

23 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## CLIMATE CHANGE | Floods remain top priority of Duterte government, environment secretary says as monsoon rains drench capital

July 22, 2021 , 08:11 PM

By Aira Juarez

(July 22, 2021) – Mitigating floods during the seasonal monsoon months remained the top priority of the Duterte administration in addressing climate change impact in the disaster-prone country, the environment secretary said on Thursday as continuous moderate to heavy rains soak the capital.

In a pre-State of the Nation Address (SONA) forum of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction, Roy Cimatu said the government is prepared to resolve perennial flooding in low-lying areas in Metro Manila as well as in landslide-prone areas in the provinces.

“Climate change remains and shall remain a top priority for the national government amidst the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,” Cimatu, a retired general, said. “In fact, the cluster did not take a backseat in addressing despite the very challenging time.”

A study conducted by a Singapore-based financial technology company in 2019 showed the Philippines was the third-most vulnerable country to climate change, while having the highest 10-year climate risk index score among 12 nations evaluated.

Last April, the Philippines told the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) that it targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030, adhering to an international pact and helping local sectors fulfill the ambitious target.

Environment officials said the government has existing programs and funding that could implement the commitment to pursue a low carbon pathway.

For his part, Department of Energy (DOE) secretary Alfonso Cusi said the government is focused principally in building adaptive capacities and resilience of vulnerable communities.

“The country is pushing for tapping of renewable energy as a source of power,” Cusi said. “We need to improve our energy security and to do that we have to tap indigenous sources and renewable sources. What we are doing aside from solar wind tidal, we are expanding our hydro and geothermal capacities.”

A Manila-based non-government organization climate and energy policy group called on the government to carry out a coherent and sustainable way of climate action in the country.

“We must do more and ensure the national plan is anchored on resilience and the knowledge that science is imparting to us,” the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ISCS) says in a statement.

“We need more than just the usual medium-term time frames. We need to plan farther ahead, using at the horizon of at least 18 years in anticipation of harsher impacts from the climate and the fact that the pursuit of sustainable development objectives is what will yield, as a co-benefit, the biggest contribution to the fight against dangerous climate change.”

(MM)

Source: [https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/climate-change-floods-remain-top-priority-of-duterte-government-environment-secretary-says-as-monsoon-rains-drench-capital?fbclid=IwAR0xlnP1iDOFtjwQqKs5kkk0BMtl1HLz2qTibKZsd1lefNBPZHto\\_4o2A0k](https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/climate-change-floods-remain-top-priority-of-duterte-government-environment-secretary-says-as-monsoon-rains-drench-capital?fbclid=IwAR0xlnP1iDOFtjwQqKs5kkk0BMtl1HLz2qTibKZsd1lefNBPZHto_4o2A0k)



## DENR leads mangrove planting in Pampanga Ramsar site

July 22, 2021 3 min read

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently intensified the mangrove planting activity in a Ramsar site in Pampanga.

DENR's Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS) Director Hiro Masuda led the conduct of a mangrove planting activity in Sasmuan Pampanga Coastal Wetland (SPWC) in line with the observance of National Disaster Resilience Month.

A Ramsar Site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention which is a convention on wetlands and an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO, which came into force in 1975.

It provides for national action and international cooperation regarding the conservation of wetlands, and wise sustainable use of their resources.

Ramsar identifies wetlands of international importance, especially those providing waterfowl habitat.

Furthermore, mangrove plants are important to the ecosystem because it absorbs shock due to the earthquake or tsunamis. It also helps reduce the high tides and waves and prevents soil erosion.

The SPWC was officially declared as a Ramsar Site in February 2020. Two of the Mangrove plant species are already planted in it to help the ecosystem and these are bakauan-lalaki and bakauan-babae.



Officials of Brgy. Batang 2nd in Sasmuan Pampanga were present in the activity headed by Brgy. Captain Amanda Coronel and Kgd. Vicky Mangalindan; the National Bike Org. Director Benedict Camara and Manila Standard Circulation Manager Edgar Valmorida were also present in the said activity.

DENR said Mangroves will help our ecosystem metabolize all the disaster and we should keep it from being harmed.

Not just the ecosystem will benefit from these plants but mankind as well, and its benefits are prevention from damage caused by storms, and soil erosion mitigation among others.

The late former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez announced the massive planting of mangroves under the Enhanced National Greening Program. Remembering how a couple survived a storm surge brought by Yolanda, Cerilo and Ester del Rosario were found alive clinging to mangrove stands in front of their house.

The DENR is following her footsteps in making a sustainable, reliable ecosystem. Which makes sense since our planet is experiencing climate changes.

More programs are in line for implementation by the DENR. Its purpose is to let mangroves flourish outside of our houses without harm in our environments. (ai/mtvn)

Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/22/denr-leads-mangrove-planting-in-pampanga-ramsar-site/?fbclid=IwAR3GMhUxVAkvhkbK3hpBnHQoX0Rca1wfTKTD3TEIi7WhsREVf5aR3\\_QsGNo](https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/22/denr-leads-mangrove-planting-in-pampanga-ramsar-site/?fbclid=IwAR3GMhUxVAkvhkbK3hpBnHQoX0Rca1wfTKTD3TEIi7WhsREVf5aR3_QsGNo)



## QC, DENR, Manila Water join forces to clean esteros up

July 22, 2021 2 min read

By: Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — Strict protocols will be enforced to clean and rehabilitate the San Juan River which also flows in some barangays of Quezon City.

The Quezon City government had joined forces with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Manila Water to formally start a more efficient Adopt-an-Estero project.

In a short program held in the city, the projects' stakeholders announced a strict prohibition of littering in the said river.

Among those who attended the program were Mayor Joy Belmonte, Manila Water chief operating officer Engr. Abelardo Basilio, Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department head Ms. Andrea Villaroman, Bgy. Kamuning Chairman Armie Castel, at Bgy. Pinagkaisahan Chairman Graziella Saab.

In her speech, Mayor Belmonte gave thanks to the organizations who helped the city to continue its maintenance on cleaning the creeks and rivers despite the on-going crisis.





Furthermore, serving as the next step on cleaning rivers up, Manila Water also provided Mabuhay Balls to the environmental staff. It will make their job easier because it will sip the dirt and stinky smell from the creeks.

The program also credited the Barangay Pinagkaisahan as River Warriors because they served well in cleaning up their river ways.



Adopt-an-Estero program aims to reduce floods and diseases in every barangay of the city. It will also help them metabolize the environment at the same time strengthen their immune systems. (ai/mtvn)



# Rains bring trash, water hyacinths to Manila Bay 'dolomite' beach

Published July 22, 2021 7:24am

Updated July 22, 2021 8:40am

Due to incessant rains brought by enhanced southwest monsoon, trash and water hyacinths were washed ashore in Manila Bay's "white sand" area or "dolomite" beach, according to Jonathan Andal's report on Unang Balita on Thursday.

Residents said the trash probably came from the Pasig River and provinces surrounding Manila Bay.



Marshals, meanwhile, came in the morning and cleaned the mess, as seen on a tweet by Super Radyo dzBB's Isa Avendaño-Umali.



A 500-meter stretch of coastline near the US Embassy in Manila has been filled with sand made from tons of crushed dolomite boulders from the Visayas.

The use of artificial sand has been met with criticism, with environmental groups saying the facelift focuses only on aesthetics and has little to do with rehabilitation. —**KBK, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/796294/rains-bring-trash-water-hyacinths-to-manila-bay-dolomite-beach/story/?fbclid=IwAR0rykWYAtK6yL2C6IFnM-Y3u8Z\\_OGgd9HSJzkFULnQrOncLbvmGFnRfA14](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/796294/rains-bring-trash-water-hyacinths-to-manila-bay-dolomite-beach/story/?fbclid=IwAR0rykWYAtK6yL2C6IFnM-Y3u8Z_OGgd9HSJzkFULnQrOncLbvmGFnRfA14)





# High tide nagdala ng basura sa dolomite beach

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 22 2021 10:18 AM



MAYNILA - Umabot na sa malaking bahagi ng dolomite beach ang alon ng Manila Bay dahil sa high tide at malakas na ihip ng hangin at ulan, Huwebes ng umaga.

Kasama rin sa pag-agos nito ang mga basura at halaman na inanod sa beach.

Tila may namuong pool sa bahaging naabutan ng tubig. Isa na sa lumubog sa tubig ang rock formation na ipinwesto sa tabi ng US Embassy.





**Anjo Bagaoisan** @anjo\_bagaoisan · Jul 22, 2021

Replying to @anjo\_haganisan

A pool has also formed at the rock garden between the dolomite beach and the US Embassy. High tide began just before 7 am.



**Anjo Bagaoisan** @anjo\_bagaoisan

Workers continue cleanup of the Manila Bay dolomite beach after water & trash flowed into nearly half of the area after ongoing rains & high tide.

The project expected to be completed this year costs P28-M as part of the P389-M rehab of Manila Bay.



7:42 AM · Jul 22, 2021

5 0 0 Share this Tweet

May nasa 40 tauhan mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority at Manila Department of of Public Safety ang pumalibot sa binahang bahagi ng beach para maghakot ng basura.

Unang naghakot ng basura ang ilan sa kanila mula sa ibang bahagi ng Manila bay bago lumipat na sa dolomite beach nang magsimula ang pagtaas ng tubig.

Ilan sa mga nahakot na basura ay mga kahoy at plastic.

Inabot na sa 100 ang mga sakong pinag-ipunan ng mga basura.

**- TeleRadyo 22 Hunyo 2021**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/07/22/21/high-tide-nagdala-ng-basura-sa-dolomite-beach?fbclid=IwAR0Xe9kOhwc2bfzgjxfnQCB-fxZu-pi6viK1VRyPhIRXVUFQfaEKPbaSiN4>



## Parte ng dolomite beach natabunan ng sari-saring basura

July 22, 2021 1 min read

Dahil sa masamang panahong dulot ng papalabas na bagyong Fabian, hanging habagat, at high tide sa Manila Bay, naanod patungo sa Dolomite Beach ang iba't-ibang klase ng mga basura tulad ng mga kahoy, plastic at mga water hyacinth. Ngunit mabilis kumilos at kaagad naman na nagsagawa ng paglilinis ang mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) katuwang ang Department of Public Services (DPS) Lungsod ng Maynila kung kaya't napanatiling muling hiram na kagandahan nito. (Jhun Mabanag/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/AI/MTVN)



Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/22/parte-ng-dolomite-beach-natabunan-ng-sari-saring-basura/?fbclid=IwAR3PpPX8mxSPej67gaYOSvmeccu99p8uKkGUHVW9-0-rK\\_Gv\\_S40-2jaDE](https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/22/parte-ng-dolomite-beach-natabunan-ng-sari-saring-basura/?fbclid=IwAR3PpPX8mxSPej67gaYOSvmeccu99p8uKkGUHVW9-0-rK_Gv_S40-2jaDE)



# Dolomite beach ng Manila Bay, nagmukhang basurahan sa lakas ng ulan

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | July 22, 2021



Photo: PTV

Nagmukhang basurahan ang kontrobersiyal na white sand beach ng Manila Bay matapos matambak ang mga basura at water hyacinths na inanod mula sa dagat dahil sa matinding buhos ng ulan na dulot ng mas lumakas na Southwest Monsoon ngayong Huwebes nang umaga.

Ayon sa mga residente, posibleng ang mga basura ay mula sa Pasig River at mga probinsiyang malapit sa Manila Bay.

Samantala, ang mga marshals ay nagtungo na sa lugar para linisin ang mga nagkalat na basura at water hyacinths na inanod papunta sa pampang ng white sand ng Manila Bay.

Matatandaang tinambakan ang 500-metro kahabaan ng coastline malapit sa US Embassy sa Manila ng puting buhangin na gawa mula sa tone-toneladang crushed dolomite boulders na nanggaling sa Visayas na tinatawag na ngayong Manila Bay 'dolomite' beach.

Dahil dito, umani ng mga kritisismo ang paggamit ng artificial sand mula sa mga environmental groups na nagsasabing nakatuon lamang sa pagpapaganda ng Manila Bay at hindi sa rehabilitasyon.



## TINGNAN: Basura nagkalat sa Manila Bay matapos ang matinding pag-ulan



July 22, 2021 @ 7:25 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Matiyagang nililinis ng tauhan ng DPS Manila, MMDA at DENR Coastal Warriors' ang dalampasigan ng Manila Bay partikular sa Dolomite Beach. **Crismon Heramis**



Source: <https://www.remate.ph/tingnan-basura-nagkalat-sa-manila-bay-matapos-ang-matinding-pag-ulan/>



## Dolomite beach natambakan ng basura, pinangangambahang anurin ang hiram na kagandahan

July 22, 2021 2 min read

MANILA — Nanilikadong matabunan ang dolomite beach ng DENR ng mga inanod na basura dala ng sama ng panahon at pagtaas ng tubig dagat sa Manila Bay ngayong araw, Huwebes, 22 July 2021.

Ang sama ng panahon ay dulot ng habagat bagyong Fabian na patuloy na nagbuhos ng ulan Metro Manila pati na sa mga karatig probinsya.



Sa kabutihang palad ay agad na nililinis ng mga tauhan ng Manila Department of Public Service (DPS), at ng MMDA ang mga nagkalat na sari-saring basura na umukopa sa may bahagi ng artificial beach malapit sa US embassy.

Gayunpaman, mayroon pa rin parte ang nananatiling natatabunan ng basura dahil sa lakas ng alon dulot ng dalawang araw na pag-uulan.





Dahil dito, pinangangambahan na tuluyang anurin ang hiram na ganda ng dolomite beach patungo sa dagat at mawasak ang artificial beach.

Sa kasalukuyan, unti-unting natatanggal ang mga nagkalat na basura dahil umaalalay na rin ang ilang tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

(Mores Heramis/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtvn)

Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/22/dolomite-beach-natambakan-ng-basura-pinangangambahang-anurin-ang-hiram-na-kagandahan/?fbclid=IwAR3ask9c6yozSG29JN2L9tw\\_iRXOobXOnpIS4Klu0DAbK2SBT7w8\\_01x5V8](https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/22/dolomite-beach-natambakan-ng-basura-pinangangambahang-anurin-ang-hiram-na-kagandahan/?fbclid=IwAR3ask9c6yozSG29JN2L9tw_iRXOobXOnpIS4Klu0DAbK2SBT7w8_01x5V8)



#Nakatutok24Oras

### Cimatu blames public as trash litters Manila Bay dolomite project | 24 Oras

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Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu blamed the public for the piles of trash swept toward Manila Bay that nearly covered the controversial "white sand" or "dolomite" beach project of the department.

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Source: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVeQK6XyuXc&ab\\_channel=GMANews](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVeQK6XyuXc&ab_channel=GMANews)







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GMA News

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Dahil sa malakas na along dulot ng ulan at malakas na hangin, pinangangambahan nanamang masira ang "dolomite beach" sa Manila Bay.

Mag-subscribe sa GMA News Youtube ([youtube.com/gmanews](https://youtube.com/gmanews)) para sa iba pang ulat sa Unang Balita.



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Inabot na ng tubig mula dagat ngayong Huwebes ng umaga ang bahagi ng dolomite "white sand" beach sa Maynila dahil umano sa high tide. Makikita rin sa bahaging ito na may natangay na mga basura at halaman, na ngayo'y pinupulot na ng mga taga-DENR.

BASA HIN: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../high-tide-nagdala-ng-basura...>



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Sitwasyon sa Manila Bay partikular sa tinatawag na "Dolomite Beach."  
Makikitang nagsimula na maglinis ng mga basurang inanod sa lugar  
ang mga tauhan ng DENR, Manila DPOS, at iba pa. | via Isa Avendaño-  
Umali, Super Radyo DZBB 594khz

BASA HIN: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/.../rains-bring-trash.../story/>



EJ Munsayac and 18K others

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Nililinis ang mga basurang napadpad sa dolomite white sand sa Manila Bay kasunod ng mga nagdaang sama ng panahon. Nasa tatlong truck ang nakuha nilang basura sa lugar, ayon sa Manila DPS. | via Romel Lopez



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## Cleaning up Manila Bay dolomite area

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 22 2021 10:52 AM



River warriors from the Department Environment and Natural Resources and members of Manila City Hall's Department of Public Safety collect trash and water plants washed up along the Manila Bay dolomite area on Thursday.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/07/22/21/cleaning-up-manila-bay-dolomite-area>





with the International Criminal Court's (ICC) possible probe on the administration's anti-narcotics drive even after the Supreme Court (SC) affirmed the Philippines' obligation

investigation and that the SC's "obiter" won't change Duterte's stance on the issue.

(in our policy)."

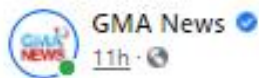
The 15-member SC has ruled that the

**Turn to page A2**



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEY SANCHEZ MENDOZA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

**Trash talk** The Manila Bay dolomite beach is covered in garbage brought by heavy rains these past days, as members of the DPS-MMDA try to clean up the area.



GMA News

11h · 🌐

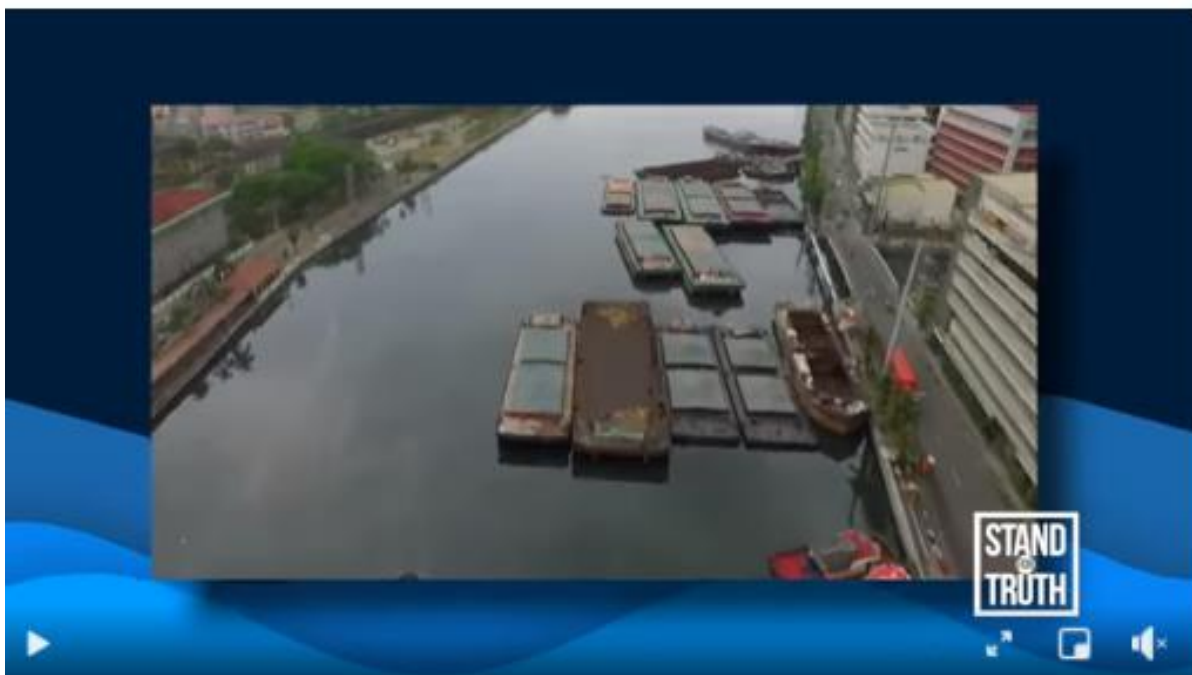
Dahil sa matinding ulan na dala ng habagat na pinaigting ng Bagyong #FabianPH, ilang lugar sa Metro Manila at ilang mga probinsya ang binaha.

Magiging malaking tulong ang malinis na estero kung saan dadaloy ang tubig-baha. Sa Maynila, kung hindi tinatayuan ng istruktura ang estero, ginagawa naman itong tambakan ng basura. Kaya sa halip na maging filter o pansala sana ng dumi ng tubig, ito pa ang nagiging sanhi ng polusyon.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Php 640 million ang nakalaang budget sa paglilinis ng at pagsasaayos ng nasa 35 estero sa Maynila noong 2019 hanggang 2020. Pero ang bilang na 'yan, malayo sa mahigit 300 na kabuuang bilang ng estero sa Maynila.

Sa ngayon, lumalabas na nasa 35 pa lang ang nalilinis sa mahigit 300 na esterong ito.

Ano na nga ba ang estado ng mga estero sa Maynila? Panoorin ang ulat ng [Stand For Truth](#).



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## PCSD: Protecting and promoting Palawan's growth

posted July 22, 2021 at 10:00 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

When Republic Act 7611 or the Strategic Environment Plan for Palawan became a law, the province acquired a strong foundation for clear policies on the protection of the environment – Palawan being touted as the country's "last biodiversity frontier".



*Ursula Island, a wildlife and gaming sanctuary off the coast of Bataraza in Southern Palawan, is one of several natural reserves in the province that the Palaweños are proud of.*

SEP then created the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development giving the local government of Palawan direct jurisdiction over its natural resources.

The agency is seen driving the efforts to uphold and implement sustainable development in Palawan, taking advantage of newly-available scientific data, while establishing a system that controls, protects and develops Palawan's natural resources.

Two contentious national issues push the role of PCSD under the microscope – one, that some of the province's fishing grounds, particularly in Kalayan, form part of the West Philippine Sea; PCSD is highly involved in addressing the security and development concerns on the West Philippine Sea as it believes that the matters relating to the WPS are crucial to the well-being of Palawan, as well as national security and development.

The second contentious issue that PCSD has to address arises from the new policy pronouncements on mining agreements.

The PCSD's position of balancing interests between economic growth and sustainable use of our natural resources is an extraordinary feat laudable in the midst of health crisis and economic frailties.

According to lawyer Teodoro Jose Matta, Executive Director of PCSD, "on Palawan's shoulders lie that task of showing how to strike a balance between the desired social and economic growth and the preservation of the country's natural resources."

Matta explains that PCSD develops methods in order to achieve this "balance".

One method is the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN), which provides a graded system of protection and development control over the terrestrial, coastal and marine components of the province.

Recently, the ECAN maps of Palawan's municipalities of Quezon and Bataraza, known to be economically dependent on mining, were submitted for amendment.

The requested updates in the zoning classifications of the maps are seen as can potentially allow the expansion of mining activities in the areas.



Upon scrutiny of all factors presented, the updates to ECAN map will be approved by the PCSD if the council deems them consistent with what are prescribed in SEP law and other current guidelines.

While some dissent against mining is expected, the fact that environmentally sound mining practices (or responsible mining) exist should also be considered.

According to Secretary Harry Roque, Presidential Spokesperson, a recent visitor to Rio Tuba Mining in Palawan, "in a period of economic struggle, responsible mining should be treated as a promising economic contributor that can bring development especially to the local communities where economic stimulus is needed the most."

Roque says, that when done responsibly and within the bounds of existing laws, mining is socially and economically beneficial both to the local and national economy.

Based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Philippines is one of the world's richly-endowed countries in mineral resources.

In fact, the national government recently acknowledged the significant economic benefits of the mining industry when it issued Executive Order No.130 on April 14, 2021, effectively lifting the moratorium on mineral agreements.

If there is one place where the proper balancing of interests should be done, it is in the Province of Palawan.



# PH needs developed nations' support to reduce gas emissions

By Catherine Teves July 22, 2021, 7:02 pm



MANILA – The Philippines will pursue developed countries' support for conditional greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and avoidance which the country set in its first official Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and aims to meet by 2030.

NDC are measures each party to Paris Agreement on climate change commits to help meet this legally binding international treaty's goal.

Climate Change Commission vice chairperson Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman noted the government will seek to work out, through the international negotiation platform of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), arrangements for such support.

"That support can be provided through various means like multilateral and bilateral," he said Thursday during the pre-State of the Nation Address (SONA) "Pamana ng Pagbabago" virtual presser featuring the government's climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction cluster.

The official NDC pledges a total 75 percent reduction in and avoidance of GHG emissions nationwide by 2030, through various measures in the agriculture, waste, industry, transport and energy sectors, so the country can help mitigate climate change.

Of such total target, 72.29 percent is conditional or dependent on funding, technical assistance and capacity development which developed countries will provide.

The government will use domestic resources to implement measures for meeting the target's remaining 2.71 percent unconditional commitments, noted de Guzman.

"That means government already has existing programs and funding that could implement such commitments," he said.

Adopted in December 2015, Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to climate change by promoting countries' limitation of respective GHG emissions and adaptation to impacts of the changing climate.

In April this year, the Philippines submitted its NDC to the Secretariat of UNFCCC which is the intergovernmental treaty that seeks to address the climate change problem.



Pursuing developed countries' support for such NDC is in line with the climate justice principle Paris Agreement is promoting since developed countries, not developing nations like the Philippines, account for the bulk of GHG emissions that are driving climate change.

"Under Paris Agreement, developed countries have the obligation to help us transition to a green economy and adapt to climate change because we're among the most vulnerable to this," de Guzman said.

Flooding and other impacts of extreme weather events in the country highlight urgency for such foreign support, he noted.

Onslaught of extreme weather events, as well as sea level and temperature rise, are climate change's impacts on the Philippines even if the country accounts for less than 1.0 percent of global GHG emissions, said experts.

They said GHG emissions accumulate in the atmosphere and trap heat so global temperature rises, changing the climate.

Earlier, Department of Finance Assistant Secretary Paola Alvarez said the Philippines will make its pitch for climate justice during this year's Conference of the Parties (COP) to UNFCCC.

"We'll ask developed countries to help us fund our initiatives for us to adapt to the changing climate," she said this June during the virtual Sulong Pilipinas climate change conference for the youth.

UK already announced hosting the COP this November in Glasgow.

Alvarez said climate change is already threatening the Philippines so there's a need for the country to adapt accordingly.

The changing climate "has a lot of devastating effects on our country especially in terms of our economy," she noted.

She said in the long run, the Philippines is expected to annually incur some PHP177 billion in terms of losses to public and private assets due to typhoons and earthquakes alone. **(PNA)**



Photo shows urban forest on Nayong Pilipino property.  
Nayong Pilipino

## SC junks plea vs establishment of COVID-19 vaccination site on Nayong Pilipino urban forest

(Philstar.com) - July 22, 2021 - 6:16pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has dismissed the petition challenging the establishment of a temporary mega vaccination center on Nayong Pilipino Foundation's urban forest park due to insufficiency of form and substance.

In a four-page SC en banc notice, the high court dismissed the petition for Writ of Kalikasan and Continuing Mandamus against the government's coronavirus task force filed by former Boac, Marinduque Mayor Pedrito Nepomuceno.

"The petition is dismissed for insufficiency in form and substance," the order signed by Clerk of Court Marife Lomibao-Cuevas read.

The writ of kalikasan a remedy formulated by the court to better protect the rights of the citizens to a balanced and healthful ecology as enshrined in the Constitution.

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in April 2021 approved the construction of a massive COVID-19 vaccination center on the Nayong Pilipino Foundation property, amid concerns about damage on the existing ecosystem in the area.

The site of the planned vaccination center serves as a bird flyway network. It is also near the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, a protected area and a wetland site of international importance.

Nepomuceno told the SC that the establishment of the vaccination site will destroy the environment and violated environmental laws.

No certification, unsigned

The SC noted that petition for the issuance of Writs of Kalikasan and Continuing Mandamus must be verified and accompanied with certification of non-forum shopping.

"Here, Nepomuceno's petition suffered from formal defects. Foremost, the petition was unsigned, unverified and unaccompanied by certification of non-forum shopping," the notice read.



“Worse, the petition lacks proof of service to the adverse parties, and payment for Sheriff’s Trust Fund,” it added.

The SC also said the petition also failed to identify environmental laws violated or to be violated and environmental damage of “such magnitude as to prejudice the life, health and property of inhabitants in two or more cities or provinces,” facts that must be established for the issuance of a Writ of Kalikasan.

The court also pointed out that the petition failed to demonstrate the public officer’s unlawful neglect to perform his duty, among the proofs for the issuance of the Writ of Continuing Mandamus.

The petition also was not supported by material evidence other than online articles on the proposed vaccination center, which are deemed hearsay evidence.

“Nepumoceno’s invocation of the State’s responsibilities to protect and advance the people’s right to a balanced and healthful ecology and preserve and protect the environment, without identifying the respondents’ unlawful act or omission, is insufficient to justify the issuance of the writs prayed for,” the SC also said. — **Kristine Joy Patag with reports from Gaea Katreena Cabico**





# SC junks challenge vs cutting of trees in Nayong Pilipino for mega-vaccination site

Mike Navallo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 22 2021 06:31 PM

SUGGESTED URL: Supreme Court dismisses cutting of trees challenge nayong pilipino mega vaccination COVID19

THUMB/EMBED:

<https://sa.kapamilya.com/absnews/abscbnnews/media/2021/tvpatrol/05/11/razon-camp.jpg>


CAPTION: Not a lush forest but a vacant lot, the Razon camp said of the proposed mega vaccination site in Nayong Pilipino. Courtesy of Katrina Razon

MANILA — The Supreme Court has dismissed a former mayor's challenge against the cutting of trees in Nayong Pilipino to make way for a [temporary mega-vaccination facility](#).


In a 3-page resolution dated June 15, the High Court junked former Boac mayor and former Marinduque board member Pedrito Nepomuceno's petition for the issuance of a writ of kalikasan and mandamus due to "insufficiency in form and substance."

## WRIT OF KALIKASAN PETITION

A writ of kalikasan is a legal remedy to protect the constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology if violated or threatened to be violated by an unlawful act or omission of a public official or employee or private individual or entity. The environmental damage must affect the life, health or property of inhabitants of 2 or more cities or provinces.

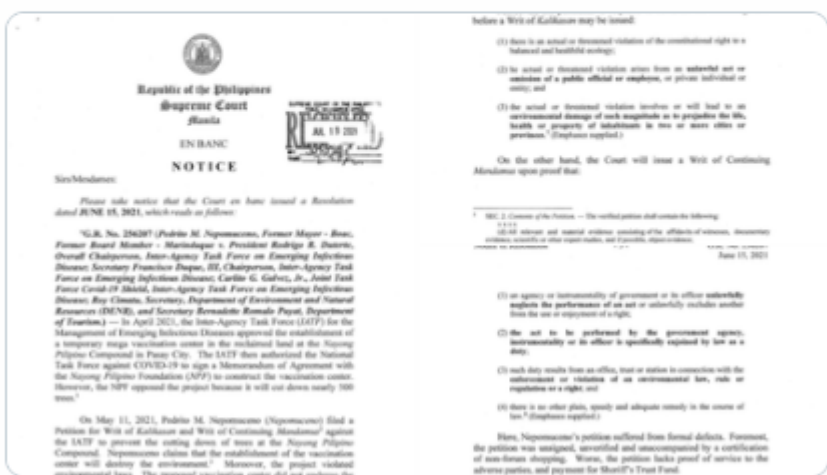


**Mike Navallo**  
@mikenavallo



Supreme Court junks a former mayor's challenge vs. cutting of trees in Nayong Pilipino for a temporary mega-vaccination facility.

SC says Pedrito Nepomuceno's writ of kalikasan petition and mandamus was insufficient in form and substance.



5:27 PM · Jul 22, 2021
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♡ 30
⚡ See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Nepomuceno filed the petition on May 11, a month after the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases approved the putting up of a temporary mega-vaccination facility in Nayong Pilipino's compound in Pasay City.

The Nayong Pilipino Foundation opposed the project as it would require cutting down nearly 500 trees although its proponents, including the Department of Tourism, claimed the facility will be built on reclaimed land and no trees will be cut.

Malacañang backed the facility, which was to be financed by billionaire Enrique Razon Jr.'s International Container Terminal Services Inc. without cost to the government.

The Nayong Pilipino Foundation executive director eventually resigned.

In his petition, Nepomuceno said the project will violate environmental laws, claiming the proposed vaccination center did not undergo the mandatory environmental impact analysis of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and did not have an environmental compliance certificate.

He also alleged there was no coordination with the local government unit and the project violated the law creating the Nayong Pilipino Foundation.

## SC RULING

The High Court said Nepomuceno's petition lacked formal requirements -- it was unsigned, unverified, and did not have a certification of non-forum shopping.

It also had no proof of service of copies of the petition to adverse parties and payment of Sheriff's trust fund.

Nepomuceno, the court noted, failed to identify environmental laws that were violated or threatened to be violated and the impact to life, health or property of inhabitants of 2 or more cities or provinces to warrant the issuance of a writ of kalikasan.

He also did not show unlawful neglect on part of public officers.

"Nepomuceno's invocation of the State's responsibilities to protect and advance the people's right to a balanced and healthful ecology and preserve and protect the environment, without identifying the respondents' unlawful act or omission, is insufficient to justify the issuance of the writs prayed for," SC said.

The court added that Nepomuceno's petition was not supported by material evidence as it relied on unverified news articles culled from the internet.

"Verily, unverified news articles on the internet are hearsay evidence, twice removed, and are thus without any probative value," it said.

The resolution was signed by SC clerk of court Marife Lomibao-Cuevas.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/22/21/sc-junks-challenge-vs-cutting-of-trees-in-nayong-pilipino-for-mega-vaccination-site?fbclid=IwAR33sCw9hN7W6Fot51oW7dUr1B3aKt7SQncguLPHyiyLVIRqXt4sLOPUyT>  
[w](#)



## WWF-PHL joins call to oppose proposed Dumaguete City land-reclamation project

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 22, 2021



A perspective of the 174-hectare reclamation project in Dumaguete City

Environmental solution provider World Wide Fund For Nature-Philippines (WWF) has joined the growing number of groups and individuals opposing the proposed 174-hectare land-reclamation project in Dumaguete City.

“Development at any cost is not development for neither people nor planet. Causing nature to fail to be of service to life is not development but collapse,” the group said.

This as WWF urged the local government unit of Dumaguete to rethink their plan to reclaim their coastline for the construction of a smart city and to open up to public review the real-world cost-benefit study done that led to their decision.

“We hold that the social and environmental costs gravely undercut any perceived gains it may bring to Dumaguete,” the group said.

Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) earlier warned against the intrusion of Chinese nationals in the waters of Dumaguete should the dump-and-fill project will push through.

According to WWF, while the project is being pushed for its supposed boost to the local economy that may bring jobs to Dumaguete City, entire reefs and ecosystems—the very core of natural life services that has sustained Dumaguete and the larger island it belongs to, will be destroyed.

With it, the group said, “we will lose an unimaginable share of the area’s biodiversity which defines our country’s natural unique heritage and with it, erase the historical sustaining relationships that Dumaguete, with its fisherfolk and surrounding communities, have with the sea.”

“The waters of Dumaguete are teeming with marine life and engenders a strong sense of place to its people. These natural resources provide services and benefits to many, including livelihood to fishers and enlivening the surrounding seas as part of a fragile, unique and essential ecosystem. We believe that the government of Dumaguete aims to have a genuinely better Dumaguete that never separates people from the very nature that sustains them and would be willing to engage with the many voices that matter in shaping the waters and land of Dumaguete so that nature’s ability to serve life, is never compromised, not now, not tomorrow,” WWF stated.

Nevertheless, WWF said Dumaguete is home to a strong scientific community as part of its vital citizenry who understands the importance of protecting the city’s natural resources.



“Stronger environmental management and protection are intricately linked to the prosperity of the people of Dumaguete. We believe in the local government of Dumaguete’s ability and capacity to choose instead an enlightened way forward. We hope that it will collaborate with its amazing citizenry, which includes its famous and robust scientific community, in pursuit of economic and social development projects that work with nature and not against it, so that benefits may be assured for the people of Dumaguete today and for generations to come,” the group said.

Image courtesy of Contributed photo



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# Solon warns massive Metro Manila flooding from Kaliwa Dam project

Published July 22, 2021, 3:22 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

Rizal 2nd District Rep. Fidel Nograles on Thursday, July 22 warned government that the construction of the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam project may cause massive flooding in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.



Dam breaking

Nograles, a member of the House Committee on Metro Manila Development, urged government to heed the warning of environmental groups against the implementation of the project that will displace hundreds of indigenous families in Rizal and Quezon.

“Environmental groups have long warned us that the Kaliwa Dam project will spell disaster not just upstream, where it will endanger 291 hectares of watershed and 172 plant species, but also for the populous areas downstream that will bear the brunt of deadly and destructive flooding,” Nograles said.

He also noted that the multi-billion peso project aimed at tapping a new source of potable water for Metro Manila has been “peppered with controversy” as a result of the illegal construction of access roads reportedly by the Chinese construction firm that was awarded the contract for the project.

Serious questions have also been raised against the issuance of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process with indigenous Dumagat and Remontado peoples in the area.

“We have to be very careful especially after the collapse of two dams in Inner Mongolia, China just a few days ago, and the Chinese military’s warning that another dam is on the verge of collapse in Henan province. All of these things are happening just because of heavy rains in China, and heavy rains are a regular occurrence in our country,” Nograles added.

Nograles said lessons may be learned from Sunday’s collapse of two reservoir dams in Hulunbuir City in the Chinese autonomous region of Inner Mongolia and the current situation in central China where 25 people have already died and 100,000 were evacuated due to intense rains and flooding. The incident in Inner Mongolia was caught on video and is currently making the rounds in social media.



“With the welfare of our people in mind, I call on the national government to rethink this project. We don’t have to rush it as it could endanger not just our environment but the lives and livelihood of the people we wish to serve,” Nograles stated.



# Cleaners at flooded pumping stations plead: Throw your garbage properly

Published July 22, 2021 10:28pm

Garbage blocking pumping stations has aggravated flooding problems in Metro Manila, and the MMDA personnel tasked to remove it are pleading with Filipinos to dispose of their trash properly.

According to Saleema Refran's television report on "24 Oras" on Thursday, MMDA workers collected 21 cubic meters of trash from Tripa de Gallina pumping station in Pasay since the monsoon rains enhanced by Typhoon Fabian hit Metro Manila this week.

All types of garbage including bottles, plastic waste, wood and even a wooden bench were removed from the machine.

Allan Tubao, MMDA plant engineer, said the pumping station has effectively become a dumpsite, which has affected its capacity to prevent flooding in the metropolis.

Marvin Medina, another MMDA employee, would become extra careful when catching the heavy garbage that could damage the pump.

"Sana po magtapon sa tamang tapunan ng basura kasi mahirap magtanggap sa tubig. [I hope they would throw their trash properly because it is difficult to remove them from the water]," Medina said.

Due to incessant rains, gutter-deep flood waters were seen on Andrews Avenue in Pasig.

Some children were also gliding through a ramp at the Plaza located along Roxas Avenue in Quezon City.

Flooding, however, did not stop Metro Manila residents from going to vaccination sites.

Aside from continuous rains, flooding was also caused by the temporary suspension of operations of drainage in Padre Faura, Remedios and Estero de San Antonio Abad.

Engineer Baltazar Melgar explained that the Department of Public Works and Highways as well as the Department of Environment (DENR) are conducting infrastructure works.

"Nakasara po kasi yung outfalls na yan kasi ginagawa po ng DPWH yung pumping station saka yung discharge pipe. Pero nagkasundo na ang DPWH saka DENR na i-operate na yung pump kahit hindi pa natapos 'yung discharge pipe na 'yan," said Melgar.

[Outfalls are closed because DPWH is fixing the pumping station and drainage pipe. But the DPWH and DENR already agreed to open the pump even as the work on the drainage pipe is still not completed.]

"Starting yesterday, nag-operate na sila [they have been in operation]," he added.





State weather bureau PAGASA [recently hoisted Signal No. 1 over Babuyan and Batanes due to Fabian](#). In the next 24 hours, Ilocos Region, Abra, Benguet, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila, CALABARZON, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and the northern portion of Palawan including Calamian and Kalayaan Islands will experience monsoon rains due to the southwest monsoon being enhanced by Fabian. — **Consuelo Marquez/BM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/796413/cleaners-at-flooded-pumping-stations-plead-throw-your-garbage-properly/story/?fbclid=IwAR2mfMuYJE7Lz4RUBZCmapw5eNKCnfgRdC0iVqIf6EP4CNjzv2J5-TJLN8k>



In a statement, Philippine environmental health groups EcoWaste Coalition, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) and Mother Earth Foundation (MEF) emphasized the urgency of limiting the manufacture of plastic to essential uses and eliminating toxic chemicals in plastic production to halt the swelling problem of plastic waste in the environment, including the world's oceans.

STAR/File

## Government urged to take action vs plastic woes

[Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 23, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Three environmental groups are urging the government to take action against plastic pollution caused by waste management schemes such as incineration by limiting the production of plastic.

In a statement, Philippine environmental health groups EcoWaste Coalition, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) and Mother Earth Foundation (MEF) emphasized the urgency of limiting the manufacture of plastic to essential uses and eliminating toxic chemicals in plastic production to halt the swelling problem of plastic waste in the environment, including the world's oceans.

The groups' call for drastic action to combat plastic pollution was prompted by a recent report "Plastic Waste Management Hazards: Waste-to-Energy, Chemical Recycling and Plastic Fuels" by Japan-based International Pellet Watch (IPW) and Sweden-based International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), which showed that chemical recycling, plastic-to-fuel, and incineration to manage plastic waste is generating high volumes of highly hazardous waste and toxic emissions.

"No current management method for plastic waste is capable of alleviating the world's expanding plastic pollution crisis. All methods generate significant toxic hazards because of the toxic additives that are a component of most plastic products. Industry's championing of various recycling schemes is a marketing ploy designed to fend off plastic regulation and efforts to curb an escalating plastic pollution problem," said report co-author Lee Bell.

"The only solution to the plastic waste piling up in our communities and oceans is to limit plastic production to essential uses and eliminate the use of toxic chemicals in plastics," said Bell, who is also the IPEN Policy Advisor on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

For his part, international scientist on hazardous chemicals and plastics Shige Takada said the plastic's toxic chemicals have been found across the world's oceans, coastlines and in the isolated polar regions.



“Fish and seabirds swallow plastic waste contaminated by these toxic UV stabilisers, and it builds up in the food chain. It is very concerning and must be prohibited internationally. Our studies show that plastic waste is not inert, it transports the toxic additives for thousands of miles impacting global ecosystems,”he said.

Findings of the report show that the problem of plastic pollution is seen to get worse in the future as plastics production is expected to grow exponentially from 335 million tons in 2016 to 1,800 million tons by 2050 as the petrochemical industry adapts to a carbon-constrained environment by shifting from fuels to the production of chemicals and plastics.

The report also finds that approximately three-quarters of the 8,300 million tons of plastic produced since the 1950s has become waste, and that unless current practices change, 108 million tons of plastic waste will be landfilled, dumped, or openly burned in 2050, mainly in low-income countries.

In a bid to address the further threat of plastic pollution, the report is urging governments to acknowledge and immediately move to limit the growing amount of hazardous waste generated from plastic waste by dramatically reducing the amount of plastic the industry can produce. It emphasized that this can be achieved through an international treaty.

The report is also suggesting that governments must manage existing stockpiles of plastic waste in an environmentally sound manner and encourage industry to develop an environmentally sound, sustainable management system for any plastic produced in the future.

It said this must include the implementation of design, production, and end-of-life management systems that maximize non-toxic polymer reuse and recycling in low-income countries as well as wealthy countries.

“We hope our own government will pay attention to the report’s findings and recommendations as we seek comprehensive, holistic and just decisions and measures to effectively curb plastic waste and pollution locally and globally,” the EcoWaste Coalition, IDIS and MEF said.

Last week, the EcoWaste Coalition along with various environmental advocacy groups and individuals filed a petition at the Supreme Court for the nullification of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) administrative order 2019-21 which covers the guidelines governing waste to energy (WTE) facilities for the integrated management of municipal solid waste.

The petitioners argued that the issuance and implementation of DAO 2019-21 would result in grave violations of the people’s right to health and the right to a balanced and healthful ecology under the Constitution.



## Community solutions address PH plastic problem

July 22, 2021 | 6:40 pm



PIXABAY

Communities are taking it upon themselves to tackle the plastic problem. “There is a rampant problem with solid waste, especially plastic waste, despite the presence of laws and ordinances,” said Arcel M. Coton, founder of LIKHAnegosyo, a youth-led Davao City initiative that upcycles plastic waste and promotes eco-friendly products. “The people in our communities regularly encounter lack of segregation and unnecessary garbage disposal.”

Laws such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, or Republic Act (RA) 9003, espouse the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle) but they are rarely implemented, said Mr. Coton, at a webinar organized by World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF-PH) that featured projects addressing plastic pollution.

The event was held in conjunction with Plastic Free July, a global movement geared toward preventing plastics from polluting the environment.

In Donsol, Sorsogon, the local chapter of Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina (KALIPi) educates mothers, who play an important role in spreading awareness in the community, about recycling.

“Mothers are at the front of all responsibilities. They are the light of the household,” said Wilma D. Arevalo, president of KALIPi’s Donsol chapter, in “We teach them that being responsible with plastic is good for the environment.”

The coastal municipality also holds regular seashore cleanup drives and plastic garbage collection drives, wherein items are properly recycled and sold.

### SAVING MARINE LIFE

In San Isidro, Davao Oriental, years of finding dying or dead marine turtles along coastal towns and barangays pushed the municipality to declare war on plastic waste. Their program “Dili Nako Sa Plastik,” focused on plastic recovery and recycling, even preceded their membership in WWF-PH’s Plastic Smart Cities, a knowledge-sharing platform on plastics.

“We embalmed and preserved the dead sea turtles for display so that the youth and the rest of the community are aware [of] what happens when plastic is left to pollute the waters,” said Justina Buenviaje-Yu, the Municipal Mayor of San Isidro.



A 2021 [environmental study](#) by the World Bank Group estimated that around 0.75 million metric tons of mismanaged plastic enters the ocean every year, making the Philippines the third largest contributor in the world. This much plastic is capable of killing many sea creatures, which in turn negatively affects entire marine ecosystems.

One such ecosystem is the coral reef, which a local resort in Samal, Davao Del Norte, has been protecting for decades. “Paradise Reef is 144 meters of rich coral reef. We have a team to make sure that the reef, the beach, and the shoreline is religiously maintained and cleaned,” said Julian L. Rodriguez III, pollution control managing head of Paradise Island Park and Beach Resort.

Whether it’s collecting, segregating, or properly disposing of plastics, their thrust has been to be transparent with guests about waste management. However, a large amount of trash in the sea is brought in by the currents from the nearby City of Davao, according to Mr. Rodriguez.

## PLASTIC IN THE METRO

With large cities being a major generator of any form of waste, the burden of coming up with effective plastic waste management programs is greater on local government units in metropolitan areas.

Manila has #LinISKOmynila, which consists of teams that pick up trash and clean water bodies to reduce plastics floating out to sea. The project covers Roxas Boulevard, Baseco Beach, and various canals throughout Manila.

“Apart from cleanup efforts, we also have our waste diversion initiatives in partnership with different private sectors, to stop the flow of plastic pollution in the country,” said Joanna Mae D. Norcio, assistant chief of the operations division of the Department of Public Services in Manila City.

There’s “Kolek Kilo Kita” where Manila residents sell clean, dry plastics to accredited junk shops for 3 pesos per kilo; and “AlasKalikasan Wrapper Redemption Project,” where citizens exchange three kilos of plastic for 165 grams of Alaska fortified milk.

Meanwhile, a plastic recycling machine donated in April by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has allowed the Manila LGU to make chairs from soft plastics. Ms. Norcio says the system will be fully operational in three months.

Czarina Constantino-Panopio, national lead of WWF-PH’s No Plastics in Nature initiative, applauded these efforts and acknowledged that the change in attitudes toward plastic waste will be gradual but good in the long run. “The beauty of this project really is its heart, which is striving to create a balance between humans and nature,” she said. — **Brontë H. Lacsamana**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/sparkup-community-solutions-address-ph-plastic-problem/?fbclid=IwAR3FvMV4yVYsvINFpmF9HBKcxaAFPW8y8KhAbevZUwTQLaDGYoy27kxPTOI>



# Value of PHL mineral exports reaches P1.1 trillion in five years, group says

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 22, 2021



Photo from Ibon Foundation

Philippines's mineral exports in the past 5 years reached a whopping P1.1 trillion despite President Duterte's promise to close down large-scale mining projects, anti-mining group Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE) reported on Thursday.

"Duterte's mining legacy is that for every P10 worth of minerals that were extracted and exported over the past five years, only P1.40 worth of taxes, royalties, and fees trickled back down to our economy. We protest Duterte's mining push for 100 new mining projects through his Executive Order 130 when the industry only contributed a measly average of 0.6-percent GDP and 0.5-percent employment contribution," Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-PNE said in a news statement.

These concerns were raised by Kalikasan-PNE to highlight a nationally coordinated action protesting President Duterte's Executive Order 130 which paved the way for the lifting of mining moratorium put in place by his predecessor, Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III when he signed Executive Order 79 almost a decade ago.

As a sign of protest against the resurgence of mining activities, communities, churches and activists from Cordillera to Davao unfurled banners in freedom parks, churches, and right outside Malacañang Complex at Mendiola.

Dulce noted how promoting mining for economic recovery pales in comparison to agriculture, which contributed at least 8 percent to the GDP and 23 percent to employment in 2020.

"That's a trillion pesos that could have been invested in our agriculture, which also serves as an economic base for building heavy industries. That's a trillion pesos stolen from our people's sovereign wealth, and from the future generations to come," Dulce alleged.

Worse, Dulce added, EO 130 "will usher in an unprecedented humanitarian crisis."

"Last year's slew of typhoons from Rolly to Ulysses resulted in P41 billion in damages. Scientists noted that mining and quarrying infesting watersheds in Cagayan Valley, Marikina-Rizal, and Bicol worsened the disaster impact. Alongside this, mining operations caused Covid-19 super spreader events affecting at least 362 mine workers across mining projects from the Cordilleras to Compostela Valley," Dulce said.

He cited the Didipio copper-gold mine of Australian-Canadian mine firm Oceanagold, which was recently renewed by President Duterte for another 25 years despite facing protests by communities and local governments.



Dulce added “43 percent of environmental defenders killed since 2001 are anti-mining activists, who have been ardent until the end in standing firm against the destructive practices done by mining companies.”

“This does not even include those who continue to get harassed for standing with the community versus mining,” Dulce added.

“With the lifting of the mining moratorium now, we expect President Duterte to flaunt this move as a so-called economic booster, especially with the SONA just a few days from now. But more than that, we also view Executive Order 130 as a ‘license to kill’ for anyone who stands in the way of mining companies.”



## 'Kalikasan' nanawagan kay PRRD itigil na ang nakakasirang pagmimina

July 22, 2021 1 min read

Nagsagawa ng kilos protesta sa paanan ng Mendiola Bridge, sa Maynila kasama ang Kalikasan People's Network Environment upang manawagan sa Administrasyong Duterte na wakasan ang patuloy na pagmimina pati na ang pagbawi sa Mining Moratorium at sa Oceanagold Mining Permit sa Barangay Didipio sa Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya.



(Jhun Mabanag/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/AI/MTVN)



Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/22/kalikasan-nanawagan-kay-prrd-itigil-na-ang-nakakasirang-pagmimina/?fbclid=IwAR3LbcsLWo4P8aq7XadA7BM1F4FU8WQQPWkLybKSUDZ8CaY55W4Q\\_1Fuhs](https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/22/kalikasan-nanawagan-kay-prrd-itigil-na-ang-nakakasirang-pagmimina/?fbclid=IwAR3LbcsLWo4P8aq7XadA7BM1F4FU8WQQPWkLybKSUDZ8CaY55W4Q_1Fuhs)





# The magical world of wetlands

[By Gab Mejia](#)

July 23, 2021

GROWING up in the many islands of the Philippines, I used to be taken by my father to mountains, swamps, lakes, rivers and the countless wetlands found in our country. Thanks to my father, I became obsessed early in my childhood in exploring more of our country's natural wonders. As much as I fell in love with our mountains, I've grown to understand more deeply and connect with our misunderstood swamps and marshes. These critical wetlands that our cities have been built on, are often portrayed as grimy and filthy places looming with menacing ogres, magical engkantos and incurable diseases.

Yet, as I became more exposed and immersed in these realms of wetlands, I've come to realize that they are not filled with ogres and spirits, but with equally magical majestic birds, crocodiles and mystical trees - places of enchantment waiting to be discovered.

No doubt a significant majority of Filipinos are not even aware of what wetlands are despite our island nation being shaped by them. Many of our communities and cities are built on wetlands. Our capital city, Manila, is even named after the indigo-yielding plants found in the marshes it once was. Despite the fact that wetlands are one of the most ecologically significant landscapes in the Philippines, stories are not being told about them, especially in the place that I've come to love - the Agusan Marshlands.

This largest wetland region in the Philippines found in the heart of the southern region of Mindanao is a place where hundreds of species of migratory birds come flying in from the far corners of Japan and Russia. These birds share their home with our local communities and the indigenous Manobo tribe. It is a neglected and forgotten wetland jewel of Asia, rapidly shrinking due to climate change and intense socioeconomic development.

Truth is, some aren't just unaware of this special place, they are frightened - frightened for their life in this region. In 2019, our country, the Philippines, was ranked as the deadliest country in the world for environmental defenders, conservationists and environmentalists, according to the "Global Witness Report." And last year, we ranked second deadliest in the world next to Colombia. There are no spaces for Greta Thunbergs here - in our country you may end up being red-tagged, silenced or worse, killed.

Being a conservation photographer and environmental storyteller, I realized how many more stories we needed to talk about our wetlands and our country to protect them. And I wanted to start with the Agusan Marshlands. I journeyed with my camera to this beautiful yet fragile world, closely working with heritage experts and our dear, good friend Ate Marites Babanto, the indigenous woman leader of the Manobo tribe.

We documented the manmade fires from palm oil plantations and droughts exacerbated by the changing climate. The fires and droughts slowly dried the sacred lakes, where plumes of ash and smoke rose from the ground. Instead of streams, there was dust. Instead of water, there was blood. But it was never the community's fault.

Our work was dangerous. Palm oil plantation companies started threatening us as our stories reached the general public and government officials. Our work was often hidden, never making it to the major headlines. But we continued telling these stories to empower the local communities living in the Agusan Marshlands. We want to make sure the local communities are safe and protected, for them to always call this special wetland their home. If we want to protect the places that we love, we need to protect the people protecting them.



The Agusan Marshlands is just one of the many wetlands found in our country and on the planet - a place not to be feared but to be celebrated, for there is magic for both what it is and what can become of it.

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# As climate change intensifies, Philippine coastal communities enumerate needs to weather storms, health crisis

By [James Patrick Cruz](#) - July 22, 2021 - 9:35 PM



Facemask and trash pile up on the shore Baseco Beach in Manila (Philstar.com/EC Toledo IV)

Some coastal communities in the country are calling for financial and livelihood support amid the onslaught of past typhoons that hit the Philippines and amid the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our need for various resources that could help us improve our tenacity over disasters and other challenges has really intensified since the pandemic began,” **Mercy Raymundo**, a local community leader of Barangay Ipil in the province of Camarines Sur, told the **Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI)**.

**Pedro Calumpiano**, coastal community leader of Barangay Maslog in Eastern Samar, also shared the same sentiment.

“Our pre-pandemic needs remain the same, and we need them much more now because the pandemic has affected people’s sources of income,” Calumpiano said to HHI.

In a study conducted by the academic and research center HHI, financial and livelihood support, access to essential services, training and disaster response equipment, better infrastructure and facilities, and policy and access to information are some of the long-term needs of coastal communities in the Philippines.

## Financial and livelihood support

As the effects of climate change intensify, the fish supply dwindles, prompting fisherfolks to spend more hours farther on the sea to obtain enough catch.

Strong typhoons and extreme weather conditions made it harder for fishers to go on a sail, leaving families without income during disasters.

Given this condition, communities near the coast stressed their need for financial and livelihood support.

“With the temperamental sea [bigger waves] and dwindling fish catch, many are pushed to look for alternative livelihoods. However, the lockdown restrictions implemented periodically due to the rising COVID-19 cases in our province make it tough to do so,” Calumpiano said.



### **Infrastructure and facilities**

The study further revealed that it is not just the livelihood of coastal communities affected by climate change, as harsh storms threaten the integrity of infrastructures near the coastlines.

Accessible community health facilities, higher dikes, stronger sea walls, evacuation centers, toilets, water pumping facilities, and garbage recycling facilities are some of the things that coastal communities need, based on the Harvard study.

### **Accessibility of basic services**

The country was frequently exposed to extreme weather conditions. The study revealed that the inaccessibility of essential services made it difficult for residents near the coast to recover, even for those situated in urban areas.

One of those communities is **Sitio Aplaya** in Baseco Compound in Metro Manila.

The study revealed that residents need stable access to electricity, potable water, food, and medical assistance.

A separate HHI survey in 2017 showed that if people were to be given enough funds, most Filipinos would choose to store necessary supplies to be prepared for disasters.

### **Training and disaster response equipment**

Participants of the study conducted by Harvard also stressed the lack of disaster response equipment among their communities.

The study also noted the need for these communities to undergo the necessary training.

According to a 2017 study by HHI, only two out of ten Filipinos have participated in disaster preparedness and response training.

### **Better policy and accessible information**

Improper water disposal, water shortage, saltwater intrusion, lack of alternative livelihoods, and illegal fishing are some of the other problems of the coastal communities, which the Harvard study has noted.

To address these issues, the study recommended improving policies and disaster information to improve the resilience of communities.

The residents also stressed the importance of collaboration between residents and local government in protecting the people and the environment from climate change.

Furthermore, HHI recommends developing community organizing, zoning plans, structures for marine protected areas, and holistic tourism plans among these areas.

The HHI case study titled “**Experiences of Coastal Communities in Climate Change and Disasters**” was conducted in early 2020. It seeks to identify the unaddressed needs of seaside communities to improve their preparedness, coping, and recovery from natural disasters.



# Climate change increases the risks of catching illnesses

posted July 22, 2021 at 11:07 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Worsening weather conditions due to climate change and other factors have increased health risks a hundredfold.

According to a journal published by The Lancet, overall findings indicate that climate change has adversely affected people's health in various ways.

The effects of climate change resulted in the rise in cases of dehydration and heatstroke. At the same time, floods facilitated the spread of cholera and the introduction of dengue fever and the Zika virus disease.

In the Philippines, warming temperatures due to climate change created favorable conditions for vector-borne diseases like dengue, while heavy rains allowed the spread of more breeding areas for dengue-bearing mosquitoes.

As an added protection for risks brought about by both the pandemic and other illnesses such as dengue, Filipinos are also encouraged to observe the minimum health protocols, remove stagnant water from storage containers, and keep their areas clean.

Malayan Insurance Co. Inc. has rolled out Vital Cover, an insurance plan to help manage the ill effects of modern-day diseases like dengue, chikungunya, and COVID-19, as well as accidents.

Vital Cover is a 5-in-1 COVID-19 cash assistance product that provides loss of life and hospitalization cover to the pandemic. It also provides insurance protection against accidents, and hospitalization for dengue or chikungunya.

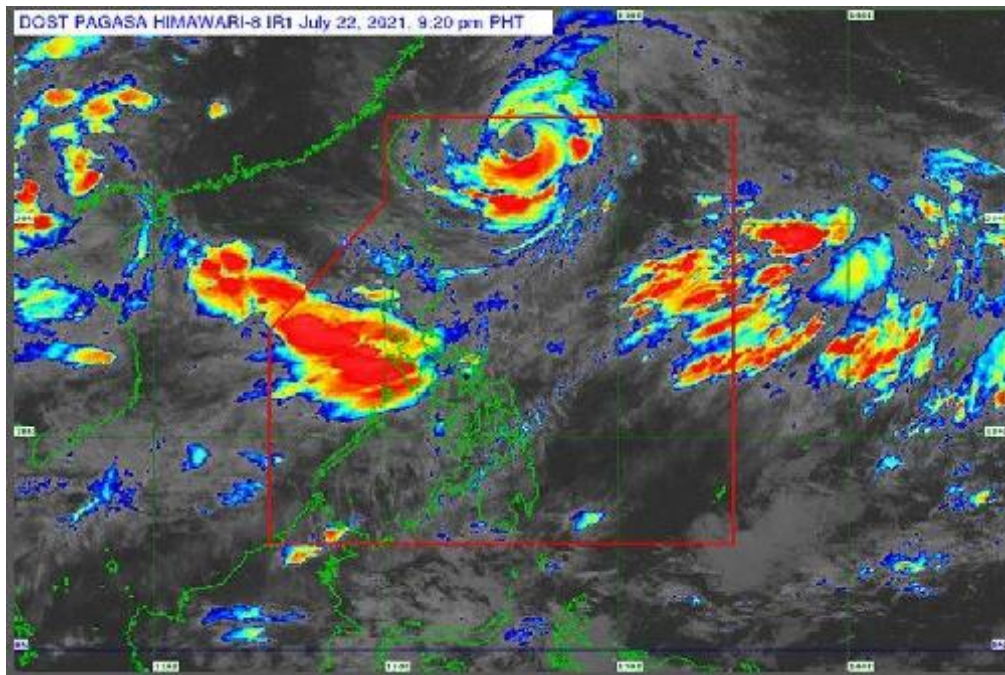
Malayan Insurance vice chairperson Yvonne Yuchengco underscored how climate change is a global crisis with disturbing health implications.

"It is important that people have protection. We cannot stop climate change nor the spread of diseases, which is why insurance protection is critical," Yuchengco said.

As an affordable alternative, Malayan Insurance also offers Dengue Cash, an insurance product that comes with a full-year personal accident cover and provides cash assistance of P10,000 should the policyholders be diagnosed with dengue.

The diagnosis of the dengue disease alone qualifies the policyholder for the dengue cash aid, with no confinement needed. Dengue Cash also includes coverage for death and disability due to accidents. The product protects minors and senior citizens up to 70 years old.

Malayan Insurance is a member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies (YGC).



Fabian (international name In-fa) was forecast to further intensify and reach its peak last night, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

PAGASA

## Monsoon continues to bring rains

[Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 23, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Monsoon rains will persist in most parts of the country even as Typhoon Fabian moves slowly north-westward until it exits the Philippine area of responsibility either tonight or tomorrow morning.

Fabian (international name In-fa) was forecast to further intensify and reach its peak last night, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 was hoisted over Batanes and Babuyan Islands yesterday.

While Fabian is unlikely to directly bring heavy rainfall in the country, it will continue to enhance the southwest monsoon, PAGASA said.

Monsoon rains are expected in Abra, Bataan, Batangas, Benguet, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, Rizal, Tarlac and Zambales as well as in Ilocos region, Metro Manila and Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan).

At 3 p.m. yesterday, Fabian was spotted 505 kilometers northeast of Itbayat, Batanes with maximum sustained winds of 150 kilometer per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 185 kph.

PAGASA warned of possible flash floods and landslides during moderate to at times heavy rains.

Fabian and the monsoon will also bring rough to very rough seas over the seaboard of Luzon.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said at least 700 individuals have undertaken pre-emptive evacuation in the Cordilleras, Western Visayas and Mimaropa.

Over 130 families sought shelter in evacuation centers in this area, the NDRRMC said.



### **MM still flooded**

Several areas in Metro Manila remained under water for the second straight day Thursday following heavy rains spawned by Fabian.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said there were floods on EDSA, particularly along the northbound lane of the EDSA Shrine, northbound of EDSA Ortigas, southbound of EDSA-POEA and the tunnel at Pasong Tamo.

Several areas in the cities of Malabon, Marikina and Parañaque were inundated.

The local government of Muntinlupa reported that some roads in the city were impassable.

Meanwhile, road systems in the Cordilleras perennially wrought by landslides during heavy rain are bearing the brunt of the bad weather in the past days.

The Benguet-Nueva Vizcaya Road was closed to traffic yesterday after a landslide occurred in Barangay Loacan, Itogon, Benguet. – **Ralph Edwin Villanueva, Artemio Dumlao**



# 641 katao inilikas matapos bumaha, mag-landslide dulot ng Typhoon Fabian

(Philstar.com) - July 22, 2021 - 6:51pm



Some commuters wade through the flooded intersection of Lacson Avenue and España Boulevard in Manila following a heavy downpour on July 17, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Daan-daang residente sa bansa ang sumailalim sa preventive evacuations sa gitna ng pananalasa ng bagyong "Fabian" sa Pilipinas, bagay na nagpapalakas din ngayon sa Hangang Habagat.

Huling natagpuan ang bagyo [505 kilometro hilagangsilangan ng Itbayat, Batanes nitong 5 p.m.](#), dala-dala ang hangang aabot hanggang 150 kilometro kada oras malapit sa gitna at bugsong papalo hanggang 185 kph.

Malalakas na pag-ulan, pagbaha at pagguho rin ng lupa ang naitala sa Metro Manila, MIMAROPA, Western Visayas at Kordilyera, ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Huwebes. Inilikas na tuloy ang ilan kaugnay niyan:

- inilagay sa pre-emptive evacuation (641)
- displaced persons sa evacuation centers (472)
- displaced persons sa labas ng evacuation centers (190)
- total displaced persons (662)
- apaketadong residente (695)

Kasalukuyang nasa pitong evacuation centers ang mga ilinikas sa MIMAROPA at Region 6 sa ngayon, patuloy ng NDRRMC kanina.

## Landslide, maritime incident

Isang rain-induced landslide ang naitala sa Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro mula Pag-asa sa kahabaan ng Beronilla. Gayunpaman, maaari na itong maraanan matapos makapagsagawa ng road clearing sa lugar.

Sa Tobias Fornier (Dao), Antique naman, tatlong pagguho ng lupa ang naiulat sa Igbangcal A, Atiotes at Igdalaquit. Patuloy pa rin ang clearing operations dito.

Nadadaan naman ang guho sa Barnaza, Antique mula Embrangga-an sa ngayon.

Samtanala, isang maritime incident naman ang naiulat din ang Region 6, sa pagkakataong ito sa Caluya, Semirara Island. Nasagip na sa ngayon ang walo katao kaugnay niyan.





"8 crews of MB Roxanne-L enroute to Semirara Island encountered strong winds, rain and battered with big waves which resulted to damage the forward freeboard and subsequently submerged were rescued and in good physical condition," sabi pa ng pamahalaan.

Kasama sa mga nasagip ang sumusunod:

- M, 57 - mula Brgy. Semirara
- M, 47 - Banago, Caluya
- M, 30 - San Jose Occidental Mindoro
- M, 26 - Brgy. Harigue Caluya
- M, 37 - Brgy. Semirara
- M, 40 - Brgy. Semirara
- M, 31 - Brgy. Semirara
- M, 24 - Brgy. Semirara

### **Mga pagbaha**

Walong lugar pa rin ang binabaha sa ngayon kaugnay ng bagyo sa Occidental Mindoro, partikular na ang Sanlayan, Santa Cruz at Mamuburaos.

Umabot naman sa 17 lugar sa National Capital Region ang binaha, kasama na ang ilang lugar sa Makati, Mandaluyong, Maynila, Pasay at Quezon City. Marami rito ay humupa na ang baha ngunit inaantay pa rin ang status ng ilan pang lugar.

Tinatayang lalabas ng Philippine area of responsibility ang Typhoon Fabian sa pagitan ng Biyernes ng gabi hanggang Sabado. — **James Relativo**



# Floods

[By Ma. Isabel Ongpin](#)

July 23, 2021

CLIMATE change is here, believe it or not. The summers are getting hotter. Witness the UK getting its first extreme heat warning in its history this week. Note the wildfires in the US and Canada caused by intense heat, enough that any spark (lightning, cigarette butt) can ignite a huge forest fire. Mount Holyoke College in western Massachusetts, where I studied, had a dorm hit by lightning in the ever more frightening thunderstorms of summer. It caused a fire. Firemen responded, but the dorm suffered extensive water damage and will not be in use this year. This occurred in a developed country. Do I need to remind us of Yolanda, the biggest storm recorded on the planet to date that impacted Leyte and neighboring provinces, and Ondoy, the unprecedented rainfall that flooded the National Capital Region (NCR) in 2009, recent events within memory?

The NCR, or Metro Manila, has been classified as one of the 10 most disaster-prone cities in the world. We are along the coastline, have had perennial floods during rainy seasons from time immemorial as we are in a delta of river and bay, and some of our ground is below the water level or sinking because of rampant water extraction. There is also high tide from Manila Bay to worry about when it comes with heavy rainfall. We have also regularly experienced typhoons which in the past decades have been getting more and more fearsome and destructive. And we are awaiting the Big One, the earthquake that we are overdue for.

There are emergency measures and regular exercises for the earthquake that is expected. But what other infrastructure and mitigation efforts have been put in place to mitigate floods and typhoon damage?

I was thinking of the floods while the rain battered my roof a few nights ago. Sooner or later, we will have unprecedented rainfall again. Maybe not this year or next year, but sometime in the near future. Note what is going on in Europe, a developed continent with working rivers and presumably First World drainage facilities. Then again, European countries are not used to heavy rainfall as we are in this part of the world. It may have been the reason no warnings were sent out or explain their complacency. But even Japan and Indonesia that are used to heavy rains have had deaths and damage from recent heavy rains. Climate change is here and explains it.

During Ondoy, where the equivalent of a month's worth of rain poured down in one day, my neighbor's house just down the street from mine (about 50 meters and on a down slope) experienced a flash flood that ruined their household contents, including valuable documents, i.e., the Torrens title of their property, necessitating having it reconstructed with all the time, expense and effort that entailed. Flash floods like that cause a lot of damage, even tragedy.

Well, there is some glimmer of good news on flood prevention and mitigation since Ondoy brought us to a standstill with vast damage to Marikina and many other places in Metro Manila.

The World Bank and the Philippine government have since taken some steps to address the problem by coming up with a Flood Management Master Plan for Metro Manila. The plan basically consists of structural and nonstructural steps. Meaning that it will confront technical and social challenges to mitigate flooding. Metro Manila will always flood during heavy rains as it is in a delta. The idea is to make the floods recede quickly and cause no damage. The Flood Management Master Plan is in its initial stages.



One technical step is improving the pumping stations around the city that pump out water during flooding. There are too few of them, and too old and therefore inadequate for the needs of today. Adding and improving the pumping stations is one of the steps being taken. It will not happen overnight, but it is beginning to happen.

Second is the social problem of removing informal settlers near waterways. They live in inadequate housing, which is a danger to them, but they also partly cause the flooding because of the pollution of the waterways they engender. But implementation has begun though again is in its initial stages.

Third is the desilting of the rivers and the abatement of Manila Bay pollution. Desilted waterways will make the water from the heavy rains and floods flow out faster to Manila Bay and keep them less in the streets and homes.

Government has reported a number of flood control projects around the Philippines (11,340). Again, they have not made a widespread visible impact yet. For Metro Manila residents, one of the most important is the Mandaluyong main drainage project, which has been completed at last after many years of desultory construction. Under heavy rainfall, the Mandaluyong City Hall area was always quickly flooded. This is no longer the case.

Then there is private sector help to solve the problem. The San Miguel Corp. has been at work on desilting the Tullahan River that affects Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas (Camanava). The Tullahan River has been loaded with an unconscionable amount of plastic and other pollutants as well as heavy siltation that causes it not to work efficiently. It overflows at the slightest rain, pollutes Manila Bay where it sends its garbage contents, and was a dead river until San Miguel came to the rescue.

The Aboitiz Group has undertaken to desilt the San Juan River, which like the Tullahan is heavily polluted. This is an important waterway that affects parts of Quezon City, San Juan and Mandaluyong. If desilted, it could bring flood waters dissipate quickly and efficiently out of the city and into Manila Bay.

The SM Group has pitched in with the cleanup of the Estero Tripa de Gallina in Pasay, which is near the airport.

Local governments are taking steps to control garbage dumped in the wrong places by policing waterways and the places leading to them, with prodding from the environment department. The garbage in waterways is a big cause of floods.

It is understood that the private sector will also begin to effect the cleanup of the Pasig River, Manila's river, which has been abused and is almost dead.

Maybe we are learning from our mistakes. Marikina has done much to repair the damage that Ondoy caused it and has taken measures to prevent such a massive flood from happening again. For instance, it has come up with a warning system for the Marikina River water rising. But there is a long way to go after years of neglect in the matter of floods in a time of climate change.

Other towns in the country will need flood control projects. I can think of Baras, Catanduanes that floods every time a typhoon or heavy rainfall hits because there is a creek nearby that cannot cope with rainwater (probably polluted too) and sends it flooding to the town. Obviously, some infrastructure is needed to divert the creek water from the town and send it directly and safely to the sea. I can also think of Taft Avenue, where a friend who lives there tells me as I write that they are knee-deep in flood waters. This only means that the effects of flood control



and mitigation will take some time and a lot of patience before they are widely effective. Work should be faster.

There will be more unusually heavy rains in our future as climate change has shown us. I wish the Departments of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the private sector companies helping out to mitigate the floods that will come the best of luck and many thanks.



## MALA-ULYSSES NA ULAN SA EUROPA; PATAY AT MISSING DAAN-DAAN



July 22, 2021 @ 8:15 PM 10 hours ago

HANGGANG ngayon, hindi pa makapaniwala, lalo na ang mga taga-Germany at Belgium, kasama ang iba pang mga bansa, sa kasiraan sa buhay at ari-arian na kanilang naranasan kamakailan.

Nagsilubugan ang mga bungalow na tahanan, nawasak ang mga dinaanan ng rumaragasang baha, naanod ang kanilang mga sasakyan at iba pang mga kagamitan, nasira ang kanilang mga hanapbuhay at marami pang iba.

Resulta, may mahigit 200 kumpirmadong patay at still counting na karamihan sa Germany, at may mahigit 240 pang nawawala.

Nasa 200,000 katao naman ang matinding tinamaan sa kasiraan sa ari-arian.

### **MALA-ULYSSES NA ULAN**

Katumbas ng ulan ni bagyong Ulysses na tumama sa Cagayan ang tumama sa Europa at nagsimula ito noong Hulyo 12, 2021.

Pero nagsiyam-siyam ang ulan noong Hulyo 14-15 at umabot sa 150 sentimetro o nasa anim pulgada ang haba ng mga patak ng ulan at katulad ito ng kay Ulysses.

Parehong naulit ang baha ni Noe sa Cagayan at Europa.

Kaya gayun na lang ang paninindig ng balahibo ng mga taga-Europa na dinaluhong ng baha.

### **MGA PALIWANAG SA BAHA**

Sabi ng mga siyentista, malamig umano sa kalangitan sa kanila sa mga araw na iyon at ang mga singaw ng lupa pataas na naging tubig ay naipon at nang bumagsak bilang ulan, hayun, bumaha nang todo.

Pero nagsisisihan sila ngayon kung bakit sila binaha at nagkaroon ng ganoong karamig namatay at missing at matinding pinsala sa ari-arian.

Paliwawanag ng iba, nagkaroon ng sapat na babala ang kanilang weather bureau pero parehong naging kampa ang mga pamahalaan at mamamayan.

Kumbaga sa atin, dinedma ng mga taga-Europa ang babala sabay sabing nagkulang din ang weather bureau.



Ayon naman sa iba, talagang babahain sila dahil hindi nakayanan ng mga maliliit na ilog, drainage at iba pang daluyan ng ilog ang buhos ng ulan na talaga namang *sobra-sobra*.

Sinasabi naman ng iba na ang pagdebelop sa malalawak na lugar na pinagsemento ang isang malaking dahilan ng baha.

Nawala umano ang mga lupa na sisipsip sa tubig tuwing may malalakas na ulan at kasabay na rin ito ng pagkawala ng mga puno sa kapaligiran dahil sa mga proyektong pangkaunlaran.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE?**

May isa pang paliwanag ang mga siyentista nila.

Ang naganap na baha ay pruweba na umano ng pag-iinit ng mundo na nagpapabago sa klima ng mundo.

Dahil sa climate change, kung umulan ay ganoon na lamang at kung uminit ay ganoon na lamang din.

Higit na umanong tumindi ang mga ulan at bagyo na lumilikha ng malalakas na baha, gayundin ang pagkatuyo ng mga lupain na lumilikha rin ng mga kaakot-takot na sunog gaya ng nagaganap naman sa United States at Canada at sa Australia nitong nagdaang taon.

### **MGA LEKSYON**

Kaya natin tinatalakay ang naganap na matinding baha sa Europa ay upang magkaroon tayo ng leksyon.

Sa pag-aaral sa mga namatay at missing roon, karamihan sa mga ito ang nasa ground kasi marami ang bungalow at marami rin ang nakatira sa mga first floor ng mga matataas na gusali.

Pero ang hindi nila gaanong pag-intindi ng babala ng weather bureau ang isang napakahalagang usapin.

Tayo, kapag may anunsyo ang weather bureau natin, natataranta na tayong maghanap ng mga evacuation site.

At naririyang na rin ang mga pwersahang pagbabakwit ng pamahalaan sa atin.

Mabilis na tayong maalerto dahil na rin sa mga pinagdaraan nating karanasan mula kay Ondoy sa Metro Manila hanggang kina Yolanda sa Kabisayaan, Ulysses sa Northern Luzon, Pablo sa Mindanao at iba pa.

Ngayon naman, baka matulad na sa atin ang mga taga-Europa na marunong makinig sa mga babala ng mga weatherman at sa babala mismo ng mga pamahalaang nasyunal at lokal.

### **TAG-ULAN AT TAGBAGYO**

Nasa panahon ulit tayo ng mga tag-ulan at tag-bagyo.

Sana lagi tayong handa na makipag-ugnayan sa mga kinauukulan para sa ating kaligtasan.

Kung mapapansin ninyo, mga Bro, halos lahat na ng mga local government unit ay may facebook account, twitter o instagram.

Dito nila ipinababatid sa lahat ang mga kalagayan natin sa usapin ng panahon.

Dito nila ipinakikita ang mga sukat ng mga baha na tumataas o bumababa, ang mga takbuhang natin na evacuation site at madaratnan nating mga kalagayan.



Napakarami tayong gabay na pinangungunahan ng pambansang pamahalaan na laging nakahanda ang ayuda sa mga LGU sa oras ng kalamidad.

Maghanda po tayo sa mga darating na kalamidad na dala ng tag-ulan at tag-bagyo.



## 22K lumikas sa bantang pagsabog ng Bulkang Taal – NDRRMC



July 22, 2021 @ 6:47 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Lumikas ang 21, 789 katao o 6,027 pamilya sa pagbabanta ng muling pagsabog ng Bulkang Taal, ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Sa datos ng NDRRMC, 5, 922 katao o 1,688 pamilya ang kasalukuyang nananatili sa mga evacuation center habang 15, 867 indibidwal o 4,359 ang nasa labas ng mga pasilidad.

Tinatayang 26 evacuation center ang binuksan para sa mga bakwit.

Apektado ng pagtaas ng aktibidad ng bulkan ang 145 barangay.

Naipamahagi naman ang 4,495 food packs, at 9,000 ready-to-eat meal.

Naibigay din sa mga lumikas ang 5,000 hygiene kits, 5,000 family kits, 5,000 sleeping kits, 477 modular tents, at 500 family tents.

Sa kabuuan, P16, 009, 434 halaga na ang naipamahaging tulong sa mga apektado ng aktibidad ng bulkan.

Patuloy na mataas ang aktibidad ng bulkan kung saan 35 pagyanig ang naitala nitong Huwebes.

Nananatili sa Alert Level 3 ang Bulkang Taal kaya't posible pa rin ang biglaang pagsabog nito. **RNT/ELM**



23 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Yumao sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas lumundag na sa 26,891 katao

(Philstar.com) - July 22, 2021 - 4:00pm



SM Supermalls with Mandaluyong City government administer its one-millionth dose of COVID-19 vaccine during its ceremonial 1 Millionth Job event at the SM Mega Trade hall in Mandaluyong City on July 14, 2021.

The STAR/Boy Santos

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 5,828 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Thursday, kung kaya't nasa 1,530,266 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **lahat ng kaso:** 1,530,266
- **nagpapagaling pa:** 50,562, o 3.3% ng total infections
- **bagong recover:** 3,257, dahilan para maging 1,452,813 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **kamatay lang:** 17, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 26,891

## 12 bagong Delta variant cases

- [Nadagdagan pa ng 12 karagdagang kaso ng mas nakahahawang Delta variant](#) cases ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, ayon sa huling taya ng DOH ngayong araw. Sumatutal, 47 na ito lahat.
- Itinaas naman na ng Department of Foreign Affairs ang Alert Level 4 sa bansang Myanmar dahil sa pagsipa ng Delta variant cases doon. Ibig sabihin, pinalilikas na ang mga Pilipinong namamalagi o kasalukuyang nagtratrabaho roon. 59 na Pinoy ang unang batch na unang uwi, ayon kay Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Eduardo Kapunan Jr. sa ika-3 ng Agosto.
- Humataw naman na sa [15.9 milyon doses ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19 ang naituturok na sa Pilipinas sa ngayon](#), ulat ni presidential spokesperson Harry Roque kanina.
- Nadagdagan naman ng [1.5 milyong doses ng Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines mula Tsina ang lumapag sa Pilipinas ngayong umaga](#), bagay na dumating pasado 7:50 a.m., ayon sa state-run PTV4.
- Isang coach naman para sa Tokyo Olympics mula sa Team Pilipinas ang [pauuwiin ng bansa](#) matapos magpositibo sa COVID-19, pagkukumpirma ni Philippine Olympic Committee president Rep. Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.



- Umabot na sa 191.14 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.1 milyong katao.

—James Relativo



# 12 pang Delta variant naitala sa Pinas

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



Naghihintay ang mga residente sa pila upang makatanggap ng bakuna ng Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology at Sputnik V COVID-19 ng Microbiology sa Mandaluyong City, suburban Manila noong Hulyo 15, 2021.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Umakyat na sa 47 ang kaso ng Delta variant ng COVID-19 sa bansa makaraang 12 bagong kaso ang nadiskubre base sa resulta ng 'whole genome sequencing' ng UP-Philippine Genome Center at UP-National Institute of Health.

Bukod dito, iniulat rin ng Department of Health (DOH) na may nadagdag na 187 bagong kaso ng Alpha variant, 142 Beta at 12 P.3 variant.

Lahat ng bagong kaso ng Delta variant ay mga lokal na kaso. Anim ang natukoy sa Region 3, da-lawa sa CALABARZON, isang kaso sa Region 5, at tatlong kaso sa National Capital Region (NCR).

"All cases have been tagged as recovered but their outcomes are being validated by our regional and local health offices. This brings the total Delta variant cases to 47," ayon sa DOH.

Dahil sa dagdag na mga kaso, sinabi ng DOH na krusyal ang pagres-ponde ng nasyunal at lokal na pamahalaan sa mga lugar na may mga kaso na maaaring may nagaganap na lokal na transmisyon.

Sa bagong Alpha variants, 134 ang lokal na kaso, 54 sa kanila ay nasawi habang 133 ang nakarekober. Umakyat na sa 1,668 ang Alpha variant sa bansa.

Sa 142 bagong Beta variants, 134 ang lokal na kaso, 21 ang nasawi at 121 ang nakarekober. Umakyat ang kabuuang kaso nito sa 1,827.

Sa 12 bagong P.3 variant, 11 ang lokal na kaso at isa ang inaalang pa. Lahat ay nakarekober na.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/07/23/2114478/12-pang-delta-variant-naitala-sa-pinas/amp/>



# Philippines confirms local transmission of COVID-19 Delta variant

By CONSUELO MARQUEZ, GMA News

Published July 22, 2021 10:42pm

The Department of Health on Thursday night confirmed the local transmission of the highly contagious Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus.

The DOH made the announcement after the phylogenetic analysis conducted by the University of the Philippines - Philippine Genome Center, and case investigation by the DOH Epidemiology Bureau and the regional and local epidemiology and surveillance units, showed clusters of Delta variant cases "linked to other local cases, therefore, exhibiting local transmission."

The department stressed the need "to continuously enforce strict border control measures and intensify local COVID-19 responses with the local transmission of the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant in the Philippines."

"The country has been implementing travel bans and stringent border control measures to delay the entry of the variant, giving the country a head start to prepare its capacity to manage potential surges," read the statement.

The DOH earlier said [12 new Delta variant infections](#) were reported in the country, raising the total cases to 47.

It reminded the public that correct and consistent compliance with the minimum public health standards and getting vaccinated were "the best defense against any COVID-19 variant."

To manage COVID-19 cases, national and local governments are coordinating to implement prevent, detect, isolate, treat, and re-integrate response strategies and increase the country's health system capacity to be able to manage cases.

The DOH said that there were enough COVID-19 wards, intensive care units and Treatment and Monitoring Facilities beds in the countries especially in areas with a spike in COVID-19 cases.

"The government is also preparing for enough supplies of COVID-19 medicines, oxygen tanks, and critical care equipment in hospitals and augmentation of human resources," DOH said. — **NB, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/796434/philippines-confirms-local-transmission-of-covid-19-delta-variant/story/?fbclid=IwAR11DxbD6taG-xy9y6min0h4y4GkNGoivyPcQWkl\\_oe5Se2Nd7b8JYp14jFQ](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/796434/philippines-confirms-local-transmission-of-covid-19-delta-variant/story/?fbclid=IwAR11DxbD6taG-xy9y6min0h4y4GkNGoivyPcQWkl_oe5Se2Nd7b8JYp14jFQ)



# Pinas may 'local transmission' na ng Delta variant

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



Ayon kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, bagama't kalat-kalat ang mga natuklasang Delta variant cases, nagpatupad na agad sila ng reaksyon para sa 'local transmission'.

STAR/ File

MANILA, Philippines — Sinang-ayunan na ng Department of Health (DOH) ang opinyon ng ekspertong si Dr. Rontgene Solante na posibleng mayroon nang 'local transmission' ng mas mapanganib na Delta variant ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Ayon kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, bagama't kalat-kalat ang mga natuklasang Delta variant cases, nagpatupad na agad sila ng reaksyon para sa 'local transmission'.

Sa kabila ng mga pa-ngamba na hindi makakayanan ng 'health system' ng Pilipinas ang panibagong surge kagaya ng nangyayari sa Indonesia, tiniyak ng DOH na ginagawa nila ang lahat ng paraan para maiwasan ito at inihahanda ang lahat ng pagamutan sa posibilidad na pagkalat ng variant.

Kailangan umanong magtulungan ang nasyunal at lokal na pamahalaan para mapalakas ang healthcare system. Ito ay sa pamamagitan ng pagtiyak na sapat ang COVID-19 beds, ICU at TTMF bed capacity, gamot at oxygen tanks at mga healthcare workers. Kailangan rin ng pagtulong ngpubliko sa simpleng paraan ng pag-praktis sa 'minimum public health standard' at boluntaryong pagpapabakuna.



Residents queue up at a Covid-19 coronavirus vaccination centre in Mandaluyong City, suburban Manila on July 15, 2021.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

## Experts suggest tighter measures

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 23, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The OCTA Research Group expressed yesterday serious concern over the continuing rise of COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila, saying the region appears to be on the brink of another surge.

Using data from the Department of Health, OCTA said Metro Manila recorded an average of 813 new cases per day from July 15 to 21, up from the 638 daily cases recorded in the preceding week.

The region's reproduction number, which indicates the number of persons a positive individual can infect, also increased from 0.91 to 1.15.

"This is a cause for serious concern. The trend in reproduction number over the past week shows a similar pattern with the trend from Feb. 12 to 19, when the reproduction number increased from 1.06 to 1.3," said OCTA. "That period signified the start of the surge in the National Capital Region (NCR)."

While it is not clear what is driving the increase in cases, the group said it is best to be cautious and be prepared for a possible surge noting that this can still be mitigated with proactive and decisive measures.

It also suggested that the government consider stricter quarantine restrictions, as well as reducing capacity in business establishments, lengthening curfew, reducing mobility of children and adolescents and ensuring compliance to minimum public health standards.

OCTA fellow Ranjit Rye stressed the need to act with urgency and not wait for the numbers to spike to unmanageable levels, noting that current restrictions in Metro Manila are not enough.

"We cannot underestimate the COVID-19 uptick in the NCR because of the possibility that it may be driven by the Delta variant. At the very least, the IATF (Inter-Agency Task Force) must contemplate a stricter quarantine status or impose more restrictions in the NCR," he said.

"If Delta is driving this surge, we need to crush it with lockdowns (localized and regional) and with expanded testing and tracing before it explodes and creates a catastrophic surge. We have a window of opportunity to reverse this surge," he added.



Rye said the delay in response earlier this year led to a deadly surge that resulted in a great loss to life and livelihoods.

“Let us learn from the lessons of other countries where effective control of the epidemic was lost because institutions acted too little and too late,” he noted.

In an interview with The Chiefs over One News on Wednesday night, OCTA fellow Guido David raised the possibility of imposing different restrictions for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

“In other countries, they’re introducing some policy and we’re looking at it. For example, in France, indoor dining is only allowed for vaccinated people,” he said. “It may not seem fair, but that would be one way to do it.”

David said vaccinated individuals may be subjected to different restrictions as they have more protection from the virus. “We can add some restrictions but at the same time still help the economy. The 15 percent (of the population) vaccinated in NCR, that’s a significant number.”

Meanwhile, National Task Force Against COVID-19 deputy chief implementer Vince Dizon said the country’s fight against the pandemic is still far from over even if vaccine supply and deliveries are starting to progress.

Quoting Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr., he reminded the public that there’s still a lot of ground to cover toward ending COVID.

“What (they) want to let all of us know is we are still a long way from the end of this fight. We have very long ways to go,” he said during a vaccination rite in Pasig City.

The government, he announced, has administered 16 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines with a rate of about 350,000 vaccinations daily.

The Philippines is currently 8th among Southeast Asian nations in terms of vaccinating its whole population and third in terms of COVID-19 vaccine dose deployment.

In Metro Manila, Dizon said local governments have been able to do 130,000 to 150,000 average daily inoculations, beating the target of 120,000.





# Fight Covid fake news, media urged

Barangay leaders urged to get vaccinated first to entice their constituents to get jabbed

Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar appealed to members of media to help in disseminating to the public the importance of getting vaccinated against Covid-19.

Andanar appealed to journalists, especially those from broadcast media outfits, to deliberate more on the information they release to the public, especially if they would hamper the vaccination program.

The PCOO chief cited as example a piece of allegedly misleading information reported by a Sagay, Camiguin-based radio station now reportedly causing vaccination hesitancy among residents.

“Our broadcasters, especially our friends at the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas are careful against spreading fake news, especially about Covid-19,”

Andanar said.

Mayor Joseph Uayan responded that such information would likely come from social media rather than from radio and television.

According to Uayan, the local government did a “personalized” information drive in nine barangays there to encourage more residents to get the Covid-19 jab, as a protection against the more serious threats of the virus.

He also encouraged barangay leaders to get vaccinated first so that their constituents will have concrete proof that some information they read on social media are not true.

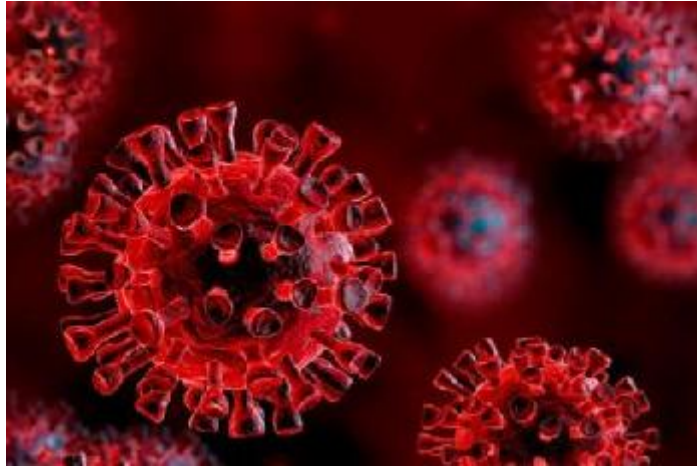
“I do house visits. Part of this (info drive), I gave instructions to my barangay captains that they should take the lead in correcting the misconception of the people,” he added.



# Delta variant fast becoming dominant 'corona' strain

Published 3 hours ago on July 23, 2021 05:00 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — The highly contagious Delta variant of Covid-19 is expected to become the dominant strain of the virus over the coming months, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Wednesday.

Delta, which was first detected in India, has now been recorded in 124 territories — 13 more than last week — and already accounts for more than three-quarters of sequenced specimens in many major countries, the WHO said.

“It is expected that it will rapidly out-compete other variants and become the dominant circulating lineage over the coming months,” the UN health agency said in its weekly epidemiological update.

Of the three other coronavirus variants of concern (VOC), Alpha, first detected in Britain, has been reported in 180 territories (up six from last week), Beta, first detected in South Africa, in 130 (up seven) and Gamma, first detected in Brazil, in 78 (up three).

According to SARS-CoV-2 sequences submitted to the GISAID global science initiative over the four weeks to 20 July, the prevalence of Delta exceeded 75 percent in several countries.

Those included Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Britain, China, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Israel, Portugal, Russia, Singapore and South Africa.

“Growing evidence supports the increased transmissibility of the Delta variant as compared to non-VOC. However, the exact mechanism for the increase in transmissibility remains unclear,” said the WHO.

Cases up 12%  
The Geneva-based organization said overall, 3.4 million new Covid-19 cases were reported in the week to 18 July — up 12 percent on the week before.

“At this rate, it is expected that the cumulative number of cases reported globally could exceed 200 million in the next three weeks,” said the WHO.

The organization said the global increases in transmission appeared to be driven by four factors: More transmissible variants; the relaxation of public health measures; increased social mixing and large numbers of unvaccinated people.



Cases were up 30 percent in the WHO's Western Pacific region and up 21 percent in its European region.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Indonesia (350,273 new cases; up 44 percent), Britain (296,447 new cases; up 41 percent), and Brazil (287,610 new cases; down 14 percent).

The number of weekly deaths, however, remained steady at 57,000, similar to the previous week and following a steady decline for more than two months.

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/23/delta-variant-fast-becoming-dominant-corona-strain/?\\_cf\\_chl\\_jschl\\_tk\\_\\_=pmd\\_8e7f453f0c16c68c908606fddce3c3f12b59faf9-1626997761-0-gqNtZGzNAiKjcnBszQii](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/23/delta-variant-fast-becoming-dominant-corona-strain/?_cf_chl_jschl_tk__=pmd_8e7f453f0c16c68c908606fddce3c3f12b59faf9-1626997761-0-gqNtZGzNAiKjcnBszQii)



# **#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**

## Most people have **mild** or **no side effects** after taking a **COVID-19 vaccine**.

### Why?

As of May 2021, over 1.35 billion vaccine doses have been safely administered globally.

Usual side effects are mild - headache, fever and body aches - and normally go away within a couple days. Any concerns should be reported to your healthcare provider.



## Getting vaccinated against **COVID-19** helps **protect you from getting sick**.

### Why?

Vaccination reduces your risk of getting seriously ill and dying from COVID-19. The vaccine can create mild side effects such as headache, fever & body aches, but these normally go away within a couple days.

Serious side effects are very rare and should be reported to your healthcare provider.



## COVID-19 vaccines only contain safe ingredients.

### Why?

It is impossible to place a microchip inside your body when getting vaccinated. All vaccine components have been shown to be safe for people.



## All ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

### Why?

Ingredients help keep the vaccine blended together, stable and even at the injection site a little longer. All tests have confirmed that these components are safe for people.



## Vaccination develops immunity from COVID-19 more effectively than getting infected and sick.

### Why?

Vaccination reduces the risk of getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. Those who have already had COVID-19 may not acquire full immunity. Getting vaccinated provides a stronger level of immunity.



## Vaccines offer strong protection against covid-19 but people must take all the recommended doses.

### Why?

The maximum protection is not reached until 2-3 weeks after vaccination. If you have a two-dose vaccine, this means that you don't get full immunity until 2-3 weeks after the second dose.



## Even after getting vaccinated, **keep taking precautions** to protect family and friends.

### Why?

You could still get infected before your body has built up immunity. To protect yourself and others, continue to distance, wear a mask, clean hands frequently, cover a cough or sneeze and avoid poorly ventilated areas.





23 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



**DENR**

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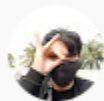
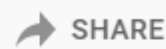
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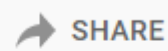
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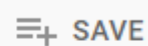
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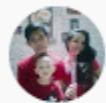
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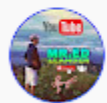
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