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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





## DENR pinuri ang streamlining land titling requirements law sa A&D agri lands



MANILA, Philippines – Pinuri ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang paglagda sa Republic Act (RA) 11573 na magsasaayos sa proseso ng land titling application ng alienable and disposable (A&D) agricultural lands.

“The DENR gladly welcomes the passage of RA 11573 into law. We have been aiming for this in order to relieve farmers on some of the requirements from existing land laws and accelerate titling in the country,” saad ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatú.

Sa press release nabatid na ang DENR-Legislative Affairs Group at DENR-Land Management Bureau (LMB) kasama ang public advocacy organization na Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF) ang nagtutulak sa streamlining ng land processing requirements simula pa noong 2020.

“Securing a land title goes beyond land ownership. It elevates the lives of our farmers through the increase in land productivity and promotes investments,” dagdag ni Cimatú.

Kaugnay nito sa kanyang panig, sinabi naman ni DENR-LMB Director Emelyne V. Talabis na ang bagong batas ay magbibigay ng importansiya na matapos ang agricultural land titling sa bansa sa mabilis na paraan.

“With this, we foresee potential untitled agricultural lands to be titled in the next 10 years,” sabi nito.

Ayon pa kay Talabis, ang DENR-LMB kasama ang FEF ay magsusumite ng 10-year Completion of the National Land Titling Program sa House of Representatives ngayong buwan.

Samantala sa kasalukuyan, ang DENR ay gumagawa ng implementing rules and regulations (IRR) ng RA 11573 upang matiyak na malalagdaan ito ni Cimatú sa loob ng 60-araw mula sa “official effectivity date” nito.

“Farmers will soon be able to apply for an agricultural free patent without a specific acceptance period once RA 11573 takes effect,” pagbibigay-diin ni Talabis.

“We advise applicants to await the issuance of the IRR before applying,” dagdag nito.

Noong Hulyo 16, 2021 nang lagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang RA 11573 o ang Act improving the confirmation process for imperfect land titles. **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/denr-pinuri-ang-streamlining-land-titling-requirements-law-sa-ad-agri-lands/?fbclid=IwAR2qOHtUDc9mwX7CBJUM6xFzTYLi6hIhfHvkl-i947bMsoRX8Nr14S5Rh8O>



## Removing ambiguity; Cimatu lauds law streamlining land titling requirements

AUG 25, 2021, 3:58 PM

Santiago Celario  
Writer



*"The DENR gladly welcomes the passage of RA 11573 into law. We have been aiming for this in order to relieve farmers on some of the requirements from existing land laws and accelerate titling in the country," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said*

**THE** Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has welcomed the signing of Republic Act (RA) 11573, which will significantly improve the land titling application processes for alienable and disposable (A&D) agricultural lands.

*"The DENR gladly welcomes the passage of RA 11573 into law. We have been aiming for this in order to relieve farmers on some of the requirements from existing land laws and accelerate titling in the country," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said.*

The DENR-Legislative Affairs Group and DENR-Land Management Bureau (LMB), together with the public advocacy organization Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF), have been pushing for the streamlining of land processing requirements since 2020.

*"Securing a land title goes beyond land ownership. It elevates the lives of our farmers through the increase in land productivity and promotes investments," Cimatu added.*

DENR-LMB Director Emelyne Talabis added that the new law gives importance to the completion of agricultural land titling in the country at a faster pace.

*"With this, we foresee potential untitled agricultural lands to be titled in the next 10 years," she said.*

Talabis said the DENR-LMB, together with the FEF, is set to submit the 10-year Completion of the National Land Titling Program to the House of Representatives this month.

The agency is currently drafting the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for RA 11573 to ensure that it would be signed by Cimatu within 60 days from its official effectivity date.

*"Farmers will soon be able to apply for an agricultural free patent without a specific acceptance period once RA 11573 takes effect," Talabis pointed out.*



*"We advise applicants to await the issuance of the IRR before applying," she added.*

On July 16, 2021, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed RA 11573, or the Act improving the confirmation process for imperfect land titles.

It amended Commonwealth Act No. 141, also known as the Public Land Act, and Presidential Decree No. 1529, otherwise known as the Property Registration Decree.

RA 11573 aims to "simplify, update and harmonize similar and related provisions of land laws in order to simplify and remove ambiguity in its interpretation and implementation."



## New law on land titling process hailed

posted August 25, 2021

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Wednesday expects a vast improvement in land titling application process for alienable and disposable lands with the approval of an enabling law Republic Act 11573.

“The Department of Environment and Natural Resources gladly welcomes the passage of RA 11573 into law. We have been aiming for this in order to relieve farmers on some of the requirements from existing land laws and accelerate titling in the country,” Cimatu said.

The agency’s Legislative Affairs Group and Land Management Bureau (LMB), along with the public advocacy organization Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF), batted for the streamlining of land processing requirements since 2020.

“Securing a land title goes beyond land ownership. It elevates the lives of our farmers through the increase in land productivity and promotes investments,” the DENR chief said.

Emelyne Talabis, LMB director, said the new law gives importance to the completion of agricultural land titling in the country at a faster pace.

“With this, we foresee potential untitled agricultural lands to be titled in the next 10 years,” she said.

LMB, along with the FEF, is set to submit a 10-year completion of the national land titling program to Congress this August.

DENR is currently drafting the implementing rules and regulations for RA 11573 to ensure that it would be signed by Cimatu within 60 days from its official effectivity date, Talabis said.

“Farmers will soon be able to apply for an agricultural free patent without a specific acceptance period once RA 11573 takes effect,” she added.





## [DENR, nais i-regulate ang pagbebenta ng chainsaw](#)

AUG 25, 2021, 12:39 PM

Santiago Celario  
Writer



*Tanging ang mga chainsaw na nabili sa DENR-accredited distributors, importers at sellers ang pinapayagang marehistro, at maaari ring kumpiskahin ang ipinagbabawal na chainsaw at unregistered sawmills kahit na walang warrant.*

Nagsagawa na ng konsultasyon ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) para sa regulasyon ng pagbili at pagbebenta ng chainsaws sa mga online selling platform.

Binigyang-diin ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na angpagbebenta ng chainsaws sa online ay hindi pinapayagan ng DENR sa ilalim ng Republic Act (RA) 9175 o ang Chainsaw Act of 2002

*"The public is advised to buy chainsaws only from DENR-authorized dealers and have them registered with the nearest DENR office. Those purchased from unauthorized sources like online platforms are deemed illegal and subject to confiscation even without a warrant," babala ni Cimatu.*

Sinabi ni Cimatu, ang pagbabawal na ipinatutupad ng gobyerno sa pagmamay-ari at paggamit ng chainsaws ay katulad ng ipinatutupad na batas sa pagbebenta at pagmamay-ari ng baril dahil ang pagkakaroon ng unregistered chainsaws ay isang criminal offense na may parusang pagkakakulong at multa.

Batay sa naturang batas, kinakailangang rehistrado ang chainsaws sa DENR.

Ang sinumang lalabag dito ay maaaring makulong ng anim na taon at ipag-multa ng P30,000.

*"Concerned citizens are urged to report suspected illegal possession, use or sale of unregistered chainsaws," apela ni Cimatu.*

Ayon kay DENR Assistant Secretary at Forest Management Bureau (FMB) Acting Director Marcial Amaro, Jr., ang DENR-FMB ay gumagawa na ng "workable options to prohibit online selling of chainsaws through a Joint Administrative Order in view of the requirements of RA 9175 and DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2003-24 on sale, ownership, and use of chainsaws."



Idinagdag pa ng DENR na nakapaloob sa DAO 2003-24 ang implementing rules and regulations (IRR) ng Chainsaw Act, at nakasaad dito kung sino lamang ang maaaring magbenta, gumawa at magmay-ari ng chainsaws.

Sa ilalim ng DAO 2003-24, tanging ang mga chainsaw na nabili sa DENR-accredited distributors, importers at sellers ang pinapayagang marehistro, at maaari ring kumpiskahin ang ipinagbabawal na chainsaw at unregistered sawmills kahit na walang warrant.

Ang DENR-FMB ay nakakumpiska na ng 2,970 chainsaws at iba pang gamit kabilang na ang 1,646 units ng conveyances na ginagamit sa pagbiyahe ng undocumented forest products hanggang sa taong 2020.

Sa Metro Manila, ang DENR-National Capital Region ay nakakumpiska na ng 22, chainsaws – 12 sa Quezon City; pito sa Caloocan; dalawa sa Malabon at isa sa Paranaque.



# Cimatu warns LGUs against improper waste disposal

Published August 25, 2021, 11:43 AM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has warned the local government units of Cebu City and Gapan City in Nueva Ecija over their reported negligence on solid waste management.

Cimatu said the two LGUs must seriously manage their waste management, or “face consequences” based on the existing laws and regulations on proper waste disposal.

“It has come to our attention that after closing the illegally operating dumpsites, there are LGUs that are not properly disposing of their solid waste,” Cimatu said in a statement, “We are warning these LGUs to seriously manage their wastes[,] or else face consequences of violating Republic Act 9003.”

Cimatu was referring to the Section 10 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which states that the collection of non-recyclable materials and special waste is the responsibility of the municipality or city and that the segregation and collection of solid waste shall be conducted at the barangay level, while waste shall be sorted according to type—biodegradable, compostable, and recyclables.

He issued the warning after a garbage transfer station and a dumpsite in the said areas were found mismanaging their garbage during inspections of various DENR officials.

In particular, DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, who led the closures of various dumpsites illegally operating, flagged a garbage transfer station in Cebu City, which was already ordered closed last month, for its “failure to transfer garbage to a sanitary landfill within 24 hours.”

“The pile of waste reached 10.8 meters high, which technically makes it an open dumpsite,” DENR said.

Also, in a July 26 report from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Region 3, a previously closed and rehabilitated dumpsite in Brgy. Macabaklay in Gapan City, Nueva Ecija, was discovered to have reopened and operated as an open dumpsite. While in Barangay Pambuan, a village in the same city, an “accumulation of solid waste which were directly in contact to the soil surface as well as infestation of flies” and “obnoxious odor” was also observed.

Although the EMB regional office immediately issued a notice of violation to the city government for the violation of RA 9003 and directed it “to cause the immediate closure and rehabilitation of the subject open dumpsite,” the LGU was not spared from DENR’s eye.

DENR urged local government units to put up their own sanitary landfills. If they are not capable of doing so, they are encouraged to cluster up with neighboring LGUs for the establishment of a clustered SLF, it added.

Currently, the agency has already shutdown at least 335 open dumpsites illegally operating in the country since the start of the 2021.

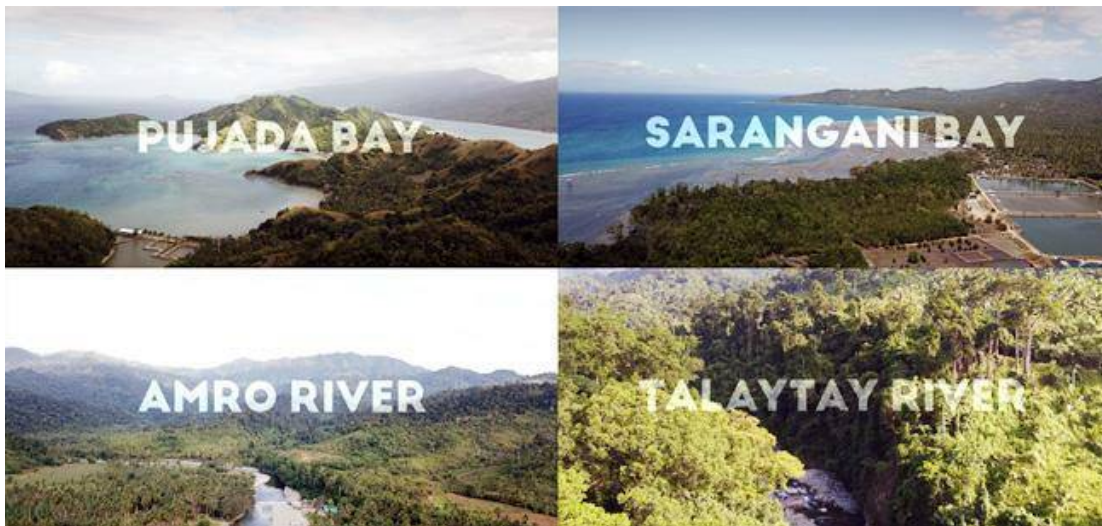
Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/25/cimatu-warns-lgus-against-improper-waste-disposal/>





## Learn from "Our Fragile Earth' Docuseries

by  [Village Connect](#) about 13 hours ago



Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu is encouraging Filipinos to watch the TV premiere of the third "Our Fragile Earth: Protected Areas of the Philippines" documentary series on Aug. 22 to learn more about the importance of conserving the country's rich biodiversity.

"It is a good opportunity to know more about our protected areas while we are temporarily unable to go outside. They would not only learn about these magnificent ecological sites; remembering that we have these in the country can increase our positive outlook in life," Cimatu said.

The documentary series, which is produced by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), aims to gain support from the government and non-government partners to enhance the conservation of protected areas in the Philippines.

The third installment of the "Our Fragile Earth" series will feature eight protected areas in Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Davao Region, and Soccsksargen namely, Dinadiawan River Protected Landscape, Talaytay Protected Landscape, Amro River Protected Landscape, Simbahan-Talagas Protected Landscape, Quezon Protected Landscape, Masinloc and Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape, Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape, and Pujada Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape.

Conceptualized and hosted by House Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda, the third part of the documentary series will premiere on ABS-CBN News Channel on Aug. 22 at 5:30 p.m.

"How can we conserve what we do not know about, what we do not understand? Our people's energies must be used to defend our natural heritage. We must all work together to conserve wildlife and nature and mitigate disasters worsened by climate change. Our survival also depends on how well we understand our surroundings," Legarda said.

The documentary series is one of Legarda's initiatives to promote ecological and sustainable tourism in all protected areas, especially those covered by the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas Systems Act of 2018 (ENIPAS Act) or Republic Act 11038.



"I principally authored the ENIPAS Act, which seeks to protect our protected areas. Its passage in 2018 would just be the beginning. Now that we already have the legal mechanism to protect these critical areas and prevent biodiversity loss, the challenge for us is to ensure its strict implementation as well as promoting awareness on the importance of conserving biodiversity and of the underlying threats to it," Legarda said.

Signed on June 22, 2018, the ENIPAS Act paved the way for the establishment of 94 protected areas in the country, increasing the number of legislated PAs to 107.

It also serves as a mechanism to strengthen climate change adaptation measures and mandates Filipinos to ensure the integrity of ecosystems of the country for the present and future generations.

For his part, DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns and BMB OIC Director Edilberto DC Leonardo said that protected areas are "unquestionably cradles of biodiversity."

"They have been set aside because of their immense biological significance and the ecosystem services they provide. In this series, we will introduce a new set of protected areas to the general public that highlight the role of nature—forests, rivers, and coastal and marine ecosystems as our life support system," Leonardo pointed out.

"We simply cannot survive without clean water, air, food, raw materials, among many other benefits that these ecosystems provide. They are the very reason why we need to maintain these ecosystems in a system of protected areas," he added.



# MPIC & Maynilad partner w/ LLDA to transform Laguna de Bay

Published August 24, 2021, 12:31 PM  
by [Emmie V. Abadilla](#)



laguna-de-bay

The private sector is collaborating with government to transform Laguna Lake into an economic zone.

Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad), together with other MVP group firms, have partnered with the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) to protect Laguna Lake and surrounding areas.

The lake is vital to Metro Manila's ecosystem and MPIC's Laguna de Bay Welfare Awareness (LAWA) program seeks to "transform Laguna Lake into an economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing watershed destruction, land conversion and pollution".

Last year, the LLDA already endorsed a P609-billion rehabilitation and development project to address flooding around Laguna Lake.

The Laguna de Bay Region has rich natural resources and covers 77 tributaries.

It's a vital water source for irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, as a transport route, a venue for recreation, livelihood and domestic water supply.

Both MPIC and LLDA recognize the need to collaborate for the region's sustainable development.

Now, MPIC and Maynilad, through LAWA, are identifying key areas of collaboration with the LLDA.

Initial priority areas include waste water management systems to address the lake's algal bloom problem, organizing clean-up drives for the tributaries, and curbing water hyacinths, the most damaging aquatic plant worldwide, currently covering 20 percent of Laguna de Bay.





“Protection of the environment is not just the government’s responsibility, it’s also the private sector’s responsibility to do their part to help,” said MPIC Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan.

“Through the LAWA Initiative, we wish to protect Laguna Lake from the many factors that could cause its demise,” he underscored.



# MPIC and Maynilad partner with LLDA on protection of Laguna de Bay

AUGUST 24, 2021



Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad), together with other companies in the MVP group, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) to jointly protect the Laguna Lake and its surrounding provinces, cities, and towns.

This cooperation is solidified through the Laguna de Bay Welfare Awareness or LAWA program spearheaded by MPIC under its *Gabay Kalikasan* advocacy and stresses the critical role that the Laguna Lake plays with respect to the social and economic development of the region. LAWA aims to consolidate the group's efforts in promoting awareness and establishing various programs in line with LLDA's mandate to "transform Laguna Lake into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of watershed destruction, land conversion and pollution".

The Laguna de Bay Region covers 77 tributaries and is endowed with rich natural resources. Laguna Lake alone, is home to a variety of organisms that comprise its biodiversity pool. Of note are the 31 species of fishes belonging to 16 families and 19 genera, the most dominant and important species of which, are the *Therapon plumbeus* and *Glossogobius giurus* (white goby), 154 species of phytoplankton, 36 species of zooplankton, and 24 species of macrophytes. Other organisms thriving in the lake include different species of mollusks, crustaceans, and birds that feed on the lake's resources. In addition to this, it is also a vital water source that is used for irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, as a transport route, a venue for recreation, livelihood, and domestic water supply.

Given the importance of the lake to Metro Manila's ecosystem, MPIC and LLDA both recognize the need for collaborative efforts and partnerships between the public and private sectors for the sustainable development of the Laguna Lake for the benefit of present and future generations.

*"Protection of the environment is not just the government's responsibility, it's also the private sector's responsibility to do their part to help," said MPIC Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan. "Through this LAWA Initiative, we wish to reiterate the group's support, particularly Metro Pacific, to LLDA and their efforts in protecting Laguna Lake from the many factors that could cause its demise."*

To formalize this partnership, a virtual signing event was held on August 23 and was attended by key representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, LLDA and the MVP Group.

To introduce the Program, an awareness campaign video hosted by Gabay Kalikasan Volunteer LAWA advocate Dominic Roque was also featured in the event.



MPIC President and Chief Executive Officer Jose Ma. K. Lim said *“Shortly after we took over Maynilad in 2007, we already saw the importance of Laguna de Bay as a source of domestic water supply for Metro Manila and its environs. It goes without saying that this vital water source needs to be preserved and protected. We look forward to this collaboration, as it will allow the MVP group to align with LLDA and consolidate its initiatives into a more strategic and coordinated action plan for the benefit of the lake, its tributaries and its communities.”*

DENR Undersecretary Rodolfo C. Garcia highlighted in his message that *“The DENR welcomes this MOC that ensures the usefulness of this lake and its watershed for future generations. I thank and congratulate LLDA, MPIC and the rest of the MVP Group for this partnership. We hope that this will inspire others in the private sector to partner more productively with us and our attached agencies.”*

*“Our water treatment facility’s production capacity can be affected by the varying raw water quality of the lake. We have had to incorporate technology upgrades including reverse osmosis, use of Distributed Control System and automation in our plants to address algal blooms and spikes of organic and inorganic matter reaching levels that are unprecedented over the past 10 years”* stressed Maynilad President and Chief Executive Office Ramoncito S. Fernandez. *“Rather than investing additional funds to keep upgrading our treatment technology, we think the more sustainable option is to protect the lake.”*

In accepting the partnership, LLDA General Manager Hon. Jaime C. Medina said *“You took the initiative which we welcome and accepted, because you share LLDA’s vision and mission to achieve the Sustainable Development of the Laguna de Bay region. Through the LAWA program and GABAY advocacies for a sustainable Philippines, you have chosen Laguna de Bay as one of the vital ecosystems to protect and nurture. Effective today and with due respect to Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, you will be our MVP, the Most Valuable Partners of LLDA in the protection and conservation of Laguna de Bay.”*

MPIC and Maynilad, through LAWA will further align with LLDA to identify key areas of collaboration. Initial priority areas include the promotion of waste water management systems to help address the lake’s algal bloom problem, organization of clean-up drives for the tributaries, and the establishment of programs to hamper the proliferation of water hyacinths, the most damaging aquatic plant worldwide, currently covering approximately 20% of Laguna de Bay





*“Ecosystems such as Laguna de Bay support all life on Earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier our planet and all of us will be,”* said Chaye A. Cabal-Revilla, MPIC Chief Finance, Risk and Sustainability Officer. *“LAWA will be one of our anchor programs under Gabay Kalikasan because we strongly believe in LLDA’s strategic objectives. We are all one in our purpose of contributing to national development and uplifting the lives of our fellow Filipinos.”*

Other MPIC Group Companies supporting this initiative include MetroPac Water Investments Corporation, Meralco Powergen Corporation and Global Business Power Corporation.

The commitment to protect and rehabilitate Laguna de Bay through its LAWA initiative is aligned with MPIC’s efforts to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, 13 Climate Action, 14 Life Below Water, and 15 Life on Land. It is also in support of the United Nations’ Decade of Ecosystem Restoration which aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ATI

ATI's environment manager Janice Picardal (6th from left), representatives of DENR-CENRO and officials of Barangay 649 as they lead the mangrove planting in Baseco, Manila

## Greening beaches, basins turned goal

ATI initially planted over 3,000 saplings along the beachfront of Baseco, Manila and the river basin of San Juan, Batangas

Listed harbor service firm Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) is sustaining its commitment to promote environmental protection and sustainable development, even in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, planting thousands of mangrove trees in neighboring coastal communities, recently.

In line with its institutional partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and in support of the Ocean Protection Program of global trade enabler DP World, its foreign equity partner, ATI initially planted over 3,000 saplings along the beachfront of Baseco, Manila and the river basin of San Juan, Batangas.

**Apart from planting trees, ATI supports the government-led rehabilitation of the Manila Bay, La Mesa Watershed protection, community sanitation programs, battery recycling, and other environmental initiatives.**

ATI employees alongside community leaders and volunteers planted endemic mangrove species, particularly Nilad, in areas spanning over three hectares while following stringent health and safety protocols.

### Tree planting as policy

ATI's recent activity is also aligned with the environmental policy of the Philippine Ports Authority which requires port operators under its jurisdiction to plant trees or mangroves within their respective business locations to help address climate change.

Apart from planting trees, ATI supports the government-led rehabilitation of the Manila Bay, La Mesa Watershed protection, community sanitation programs, battery recycling, and other environmental initiatives in partnership with non-governmental organizations under its dynamic Corporate Sustainability Program anchored on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



# Fishers, local officials free whale shark caught in net in Quezon

[Arnell Ozaeta](#) - Philstar.com

August 25, 2021 | 12:56pm



Residents and local officials in Atimonan free a trapped whale shark on August 23, 2021.

QUEZON, Philippines — A whale shark, also known as a butanding, was sighted by residents in Lamongan Bay, Atimonan, Quezon on Monday when it got trapped inside a fishing net near the seashore.

According to the report of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Calauag, the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) was around three meters long and had no visible injuries.

Around 30 fishermen, concerned residents, and local barangay officials helped release the whale shark into safer waters.

Conservation and Development Division - Coastal Resources and Foreshore Management Section of DENR CALABARZON said "this is not the first time a marine mammal was sighted in the community".

"This may indicate rich marine biodiversity in the area and we need to continue to conserve and protect the marine ecosystem. Kung ano ang ginagawa natin sa kagubatan at kalupaan, ay magkakaroon din ng epekto sa ating katubigan at karagatan. Kaya patuloy natin itong pag ingatan," Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria added.

Tamoria said people should not touch whale sharks if they encounter one. He also said they should not feed the whale sharks as that can alter their behavior and could pose a harmful effect on them.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, whale shark numbers have been falling and they are classified as endangered.

Among the major threats to whale sharks are fisheries catches, bycatch in nets and vessel strikes.

In case of a whale shark encounter, DENR CALABARZON is urging the public to report the incident to the nearest DENR office in the area.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/08/25/2122544/fishers-local-officials-free-whale-shark-caught-net-quezon>





# Trapped whale shark off Quezon shore freed

Published August 25, 2021, 5:15 PM  
by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)



DENR CALABARZON/MANILA BULLETIN

A whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), also known as butanding, was trapped in a fishnet near the seashore of Atimonan, Quezon on Wednesday morning.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-CALABARZON (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) said the whale shark, with an estimated length of three meters, that got trapped in Barangay Angeles was eventually freed to Lamong Bay by around 30 fishermen and residents in the area.

It had no visible injuries upon its release, it added.

According to the Conservation and Development Division – Coastal Resources and Foreshore Management Section of DENR CALABARZON, this is not the first time that a marine wildlife was sighted in the community.

For Nilo B. Tamera, regional executive director of the agency, the sighting of the whale shark “may indicate rich marine biodiversity in the area and we need to continue to conserve and protect the marine ecosystem.”

The sighting was a fortunate event in the area as based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, whale sharks have a decreasing population trend. They are now classified under the “endangered” category as they are at a very high risk of extinction due to rapid decline in population of 50 to 70 percent over the previous 10 years.

“Whatever we do to the forest and to the land has effects on our waters and oceans. So let’s continue taking care of them,” Tamera said in a statement.

Tamera is calling on the public not to touch whale sharks during encounters with them nor to feed them as doing so can alter their behavior and could pose a harmful effect on them.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/25/trapped-whale-shark-off-quezon-shore%E2%80%8Bfreed/>



# Atimonan fishermen, barangay officials save whale shark trapped in Lamon Bay



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA



Fishermen from a village in Atimonan, Quezon, aided by concerned residents, undertake a rescue operation to save a juvenile whale shark caught in a fishnet in Barangay Angeles early this week. The presence of the sea creature, according to Environment Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria “indicates rich marine biodiversity in the area.”

AT least 30 fishermen, concerned residents and barangay officials in the town of Atimonan, Quezon, came together to rescue a juvenile whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) that was caught in a fishnet in Barangay Angeles early this week, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported.

The whale shark was discovered around 10 a.m. on Monday, August 23, at Barangay Angeles as it tries to wiggle out of the fishnet near the shore of Lamon Bay.

According to the Conservation and Development Division-Coastal Resources and Foreshore Management Section of DENR-Calabarzon, this is not the first time a marine mammal was sighted in the community.

“This may indicate rich marine biodiversity in the area and we need to continue to conserve and protect the marine ecosystem. *Kung ano ang ginagawa natin sa kagubatan at kalupaan, ay magkakaroon din ng epekto sa ating katubigan at karagatan. Kaya patuloy natin itong pag ingatan,*” Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria said in a news statement.

The official is calling on the public not to touch a whale shark when encountering one. It is also advised not to feed the species as it can alter their behavior and could pose a harmful effect on them.

Based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listing, whale sharks have a decreasing population trend and are classified under the Endangered (EN) category—a designation applied to species at a very high risk of extinction due to rapid decline in the population of 50 to 70 percent over the previous 10 years.

The identified major threats to whale sharks include fisheries catches, bycatch in nets, and vessel strikes.

In case of a whale shark encounter, the DENR-Calabarzon is urging the public to report the incident to the nearest DENR office in the area.



Other Environment and Natural Resources-related concerns may also be reported via hot line 8888, SMS to 09561825774/09198744369, e-mail to [r4a@denr.gov.ph](mailto:r4a@denr.gov.ph), or send photos, videos, and other information via official Facebook Page of DENR-Calabarzon: <https://www.facebook.com/DENR4AOfficial/>.





# Isang uri ng isda, posibleng dahilan daw ng paglitaw ng mga bula sa dalampasigan sa Mindoro

Agosto 25, 2021 12:23am GMT+08:00



Namangha ang ilang residente sa isang barangay sa San Jose, Occidental Mindoro nang makita nila ang mahabang linya ng bula sa kanilang dalampasigan na parang may naglaba.

Sa ulat ng GTV "State of the Nation" nitong Martes, ipinakita ang video na kuha ni Gio Daprosa noong Agosto 8.

Makikita sa video ang mga bula na ang iba ay iinihahampas ng alon, at may mga nakaibabaw sa buhangin.

Ayon sa mga residente, lumabas daw ang mga bula kasabay ng high tide.

Sa paunang pag-analisa ng Occidental Mindoro Environmental Management Office, posibleng may kinalaman daw ang mga bula sa pangingitlog ng mga bangus.

Maaaring indikasyon daw ito na dumadami ang semilya ng bangus sa lugar.

Gayunman, magsasagawa pa rin daw ng pag-aral ang ahensiya at susuriin ang tubig sa lugar para matukoy ang dahilan ng pagbula ng dagat.--**FRJ, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/800685/isang-uri-ng-isda-posibleng-dahilan-daw-ng-paglitaw-ng-mga-bula-sa-dalampasigan-sa-mindoro/story/?fbclid=IwAR2HTwKIBWgWz1GRwcY9-6p9WzvWGxFJIU6nALUoF3IC9Rcje580Xkln4jE>



# Quezon Blue tarantula, nanganganib na nga bang maubos?

Agosto 25, 2021 10:12pm GMT+08:00



Isa sa 12 uri ng tarantula na makikita sa Pilipinas ang Quezon Blue tarantula. Bakit nga ba ito tinawag na "blue" gayung sa unang tingin ay makikitang itim ang kaniyang kulay?

Nagtungo sa lalawigan ng Quezon ang "Born To Be Wild" dahil dito lang umano makikita ang Quezon Blue tarantula.

Ang host ng programa na si Dr. Ferds Recio, naghanap ng Quezon blue at minanmanan ang galaw ng tarantula sa paghahanap ng makakain.

Hindi gaya ng ibang gagamba, hindi na kailangan ng tarantula ng sapot para maghintay ng makakain. Sa halip, ito mismo ang naghahanap at matiyagang naghihintay sa kaniyang mabibiktima bilang isang "stealth" predator.

Pero bakit nga ba "blue" ang tawag sa naturang tarantula gayung sa unang tingin ay itim naman ang kaniyang kulay? At totoo rin kaya na nanganganib na ang kanilang populasyon?

Kilalanin at mamangha sa katangian ng Quezon Blue tarantula sa video ng "Born To Be Wild."



## Climate change toll seen to hit \$20 million a year

BYCAI ORDINARIO



In Photo: In this video grab taken on Christmas eve, people stand in an area damaged by Tropical Storm Vinta (international code name Temblin) in Lanao del Norte. Thousands of villagers in the southern Philippines spent their Christmas morning in emergency shelters as the region dealt with the aftermath of one of the deadliest storms to hit the country in 2017.

THE Philippines may incur losses of over 5 percent of GDP annually, or the country's annual infrastructure budget, due to climate change, according to the latest Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2021 released by the United Nations (UN).

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) report, launched on Wednesday, also noted that the Philippines's annual average losses from rising temperatures and emissions could cost the country over \$20 million a year.

"The string of record-breaking weather events show that we do not have the luxury of 'waiting this out': action must be taken now to address these risks," Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori said.

"This includes increasing international funding for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, especially for countries graduating from the least-developed category," she added.

The report said the poor in the Philippines are among the most vulnerable in Southeast Asia based on estimates using representative concentration pathways (RCPs).

The data showed that RCP 4.5 stands for moderate climate change scenarios while RCP 8.5 are severe climate change scenarios.

Under RCP 4.5, 15 percent of the country's poorest could experience multihazard cascading risks due to climate change between 2020 and 2039.

The moderate climate change estimates also showed that the affected population is bound to increase to as much as 24 percent of the poorest Filipinos between 2040 and 2059.

In terms of RCP 8.5 or the severe climate change scenarios, 26 percent of the country's poorest will be affected by multihazard cascading risks between 2020 and 2039. The number is seen to increase to 30 percent between 2040 and 2059.





“The poor populations at the greatest risk under RCP 8.5 live in: Bangladesh, India and Nepal in South and South-West Asia; Myanmar, Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Philippines in Southeast Asia,” the report stated.

“The top 5 countries which are at the greatest increase in risk, between 2020 and 2040, are Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar and Cambodia,” it added.

The impact of climate change on natural and other biological hazards in the Philippines include more heatwaves which could increase death due to heatwaves by 1 percent.

The rising sea levels and excessive flooding in the country could increase by more than 50 million the number of Filipinos exposed to these risks.

The Unescap noted that in 2019 alone, over 19 million people were displaced by natural hazards in Asia and the Pacific, which accounted for around three-quarters of the global total.

The Asia-Pacific region had the four largest numbers of people displaced that year: India, 5.1 million people; Philippines, 4.1 million people; Bangladesh, 4.1 million people; and China, 4 million people.

“Notwithstanding the progress made by many countries in devising more robust systems of early warning and responsive protection—with far fewer people dying as a result of natural disasters—the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated that almost without exception, countries around the world are still ill-prepared to deal with multiple overlapping crises, which often cascade, with one triggering another,” said Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations undersecretary-general and executive secretary of ESCAP. “Tropical cyclones, for example, can lead to floods, which lead to disease, which exacerbates poverty.”

The triple threat of disease, disaster and climate change is causing not only considerable human hardship but also significant economic losses. Currently, the annual average disaster-related losses are \$780 billion.

This could nearly double, to around \$1.4 trillion, in a worst-case climate scenario. Choosing a proactive strategy of adapting to natural and other biological hazards would be far more cost-effective at an annual cost of \$270 billion.

# Inaction on climate change to further breed calamities

August 25, 2021



**MANILA** – Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary and Climate Change Commission (CCC) chairperson-designate Carlos Dominguez raised the urgency for public action on climate change, warning recent disasters from extreme weather events due to this scourge further offer a preview of what passiveness will lead to.

The onslaught of deadly and devastating floods in Germany and China as well as heatwaves in the US highlight need for people to be creative, ambitious and innovative in battling climate change, he noted.

“This is a battle we cannot afford to lose,” Dominguez said Tuesday at CCC’s online forum on the changing climate.

The forum explored measures for helping the country better adapt to and mitigate climate change.

“Over the past months, we saw how climate change is making weather disturbances more extreme across the globe,” Dominguez said. “Devastating heat waves struck parts of the western US. From Germany to China, extreme flooding caused death and destruction.”

He described those disasters as “severe symptoms of a long-term climate emergency.”

Such an emergency is threatening countries’ survival.

Dominguez cited public climate action and literacy as the country’s greatest defense against the changing climate’s wrath.

“We have to convince every individual to participate in a revolution in lifestyles so that we all reduce our carbon footprint,” he said.

Carbon footprint is the total quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that human activities generate.

There’s also a need for climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that the public can actually carry out, Dominguez noted.

“We need to develop a doable plan of action for every economic sector and every community,” he said.



According to experts, coal-fired power generation and other human activities are increasing the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs).

They said the continuing accumulation of GHG emissions in the atmosphere is further trapping heat so the global temperature is rising, changing climate.

The Philippines is among the countries most vulnerable to and at risk for climate change, they noted.

Sea level and temperature rise, as well as increasing onslaught of extreme weather events, are climate change's impacts on the country, they continued.

"As one of the countries most vulnerable to dire effects of climate change, the Philippines is determined to take action now," Dominguez reiterated.

The Philippines' submission of its first nationally determined contribution (NDC) this year is among manifestations of such determination to help address climate change, he noted.

"In that submission, we committed to reducing our GHG emissions by 75 percent over the next decade," he said.

He acknowledged such target reduction is "ambitious" and a considerable undertaking for the country which isn't even a major GHG emitter.

However, he said this also "underscores the urgency with which we view this greatest of challenges facing the world today."

Among GHG emission-reducing measures which the country must undertake are retiring coal-fired power plants nationwide and replacing these with renewable energy sources as well as passing legislation banning single-use plastics and replacing these with environment-friendly, low-cost and sustainable materials, he said.

Aside from having to undertake such domestic measures, Dominguez said the Philippines will continue raising its climate concerns before the international community.

"Even as we transition to more sustainable economic activities domestically, the Philippines will continue to call for broader climate justice," he reassured.

He said the country will reiterate such a call during the UN climate conference this year.

"In the upcoming climate talks with world leaders in November, we will demand climate finance, technologies, capacity development support and more ambitious NDCs from the developed countries," he said. (PNA)



# After reports of sewage dumping, 88 foreign ships move out of Philippine EEZ — report

Patricia Lourdes Viray - Philstar.com

August 25, 2021 | 3:29pm

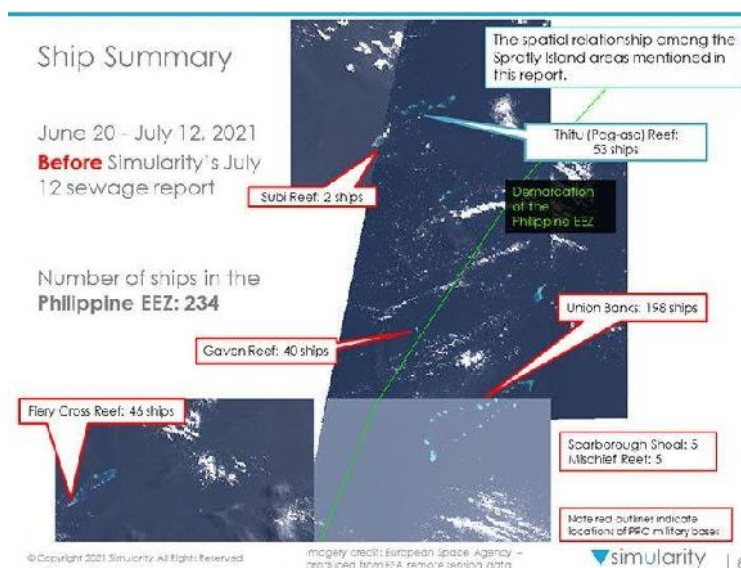


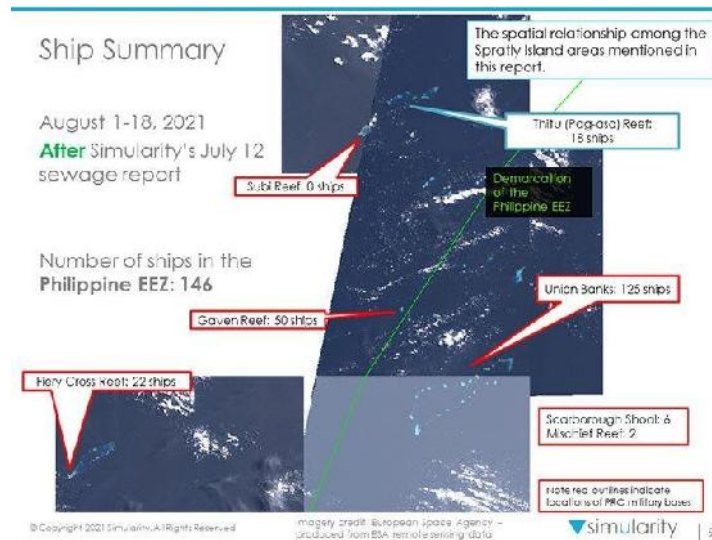
Satellite images show the number of anchored ships in the Union Banks, within Philippine exclusive economic zone, decreased from April to August.

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 88 foreign ships, suspected to belong to Chinese maritime militia, have moved out of the Philippine exclusive economic zone, according to a report by a US-based geospatial and data analysis company.

In its [August 23 report](#), Similarity noted that there are 71 fewer ships in the Union Banks, 35 fewer ships near Pag-asa (Thitu) Island and 88 fewer ships in the Philippine EEZ overall since its July 12 report on raw sewage from anchored ships in the Spratly Islands.

"Ships are no longer anchored together in large numbers. Reducing the amount of waste being dumped in any one place," Similarity reported.





Between June 20 to July 12, the number of ships in the Philippine EEZ in the West Philippine Sea was at 234. This was before the raw sewage report was released.

After the report, between August 1 to 18, the number of ships in the Philippine EEZ was at 146, Similarity said.

The think tank noted that multiple ships have been anchored together in the Spratly Islands since 2019.

"When ships that are anchored together dump waste, it is more concentrated in one place. Spreading out the ships helps dilute the 'excess nutrients', which helps the coral," the report read.

Similarity added that it was not unusual to see more than 20 ships anchored together in the Union Banks, where Julian Felipe (Whitsun) Reef is located.





In March, the Philippine Coast Guard reported the presence of 220 Chinese ships near Julian Felipe Reef.

As of August 11, the maximum number of ships seen anchored together in the Union Banks is six, according to Similarity.

Citing a July 24 report from the South China Morning Post, Similarity noted that the municipal government of Sansha, which claims jurisdiction over Spratly Islands, held a meeting following the sewage report.

The Chinese agencies were asked to "fight together the battle of pollution prevention and control and safeguard the clear sea and blue sky of Sansha."

Last year, Beijing established the district of Nansha (Spratly Islands), which falls under the jurisdiction of self-declared Sansha City.

The [Department of Foreign Affairs rejected this move](#), reiterating that the Philippine government does not recognize Sansha City nor its constituent units.

"The Philippine government has protested since 2012 China's unlawful establishment of Sansha City and the extent of its administrative jurisdiction, which encompasses Philippine territory and maritime zones in the West Philippine Sea," the DFA said in an Apr. 30, 2020 statement. — **Satellite images from Similarity via European Space Agency**





# Manila Water secures supply amid global drought, wildfires

posted August 25, 2021 at 06:55 pm

by [Ray S. Eñano](#)

Widespread drought and wildfires are depressing scenes that we often see on foreign television news now. Without doubt, these natural phenomena are the telltale signs of climate change that is being precipitated by man's disrespect of the environment.

A water crisis and drought are already wreaking havoc on the Middle Eastern countries of Syria and Iraq. Over 12 million people in Syria and Iraq are losing access to water, food and electricity, warn the Norwegian Refugee Council and other aid groups

The NRC notes that rising temperatures, record low levels of rainfall and drought are depriving people of drinking and agricultural water. It is also disrupting electricity as dams run out of water, which in turn impacts on the operations of essential infrastructure, including health facilities.

"The total collapse of water and food production for millions of Syrians and Iraqis is imminent," says Carsten Hansen, Regional Director of the NRC in an agency statement published on Aug. 23, 2021. "With hundreds of thousands of Iraqis still displaced and many more still fleeing for their lives in Syria, the unfolding water crisis will soon become an unprecedented catastrophe pushing more into displacement."

The drought has adversely affected the Tigris-Euphrates river system that feeds into the two countries. More than five million people in Syria directly depend on the river, says the NRC. In Iraq, the loss of access to water from the river, and drought, threaten at least seven million people.

The NRC warns of more catastrophes. "Some 400 square kilometers of agricultural land risk total drought. Two dams in northern Syria, serving three million people with electricity, face imminent closure," says the agency.

"In Iraq, large swathes of farmland, fisheries, power production and drinking water sources have been depleted of water. In the Ninewa governorate, wheat production is expected to go down by 70 per cent because of the drought, while in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, production is expected to decrease by half. Some families in Anbar who have no access to river water are spending up to US\$80 a month on water," says the NRC.

California farms in the US are experiencing the same phenomenon. Lush fields have turned into brown to the dismay of American farmers, threatening the US food supply. The drought in Central California has forced state and local authorities to abruptly reduce water supplies to save enough for urban residents.

Over in Europe, wildfires have engulfed huge swathes of forests in the continent. Firefighters have battled to contain the wildfires in a seemingly unwinnable war. Similar firestorms earlier overwhelmed Spain, France, Italy, Tunisia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, Algeria, Morocco and Albania.

## Modern aqueduct

Wildfires are a rarity in the Philippines while drought in this archipelagic nation is a cyclical occurrence that reduces the supply of drinking water and depletes reservoir and river levels. The latter can drain water resources needed in irrigating farm lands and powering hydroelectric dams.

A long dry spell can also lead to limited water supplies, and in some cases, force utility companies to reduce the flow of drinking water to consumers. But residents and businesses in



the eastern part of Metro Manila and nearby suburban areas are luckier.

Barring any fortuitous event, we may already scratch water security from the list of challenges plaguing our lives these past few years. Manila Water Co. Inc., a unit of the Ayala Group, is accomplishing a local engineering feat. It is nearing the completion of the P5.5-billion Novaliches-Balara Aqueduct 4 (NBAQ4) project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System scheduled by June 2022.

The aqueduct aims to improve the reliability and security of the raw water transmission system and guarantee water availability for more than seven million people in the East Zone franchise of Manila Water.

Once the NBAQ4 is in place, operations of the three other antiquated aqueducts may already be temporarily suspended one by one for inspection, assessment and eventual rehabilitation. The old aqueducts already exceeded the service life of 50 years for concrete structures, having been built in 1929, 1956 and 1968.

The current aqueduct system delivers 1,600 million liters per day (MLD) of raw water from the La Mesa Reservoir to the Balara Treatment Plants (BTP) 1 and 2.

The new aqueduct, meanwhile, will be capable of conveying 1,000 MLD, and provides emergency redundancy in the event of a failure in any of the three ancient aqueducts.

NBAQ4 is the largest water supply infrastructure project in Metro Manila. It is already making history as the first underground aqueduct in the metropolis, constructed under the busy Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

A tunnel-boring machine, the first time utilized in Metro Manila, has already broken through at the La Mesa Reservoir, more than seven kilometers away from its entry shaft at Balara in Quezon City. With the pipe laying done, Manila Water can now construct the intake tower, outlet tower and downstream network system.

Manila Water has teamed up with Arup as project management consultant and NOVABALA joint venture, the project's design and build contractor. The joint venture is composed of CMC di Ravenna (Italy), First Balfour Inc. (Philippines) and Chun Wo Engineering (Hong Kong).

MWSS board of trustees chairman and OIC administrator Gen. Reynaldo Velasco (Ret.) considers the Manila Water flagship project a landmark achievement under the Duterte administration's "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure program.

MWSS is working on interim and long-term water source projects to approximate at least 4,000 million liters per day in the next 10 or 25, or hopefully, 50 years.



# 'Chief mermaid' invites 'sea-tizens' to Save Philippine Seas

By [Dafort Villaseran](#)



[Anna Oposa](#), co-founder and chief mermaid of environmental organization Save [Philippine Seas](#) CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE [Manila Times](#) "Coffee Break" took a dive on Wednesday into the work of an environmental organization that seeks to reverse the industrial degradation of oceans in its webisode entitled "[Delicious](#) food, keeping Philippine seas clean."

As the "chief mermaid" and co-founder of Save Philippine Seas (SPS), Anna Oposa, in an interview streamed at 3 p.m. on The Times [Facebook](#) page, called on international and local governments, businesses, educational institutions, civic groups to become "sea-tizens."

A nongovernment organization (NGO) that has been creating linkages since 2013 among sectors in the Philippine ocean ecosystem through its conservation mission or "advoca-sea," SPS, under Oposa's leadership, started in 2011 as an online platform dedicated to eradicating the large-scale illegal sea-wildlife trade.

Oposa's "advoca-sea" includes providing free tool kits, writing letters to sectoral leaders, and providing relevant and current infographics about the state of Philippine seas.

As serious as SPS is about educating communities about the benefits and value of restoring and sustaining marine resources, the nonprofit NGO lightens its campaign by seemingly not taking itself too "sea-riously."

For media practitioners in the environmental beat as well as for stakeholders of green businesses, Save Philippine Seas provides graphic data on its "paparaz-sea" posts on [Instagram](#).

With a sprinkling of wit and buckets full of intelligent work, SPS helps transform collaborators such as Mondelez [Philippines](#) (renowned for its delicious food) and its consumers into "sea-tizens," who believe that the Philippines is not only worth dying for, but "worth diving for."

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/26/news/national/chief-mermaid-invites-sea-tizens-to-save-philippine-seas/1812385>

# Southeast Asia's economy could grow by US\$12.5 trillion by 2070 if the fossil fuel-dependent region decarbonises



Floating solar panels on Srinakarin lake, Thailand. If Southeast Asia does not transition to clean energy, the region could suffer annual losses of 4.5 per cent of GDP over the next 30 years. Image: [Uwe Schwarzbach/Flickr](#)

If one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions rapidly reduces emissions over the next 50 years, its economy could grow by 3.5 per cent a year. If it doesn't decarbonise, its economy could be \$28 trillion smaller by 2070, according to a new study by Deloitte.

Southeast Asia could reap massive economic rewards in the coming decades if the region takes immediate action to lower carbon emissions and stymie global warming, according to a new study by Deloitte, a professional services firm.

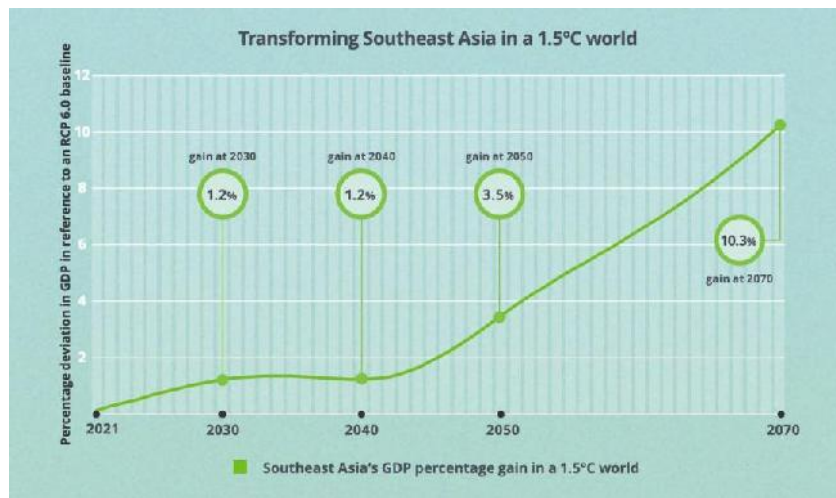
If the fast-growing regional bloc of 650 million people changed course from the carbon-intensive trajectory it is currently on, and makes the necessary policy shifts to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the 10-nation region would not only avoid the worst impacts of climate change, but could make US\$12.5 trillion in economic gains by 2070, the [report titled \*Southeast Asia's turning point\*](#) finds.

Setting the region's economy in line with a global warming cap of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as laid out in the Paris Agreement, would enable Southeast Asia's gross domestic product to grow by 1.2 per cent by 2030, 3.5 per cent by 2050, and 10.3 per cent by 2070.

Although a low-carbon transition will involve short-term structural adjustment costs, the economic gains will be almost immediate and outweigh the costs, the report predicts. The cumulative cost of transition for Southeast Asia's power sector alone is US\$350 billion between 2025 and 2030, according to [International Energy Agency analysis](#). Industries including manufacturing, retail, tourism, manufacturing, construction, transport, agriculture, water and utilities could see rapid economic gains from the first year after bold policy decisions push for greater decarbonisation, Deloitte predicts.

A transition to cleaner economies will rely heavily on systemic shifts in Southeast Asia's energy, industry and transport sectors. Fossil fuels' share in the energy mix would need to drop from around 95 per cent currently to 20 per cent by 2050, with renewables, primarily solar and wind, becoming the region's bedrock energy sources.



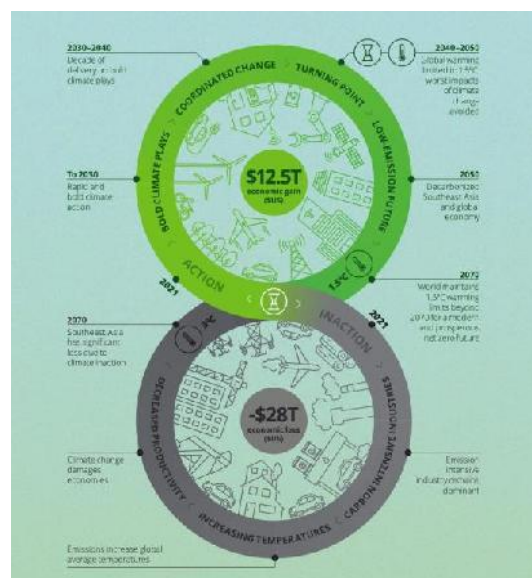


Transforming Southeast Asia to a 1.5 degree world. Source: Deloitte

Deloitte’s model factors in the physical impacts of climate change into its economic growth forecast, and finds that climate inaction, which would see the planet warm by 3°C by 2070, could cost Southeast Asia’s economy US\$28 trillion, or 16 per cent of GDP, over the next 50 years.

As global temperatures rise, the region will be hit by severe weather extremes such as heat waves, drought, and heavier and more frequent bouts of rain that will hamper economic activity. [A recent report by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), has highlighted Southeast Asia as one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change.

Unchecked climate change will reduce Southeast Asia’s economic growth by 7.5 per cent a year through to 2070, according to Deloitte’s research. This scale of economic loss is equivalent to the financial impact of the 2018 Lombok earthquake, which cost Indonesia’s economy US\$352 billion, hitting every nine months from now until 2070.



The economic consequences of climate action to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and a 3°C warming ‘business-as-usual scenario. Source: Deloitte

Despite dire consequences projected for climate inaction, Southeast Asian nations are among the world’s slowest to respond to the climate emergency. A [recent study titled \*The ASEAN climate and energy paradox\*](#) highlighted the region’s “modest” carbon-reduction commitments made under the Paris Agreement, low proportion of renewables in the energy mix, and uninspiring target for raising the share of renewables; Southeast Asia is aiming to generate 23



per cent of its energy from renewables by 2025, but is [not on track to hit that target](#).

The study also pointed out that Southeast Asia is quick to clear vast areas of forest, continues to heavily subsidise fossil fuels and is building new coal-fired power plants as quickly as anywhere in the world. Southeast Asia's emissions from power generation could more than double by 2040, and industrial emissions could grow by 75 per cent, according to [a recent energy outlook study](#).

Speaking at an event held by think tank Asean Centre for Energy last week, experts and officials from Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia [backed the potential of carbon capture, use and storage \(CCUS\) technology](#) to help reduce emissions of carbon-intensive industries that are powering much of Southeast Asia's economic output. CCUS technologies enable highly-polluting industries to continue to function by capturing carbon dioxide before it is pumped into the atmosphere.



26 AUGUST 2021, THURSDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# OCTA: NCR average cases up by 13%, reproduction number down to 1.53

August 25, 2021



*A woman undergoes swab testing for Covid-19 at the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa (BP2) Program at the Multi-purpose court 1, BP2 Depot in Quezon City on Thursday (July 22, 2021). Through the BP2 program, around 24 individuals are set to return to Camarines Sur. (PNA photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)/ File*

The average daily number of cases in the National Capital Region (NCR) from Aug. 18 to 24 rose by 13% to 4,019 from the previous record last week, data from OCTA Research showed. The reproduction number, which shows the rate of COVID-19 transmission in the region, declined to 1.53, which the group said is within critical range.

“Once we get close to  $R_t$  [reproduction number]  $< 1$ , new cases should start to decrease consistently. We hope this will happen by the first or second week of September,” OCTA’s Dr. Guido David said.

“Based on current trends, it looks like the NCR will hit its peak soon, perhaps before or around the first week of September,” David added.

Among the cities with reported decline in reproduction number are Navotas, Pasay, Malabon, Manila, Quezon City, Las Piñas, and Makati.



Meanwhile, the positivity rate in the region from Aug. 18 to 24 is at 23%.



## Hospital occupancy

OCTA said the intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy in the region is high, while hospital bed use is at moderate level.

San Juan has a 100% utilization of ICU, Muntinlupa and Marikina are at 95%, Las Piñas is at 90%, while Parañaque is at 86%. These are all within critical level.

Those under high ICU utilization are Taguig at 83%, Quezon City at 81%, Pasay at 74%, Makati at 73%, Valenzuela at 72%, and Pasig at 70%.

Dr. Rontgene Solante of the country's Vaccine Expert Panel and Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (PSMID) past president, said hospitals are still admitting patients.

"Mga hospitals ngayon, especially the government hospitals, are still accommodating patients and more or less talagang pinapreparahan naman natin 'to," he said in the Aug. 24 Palace briefing.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairperson Benhur Abalos said on the Aug. 24 Talk to the People program that the region is not "out of the woods yet" despite the reported decline in some indicators.

"Bagama't kumaunti ang naging anak nitong virus na ito ... pataas pa rin po tayo. Pero siguro ito po'y epekto na rin ng two-week ECQ po natin – maski papaano ay napababa po itong ating growth rate," he said.

## Delta variant

The World Health Organization (WHO) earlier said that it would take a long time before COVID-19 disappears amid the threat posed by the Delta variant.

"Even with all our best efforts, it now seems clear that, globally, the virus will not disappear. At least, not in the near future," WHO Western Pacific Regional Dir. Takeshi Kasai said in an Aug. 25 briefing.

The Philippines is among the countries in the Western Pacific Region with an increasing number of Delta variant cases. It has 1,273 cases as of Aug. 23.

"We know lockdown alone cannot really reduce the transmission down, and so it is very important to identify and know where the infections are occurring and suppress that," he said.  
– Report from Mark Fetalco/AG- jlo



# Patay sa COVID-19 sa 'Pinas umabot sa 32,492 sa pagkasawi ng 228 iba pa

(Philstar.com) - August 25, 2021 - 4:11pm



Policemen check documents of motorists travelling from nearby Rizal province at a border checkpoint in Quezon City, suburban Manila on August 6, 2021, after authorities imposed another lockdown in the metropolis due to the threat of the Delta variant of Covid-19.

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 13,573 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Miyerkules, kung kaya't nasa 1,883,088 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

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

- lahat ng kaso: 1,883,088
- nagpapagaling pa: 125,378, o 6.7% ng total infections
- bagong recover: 15,820, dahilan para maging 1,725,218 na lahat ng gumagaling
- kamamatay lang: 228, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 32,492

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine sa 12-anyos pataas?

- [Umangat ng 13%](#) ang bilang ng mga bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa National Capital Region, ayon sa mga bagong datos na inilabas ng OCTA Research Group ngayong araw.
- Nagsumite na rin ng request ang American biotechnology company na Moderna para makakuha ng emergency use authorization (EUA) [upang magamit ang kanilang COVID-19 vaccine sa mga batang 12-17 taong gulang](#).
- [Umorder naman ang Pilipinas ng karagdagang 10 milyong doses ng COVID-19 vaccine mula sa Chinese drug makers na Sinovac Biotech](#). Ani vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. nitong Martes, nalagdaan na ng gobyerno ang purchase order nito para matiyak ang steady supply ng mga bakuna.
- Nag-apruba naman ang Lungsod ng Valenzuela ng ordinansa na magpapataw ng mabibigat na [parusa](#) para sa mga indibidwal at negosyong maglalabas ng mga pekeng COVID-19 vaccination cards. Pagbabayaran ng hanggang P5,000 multa ang mga lalabag dito, maliban sa posibleng pagtatanggal ng business permit sa mga negosyong lalabag.



- Kasalukuyan namang [naka-quarantine](#) si Bise Presidente Leni Robredo matapos mapag-alamang may nakasalamuha siyang nagpositibo sa COVID-19. Aniya, "very close contact" siya kung maituturing.
- [Nananawagan](#) naman ngayon ang Philippine Medical Students' Association ng pansamantalang ipagpaliban ang nakatakdang licensure examinations ng mga nag-aaral ng medisina sa Setyembre hangga't hindi pa nakontrol ng bansa ang panibagong surge sa COVID-19 cases. Aniya, malaking panganib ito sa examinees at mga magsasagawa ng pagsusulit.
- Umabot na sa 212.35 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.43 milyong katao.

— James Relativo



## ‘COVID-19 cases may hit 2 million in a week’

[Janvic Mateo](#) - The Philippine Star August 26, 2021 | 12:00am



COVID-19 patients pictured inside the chapel of Quezon City General Hospital on Aug. 19, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines may reach a total of two million COVID-19 cases in two weeks, according to projections made by a member of OCTA Research.

OCTA fellow Guido David said the 13,573 new cases recorded yesterday are within range but slightly higher than their estimates.

“It looks likely that we will reach a total of 2,000,000 cases in seven days,” he said on Twitter.

As of yesterday, the Philippines has recorded a total of 1,883,088 cases, with 125,378 active cases and 32,492 deaths.

David said the country had an average of 15,228 new cases and 267 deaths per day from Aug. 19 to 25.

In Metro Manila, the number of new COVID cases continued to increase but has started to slow down.

From Aug. 18 to 24, the region recorded an average of 2,019 new cases per day, up by 13 percent from the preceding week.

OCTA noted that the growth rate in previous weeks went as high as 64 percent.

While Metro Manila’s reproduction number – which indicates the number of individuals a positive person can infect – is still at critical 1.53, the group noted that it has already decreased over the past weeks.

David said nine local government units (LGUs) in the region had single digit or less growth rates, with Navotas and Malabon seeing a decrease in the average daily new cases in the past week.

Except Manila, Quezon City, Caloocan and Marikina, all Metro Manila LGUs still have “critical” average daily attack rate of over 25 daily new cases per 100,000 population.

Granular lockdowns, or lockdowns where certain areas would be sealed off, remain effective in preventing the further spread of COVID-19 in communities, an official insisted yesterday.

Such lockdowns – wherein households, neighborhoods, buildings or streets are closed – could prevent more people from being hospitalized, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos said.

He believes granular lockdowns should still be enforced even if many residents of Metro Manila have been inoculated, he said at a Laging Handa briefing.





When an area is under granular lockdown, LGUs are obliged to provide assistance, particularly food, to affected families as well as perform testing and contact tracing.

While Abalos said LGUs in Metro Manila still have the capacity and the funds to provide for the needs of residents under lockdown, he added that he might propose that the National Economic and Development Authority conduct a study that would formulate a cost-sharing system between the national government and LGUs.

“We can have a formula or a system at a certain level where the national (government) can help us to share resources. For example, we request the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) to give food packs, but systematized,” he explained to The STAR.

The system could be used by LGUs so they could also prepare for the implementation of more granular lockdowns, he said.

He emphasized that the time would come that LGUs might run out of resources in imposing granular lockdowns. – **Ghio Ong**

# WHO urges Philippines to increase healthcare capacity as COVID-19 cases rise

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com August 25, 2021 | 5:36pm



COVID-19 patients are treated inside the chapel of Quezon City General Hospital on Aug. 19, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government should continue increasing the country's healthcare capacity as it deals with a surge in COVID-19 infections, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday.

Dr. Takeshi Kasai, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, stressed the need for more warm bodies to treat people infected with COVID-19.

"What is important is actually not just the beds, but to make sure there [are] doctors and nurses, and also there is sufficient equipment and also support to those working very hard," Kasai said in a briefing.

The sharp increase in COVID-19 cases, partly driven by the hyper contagious Delta variant, is putting more pressure on hospitals, which are already battling staff shortages.

Groups of health workers also threatened to resign over unpaid allowances and poor working conditions.

## COVID-19 vaccination

Kasai said more than 95% of health workers in the Philippines and 46% of senior citizens have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

"The government is putting significant effort in vaccinations," he said.

Dr. Socorro Escalante, WHO Western Pacific essential medicines and health technologies coordinator, also said that the country has demonstrated "quite good capacity" in rolling out vaccines across the archipelago.

"The vaccination rollout in the Philippines is going quite well," she said. "We have seen they have a very good plan of ensuring that when vaccines are made available to the country, they are distributed to local government units as soon as possible."

Only 12.1% of the country's 109 million population have completed COVID-19 vaccination since the rollout began in March. Meanwhile, 16.05% of Filipinos have received partial protection.

## Suppressing Delta

The WHO Western Pacific head said the Delta variant is testing public health systems worldwide. The variant is also invading more households due to its higher transmissibility.



“Delta’s higher transmissibility means clusters of cases are quickly leading to bigger outbreaks, especially in high risk settings known as the 3Cs: closed spaces, crowded places and close contact settings,” Kasai said.

“Even with all our best efforts, it now seems clear that globally, the virus will not disappear at least not in the near future,” he added.

To contain the spread of the Delta variant, WHO officials urged governments detect community transmission early, implement stronger public health and social measures, and ramp up vaccination efforts.

“We know lockdown alone cannot really, really reduce transmission. It is very important to identify and know where infections are occurring and suppress that,” Kasai said.

The Philippines has so far reported 1.88 million COVID-19 cases, including 32,000 deaths, since the pandemic began.

# QC government: Vaccines helped prevent severe COVID-19 cases, hospitalization

Philstar.com August 25, 2021 | 6:17pm



Residents wait for their turn to get a shot of Sinovac vaccine at the cinema area of a mall in Antipolo City on Aug. 24, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Data on the COVID-19 situation in Quezon City found that most active cases are unvaccinated people, the city government said Wednesday as it encouraged more residents to get vaccinated.

In a statement, the Quezon City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit reported that out of the 8,159 total active cases from August 8-21, 2021, 5,735 or 70% were not vaccinated while just 1,416 or 18% are fully vaccinated.

The remaining 1,008, or 12%, are considered partially vaccinated for they are either waiting for their second dose or have yet to pass the two-week period after their second dose to develop protection against the virus, the CESU said.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said that the data proves that vaccines are effective, and the city government's aggressive vaccination efforts to achieve population protection is on the right track.

"This review of our data greatly proves that our vaccines work regardless of the brand. By releasing this information, we can inspire and encourage more of our QC residents and workers to register in our vaccination program," Belmonte said.

According to the CESU's figures, of those who are not vaccinated, 4,619 are asymptomatic, 1,012 are mild, 74 are moderate, 10 are severe, while 20 have died.

But out of 1,416 who contracted the infection while fully vaccinated, 1,031 or 73% did not experience any symptoms.

No vaccinated patient was classified as critical or severe. The remaining 349 are mild, 33 are moderate.

Only three confirmed cases in this group passed away, all of whom were senior citizens with comorbidities.

There was marked improvement among those who were partially vaccinated, too, as only 714 were asymptomatic, 271 were mild, and 19 were moderate.

Out of partially vaccinated breakthrough infections, the city government recorded just one severe case and three deaths.





The three, who were 49, 56 and 60 years old, also had comorbidities.

Dr. Rolando Cruz, CESU head, said that these numbers prove that vaccines provide the protection the body needs to prevent severe illness.

"These vaccines continue to be highly effective in preventing hospitalization of confirmed COVID-19 patients," he said.

We have seen that patients who are fully vaccinated are asymptomatic and thus can undergo isolation in facilities only, which also lessens the burden of our hospitals

As of Tuesday, the Quezon City government has vaccinated 1,563,554 individuals with their first doses — good for 91.97% of the 1.7 million target population — while 708,279 or 44.1% are already fully vaccinated.

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*Disclosure: Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte is a shareholder of Philstar Global Corp., which operates digital news outlet Philstar.com. This article was produced following editorial guidelines.*



# **#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**





# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 529

## AGOSTO 25, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 6.7%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
**125,378**

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 91.6%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
**1,725,218**

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.73%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
**32,492**

MGA BAGONG KASO **13,573**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **15,820**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **228**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **1,883,088**

### MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 23

DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 25  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 23

# 25.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 46,193

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS  
**97.2%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!



### KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)  
**72%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.5K TOTAL BEDS)  
**62%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.6K TOTAL BEDS)  
**68%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
**54%** Utilized

### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)  
**73%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.8K TOTAL BEDS)  
**61%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)  
**70%** Utilized

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

### KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild **95.9%**

1.3% Asymptomatic

0.6% Critical

1.2% Severe

0.94% Moderate



## UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Iwasang maging pabaya sa pagsunod sa ating **Minimum Public Health Standards** upang matiyak ang ating kaligtasan mula sa COVID-19. Nariyan ang **BHERTS at One COVID Referral Center** upang gabayan ang mga nakararamdam ng anumang sintomas. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

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



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: [kontracovid.ph](https://kontracovid.ph)



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP  
at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://staysafe.ph)

MARYOON PANNG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

[doh.gov.ph](https://doh.gov.ph)

(02) 894-COVID / 1555



26 AUGUST 2021, THURSDAY



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



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



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
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



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


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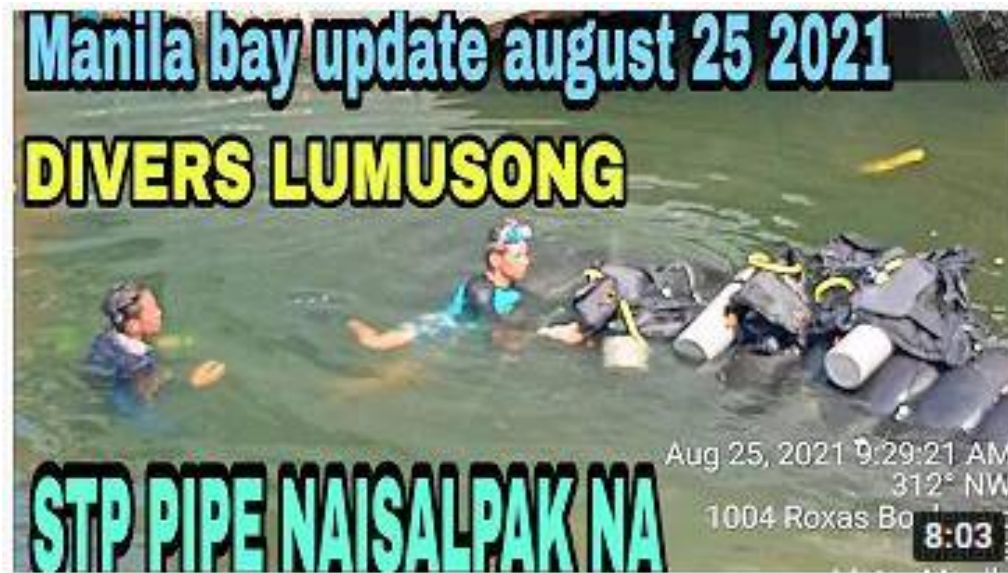
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