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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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

Published December 22, 2021, 6:21 PM by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DENR nabs 2 wildlife traders in Pasay

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star December 24, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Enforcers from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have apprehended two suspected wildlife traders in Pasay City after they allegedly tried to sell pangolins through social media.

Rowena Pindot and Joel Quimado were arrested by members of the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force in an entrapment operation on Dec. 16.

Pindot and Quimado allegedly attempted to sell pangolins for P75,000 each or P4,500 per kilo.

Seized from the suspects were six live pangolins.

The DENR said the rescued pangolins were brought to the BMB's Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City.

Charges of violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act have been filed against the suspects. – **Rhodina Villanueva**



Baguio City mulls new garbage collection scheme

By Gaby B. Keith December 24, 2021



Mayor Benjamin Magalong. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BAGUIO CITY: Mayor Benjamin Magalong is thinking of implementing a new garbage collection scheme in the city.

"After conducting pre-test on a survey instrument and a successful rollout, it turns out that many residents want to help the city government in improving garbage collection and disposition including their high willingness to pay," Magalong said during the media forum last week at the Baguio City Hall.

He said the amount that those surveyed are willing to pay is P10 per 10 kilos of garbage and an additional P5 for every kilo above 10 kilos.

"The scheme just has to be discussed with barangay (villages) officials who will weigh and collect the garbage in their respective areas since a percentage of the collected fees will go to the barangay," the mayor said.

He explained that the plan will eventually teach people to segregate and even recycle their garbage because unsegregated garbage is heavier and therefore more expensive.

"When people realize that they are paying more for their garbage, they start learning to segregate," he said.

The mayor said he is currently talking with city council members regarding the proposed garbage scheme to be crafted into an ordinance.

He stressed that the scheme is brought about by a study using empirical data including a survey on the people's willingness to pay.

Magalong added that while almost 80 percent of those surveyed are willing to pay, the rest are amenable to do one to three hours of community service instead.



Masungi Georeserve decries detention of rangers, calls for support for envi defenders

(Philstar.com) - December 23, 2021 - 12:14pm



A sign indicating the Masungi Geopark Project is a restricted area is seen in this February 6, 2021 photo.

MANILA, Philippines — The Masungi Georeserve called for support for environmental defenders protecting watersheds as they decried the detention of five of their forest rangers — allegedly by police — in the town of Baras, Rizal province.

In a Facebook post, Masungi Georeserve said their five rangers “apprehended a notorious environment offender armed with a machete, who was trespassing and illegally entering the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.”

They surrendered the alleged offender to the Baras municipal police station for the filing of complaints, but the cops instead detained the rangers, the organization said. They added that their rangers were also “mistreated and verbally abused” by the police.

“Upon the false and bare ‘say-so’ of the offender and absent any visible signs of physical injury and a formal complaint, the police unjustly put them behind bars,” Masungi Georeserve said.

The rangers were released after six days in detention, following a resolution from the provincial prosecutor, but Masungi Georeserve said: “Their illegal detention has a chilling effect on our rangers and other protected area defenders. The authorities will not defend the environment and neither will they let us.”

Call for protection

Masungi Georeserve said the offender is an owner of an illegal resort and is the “primary suspect” in the shooting of their two rangers earlier this year. The same person is also supposedly a subject of a Cease and Desist Order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and a closure order from the local government unit.

The organization also claimed that the town police “gave every alibi to avoid investigating suspects” in the shooting of their rangers in July.

In August, the two rangers filed a frustrated murder rap against the resort owner and his companions. The respondents' names have not been made public.

“We wrote countless requests for assistance to authorities including the police in light of the impunity and lawlessness prevailing in the protected area and critical watershed. Unfortunately, nobody took real action, so land grabbers and other environmental offenders continue to lord over the area,” they added.



Over the past few months, their team also made three citizen arrests, "including [of] persons clearing land and cutting trees using a chainsaw to build illegal permanent structures inside the protected area."

Quarrying, land grabbing, timber cutting and encroachments continue to persist in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, which was declared a protected area only in 2011.

Conservationists have stressed that the Upper Marikina Watershed is critical as it regulates water flow, and serves as a habitat of threatened flora and fauna and ancestral domains of indigenous peoples.

Masungi is undertaking a reforestation initiative inside the watershed in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The organization then called on police leadership to ensure that forest rangers are supported and the watershed protected

"We demand that the police officers involved in this grave injustice be held accountable for their actions and inaction. We demand that the offender, a resort owner who flagrantly tampered with our forest and waterways and attacked our rangers, be prosecuted for multiple crimes and abuses," the Masungi Georeserve added.

— **Kristine Joy Patag with reports from Gaea Katreena Cabico**



Police 'illegally detained,' abused rangers – Masungi Georeserve

By [Janine Peralta, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Dec 22, 2021 10:36:25 PM



Conservation group Masungi Georeserve accused police in Baras, Rizal of illegally detaining, mistreating, and verbally abusing five of its park rangers last week in what it called another case of injustice done to environment defenders based in the protected site. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 22) — Conservation group Masungi Georeserve accused police in Baras, Rizal of illegally detaining, mistreating, and verbally abusing five of its park rangers last week in what it called another case of injustice done to environment defenders based in the protected site.

Masungi said their rangers initially apprehended an armed trespasser in their area and turned them over to the Baras police station. But to their surprise, the police jailed the rangers instead of the alleged offender.

"Upon the false and bare 'say-so' of the offender and absent any visible signs of physical injury and a formal complaint, the police unjustly put them behind bars. The medico-legal report would later disprove the false claim of the offender," Masungi said on Wednesday.

The group identified the alleged trespasser as a resort owner and the "prime suspect" in a [shooting](#) that critically injured two of the park's rangers half a year ago.

CNN Philippines has contacted the Baras police station for comment but it has yet to respond as of writing.

The five rangers have since been released after six days of detention following the resolution of a prosecutor, Masungi added.

"We demand that the police officers involved in this grave injustice be held accountable for their actions and inaction," the conservation group said. "We demand that the offender, a resort owner who flagrantly tampered with our forest and waterways and attacked our rangers, be prosecuted for multiple crimes and abuses."

This is not the first time that members of the Masungi Georeserve experienced "unjust" attacks. Earlier this year, the group reported multiple encroachment incidents, despite bearing the title of a protected area under law.

Source: https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/12/22/Masungi-rangers-illegally-detained.html?fbclid=IwAR2I2zv2K9i8nS6_6Kcofpz3FLQILjwTWQpX9-v0V7HOq9IREylgZ1IbNZ4



IPs reject mining exploration

By [Dexter A. See](#) December 24, 2021

MANKAYAN, Benguet: The Indigenous peoples (IPs) of this mining town asserted their right over their ancestral land by rejecting the bid of a mining company to conduct a mining exploration within their territory.

In a resolution of non-consent, the IPs from the 12 barangay (villages) of Mankayan expressed their rejection through a consensus of the planned mining exploration of Cordillera Exploration Inc. (Cexci) in their ancestral domain.

Of the 12 barangay, seven voted no to the mining exploration, three voted yes, and two were undecided.

The consensus is part of the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), a process whereby IPs affected by a major project or exploration will decide if they are going to allow it or not.

The mining exploration bid of Cexci underwent the FPIC process with the assistance of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Cordillera.

"The Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/IPs of the Mankayan Ancestral Domain in the course of the FPIC process were able to arrive at a consensus not to give their consent to the subject project of Cexci," the resolution stated.

The IPs stressed that they gave their non-consent to Cexci's project because they know that mining exploration is not separated from mining operation, which requires massive drilling and excavation and soil extraction and will greatly affect the environment and resources.

"We need to protect the remaining environment and resources of Mankayan, especially water," the IPs stated.

The IPs also said that mining creates division among them, adding they have negative experiences from the many years of mining in their place.

Meanwhile, the state-owned Philippine Amusement Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) approved the proposed construction of a P50-million evacuation center in a 2,000-square meter property of the municipal government in Sitio Bayoyo, Barangay Tabio.

The evacuation center will help provide an adequate facility for the needs of victims of natural and manmade calamities in the future.

Mayor Frenzel Ayong said Pagcor will initially release P25 million or 50 percent of the funds to jumpstart the implementation of the project, which will have a soft launching on Jan. 6, 2022. Pagcor is funding the construction of evacuation and multipurpose centers in different parts of the country to help in strengthening the disaster risk reduction and management response of local governments.

Mankayan is one of five first-class municipalities in the province having agriculture and mining as the major source of livelihood of the people.

The six upland villages are dominantly vegetable-producing communities, while the six lowland villages are said to be the mineral-rich areas.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/12/24/news/regions/ips-reject-mining-exploration/1827019>



'Peacock-like' fish among 2 new species discovered in Palawan

Timothy James Dimacali

Posted at Dec 23 2021 03:24 PM



Rhinogobius tandikan (top) is named for its blue body markings' striking resemblance to those of the Palawan peacock-pheasant known locally as "tandikan." Rhinogobius estrellae (bottom) is named after the Estrella Falls in Palawan where it was first discovered. *Photo courtesy of Dr. Ken Maeda, OIST, Japan; and Dr. Herminie P. Palla, WPU, Palawan, Philippines*

A joint team of Filipino and Japanese biologists recently announced the discovery of two new species of goby fish found only in Palawan.

Rhinogobius estrellae was named after Estrella Falls where it was first discovered, whereas Rhinogobius tandikan was named for the striking resemblance of its blue body markings to those of the "tandikan" bird or Palawan peacock-pheasant.

The announcement follows closely on the heels of the discovery earlier this year of a goby fish also endemic to Palawan that sports a distinctive red coloring, which prompted scientists to name it *Lentipes palawanirufus* —Latin for "red-headed *Lentipes* goby of Palawan."

In general, goby fish are a type of freshwater fish common to several places in the Philippines. Other local species include *Gobius criniger* (known as "biya" in Tagalog, "bunog" in Ilocano, and "parog" in Waray) and *Mystichthys luzonensis* (commonly known as "sinarapan" and touted as the world's smallest edible fish).

The *Rhinogobius* genus of freshwater goby fish is widely distributed across East and Southeast Asia, from Russia to Vietnam, but these new species are the farthest south that the genus has been found.

R. estrellae and *R. tandikan* distinguish themselves from their cousins by the number of spines in their fins as well as the number and arrangement of their scales.

The discovery, made by researchers from the Western Philippines University College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in cooperation with the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University and other Japanese institutions, was published in the journal *Zootaxa* in November this year.



What happened to tarsiers in Bohol after Typhoon Odette?

[Jan Milo Severo](#) - Philstar.com December 23, 2021 | 4:40pm



A small nocturnal primate with large eyes, tarsier is the most endangered primate in the world.

[Philstar.com/Jan Milo Severo](#)

MANILA, Philippines — Out of the 150 tarsiers in a conservation area in Bohol, only two remained visible for now in their viewing area after Super Typhoon Odette ravaged Visayas and Mindanao.

Jennie-Lee Dical, manager of Bohol Tarsier Conservation Area, said in her interview with “Unang Balita” that tarsiers usually hide behind rocks and big branches of trees during typhoons.

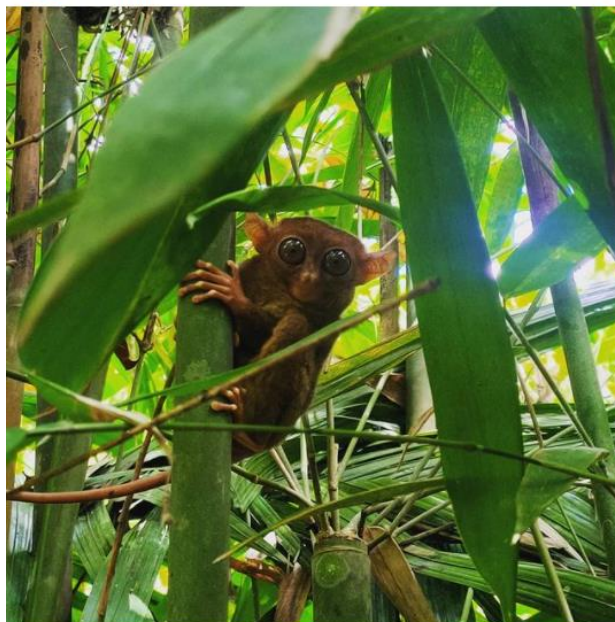
“Natakot din po sila. Mostly po nagtatago yung tarsier 'pag may ganyang sakuna. Nagtatago sila sa ilalim ng mga bato or nagtatago sila sa mga big branches ng puno,” she said.

A small nocturnal primate with large eyes, tarsier is the most endangered primate in the world. They are suicidal and may kill themselves just by hearing high-volume noises.



janmilosevero
Corella, Bohol

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We've met again, emo primate.

#BalikBohol #BeholdBohol

Add a comment...





Meanwhile, four of the 1,700 plus popular Chocolate Hills were seen crumbled due to Odette. The complex of the hills was also partially destroyed.

“Yung newly renovated restaurant namin hindi pa na-turnover basag lahat ng salamin at yung Chocolate Hills pavilion kung saan nagre-rest yung mga guests naming after umakyat. Yung sa viewing deck hindi siya totally damaged, yung wishing well lang ang natanggal,” Chocolate Hills Complex manager Bernadette Adlaon said.



NegOcc wildlife park devastated by ‘Odette’ calls for help

By Nanette Guadalquiver December 23, 2021, 3:36 pm



DAMAGED. The Talarak Foundation’s Feather Park conservation center in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental has been devastated by Typhoon Odette on Dec. 16, 2021. It is appealing for monetary and in-kind donations to rescue the animals left and to support its keepers and staff. *(Photo from Talarak Foundation Facebook page)*

BACOLOD CITY – The Talarak Foundation, Inc. (TFI), a shelter for endangered West Visayan wildlife, has appealed for urgent assistance to rebuild its conservation center in Kabankalan City that was devastated by Typhoon Odette last week.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, the TFI, which has two captive breeding centers in Negros Occidental – the Negros Forest Park in this city, and the Kabankalan-based Feather Park – sought monetary and in-kind donations to rescue the animals left and to support its keepers and staff.

“We are knocking on your generous hearts once again. We would like to ask for your continued support as we do our best to give our endangered and endemic species, as well our hardworking keepers in Kabankalan, a second shot at life,” the group said.

According to the TFI, Feather Park, the breeding center that houses the majority of most-endangered birds, was destroyed by strong winds and floods.

“The typhoon caused massive structural damage to the enclosures and homes of the keepers and unfortunately, the heartbreaking loss of life to many of our hornbills and other species,” the post said.

“Typhoon Odette did not leave anyone or anything unscathed in our Kabankalan-based breeding center. We are still struggling to battle thick mud, floodwater, massive debris, and other terrible losses in Feather Park.”

The organization said its next goal is to give all surviving endangered and endemic animals “proper care, treatment, and the spacious, stress-free environment they need to recover as soon as possible.”

Its most critical residents from Feather Park were the first to be safely evacuated, and are currently taking refuge at the Negros Forest Park and Bayawan Nature Reserve in Negros Oriental.

“We’re now working on rehousing the rest of the animals waiting in Kabankalan,” the TFI said.

Urgent needs include food, water, medicine, and other essentials for both the animals and staff.



Also needed are “veterinary attention for the animals, and when necessary, transportation to move them to safer shelters.”

The TFI added that they also need to “fix the monstrous damage to the aviaries, keeper shelters, and other conservation facilities,” as well as “clear up debris and silt.”

The organization is at the forefront of the conservation of five key species endemic to West Visayas, among them the critically endangered Visayan Warty Pig, Negros Bleeding Heart Dove, and Walden’s Hornbill, and the endangered Tarictic Hornbill and Visayan Spotted Deer.

Its name, Talarak, is the local term for Walden’s Hornbill, also known as the Visayan Wrinkled Hornbill, Rufous-headed Hornbill, or the Writhed-Billed Hornbill. **(PNA)**



Eleazar, kikilos kontra plastic pollution!

[DIPUGA](#) - [Non Alquitran](#) - Pang-masa December 24, 2021 | 12:00am

HINDI lang binawian ng buhay ang maraming Pinoy ng bagyong Odette kundi sinira din nito maging ang kanilang mga kagamitan at milyones na halaga ng agricultural crops. Ang masakit pa, nag-iwan din ang bagyo sa dagat, beach, ilog at creek ng sandamukal na basura, lalo na ang plastic, na naging sanhi ng pagbaha sa ilang lugar ng Pinas. Habang abala ang gobyerno ni President Digong na ayusin ang mga lugar na sinalanta ng bagyong Odette, ang napansin naman ni Senatorial aspirant ex-PNP chief Guillermo Eleazar ay ang plastic na basura na ilang dekada nang nanalanta sa bansa.

Kaya kapag nasa Senado na itong si Eleazar, bibigyan n'ya ng solution ang plastic pollution para hindi na makapaminsala tuwing may bagyong dumating sa bansa. Halos taun-taon na lang ay naging ugat ng pagbaha itong plastic pollution na kung hindi mapigilan ay maaring magdulot ng katakot-takot na pinsala sa Pinas. May punto si Eleazar na mabahala sa delubiyong dulot ng plastic pollution bunga sa maging ang mga environment experts ay nagsasabing mahigit 100 years bago ma-decompose ang mga ito.

Hindi lang 'yan, itong plastic wastes ay masama din ang dulot sa environment, anila. Dipugaaaaa! Hihhi! Dapat tuldukan ni Eleazar ang walang habas na production, gamit, at disposal ng plastic, di ba mga kosa? Mismooooo!

May desisyon na ang Korte Suprema tungkol sa Writ of Kalikasan at patuloy na mandamus laban sa gobyerno na inakusahan ng environmental advocates na hindi kumikilos laban sa plastic pollution. Subalit kahit may sapat naman na batas para masawata ang pagkalat ng plastic sa kalye at merkado hindi pina-implement ito ng maayos. Kung kailangang silipin o amyendahan ang batas laban sa plastic pollution ay gagawin ni Eleazar sa Senado para magkaroon ng ngipin ito.

“Higpitan ang pagpapatupad ng batas at panagutin ang mga dapat managot dahil sa kapabayaan,” ayon kay Eleazar. “It seems that there is a lack of proper implementation of the law kaya hanggang ngayon ay malaki pa rin ang problema natin sa mga plastik,” ang dagdag pa ni Eleazar. Mismooooo! Hihhi! Mukhang natumbok ni Eleazar ang problema sa nagkalat na plastic. Dipugaaaaa!

Kung sabagay, aminado si Eleazar na malaki ang magiging papel ng local government units (LGUs) para ipatupad ang tamang solid waste management sa kanilang lugar. “Napapansin natin na sa mga komunidad o barangay, hindi kadalasan nasusunod ang mga patakaran hinggil sa solid waste management,” ani Eleazar. “Pati ang simpleng paghihiwalay ng nabubulok sa di-nabubulok at pagre-recycle ay hindi nagagawa ng mga residente. Mukhang kulang ang intervention ng mga lokal na opisyal hinggil dito kaya't isa ito sa ating sisilipin.”

Napapansin pa ni Eleazar na tuwing may bagyo, paulit-ulit na lumulutang ang problemang dulot ng plastic pollution at dapat pansinin na ito. “Ramdam na ramdam natin ang epekto ng plastic pollution lalo na tuwing may bagyo. Isa ito sa rason kung bakit nagbabara ang mga kanal at daluyan ng tubig na nagreresulta sa pagbaha,” aniya. “Napapanahon na upang tuldukan ang patuloy na problema sa basura lalo na sa plastik. Ito ang ilalaban natin sa Senado,” ang dagdag pa ni Eleazar. Dipugaaaaa! Abangan!

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2021/12/24/2149789/eleazar-kikilos-kontra-plastic-pollution>



Sea turtles return to Thailand's shores during pandemic

Sophie Deviller and Pitcha Dangprasith, Agence France-Presse

Posted at Dec 23 2021 12:15 PM | Updated as of Dec 23 2021 02:33 PM



People watch as a sea turtle is released back to sea following a recovery from injuries at Israel's Nature and Park Authority's National Sea Turtle Rescue Centre, at Ha'Bonim Beach National Park, Israel December 10, 2021.

REUTERS/Ammar Awad

PHUKET—After laying eggs on a deserted Thai beach, a green sea turtle dives back into the turquoise-colored waters of the Andaman Sea -- a welcome sight for biologists who say the absence of tourists spurred the marine animal's return.

The turtle's nesting was spotted in November by scientists. In about 2 months, the 100 eggs will hatch and babies will slide towards the sea, guided by the moonlight.

Pre-pandemic, millions of tourists thronged to the white sand beaches of southern Thailand, ferried to the islands by tour boats, which dissuaded the skittish creatures from venturing ashore.

But with almost 20 months of COVID travel restrictions in place, several different species of sea turtles have returned to nesting around Phuket, an ultra-popular beach destination before the pandemic.

Between October 2020 and February 2021, 18 nests of leatherback turtles -- which can grow up to 400 kilograms as an adult and are the largest species of sea turtles -- were found in Phuket.

"Their nesting has improved in the last 2 years thanks to the absence of tourists, noise and light pollution," Kongkiat Kittiwatanawong, director of the Phuket Marine Biological Center, told AFP.

"We had never seen such a number in 20 years."

Although chances of survival are very low -- about 1 egg hatched out of 1,000 will reach adulthood -- Kongkiat said the increase in nesting is a positive sign for efforts to preserve endangered species.

A nest of the olive ridley sea turtle was also spotted -- the first time in 2 decades.

Other species that live in the warm waters around Thailand include leatherback, hawksbill, green and loggerhead turtles.

NO LONG-TERM REPRIEVE

But as Thailand tentatively begins to reopen its doors to fully vaccinated international tourists, scientists have tempered their optimism.



"The pandemic may offer sea turtles a welcome break," Thon Thamrongnawasawat from Kasetsart University in Bangkok said.

"But they live long and are a highly migratory species. Without effective policies to protect them, we can't expect many long-term benefits to population recovery."

In Thailand -- as in many other countries -- the marine animal's future is threatened by global warming, which harms coral reefs and increases temperatures of waters.

The hotter conditions could in turn disrupt turtle species' populations: studies have shown that warmer sands where they nest leads to more female hatchlings relative to males.

Pollution is also a problem.

At the moment, plastic and discarded fishing lines and nets remain the primary cause of disease and death.

"In 56 percent of the cases, the turtles that are brought to us have ingested marine waste or become trapped in it," said Dr. Patcharaporn Kaewong from the Phuket Marine Biological Center.

Currently, 58 turtles are being treated there. Some need operations, amputation or prosthetics before they are released back into the wild.

TRACKING THE TURTLES

At the moment, scientists and local authorities are on high alert for nesting season, which runs until February.

After a female turtle lays a nest, the authorities will act quickly -- either moving them to a safe place if they are too close to the water or surrounding it with bamboo fences and security cameras.

"After hatching, we take care of the weak turtles until they are strong enough to go to the sea," Patcharaporn said.

She added that educating the public about conservation was also important.

Up until a few decades ago, eating turtle eggs was a common custom in Thailand, but gathering them was banned by the Thai government in 1982.

Illegally possessing or selling leatherback turtle eggs is now punishable by 3 to 15 years in prison, and carries fines of up to \$50,000.

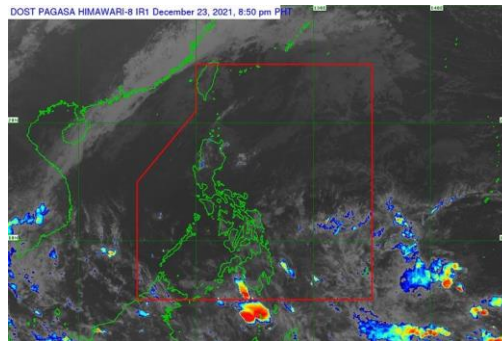
Some marine protection NGOs are also financially rewarding locals who report a nest, while technology -- like microchipping a turtle -- also plays a part in long-term monitoring.

"Thanks to satellite tracking, we have observed that they can migrate much further than we thought," Kongkiat said, adding that some have gone as far as Australia.



Fair weather for Christmas – Pagasa

[Romina Cabrera](#) - The Philippine Star December 24, 2021 | 12:00am



The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the low-pressure area earlier monitored outside of the Philippine area of responsibility has dissolved into a cloud cluster.

PAGASA

MANILA, Philippines — No weather disturbance is seen to enter the country in the next two to three days, state weather forecasters said yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the low-pressure area earlier monitored outside of the Philippine area of responsibility has dissolved into a cloud cluster.

The cloud cluster is far from Philippine landmass and is not expected to affect the weather in any part of the country.

PAGASA said no other weather system is being monitored that may affect the holiday celebration.

While the intertropical convergence zone continues to prevail in Southern Mindanao, it will not bring cloudy skies or rains in the area.

Fair weather is expected in Metro Manila and the rest of the country, except for occasional rains due to localized thunderstorms.

Temperatures in Metro Manila will range from 24 to 31 degrees Celsius.



NDRRMC: 258 reported dead due to Odette; agri and infra damage up to P3.6B

Philstar.com December 23, 2021 | 10:21am



Residents charge their phones and electronic devices outside a government building in Calape town, Bohol province on December 22, 2021, days after Super Typhoon Rai devastated the province.

AFP / Cheryl Baldicantos

MANILA, Philippines — Reported death toll due to Typhoon Odette rose to 258, while combined damage to infrastructure and agriculture ballooned to more than P3.6 billion, the country's disaster agency reported.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, in its situation report as of Thursday morning, said they have confirmed 11 fatalities and are validating 247 reported deaths.

The number of reported injured persons rose to 568, with two so far validated.

There are also 47 persons reported as missing, the NDRRMC added.

Bohol reported the most deaths with 96 fatalities, followed by Negros Oriental with 66, Cebu with 58 and Surigao del Norte with 21.

Deaths were also reported in Palawan, Iloilo, Guimaras, Negros Occidental, Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Butuan City and Agusan del Sur.

NDRRMC spokesperson Mark Timbal earlier explained that the higher death toll that the Philippine National Police posts give the disaster agency a "projection" of possible number of casualties. He however said the Council reports casualties coming from their local counterparts.

The NDRRMC also monitored 2,196,432 persons or 585,029 families affected by Odette in 4,566 barangays in the regions of Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao, Soccsksargen, Caraga and BARMM regions.

The government's 2,535 evacuation centers are providing temporary shelter to 486,361 persons or 122,575 families, while 123,341 individuals or 29,906 families opted to stay with their friends or relatives.

Odette damage

Odette's powerful winds toppled electric posts in areas along its path, resulting in reports of 269 cities or municipalities losing power. Of these, electricity has been restored in 144 localities.



Communication was also affected in 348 areas in seven regions, but lines were already restored in 112 localities.

The NDRRMC also reported 136,369 damaged houses due to the typhoon. Of these, 52,736 were completely flattened by Odette, while 83,633 were recorded as partially damaged.

The agency said damage to agriculture has also ballooned to more than P1.152 billion. Odette has affected 15,845 hectares of crop area in eight regions. Infrastructure damage meanwhile is estimated at P2.537 billion.

The government has also declared a state of calamity in a total of 33 localities in six regions. Nearly P16 million in aid was also distributed to the affected communities, the NDRRMC said.

Assistance from foreign countries meanwhile continues to pour in for Odette's victims. —
Kristine Joy Patag

24 DECEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



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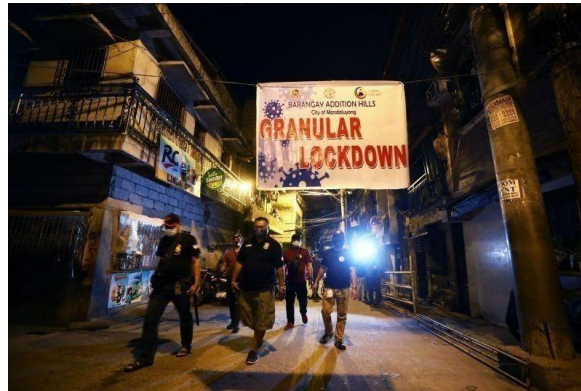
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



8 Manila areas under granular lockdown

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) - The Philippine Star December 24, 2021 | 12:00am



A cop joins rounds as the local government imposed a seven-day granular lockdown on Block 41 Zones 4, 5, and 9 at Barangay Addition Hills in Mandaluyong City on Friday midnight, March 12, 2021. The STAR / Miguel de Guzman, file

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — Eight areas in Manila were placed under granular lockdown due to COVID-19 cases, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported yesterday.

Police said the locked down areas consist of eight houses located in eight barangays. No other areas in Metro Manila are under lockdown.

Eight persons have been isolated from their neighbors and are being secured by police and force multipliers, the PNP said.

There are 21 areas across the country, which are under granular lockdown, affecting around 20 households or 30 people.

The region with most numbers of areas under lockdown are the Cordilleras with 10, followed by the National Capital Region with eight and Mimaropa with three.

The PNP said 232,639 people were accosted in Metro Manila for violating COVID protocols since the region was placed under Alert Level 2 on Nov. 5.



Philippines no longer at bottom of COVID-19 resilience ranking

[Xave Gregorio](#) - Philstar.com December 23, 2021 | 3:30pm



Despite the earlier declaration made by the Malacañang that December 24 is a special working holiday for the recovery of the economy due to the pandemic, people with large baggages start arriving at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) in Parañaque City before dawn on Dec. 23, 2021 to catch their buses as they head to their respective provinces early to avoid the influx of passengers for the Christmas weekend.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines inched up three spots in a global COVID-19 resilience ranking, placing 50th of 53 countries after three months at the bottom of the listing due to rising infections, inadequate testing, economic disruption and slow vaccinations.

News agency Bloomberg gave the Philippines a [resilience score of 52](#) in its latest update to its resilience ranking, which captures how the world's 53 biggest economies are responding to the pandemic.

“The Philippines—ranked last the past three months—edges up three places as restrictions were eased, vaccination rates improved and the positive test rate fell, suggesting that undetected infection is finally coming under control,” Bloomberg said.

While Bloomberg noted that the Philippines, along with Indonesia, has given one coronavirus shot to more than half of its population, it and other Southeast Asian nations are still [lagging behind developed countries](#) where over 90% of their eligible population are fully vaccinated.

New infections in the Philippines have dramatically decreased from a peak of over 26,000 in September, which health authorities attributed to improved vaccine coverage, especially in Metro Manila, the country's economic center.

Philstar.com's independent monitoring shows that over 42% of the Philippines' population has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, while over 52% has received their first dose of the shots.

How far is the Philippines from herd immunity?

The government targets to vaccinate 90% of Filipinos to reach herd immunity.

Target population to reach herd immunity

% of population with first dose

% of population fully vaccinated

Source: National COVID-19 Vaccination Operations Center, [Philippine Statistics Authority](#). • As of December 22, 2021
Fully vaccinated refers to people who have received two shots of a two-dose vaccine or one shot of a single-dose vaccine



However, only over 1% have been given a booster dose, which is seen to give more protection against emerging coronavirus variants.

Replacing the Philippines at the bottom of the ranking is Vietnam due to an outbreak of the Delta coronavirus variant which “caused deaths to spike and clouded its economic outlook.”

Above Vietnam are South Africa and Indonesia at the 52nd and 51st places. South Africa is currently battling a surge of infections which is suspected to be driven by the potentially more infectious Omicron variant.



No local transmission of Omicron variant in PH yet: NVOCC

By Lade Jean Kabagani December 23, 2021, 7:21 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – The government has not yet recorded a community transmission of the Omicron (B.1.1.529) coronavirus variant amid its emergence in the Philippines, an official of the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOCC) said Thursday.

Dr. Kezia Lorraine Rosario of NVOCC, however, said the threat that the newly detected Omicron variant would spread locally remains, despite the continuing downtrend in the country's coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases.

Rosario warned the public not to be complacent.

"*Ito rin iyong isang news na* (This is one news that) we are very thankful of. However, with the entrance of Omicron in the Philippines, in the country, even though *hindi pa tayo naka-report na* there is a community transmission *na, ito 'yung tinitingnan din natin* (this is what we are looking at) that we need really to prepare for Omicron as soon as possible and we should not let our guards down," she said at the Laging Handa briefing.

Rosario said the national government has re-strategized its plans and course of action to address a possible surge in cases due to the variant as early as last week.

"Even though *medyo low iyong cases natin ngayon* (we have low cases) and we are very thankful for that, but we need to ensure *na ma-address din natin iyong Omicron* (that we will be able to address the Omicron threat)," she added.

Rosario said vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. has called for a meeting with all the concerned agencies, regional offices, and members of the task forces "to address and to make plans against the threat of the Omicron variant."

"We are planning in all areas whether it be in the response and the vaccination, *kung paano natin paghandaan* (on how we will prepare for this), even though that we're now enjoying the low cases," she added.

The Philippines has so far logged three cases of the Omicron coronavirus variant. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1163599>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 649

DISYEMBRE 23, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.3%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
9,251

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.9%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,777,671

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.80%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
50,981

MGA BAGONG KASO **288**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **270**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **65**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,837,903**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 21

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 23
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 21

1.1%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

32,118

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
39.8%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS)
19% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.2K TOTAL BEDS)
23% Utilized

WARD BEDS (12.5K TOTAL BEDS)
11% Utilized

VENTILATORS (2.9K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
9% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)
20% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
19% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)
16% Utilized

VENTILATORS (0.9K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
11% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

480 Asymptomatic

3,204 Mild

3,393 Moderate

1,797 Severe

377 Critical



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Isang araw bago ang bisperas ng Pasko, tiyak at maraming mga tao ang magtutungo sa mga mall, supermarket, at palengke. Kaya naman, pinapaalalahanan ang lahat ng magtutungo sa mga ito na siguraduhing may dalang alcohol, **nakasuot ng maayos ang facemask**, at **panatilihin ang physical distancing**. Ang iuuwi natin sa ating bahay ay mga regalo at mga ihahanda para sa Noche Buena, at hindi COVID-19. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

24 DECEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



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Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnAaHB4UN5s>

MANILA

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