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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cimatu moves to make environmental law enforcers better prepared, more competent

SEP 23, 2021, 8:43 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the newly-launched training course for environmental enforcers provide them the proper concepts, skills, and techniques in implementing environmental laws.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu expressed hope that the environmental laws will be "more adequately and effectively enforced" throughout the country with the recent launch of a special course for DENR frontliners and uniformed personnel.

"Environmental crimes are evolving, thus, also presenting a clear threat to our state security. Our enemies can now cross borders with ease. They are more sophisticated, syndicated, and organized," Cimatu said.

Cimatu made the statement following the launch of a special course on enforcement frontliners through its Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Academy at the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Amphitheater last September 17.

A ceremonial signing of the enforcement manuals and curriculum modules was conducted together with the Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) and the Human Resources Development Service (HRDS).

These enforcement manuals and curriculum modules were officially turned over to Cimatu by Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto Adobo, Jr., Undersecretary for Enforcement Benito Antonio De Leon, ELEPS OIC Director Ret. BGen. Reuel Sorilla, and HRDS Director Ric Enriquez, Ph.D.

The entire course, which will run from September 17 to October 22, consists of five modules with two weeks of webinar, two weeks of practicum, and 12-hour community service on the field.

The participants consist of 44 personnel from the DENR Central Office and field offices, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Armed Forces of the Philippines at Philippine Air Force.

Cimatu said the training course will provide the environmental frontliners the proper concepts, skills, and techniques in enforcement.



"With this course, our environmental defenders will be more competent, especially in utilizing appropriate modern technologies to their advantage," he added.

Cimatu also said that the DENR's interim office, the ELEPS together with the HRDS "will make us realize our vision to create a more systematic and professionalized environmental law enforcement within the DENR."

According to the DENR chief, "strengthening the existing mechanisms in environmental law enforcement, regulations, and policies is needed to address dangers posed not only to the environment but also to those who protect it."

"We are at war against environmental criminals to protect our environment and our people. However, the saddest part of our battle is losing people in the line of duty. These are our environmental heroes who were mercilessly murdered while on duty or on their job, some were gunned down, some hacked to death," Cimatu said.

Last June, five DENR workers were inducted into the roster of environmental heroes by the Environmental Heroes Foundation Inc. (EHFI) for the World Environment Day celebration.

They were killed while performing their duties as environmental defenders.



'No funds allocated for dolomite project in 2022'

[Edu Punay](#) - The Philippine Star September 24, 2021 | 12:00am



This was discovered during House deliberations last Wednesday on the proposed P22.295-billion budget of the DENR and its attached agencies for 2022.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — The government will no longer spend a single centavo next year for the Manila Bay dolomite beach project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which received backlash from the public.

This was discovered during House deliberations last Wednesday on the proposed P22.295-billion budget of the DENR and its attached agencies for 2022.

House appropriations committee vice chairman and Aklan Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr. sponsored the DENR's budget, which hurdled the plenary.

Deputy Speaker and Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza Jr. asked if the proposed DENR budget would include more funding for the Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Haresco said P1.6 billion would be allocated to the rehabilitation, but the amount will no longer cover the dolomite beach project.

"There is no allocation for dolomite anymore," Haresco said.

He said the entire budget for the program would go to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay's surrounding rivers and water system.

Last year, the government earmarked P389 million for the bay's rehabilitation project. Of the amount, P28 million was allotted for the dolomite overlay.

The artificial beach is expected to be finished by the third quarter of 2022.

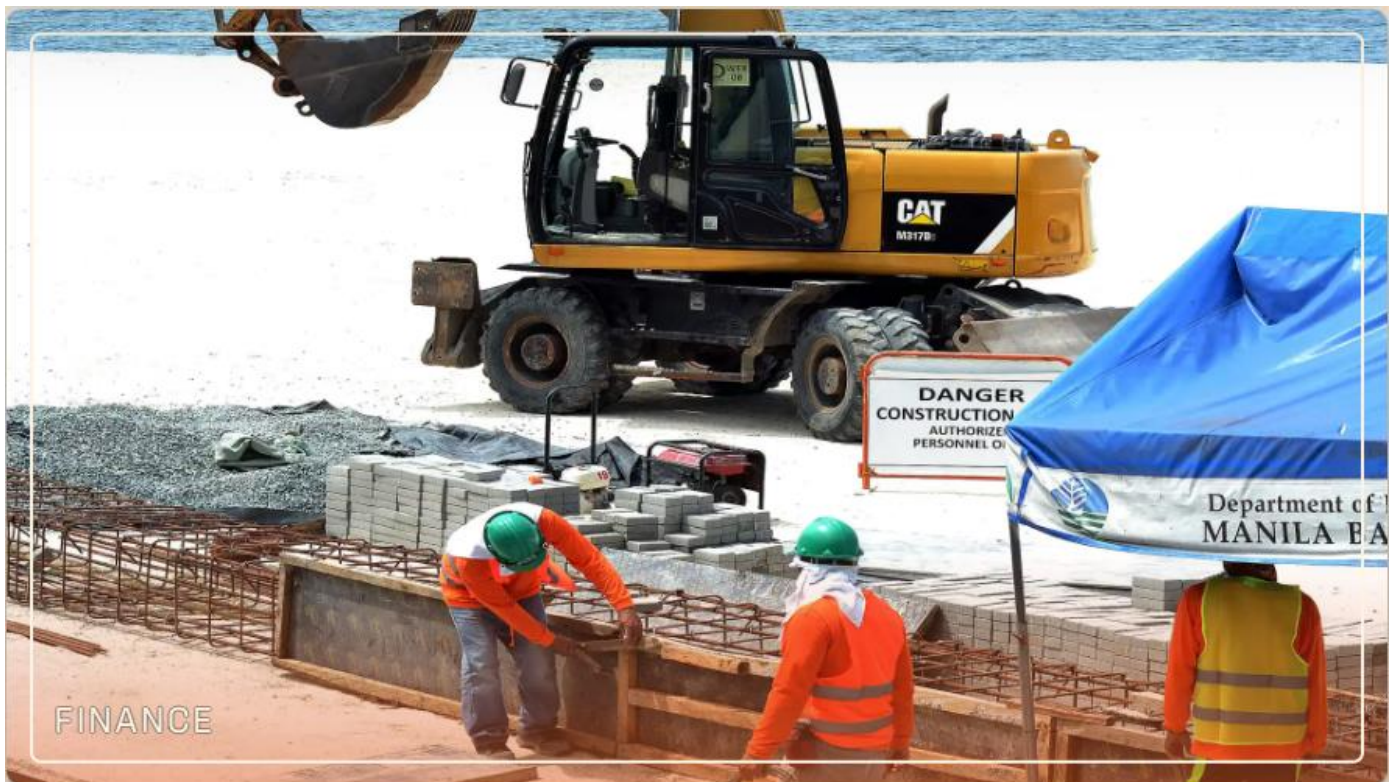
In the second phase of the Baywalk project, the existing stretch of white sand near the US embassy will be replenished to achieve the one-meter thickness of sand indicated in the initial plan.

The stretch of sand will expand toward the Padre Faura outfall, according to the DENR.

The project was criticized as a waste of public funds during the COVID-19 pandemic. But President Duterte has defended the project.

The DENR says that the beach nourishment project is a significant component of the bay's rehabilitation.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/09/24/2129254/no-funds-allocated-dolomite-project-2022>



NO MORE FUNDS FOR DOLOMITE BEACH?

SEP 23, 2021, 3:01 PM

Mike Taboy
Photographer

Construction crew continue work on the "dolomite" beach along Roxas Boulevard in Manila Thursday (September 23).

The fate of the "dolomite sand project," which has drawn widespread criticism, is now uncertain after it was disclosed that the P1.6 billion proposed budget for the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project in 2022 won't include funds for placing more dolomite on its shores.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/no-more-funds-for-dolomite-beach?fbclid=IwAR3Yn68qjj-3pUZSDVLBbCl-2mGhuyjidVXrj7oEoenaDDALDfW3RiEac>



Demolition sa Cavite fishing structures, itutuloy ng DENR

April Raffles, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 23 2021 07:46 PM



George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News

MAYNILA — Natapos na ang pagbilang ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga anila'y "illegal" na istruktura sa pangingsda, tahungan, at talabahan kagaya ng mga sapra at baklad sa probinsya ng Cavite.

Nakatakda na ang departamentong maglabas ng Notice of Demolition, kumpirmasyon ni DENR-Calabarzon regional director Nilo Tamoria.

Aniya, aabot sa 954 "illegal" na istruktura ang kanilang nabilang at mahigit 400 dito ay tahungan.

Pero makikipag-ugnayan pa ang DENR sa mga lokal na pamahalaan sa Cavite para i-regulate ang mga tahungan.

Base kasi sa category ng dagat sa Cavite, ito ay isang "SB" o "swim and bath" category kung saan tanging tahungan ang papayagan na ipuwesto rito.

Yun nga lang, dahil masyado nang madaming istruktura ng tahungan sa lugar ay kailangan nang ayusin.

"Sa SB quality level ng tubig, tatlo lang ang puwedeng activities. Sa fishery, yung mussel production lang ang puwede tsaka honing ng fry... May regulasyon din yan based sa Fisheries Code. Dahil nagkakat na, sinasabi naman nila di nila iniisyuhan ng permit, pero sa context ng SB quality of water, puwede yung tahungan... I-regulate lang in such a way na talagang mazonify yung use ng city water which is the mandate ng LGU," ani Tamoria.

Nakakasira na rin umano sa kalidad ng tubig ang masyadong madaming fish cages at fish traps na sapra at baklad.

"Yung fish cages, nagde-depend yung kinulong mong mga isda sa feeds. So impact agad yun sa quality ng tubig kaya nga di ina-allow yun sa isang area na SB ang category," ani Tamoria.

Samantala, muling nanawagan ang mga mangingsida at iba pang grupo sa tanggapan ng DENR na huwag nang ituloy ang demolisyon, na sisira sa kabuhayan nila doon.

Anila, tulungan na lamang na mabigyan ng permit ang mga ito at huwag nang tanggalin.

"Siguro naman madali natin pag-usapan ang permit kasi ang usapan dito ay kabuhayan ng mga mangingsida at ng pamilya nila," ani Beverly Longid, coordinator ng Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation of the Philippines.



Pero sabi ng DENR, bahagi ito ng mandato nila at ng iba pang ahensya na kasamang inutusan ng Korte Suprema na linisin ang Manila bay.

Inaasahan ng DENR na matutuloy na ang demolisyon sa susunod na linggo.



Fisherfolks denounce DENR plan to dismantle mussel farms, fish pens at Manila Bay

September 23, 2021 1 min read

Fisherfolks are joined by progressive groups from Pamalakaya-Anak Pawis and Peoples Coalition on Food Sovereignty as they stage a picket at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' office in Quezon City in denouncing the agency's order to dismantle mussels farms and fish pen structures in Manila Bay.



DENR's thrust is a part of the government plan on the bay's rehabilitation of which the fisherfolks and other groups are very much concerned about as it will impact their source of income and livelihoods.



(Ieshua-Jairen Asuncion/BENJAMIN CUARESMA)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/09/23/fisherfolks-denounce-denr-plan-to-dismantle-mussel-farms-fish-pens-at-manila-bay/>



RALLY VS DEMOLITION OF FISH CAGES

SEP 23, 2021, 2:57 PM

Danny Querubin
Photographer

Members of progressive groups Pamalakaya, Anakpawis and People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty join fishermen's groups during a rally staged outside the office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Quezon City Thursday (September 23).

The groups decried the agency's decision to dismantle fish cages and mussel farms in Manila Bay, which is part of the government's rehabilitation program in the area.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/rally-vs-demolition-of-fish-cages?fbclid=IwAR1UTnbRVbLTgBew6-L7_3WSWgyrrm3oMS-OwQNjw6epLupOAPGe4KTLZa0



PH fashion industry can benefit from bamboo

By Catherine Teves [September 23, 2021, 7:50 pm](#)



MANILA – An environment advocate is promoting the increased use of bamboo in Philippine fashion to help boost the industry's global competitiveness.

Thread from bamboo can be used in creating fabric designs that will help increasingly draw international attention to Philippine fashion, Climate Action and Sustainability Alliance convenor-chairperson Corazon Claudio said Thursday during the Stories for a Better Normal online program that tackled the various uses of bamboo.

"We can produce something different from what other countries are producing," Claudio said.

It might even be possible to combine bamboo thread with abaca and other Philippine fibers to produce truly unique fabrics, she added.

Recalling a trip to China, Claudio said an outlet there sold clothing items that looked like silk but were purely made of bamboo thread.

Expressing optimism about bamboo's fashion prospects, she said the Philippines has 60 to 80 species of this grass, 20 of which are even native ones.

"Now, we're not yet producing bamboo thread in great quantity," she said.

Claudio noted that the country could do so by increasing the production and processing of bamboo for the fashion industry.

In promoting bamboo, she highlighted the need to address various issues hindering the increased production of this grass, such as absentee landowners whose properties are left idle instead of being used for bamboo production.

"I think something has to be done about this. Encourage them to invest if they don't want to come back yet and develop their lands," Claudio said.

She also raised the urgency for facilitating the system of processing and approving applications for the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA).

The IFMA is a production-sharing contract between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and a qualified applicant who receives from this agency the exclusive right to develop, manage, protect, and utilize a specified area of forestland and forest resources for 25 years, which is renewable for another 25 years, according to the department's Forest Management Bureau.



The country likewise needs more tissue culture laboratories to help produce more bamboo seedlings, Claudio said.

There is also a need to further promote bamboo-related research and development, aside from technology transfer, she added.

She likewise urged a review and possible reduction in the tax burden of small and medium enterprises in the bamboo industry.

The government, she said, must make it easier for investors to come in and make land nationwide productive with bamboo.

"There are a lot of challenging things to do but let's think hard and well, talk together, and act now with bamboo for regenerative, inclusive, climate-smart, and healthy sustainable development in our blue planet," Claudio said. **(PNA)**



EDITORIAL - Confronting climate change

(The Philippine Star) - September 24, 2021 - 12:00am



Addressing the United Nations General Assembly earlier this week, President Duterte expressed the sentiment of many nations that are struggling to procure COVID vaccines even for first doses while “selfish” wealthy states prepare to administer third-dose boosters to their people.

The President also made a valid point in calling for greater action from wealthy states to combat climate change. In this issue, however, it would be even better if the President looks in his own backyard first.

Scientists have said the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Coastal communities, many of which are dependent on fishing, are threatened by rising ocean temperatures and sea levels. In recent years, the country has been battered by unusually powerful tropical cyclones and deadly storm surges.

These problems have been compounded by the fact that the country has lost much of its forest cover due to illegal logging as well as destructive and unsustainable agro-forestry activities. Denuded mountains have led to torrential flooding and deadly landslides in the past years.

The country’s extensive coral reefs that are used as spawning grounds of fish and other marine life have been rapidly depleted by pollution, destructive fishing methods and illegal harvesting particularly in the West Philippine Sea, where mostly Chinese poachers operate.

In urban centers, weak enforcement of laws against pollution has resulted in continued poor air quality and serious flooding due to clogged and heavily silted rivers and waterways.

The Duterte administration has been successful in its cleanup of Boracay Island and several other popular coastal tourist destinations. Environment officials have also claimed progress in the challenging cleanup of Manila Bay and its tributaries starting with the Pasig River.

President Duterte has defended the controversial creation of a synthetic white beach using crushed dolomite in Manila parallel to Roxas Boulevard. More worrisome than the dolomite beach, however, is his administration’s approval of massive commercial reclamation projects the size of cities in Manila Bay, which could aggravate the flooding problem in the affected areas and obviously would be bad for the marine ecosystem.

The reclamation projects would negate the benefits derived from the creation of the only internationally protected wetland in the National Capital Region, the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area. The wetland is a solid example of commitment to global efforts to confront climate change. The President who calls out the UN on climate change should protect this commitment.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/09/24/2129273/editorial-confronting-climate-change/amp/>



COVID-19 hospital waste

posted September 24, 2021 at 12:25 am

by [Emil Jurado](#)

"Where do they all go?"

Amid the surging daily COVID-19 cases nationwide, and with health workers being traumatized and overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases, one thing bothers me: Where do hospitals dispose of their highly-infectious wastes?

I know that big private hospitals in Metro Manila are equipped with waste disposal equipment that turn highly-infectious hospital waste into non-infectious wastes.

What about the smaller ones?

I ask this question since landfills outside Metro Manila have long been banned from accepting trash from Metro Manila. I can only recall many years ago when a scandal broke regarding hospital waste that was being dumped somewhere in Pampanga in a big vacant and unoccupied land.

I cannot imagine where all the infectious hospital wastes generated from COVID-19 pandemic cases are now being dumped. This is the job of Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Roy Cimatu. May I ask him where? Last I heard, they were being dumped somewhere in Rizal province.

Garbage disposal has always been a problem for the environment mainly because scavengers make a living going through them.

In highly industrialized countries like the United States and Europe, and in Japan, waste disposal is not a problem. There are highly mechanized garbage trucks and a centralized garbage place that takes care of the problem. But, in Metro Manila and other cities, where? It's worse in other places.

While hospital waste is mainly the concern of the DENR, I believe the Department of Interior and Local Government should also be involved. Likewise, it is also the problem of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

In other words, hospital waste is a multi-agency concern.

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The 1Sambayan coalition supposedly aimed at uniting the opposition candidates for the 2022 local and national polls is faced with a bigger problem than its convenors had expected.

Not only are opposition candidates totally disunited, but efforts to make, for instance opposition presidential candidate, Vice President Leni Robredo, Senator Manny Pacquiao and Manila Mayor Isko Moreno have been rendered impossible. Santa Banana, can the three presidential candidates unite when they seem to be dead serious in their bid for the presidency?

As late as today, the 1Sambayan convenors are finding much difficulty in forming its local and national slates. I have stated from the start that its plan was doomed.

First of all, under what party can they unite when opposition candidates already have their own party? Second, how could there be unity among the opposition candidates since all of the candidates want to head the supposed Unity Party?



Recall that in the United States polls, all the Democrats that challenged Donald Trump's presidential bid showed good sense in uniting under one candidate - Joe Biden.

With many challengers to the administration, it would be a walk in the park for the Sara-Bongbong tandem in the 2022 polls.

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There is definitely something wrong in the response of the government to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am no health expert, but I see that the vaccine rollout is not as fast as expected. I don't know if the short supply of vaccines is due to the lack of funds or something. How can the country achieve herd immunity by the end of the year at the rate vaccines are coming in?

My gyal, another problem as I see it is the procurement process of vaccines by the private sector. It is further slowed down by the imposition of restrictions by local government units.

There is also the bias and prejudice of people against the Chinese Sinovac which appears to be favored by the Duterte administration.

Health experts have also criticized the attempts of the Inter-Agency Task Force to experiment on restrictions and health protocols by creating "granular" lockdowns and Alerts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. These confuse the people.

Now they are thinking of resuming face-to-face classes. Santa Banana, isn't it too soon?

There seems to be no roadmap for the government response to the crisis.

The Philippines now ranks 8th among countries with the most COVID-19 cases in the past 28 days, according to a global trace of Johns Hopkins University Medicine based in Maryland, USA.

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The Comelec should rule, once and for all, on which faction is legal in the PDP-Laban.

Will it be the Pacquiao faction or the Cusi faction? This should clear the air considering the fact that Senator Pacquiao has already made his bid for the presidency final.

The Comelec ruling is important because a candidate has to run under a party. If Pacquiao doesn't run under PDP-Laban, what then?



Legarda: Ensure implementation of Clean Air Act, new WHO air pollution standards

SEP 23, 2021, 1:21 PM

Opinyon News Team
News Reporter

House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda has challenged the public to demand that their officials decisively improve the lot of Filipino households struggling with poor health, unstable livelihoods, and an increasingly uncertain future.

HOUSE Deputy Speaker and Antique Representative Loren Legarda welcomed the World Health Organization's (WHO) release yesterday of new outdoor air pollution standards and called for a stronger implementation of the Philippine Clean Air Act (Republic Act No. 8749), which she authored and helped enact into law over two decades ago.

Legarda said air pollution "is a global and national public health concern to which has been attributed millions of premature deaths around the world."

"Millions more people today are exposed to higher levels of pollution from a growing number of pollution sources, she added.

The Philippines is ranked 70 in IQAir's 2020 list of world's most polluted countries.

"Air pollution is literally a question of life and death, with serious impacts on cardiovascular and respiratory health. Our pandemic-defined setting and the aerosols-borne reality of the Delta variant should remind us today to pay far greater attention to this issue," the solon said.

Legarda said implementation of the law continues to be a major challenge.

"The country's ambient air quality standards for harmful pollutants such as sulfur dioxide (SO_x), nitrous oxide (NO₂), and particulate matter (PM₁₀) have not been updated since the implementation of the Clean Air Act way back in 1999. This is certainly unacceptable. The current standards for these pollutants are still based on the values set in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Clean Air Act, all of which fail to meet the 2005 WHO guidelines, much less the upcoming 2021 issuance," she noted.

"I call on the joint oversight committee on the Clean Air Act to work with think tanks and other expert groups on a comparative study to show if the country is on track or not to beat air pollution and discover what else needs to be done," she added.



Legarda challenged the public to demand that their officials decisively improve the lot of Filipino households struggling with poor health, unstable livelihoods, and an increasingly uncertain future.

“This must be a wakeup call to the executive and to all seeking elective posts next year. It’s a harsh reminder that we are still very far from finishing the job in terms of securing a healthier future for all. We must consider our actions today as legacy acts, because however acute the ecological and social crisis is that we are confronting together at present, the opportunity to leave behind the polluting, destructive, and inequitable past is growing just as fast. We must be on the right side of history,” she said.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/legarda-ensure-implementation-of-clean-air-act-new-who-air-pollution-standards?fbclid=IwAR2wIRqyDbDRzqSyhhfen0vYdz_c6FVD8YuiWI37eDOojVGac2Q2oY CfCS4



RE leader echoes IPCC's 'code red' alarm on climate change

BY BUSINESSMIRROR SEPTEMBER 22, 2021



EDC president and chief operating officer Richard B. Tantoco

Unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, limiting global warming within 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius will be beyond reach.

This is the alarming reality sounded by First Gen-owned renewable energy (RE) leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) at a landmark Zoominar organized by the Ecumenical Initiative Forum, a gathering of faith-based organizations against climate change guided by the landmark Laudato Si encyclical of Pope Francis.

Dubbed "Climate Change: The Greatest Crisis of Our Time," the digital meet brought together stakeholders from the business sector, civil society, academe, and the Catholic Church led by the Focolare Movement Philippines, Season of Creation Pilipinas, and the National Laudato Si Program organized by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

"Contrary to what a lot of us may think, the COVID-19 pandemic is not our greatest problem. Even when we get out of this pandemic, the biggest crisis of our time still remains and that's climate change," said EDC president and chief operating officer Richard B. Tantoco as the forum's keynote speaker.

Tantoco bared the findings of the latest assessment report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued last August. The sixth in a series of periodic reports put out since 1990, it is the most daunting and alarming to date, pointing to irreversible consequences of climate change if no drastic action is taken to decarbonize the atmosphere.

Among the undeniable facts the IPCC report established was that human activities have unequivocally warmed the oceans, land and atmosphere, when it was merely deemed a possibility eight years ago. It has also been confirmed that the scale of the recent climate system changes as a whole are unprecedented within a period of thousands of years of Earth's existence.

"Global surface temperatures will continue to increase at least until 2050," explained Tantoco. In terms of exceeding the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP 21 limit of global temperature increase, "under most scenarios, crossing 1.5 degrees will happen in the early 2030s. [But] in the absence of deep carbon cuts, 2 degrees will be exceeded during this century."



In response, Tantoco outlined practical steps that nations and enterprises can take such as accelerating the pursuit of RE in powering not just homes and industries but transportation as well, coupled with “green” investing and an unequivocal rejection of fossil-based fuels such as coal. Forest cover rehabilitation and regeneration is also critical. For communities, resilience against extreme weather disturbances needs to be of utmost priority for local government units. For families and individuals, simple but impactful lifestyle practices such as conservation of natural resources and decreased material consumerism continues to be a big help.

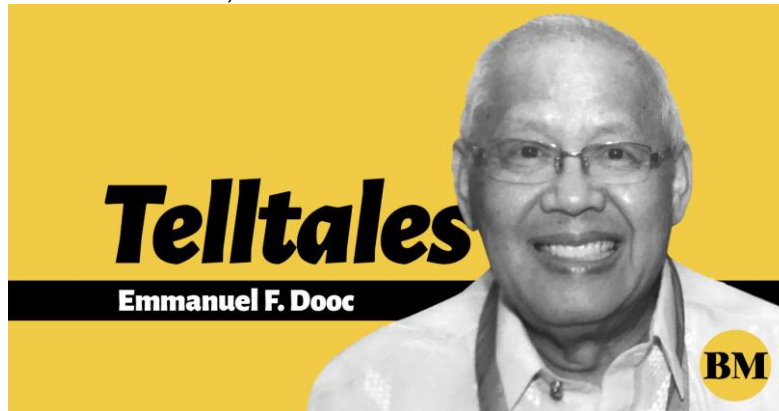
“While we can no longer undo the environmental mistakes that humanity has made in the past, it is up to all of us to do something to prevent them from happening again—to be a part of the solution to the greatest crisis of our time,” concluded Tantoco.

EDC is the country’s biggest 100-percent RE company that accounts for over 40 percent of the Philippines’ RE output and serves about 10 percent of the country’s overall electricity demand with its installed capacity of almost 1,500MW. Its 1,181MW geothermal portfolio accounts for 62 percent of the country’s total installed geothermal capacity and has put the Philippines on the map as the world’s third largest geothermal power producer. ###



The pressing issue of climate change

BY MANNY DOOC SEPTEMBER 23, 2021



AS the various political parties draw up their final tickets and prepare to file the COCs of their slates a week from now, every political group vying for elective positions should also formulate their platform of government. On top of the current issues that are close to the heart of every presidential candidate are the pandemic, economy, illegal drugs, and the alleged overpriced purchases of the health paraphernalia associated with the pandemic.

The two candidates who first declared their presidential runs, Senators Ping Lacson and Manny Pacquiao, have proclaimed corruption as their campaign battle cry, followed by the perennial issue of illegal drugs. However, outside of these current concerns, there are certainly other pressing agenda that should form part of our political rhetoric. Neglecting to include them may be fatal to one's candidacy. One major concern that deserves to be included as part of our public conversation is climate change.

Climate change should be on the ballot in the forthcoming elections. The 2022 polls will be incomplete without tackling the issue of global warming. It should occupy a central focus in the political debate. Every presidential candidate should consider it a priority issue together with the economy, illegal drugs, and other matters that are of paramount importance to many people. A person seeking the highest office in our land will be irrelevant and unconnected if he ignores this critical subject. Just being conversant about the greenhouse effects will not be sufficient. He or she should fully appreciate the calamitous impact of extreme weather conditions. One does not have to be an expert but at least he or she should realize that it will be the dreaddest pandemic, which shall hit our planet tomorrow. All over the world, thousands of people perish from flash floods, wildfires, heat strokes, and severe storms that become more frequent and more severe. Greenhouse gasses trapped in the atmosphere cause these disasters. Our political leaders should include climate change in their campaign planks. Unfortunately, traditional concerns like corruption, poverty and peace and order relegated to the background, if not bury, the issue of climate change when it is the worst tragedy that awaits mankind. The destructive fury of nature, which wrecks wide swathes of destruction across our planet, is a harbinger of the coming holocaust. As the leading voice of her generation in the current fight against climate change, Greta Thunberg has said that in confronting climate change, "(Y)ou must take action. You must do the impossible. Because giving up is never an option."

What we want to hear from Senator Ping Lacson, Senator Bong Go, Yorme Isko Moreno, Vice President Leni Robredo, Mayor Sara Duterte, and other wannabes are their plans, if any, to deal with climate change. It's important that they spell out their climate change solutions. It is not something that we can just wish away, or sweep under the rug. We cannot move on unless it is resolved. Our leaders cannot sidestep it and concentrate on low-lying issues. Our future survival hinges on our action now to slow down climate change. We can begin with a simple step. Let's plant trees. Trees are vital resources that help shield us from natural disasters. They absorb rainwater and prevent soil erosion. They contain floods. They are habitats of birds and



their foliage shelter wildlife. Their canopies shield us from heat and rain. They protect us from gale and wind. If you have trees around your home or office, they cool the temperature and therefore lower your energy cost. Government officials should prevent deforestation in the name of progress. Forests should not be cleared for housing, agriculture and grazing animals. Pocket forests and parks in urban areas where trees abound should be preserved. In fact, there should be more “Arroceros Park” in Manila and other urban areas. In some progressive cities of the world, trees are considered as infrastructures. They are the most enduring infrastructure since they live for centuries. Since trees are valuable resources, I agree that they should be included in measuring the wealth of a place. And every community should have an ordinance against cutting down trees even in the guise of development. To encourage planting of trees, I propose that instead of constructing a monument, we should plant and name a tree after a great person like a top sportsman or actors who have been awarded international recognition for their craft. It’s even better than getting a star in the coveted “Star Walk of Fame.”

There are other measures that can directly improve our resilience against extreme climate. Less reliance on fossil fuels is one of them. But that’s getting more costly and technical. Initially we can focus on doable measures like protecting our forests and strictly enforcing responsible mining. Once we have installed a pro-climate advocate in Malacanang, we can start to plan and work on big things to extend the life of our planet.

For so long, governments across the world have left the issue of global warming unattended. Highly industrialized countries, which are mainly responsible for raising the world’s temperature, have not done their part to significantly reduce their gas emission. The Paris Agreement of 2015 where the countries around the world had set targets to reduce gas emission was hailed as a bold step. But it was not enough. Many countries failed to meet their goal and the target set was far below what is needed to stem overheating. And now, another big international meeting on climate change will be held in Glasgow in less than six weeks from now. But this time mere talks will not be adequate. We need concrete action. Or we will be hounded forever by the wailing cry of the present and the unborn generations whose words will leave us sleepless: “You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words.” Let’s not allow that tragedy to befall upon us. Next year, let’s vote for climate change!



Experts, tech-focused firms tie-up to boost plant conservation

By Joann Villanueva September 23, 2021, 3:08 pm



MANILA – Plants conservationists have teamed up with firms that promote the use of technological innovations to encourage more people to protect endemic plants in the country.

In an online briefing Wednesday night, Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society, Inc. (PNPCSI) vice president David Justin Ples said the tie-up aims to provide additional online sources, among others, that the public can access to inform them about diversity in the country and help them become citizen scientists.

Aside from the planned citizen scientists mobile application that aims to connect people to conservation bids, the partnership also intends to tokenize native trees and carbon sinks, as well as develop video tours on rainforests.

“Our country’s greatest treasures, our competitive advantage, the asset that we have that no one else has also happened to be our best-kept secret. We have so much incredible diversity endemic to our forests, totally unique to us that it exists but a lot of people aren’t aware that it exists and it doesn’t come to mind at all during the everyday experience,” Ples said.

He said the plan is to start with one or two pilot sites for nature walks.

“But ultimately, these video tours are to replicate the PNPCSI’s tree-walk experience to take Filipinos into our forests and protect (them) in order for us to see these amazing and vibrant living beings up close and personal,” he added.

Ples said they intend to collaborate with companies and local governments to compare these videos with the actual settings to encourage the public to become part of biodiversity care and conservation.

“As more individuals and communities become enchanted by our native flora, we want to show Filipinos that anyone can participate in plant conservation. So you don’t have to be a botanist to contribute to the body of knowledge that we’re trying to grow. Anyone can be a citizen scientist,” he added. **(PNA)**



Experts, tech-focused firms tie-up to boost plant conservation

By Joann Villanueva **September 23, 2021, 3:08 pm**



MANILA – Plants conservationists have teamed up with firms that promote the use of technological innovations to encourage more people to protect endemic plants in the country.

In an online briefing Wednesday night, Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society, Inc. (PNPCSI) vice president David Justin Ples said the tie-up aims to provide additional online sources, among others, that the public can access to inform them about diversity in the country and help them become citizen scientists.

Aside from the planned citizen scientists mobile application that aims to connect people to conservation bids, the partnership also intends to tokenize native trees and carbon sinks, as well as develop video tours on rainforests.

“Our country’s greatest treasures, our competitive advantage, the asset that we have that no one else has also happened to be our best-kept secret. We have so much incredible diversity endemic to our forests, totally unique to us that it exists but a lot of people aren’t aware that it exists and it doesn’t come to mind at all during the everyday experience,” Ples said.

He said the plan is to start with one or two pilot sites for nature walks.

“But ultimately, these video tours are to replicate the PNPCSI’s tree-walk experience to take Filipinos into our forests and protect (them) in order for us to see these amazing and vibrant living beings up close and personal,” he added.

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'Rare form' of world's biggest flower found in Antique town

By Annabel Consuelo Petinglay [September 23, 2021, 8:10 pm](#)



BLOOMING. The *Rafflesia speciosa* known as the biggest flower in the world blooms in Barangay Bad-as, Sibalom. Environmental enthusiast Engr. Jonathan de Gracia said in an interview Thursday (Sept. 23, 2021) that *Rafflesia speciosa* producing two intertwining flowers at the same time is rare. (Photo courtesy of Carmella Nicar)

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The world's biggest flower *Rafflesia Speciosa* is in bloom in the municipality of Sibalom, Antique but in rare form.

Engr. Jonathan de Gracia, general manager of the Sibalom Water District and an environmental enthusiast, received a picture of two blooming flowers of the *Rafflesia speciosa* in the upland area of Barangay Bad-as, which is about 22 kilometers from the Sibalom town proper on Thursday.

"The two *Rafflesia* flowers are quite rare because they bloomed at the same time and intertwining with each other," he said in an interview.

He said that the *Rafflesia*, which blooms only after nine months, could rarely be found only in one spot that is why the local folks in Barangay Bad-as were surprised by their latest discovery.

The reddish-orange color *Rafflesia speciosa* could expand up to 56 centimeters (22 inches) in diameter when in full bloom that is why it's considered the world's biggest flower.

It was first discovered by a group of conservationists -- Antique Outdoors (AOs) at the Sibalom Natural Park in Mt. Poras in 2000.

"A botanist from Barangay Egaña, Sibalom Dr. Julie Barcelona, who knew about the AOs discovery of the exotic flower, then made a study about the flower and named it as *Rafflesia speciosa*," he said.

Dr. Barcelona who works at the Philippine National Herbarium (PNH) of the National Museum of the Philippines in Manila discovered that the species only thrived in Sibalom.

De Gracia said that the species in Sibalom was indeed rare although there are also *Rafflesia* flowers in other countries.

"Dr. Barcelona named the flower *speciosa* because it is special," de Gracia said.

He said that since the flower was first discovered growing in Sibalom, then the municipality also adopted it as its municipal flower.



Through time, however, other towns in the province such as San Remigio also discovered that *Rafflesia speciosa* also grows in their upland areas.

Nicolasito Calawag, Antique Office of the Provincial Agriculture chief, said in a separate interview that although the flower blooms year-round, they produce more usually during the rainy season.

“Usually, there are more *Rafflesia speciosa* in bloom like this September or during the rainy season,” he said. **(PNA)**



Antique eyes advisory council for protection of 159 waterfalls

By Annabel Consuelo Petinglay **September 23, 2021, 8:04 pm**



WATER FLOWS. The Yapo Waterfalls in the Municipality of Barbaza is one of the 159 waterfalls found in Antique. Board Member Victor Condez during their virtual session Thursday (Sept. 23, 2021) pushed for the creation of a Waterfalls Council that would develop policies for their protection and conservation. *(Photo courtesy of Antique Board Member Noel Alamis)*

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The Antique Provincial Board is pushing for an ordinance creating an advisory council that will develop policies for the protection and conservation of waterfalls in the province.

Board Member Victor Condez authored the proposed ordinance creating the Waterfalls Advisory Council as he took cognizance of the 159 waterfalls located in various municipalities in the province.

He said that the province is “teeming with the beauty of our pristine resources which are huge contributors to local wealth and growth and on its way playing significant role in the economy”.

“The provincial government of Antique shall endeavor to protect and enrich the value of natural endowments as well as to ensure and preserve every waterfall, its development and promotion as a component of Tourism pursuant Section 16 and 17 of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991,” he said in his ordinance during their regular session on Thursday.

Condez added that the provincial government shall make one of its priorities and include waterfalls in its action strategies as an important factor for local development.

In the proposal, the council will be composed of the governor and vice governor as chair and vice-chair, respectively, and the chairpersons of the committees on environment, tourism, cultural affairs, and heritage of the Provincial Board and the Provincial Tourism Officer as among its members.

“The council will take the lead in initiating mechanisms, reforms, and procedures on appropriate regulars for scientific, recreational educational or for tourism purposes without sacrificing the overall environmental integrity of our waterfalls,” the proposed ordinance added.

Meanwhile, board member Errol Santillan suggested that the original names and legends of waterfalls be included in the ordinance.

“Every waterfall I believe, also has a legend,” he said.

The approval of the proposed ordinance, which is now pending before the committees on tourism and environment has been moved to their Sept. 30 session. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1154501>



16h · 🌐

MGA NAGKALAT NA BASURA SA MGA ESTERO, MAS LALONG DUMAMI NGAYONG PANDEMYA!

Maliban sa mga gamit na plastic at styrofoam, nagkalat na rin ang mga single use PPE tulad ng face shield at mask sa mga estero sa kamaynilaan. Kaya naman ang mga estero ranger o humahakot ng mga basura, doble kayod sa pag-aalis ng mga ito upang maiwasan ang pagbabara at pagbabaha ngayong tag-ulan sa lungsod.

Sundan ang buong kwento ng "Trash Divers" sa [Reporter's Notebook](#) ngayong gabi, 11:30 PM sa GMA-7!

See Translation



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New WHO air-quality guidelines aim to cut deaths linked to fossil fuels

By [Stephanie Nebehay via Reuters](#) - September 23, 2021 - 10:37 AM



The Eiffel Tower is surrounded by a small-particle haze which hangs above the skyline in Paris, France, December 9, 2016. (Reuters/Gonzalo Fuentes/File Photo)

- WHO issues first air quality guidelines since 2005
- Slashes recommended limits for emissions linked to fossil fuels
- Says air pollution threat to health alongside climate change
- Blames exposure to air pollution for 7 million deaths a year

GENEVA—The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday issued its first air quality guidelines since 2005, which aim to reduce deaths from key pollutants that cause cardiovascular and respiratory diseases by moving towards clean sources of energy.

The United Nations agency, in advice to its 194 member states, slashed the recommended maximum levels for several pollutants, including particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, both of which are found in fossil fuel emissions.

Since 2005, “a substantial new body of evidence has accumulated, further demonstrating the degree to which air pollution affects all parts of the body from the brain to a growing baby in a mother’s womb at even lower concentrations than previously observed,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news conference.

Tedros urged governments to slash emissions and address climate change, noting the guidelines came at an “important time” ahead of the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow which begins on Oct. 31.

María Neira, WHO director of environment, climate change and health, said the guidelines were about speeding up a much-needed transition “to renewable and clean sources of energy.”

Long-term exposure to even lower concentrations of ambient and household air pollution can cause diseases including lung cancer, heart disease, and stroke, resulting in an estimated 7 million premature deaths each year, according to the WHO.

“This puts the burden of disease attributable to air pollution on a par with other major global health risks such as unhealthy diet and tobacco smoking,” it said.

People living in low- and middle-income countries are hit the hardest due to urbanization and economic development heavily reliant on burning fossil fuels.

Reducing exposure to particulate matter (PM) – capable of penetrating deep into the lungs and entering the bloodstream – is a priority, the WHO said. These are primarily generated by fuel combustion in sectors including transport, energy, households, industry, and from agriculture.



The WHO halved the recommended limits for average annual PM2.5 levels from 10 micrograms per cubic meter to 5. It also lowered the recommended limit for PM10 from 20 micrograms to 15.

“Almost 80% of deaths related to PM2.5 could be avoided in the world if the current air pollution levels were reduced to those proposed in the updated guideline,” it said, referring to particulate matter of 2.5 microns in diameter.

The average PM2.5 level in China in the first half of this year was 34 micrograms per cubic meter. For Beijing, the level was 41, the same as last year.

“What matters most is whether governments implement impactful policies to reduce pollutant emissions, such as ending investments in coal, oil and gas and prioritizing the transition to clean energy,” said Dr. Aidan Farrow, a Greenpeace international air pollution scientist who is based at Britain’s University of Exeter.

“The failure to meet the outgoing WHO guidelines must not be repeated,” he said in a statement. —**Reporting and writing by Stephanie Nebehay; additional reporting by David Stanway in Shanghai; Editing by Bernadette Baum**



[Air pollution kills 7M people yearly](#)

SEP 23, 2021, 9:06 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

The World Health Organization has issued new guidelines governing air pollution, or those caused by particulate matter from burning fossil fuels, which it said had caused 7 million people to die each year. The most affected are people living in low- and middle-income countries.

The World Health Organization has issued new guidelines—updating and adding more teeth to its 16- year- old rules on air pollution—in time for the coming October 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations in Glasgow, Scotland.

A report by the Agence France Presse said that WHO strengthened its air quality guidelines on Wednesday, saying air pollution was now one of the biggest environmental threats to human health, causing seven million premature deaths a year.

Urgent action is needed to reduce exposure to air pollution, said the UN body, ranking its burden of disease on a par with smoking and unhealthy eating.

"WHO has adjusted almost all the air quality guideline levels downwards, warning that exceeding the new levels is associated with significant risks to health," it said.

"Adhering to them could save millions of lives."

Guidelines

The guidelines aim to protect people from the adverse effects of air pollution and are used by governments as a reference for legally- binding standards.

The UN health agency last issued air quality guidelines, or AQGs, in 2005, which had a significant impact on pollution abatement policies worldwide.

In 16 years since however, the WHO said more evidence had emerged showing that air pollution effected health at lower concentrations than previously understood.

"The accumulated evidence is sufficient to justify actions to reduce population exposure to key air pollutants, not only in particular countries or regions but on a global scale," the organization said.

COP26 report

The new guidelines come just in time for the COP26 global climate summit held in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12.



The WHO said that alongside climate change, air pollution was one of the biggest environmental threats to human health.

Its climate change chief Maria Neira said the WHO was preparing a major report to present in Glasgow to stress the "enormous health benefits" of reducing air pollution through mitigating climate change.

"You can imagine the incredible number of lives we will save," she told mediamen.

Pollutants

The new WHO guidelines recommend lower air quality levels for six pollutants, including ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide.

The other two are PM10 and PM2.5—particulate matter equal or smaller than 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter.

Both can penetrate deep into the lungs but researchers say PM2.5 can even enter the bloodstream, causing mainly cardiovascular and respiratory problems, but also affecting other organs, said the WHO.

In response, the PM2.5 guideline level has been halved.

In 2019, more than 90 percent of the world's population lived in areas where concentrations exceeded the 2005 AQG for long-term PM2.5 exposure, with southeast Asia the worst-affected region.

Premature deaths

"Almost everyone around the world is exposed to unhealthy levels of air pollution," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Inhaling dirty air increases the risk of respiratory diseases like pneumonia, asthma and increases the risk of severe COVID-19."

Development led to deteriorating air quality

Air quality markedly improved since the 1990s in high-income countries, the WHO noted. But the global toll in deaths and lost years of healthy life barely declined because air quality deteriorated in most other countries, in line with their economic development.

"Every year, exposure to air pollution is estimated to cause seven million premature deaths and result in the loss of millions more healthy years of life," the WHO said.

In children, this could mean reduced lung growth and function, respiratory infections and aggravated asthma.

In adults, ischemic heart disease—also called coronary heart disease—and strokes are the most common causes of premature death attributable to outdoor air pollution.

The evidence since 2005 showed how air pollution affected "all parts of the body, from the brain to a growing baby in a mother's womb," said Tedros.

Evidence is also emerging of other effects such as diabetes and neurodegenerative conditions, said the organization.

Professor Alastair Lewis, of Britain's National Centre for Atmospheric Science, said the guidelines "dramatically increase the scale of challenge to society" in cutting air pollution.

Most contentious

But he said the PM2.5 guidelines were "the most contentious" as they come from natural sources too—even from cooking—and can stay airborne for weeks.



"PM2.5 is, to an extent, also an inevitable and unavoidable consequence of living a 21st-century life," said Lewis.

Clean energy sources

The WHO guidelines aim to reduce deaths from key pollutants that cause cardiovascular and respiratory diseases by moving towards clean sources of energy.

The WHO advised 194 member states slashed the recommended maximum levels for several pollutants, including particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, both of which are found in fossil fuel emissions.

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Tedros urged governments to slash emissions and address climate change, noting the guidelines came at an "important time" ahead of the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow which begins on Oct. 31.

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"The failure to meet the outgoing WHO guidelines must not be repeated," he said in a statement.



WHO: 7M patay kada taon sa air pollution



September 23, 2021 @ 2:09 PM 17 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Inihayag ng World Health Organization na isa na sa pinakamalaking environmental threats sa kalusugan ng tao ang polusyon sa hangin.

Ito na umano ang sanhi ng nasa pitong milyon premature deaths taon-taon.

Napantayan na nito ang karaniwang dahilan ng kamatayan ng tao na smoking habits at unhealthy eating.

Dahil dito ay mas pinalakas ng WHO ang air quality guidelines nito.

“WHO has adjusted almost all the air quality guideline levels downwards, warning that exceeding the new... levels is associated with significant risks to health,” ayon sa WHO.

“Adhering to them could save millions of lives.”

Layon ng panuntunan na protektahan ang mga tao mula sa epekto ng air pollution at maaaring gamitin ng pamahalaan para sa legally-binding standards.

Huling naglabas ng air quality guideline o AQG ang UN health agency noong 2005.

“The accumulated evidence is sufficient to justify actions to reduce population exposure to key air pollutants, not only in particular countries or regions but on a global scale,” dagdag pa ng organisasyon. **RNT**



UK PM: Glasgow climate talks ‘turning point for humanity’

posted September 23, 2021 at 07:10 pm

by [AFP](#)

United Nations—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday cast UN climate talks in Glasgow in November as a last chance for humanity as he made a passionate appeal for the world to slash carbon emissions.

In a characteristically colorful speech before the United Nations as he seeks success in Glasgow, Johnson urged humanity not to treat the planet as an “indestructible toy” and warned of irreversible damage from climate change.

“We will have made this beautiful planet effectively uninhabitable—not just for us but for many other species,” he told the General Assembly.

“And that is why the Glasgow COP26 summit is the turning point for humanity,” he said, using the official name for the meeting of the UN climate body’s Conference of Parties.

Johnson backed a goal of the developed world phasing out coal, one of the dirtiest forms of energy, by 2030 and the developing world doing so a decade later.

Pointing to Britain’s own track record at reducing emissions while preserving growth, the Conservative leader rejected conspiracy theories often voiced on the political right about the intentions behind climate plans.

“I am not one of those environmentalists who takes a moral pleasure in excoriating humanity for its excess,” Johnson said.

“I don’t see the green movement as a pretext for a wholesale assault on capitalism.”

Johnson hailed a pledge made a day earlier by Chinese President Xi Jinping to end coal financing overseas and urged the world’s largest emitter also to end its own growing use of coal.

The 2015 Paris accord set a goal of reducing global warming by two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels with an aspiration to go further and limit the rise to 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit).

But each nation chose its own way to make efforts and UN scientists say the planet is well off track on the 1.5 goal, the threshold at which the planet is seen as avoiding the worst ravages of climate change including intensifying droughts, worsening storms, and widening flooding.

Johnson voiced hope that all countries would emulate Britain’s goals, among the world’s most ambitious, to cut carbon emissions by 68 percent by 2030 compared with 1990 levels.

“We have nothing to fear and everything to gain from this green industrial revolution,” he said. “When Kermit the Frog sang, ‘It’s Not Easy Bein’ Green,’ I want you to know he was wrong -- and he was also unnecessarily rude to Miss Piggy.”



Leaders praise end to coal projects' funding

By [Agence France-Presse](#) September 24, 2021



China's President Xi Jinping remotely addresses the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in a pre-recorded message, Tuesday Sept. 21, 2021, at UN headquarters. AP PHOTO

BEIJING: [China](#) has earned praises from the [United States](#) and [Britain](#) on Wednesday when the first vowed to end funding for coal projects overseas, but voiced hope the world's largest emitter would also do more at home on climate change.

President [Xi Jinping](#) told the [United Nations](#) General Assembly on Tuesday that China will stop backing coal overseas, all but drying up the world's foreign assistance to the dirty form of energy in developing countries after similar announcements by South Korea and [Japan](#).

British Prime Minister [Boris Johnson](#), seeking to rally international support for strong climate action ahead of UN climate talks in Glasgow in November, voiced hope for a complete global end to coal by 2040.

"I thank President Xi for what he has done to end China's international financing of coal and I hope China will now go further and phase out the domestic use of coal as well," Johnson told the General Assembly.

"Because the experience of the UK shows it can be done."

Despite China's pledge on overseas assistance, it has kept investing at home in coal — an issue raised on a visit earlier this month by US climate envoy [John Kerry](#).

A US official said of Xi's move: "We welcome this announcement but we also recognize that more needs to be done."

"We look forward to hearing more about the additional steps that they can take in this decisive decade to further reduce their national emissions," the official told reporters on customary condition of anonymity.

The official said further Chinese action would "help put the world more closely on a trajectory that will hold temperatures from rising to well above 1.5 degrees" as appears increasingly likely despite an aspiration set by the 2015 Paris accord.



UN scientists say that warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels is a threshold at which the planet can avoid the worst ravages of climate change including increasingly severe weather, droughts and flooding.

President [Joe Biden](#) has put a high priority on the environment after defeating the climate skeptic [Donald Trump](#) and in his own UN speech on Tuesday vowed to double US aid for countries hardest hit by climate change, a key gap ahead of the Glasgow talks.



Philanthropists commit \$5-B for nature

SEP 23, 2021, 9:04 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

Investors and philanthropists have pledged \$5 billion to fund nature restoration and conservation at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York Wednesday.

Investors and philanthropists have pledged \$5 billion to fund nature restoration and conservation at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York Wednesday.

Environmental activists welcomed the pledges, said to be the highest ever raised for the environment, coming mainly from the Rainforest Trust and Bezos Earth Fund.

The US-based Rainforest Trust was founded in 1988 as an nonprofit environmental organization focused on the purchase and protection of tropical lands to strategically conserve threatened species. It was formerly known as World Parks Endowment, which in 2006 affiliated with the World Land Trust of UK and became World Land Trust-US to allow donated funds to flow to habitat conservation projects.

In September 2013 because of diverging modus operandi, the World Land Trust-US was renamed to Rainforest Trust, which supports purchase of vast tracts of lands by local NGOs across tropical Asia, Africa and Latin America to protect it similar to the activities of Nature Conservancy. The organization also seeks to help in-situ conservation measures by providing training, capital and equipment for environmental stewardship in economically impoverished areas.

Last Feb. 17, 2020, Amazon founder/CEO Jeff Bezos, posted in Instagram his pledge of \$10 billion to start the Bezos Earth Fund which will issue grants to scientists, activists and other organizations in their efforts to “preserve and protect the natural world.”

His IG post said “We can save Earth. It’s going to take collective action from big companies, small companies, nation states, global organizations, and individuals.”

“Climate change is the biggest threat to our planet and I want to work alongside others both to amplify known ways and to explore new ways of fighting the devastating impact of climate change on this planet we all share,” he continued.

Ironically, it was also Bezos who in July 2021 launched a space travel in his space rocket, Blue Origin with four astronauts and himself following their 10-minute New Shepard trip which sent them more than 351,000 feet into the air and back. (This whimsical hobby of space travel plus his Amazon company’s operation that augments global carbon emissions have been accused of being harmful to the environment).



The funding, pledged at an event on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York City will focus on the "30by30" target, which aims to protect 30 percent of the planet's land and water over the next decade.

Scientists and conservationists say this is key to protecting biodiversity, which encompasses millions of species and natural processes in ecosystems such as rainforests and oceans and is under threat from human-driven activities such as industrial agriculture, fishing, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Some \$150 billion a year is currently pledged on conservation and so-called nature-positive initiatives that prevent degradation of nature but up to \$1 trillion a year is needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, according to the Convention for Biodiversity, an intergovernmental UN agency that leads global biodiversity negotiations.

Conservationists said Wednesday's pledges went some way in closing the biodiversity funding gap.



'ILLEGAL MOVE' NG DENR BUKING

KINASTIGO ng isang militanteng kongresista ang umano'y kapabayaan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa paggamit nito ng P83-milyong halaga ng "savings" bilang pambayad sa World Bank (WB) makaraang mabigo itong ipatupad ang isang programang pinondohan nito.

Sa floor deliberations sa Kamara kung saan binubusisi ang panukalang 2022 operating budget ng nasabing departamento, sinita ni Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate ang DENR sa aniya'y ilegal na hakbang nito tungkol sa paggamit ng kanilang savings mula taong 2017 hanggang 2020.

Sa pagsisiwalat ni Zarate, lumalabas na nagsauli ang nasabing ahensya ng halagang P83M matapos silang singilin sa programang pinondohan ng nasabing bangko subalit hindi raman ipinatupad.

"This is another blatant viola-

tion of the Duterte administration on the use of savings," bulalas ng tila nairintang si Zarate sa DENR na una nang itinangging mayroon silang savings.

Sa pangungulit ng mambabatas, umamin ang DENR na mayroon silang savings at ibinalik na ang mga ito sa national treasury bagay na hindi pinaniwalaan ng solon.

"This reversion claim is apparently not true. A November 2018 official letter from the World Bank that is in our possession mentioned that the DENR used savings from the 2018 budget amounting to P83 million as partial refund to ineligible expenses that the multilateral agency flagged in one of its funded projects," ayon pa kay Zarate.

"What is this use of savings all about? Kasasabi lang ng DENR that no item in the GAA was augmented by the savings. But here we are, an official letter from the World Bank mentioning

that in 2018, P83 million ang ginamit as partial refund for ineligible expenses. Ano itong ineligible expenses na ito?" dagdag pa niya.

Dahil dito, binalaan ng mambabatas ang DENR na paglabag sa general appropriation act (GAA) ang kanilang paggastos sa pondo sa ibang bagay na hindi aprubado ng Kongreso.

Inihalintulad ito ni Zarate sa Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) ni dating Pangulong Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III na idineklara ng Korte Suprema na ilegal kaya kinasuhan sa Ombudsman ang dating pangulo at dating Budget Secretary Florencio Abad.

"Ito ang hirap sa hindi isasapubliko ang savings dahil kung anu-anong magic ang ginagawa ng mga departamento. Ang malala pa ay mukhang planado ito at koordinado na tumatagos sa iba't ibang ahensya," dugtong pa ni Zarate kasabay ng panawagan para sa mas malalim na imbestigasyon. (BERNARD TAGUINOD)

24 SEPTEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

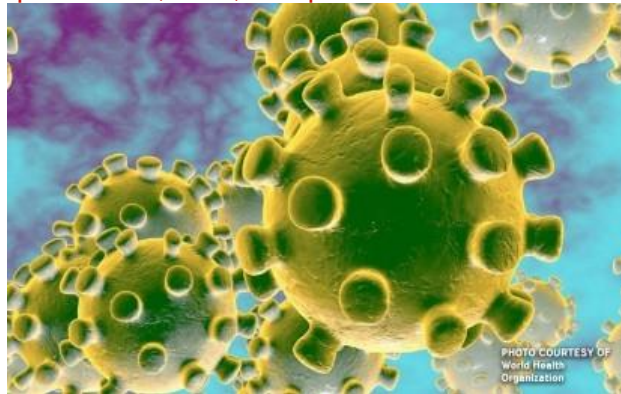
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



14K new recoveries raise PH tally to 2,231,558

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor September 23, 2021, 5:01 pm



MANILA – The nation's overall tally of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) patients who beat the disease has reached 2,231,558 as 14,090 new recoveries were recorded on Thursday.

The Department of Health (DOH) said the figure is equivalent to a 91.7-percent recovery rate from a total of 2,434,753 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

The DOH also tallied 17,411 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number of active cases in the country to 165,790 or 6.8 percent of all cases.

Of the active cases, 92.1 percent are mild, 3.1 percent are asymptomatic, 1.5 percent are severe, 2.73 percent are moderate, and 0.7 percent are in critical condition.

Also logged were 177 new fatalities, raising the death toll to 37,405 or 1.54 percent of the total cases.

The DOH said 77 duplicates were removed from the total case count as 55 of those were recoveries.

Meanwhile, 88 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

According to DOH data on September 21, about 24.6 percent of 71,010 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on September 21 and three laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the past 14 days, the three non-reporting labs contribute, on average, 0.3 percent of samples tested and 0.3 percent of positive individuals.

To date, 79 percent of 4,500 intensive care unit beds are in use nationwide, along with 66 percent of 20,700 isolation beds, 72 percent of 15,700 ward beds, and 56 percent of 3,300 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19.

In Metro Manila, 80 percent of 1,600 intensive care unit beds are in use, along with 60 percent of 4,300 isolation beds, 72 percent of 4,300 ward beds, and 62 percent of 1,100 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1154467>



Philippine COVID-19 cases humataw sa 2.43-M; patay sa virus locally 37,405 na

(Philstar.com) - September 23, 2021 - 4:00pm



Residents queue for vaccination in Marikina City, suburban Manila on August 6, 2021, as authorities imposed another lockdown to slow the spread of the hyper-contagious Delta variant and ease pressure on hospitals while trying to avoid crushing economic activity.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 17,411 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Huwebes, kung kaya't nasa 2,434,753 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:** 2,434,753
- **nagpapagaling pa:** 165,790, o 6.8% ng total infections
- **bagong recover:** 14,090, dahilan para maging 2,231,558 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **kamamatay lang:** 177, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 37,405

Face shield requirement outdoors lilimitahan na

- Hindi na kakailanganin ang pagsusuot ng face shields sa karamihan ng outdoor areas, ayon kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte. Aniya, [lilimitahan na lang ito sa tatlong sitwasyon](#): sa mga lugar na closed, crowded at mga lugar kung saan nagaganap ang close contact.
- Umabot naman sa [940,680 doses ng Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines](#) ang dumating ng Pilipinas kagabi, bagay na parte ng biniling suplay ng bansa kontra pandemya. Lumapag ang mga gamot sa NAIA Terminal 3 sa Pasay, bandang 9 p.m. nitong ika-22 ng Setyembre.
- Lalo pang [lumaki ang budget deficit ng administrasyong Duterte](#) kaugnay ng mas malaking gastusin kaugnay ng COVID-19 lockdown ayuda, dahilan para lumobo ito nang tatlong beses year-on-year sa P120.09 bilyon, ayon sa Bureau of Treasury.
- Papalo naman sa 25.12% ng target ng gobyerno para sa population protection ngayong taon ang kumpleto na sa COVID-19 vaccine shots. [Ito'y matapos umabot sa 19.37 milyon ang fully-vaccinated](#) na sa Pilipinas.
- Umabot na sa 229.37 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, [ayon sa huling datos ng World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.7 milyong katao.

— James Relativo

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/09/23/2129177/philippine-covid-19-cases-humataw-sa-243-m-patay-sa-virus-locally-37405-na/amp/>



DOH: Not yet time to downgrade NCR alert level

[Mayen Jaymalin](#) - The Philippine Star September 24, 2021 | 12:00am



Members of the Hijos del Nazareno check the vaccination IDs of devotees before entering the premises of the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila on Sept. 17, 2021 as they only allow fully-vaccinated individuals inside the church in line with the directive of the IATF under the new alert level quarantine classifications.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) is not amenable to downgrading the alert level in the National Capital Region even as COVID cases are declining in the NCR.

“We have just started implementing the pilot alert level system/granular lockdown less than a week ago. While case metrics showed a slowdown of newly reported cases, the downgrading of alert levels from four to three may still be premature to date,” the DOH said yesterday in a statement.

Cases in the NCR continue to increase but at a slower rate as evidenced by the positive growth rates and average daily attack rates over the past month, the agency said.

As of Sept. 21, the NCR has a two-week growth rate at 11 percent, which is lower but still positive. Effective reproduction number as of Sept. 20 was 1.0052, it said.

“The effective reproduction number or R_t provides insights on how fast COVID is spreading in a given population and time. It also measures the average number of people that a newly infected individual would expect to transmit the virus to,” the DOH said.

Health experts are looking at other factors that may contribute to the decrease of figures in case metrics such as laboratory testing output and active case finding.

The DOH also continues to work closely with other concerned agencies as well as health facilities to improve the overall response.

Meanwhile, the agency is undertaking a survey to determine the perception, willingness and factors affecting the will of getting vaccinated among adolescents and their parents, as well as to guide the efforts in advocacy and communications to appraise the overall COVID vaccine deployment plan.

The DOH said the results of the survey would be used in the deliberations of vaccine experts in the concurrence of their recommendations on pediatric vaccination.

New cases drop in other hotspots

Some areas outside Metro Manila that recently experienced a surge have also recorded a decrease in new COVID-19 cases in the past week, according to a member of OCTA Research.



Aside from Metro Manila that recorded a 20-percent drop in average new COVID-19 cases as of Sept. 22, OCTA fellow Guido David said the growth rate in Cavite, Laguna and Bulacan also decreased by more than 20 percent in the past week.

The average daily new COVID-19 cases in Cebu City and Davao City have also dropped 11 percent and nine percent, respectively.

According to David, the reproduction number in these areas – which indicates the number of persons a positive individual can infect – has also dropped to less than 1.0.

It was 0.99 in Metro Manila and Cebu City, 0.9 in Laguna, 0.87 in Cavite, 0.86 in Bulacan and 0.66 in Davao City.

In its monitoring report on Wednesday, the group identified Isabela, Cagayan and Benguet as provinces of concern due to high number of COVID-19 cases and critical healthcare utilization rate.

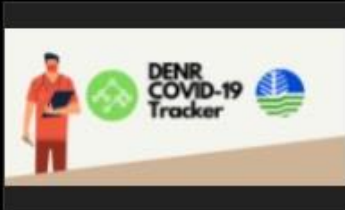
It also flagged the provinces of Laguna and Bataan, which had high average daily attack rate and critical intensive care unit utilization rates. – **Janvic Mateo**



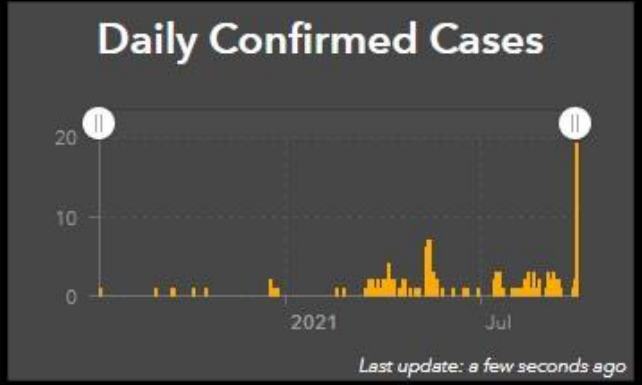
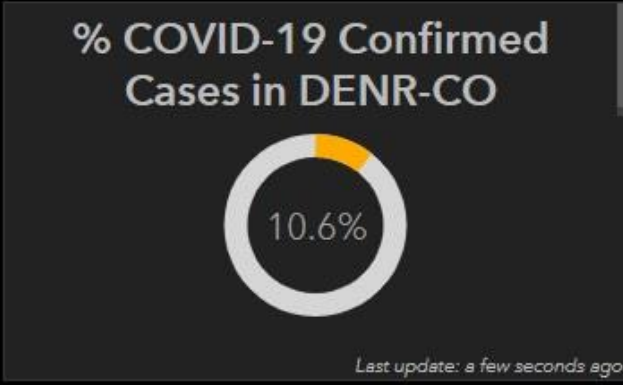
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Situation and Response**

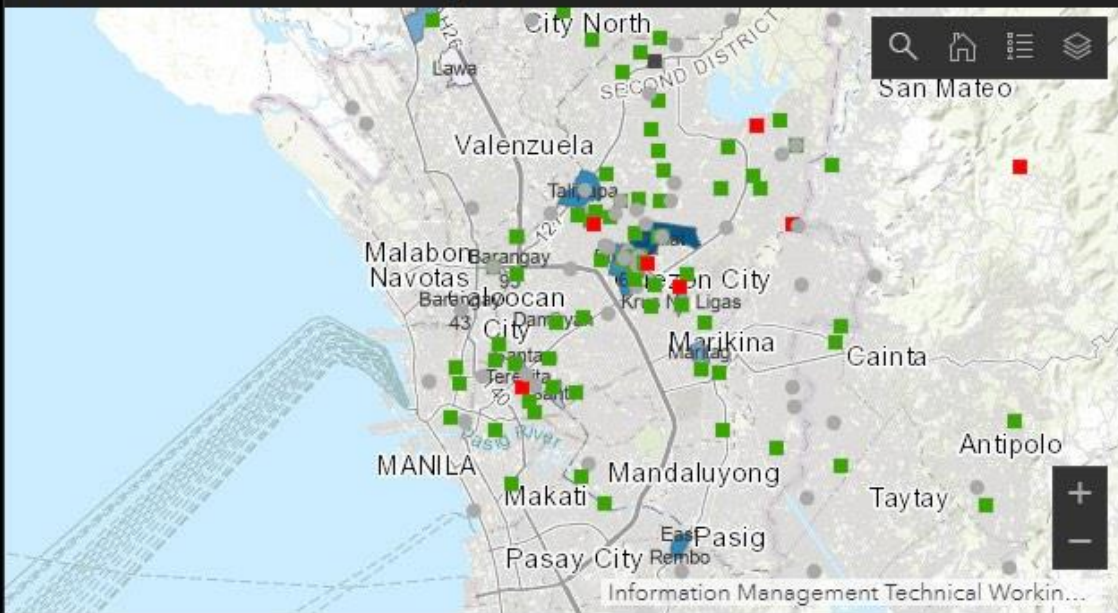
DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.

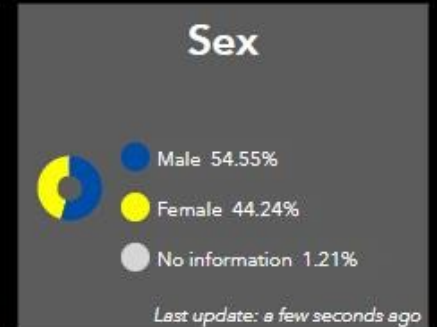
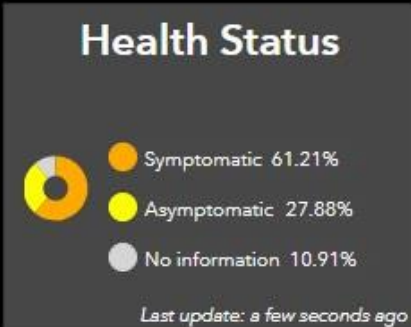
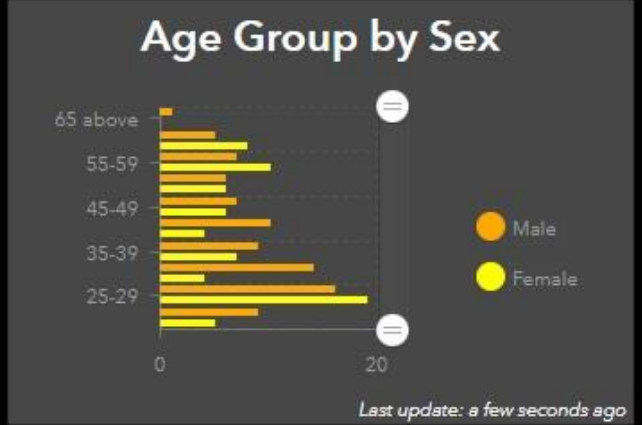
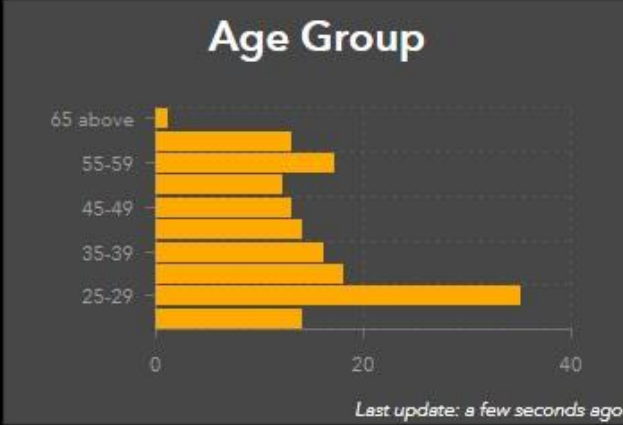


Residence of affected personnel



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.

[Map](#) [Map Legend](#)





DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 558

SETYEMBRE 23, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

6.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
165,790

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

91.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,231,558

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.54%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
37,405

MGA BAGONG KASO **17,411**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **14,090**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **177**

KABUWANG BILANG NG KASO **2,434,753**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING SETYEMBRE 21

DATOS NGAYONG SETYEMBRE 23
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG SETYEMBRE 21

24.6%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

71,010

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
95.2%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



KABUWANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS) **79%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.7K TOTAL BEDS) **66%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (15.7K TOTAL BEDS) **72%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.3K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **56%** Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.6K TOTAL BEDS) **80%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS) **60%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS) **72%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **62%** Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 92.1%

3.1% Asymptomatic

0.7% Critical

1.5% Severe

2.73% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ipinapaalala sa lahat ang halaga ng ating masusi at mahusay na pagsunod sa ating **Minimum Public Health Standards** para sa patuloy nating kaligtasan. Agad ding makipag-ugnayan sa ating **BHERTS** o **One COVID Referral Center** sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas, para sa karampatang gabay. Maabot ang **One COVID Referral Center** sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333.**

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, 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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

24 SEPTEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



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



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
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


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
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