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68% of PH LGUs now with approved solid waste management plan- Cimatu

Published December 22, 2021, 6:21 PM by Aaron Recuenco

The government's goal of improving waste management is now gaining ground as the solid waste management (SWM) plans of 51 more local government units have been approved by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu, who also chairs the SWMC said the approval brought to a total of 1,171 the number of LGUs with approved SWM, adding that the figure represents 68 percent of its target nationwide.

"We are indeed progressing in our compliance with approving the 10-year SWM plans of LGUs but there's still a lot of work to do," said Cimatu.

"We will continue to assist the LGUs as we look forward that all cities and municipalities have their approved plans in the coming year. I'm grateful that Undersecretary Benny Antiporda as my Alternate Chair leads the Commission to achieve this before the end of the year," he added.

On November 24, the NSWMC announced the approval of eight SWM plans—two in Pangasinan and one each in Cagayan, Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Kalinga, and Isabela.

The remaining SWM plans were approved on December 7—one each in Negros Oriental, Cebu, Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Norte, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales, Benguet, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga del Sur; two each in Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Albay, Camarines Norte, Iloilo, Antique, and Negros Occidental; three each in Ilocos Sur, Isabela, Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, and Kalinga, and four in Cagayan.

Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, mandates LGUs to have their respective 10-year SWM plans for the "reuse, recycling, and composting of wastes generated" as well as the "efficient management of solid waste generated within their jurisdiction."

Each approved SWM plan takes on a holistic approach for the management of different kinds of wastes touching on strategies for waste diversion, waste collection efficiency or coverage, disposal, and operation and maintenance of SWM equipment and facility.

Due to the pandemic, among the highlighted requirements to be included in their SWM plans this year is the COVID Waste Management Plan covering COVID-19 related health care wastes, such as face masks and testing kits in accordance with NSWMC Resolution 1364, series of 2020.

The implementation of SWM plans of the LGUs is being monitored with the assistance of the Environmental Management Bureau regional offices nationwide.#

 ${\bf Source:} \underline{https://mb.com.ph/2021/12/22/68-of-ph-lgus-now-with-approved-solid-wastemanagement-plan-cimatu/}$





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1,171 solid waste management plans aprubado sa NSWMC



MANILA, Philippines – Inaprubahan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) ang solid waste management (SWM) plans ng karagdagang 51 local government units (LGUs) kaya't umabot na ito sa 1,171 o 68 percent ng inasahan sa buong bansa.

Sa ulat, ang SWM plans ng 51 LGUs ay naaprubahan sa ginanap na NSWMC-led virtual en banc meeting noong Nobyembre 24 at Disyembre 7.

"We are indeed progressing in our compliance with approving the 10-year SWM plans of LGUs but there's still a lot of work to do," ani NSWMC Chair at DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

"We will continue to assist the LGUs as we look forward that all cities and municipalities have their approved plans in the coming year. I'm grateful that Undersecretary Benny Antiporda as my Alternate Chair leads the Commission to achieve this before the end of the year," ayon pa sa Environment chief.

Kaugnay nito noong Nobyembre 24, inanunsiyo ng NSWMC ang pag-apruba sa walong SWM plans, dalawa dito ay mula sa Pangasinan at tag-iisa sa Cagayan, Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Kalinga, at Isabela.

Habang ang natitirang SWM plans ay naaprubahan noong Disyembre 7, tag-isa sa Negros Oriental, Cebu, Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Norte, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales, Benguet, Zamboanga del Norte, at Zamboanga del Sur; dalawa sa Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Albay, Camarines Norte, Iloilo, Antique, at Negros Occidental; tig-tatlo sa Ilocos Sur, Isabela, Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, at Kalinga, habang apat naman sa Cagayan.

"With the implementation of the approved plans, solid wastes will be managed properly; proper segregation at source will be implemented that will result to decrease in solid wastes being dumped in landfills; LGUs will have their own disposal facility that will lessen wastes leaked to the oceans," sabi naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

"Achieving all these will ultimately mitigate and eradicate adverse impacts of wastes to our environment and even in our health. The importance of solid waste management cannot be overemphasized," dagdag pa ni Antiporda.

Samantala, nakasaad sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 na mandato ng bawat LGU na magkaroon ng sariling 10-year SWM plan para sa "reusing, recycling, and composting of wastes generated" maging ang maayos na pamamahala sa solid waste na nanggagaling sa kanilang hurisdiksiyon.





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Kaugnay nito ang pag-apruba sa bawat SWM plan ay kinakailangan ng kumpletong pamamaraan para sa pangangasiwa ng iba't-ibang uri ng basura para sa "waste diversion, waste collection efficiency o coverage, disposal, operation at maintenance ng SWM equipment at facility.

Dahil naman sa pandemya, kabilang sa kinakailangang bahagi sa SWM plans ngayong taon ay ang COVID Waste Management Plan na tumutukoy sa COVID-19 related health care wastes, kabilang na dito ang face masks at testing kits alinsunod sa NSWMC Resolution 1364, series of 2020. **Santi Celario**

Source: https://www.remate.ph/1171-solid-waste-management-plans-aprubado-sa-nswmc/





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1,171 solid waste management plans get green

light for 2021

DEC 22, 2021, 5:05 PM

Santiago Celario Writer



THE National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has approved the solid waste management (SWM) plans of 51 more local government units (LGUs), bringing the total number of approved plans to 1,171 or 68 percent of its target nationwide for the year.

The SWM plans of the 51 LGUs were approved during the NSWMC-led virtual en banc meetings on November 24 and December 7.

"We are indeed progressing in our compliance with approving the 10-year SWM plans of LGUs but there's still a lot of work to do," said NSWMC Chair and DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

He added: "We will continue to assist the LGUs as we look forward that all cities and municipalities have their approved plans in the coming year. I'm grateful that Undersecretary Benny Antiporda as my Alternate Chair leads the Commission to achieve this before the end of the year."

On November 24, the NSWMC announced the approval of more eight plans for various areas.

"With the implementation of the approved plans, solid wastes will be managed properly; proper segregation at source will be implemented that will result to decrease in solid wastes being dumped in landfills; LGUs will have their own disposal facility that will lessen wastes leaked to the oceans," said DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

"Achieving all these will ultimately mitigate and eradicate adverse impacts of wastes to our environment and even in our health. The importance of solid waste management cannot be overemphasized," Antiporda also said.

Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, mandates LGUs to have their respective 10-year SWM plans for the "reuse, recycling, and composting of wastes generated" as well as the "efficient management of solid waste generated within their jurisdiction."

Each approved SWM plan takes on a holistic approach for the management of different kinds of wastes touching on strategies for waste diversion, waste collection efficiency or coverage, disposal, and operation and maintenance of SWM equipment and facility.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/1-171-solid-waste-management-plans-get-green-light-for-2021?fbclid=IwAR2KcNIJFyH5-





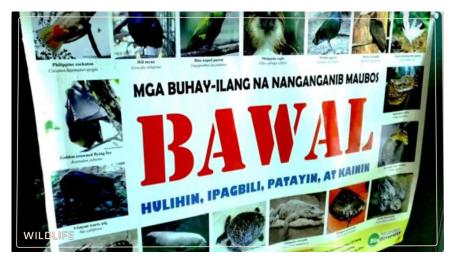
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<u>Cimatu calls for heightened vigilance vs illegal</u> <u>wildlife trade</u>

DEC 21, 2021, 5:04 PM

Santiago Celario Writer



ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu is urging the public to heighten vigilance against illegal wildlife trade following the arrest of two suspected wildlife traffickers in Pasay City on December 16.

In a statement, Cimatu decried the continuous wildlife trafficking activities despite warnings that illegal trade can facilitate the transmission of zoonotic diseases, such as Covid-19.

To recall, the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) and Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force (AILTF) had arrested in an entrapment two individuals identified as Rowena Pindot and Joel Quimado after they tried to sell pangolins through social media for P75,000 each or P4,500 per kilogram.

Six live pangolins, consisting of five adult males and one adult female, were rescued and brought to the DENR-BMB's Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City.

"The pandemic has spotlighted the lethal consequences of illegal wildlife trade to our ecosystem and the public health risks associated with it. We will not tolerate these activities. We are assuring the public that reports provided to the DENR will be acted upon promptly," Cimatu said.

Pindot and Quimado face charges for violation of Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act of 2001.

Section 23 of RA 9147 states that collection of threatened wildlife including the by-products and derivatives is prohibited.

They shall be allowed only for scientific, or breeding or propagation purposes, and provided that only the accredited individuals, business, research, educational or scientific entities shall be allowed to collect for conservation breeding or propagation purposes.

 $Source: \underline{https://opinyon.net/national/cimatu-calls-for-heightened-vigilance-vs-illegal-wildlife-trade?fbclid=IwAR2tyFX5du2ryTLQhdKx-yzdQcSIng25Fi4Dqve4iMCqrI3N_c_8RcrwOAM$

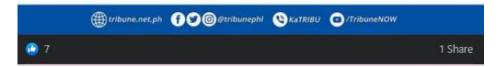




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The Environment Department is appealing to election candidates and their supporters to spare the trees from their crusade. Law states injuring trees of any kind is punishable with imprisonment.





PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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DENR appeals to poll bets, supporters to spare trees

By Marilyn Galang December 22, 2021, 3:29 pm



APPEAL. Joselito Blanco, chief of the DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Nueva Ecija, appeals to local candidates running for office in the May 2022 polls to spare trees from campaign materials and uphold environment-friendly election-related activities. Blanco said on Wednesday (Dec. 22, 2021) that they have been checking reports that some posters or tarpaulins are being nailed on trees. (Photo by Marilyn Galang)

PALAYAN CITY, Nueva Ecija – A ranking environment official on Wednesday called on supporters of political parties not to nail campaign materials on trees, whether planted or naturally grown.

Joselito Blanco, chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-PENRO) here, appealed to candidates to ensure that they post campaign materials only within designated common posting areas and not on trees.

Blanco noted that nailing anything on trees violates Section 3 of Presidential Decree 953.

"Sinasabi rito na (It is stated here that) damaging or injuring naturally grown or planted trees of any kind is punishable with imprisonment of not less than six months and not more than two years or fine of not less than PHP500 or not more than PHP5,000 or both," he said in an interview.

Blanco said they have been receiving and verifying reports that some posters or tarpaulins, including those of some business establishments, are being nailed on trees.

He said even outside the election period, the DENR is empowered by the law to take down any material attached to trees in a way that is damaging to the plants.

He explained that the nailed part would serve as an entry point for fungi, which would eventually kill the tree.

"Nanawagan tayo sa mga supporter ng mga kandidato na huwag magpako sa mga puno (We are calling on the supporters of the candidates not to nail campaign materials on trees)," Blanco said, noting that politicians themselves may not be aware of their supporters' wrongdoings. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1163463





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5 King Cobra nakumpiska sa NBI entrapment

By <u>Danilo Garcia</u>(Pilipino Star Ngayon)

December 23, 2021 - 12:00am



MANILA, Philippines — Limang buhay na King Cobra ang nasabat ng mga tauhan ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) habang ibinebenta sa isang pet shop sa Binondo, Maynila kamakalawa.

Inaresto ng mga tauhan ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division ang isang babaeng Chinese national na itinago muna ang pagkakakilanlan.

Ayon kay NBI-ECD chief, Head Agent Jun Capreso, nakatanggap sila ng ulat ng lumalakas na bentahan ng mga wildlife na iniluluto sa mga restoran na naghahain ng exotic food.

Nagsagawa ng intelligence operation ang NBI hanggang sa matunton nila ang tindahan sa Binondo na nag-aalok ng mga buhay na ahas at iba pang pinangangalagaang hayop.

Katuwang ang mga kinatawan ng Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), nagsagawa ng entrapment operation ang NBI sa tindahan at naaresto ang babaeng Chinese nang pagbentahan ng ahas ang poseur buyer ng ahensya.

Nakasilid na sa sako ang limang King Cobra na ibinebenta sa tindahan.

Iginiit ni Capreso na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagbebenta ng King Cobra sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Delikado rin umano ang pagbebenta o pag-aalaga ng King Cobra dahil sa maaaring makawala ito at makapambiktima ng tao.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2021/12/23/2149615/5-king-cobra-nakumpiska-sa-nbi-entrapment/amp/





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5 king cobra na ibinebenta sa Binondo, nasabat

On Dec 22, 2021



Nasabat ng mga awtoridad sa Binondo, Maynila ang limang buhaý na king cobra na ibinebenta para gawing exotic food sa mga restawran. Naaresto naman ang suspek.

Tumambad sa mga tauhan ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)-Environmental Crime Division, at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang limang buhaý na king cobra na nakasilid sa mga sako sa isang tindahan sa Binondo.

Iniulat nitong Miyerkules na na-monitor ng DENR ang muling pagdami ng illegal wildlife trade sa Metro Manila.

Arestado ang isang Chinese na babae na inabutan na nagbebenta ng mga king cobra.

Hindi pa nagbigay ng pahayag ang suspek at dinala na sa NBI detention center.





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PH wins Global Wildlife award, combats illegal wildlife trade



THE Philippines won the 2021 Knowledge Market "Most Useful Project Resources" award at the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) annual conference held virtually from November 30 to Dec. 2, 2021.

The country bested 36 projects in 31 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The award was part of a series of mini-competitions that included "Best Knowledge Market Pitch," "Best Overall Knowledge Share/Need," "Most Useful Project Resources" and "Best HowSpace Collaboration."

The 2021 GWP annual conference focused on successfully collaborating, engaging and empowering stakeholders to support wildlife conservation and sustainable local livelihoods.

The Team Philippines' knowledge products and videos may be viewed at the <u>Department of Environment</u> and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau's (DENR-BMB) YouTube Channel.

The Philippines has been aggressively disseminating information on wildlife conservation considering its huge impact on human lives, surprisingly on human health.

In "Illegal Trade: A Conduit Through which <u>Coronavirus</u> Transmitted to Human, lawyer <u>Theresa Tenazas</u> said pandemics have clearly shown "links to virus reservoirs in wildlife populations." Disease transmission through animals has long been documented in the Philippines.

DENR-BMB is now advocating for stricter penalties for illegal wildlife trade through proposed amendments to Republic Act 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act."

It has been continuously holding workshops as part of controlling the illegal wildlife trade (IWT). It is training people on IWT expertise including online trade investigation, financial investigation on wildlife crimes, advance prosecutor and enforcement workshop.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/12/23/public-square/ph-wins-global-wildlife-award-combats-illegal-wildlife-trade/1826919





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Calls to 'treat animals better' raised amid sneak peek of renovated Manila Zoo

By Catalina Ricci S. Madarang

-December 22, 2021 - 6:08 PM

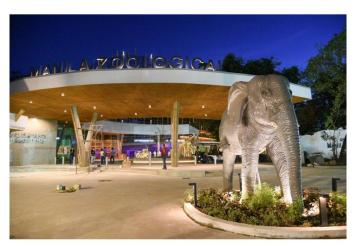


Photo of the newly renovated Manila Zoo slated for soft opening on December 30 (Facebook/Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso)

"Better treatment for animals in Manila Zoo."

This was among the wishes of some netizens after the **Manila City government** gave a sneak peek of the newly developed zoo on social media.

The **Department of Tourism, Culture and Arts of Manila** posted photos of its new features, exteriors and interiors on Wednesday, December 22.

"Munting pasilip para sa Bagong Manila Zoo! Sa mga Manileño at lahat ng Pilipino, you deserve the best. Sana po magustuhan ninyo at ng pamilya niyo ang aming simpleng Pamasko para sa inyo!" the department said.

"Sa lahat ng nagsumikap na maisakatuparan ang ating pangarap, maraming maraming salamat! Ang galing talaga ng manggagawang Pilipino!" it added.

Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden or Manila Zoo, considered the oldest zoo in Asia, temporarily closed in 2019 after the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources** tagged the site as among the major source of pollutants of Manila Bay.

It was first opened to the public in July 1959.

After two years of major rehabilitation, the facility is slated for a soft opening on December 30.

Based on the photos and videos <u>released</u>, some of the renovated attractions and additions are the following:

- The Butterfly Garden
- An elevated walkway in the Aviary
- A sewage treatment plant
- Newly designed enclosures for animals, including the home of the 49-year-old elephant named Mali
- Sensor-powered restrooms

Manila Mayor **Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso** also announced that the families of 1,300 construction workers who worked for the project will serve as the first VIP guests in the coming





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reopening of Manila Zoo.

"Tiyak na magugustuhan ng ating mga kababayan ang mga bagong atraksyon sa Manila Zoo, madami sa atin ang ilang taon na ding hindi nakapasyal dito," Moreno<u>said.</u>

Long-time visitors of the park and other Filipinos expressed excitement over the new look of Manila Zoo.

"Pang-international yung dating!" one Facebook user said.

"It was really renovated beautifully," another online user commented.

Amid the praises, some social media users also hoped that the city government will treat the animals better this time.

"Sana lang priority pa rin ang welfare ng animals at hindi kaligayahan ng mga tao ang main purpose. Animals are never for entertainment," one Facebook user <u>said</u>.

"I still remember seeing the skinny lion every time I went there before, f*** I hope the animals are treated better now," another user said.

"Wow ang ganda! Tratohin din nila ng maayos ang mga hayop," another user added.

The zoo animals will be moved to their respective new enclosures on Monday, December 27.





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100 olive ridley sea turtle hatchlings released off Manila Bay



About 100 pieces of olive ridley sea turtles (Lepidochelys olivacea) hatchlings are released in Manila Bay on the shore of Brgy. Labac in Naic Cavite on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

Naic hosts a yearly Pawikan Festival to raise awareness of the ecological importance of these sea creatures.

They are expecting another 900 hatchlings to be released in the next few weeks.





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Quezon City's trash program covers bills payment

Janvic Mateo - The Philippine Star

December 23, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Quezon City residents can now pay electricity and other bills using accumulated points from exchanging recyclable and single use plastics under the local government's "Trash to Cashback" waste trading program.

The city government this week signed an agreement with BeepXtra and Bayad Center to expand the initiative and allow residents to use "environmental points" to pay their bills.

"Quezon City residents can now use their environmental points as Bayad App credits that can be redeemed for utility bills payment," Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

"Aside from getting points or credits for bills payment, we are also able to promote the importance of recycling and proper waste segregation," Belmonte added.

Three Bayad Center branches located in Ever Commonwealth, Sauyo and Gulod will take part in the 90-day pilot launch of the program.

Participants who want to redeem environmental points to pay utility bills must create a Bayad App account, with a minimum of 200 points needed for redemption. One environmental point is equivalent to P1.

Launched in partnership with Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies, the "Trash to Cashback" program allows Quezon City residents to trade plastic, metal and paper waste into environmental points, which can be exchanged for basic commodities such as rice, eggs and vegetables.

To collect environmental points, residents can bring their recyclables at designated My Basurero Eco-Community kiosks across the city.

Metal, paper, boxes and other single-use plastics such as shampoo sachets, coffee packs and online shopping plastic packages will be accepted in the drop-off points.

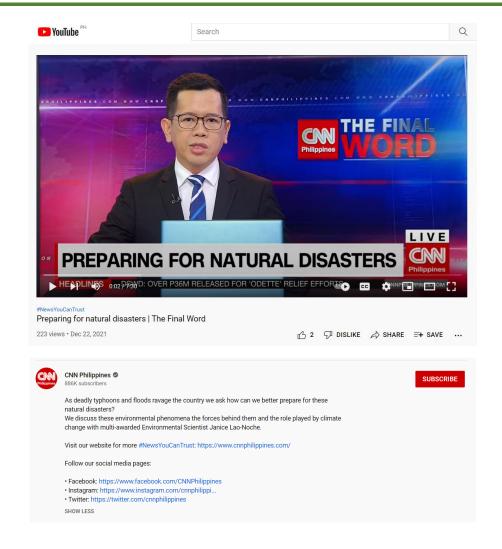
Andrea Villaroman, who heads the Quezon City Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department, advised residents to clean and dry their recyclables before bringing these to the drop-off sites.

Drop-off sites will also be established at Meralco business centers in Commonwealth, Kamuning and Novaliches.





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DoF seeks new tack to green financing

By Anna Leah E. Gonzales

December 23, 2021



Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd is urging organizations and stakeholders promoting energy efficiency to revisit their current strategy of simply relying on fiscal incentives to implement their "green" projects.

Dominguez said climate finance should undertake a "blended approach" that involves grants, subsidies and investments.

According to Dominguez, financial support in the form of these three funding sources should come from the world's largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters and not be shouldered entirely by Filipino taxpayers who are already reeling from the worsening consequences of climate change, which in turn are triggered by carbon emissions.

"Those who polluted and continue to pollute the Earth's environment through unthinking industrialization starting 200 years ago must pay for the grants, investments and subsidies needed for the most vulnerable countries to adapt to climate change. This was our urgent call to global leaders during the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference," Dominguez said in response to the written query of the Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance Inc. (PE2) regarding the grant of fiscal incentives under Republic Act (RA) 11285 or the "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act."

In his letter to PE2 president Alexander Ablaza, Dominguez invited the organization to review his speeches on energy efficiency projects and climate change that were delivered during the recently concluded 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland.

"As mentioned in these statements, climate finance should aspire for a sustainable orchestration of the three elements of grants, investments and subsidies. It is not all about fiscal incentives," Dominguez said.

He explained that grants may be used to improve the capacity of local communities in climatevulnerable areas to undertake adaptation and mitigation measures.

Such grants should come in the form of educational or technical assistance programs to help people conceive of, and execute localized projects, he said.

Investments, on the other hand, should focus on adaptation and mitigation programs, projects and activities that are bankable and will yield high returns; while subsidies are meant to support initiatives leading to the transition to a climate-resilient economy, and address the financial costs and risks of such adjustments, Dominguez said.





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PH bears consequences of climate change

He pointed out that the Philippines accounts for only 0.3 percent of the world's GHG emissions, yet it bears the brunt of the consequences of the climate crisis as it is on the list of countries of highest risk for the worsening natural calamities brought about by rising global temperatures.

As for PE2's request for the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB) to reclassify energy efficiency projects currently under Tier I in the Strategic Investment Priorities Plan (SIPP) as Tier III activities are qualified for the longest period of incentives, Dominguez said he will defer to the decision of the Board of Investments (BOI) on the issue.

"The BOI shall review the current SIPP and consider recent developments in the industry using the criteria for investment priority determination. Based on this, they shall adopt reasonable and justifiable positions of the private sector and other related government agencies," said Dominguez.

"Pending the formulation and approval by the President (Rodrigo Duterte) of the SIPP under the Create (Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises) Act, the grant of incentives under the Create Act is limited to Tier I, without prejudice to an upgrade if qualified under the newly reformulated SIPP," he added.

The 2020 Investment Priorities Plan (IPP) serves as the transitional SIPP while the new list of sectors qualified for incentives under Create are still being finalized.

During COP 26, Dominguez urged multilateral development banks (MDBs) to adopt a harmonized set of guidelines for vetting climate adaptation and mitigation projects, which will serve as the "seal of good housekeeping" to catalyze the flow of private sector capital that developing countries need to meet their objectives in fighting planet warming.





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FROM SINGLE-USE TO 'SECOND LIVES'

How Coca-Cola's packaging design is reducing plastic waste



COCA-COLA — in a bid to reduce the amount of landfill and ocean-bound plastics — has embarked on an ambitious journey to collect and recycle the equivalent of every bottle or can they sell by 2030. The company also hopes to use at least 50 percent recycled material in its bottles by 2025.

A 2020 survey conducted by the United Nations Environment Program tagged the Philippines as a big generator of solid waste, including plastic, in the Asean region – producing 14.66 million tons per year.

Coca-Cola, with its decades-long journey to explore sustainable innovations for its packaging so that it relies less on single-use plastic and instead utilizes the quality of PET – the world's most recycled plastic that produces a lighter carbon footprint and has inherent material value.

Through packaging design innovations and strategic partnerships, Coca-Cola Philippines is moving closer toward its vision of a world without waste – where they are able to collect and recycle a bottle or can for every one that it sells.

"The challenge of packaging waste and plastic pollution is tremendous, but not insurmountable. At Coca-Cola, we recognize that there is a need for businesses to implement better packaging innovations to help solve the world's growing plastic waste problem, and we know that we can help reduce the amount of new plastic we produce by constantly communicating with our consumers and partnering with like-minded organizations. Whether it's packaging design or supporting collection and recycling, this work matters. And we are determined to maintain a sense of urgency to drive meaningful change," says Antonio Del Rosario, Coca-Cola Philippines President and VP for Franchise Operations for the Asean and South Pacific Unit-East Asia Region.

Hundred-percent recyclable packaging

In 2018, Coca-Cola unveiled its World Without Waste vision to mark the company's newest milestone in packaging and recycling innovation.

In the Philippines, two of Coca-Cola's portfolio brands, Viva! and Sprite 500mL, now have packaging made of 100 percent recycled plastic. Currently, 50 percent of Coca-Cola Philippines' packaging is in their iconic returnable and refillable glass bottles, all of which are being constantly collected, cleaned and reused.





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In addition to all its packaging initiatives, sachets will be discontinued by the company's overall production after decades, and its straws will transition from plastic to paper straws by the end of 2021 to eliminate further the hard-to-recycle materials in their portfolio.

Bold 'Recycle Me' message across all brands and products

Constant communication with its consumers is key in Coca-Cola's sustainability initiatives. This month, the company made recycling more accessible and convenient by opening more than 200 collection points across the country with the help of its partner organizations, opening doors for communities to give a "second life" to Coca-Cola's PET plastic bottles.

Through the bold "Recycle Me" campaign launched this year, the business reminds consumers to help recycle their bottles and cans after they have enjoyed the drink. The "Recycle Me" message was printed on package labels across all its brands and products in the Asean region, marking it as Coca-Cola's largest move in Southeast Asia that uses packaging to deliver a strong recycling message.

"We cannot address the global plastic waste problem alone. Our World Without Waste vision is ambitious, but with the help of our consumers and partners, we can amplify the importance of packaging, collection and recycling in achieving our goals as a business. We all live in the same world, and it is our duty to work together toward attaining a world without waste," Del Rosario says.

To learn more about Coca-Cola's World Without Waste roadmap and progress, visit https://www.coca-colacompany.com/reports/world-without-waste-2020.





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Be responsible stewards of the environment this Christmas – Bishop Ongtioco

Published December 21, 2021, 11:29 AM by Christina Hermoso

Cubao Bishop Honesto F. Ongtioco has called on the faithful to be responsible stewards of the environment this Christmas.

Christmas is about the birth of Christ who has entrusted to man His creations. As stewards of God's creations, mankind must take utmost care of the environment for the future generation, the Church leader said.

"This Christmas, let us think of how we can better take care of our environment and show respect for God's creations. Let us strive to nurture and enhance nature and our environment," Bishop Ongtioco said over Radio Veritas.

The Church leader stressed that abuses done to the environment have resulted in destructive calamities that have claimed lives and destroyed properties such as typhoon Odette that severely affected several areas in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"We have not been taking good care of our environment. Illegal and destructive mining as well as illegal logging and deforestation are rampant and widespread. It is a call for all of us to properly care for our environment as stewards of God's creations," said Bishop Ongtioco.

"May love, unity and charity prevail this Christmas as we help each other recover from life's difficulties and trials," the prelate said.





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Duterte expected to sign 2022 budget next week — officials



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 22) — President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to sign next week the proposed ₱5.024-trillion budget for 2022.

"We expect that the 2022 budget measure will be signed before the year ends. So it's between, *siguro* (maybe) after Christmas until the 29th," acting Budget chief Tina Rose Canda said in a virtual presser.

Senate Finance Committee chairman Sonny Angara also expects the President to sign the 2022 General Appropriations Act after Christmas. He said they are expediting the approval of next year's spending bill due to the onslaught of Typhoon Odette, which battered parts of the Visayas and Mindanao last week.

"Para January, pagpasok ng bagong taon, may pondo na para gastusin especially 'yung calamity fund, very urgent 'yan," the senator added.

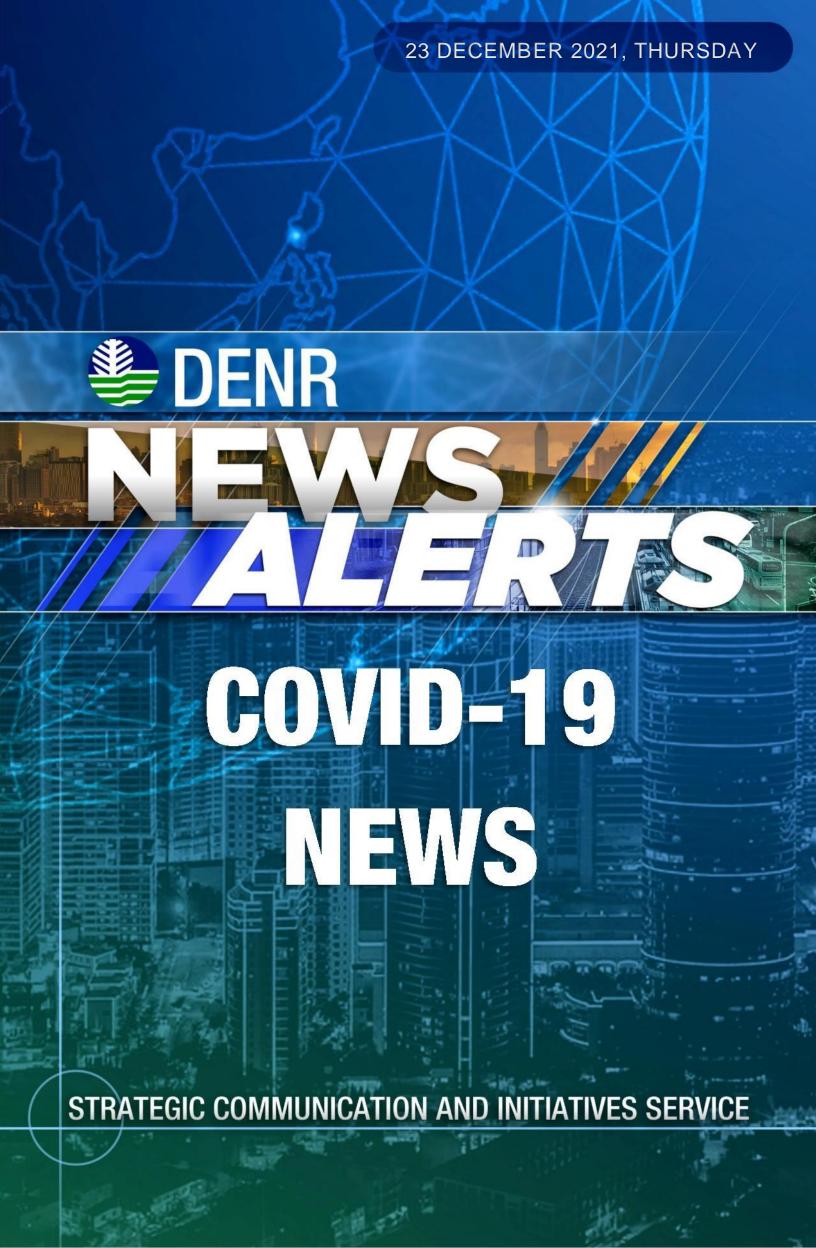
[Translation: So that this January, when the new year comes, there are funds that can already be spent especially the calamity fund which is very urgent.]

The proposed budget for next year is the biggest in Philippine history, as it also contains pandemic response and recovery measures.

Angara said it includes higher allocations for the Department of Health and hospitals, as well as funds for agencies like the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in case another COVID-19 surge leads to tighter restrictions again next year.

Funds for education were also increased in preparation for face-to-face classes, he added.

"It will have to pass the vetting process in Malacañang as soon as we receive it but obviously, we all know the urgency," acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles said.







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DOH logs additional 261 Covid cases; total infections reach 2,837,784

BYCLAUDETH MOCON-CIRIACO DECEMBER 23, 2021

The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday logged 261 additional Covid-19 cases, bringing the total number of infections in the country to 2,837,784.

There were also 395 recoveries and 122 deaths.

DOH said two laboratories were not operational on December 20, 2021, while 12 laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data gathered in the last 14 days, the 14 labs contribute, on average, 2.8 percent of samples tested and 2.3 percent of positive individuals.

Of the 261 reported cases, 247 (95 percent) occurred within the recent 14 days (December 9-December 22, 2021).

The top regions with cases in the recent two weeks were National Capital Region with 74 or 30 percent, Region 4-A with 32 or 13 percent and 20 from Region 3 or 8 percent.

Of the 122 deaths, 15 occurred in December 2021 (12 percent), 17 in November 2021 (14 percent), 39 in October 2021 (32 percent), 27 in September 2021 (22 percent), 10 in August 2021 (8 percent) 5 in July 2021 (4 percent), 2 in June 2021 (2 percent), 1 in May 2021 (1 percent), 2 in April 2021 (2 percent), 1 in August 2020 (1 percent), 2 in July 2020 (2 percent), and 1 in April 2020 (1 percent) due to late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya.

"This issue is currently being coordinated with the Epidemiology and Surveillance Units to ensure information is up to date," DOH explained.

Of the total number of cases, 0.3 percent (9,238) are active, 97.9 percent (2,777,630) have recovered, and 1.79 percent (50,916) have died.

Four duplicates were removed from the total case count. These four are recoveries.

In addition, 192 cases were found to have tested negative and have been removed from the total case count. Of these, 189 are recoveries.

Moreover, 113 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

Source: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/12/23/doh-logs-additional-261-covid-cases-total-infections-reach-2837784/





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DOH announces shorter interval for Covid-19 vax boosters

December 22, 2021, 9:28 am



(File photo)

MANILA – Health Secretary Francisco Duque III announced that the interval for the administration of booster doses shall be shortened, following the approval of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The shortened interval shall be effective on December 22.

Under this new policy, boosters may already be given to adults at least three months after the second dose of a primary two-dose vaccine, or at least two months after the primary single-dose vaccine is given.

"We are exploring all possible options to safely mitigate the effects of more transmissible variants of Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019). The approval came at an opportune time as several countries also re-strategize in light of the Omicron and other Covid-19 variants that may emerge," Duque said.

Further, the DOH reiterates the importance of prioritizing vaccination among those who are yet to receive their primary series.

"We call on our local government units to encourage their constituents to get vaccinated, especially the unvaccinated senior citizens and people with underlying medical conditions who are more vulnerable to having severe Covid-19. Ensuring enough coverage of the primary series while adhering to the minimum public health standards are crucial if we want to maintain low to minimal risk classification and have adequate health systems capacities especially during the holiday season." Duque added.

In a televised public briefing on Tuesday, National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC) member Dr. Kezia Lorraine Rosario said the country has enough Covid-19 vaccines for the administration of booster shots.

Rosario said the FDA and vaccine experts have studied all available data in shortening the interval between the administration of second doses and booster shots.

"We have around 192 million doses of vaccines. These are enough for us to drive the vaccination of booster doses," she said. (With reports from Ma. Teresa Montemayor/PR)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1163424





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Seryosohin ang Omicron -- Vaccine czar

By Malou Escudero (Pang-Masa) - December 23, 2021 - 12:00am



The aisle of Taytay Tiangge (flea market) in Taytay, Rizal is filled with customers looking for cheap clothes a few days before Christmas on Dec. 13, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Maging mapagbantay laban sa banta ng Omicron variant ng COVID-19.

Ito ang naging babala kahapon ni vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. sa publiko sa pagbuti ng sitwasyon sa bansa.

"Do not underestimate Omicron. We have to revisit the national government and LGU (local government unit) playbook, nakita po natin na-defeat natin yung Delta kailangan tignan natin kung ano 'yung nagawa nating maganda para at least mapaghandaan natin 'yung Omicron," paalala ni Galvez sa kanyang ulat sa Talk to the People.

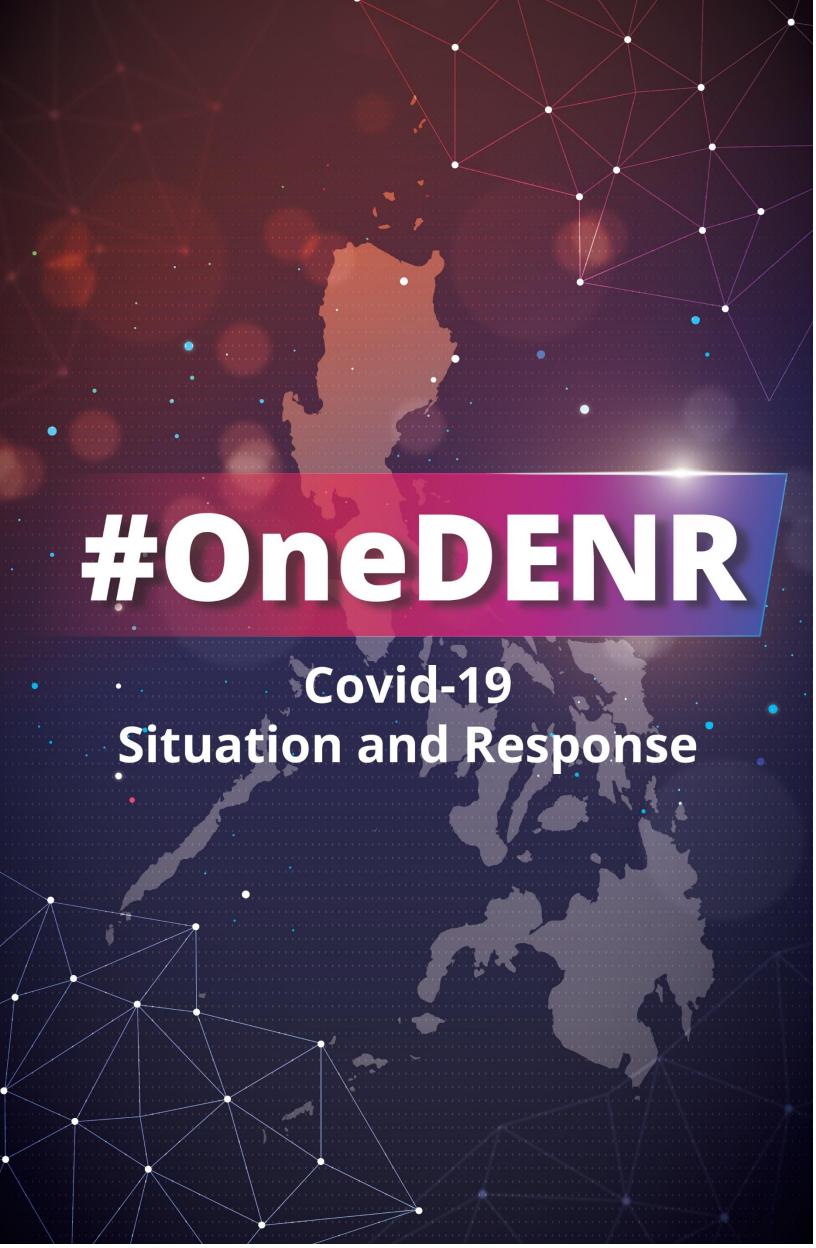
"We must prepare for Omicron, it is a matter of time na talagang darating po ang Omicron sa ating bansa," giit ni Galvez.

Binati rin niya ang Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) at one-stop-shop nito para sa mahigpit na pagbabantay sa border controls.

"We will mobilize and reconstitute to reserve frontliners and support system kasi napakabilis po talaga ng Omicron in terms of transmission," aniya.

Siniguro naman ng vaccine czar na mas paiigtingin pa ang COVID-19 testing, tracing, isolation at vaccination. Nasa tatlo na ang kaso ng Omicron variant sa bansa.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2021/12/23/2149659/seryosohin-ang-omicron-vaccine-czar/amp/







DISYEMBRE 22, 2021

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

9.238

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

2,777,630

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

50,916

MGA BAGONG KASO 261

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 395

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 122

KABUUANG BILANG NG KASO

2,837,784

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 20

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 22 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 20

PORSYENTO NG MGA **NAGPOSITIBO**

BILANG NG TINEST

HALOS

39.6%

ANG MILD AT **ASYMPTOMATIC** NA KASO!



KABUUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS) 20% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.2K TOTAL BEDS)

24% Utilized

WARD BEDS (12.4K TOTAL BEDS)

11% Utilized دا نصا سے سنا د

VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

100 100 100 100 100

10% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL? ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)

21% Utilized • --- --- ---

ISOLATION BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)

WARD BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS) 100 100 100 100 100

11% Utilized

16% Utilized

19% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA **AKTIBONG KASO**

507 Asymptomatic

3 153 Mild

3,400 Moderate

1.801 Severe

377 Critical

KASANGGA NG BIDA

UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Tuwing lalabas ng bahay, mas pag-igtingin ang pagsunod sa Minimum Public Health Standards dahil ang COVID-19 ay nasa paligid lamang. Maki-isa rin sa ginagawang bakunahan sa inyo lugar at tumanggap o kumpletuhin ang bakuna laban sa COVID-19. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa BHERTS o sa One COVID Referral Center na maabot sa 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333, para sa karampatang gabay.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, 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.



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



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



Manatiling ligtas! I-download ang StaySafe App O Gamiting ang WEBAPP at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov













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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PleSK9O0SNQ







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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sqbbd-8IUBs



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