaded lung disease on 20 August.

Comparing the data from 21 to 22 August, the country’s occupied intensive care unit (ICU) beds for Covid-19 remained at 73 percent.

The occupied isolation beds for Covid-19 slightly increased from 61 percent to 62 percent, mechanical ventilators currently in use also decreased from 52 percent to 51 percent.

In the National Capital Region, the ICU beds which are currently being utilized decreased from 74 percent to 71 percent. However, there is a slight increase in occupied isolation beds for Covid-19 increased from 61 percent to 62 percent.



The mechanical ventilators currently in use in Metro Manila slightly decreased from 58 percent to 56 percent.

The DoH noted 460 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 427 are recoveries and one is a death.

“Moreover, 120 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation,” the agency added.

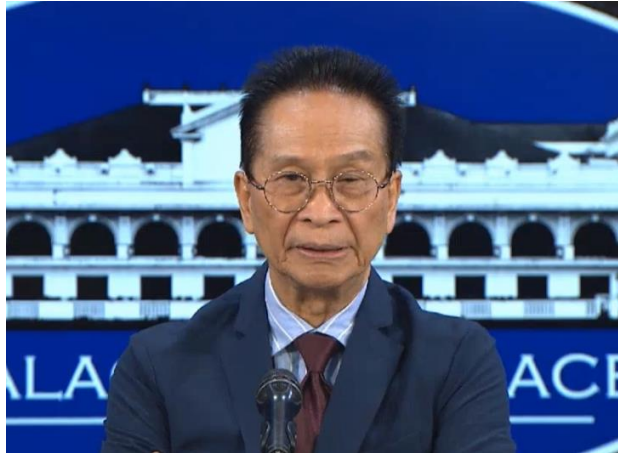


Cooperation key vs Delta — Panelo

Eleazar said that they continue to monitor the roads and public places as Metro Manila was placed under modified ECQ.

Published 6 hours ago on August 23, 2021 12:30 AM

By [Gab Humilde Villegas](#)



Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo reminded the public to cooperate with the government in observing health protocols, as the Delta variant of Covid-19 continues to wreak havoc.

In his online program “Counterpoint”, Panelo said that it will be difficult for the government to control the spread of the new strain, if people will continue to violate health protocols.

“We may be implementing lockdowns but if continue disregarding health protocols, we will have a hard time controlling the surge,” Panelo said.

We may even end up, he pointed out, with never-ending lockdowns, “if the people will not cooperate.”

“Cooperation is the key here. Let’s join hands. Otherwise, we will have a hard time. We will just be going back and forth,” he explained.

Panelo made the remarks after the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported 149,963 health violators during the enforcement of the enhanced community quarantine in Metro Manila.

According to PNP Chief Guillermo Eleazar, most of the violations reported were over the failure of wearing protective mask or face shield, failure of following social distancing rules, or being involved in mass gatherings.

Eleazar said that 66 percent or 98,971 have been warned, 29 percent or 43,328 were fined, and 5 percent or 7,664 subjected to community service.

He added that there are total of 9,998 violators arrested daily during the two-week lockdown in NCR, and more than 690,320 violators, or a daily average of 46,021 recorded across the country.

Eleazar said that they continue to monitor the roads and public places as Metro Manila was placed under modified ECQ.



House crafting Bayanihan 4

'We have our experts and economists in the Ways and Means. We will work together to craft this.'

Published 6 hours ago on August 23, 2021 01:00 AM By [Sundy Locus @tribunephil_sndy](#)



Despite the Congress' divided opinion on the passage of Bayanihan 3, a partylist-lawmaker on Sunday disclosed that the House of Representatives is now working on crafting a fourth version of the stimulus package.

Ang Probinsyano Partylist Rep. Alfred de los Santos, who led the call to investigate the delay in the release of the Special Risk Allowance (SRA) of healthcare workers in the country, said the lower chamber is now preparing for Bayanihan 4 — just in case such measure will be needed to help Filipinos severely affected by the raging coronavirus pandemic.

The proposed P401-billion Bayanihan 3 is still pending at the Senate despite its passage at the House due to the senators' concern on the budgetary constraints of the government along with the millions of unspent funds under Bayanihan 2.

Several lawmakers including Senate president Vicente Sotto III and Senator Panfilo Lacson expressed concern on the timeliness of its passage since the executive branch is set to submit its 2022 National Expenditure Program (NEP) to the legislative branch on 26 August.

Lacson earlier said that it "doesn't make sense" for the Congress to seek a supplementary budget if the regular budget is already being prepared.

"We are working on Bayanihan 4 slowly, just in case it will be needed," De los Santos said in a radio interview.

"We have our experts and economists in the Ways and Means. We will work together to craft this," he said.

"But we are also looking if there's a need to extend Bayanihan 3," he added.

Under study

The solon, however, said they are still studying the possible provisions of the measure as he stressed that it should fit the needs of Filipinos in the current times.

"We are still studying what is lacking (on other Bayanihan laws). We are still looking into the current needs of Filipinos in the present situation," he added.



The development came days after both chambers of the Congress conducted a motu proprio investigation on the alleged mishandling of the Department of Health (DoH) on the P67.32 billion Covid-19 response fund of the government as previously flagged by the Commission on Audit.

Among the issues discussed during the separate hearings are the sluggish disbursement of SRA and other benefits of healthcare workers under the Bayanihan laws, unclear guidelines on the entitled beneficiaries of the special benefit, the undocumented transfer of DoH of P42 billion to Department of Budget and Management procurement service (DBM-PS) and the purchase of DBM-PS of supposed overpriced masks and face shields for the DoH.

To further clarify the allegations, the House Committee on Public Funds and the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee will continue its probe next week.

President Rodrigo Duterte, during his pre-recorded public address aired on Saturday, ordered the DoH and the DBM to take action on the issue of the benefits of medical frontliners as he set a 10-day deadline to both agencies to distribute SRA.

Meanwhile, both chambers of the Congress are set to resume its session on Monday following a two-week suspension in light of the re-imposition of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the capital region.

Speaker Lord Allan Velasco on Sunday assured the public that the chamber will “work double time” to take up pending measures at the House of Representatives.

Velasco added that the Lower House is also ready to begin its budget deliberations on the proposed P5.024 trillion national budget after the executive branch submit the 2022 NEP to the legislative branch on 26 August.

Constitutional duty

“We will tackle as many bills and resolutions as possible to make up for the time lost during the ECQ,” Velasco said in a press statement.

“We are ready to carry out our constitutional duty of carefully scrutinizing the NEP and eventually pass a national budget that is truly reflective and responsive to the needs of Filipinos as Covid-19 continues to wreak havoc on people’s lives and the economy,” he added.

To ensure safety among staff, the House leadership announced that plenary sessions will resume under the hybrid platform with only limited employees to be allowed to be present physically.

Secretary General Mark Llandro Mendoza said in a memorandum that sessions will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. — with only the Speaker or his duly designated deputies; the Majority Leader and Minority Leader or their respective representatives; and a limited number of Secretariat personnel physically present inside the session hall.

The Lower Chamber announced the suspension of plenary sessions earlier this month after the country’s pandemic task force decided to revert the National Capital Region back to the strictest community quarantine.

For its part, the Senate earlier announced that plenary sessions will resume regardless of the quarantine status to be imposed in Metro Manila.

“We will indeed resume whether ECQ is extended or not,” Sotto said in a message to reporters.



Like its counterpart, plenary sessions in the Senate will be held under hybrid setup and only limited employees will be allowed inside the session hall.

Among the priority measures to be passed, according to Sotto, are the amendments to the Retail Liberalization Act and the Public Services Act, among others.



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 526

AGOSTO 22, 2021

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

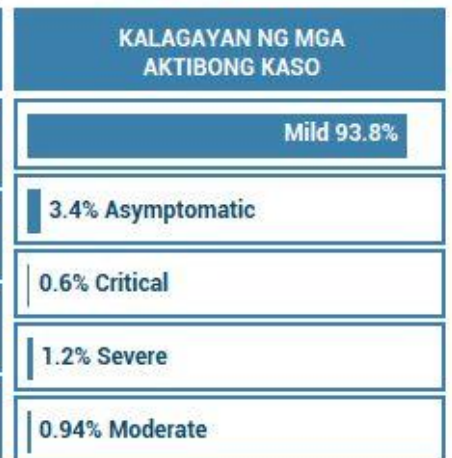
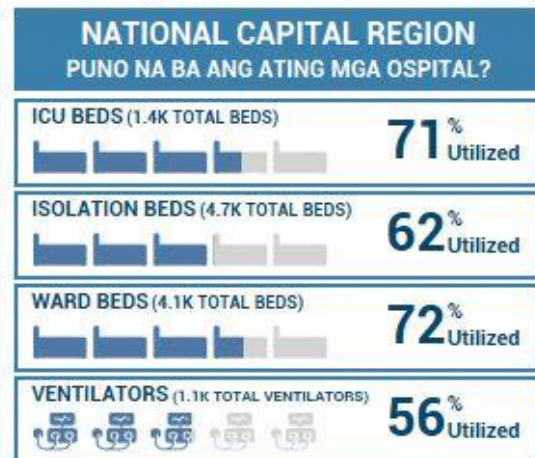
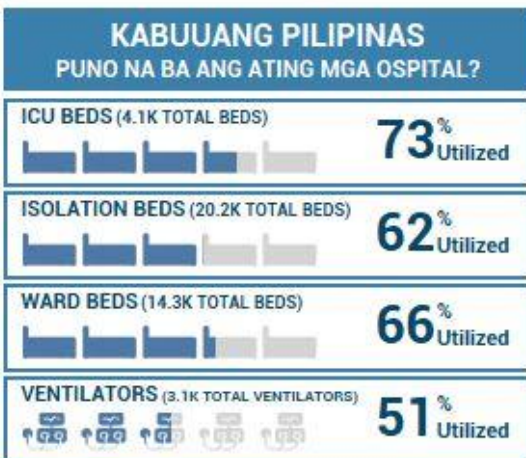


MGA BAGONG KASO **16,044** MGA BAGONG GUMALING **13,952** MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **215**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **1,839,635**



HALOS
97.2%
ANG MILD AT ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ipinapaalala sa lahat na kinakailangan ang ating **mahusay na pagsunod sa Minimum Public Health Standards** upang mapigilan ang mabilis na pagkalat ng COVID-19. Para sa mga nakakaramdam ng sintomas, agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS o One COVID Referral Center** para sa karmapatang gabay. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

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

<p>Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod: SMART: 0919 977 3333 GLOBE: 0915 777 7777 TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00</p>	<p>May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na si KIRA! VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH MESSENGER: Department of Health PH KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph</p>	<p>Manatiling ligtas! I-download ang StaySafe App O Gamiting ang WEBAPP at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph</p>
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23 AUGUST 2021, MONDAY



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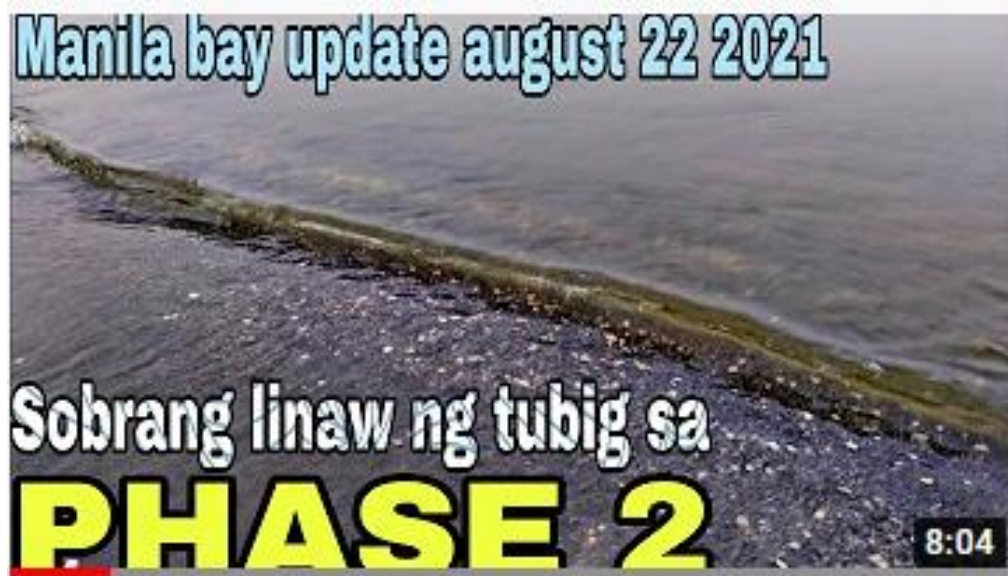
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