25 DECEMBER 2021, Saturday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR sec ikinalungkot ang sinapit ng Odette victims



December 23, 2021 @ 3:12 PM 2 days ago

MANILA, Philippines- Nagpahayag ng kalungkutan si DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa hagupit ng bagyong Odette matapos manalasa ito sa ilang bahagi ng lalawigan ng Visayas, na binasa sa DENR year-end Assembly nitong Miyerkules.

Sa pahayag ni Sec. Cimatu, nakakalungkot umanong ipagdiwang ang pasko dahil sa nangyari sa mga kapwa Pilipino sa Siargao, Dinagat Island, Cebu, Bohol at Palawan at marami pang lugar sa pananalasa ng bagyong Odette.

Kaugnay nito, sa halip na maghanda para sa isang masayang pasko inutusan ni Cimatu si Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda na magtungo sa Siargao upang alamin ang sitwasyon at suriin ang sitwasyon.

Ayon pa sa statement ni Cimatu napag-alaman na halos 80 porsyento ng mga bahay at istruktura sa siargao ay nawasak at higit sa 50 porsyento ng mga puno ay natutumba ng malakas na hangin.

Isang bagay na ikinalungkot ng Secretary ang kalagayan ng mga naninirahan sa loob ng dalampasigan na matinding tinamaan.

"With this, I extend all my powers and privileges being the secretary of the DENR, lalapit tayo para iligtas sila!," aniya.

Tiniyak pa ni Cimatu na gagawa ng paraan para ma-resettle sila at mabigyan man lang sila ng maligayang Pasko at Bagong Taon.



DENR sec ikinalungkot ang sinapit ng Odette victims

Kaugnay nito sinabi pa ng Kalihim na sa simula, nagpadala na sila ng partial relief goods para sa kanila isang araw pagkatapos ng bagyo. Bumiyahe din ang DENR-Region 11 para magsagawa ng relief operation.

Idinagdag pa ni Cimatu na inaatasan nito ang lahat ng kinauukulang tanggapan na tumugon kaagad. Hindi umano maaring hindi magiging masaya sa Paskong ang mga biktima ng bagyo.

Sisiguruhin din nito na hanggang sa abot ng kanyang makakaya ay dadamayan ang mga kababayan na nasasalanta ng bagyo.

Ayon pa sa DENR chief sa mga taga-Siargao at sa lahat ng nasalanta ng bagyong Odette, katabi umano nila ang DENR sa problemang ito. **Santi Celario**

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The brunt of climate change



The climate change crisis may be too alien yet for many Filipinos to comprehend. Unfortunately, climate change or essentially global warming is producing the most impact on the Philippines through more destructive typhoons, such as Yolanda in 2013 and Odette just last week.



The Philippines can prepare for these disasters but mitigating measures to fend off climate change will cost a lot of money and divert funds for education and poverty alleviation. Thus, the world's biggest polluters or greenhouse gas emitters—the United States, China, Russia, India and Japan—should be held accountable for global warming and the disasters it spawns. Or at least they should pay for and finance mitigation and adaptation measures needed to weather the impact of global warming.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III correctly noted that the world's biggest polluters, especially the industrialized countries, should provide the funding for green projects that mitigate global warming. In the case of green energy projects or non-fossil based fuels, the funding should not be shouldered through tax breaks by Filipinos, who have reeled from the worsening consequences of climate change triggered by carbon emissions.

Those who polluted and continue to pollute the Earth's environment through unthinking industrialization starting 200 years ago, in the words of Mr. Dominguez, must pay for the grants, investments and subsidies needed for the most vulnerable countries to adapt to climate change.



The brunt of climate change

The finance chief made the same urgent call during the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland in the United Kingdom. Dominguez has observed the Philippines accounts for just 0.3 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, but it bears the brunt of the consequences of the climate crisis. The Philippines is on the list of countries with highest risk for worsening natural calamities caused by rising global temperatures.

Global warming, it seems, will worsen in the coming years. As oceans heat up, we can expect more energy-intensive storms to strike the most vulnerable nations. The Philippines will once again bear the consequences of the pollution and heat being trapped in the atmosphere.



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Rare pink handfish spotted in Australia for first time in decades

Published 17 hours ago

A rare "walking" handfish which is native only to Australia has been spotted for the first time in 22 years off the Tasmanian coast.

The pink handfish was last sighted by a diver off Tasmania in 1999 and has only been seen four other times.

Fearing for its survival, officials had recently classified it as endangered.

But Australian researchers say they have found it again, on a deep sea camera recording taken earlier this year in a marine park.

The new vision shows the fish in deeper and more open waters than it had lived in previously.

Scientists had thought the fish was a shallow water species that lived in sheltered bays - but it has now been found at a depth of 150m (390 ft) off Tasmania's wild south coast.

"This is an exciting discovery and offers hope for the ongoing survival of pink handfish, as clearly they have a wider habitat and distribution than previously thought," said lead researcher and marine biologist Neville Barrett, an associate professor at the University of Tasmania.



IMAGE SOURCE,KAREN GOWLETT-HOLMES/TASMANIA UNIVERSITY Image caption, File photo of a pink handfish which is native to Australia



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Rare pink handfish spotted in Australia for first time in decades

As per their name, the species has over-sized "hands" on which they "walk" along the seabed in addition to swimming.

In February, his team had dropped a baited camera on the seabed of the Tasman Fracture Marine Park to survey the coral, lobster and fish species down there.

The protected park - the size of Switzerland - is known for having a long crack in the earth's crust that has allowed marine life to be found in depths of over 4,000m.

A research assistant trawling through the footage in October spotted the peculiar creature among the crowd of larger animals attracted to the bait.

"I was watching one of our rough videos and there was a little fish that popped up on this reef ledge that looked a bit odd," said Ashlee Bastiaansen from the university's Institute of Antarctic and Marine Studies.

"I had a closer look and you could see its little hands," she told the ABC.

The vision shows the 15cm fish emerge from a ledge after being disturbed by a rock lobster.

At first curious about the commotion, it observes the scene for a few seconds before swimming away.

"In that time it's given us a really great head-on piece of imagery ... to absolutely categorically identify the species and measure its size," Associate Prof Barrett told the ABC.

"We're quite excited to be able to use the range of techniques now and really see how important these deeper habitats are for such a rare species."

Pink handfish are one of 14 types of handfish seen around Tasmania, the island south of the Australian mainland.



'Odette' leaves P1-B damage to agri, fisheries in Surigao Norte

By Alexander Lopez December 24, 2021, 7:48 pm



FISHERY DEVASTATED. Residents who lost their homes and livelihood to Typhoon Odette get their relief goods in Surigao City on Thursday (Dec. 23, 2021). Fishermen are among the sectors most affected by the devastation in Surigao del Norte and Surigao City with over PHP1 billion damage in the fishery sector in the area. (Photo grabbed from Surigao City PIO FB Page)

BUTUAN CITY – Typhoon Odette has left a damage of over PHP1 billion to agriculture and fishery sectors in Surigao del Norte, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) report showed.

In its status report as of December 23, a copy of which was obtained by the Philippine News Agency Friday, the PDRRMO in Surigao del Norte said the fishery sector in the province and in Surigao City suffered around PHP1,122,241,500 losses from the recent typhoon.

The amount includes damage to fishponds worth PHP264 million, PHP23.8 million to fish cages, PHP75 million worth of pump boats, PHP10 million in fishing gears, PHP20 million to other commercial fishing vessels, and PHP₂ million to marine sanctuaries.

The remaining figures for damage to fisheries were incurred in other fishery projects and fishery businesses in the province.

The damage to agriculture in the province was placed at PHP144.4-million to fruit trees, PHP84 million to rice farms, and PHP93 million to banana farms.

The typhoon also destroyed PHP838.5 million worth of infrastructures in the province, including provincial roads, bridges, farm-to-market roads, public markets, isolation facilities, and covered courts.

A separate PHP400-million damage was also incurred in the provincial center of the province, including damage to the provincial capitol building, the convention center, and other facilities.

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'Odette' leaves P1-B damage to agri, fisheries in Surigao Norte

The water supply systems in Surigao City and other municipalities in the province also incurred some PHP35.9-million damage.

Buildings and offices in the different towns in Surigao del Norte also suffered around PHP88.5 million in damage, while the different school facilities also incurred a PHP62-million damage.

The PDRRMO also reported around PHP20.2 million in damage to different tourism facilities in the province.

Private structures in the different towns, including churches, gas stations, and private commercial buildings also suffered a PHP12.7-million damage.

Typhoon Odette made landfall in the province, particularly in Siargao Island on December 16 that displaced around 48,204 families or 157,052 individuals, and left 25 dead, 86 injured, and 26 missing persons, the PDRRMO reported.

Most of the reported deaths were in the town of Santa Monica in Siargao Island with eight, while 25 missing persons were recorded in the town of Del Carmen, also in Siargao.

The PDRRMO said distribution of family food packs (FFPs) was facilitated in the different towns in the province and in Surigao City.

Aside from the FFPs from the local government units and the provincial government (LGUs), augmentations were also provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The distributions were conducted by the LGUs with support from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, particularly the Army and the Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Philippine National Police, and the other line agencies of the government.

Private groups and individuals also sent food aid, water, and other necessities to the affected residents in the province, the PDRRMO said.

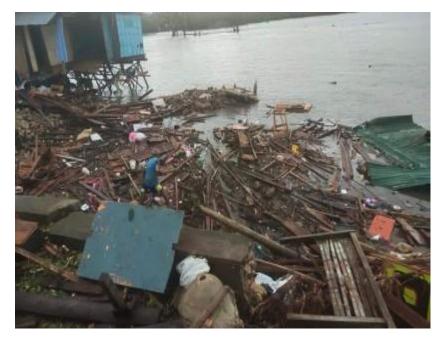
International humanitarian and relief organizations are also providing support to the continuing efforts to provide the affected residents with their immediate needs.

The PDRRMO said search, rescue, and retrieval operations are still ongoing in areas with reported missing persons. (*PNA*)



UN releases P600-M aid for PH 'Odette' response

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora December 24, 2021, 2:17 pm



(Photo courtesy of Caritas Philippines)

MANILA – The United Nations pledged USD12 million (approximately PHP600 million) as additional assistance to the country recently battered by Typhoon Odette (international name Rai).

"I am releasing USD12 million from UNCERF (Central Emergency Response Fund) to help deliver urgent humanitarian assistance to support the Government-led response to Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) in the Philippines," UN Relief Chief Martin Griffiths announced on Christmas Eve.

CERF is the UN's global emergency response fund that supports rapid humanitarian efforts for people affected by natural disasters or armed conflict.

UN Resident Coordinator to the Philippines Gustavo Gonzales, who just came from a field mission in the 'Odette' -battered areas in the Visayas and Mindanao, underscored the "serious impact of the typhoon on infrastructure, on houses, and on livelihood" in the region.

"We can conclude, as a result of this mission, that Rai (Odette) has been devastating. What I saw in my visit are roads covered with debris, electricity down, hundreds of houses without roofs, and of course, the impact on people. You can see people along the border of the road between Butuan and Surigao asking desperately for help, emergency shelter, drinking water, and food," he said in a press briefing before the UN on Thursday night.

Gonzales highlighted the fact that the devastation came as the country continues to battle the coronavirus pandemic, describing it as a "crisis within a crisis".

The UN Philippines chief said humanitarian access and communications constraints in the area also make it "very difficult" to get a comprehensive analysis of the typhoon's impact.

"We are confronted to a situation where we cannot access the islands, we cannot communicate with the local authorities, so we are not surprised that perhaps in the coming days, the figures that we are using will change and certainly they will increase," he said.



UN releases P600-M aid for PH 'Odette' response

Citing initial reports, Gonzales said about three million people are in need of assistance, of which around one million are children.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, meanwhile, is validating 312 casualties, 659 injured, and 54 missing persons reported in the aftermath of the typhoon. *(PNA)*

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

COVID-19

NEWS



OCTA notes uptick in Metro Manila's COVID-19 positivity rate

(Philstar.com) - December 24, 2021 - 2:23pm



Roman Catholic devotees attend a pre-dawn mass called "misa de gallo" at a church in Las Pinas, suburban Manila, on December 16, 2021, as part of traditional Christmas season celebrations. AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — There is an uptick in the virus positivity rate in Metro Manila, the OCTA Research said Friday, noting the slight increase may be attributed to holiday gatherings.

In a tweet, OCTA Research fellow Guido David said the average positivity rate in the capital region from December 16 to 22 was 0.77. From December 12 to 18, the positivity rate was 0.62.

Positivity rate refers to the percentage of people who have tested positive from all those who underwent testing.

"Due to decreased testing during the holiday season, we will be unable to have a clear picture of the situation until the first week of January 2022," David said.

"My interpretation at this time is that we are seeing a holiday uptick due to the increased number of social gatherings, and this is not a cause for panic, but we must continue to follow public health standards while enjoying the holidays," he added.

The Philippines has reported over 2.83 million COVID-19 cases since the pandemic started. Of the total, only 0.3% are active cases.

Local health authorities have detected three imported cases of the Omicron variant, which appears to be more infectious than the already transmissible Delta variant. — Gaea Katreena Cabico



Slowed down by 'Odette', PH tries to meet 54M vax target

By Lade Jean Kabagani December 24, 2021, 8:08 pm



(PNA file photo by John Rey Saavedra)

MANILA – The government remains optimistic it can achieve population protection against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) before 2021 ends by fully vaccinating about eight million more.

Speaking at a virtual media briefing on Friday, Presidential Adviser on Covid-19 Response and testing czar, Secretary Vince Dizon, said the vaccination program slightly slowed down due to Typhoon Odette, which devastated parts of Visayas and Mindanao last week and ran smack into the second leg of the nationwide drive "Bayanihan, Bakunahan".

"Pero pinipilit pa rin nating maabot ito so kailangan lang medyo mag-ramp up tayo ng mga babakunahan natin lalo na ng second dose nitong mga susunod na araw, natitirang araw ng 2021 (We are trying to reach this [population protection] so we just need to further ramp up our vaccination, especially administering second doses in the coming days, the remaining days of 2021)," Dizon said.

The latest data from the National Covid-19 vaccination dashboard showed the Philippines has already administered 105,118,508 doses nationwide since the rollout started in March.

Of the total number, 46,954,697 Filipinos have completed their primary doses and 1,341,314 received their booster shots or additional doses.

Dizon said the National Task Force Against Covid-19 will also speed up the utilization of single-dose Janssen vaccines to meet the target 54 million fully vaccinated Filipinos until December 31.

Dizon noted there's a continuing downtrend of Covid-19 cases in the country as the positivity rate was lowered to only 0.8 percent from the previous 1 percent.

He described it as a "very huge" accomplishment despite the setbacks caused by Typhoon Odette in the vaccination drive. (*PNA*)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1163693

HONEDENR

Covid-19 Situation and Response



SBAKUMA UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ngayong bisperas ng Pasko, magkaroon ng Ligtas Christmas ang bawat pamilyang Pilipino. Sa kabila ng kasiyahan ay ang tuloy-tuloy na pagsunod natin <u>Minimum Public Health Standards</u> upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga mahal natin sa buhay laban sa COVID-19. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa <u>BHERTS o sa One COVID Referral Center</u> na maabot sa <u>1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333</u>, para sa karampatang gabay.

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



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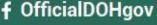
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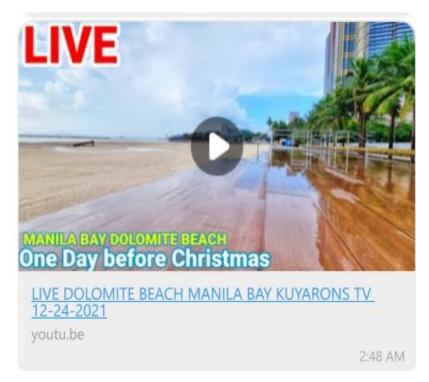
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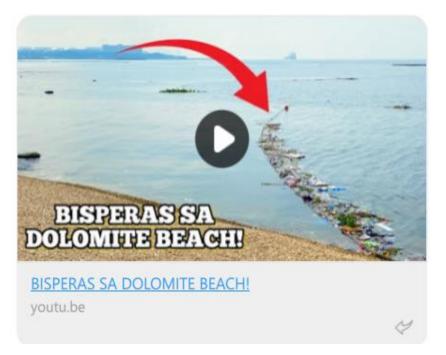
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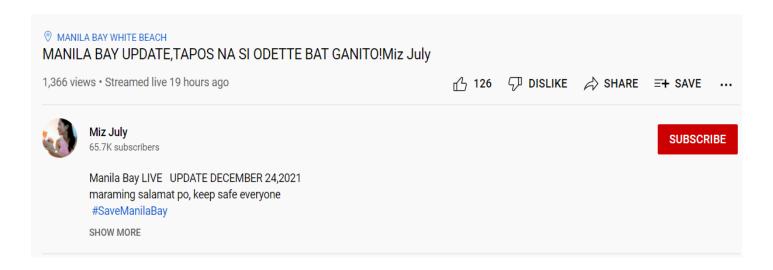


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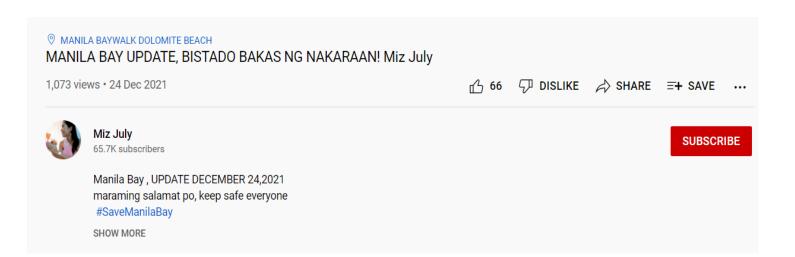


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