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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





# The Road to SONA: Climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction

July 24, 2021



*The Cabinet cluster on Climate Change Adaptation Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction reports its efforts in building stronger and safer communities. (File Photo by Marvee Sambajon/PTV)*

The Cabinet cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction reports its efforts in building stronger and safer communities in a Pre-SONA (State of the Nation Address) Forum on July 22.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Roy Cimatu mentioned that the tropical cyclones, strong earthquakes, El Niño, and a volcano eruption that happened just between July 2019 and May 2020 cost a billion pesos in damages to properties, agriculture, and infrastructure.

He said over ₱2 billion worth of assistance were provided for search, rescue, and retrieval operations for typhoon and earthquake victims nationwide.

Calamity-affected small scale farmers and fisherfolks, including agrarian reform beneficiaries, were also provided with over ₱6 billion as loan assistance for agricultural production, processing facilities and farm improvement.

Moreover, as insurance for ₱1.92 million of rice, corn and high value crops, over ₱300 million worth of climate change adaptation projects were approved for implementation under the People's Survival Fund in several provinces.

## **Accurate reporting and preparation for hazards**

One Doppler weather radar was established in Bohol in 2019, bringing an overall count of 17 Doppler weather radars established nationwide. Number of high frequency Doppler radars has increased to 24, commissioned with two satellite tele-metered seismic stations raising the total to 104, and additional nine active fault maps.

Training and technical assistance were provided to local government units (LGUs), national government agencies and the private sector. Through the GeoRiskPH, HazardHunterPH program and the GeoAnalyticsPH platforms were developed which aimed to generate data for more accurate reporting and preparing for hazards.

The Philippines was also able to access funds from the green climate fund with the approval of a US\$10 million project for the establishment of a multi-hazard impact based forecasting and early warning system in hazard-prone provinces.



### **Public service continuity at post-disaster**

The government command and control centers are established to ensure prompt availability of critical lifelines, safe open spaces and critical lifeline facilities in Metro Manila were identified and met.

The Government Emergency Communication System mobile operations vehicle for emergency – rapid deployable emergency communication systems to disaster-stricken areas in the country was launched.

### **Rehabilitation in PH bodies of water**

DENR reported a beach easement recovery reached 67% completion. Structures not compliant with the required easement were demolished. The Boracay Circumferential Road Improvement is almost 50% completed.

Boracay drainage improvement projects construction to address island flooding is on track, according to DENR, adding that water quality has already reached the safe level for swimming and skin-diving.

Manila Bay's rehabilitation also makes headway in the clean-up and improving the water quality. At the Manila Baywalk, a 1.7-kilometer wastewater interceptor was constructed to catch dirty waters. As a result, coliform levels at the Baywalk area have drastically decreased recently. A 2.5-kilometer long trash boom was already installed, designed to trap for collection of floating debris coming offshore before these would inundate the seawall of the Manila Baywalk.

Dredging of the Tullahan–Tinajeros River System through the support of San Miguel Corporation's one billion pledge for the dredging and clean-up of the river system has also started. With the help of barangays, communities, private sectors and estero rangers, the massive clean-up of the esteros continues.

### **Plantations and water supply security**

Support for bamboo plantations was increased. Mangrove rehabilitation is also being pursued to protect coastal communities; 35 legislated marine protected areas are being maintained and protected; 29 marine protected area networks were established to improve fish catch and conserve biodiversity; and rehabilitation of mineralized areas and slope stabilization of mined out and tailings covered areas is being implemented.

Government pursued the protection and rehabilitation of rivers. About 16 rivers nationwide were identified as most improved in water quality, while 585 water bodies to date were adopted nationwide by private sector partners. Monitoring of water bodies nationwide showed improvement in water quality.

To ensure steady water supply, the Angat Dam low level outlet was rehabilitated to serve as back-up water discharge ensuring operability. A total of 89 deep wells were reactivated, 156 mobile tankers and 12 static water tanks were deployed in 45 affected barangays. 46 groundwater monitoring wells were installed in groundwater critical areas.

### **Waste disposal and air quality management**

Some 27 dump sites were closed, while 382 materials recovery facilities and 22 sanitary landfills were constructed.

To manage garbage, LGUs were provided with equipment and facilities worth over ₱1 billion. Use of certain single use plastic items were prohibited in all government offices.



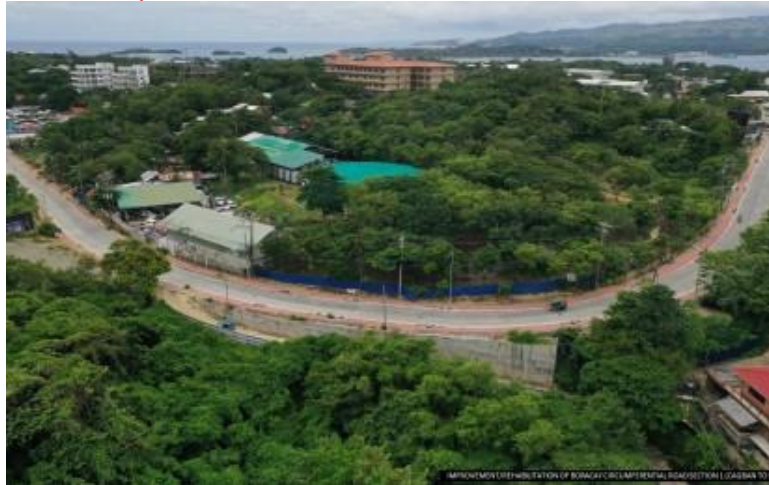
To respond to the accumulation and improper disposal of medical wastes due to the COVID-19 outbreak, new policies were issued to better manage hazardous wastes.

On air quality management, 104 ambient air quality monitoring stations are being maintained in highly urbanized centers nationwide. Data shows that in 2019, the country has good air quality as levels of criteria pollutants PM10 and PM2.5 were within the standard. **(CCAM-DRR Cabinet cluster) / CF – rir**



# Boracay close to restoring its environmental integrity

By Perla Lena July 24, 2021, 12:35 pm



**IMPROVED.** The portion of the Boracay circumferential road section from Cagban Port to the Hue Hotel in Boracay Island's Station 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has reported an 87.71-percent completion of the funded road section as of July 15, 2021. *(Photo courtesy of DPWH-6)*

**ILOILO CITY** – Four years after President Rodrigo Duterte committed to restoring the environmental integrity of the world-renowned Boracay Island, the promise is close to being fulfilled.

“We’re moving towards that direction, restoring ecological integrity,” Natividad Bernardino, general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG), said in a phone interview on Friday.

The BIARMG is the implementing arm of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), which was created under Executive Order 53, signed by the President on May 8, 2018, to oversee the rehabilitation of the island.

Bernardino attributed the improvement of the island to the political will of the government and the strong collaboration between national government agencies and local government units.

“We are compelled to work together based on the instruction of the government,” she said.

As of June this year, 81 percent or 273 of the 339 commercial and residential establishments that encroached on the 25+5-meter beach easement have been demolished.

“We prioritize to demolish commercial establishments over residential,” Bernardino said, adding that they go slow with the residential establishments because those who would be affected belong to the poor sector, such as fisherfolk, who need to be relocated.

They have demolished 83 percent or 1,022 of the 1,230 structures identified to be affected by the 12-meter road easement as a result of the road widening project.

Two of the nine wetlands in Boracay occupied by illegal settlers have been cleared, she added.

In wetland No. 4, a total of 13 structures were demolished and the area has been converted into the Balabag Wetland Park while 131 illegal structures on wetland No. 6 in Barangay Manoc-manoc have been removed.



A total of 31 families, known to be native Boracaynons from Wetland No. 6, have received their Certificate of Land Ownership Award under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

“They now have their own land in Angol Point, Barangay Manoc-manoc,” Bernardino said.

### **Better water quality**

Water quality in the island’s main tourism beach known as “White Beach” is now compliant while the one referred to by Duterte as a cesspool at the Bulabog Beach is now also up to water quality standards, she said.

“We have various parameters for water quality. For fecal coliform, the acceptable standards should not be more than 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 ml),” Bernardino explained but did not elaborate on how many times they conduct the testing.

Big accommodation establishments or those with more than 40 rooms located at the White Beach and more than 50 rooms for those outside the White Beach have sewerage treatment plants (STP).

Of the 158 big accommodation establishments, 151 are compliant while the other seven no longer have the intention to operate, she said.

“They could not operate if they don’t comply with this memorandum order,” Bernardino said, referring to Memorandum Circular 2018-06 issued by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on June 26, 2018, which requires each establishment in the long beach area of Boracay to have an STP.

### **Road projects**

The rehabilitation also addressed the flooding issue, particularly at the main road, with the installation of a new drainage system by the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

The drainage system, which involves five different projects and several pumping stations with a total cost of PHP1.2 billion, is 50-percent complete.

Hopefully, the project, which is already fully funded, will be completed next year amid the challenge of the pandemic, Bernardino said.

Meanwhile, the completion of the 21.643-km. circumferential road is dependent on the budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

She said if they would merely rely on their regular allocation, it would be impossible for them to complete the entire stretch next year.

In a separate interview, engineer Elsie Sabay, chief of the construction division of the DPWH 6 (Western Visayas), said as of July 15 this year, 87.71 percent of their funded section worth PHP1.07 billion have been completed.

“The total length of the Boracay circumferential, which is our main road that connects Cagban Pier to the proper of resorts, is 21.643 km.,” she said.





Once completed, the travel time is expected to be reduced from 40 minutes to 45 minutes from the present one hour and 15 minutes.

The DPWH road project included the construction of drainage, sidewalks with paving blocks/stamped concrete street lighting, tree planting and sprigging, pavement markings, and the provision of features for loading/unloading with ramps for persons with disabilities (PWDs) along the 12-meter road right of way.

Duterte, in his State of the Nation Address on July 23, 2018, announced his plan to rehabilitate the island, which he regarded as one of the country's treasures but has become a representation of the government's negligence.

"We intend to restore its environmental integrity, alongside measures to alleviate those whose livelihood were momentarily affected. Environmental protection and ensuring the health of our people cannot be overemphasized; thus, our actions in Boracay mark the beginning of a new national effort," he said. **(PNA)**



# Greening the city is the way to go

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 25, 2021



Green, leafy vegetables can be grown using plastic containers.

THE Covid-19 pandemic has given rise to the “plantitos/plantitas”—plant hobbyists, home gardeners and indoor farmers—who have found a more productive way to spend their quarantined lives.

And as the coronavirus continues to threaten communities with the highly transmissible and deadlier Delta variant, the trend will likely continue as both a pastime and a food source for plant lovers and nurturers in the Philippines.

## A way to fight hunger

MER Layson, a journalist and urban farming practitioner, has been teaching how to raise vegetables using plastic bottles via Facebook and YouTube.

In a telephone interview on July 19, Layson, also known as “Magsasakang [Farmer] Reporter,” said urban farming has become a way to fight hunger and poverty.

“I taught urban farming face-to-face at my house in Paco, Manila, but it stopped during the pandemic,” Layson said.

“Fortunately, my son taught me how to use YouTube so I started teaching again,” he said in Filipino.

Layson said that many people are interested in learning how to grow their own food when access to food became momentarily difficult at the height of the pandemic.

“Even government employees are becoming interested in learning how to plant and grow their own food,” he said.

Layson started appearing in a television program and writing a column on urban farming for a local tabloid.

“I believe God has made me an instrument to help others become urban farmers. It has become my advocacy. While I continue to work as a reporter, I still consider myself a farmer and I want to teach others how to farm,” he said.

## Expanding green spaces

IN a statement last month, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu called on Metro Manila residents to adopt vertical gardening techniques to maximize their limited space, help create more green spaces in the urban jungles and preserve urban biodiversity.

“We can derive so much benefits from these green spaces, which include green walls, green roofs, vertical gardens, urban forest parks, the linear forest along walkways, transport routes and river systems,” he said.





According to Cimatu, these networks of green spaces will improve air quality, reduce heat, increase energy efficiency, reduce noise pollution and provide habitats for wildlife.

## Urban biodiversity program

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) has been promoting the Urban Biodiversity Program among the local government units—which includes urban forest bathing and green infrastructures—to increase green spaces and enhance biodiversity in urban areas.

Urban forest bathing promotes the health benefits of forests and green spaces, while green infrastructures are buildings or infrastructures that support green energy and provide environmental benefits.

Urban biodiversity makes nature closer to urban dwellers, DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said.

“We can only do so much based on our existing laws in preserving the green spaces in Metro Manila, but even an ordinary citizen can help in this endeavor,” Antiporda said.

He said the rise of plantitos and plantitas have helped reverse the impact of rapid infrastructure development in Metro Manila.

While this trend is helpful, Antiporda noted that the demand for ornamental plants also “invited the unwanted proliferation of plant poachers.”

He appealed to plant hobbyists not to patronize illegally traded plants, especially non-native plants, because of their possible adverse impacts to the environment.

This may result, he said, in “bringing pests and diseases that may infect other species of plants.”

## Greening the city

PASAY City has seen an opportunity in greening the city with the gradual opening of the economy as 60 of its barangay chairmen recently completed a short course on urban farming.

The local leaders attended the “Pasay City Urban Farm Tourism” at the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) in Barangay Biga II, Silang, Cavite, with the aim of cleaning and greening Pasay City through various urban farming techniques.

Initiated by Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano, together with the Pasay City Tourism and Cultural Development Office and the ISST, the trainer’s training program held from July 7 to 9 was sponsored by the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (Philexport) in cooperation with the local government of Silang, Cavite.

Among the urban farming techniques taught during the training are vertical gardening, hydroponics and plastic container gardening.

## New ‘sexy’

ISST chairman and president Dr. Mina Gabor said that with urban farm tourism agriculture is becoming “sexy” for the youth.

“Our farmers are ageing and the youth are not very interested in farming. Our school wants to change this, and right now we have started to generate awareness and the youth are becoming attracted to urban farming,” Gabor said.

Gabor, a former Tourism secretary, said urban farming is also an effective fighting tool in fighting hunger and poverty.

“Even in the pandemic, we experienced limited access to food. That is because all our food comes from outside Metro Manila. With urban farming, we can help every barangay to produce food,” she said.



## Urban farm tourism

THE concept of urban farm tourism also aims to seize tourism opportunities by showcasing successful greening projects at the barangay level. Pasay City has a total of 201 barangays divided into 20 different zones.

The city has realized that among the benefits of urban farm tourism is creating green jobs and livelihood opportunities by maximizing the use of limited space.

Bringing the farm to the city is also encouraging the youth to venture into urban farming and empower them to be more engaged in agriculture for environmental sustainability and food security.

## Beneficial endeavor

“FIRST and foremost, planting is beneficial to our health. Second, it boosts food security,” Teresita C. Robles, founder of “Aasenso sa Green and Clean,” said in an interview with the BusinessMirror on July 9.

Robles, who also heads the Pasay City Heritage and Cultural Commission, said urban farming was initiated by Mayor Rubiano, her younger sister, when she organized “I Care for Mother Earth.”

“We as citizens have the duty and responsibility to take care of our environment and Mother Earth,” Robles said.

## The way to go

GEORGE Tiopes, head of Pasay City Tourism Department, said urban farming is the way to go for Pasay City.

“Even with the concrete surroundings, it is not impossible to grow vegetables. We can do it vertically, by hydroponics or even grow vegetable in plastic containers,” he said.

Tiopes said he plans to encourage barangay officials to develop a space that can be part of a tourism package to be offered by the city’s tourism department.

## Spicing up urban farming

PHILEXPORT President and CEO Sergio Ortiz-Luis, who is also a convener and co-founder of Sulong Pasay, said that while urban farming is not an entirely new concept, integrating it with tourism somehow spices up the endeavor.

Pasay City-based Philexport supports urban farming as it maximizes the opportunity for food production within a very limited space.

“Pasay City is an asphalt jungle so the best way is to promote urban farming in every community. What’s more, the program is integrated with the opportunity of tourism,” he said.

Image courtesy of Mer Layson



# Mas maraming basura, tumambad sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay at sa Dolomite Beach

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Jul. 23, 2021 at 12:09p



Mas maraming basura ang napadpad ngayong araw sa paligid ng dalampasigan ng Manila Bay at Dolomite Beach sa lungsod ng Maynila.

Ito'y dahil sa magkakasunod na araw ng pag-uulan sa lungsod bunsod ng habagat.

Nagtutulong-tulong ang mga tauhan ng Manila Department of Public Service (DPS), MMDA at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para hakutin ang mga nagkalat na basura at halaman.

Nabatid na dahil sa sunod-sunod na pag-uulan sa lungsod ng Maynila, sangkaterbang mga basura't halaman ang inanod sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay at Dolomite beach.

Ang ilang bahagi ng Dolomite Beach ay lubog pa rin sa tubig kung saan natatabunan na rin ito ng basura dahil sa lakas ng alon dulot ng pag-uulan kung saan posibleng muli itong masira at ang mga artificial na buhangin ay maaaring anurin papunta ng Manila Bay.

Sa kasalukuyan, patuloy na nililinis at hinahakto ang mga basura kung saan magtutungo naman si MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos sa mga flood control facilities at mga binahang lugar sa Maynila.

Partikular na iinspeksyunin ni Abalos ay ang San Andres pumping station sa Sta. Ana, Manila at sa may Baywalk area sa Roxas Boulevard.

Source: [https://rmn.ph/mas-maraming-basura-tumambad-sa-dalampasigan-ng-manila-bay-at-sa-dolomite-beach/?fbclid=IwAR04RciwZlAZmVVN4UONa4sk5\\_A0eDM--chrmYE3Jh5QXy\\_4d8A6PrFJPvk](https://rmn.ph/mas-maraming-basura-tumambad-sa-dalampasigan-ng-manila-bay-at-sa-dolomite-beach/?fbclid=IwAR04RciwZlAZmVVN4UONa4sk5_A0eDM--chrmYE3Jh5QXy_4d8A6PrFJPvk)





Hataw D'yaryo ng Bayan

July 23 at 12:31 PM · 🌐

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MULING nilamon ng alon ang P389-milyong tinaguriang 'Dolomite' beach sa Manila Bay, kapalit ng tambak ng basura at waterlilies, na matiyagang nilinis ng mga kagawad ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at Manila Department Public Safety (MDPS) kahit walang tigil ang ulan dala ng habagat na pinalakas ng bagyong Fabian kahapon. (BONG SON)



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2 Comments 3 Shares



## Hiram na kagandahan ng Dolomite Beach wash out na, natabunan pa ng basura

July 24, 2021 1 min read

WASH OUT NA....Dahil sa lakas ng alon at walang humpay pag ulan dala ng habagat na pinalakas ng papalabas na bagyong Fabian natabunan ng basura at iba pang dumi ang maputing Dolomite Beach sa Roxas Blvd sa Maynila. Agad namang kumilos ang Manila DPS at MMDA upang linisin ang mga basura sa DB.

(Kiara Lauren Ibanez/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtvn)

Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/24/hiram-na-kagandahan-ng-dolomite-beach-wash-out-na-natabunan-pa-ng-basura/?fbclid=IwAR3\\_KdWokc9AMqdIV4h7HlidQB6FSP3Wr9q-zyMzD7ICnJGySiF7LNvEUHY](https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/24/hiram-na-kagandahan-ng-dolomite-beach-wash-out-na-natabunan-pa-ng-basura/?fbclid=IwAR3_KdWokc9AMqdIV4h7HlidQB6FSP3Wr9q-zyMzD7ICnJGySiF7LNvEUHY)





ABS-CBN News

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TINGNAN: Aabot sa 125 piraso ng troso ang nakumpiska ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa Cateel River sa Barangay Malibango, Cateel, Davao Oriental noong nakaraang linggo.

Nasa P400,000 ang halaga ng mga nakumpiskang kahoy. (📷: DENR-XI) | via Chrislen Bulosan

BASA HIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../dilig-orders-crackdown-on...>



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# Di magpapakawala ng tubig sa mga dam sa kabila ng pag-ulan – water resources board

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 24 2021 08:23 PM

Tiniyak nitong Sabado ni Seville David Jr. ng National Water Resources Board na walang dapat ikabahala sa lebel ng tubig sa mga dam sa Luzon sa kabila ng sunod-sunod na ulan.

Tiniyak ni David sa panayam sa Teleradyo na nasa normal na lebel pa rin ang tubig sa mga dam kung kaya hindi kakailanganing magpakawala ng tubig na maaaring maging sanhi ng pagbaha.

"Karamihan po sa mga dams natin sa Luzon ay masasabi po nating nasa normal na lebel po. Ito pong mga pag-ulan na nararanasan natin ay nakapagpadagdag po na bahagya sa mga dams natin, pero sa ngayon ay wala pa po tayong dapat ipangamba dahil sa lebel nila," aniya.

"Tantya po natin sa mga susunod na araw ng pag-ulan na ito ay wala po tayong nakikita na aabot ito sa lebel na kailangang magpakawala."

Tinukoy niya ang mga dam ng Angat, Magat at San Roque na sumasakop sa malaking bahagi ng Luzon.

Aniya kung tutuusin, hindi pa umaabot sa normal na lebel ng tubig ang laman ng Angat.

"Gaya ng Angat dam, nasa 186 meters po ito. Ang normal water level nito ay nasa 210 hanggang 212 meters. So nasa 186 pa lang ngayon. Kailangan pang magpataas iyan para matustusan pa ang pangangailanan natin sa tubig at irigasyon," dagdag pa ni David.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/24/21/di-magpapakawala-ng-tubig-sa-mga-dam-sa-kabila-ng-pag-ulan-water-resources-board?fbclid=IwAR03oa4II0v3iwoRpbjDDaibzOCO4x57U70OZQH9uAOF60E1puFi4TXzFI>



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# Group pushes waste management to prevent floods

[Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 25, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental health group EcoWaste Coalition is reiterating its call to the public for ecological solid waste management in Metro Manila to prevent floods. “We all know that Metro Manila is vulnerable to flooding due to its inherent geographical characteristics that are aggravated by other factors such as the recklessly thrown garbage clogging up the inadequate urban drainage system,” said Jove Benosa, zero waste campaigner.

EcoWaste cited government data from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), which showed that over 30 truckloads of garbage are collected daily from the 57 pumping stations operating all over the metropolis.

“While we cannot do much to alter the region’s geography, we can surely help in mitigating the floods by preventing plastics and other discards, including COVID-related waste such as used face masks, from spilling into the storm drains and waterways,” Benosa said.

The group stressed that the strict observance of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, in every household and community will avoid garbage from being produced, littered and dumped in streets, vacant lots, esteros and rivers.

“The honest-to-goodness implementation of waste separation at source, recycling, reusing and composting will not only mitigate flooding woes, but also curb leptospirosis, dengue and other water-borne diseases during the rainy season,” Benosa said.

He called on local government units to penalize those who “recklessly throw their trash anywhere without any sense of guilt or shame.”

RA 9003 bans the dumping of waste materials in streets, canals, esteros and other public places and penalizes such offenses with a fine of P300 to P1,000, community service ranging from one to 15 days or both.





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# Environmental group pushes for strict observance of waste law to help mitigate metro flooding

By Jeline Malasig - July 23, 2021 - 10:39 PM



A man wearing a face shield for protection against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) rides a bicycle on a flooded street in Manila, Philippines, July 21, 2021. (Reuters/Eloisa Lopez/File Photo)

An environmental health organization urged local government units (LGUs) to strictly implement waste management laws to help minimize the flooding in urban areas amid heavy monsoon rains.

**EcoWaste Coalition** renewed its call for waste prevention and reduction as floodwaters submerged metropolitan streets and affected residents, commuters and those lining up for [COVID-19 vaccines](#).

The **National Capital Region** experienced a continuous downpour of rains this week brought about by the southwest monsoon or “habagat” which was enhanced by a slow-moving tropical cyclone, Typhoon “**Fabian**.”

Another tropical cyclone outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility, Typhoon “Cempaka,” further enhanced the downpour.

These resulted in flash floods that inundated major roads in the metro such as Taft Avenue, Roxas Boulevard, areas around EDSA, parts of C5 and some streets in Makati, among others.

According to EcoWaste, strictly observing Republic Act 9003 or the **Ecological Solid Waste Management Act** can help mitigate the occurrence of floods.

“We all know that Metro Manila is vulnerable to flooding due to its inherent geographical characteristics that are aggravated by other factors such as the recklessly thrown garbage clogging up the inadequate urban drainage system,” **Jove Benosa**, the coalition’s Zero Waste Campaigner, said in a [release](#).

“While we cannot do much to alter the region’s geography, we can surely help in mitigating the floods by preventing plastics and other discards, including COVID-related waste such as used face masks, from spilling into the storm drains and waterways,” he added.



The coalition said that 17 LGUs of the capital region “generate close to 10,000 tons of trash every day.”

Citing the **Metro Manila Development Authority**, it added that over 30 truckloads of garbage are collected from the 57 pumping stations operating all over the metro.

The group said that the strict implementation of Republic Act 9003 in every household “will avoid garbage from being produced, littered and dumped in streets, vacant lots, esteros and rivers.”

The waste law promotes waste avoidance and volume reduction, segregation at source, reusing, recycling, composting and other best practices in ecological solid waste management, excluding incineration.

It also bans the dumping of waste materials in streets, canals, esteros and other public places and penalizes such offenses with a fine of P300 to P1,000, or one to 15-day community service, or both.

“The honest-to-goodness implementation of waste separation at source, recycling, reusing and composting will not only mitigate flooding woes, but also curb leptospirosis, dengue and other water-borne diseases during the rainy season,” Benosa said.

“LGUs should determinedly enforce the salient provisions of R.A. 9003, including penalizing those who recklessly throw their trash anywhere without any sense of guilt or shame,” he added.





## DOST partners with local inventor to treat medical waste in Davao

BY MANUEL CAYON JULY 25, 2021



DAVAO CITY—Nine years ago, local inventor Roderick S. Dayot presented his project Pyroclave, a low-cost thermal processor for the treatment of infectious medical waste, at a regional science and technology fair here.

In 2015, Pyroclave won the Most Outstanding Invention award at the Regional Invention Contest and Exhibit of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). A year later, it was adjudged the Second Most Outstanding Invention at the DOST's National Invention Contest and Exhibit.

Pyroclave soon got the attention of the World Health Organization (WHO) and landed a slot for a competitive presentation in Silicon Valley, the world's technology homeland. In 2018, the product received commercial break in Saudi Arabia to treat its medical waste on a national scale.

Today, Dayot's innovative concept in treating infectious waste from hospitals has come full circle with his new design of a medical waste treatment and processor called Nitro-sterile.

### Covid-related waste

MANUFACTURED by Bluelander Environmental Services, a company Dayot founded, Nitro-sterile has been given the green light by the DOST Davao Region to treat medical waste that had piled up due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

To address the problem on medical waste management and disposal, DOST said in a statement that it "[has] partnered with Bluelander Environmental Services, a private company in Davao City that provides affordable and environment-friendly services in medical waste management and treatment to meet the needs of hospitals and clinics."

"As cases continue to rise, the national and local governments have [doubled their] efforts in promoting mass vaccination to achieve herd immunity against Covid-19. During the vaccination rollouts, tons of Covid-related waste are collected, [with] thousands of syringes and needles thrown away after," the DOST said.

The company uses a technology called Nitro-sterile, wherein medical waste, such as used syringes and needles, undergo the thermal treatment process through sterilization.

### US-patented machine

NITRO-STERILE is a US-patented machine that sterilizes medical waste in an oxygen-free chamber filled with pressurized high temperature nitrogen that disinfects and shreds medical, clinical and pathological wastes into a very fine and unrecognizable material.



Following the sterilization process, the medical waste is disposed to a special waste cell, similar to a sanitary landfill.

“Our machines can reduce the volume of medical waste by 60 percent,” Dayot said.

“By regulation, medical waste is hazardous waste. Even if it is sterilized, you cannot dispose it in any sanitary landfill. It should be [placed] in a special waste cell and cannot be recycled according to RA [Republic Act] 6969 [Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990],” he said.

## Managing medical waste

DAYOT, who is also president of Radicor Solutions, said that “if we manage the medical waste properly, we can prevent the spread of disease.”

Dayot told the BusinessMirror in an e-mail message that “medical waste from the waste generators, such as hospitals, clinics and Covid-19 vaccination centers, are collected by a registered hazardous-waste transporter, [which] goes to a waste treater for proper treatment and disposal.”

“For the present operation, we partnered with [Manila-based] Klad Environmental, a registered waste transporter, to collect the waste in Davao,” he said.

He said Bluelander Environmental Services “is still in the stage of completing the requirements for operation with the DENR-EMB [Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau]” as it targets to operate before the end of 2021.

## Environment-friendly technology

“AS the manufacturer of Nitro-sterile, we have machines available for our operations in Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga, Iloilo, Antique and Silay City in Negros Occidental,” he said.

Six machines are currently used to treat medical waste in different hospitals in Iloilo, Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro, according to Dayot.

He said the absence of an environment-friendly technology in the medical waste industry inspired him to produce the Nitro-sterile, which has “no burning [involved] and does not produce any odor or emission.”

“This machine replaces other technologies, such as incinerators, autoclaves and microwaves, which are expensive, energy- and water-intensive and dangerous to operators who are near the machine,” Dayot said.

“It is also an affordable technology since it uses nitrogen, an inert gas that is cheap and readily available,” he said.

Image courtesy of <https://radicorsolutions.com>



# Masungi Georeserve group enraged over shooting of two forest rangers

Published July 25, 2021, 1:07 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Masungi Georeserve conservation organization reported late Saturday night, July 24, the shooting of two of its forest rangers at their reforestation site in Sitio San Roque, Barangay Pinugay, Baras, Rizal.



(Photos from Masungi Georeserve Facebook page)

A Facebook post from the non-profit environmental conservation group said the attack took place at around 9 p.m. Saturday.

The victims weren't identified but photos of them on their respective hospital beds were shared on the post.

"One ranger was shot in the head and the other was shot in the neck. They are now being treated with first aid and are preparing transfer to another hospital," the organization said.

"We are devastated and enraged by this heinous act of violence and attempted murder against forest defenders. We are calling for justice and protection for our team who risk their lives to defend our watersheds and forests 24/7," it said.

The organization noted that it had been receiving "various threats, intimidations, and harassments from disgruntled violators" for the past few months. They said they have reported these to concerned authorities.

"We are disturbed that this atrocity could happen in an area where a Special Action Forces station is just around the corner," it said.

"We beg for immediate security assistance and action against land grabbers, professional quatters, and illegal encroachers inside the Upper Marikina Watershed," it further said.

It was only last month when the environmental protectors discovered blatant tree-cutting in the critical watershed during an on-the-ground inspection. They noted the presence of "suspicious people" in the area.

"The GSB resort and entities illegally occupying forest land were recently closed or were recommended to be filed charges against by government, following our reports about illegal activities," the organization said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/25/masungi-georeserve-group-enraged-over-shooting-of-two-forest-rangers/>





TINGNAN: Isang pawikan ang natagpuang patay sa baybayin ng Purok 4, Barangay Bagacay, Calbayog City, Samar Biyernes.

Hinihinalang napadpad sa lugar ang patay na pawikan dahil sa malakas na alon dulot ng hanging habagat.

Iniimbestigahan na ang sanhi ng pagkamatay ng pawikan, na inilibing na. (🗣️: Kabalikat Civicom 427 Calbayog Chapter) | via Ranulfo Docdocan

BASAHIIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../2-pawikan-nasagip-sa...>



J EM Mendoza and 1.2K others

58 Comments 54 Shares



# Climate change increases the risks of catching illnesses

BY **BMPLUS** JULY 24, 2021



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

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

The effects of climate change resulted in the rise in cases of dehydration and heatstroke. At the same time, floods facilitated the spread of Cholera and the introduction of Dengue fever and the Zika virus disease in temperate countries like France, Spain, and Croatia.

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

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

Malayan Insurance Co. Inc. has rolled out Vital Cover, an insurance plan to help manage the ill effects of modern-day diseases like Dengue, Chikungunya, Coronavirus 2019 (Covid19), as well as accidents.

Vital Cover is a 5-in-1 Covid19 cash assistance product that provides loss of life and hospitalization cover to Covid19. It also provides insurance protection against accidents, and hospitalization for Dengue or Chikungunya.

Malayan Insurance vice chairperson Yvonne S. Yuchengco meanwhile warned that climate change is a global crisis with disturbing health implications.

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



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

The diagnosis of the Dengue disease alone qualifies the policyholder for the Dengue cash aid, with no confinement needed. Furthermore, Dengue Cash also includes coverage for death and disability due to accidents. The product protects minors and senior citizens up to 70 years old. Malayan Insurance is a member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies (YGC).





## G20 environment ministers' summit kicks off in Italy

July 23, 2021 13 min read

NAPLES, Italy – A meeting of the environment and energy ministers of the Group of 20 rich nations began Thursday in Naples hosted by Italy, the rotating president of the G20.

The ministers, along with representatives of relevant organizations, met at the historic Royal Palace of Naples to hold discussions and seek solutions on the issues of biodiversity loss and pollution, degradation of agricultural land, desertification, and unsustainable use of water and other natural resources.

Italy's Ecological Transition Minister Roberto Cingolani welcomed the ministers.

The summit is being held in unprecedented circumstances that require heartfelt, joint and urgent global action, he said in his opening speech.

Noting it is impossible to ignore scientific reports on climate change indicators, he said the tragic weather events the world has witnessed in recent months and days show the climate system is experiencing serious problems.

Cingolani said the same applies to ecosystems and biodiversity.

He said the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic is also disrupting societies and economies, adding they must fight together against these two tests, both the impact from the outbreak and the climate crisis.

At the two-day summit, participants will evaluate international developments and discuss sustainable policies on nature conservation.

Speaking at the first session, Turkey's Environment and Urbanization Minister Murat Kurum said Turkey continues its fight against climate change resolutely, but a country cannot continue this struggle alone.

"Climate change and pollution know no borders. So we have to act collectively in the fight against climate change and environmental problems," Kurum said.

"As Turkey, we conduct scientific research to protect our biological diversity. By increasing our protected areas' size to 11 percent, we saved all our living and non-living assets and rivers from the danger of pollution and extinction. We continue our work to increase this above 17 percent, which is the average rate in Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries," he said.



Kurum underlined that in the coming period, Turkey will host the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and will assume the presidency of the conference for two years.

“In this process, Turkey will play a leading role in the steps to be taken towards the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity,” he added.

Kurum was expected to make another speech later in the day at the session on “Joint Efforts for Sustainable and Cyclical Resource Utilization.”

The G20 ministers will also meet in Naples on Friday on fighting climate change, developing a common vision in energy, and strengthening areas of cooperation.

Kurum will attend both meetings with a technical delegation consisting of the relevant ministries.

## Protests

Due to the G20 meeting, security measures were increased in Naples and about 2,200 security guards were deployed.

Some environmental groups were expected to hold protests at different points throughout the day in the city.

In the morning, a group of environmental activists blocked an intersection on the A3 highway in the east of the city to traffic, Italian media reported.

The protesters argued that the G20 is acting “hypocritically” on the issue of the environment and only protects the interests of multinationals. (Anadolu)



# Lindol sa Batangas walang koneksiyon sa Taal

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 25, 2021 - 12:00am



Ayon kay Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum, ang malakas na lindol ay dulot ng pagkilos ng Manila Trench na bunga ng pagsisiksikan ng mga bato sa ilalim ng lupa.

MANILA, Philippines — Walang kinalaman sa pag-aalboroto ng bulkang Taal sa ang naganap na malakas na pagyanig kahapon na sumentro sa Calatagan, Batangas.

Ayon kay Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum, ang malakas na lindol ay dulot ng pagkilos ng Manila Trench na bunga ng pagsisiksikan ng mga bato sa ilalim ng lupa.

“Ang lindol kanina 4:48 ng madaling araw ay sanhi ng pagkilos ng Manila Trench kung saan bloke ng bato na galing sa West Philippine Sea ay sumusuksok pailalim at umaabot sa areas ng Calatagan at Mindoro. Ito ay walang kinalaman sa volcanic activity ng Taal at madalas na nangyayari. Minsan, ang mga lindol dito sa ilalim ng Calatagan ay nararamdaman sa Metro Manila,” paliwanag ni Solidum.

Pero itinanggi ni Solidum na ang nangyaring malakas na lindol ay simula na ng tinatawag na ‘the big one.’

Niliwanag din ni Solidum na naibaba na nila sa Alert level 2 mula sa Alert level 3 ang Taal dahil sa isang araw ay dumadalang na ang pagyanig sa bulkan.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Solidum na kahit hindi gaanong matindi ang pag-aalboroto ng Taal sa ngayon ay hindi dapat maging kampante ang publiko dahil kung minsan ang pananahimik ng bulkan ay bahagi ng pag-iipon ng lakas para sa isang pagsabog.

Kahit nasa alert level 2 na ngayon ang Taal, pinagbabawal pa rin ng Phivolcs ang pagpasok ng sinuman sa Taal Volcano island dahil sa panganib na maaaring idulot ng bulkan oras na may maganap ditong pagsabog.





Photo shows a pedestrian crossing a flooded Taft Avenue in Manila following continuous rains yesterday.

Krizjohn Rosales, file

## Monsoon floods cities; thousands evacuated

[Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 25, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities moved thousands of residents of Metro Manila out of their low-lying communities yesterday as heavy monsoon rain, compounded by Typhoon Fabian, flooded the capital region and nearby provinces.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said 14,023 people, most of them from Marikina City, were moved to evacuation centers.

A total of 3,411 families in the city were relocated to 29 evacuation centers.

In Rizal, about 1,500 individuals sought shelter in six evacuation centers in the province.

In Quezon City, some 400 families have evacuated since Friday due to flooding brought about by heavy monsoon rains. Most of the evacuees were from Barangay Bagong Silangan, with 317 families staying in five evacuation centers as of yesterday noon.

Another 20 families evacuated in Barangay Batasan Hills, 18 in Tatalon, 13 in Roxas, 10 each in Doña Imelda and Masambong, seven in Damayang Lagi, four in Holy Spirit and one in Apolonio Samson.

The city's disaster risk reduction and management council had initiated preemptive evacuation in low-lying areas in anticipation of possible flooding due to the heavy downpour.

The Ateneo de Manila University has opened its facilities to employees, faculty and students who may need to evacuate due to flooding.

Members of the university community who need temporary shelter may proceed to their respective school buildings or at the Loyola Schools area, the Ateneo said in an advisory.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said that the southwest monsoon is seen to still bring rains over most parts of the country even with the exit of Typhoon Fabian from the Philippine area of responsibility early yesterday morning. Moderate to heavy and at times intense rains are forecast over Metro Manila, Ilocos Region, Abra, Benguet, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas and Mindoro provinces.



The rest of the country will also see cloudy skies with rainshowers or thunderstorms due to the monsoon.

PAGASA warned that continued rains may bring scattered to widespread flooding and rain-induced landslides, especially in high-risk areas.

“We ask residents of affected areas to remain alert and vigilant, take precautionary measures and cooperate with their respective local authorities,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in a statement.

Harsh weather has hit several parts of the world in recent weeks, bringing floods to China, India and Western Europe and heat waves to North America, raising new fears about the impact of climate change.

The Philippines, a Southeast Asian archipelago of more than 7,600 islands, sees about 20 tropical storms a year but a warmer Pacific Ocean will make storms more powerful and bring heavier rain, meteorologists say.

The Philippines is also grappling with one of the worst outbreaks of COVID-19 in Asia and has tightened curbs to prevent the spread of the more infectious Delta variant.

Roque said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was busy clearing debris and landslides from roads in the provinces.

“Some houses were flooded up to the roof,” Oriental Mindoro Gov. Humerlito Dolor told dzMM radio.

In some parts of Metro Manila, floodwaters, in places waist-deep, cut off roads to light vehicles. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reported gutter-deep flooding along EDSA, particularly on the northbound lane of EDSA Shrine, northbound of EDSA Ortigas, southbound of EDSA POEA and in the tunnel at EDSA Pasong Tamo.

Parts of Elliptical Road, Quezon Ave., Araneta Ave., Amoranto in Quezon City were also heavily flooded. Heavy flooding was also reported in the Zapote Junction in Las Piñas.

In Makati City, waist-deep flood was reported Friday night along Magallanes service road. Flooding was also reported along Roxas Boulevard, particularly the stretch between Pedro Gil and Quirino.

Several streets in Taguig City became impassable to light vehicles due to flooding. Waist-deep flood was reported along Maranao and Rugah Streets in Barangay Maharlika Village; and on Sahing, Eucalyptus, PLNR, Katipunan, Sampaguita and Dalanghita Streets in Barangay West Bicutan.

Knee-deep flood was reported along Pindaton Street in Barangay Maharlika Village; J. Ramos and JBL Streets in Barangay Ibayo Tipas; Ally Street and Sapang Bejo in Barangay Ligid Tipas; and Bautista, Navarro, Victoria Streets in Brgy. San Miguel.

The city government earlier advised motorists to avoid Bagong Sikat in Barangay Sta. Ana where flood 21 inches deep was reported. In Barangay Bambang, 15-inch deep flood was reported.

Amid heavy rain, a water tank owned by Prime Water inside a village in Caloocan City collapsed at dawn yesterday, leaving two people injured and five houses and 10 cars damaged along Lilac Street in Palmera Springs Phase 1 village in Barangay 175.



One of the injured, Arnold Ongchanco, recalled seeing the water tank “explode.”

The heavy downpour also forced the Caloocan City government to cancel the scheduled COVID-19 vaccination yesterday. Only those already at vaccination sites early morning were given jabs.

The Philippine Coast Guard, meanwhile, rescued 200 families or nearly 600 residents in Cavite from fast rising floodwaters in Naic and Noveleta, Cavite yesterday.

In a statement, the PCG said its personnel rescued 99 families or 359 residents of Barangay Bucana Sasahan, Naic, Cavite after they got trapped in their homes due to rising floodwaters.

The PCG also said 334 residents rescued were brought to the Bucana Sasahan Elementary School at Pueblo Del Mar National High School while six families or 25 residents were brought to the Barangay Hall of Bucana Malaki, Naic.

PCG also reported rescuing 88 families or 234 residents of Ternate and Noveleta, Cavite. – **Ralph Villanueva, Robertzon Ramirez, Ghio Ong, Janvic Mateo, Ric Sapnu, Ramon Efen Lazaro, Emmanuel Tupas**





# 3K families evacuated as Marikina River water level rises

By Priam Nepomuceno July 24, 2021, 11:19 am



**RIVER ALERT.** The water level of the Marikina River has reached 16.4 meters as of 10 a.m. on Saturday (July 24, 2021). About 3,000 families have been evacuated in communities near the river as heavy monsoon rains continue to drench Metro Manila and most of Luzon. *(Screengrab from PTV video)*

**MANILA** – About 3,077 families living in communities near the Marikina River have been evacuated as its water level continued to rise due to the heavy monsoon rains, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Saturday.

In a message to reporters, Mark Cashean Timbal, NDRRMC deputy spokesperson, said this is equivalent to 13,225 individuals seeking shelter in 28 evacuation centers in Marikina City.

Timbal said the evacuees came from the city's flood-prone and low-lying communities.

As of 10 a.m. Saturday, the Marikina River's water level has reached 16.4 meters, prompting authorities to raise Alert Level 2, which encourages affected residents to evacuate to higher grounds.

"Other LGUs who have communities along the connected river systems are monitoring the situations and (they are) also ready in case there is a need to evacuate," he added.

Timbal said flooding has also been reported in Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Taytay towns in Rizal.

Taytay has reported 29 families or about 121 persons staying in three evacuation centers; San Mateo with 45 or 216 individuals in one evacuation center; and Rodriguez with 365 families or 1,439 persons in six evacuation centers.

He said the information came from Rizal's Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office and is still for validation by the regional office of the Department for Social Welfare and Development.

The NDRRMC on Friday night met with other regional DRRMCs and line agencies to ensure the preparedness of all local government units regarding the southwest monsoon.

The meeting, which was done via video teleconference and headed by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, discussed the readiness of the response teams, evacuation management, preparations for evacuation centers, and across-the-board relief supplies, and reiterated the coronavirus protection protocols. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1148124>

25 JULY 2021, SUNDAY



**DENR**

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# PH logs 6.7K more Covid-19 recoveries

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **July 24, 2021, 6:12 pm**



**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) reported 6,778 more recoveries, pushing the country's total recovery count to 1,461,749 as of Saturday.

In its latest case bulletin, the agency also logged 6,216 new infections and 241 deaths, bringing the number of active cases and death toll to 54,401 and 27,131, respectively.

"The technical issue reported about COVIDKaya has been resolved. The unusually high number of deaths reported today can be attributed to a backlog of cases being updated after the resolution of the system error," the DOH said.

Out of the 45,592 individuals tested since July 22, DOH said 13 percent or at least 5,926 turned out positive for SARS-CoV-2.

The DOH noted that all laboratories were operational on July 22 but two were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System (CDRS).

Since the pandemic started, the country has so far recorded 1,543,281 in total confirmed cases -- 3.5 percent are undergoing treatment, 94.7 percent are recoveries, while 1.76 percent are fatalities.

Of the overall active cases, DOH said 93.4 percent have mild symptoms, 1.2 percent are asymptomatic. 1.4 percent are critical, 2.3 percent are severe, while 1.62 percent are moderate.

To date, the country's intensive care unit beds are 56 percent occupied, including the 48 percent of dedicated isolation beds and 45 percent of ward beds for Covid-19 patients.

In the National Capital Region, in use are 45 percent of the ICU beds, 40 percent of the isolation beds, and 35 percent of the ward beds. **(PNA)**





Mandaluyong residents are seen in this July 14, 2021 photo waiting to get their COVID-19 vaccine at a mall.

The STAR/Boy Santos, file

## 17 more Delta variant cases detected

[Sheila Crisostomo](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 25, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The number of the highly transmissible Delta variant COVID-19 cases rose to 64 yesterday, following the detection of 17 more cases, 12 of whom were locally infected, the Department of Health (DOH) said yesterday.

The DOH said the Philippine Genome Center (PGC) and the University of the Philippines-National Institute of Health had also sequenced 11 new cases of the Alpha variant, 12 of the Beta variant and two of the P.3 variant.

Among the new Delta variant cases, a dozen had no history of travel abroad, one is a returning overseas Filipino (ROF) and four are still being verified, said the DOH.

“Of the 12 local cases, nine had an indicated address in the National Capital Region (NCR) and three were in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon or Region 4A),” the DOH added.

But only three cases remain active as the other 14 are already recovered.

As of yesterday, the tally of Delta variant cases in the country was 64, of whom 35 are local cases spread among Central Luzon with six; Calabarzon, 5; Western Visayas 2; Northern Mindanao, 6 and NCR with 16.

In Bataan, Gov. Albert Garcia confirmed last Friday that it had six Delta variant cases and quoted the DOH that another six cases were spread among Laguna with two; Pasig City with 2 and Manila and Taguig cities with one each.

Warning his constituents that the Delta variant is five to eight times more contagious than the original COVID-19 strain, Garcia said urged those scheduled for vaccination not to miss their shots.

Provincial Health Office chief Rosanna Buccahan said contact tracing of those who came in close contact with the carriers of the variant is underway as they await further guidance from the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

### Variants

Meanwhile, DOH data showed that out of the 11 new Alpha variant cases detected in the country, 10 are local cases while one is currently being verified if this is a local or ROF case.



The DOH said based on the case line list, one remains active, seven cases have died and three cases have been tagged as recovered.

The Philippines has logged a total of 1,679 cases of the Alpha variant first detected in the United Kingdom.

On the other hand, the 10 new Beta variant cases in the country are local while the three additional cases are currently being verified if they are local or ROF cases, the DOH said.

One of the cases is still active, two have died and 10 have recovered.

The Beta variant, first detected in South Africa, has been found in 1,840 COVID-19 cases in the Philippines.

For the local P.3 variant, the two new cases have both been tagged as recovered, bringing to 235 the total cases detected in the county.

In Ilocos Sur, Governor Ryan Singson confirmed the presence of both the Alpha and Beta variants of COVID-19.

Citing the DOH report he received, Singson said the province has six Alpha variant cases spread among Vigan City with three; Cabugao with two and Sta. Cruz with one.

Of the five Beta variant cases in the province, three were detected in Cabugao and two in Vigan.

#### Barge crew

In another development, the DOH said samples taken from five infected seafarers from M/V Tug Clyde and Barge Claudia – docked off the shores of Albay – have been included in the next batch of whole genome sequencing to be conducted by PGC.

The DOH has reiterated the need to “ensure active case finding, aggressive contact tracing, increased risk-based and targeted testing and the immediate isolation/quarantine of suspect/probable cases and close contacts” to contain the spread of variants.

“The public is advised to strictly adhere to the minimum public health standards, get vaccinated and complete their doses as scheduled,” it said. – **Ric Sapnu, Artemio Dumlaog**



Residents receive a dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at FilOil Flying V Center in San Juan City on July 21, 2021.

The STAR/Boy Santos

## COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines cross 27,000

(Philstar.com) - July 24, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Saturday reported 6,216 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,543,281.

- **Active cases:** 54,401 or 3.5% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 6,778, pushing total to 1,461,749
- **Deaths:** 241, bringing total to 27,131

The Department of Health said the "technical issue" which prevented it from recording COVID-19 deaths yesterday has since been resolved.

"The unusually high number of fatalities reported today can be attributed to a backlog of cases being updated after the resolution of the system error," it said.

More Delta variant cases detected with just 5% of Filipinos vaccinated

- Local authorities on Saturday said they **detected** 17 more cases of the highly infectious Delta variant of COVID-19 in the country.
- Twelve of the new Delta variant cases were classified as local, nine of whom had indicated addresses in Metro Manila, the Department of Health said.
- The pandemic task force will hold an "**emergency**" meeting called by President Rodrigo Duterte later tonight over the local transmission of the Delta variant which was confirmed by the DOH two days ago.
- The Philippines has fully vaccinated only 5.09% of its population against COVID-19, **the latest government data showed**.
- Authorities touted that they administered a "milestone" 472,356 vaccines on Thursday, inching closer to their target of 500,000 shots in arms per day or 3 million per week.
- They have just a little over four months left to meet their target of fully inoculating another 64.91% — for a total of 70% — of the population to achieve herd immunity.

— Bella Perez-Rubio

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/24/2114872/covid-19-deaths-philippines-cross-27000>





# Metro Manila balik sa mas mahabang curfew

By [Ludy Bermudo](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 25, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Benhur Abalos Jr. na napagkasunduan nila kahapon (Sabado) sa pagpupulong ng Metro Manila Council (MMC) na may 9 na mula sa dating tatlo lamang ng local case ng Delta variant sa Metro Manila ang naitala ng Department of Health (DOH).  
The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Balik simula ngayon araw (Hulyo 25) ang mas mahabang curfew hours sa Metro Manila matapos na ipairal uli dito ang general community quarantine (GCQ) with heightened restrictions dahil sa banta ng COVID-19 Delta variant.

Sinabi ni Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Benhur Abalos Jr. na napagkasunduan nila kahapon (Sabado) sa pagpupulong ng Metro Manila Council (MMC) na may 9 na mula sa dating tatlo lamang ng local case ng Delta variant sa Metro Manila ang naitala ng Department of Health (DOH).

Sa pahayag ni Abalos, ang bagong ipatutupad na curfew hours para sa National Capital Region ay mula alas-10:00 ng gabi hanggang alas-4 ng madaling araw.

Una nang iniksian ang ipinatutupad na curfew mula alas-12:00 ng madaling araw hanggang alas-4:00 ng madaling araw.

Ngunit dahil nga sa banta ng mga COVID variant partikular ang Delta variant at pagbabalik sa mas mahigpit na GCQ kaya napagpasyahan ng mga alkalde na muling pahabain ang curfew.

Aniya, dapat na mas maagap ngayong may local transmission na tumaas pa sa siyam ang Metro Manila dahil sa posibleng bilis na hawaan sa Delta variant.



# Children need to stay home amid threat of Delta variant

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#)(The Freeman) - July 24, 2021 - 12:00am



“Ang latest natin diyan ay hindi na muna natin papayagan sa ngayon... Dahil nagkaroon na tayo ng Delta variant, nagkaisa ang IATF na iatras muna itong resolution na ito,” said Health Secretary Francisco Duque in an interview with Teleradyo on Friday.

CEBU, Philippines — Amidst the threat of the dreaded Delta variant of the coronavirus and with spikes of new cases across the country, the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines has decided to withdraw its decision to allow children as young as five years old to go outdoors.

“Ang latest natin diyan ay hindi na muna natin papayagan sa ngayon... Dahil nagkaroon na tayo ng Delta variant, nagkaisa ang IATF na iatras muna itong resolution na ito,” said Health Secretary Francisco Duque in an interview with Teleradyo on Friday.

Earlier, IATF passed Resolution No. 125, which allows children five years old and above to go outdoors in areas under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) and general community quarantine (GCQ).

But Duque said the country must not be complacent especially that some areas are seeing surges in new cases anew, Central Visayas included.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has described the Delta variant as “highly transmissible” and with an immune escape mechanism.

Dr. Mary Jean Loreche, chief pathologist of the Department of Health (DOH) in Central Visayas, said an immune escape mechanism means it is possible for these different variants to infect an individual even though the individual has been vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Delta variant is what is being blamed for the resurgence of cases in countries across the world.

## Travel restriction

Aside from the decision on the children, IATF also decided to prohibit travelers from either Thailand and Malaysia from entering the Philippines beginning July 25 to 31.

“President Rodrigo Roa Duterte approved the travel restrictions for all travelers coming from Malaysia and Thailand or those with travel history to Malaysia and Thailand within the last 14 days preceding arrival in the Philippines,” Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in a press statement.

Filipinos who are part of repatriation efforts or special commercial flights are not covered by the travel restrictions but it is necessary for them to undergo a 14-day quarantine period and get an RT-PCR Test.



## No delta variant in CV

While Central Visayas is seeing a resurgence of cases in July, particularly Cebu and Bohol, Loreche said no case of Delta variant has been detected in the region, so far.

“Wala pa po tayong Delta Variant na galing sa atin o kaya pumasok sa atin sa ngayon,” Loreche said.

CV has sent a total of 1,098 samples for genomic sequencing to the Philippine Genomic Center (PGC) since late January and these samples turned out negative of the variant.

Cebu City is also not taking chances, especially with the 211 new cases it recorded on Thursday, July 22, 2021.

Councilor Joel Garganera, head of the city’s Emergency Operations Center, said they are dealing with the situation as if the Delta variant is already in the city.

“Para kanako, expect the worst... Gi-kundisyon na namo among self diri... Dili kay manguros ta kay nagkilat na,” he said.

The city police are deploying men at inner areas of barangays to monitor implementation of health protocols and commercial establishments have been reminded anew to observe these protocols strictly.

The city also intensified its contact tracing efforts and prepared its isolation centers anew.

As of Friday, July 23, Cebu City’s active cases are at 1,480 while total deaths in July have increased to 23.

In DOH’s own monitoring, Cebu City has 1,748 active cases, including 211 new ones, the most number in a day since March 13.

Still based on DOH data, neighboring Mandaue City has 560 active cases while Lapu-Lapu City has 764. Cebu Province has 1,407 active cases.

## Fewer violators

Meanwhile, the Cebu City Police Office has observed fewer protocol violators in the last two days.

Lt. Colonel Wilbert Parilla, deputy director for operations, the average number of violators went down to 120 on July 22 from the previous average of 150 in a day.

“Karon, nagkagamay. Nakita sab nila nga himsug ang atong pagmonitor sa mga violation. Mas maayo nga mupadayon nga mugamay nasad ang mugawas kay less gyud ang tsansa nga matakdan kung gamay ra ang mag-suroy-suroy,” Parilla said.

As of Friday, July 23, Barangay Guadalupe has the most number of active cases at 163 followed by Lahug at 97 and Tisa at 67. Sixty-one of the city’s 80 barangays have active cases. Parilla said that based on recent monitoring, most of the new infections happened at workplaces.

“Ang mga nag-positive, kato mga empleyado nga gipa-swab and then nagsunod-sunod na sya... Just like sa Guadalupe nga usa ka kompanya, nag-gikan sa ilang amo, then naapektuhan ang iyang mga emplyado, so ni-spread,” he said. - **Brigida**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2021/07/24/2114842/children-need-stay-home-amid-threat-delta-variant/amp/>



# Delta variant highly potent but can be beaten: IATF expert

**ABS-CBN News**

Posted at Jul 25 2021 12:10 AM | Updated as of Jul 25 2021 12:58 AM

MANILA -- The COVID-19 Delta variant is 60 percent more transmissible compared to previous variants, making the virus more potent and deadly, a medical expert said on Saturday.

Dr. Edsel Salvaña, a member of the IATF Technical Advisory Group, said however that the Delta variant can be beaten by adhering to minimum health standards like social distancing, the use of face masks and face shields, and getting vaccinated.

"(The Delta variant) is three times more contagious than the original SARS COV-2 virus," said Salvaña in his presentation during an IATF meeting with President Duterte which was aired on Saturday night.

"Ang nakakatakot sa Delta... it can infect up to eight people (around him) and those eight can infect another eight kaya nakikita natin sa India, sa Indonesia ang bilis bilis ng spread."

Once a person is infected by the virus, he said, it only takes 30 hours for the patient to transmit the disease to another person.

"Dati, it takes about three days bago ka makahawa ng tao, ngayon 30 hours lang pwede ka nang makahawa," said Salvaña. "(At) 'yung sinasabi nating close contact na 15 minutes... ngayon 1-2 minutes lang pwede nang makahawa."

But Salvaña remained optimistic the government is taking the right approach to curb the spread of the COVID Delta variant.

"It is beatable with our minimum health standards," he said. "Face shield, face mask, physical distancing and of course we have to vaccinate everyone. We need to make sure na maglevel up ang ating compliance because the variant has levelled up."

Salvaña also noted that the government has been cautious in relaxing restrictions even as it pushes for an aggressive vaccination effort.

"Deaths going down in countries with high vaccination rates, so tama ang ginagawa natin. We're more cautious in our relaxing our measures, yung sa US nagtanggap na sila ng masks kahit mataas ang vaccination rate nila," he said.

"In the short term, we should continue to vaccinate as fast as possible, use our face masks and our face shields and hopefully we can avoid the surges that are facing our ASEAN neighbors po."





## Why we should be afraid of the Delta variant

JUL 24, 2021, 11:24 AM

Rose De La Cruz  
Columnist

***I feel so bad for the small children, like my grandson, who can't continue enjoying the outside world just because the inter-agency task force on managing emerging infectious diseases (IATF) ruled so because of the spiking cases of COVID19 and its deadly and highly-transmissible variant, the Delta variant.***

In my only one-day 'outside world' experience last Saturday, I saw hundreds of families with toddlers and even carriage-lying infants promenading (despite it being hot and humid that day) the whole stretch of the BGC open shopping-restaurant grounds—all wearing their face shields and masks (because security guards are so alert for those not complying with such health protocols). The families had the time of their lives—and yes even for just one weekend—because now the IATF wants children to again stay home.

The decision came after the Department of Health (DOH) confirmed the previous day the detection of local transmission of the highly contagious coronavirus variant in the country. For a brief period, IATF through Resolution No. 125, allowed children aged five and up outdoors in areas under general community quarantine (GCQ) and modified GCQ.

Here are some reasons given by Dr. Kavita Patel, a contributor for Yahoo News, for fearing the Delta variant, which some experts have called “the most troubling variant by far” because of its high transmissibility.

According to the World Health Organization, the strain is about 60 percent more transmissible than B.1.1.7 — or the UK variant that was recently renamed Alpha-- which was the dominant strain of new cases in the United States until about a month ago.

The Delta variant first surged across India in March and April 2021 and pushed the country's COVID-19 death toll past 400,000, according to the Indian government. But researchers from Brown, Harvard and the Center for Global Development believe the number is much higher (up to 5 million deaths).

In the United States, in just three weeks Delta progressed to dominance and now makes up approximately 83 percent of new cases in the country.

Patel said this is just an estimate, and experts believe that number may be higher due to Delta's ability to replicate faster. “We now have mounting evidence that the Delta strain itself reproduces in people's nasal passages, mouth and body faster, up to 1,200 times higher than previous coronavirus strains,” she wrote in Yahoo News.



This knowledge comes from a recent scientific paper that has yet to be peer-reviewed from China where scientists examined 62 cases of the Delta variant and found viral loads about 1,260 times higher than those found in 63 cases from when the virus was first detected in 2020. Based on this research, Delta also appears to be more infectious earlier in the course of illness, with an average of about four days for it to reach detectable levels inside a person, compared with six days for the original coronavirus variant.

Is it more dangerous?

Although Delta is more transmissible than other variants, it does not appear to be more severe as one study from Scotland showed the Delta variant to be twice as likely as Alpha (UK variant) to result in hospitalization in unvaccinated individuals, but other data has shown no significant difference.

Patel said research is ongoing to determine whether the strain leads to higher-than-expected deaths or hospitalizations.

Pandemic of the unvaccinated

Unvaccinated people are at risk. Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said at a COVID-19 briefing on Friday that “this is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.”

Walensky said that more than 97 percent of people hospitalized with COVID-19 today are unvaccinated. Dr. Vivek Murthy, the surgeon general, said on Sunday that 99.5 percent of Americans who are dying are those who didn’t get the jab.

While nearly half of the entire US. population (48 percent) is fully vaccinated, the level of protection varies widely across and within states. Areas where vaccination rates are low are the most vulnerable now. To know how your county ranks, the CDC just released a new tool that maps vaccination rates along with what it calls the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI). The SVI uses data on housing, transportation, and poverty to estimate which communities are most vulnerable to disasters or disease outbreaks.

Counties with low vaccination rates and higher social vulnerability scores (red on the map) have more reasons to worry about Delta’s impact on their communities than counties with higher vaccination rates and lower social vulnerability scores (blue on the map).

Hospitals across the country are also reporting that those who are hospitalized with the Delta variant tend to be younger than in previous COVID-19 waves.

“I’m admitting young healthy people to the hospital with very serious COVID infections,” wrote Dr. Brytney Cobia, a doctor at Grandview Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala., in a poignant Facebook post Sunday. “One of the last things they do before they’re intubated is beg me for the vaccine. I hold their hand and tell them that I’m sorry, but it’s too late.”

Erik Frederick, chief administrative officer of Missouri’s Mercy Hospital Springfield, told Yahoo News that his hospital is also seeing younger patients who are sicker.

“Now we’re seeing patients that are really in a younger category, and when we think of our most critically ill patients, those that are on ECMO, which is a high level of intensive care, all those patients right now are in their mid- to younger 50s, and that’s really unusual. We’ve also had patients on ECMO and in the ICU in their 20s, and even expire in their 20s,” Frederick said. (ECMO is Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation that is effectively an artificial lung or heart. The technology saves up to half of the seriously ill Covid-19 patients for whom ventilation isn’t working anymore.



Kids are a concern as well. Even though Delta doesn't appear to be a greater threat to children, there have been recent reports of hospitals treating critically- ill kids with COVID-19. "We're seeing also with new cases a number of pediatric infections," said Patel. "We're only seeing about 1 percent of COVID cases leading to hospitalization, compared to 15 to 20 percent of adult cases leading to hospitalization. It's not at a higher rate than adult infections, but a great number of infections are in children."

The reason we're seeing cases in younger people, Patel said, is simply that almost 90 percent of older Americans, especially those over the age of 65, have had at least one dose of the vaccine. "In essence, they are no longer easy for the virus to infect, so the virus just goes to a population that it can, then it's infecting people who are not vaccinated, which tend to be younger people in general," Patel said.

### Delta symptoms

Patel said some of the symptoms being reported are classic COVID-19 symptoms, such as loss of smell, loss of taste, fever and a cough. However, Patel — who is a primary care physician — said doctors are also seeing symptoms they would normally see in a common cold and allergies, such as runny nose, headaches, sore throat and itchy eyes.

"Sometimes people think that they are allergies, and in many cases, they might be, but they're not necessarily those classic symptoms of a fever and loss of smell or taste. I'm encouraging anybody who has had symptoms of any kind that they do not normally experience, that they should go to a doctor or somewhere where they can get a rapid test to find out within minutes if they might have COVID," Patel said.

### Does Delta get into vaccinated person?

Those vaccinated might still catch Delta, but there's no reason to panic, because most people who do will experience fewer symptoms with less severity. There have been recent reports of fully vaccinated people testing positive for COVID-19. However, these breakthrough cases do not surprise or alarm doctors since they're not occurring at concerning levels and the vaccines available continue to hold up well against the Delta variant.

"If you are vaccinated, remember you are safe from death and hospitalization," said Patel.

"What we don't have data on is whether you get vaccinated, get a breakthrough infection, maybe have no symptoms, but you might pass it to someone who's unvaccinated. We are waiting for clinical data to confirm if that might be the case, which is why we're telling everyone if ... you've got unvaccinated people in your household, then you should make sure you take precautions," she added.

### What about children not yet eligible for the vaccines?

Children under age 12 are not yet eligible for any COVID-19 vaccine. Emergency use authorization of these shots for children may not come until midwinter, an FDA official said recently. Patel said the best thing you can do is "create a line of defense" for your children "by getting vaccinated yourself." Additionally, she recommends treating them as if they are extremely vulnerable to getting infected and avoiding congested areas, especially indoor spaces.

"Choose outdoor spaces [and other places] with great air ventilation, and then the quality of your masks matter for kids. You really want to try to just protect and cover their nose and mouth as efficiently as possible," Patel said.





Until there are widespread pediatric vaccinations, these tips will be important to keep children safe, especially going into the school year this fall. It is why, Patel said, the American Academy of Pediatrics made a very bold statement that any child over the age of 2, even those who are immunized over the age of 12, should be wearing a mask in school this fall.

## Protect yourself from Delta

Vaccines continue to be the strongest weapon against the virus. The most important thing to protect yourself and loved ones is to get fully vaccinated. That means two doses of the mRNA vaccines such as Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

All vaccine manufacturers have studied whether their shots are still effective against the Delta variant, and they are. Although in these analyses a small drop in potency compared with the vaccines' effectiveness against the original strain of the virus has been observed, especially in the Johnson & Johnson shot, all three still offer substantial protection against the virus. A Public Health England analysis showed that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, for example, is 88 percent effective against symptomatic disease and 96 percent effective against hospitalization from Delta.

To further protect their citizens, some areas of the country where cases are rising, such as L.A. County, have reimposed mask mandates for both unvaccinated and vaccinated people when indoors. These are measures that have been taken to mitigate the spread of Delta. However, some experts note that the quality of those masks will matter.

After declining sharply for months, coronavirus cases are climbing once again from the Delta variant. Although they remain well below peak levels, the US is now seeing about 30,000 new cases per day. The most recent seven-day average shows hospitalizations are also up by nearly 36 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Since the COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the variant — especially when it comes to preventing serious illness — health experts say the recent uptick in cases and hospitalizations is primarily due to localized outbreaks in areas of the country with low vaccination rates. Currently, some of the most concerning hot spots are in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Florida. In these areas, where infection levels have soared, some hospitals are struggling to keep pace as the Delta variant spreads.

However, an uptick in cases has now been reported in all 50 states, including areas of the country with a comparatively higher percentage of the population vaccinated.

Source: [https://opinyon.net/opinion/why-we-should-be-afraid-of-the-delta-variant?fbclid=IwAR2QZ\\_rQK6Rtq872ePiYROcRAIqNnohfn5BOAnDxicYpYZNPMA99q\\_WjraM](https://opinyon.net/opinion/why-we-should-be-afraid-of-the-delta-variant?fbclid=IwAR2QZ_rQK6Rtq872ePiYROcRAIqNnohfn5BOAnDxicYpYZNPMA99q_WjraM)

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