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Cimatu urges: Practice sustainable lifestyle

With the country's population of 110 million in 2021, it is estimated that 44 million kilograms of solid waste are piling up every day

Published 3 hours ago on January 26, 2022 03:40 AM

By **TDI** @tribunephil



As the country still grapples from the adverse effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, another recurring problem still lingers — the problem of solid waste management.

In line with this, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu urged the public to practice a “sustainable lifestyle” to minimize their waste, as facilities in the country alone will not solve the problem.

The DENR chief also stressed that the continuing assistance to local government units (LGU) for the establishment of solid waste management facilities — which include materials recovery facilities, sanitary landfills, and recycling equipment — are crucial.

“While we strive to put up various solid waste management facilities throughout cities and municipalities, these are not the only means to solve the country’s garbage problem. There will come a time that these facilities may not function, or even reach their maximum capacity,” Cimatu said.

“Year by year, our population grows, thereby resource consumption and waste generation increases. If an unsustainable lifestyle continues, disposal facilities will not be able to contain it, the environmental impact of wastes inevitably returns to us. It’s high time for all Filipinos to realize that practicing a sustainable lifestyle is as important as solid waste management,” he added.

Meantime, DENR-EMB assistant director Vizminda Osorio disclosed that each Filipino produces an average of 0.4 kilograms of solid waste per day, adding that with the country’s population of 110 million in 2021, it is estimated that 44 million kilograms of solid waste are piling up every day.

Osorio urged participants to adopt a sustainable living to reduce personal and societal environmental impact by implementing positive behavioral adjustments that mitigate climate change and address other environmental concerns.

“Making lifestyle changes allow you also to save money, become more organic, become more involved in your community and, of course, it will contribute to a healthier way of life. Sustainability enhances our quality of life while also safeguarding our ecosystem and natural resources for future generations,” Osorio said.



“We can do better by embracing a sustainable lifestyle — by raising our consciousness on our carbon footprint, reducing energy consumption, becoming eco-friendly, and altering our life,” she added.

Osorio also pointed out that the government sets the example of sustainability through the issuance of the National Solid Waste Management Commission Resolution 1363, Series of 2020, “Directing the DENR to prepare and implement the banning of the use of unnecessary single-use plastics by national government agencies, local government units’ offices, and all other government-controlled offices.”



Pagtatayo ng waste facilities 'di sapat vs basura; disiplina, tamang lifestyle sagot – Cimatú



January 26, 2022 @ 6:30 AM

MANILA, Philippines – Sinabi ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatú na hindi sapat ang pagtatayo lang ng waste facilities bagkus ay hinikayat nito ang publiko na bawasan ang kanilang mga kalat at sundin ang ‘sustainable lifestyle’ bioang tugon sa problema sa basura.

Kabay ng paaggunita sa 21-taon ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001, tinukoy ni Cimatú ang patuloy na pagbibigay ng tulong ng DENR sa local government units (LGUs) para sa pagpapatayo ng solid waste management facilities kabilang na dito ang materials recovery facilities, sanitary landfills at recycling equipment.

“While we strive to put up various solid waste management facilities throughout cities and municipalities, these are not the only means to solve the country’s garbage problem. There will come a time that these facilities may not function, or even reach their maximum capacity,” giit naman ni Cimatú.

“Year by year, our population grows, thereby resource consumption and waste generation increases. If an unsustainable lifestyle continues, disposal facilities will not be able to contain it, the environmental impact of wastes inevitably returns to us. It’s high time for all Filipinos to realize that practicing a sustainable lifestyle is as important as solid waste management,” dagdag pa ng kalihim.

Kaugnay nito sa ginanap na webinar noong Enero 17 na kabilang sa month-long activities para sa anibersaryo ng paglagda ng RA 9003, ibinunyag ni DENR-EMB Assistant Director Vizminda A. Osorio na ang bawat Pilipino ay may average na 0.4 kilograms ng solid waste kada araw.

Kung susumahin sa kasalukuyang populasyon ng bansa noong 2021 na 110 milyon, tinatayang aabot sa 44 million kilograms ng solid waste ang natatambak kada araw.

Samantala hinikayat ni Osorio ang publiko na gawin ang ‘sustainable living’ upang mabawasan ang personal at societal environmental impact sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatupad ng ‘positive behavioral adjustments’ upang mabawasan ang climate change at matutukan ang iba pang environmental concerns.

“Making lifestyle changes allow you also to save money, become more organic, become more involved in your community and, of course, it will contribute to a healthier way of life. Sustainability enhances our quality of life while also safeguarding our ecosystem and natural resources for future generations,” sabi ni Osorio. **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/pagtatayo-ng-waste-facilities-di-sapat-vs-basura-disiplina-tamang-lifestyle-sagot-cimatu/>



DENR ensures LGU waste compliance

Published 16 hours ago on January 25, 2022 01:44 PM

By [TDI](#) [@tribunephil](#)



The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said that it will monitor the implementation of the solid waste management program of local government units in compliance with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“Solid waste management remains a top priority of the DENR. Amidst the ongoing pandemic, we will be vigorously overseeing the solid waste management compliance of LGUs, leveraging on our people and technology,” said DENR Secretary and NSWMC Chair Roy A. Cimatu.

DENR-EMB Director William P. Cuñado during the virtual 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) webinar on 14 January bared that the EMB will closely monitor the various solid waste management strategies of the LGUs committed in the ten-year solid waste management plans.

“We will strictly monitor the commitments of the LGUs with the primary emphasis on their waste avoidance, waste recovery, composting and recycling as well as the management of the COVID-19 related wastes, its proper treatment and proper disposal in the sanitary landfills,” Cuñado said.

The accomplishment of the ten-year solid waste management plans is a mandate given to LGUs by virtue of RA 9003 for the efficient management of solid wastes and the reuse, recycle and compost of wastes generated by cities and municipalities nationwide.

A total of 1,171 solid waste management plans are approved as of 7 December 2021 and are being implemented.

Presently, SWM plans of the LGUs are being monitored through EMB regional offices.

Cuñado bared that the EMB will improve its Integrated Information System or IIS where real-time reporting of data, statistics, and inspection reports will be uploaded for faster actions. We will create accounts for the local government units to register in the EMB System.

“Eventually, if there are some mismanagements, a letter of advice will be sent to the concerned LGU to comply,” he said.

He added: “We will strictly monitor the environmental compliance of the 245 operational sanitary landfills servicing 478 LGUs in the country and we will implement programs to help expand the number of sanitary landfills where our LGUs can properly dispose their wastes in a healthy and environmentally-sound manner”.

RA 9003 prohibits open dumpsites and instead requires sanitary landfills as the final disposal site for solid and residual wastes of a municipality or city or a cluster of municipalities or cities.



The EMB Director said that the EMB has engaged some Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Officers to design sanitary landfills for LGUs and is engaging about five structure designs for every region to help LGUs who are interested to put up a sanitary landfill.

He said that this is a big cost reduction for LGUs as structure designing of sanitary landfills from other providers costs millions.

Cuñado also said that it will also monitor on all the 335 closed dumpsites to ensure that the LGUs comply with the proper rehabilitation activities so as to avoid its negative impacts on the environment.



[Cimatu reiterates call to amend wildlife law to protect PH eagle](#)

JAN 25, 2022, 1:23 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

"Experts in Philippine eagle biology and ecology deem that the surge in rescues during this time means that culprits are intruding into the forests to hunt for food and as a source of livelihood, thereby causing a disturbance in the forest habitats," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a press release.

With the increasing number of Philippine eagles rescued during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has urged lawmakers to amend Republic Act No. 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001) to ensure stiffer penalties against wildlife poachers.

"Experts in Philippine eagle biology and ecology deem that the surge in rescues during this time means that culprits are intruding into the forests to hunt for food and as a source of livelihood, thereby causing a disturbance in the forest habitats," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a press release.

Cimatu made the statement following the release of a Philippine eagle named "Godod" in Godod, Zamboanga del Norte province last January 10.

"We have to remain vigilant and let the perpetrators know that there are environmental laws they have to face if they continue with such evil deeds. Continuously confronted with such acts, we urge our lawmakers to help us protect the Philippine eagle and other wildlife species," he said.

Godod, a female Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), was rescued following a report that it was "trapped and in captivity by a resident somewhere in Barangay Bunawan, Godod in Zamboanga del Norte."

The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte dispatched a team to immediately rescue the raptor.

After its rescue, the raptor underwent an x-ray as part of the standard operating procedures for rescued birds to reveal if it had sustained fractures and other injuries.

Tests for AI or Avian influenza and NCD or New Castle's Disease were also undertaken to find out if the bird had contracted any illnesses.



After a thorough and comprehensive examination, the provincial veterinarians of Zamboanga Sibugay recommended that the bird was fit and healthy for release.

DENR-Zamboanga Peninsula, In-Charge, Office of the Regional Executive Director and Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Ronald Gadot pointed out that the Philippine Eagle is an "indicator species in terms of assessing the richness of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in an area."

Before its release, the eagle was tagged and installed with a global positioning system (GPS) tracker, and the release site was assessed for suitability as a habitat.



SENATORS LAUD DENR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



January 25, 2022 @ 10:09 AM 21 hours ago

I am back from a brief hiatus. These past two months, I had to focus my attention on preparing the journal on the Senate's plenary deliberations on the proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA) for 2022. The Journal of the Senate is my office's constitutionally-mandated output. After two months of writing, proofreading, and editing, of sleepless nights and endless cups of coffee, I wrapped up editing only yesterday. My office would be coming out this week with a Senate Journal as thick as a book, as we always do when the GAA is discussed in plenary toward the end of every year.

Anyone who would want to know about the past and future budgets, plans, programs, and accomplishments of an agency of government can look at the Senate Journal which is a summary of the plenary deliberations. The Journals are uploaded in the Senate website a few days after approval by the senators.

This year's plenary deliberations went smoothly, except for the unexpected occurrence when Senator Cynthia Villar, sponsor of the 2022 budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, requested a suspension of the Senate Rules to allow Secretary Roy Cimatu to directly address her concerns about the reclamation project in the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park. The protocol is for the department heads to be allowed to answer questions only through the committee or subcommittee chairperson. Just the same, Senator Villar ably defended the department's budget and urged the Body to approve it.

Senate President Vicente Sotto likewise made queries regarding the illegal quarrying in Poblacion 5, going to Barangay Miranda up to the boundary of Barangay Banga in Talisay, Batangas, as well as the huge budget for the travel expenses of the department. Senator Villar expressed the DENR's response that both matters had already been addressed.

But what was lengthily discussed during the period of interpellations was the department's Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) under Undersecretary Benny Antiporda which has as its arm the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) with a budget of P1.5 billion. Senator Villar said that a portion of its P1.5 billion budget would be allocated for a waste-to-energy facility that will be constructed in Davao City in partnership with the Japanese government which will co-finance 50% of the P1.5 billion cost of construction.

It will be the DENR's first time to build a waste-to-energy facility which is similar to a small power plant. The DENR is hopeful that the facility will become a good model and a forerunner of similar Japan-aided projects. Three cities are involved in the said project—Davao City, where the pilot implementation will begin; Cebu City; and Quezon City.

The rest of the budget of the SWMP will be allotted for the procurement of composting machines worth P800,000 each which will be distributed to 146 cities and 81 provinces as part of the management of health wastes.



Senator Pia Cayetano welcomed the report on the DENR's plans on medical waste disposal. She said that she understands the difficulties of the project but hoped that the long overdue project would be implemented as soon as possible. Senator Villar said the DENR has a good working relationship with the DOST that has a design of the facility.

Senator Francis Tolentino lauded Secretary Cimatú for the Boracay cleanup project as well as the ongoing Manila Bay cleanup project.

Overall, the senators lauded the department for their accomplishments especially during the pandemic.



MGB warns of flooding, landslide in 611 Eastern Visayas villages

By Sarwell Meniano [January 25, 2022, 3:45 pm](#)



FLOODING. A flooded rice farm near a major road in Abuyog, Leyte in this Dec. 31, 2021 photo. Some villages in Abuyog town have been included in the list of areas prone to flooding and landslide this week due to a low pressure area affecting Eastern Visayas region. *(Photo courtesy of Maria Cielo Cagasan)*

TACLOBAN CITY – At least 611 villages in Eastern Visayas (Region 8) have been warned of possible flooding and landslides due to low pressure area (LPA), the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) reported on Tuesday.

MGB Region 8 senior geologist Rodrigo Jay Miralles said the list of highly susceptible villages released on January 24 has been shared with local government units to facilitate planning activities.

“This does not mean that the entire village (is) prone to flooding or landslide. There is only a certain part of the village that is at risk,” Miralles said in a phone interview.

Of the 611 villages, 490 are in Eastern Samar, 64 in Northern Samar, 53 in Southern Leyte, and four in Leyte province.

The MGB advised the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committees to coordinate with their City or Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils to plan for any emergency, including identification of safe and suitable evacuation centers.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warned of a heavy downpour due to the storm on Tuesday.

In a flood advisory, the weather bureau identified several rivers in six provinces that would likely be affected by the downpour.

These are Sangputan, Palo, Solano, Daguitan, Marabong, Cadacan, Bongquirogon, Salug, Pagbanagaran, Pagsangahan, and Binahaan in Leyte; and Catarman, Bugko, Pambujan, Catubig, Palapag, Mano, and Gamay in Northern Samar.

Other rivers include Oras, Dolores, Ulot, Taft, Borongan, Suribao, Llorente, Balangiga, and Sulat in Eastern Samar; Basey, Silaga, Calbiga, and Jibatan in Samar; Bisay, Himbangan, and Pandan in Southern Leyte; and all river systems in Biliran.

People living in low-lying areas near these river systems have been advised to stay alert for possible flash floods.

Those residing near mountain slopes have been told to watch out for signs of landslides.



As of early Tuesday, the LPA was estimated based on all available data in the vicinity of Talacogon, Agusan del Sur.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, the LPA still has a slim chance of developing into a tropical cyclone but will continue to bring rains over most of the Visayas and Mindanao and parts of Bicol Region. **(PNA)**



MGB warns of flooding, landslide in 611 Eastern Visayas villages

Published January 25, 2022, 10:00 PM

by [Philippine News Agency](#)

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Illegal loggers eyed in clearing ops

by [Vito Barcelo](#) January 26, 2022, 12:30 am

President Rodrigo Duterte is encouraging illegal loggers to help cut off fallen trees in areas affected by Typhoon Odette last December and use it as materials to build houses.

In his talk to the people, Duterte said he was willing to pay small-time illegal loggers to help cut felled trees and assured them that they would not be arrested.

He said all they would have to do was “to go to the office of (Environment Secretary) Gen. [Roy] Cimatu, get a permit to operate a chainsaw to cut fallen trees.”

“I am encouraging the illegal loggers to go back there. Somebody will take a census or whatever and make it a formal document, and I will pay you,” Duterte said.

The President also urged members of the New People’s Army to help in cutting fallen trees.

“You members of the NPA, listen to me, surrender your firearms to the Army for safekeeping and tell the soldiers you will surrender your firearms because you have a job for Duterte,” he said.

Duterte said that the fallen trees could be used to build houses.

More than 339,000 individuals who were rendered homeless due to the typhoon are still staying in 1,146 evacuation centers, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Meanwhile, President Duterte wants the government to build safe temporary shelters for the families affected by Typhoon Odette in the far-flung communities.

“Are they sheltered in the sense that there is a whatever protection for them against rain and those cold nights? Were they provided with such kind of material to build temporary shelters, not houses?” Duterte asked Office of the Civil Defense Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad.

The latter was reporting on the ongoing government-led response efforts for the Odette victims during the President’s prerecorded Talk to the People aired on Tuesday morning.

Jalad said the affected families were already provided with emergency shelter materials while the government is assisting them to rebuild their typhoon-damaged houses.

He said carpentry teams from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Bureau of Fire Protection were already deployed in Eastern Visayas (Region 8) to help the people rebuild and reconstruct their destroyed houses. Some of them were temporarily staying with their relatives.

Duterte said he also wanted to find out if the inhabitants within temporary shelters were already vaccinated against the dreaded COVID-19 infections.

“Because if not yet and the health workers are still in there, let’s just use the assets of the Coast Guard and their fast craft. It’s really fast. Let’s just deliver the vaccines, so we can have it all in. You know, the other areas are far-flung communities. It would be hard for us to go there because it’s remote areas, then we’ll look for people to get vaccinated,” said Duterte.

According to the data released by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council on January 19, the number of families affected by “Odette” has reached a total 2,336,249, more than a month after it swept through many areas in the Visayas and Mindanao.



These affected families, or equivalent to 8,329,076 individuals, are in 8,910 barangays in Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao region, Soccsksargen, Caraga, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The strong typhoon damaged 1,369,433 houses, including 344,650 classified as totally damaged, the NDRMMC said.

Jalad also said the National Housing Authority was at present implementing its emergency shelter assistance and had downloaded around P487 million to local government units.

Aside from the NHA, around P4.8 billion in funds from the Department of Budget and Management for the same purpose had been downloaded to local government units, he added.

Jalad also reported that the Department of Social Welfare and Development had distributed a total 786,000 family food packs worth P440 million to Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas and Caraga.



Duterte wants illegal loggers to cut fallen trees in typhoon-hit areas

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 25, 2022 12:09:15 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 25) — President Rodrigo Duterte said he is willing to pay small-time illegal loggers to help in cutting off fallen trees in areas battered by Typhoon Odette last December.

“Ang importante diyan ngayon is the chainsaw or the portable sawmills,” said Duterte in his pre-recorded public address on Tuesday. “Kung ayan ang trabahuhin nila, all you have to do is go to the office of Gen. [Roy] Cimatu, get a permit to operate a chainsaw to cut fallen trees.”

[Translation: What is important now is the chainsaw or the portable sawmills. If they will work on that, they just need to go to the office of Gen. Cimatu, get a permit to operate a chainsaw and cut the fallen trees.]

“If you commit to use that, we will pay you sa trabaho ninyo,” he added. “I am encouraging the illegal loggers, yung mga small-time, go back there.”

[Translation: If you commit to use that, we will pay you for your work. I am encouraging the illegal loggers, especially those who are small-time, to go back there.]

Data from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council showed that at least 1.3 million houses across 11 regions were damaged due to Typhoon Odette in December.

More than 339,000 individuals are still staying in 1,146 evacuation centers, the NDRRMC added.

Duterte said that the fallen trees could be used to build houses.

“Let us make use of the fallen coconut trees...llagare mo (Saw it) and make it a house out of that material,” he said.

He added that he could shell out the payment for the illegal loggers from his office.

Vaccination of evacuees

Moreover, Duterte also wanted evacuees in typhoon-hit areas to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

“I’d like to go there personally and again to ask the health workers to give vaccination to everybody there para mas madali (so it will be easy). We were able to gather them in one place, in several places, but in one place for each barangay,” said Duterte as he expressed intent to visit again the affected provinces.



If many affected individuals are still unvaccinated against COVID-19, Duterte said that the Philippine Coast Guard can use its fast crafts to deliver the vaccine doses to the evacuation centers.

He added that he is willing to give spare doses to the members of New People's Army. But Duterte then asked the communist rebels to allow the government to freely work on its vaccination drive in these areas.

"Hindi kayo pwede unahin. Kalaban kayo sa gobyerno," said Duterte. Kung may sobra, tawagan niyo muna ako, na kung may sobra ibigay ninyo sa NPA para hindi ma-COVID-19."

[Translation: You cannot be prioritized. You are enemies of the state. If there will be extra doses, give me a call first to give them to the NPA so that you will not be infected with COVID-19.]



PRRD sa illegal loggers, NPA: Tumulong sa mga natumbang puno sa Odette-hit areas



January 25, 2022 @ 3:39 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Hinikayat ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang “small-time” illegal loggers at miyembro ng New People’s Army (NPA) na tumulong sa pagputol sa mga bumagsak na puno sa mga lugar na labis na tinamaan ng bagyong Odette.

“I am encouraging the illegal loggers, ‘yung mga small time, go back there. Somebody will take a census or whatever and make it a formal document, at ako ang magbayad sa trabaho ninyo. I will get it somewhere, sa opisina ko, opisina ko na ang magbayad,” ayon sa Pangulo sa kanyang Talk to the People, araw ng Martes.

Ani Pangulong Duterte, ang illegal loggers na nais na tumulong sa pamahalaan na magputol ng mga bumagsak na puno ay kailangan na kumuha ng certification mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

“If you go there to cut fallen trees for the benefit of the people there, I will pay you. Tapatan ko ang bayad ng Maynila doon. Mag-akyat kayo sa bukid, tulungan ninyo ang gobyerno,” dagdag na pahayag ng Punong Ehekutibo.

Gayundin, hinimok ng Chief Executive ang mga miyembro ng NPA na sumuko sa pamahalaan at tumulong sa pagputol samga bumagsak na puno.

“Ang mga NPA, hoy, makinig kayo, ibaba ninyo muna ang armas, ibigay ninyo sa Army for safekeeping and tell them, ‘Ibibigay ko ito, surrender ko lang kasi may trabaho ako para kay Duterte,” ayon sa Chief Executive.

“Sabihin mo sa sundalo, magsurrender ako sir, may dala akong ano dahil magtrabaho ako na I cut trees. Baka I will accept you, walang kaso, wala lahat. Wala akong ifile sa inyo. Bumaba kayo. This is my order to the military: If they want to surrender, give them the chance to surrender properly.”

Samantala, nangako naman ang Pangulo na magbibigay ng pabahay at skills training para sa mga miyembro ng NPA na susuko sa pamahalaan. **Kris Jose**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/prrd-sa-illegal-loggers-mpa-tumulong-sa-mga-natumbang-puno-sa-odette-hit-areas/>



Lacson: Mining too big an industry to kill but can be kept 'responsible'

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com January 25, 2022 | 2:49pm



Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson at a hearing of the Commission on Appointments last June 2, 2021

Facebook / Ping Lacson

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated 5:54 p.m.**) — Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he will ensure the "responsible" extraction of minerals and eradicate the double standard in the regulation of the mining industry if he is elected president.

In an interview with television host Boy Abunda aired Monday, Lacson agreed with President Rodrigo Duterte's orders that lifted the bans on open-pit mining and new mining agreements, which environmentalists said could hinder efforts to preserve the country's natural resources.

"Bottomline is responsible mining... Ang mining industry, hindi naman pwede patayin kasi major industry ito ng Pilipinas," Lacson said.

(The bottomline is responsible mining... You cannot kill the mining industry because it is a major industry in the country)

"Ang masama 'yung small scale mining... Nandun ang maraming violations kaya 'yung environment is put at risk. Iyon 'yung problema. Hindi ito kung itutuloy or ipagbabawal. Dapat data-driven lagi ito at saka science based 'yung lahat ng pag-aaral," he added.

(The problem is small scale mining. Many violations are related to it that's why the environment is put at risk. It's not a matter of stopping it or allowing it to continue. It should be data-driven and science-based.)

But for Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment, so-called "responsible" mining led to the recent mine spill in Davao del Norte that caused the discoloration of the Maputi River.

Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) said there are no legal definition of "responsible" mining so there are no policies or parameters to measure.

"Then we can't hold DENR or the mining companies accountable when they fail to comply with their claimed 'responsible mining,'" said Jaybee Garganera, national coordinator of ATM.

Implementation lacking

The presidential aspirant also criticized the implementation of regulations on the ground.



"If there are violations along the way, dapat ipatupad. Ang problema kasi 'yung bureaucracy nandyan na 'yung issue ng corruption. Kapag naglagay or kaya nakiusap at malapit, iyon na ang pagbibigyan in spite of so many violations. Basta isa lang 'yung standard," Lacson said.

Tapping environmental groups to monitor the implementation of regulations can help solve the problem, he said.

"As long as the Mining Act of 1995 is in place, NGO participation in monitoring is tokenistic," said Leon Dulce, Kalikasan-PNE national coordinator.

"Government has by and large refused to listen to independent investigations and studies by civil society even if they are given a place in monitoring teams and the like."

Mining donations

Lacson also said he would accept campaign donations from mining firms.

"If the mining company is legal and has a permit, and is following regulations, why not?" he said.

Lacson said his team would refuse donations from companies with pending legislative franchise applications.

"Lacson opening his vault to mining money is a social contract with large-scale mines to which he will be beholden when he becomes president. We deserve an uncompromisingly pro-environment president who will not do a Duterte by reversing mining regulations," Dulce said.

Vice President Leni Robredo earlier vowed to declare no-mining zones and scrap the order lifting a nine-year moratorium on new mining agreements if she succeeds Duterte.

Environmental group Greenpeace said this week that the lack of discussion on environmental issues so far shows "the lack of ambitious plans in candidates' platforms that would protect Filipinos from worsening climate impacts."

Commenting on the "Jessica Soho Presidential Interviews" aired over the weekend, Greenpeace Philippines country director Lea Guerrero said that "climate and environmental issues were addressed within the frame of disaster response, rather than systemic solutions that would address the problems at root."

"The next president needs to advocate the rights of Filipino communities, including securing a green and just future for the youth," she also said.



Lacson OK with lifting of open pit mining ban; calls for responsible mining

ABS-CBN News Posted at Jan 25 2022 04:52 PM

MANILA- Presidential aspirant Senator Ping Lacson does not see a problem in the government's recent decision to lift its ban on open-pit mining, but called for responsible mining and proper enforcement of environmental laws in cases of violation.

Lacson, in an interview with Boy Abunda, said he is also okay with the granting of new mining permits.

"Tama lang na ni-lift ang ban kasi matagal na ring... kung mayroong new permits na ii-issue," Lacson said.

(It is correct that the ban was lifted because it has been so long, if there are new permits that could be issued.)

"Basta sa akin ang bottom line is kailangan responsible mining at kung mayroong violations, along the way, along the way, kailangang ipatupad (ang batas)," the lawmaker added, citing problems in corruption and lack of enforcement of the law despite violations.

(For me it should be responsible mining and if there are violations that we need to address along the way, (the law) should be enforced.)

Lacson added that any decision in government should be driven by data and science, saying mining operations should be closed if permits are violated following due process.

"Dapat ipasara agad. Of course, due process should be followed. Ang problema ang naging kalakaran sa ating pamahalaan, sa ating bansa, parang iyong palakasan system. Kung sino ang may koneksyon, kung sino ang malakas maglagay," he said.

(It should be shut down immediately. The problem with our government is the patronage system where people who have connections, who can give money, [are put first].)

He also noted the importance of non-government organizations and environmentalists as watchdogs, who could also provide pieces of evidence on violations.

Asked though if he would accept political donations from miners, Lacson said he would: "Yes, kung legal naman ang mining company at may permit at lahat sumusunod, why not?"

(If it is legal and they have a permit, why not.)

He however said he does not accept all donations, including those that involve conflicts of interest. He cited as an example those that have pending legislative franchise applications.

The open-pit mining ban was imposed in 2017 by then Environment Secretary Gina Lopez, who cited its destructive nature and potential for a disaster.

The Philippines is the second biggest supplier of nickel ore to top buyer China, after Indonesia, where it is used to produce stainless steel.

— report from Willard Cheng, ABS-CBN News

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/01/25/22/halalan2022-lacson-ok-with-lifting-of-open-pit-mining-ban?fbclid=IwAR23GdikptqTBPtIKAm9qHGBSJtuvEjb49QW7Ah5I_nzPS2i5UGI87hVmxQ



Lacson wants to turn PH into a model in fight vs climate change

By [BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO](#) January 26, 2022

SEN. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said he would turn the [Philippines](#) as a "model nation" in the fight against climate change should he become president.

Lacson, who was presidential adviser on rehabilitation and recovery during the Aquino 3rd administration, said he intends to transform the Philippines from being a "poster country" of global disasters into a model nation when it comes to exerting efforts in the fight versus climate change.

The Partido Reporma chairman and standard-bearer said this would be part of his environmental agenda despite the fact that the Philippines is "not the biggest contributor to global warming."

"The Philippines is a small country to put a dent in what we call the problem of climate change. But then we are still part of an international community of nations and we can do our share," Lacson said in a television interview on Saturday.

Lacson said that to achieve this goal, he aims to make a transition into renewable and alternative sources of energy to help cut global greenhouse gas emissions by 1.5 degrees Celsius, relative to the 2015 [Paris Agreement](#), which the Philippines signed along with 191 other nations.

The presidential candidate also plans to make the country better prepared in its disaster risk response and reduction mechanisms by cracking down on one of the worst forms of corruption that happens whenever calamities strike.

"We must be ready in the face of calamity. The problem is that some calamities are being taken advantage of to rake in profits," Lacson said.

Technology would also play a huge role in his government's efforts to mitigate disasters, he said.

He would be incorporating it in his urban and rural planning as a proactive approach to prevent massive loss of lives during extreme seismic events and other natural phenomena.

Lacson said he saw first hand in December 2021 how [Baguio City](#) was trying to solve environmental hazards like air pollution, fault lines, unexpected rainfall and other things through a geographic information system.

The presidential aspirant also said that his disaster response plans would be sustainable and not limited only to natural calamities, but would extend even to man-made crises like armed conflicts and terrorist attacks.

He also aims to change the mindset of using calamities "as springboard" for politicians to advance their political careers under the guise of charitable acts at the expense of unsuspecting victims who must be helped and supported by the government with no strings attached.

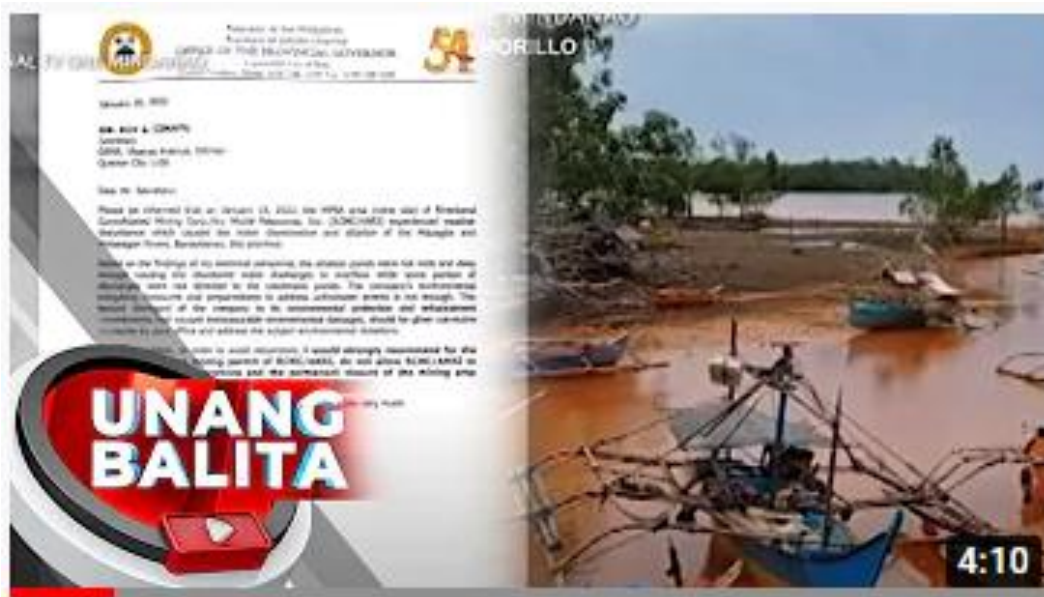
"Whenever a calamity strikes, the government has to make it a priority and sustain a focused response. We cannot be visiting calamity-hit areas just because they're trending," Lacson said.



"You know, this is why I issued a statement recently about politics or service and politics of self-interest. Because, you know, whenever we have calamities that is only when you feel the presence of attention-grabbing politicians," he added.

Lacson continued, "It's what really annoys me. Calamities are being paid attention to only when they make the news."

"After a year or even six months, we all tend to forget about it, and those who are supposed to provide services to our disaster-stricken citizens are also abandoning their responsibilities. So, they must be really sustained," he said.



Kanselasyon ng mining permit ng isang kumpanya, inirekomenda ng Davao Oriental LGU | UB

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PLDT

Tech to enhance ecology European technology supplier Ericsson with PLDT Inc., the Philippines' largest fully integrated telecommunications company and its wireless arm Smart Communications Inc. strengthened their partnership for nature conservation with the signing of a new memorandum of agreement. The partnership aims to leverage the use of technology and advanced machine learning solutions to support environmental sustainability in Sasmuan. Reinforcing this partnership is the participation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Local Government Unit of Sasmuan, Pampanga.



Bulacan waterway cleanup yields 150 sacks of trash

Published January 25, 2022, 8:40 AM

by [Freddie Velez](#)

A waterway cleaning operation in Barangay Tawiran, Obando, Bulacan that yielded more than 150 sacks of garbage has prompted the Provincial Government of Bulacan (PGB) to push for the strict enforcement of laws that protect the environment.



OBANDO WATERWAY CLEANUP — Some 150 sacks of garbage were collected by the staff of the Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO) when they conducted a small scale waterway cleaning operation in Brgy. Tawiran, Obando, Bulacan, on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022. (Photo courtesy of Provincial Public Affairs Office (PPAO))

Gov. Daniel R. Fernando on Monday, Jan. 24, said that the PGB, with the help of other government offices for the environment, will continue to do its part to maintain the cleanliness in the province but reminded every Bulakenyo of their responsibility to take care of mother nature.

“Napakalaki ang ginagampanang tungkulin ng bawat indibidwal sa pagpapanatili ng malinis na kapaligiran. Mahalaga na sa ating sarili at sa ating mga tahanan magsimula ang disiplina sa paglalagay ng basura sa tamang tapunan. Kung mangyayari ito, aabutan pa ng mga susunod na henerasyon ang mga pamana ng ating mga likas na yaman,” the governor said. (The role played by every individual in cleaning up the environment is important. It is important that this discipline must start from every home in the way we handle our garbage. If this happens, the next generations will benefit from this legacy),” Fernando said.

The small-scale waterway cleaning operation was conducted under a bridge in Brgy. Tawiran, Obando, Bulacan last Jan. 21.

Fernando lauded the Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO) and the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) of Obando for cleaning up the garbage that came from other places and carried by the water current.

He said the clean-up drive is part of the fulfillment of his 10-point “People’s Agenda” which includes Resilient Nature and Clean Environment.



Medical center sa Virac na umano'y nagtatapon ng medical waste sa baybayin, nahaharap sa kaso

By **Bombo Radyo Legazpi** -January 25, 2022 | 10:10 AM



LEGAZPI CITY – Inihahanda na ng barangay officials ng Concepcion sa Virac, Catanduanes, ang kasong isasampa laban sa isang medical center na itinuturong responsable sa pagtatapon ng mga medical waste sa kanilang baybayin.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo Legazpi kay Kapitan Antonio Arcilla, ikinadisyama nito ang pagkakadiskobre ng tambak ng medical waste sa kanilang lugar kagaya ng face mask, gloves, syringe, blood collection tube at maging test kits.

Dahil dito, agad na ipinatawag ng barangay sa pamamagitan ng special session ang Excel Care Diagnostic & Wellness Center kung saan sinasabing galing ang mga basura kasama na rin ang kinatawan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Iginiit umano ng center na disinfected na ang naturang mga basura subalit hindi naman maipaliwanag kung bakit itinapon lang sa lugar ang medical waste, dahilan para manindigan ang barangay na sasampahan ito ng kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 6969 o “Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.”

Sa ngayon, natanggal na ang mga medical waste na inilagay sa container truck at ipinasa sa local government unit para sa proper waste disposal.

Samantala, naka-isolate ang kapitan matapos na magpositibo sa Coronavirus Disease ang isa sa mga nakausap na representante ng center sa mismong araw ng special session.



Pro-env't groups hail Davao-based hardware for heeding call to stop sale of leaded spray paints

Published January 25, 2022, 2:04 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

Environmental groups EcoWaste Coalition (EWC) and Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) commended Citi Hardware in Davao City on Tuesday, Jan. 25, for heeding their call to stop the sale of spray paint products with lead content.

In a statement, both groups lauded Citi Hardware's move to replace lead-containing Tacoma spray paints with products reformulated without lead additives.



Old Tacoma Spray Paints containing lead (Courtesy of EcoWaste Coalition)



New Tacoma Spray Paints without lead (Courtesy of EcoWaste Coalition)

Lead is a toxic chemical that can harm people's health, particularly children. It causes damage to the brain and central nervous system, slower growth and development, learning, hearing, and speech challenges, and behavioral issues.

The sale of paints that exceeds the lead content's maximum limit of 90 ppm is prohibited under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Chemical Control Order (CCO) which aims to protect public health from the adverse effects of lead exposure.

IDIS Executive Director Atty. Mark Peñalver said that Citi Hardware's move encourages other retail companies to remove lead-containing products from their stores and provide consumers with better and safer options.



“We need more private institutions to sincerely adhere to government policies and regulations not just for compliance but as a conscious effort to help advance and promote public health and sustainability,” Peñalver said.

Meanwhile, EWC Chemical Safety Campaigner Thony Dizon emphasized the need for consumer awareness and assertion of their right to lead-safe products.

“This success encourages us to continue our periodic paint sampling, testing, and outreach activities to check on our nation’s progress in eliminating lead-based paints, a major source of significant childhood lead exposure,” Dizon added.



Sustaining momentum in going green

By [Mhycke Gallego](#) January 26, 2022

CLIMATE change, depletion of biodiversity and [waste management](#). All these have and continue to put a threat to human lives. These issues, more commonly referred to as environmental problems, bring global economies to come together and find the most appropriate course of action to combat or at least reverse the damage brought by these risks. To add, these risks and their adverse effects to the quality of human life today and in the future have given rise to the concept of intergenerational ethics, a sense of moral obligation to preserve the environment for future generations.

There is a lot to be covered in terms of protecting the environment. In the [Philippines](#), a news report cited that aside from the damage brought by Typhoon "[Odette](#)," threats such as the effects of pollution and illegal fishing plagued the country last year. Amid the [Covid-19](#) pandemic, Filipinos are also grappling with the impact of global warming, which has led to extreme weather events like super typhoons. This, in fact, prompted the [Department of Finance](#) to tie up with other [Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#) leaders to collaborate and share best practices to address such threats. Finance Secretary [Carlos Dominguez 3rd](#) also emphasized during the 2021 [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) of the Parties that the country is taking big steps toward cutting greenhouse gas emissions by using clean energy and highlighted the planned rollout of a sustainable financial roadmap that could provide more environment-friendly policies.

These are just one of the action plans that the government has initiated. But the burden is not just carried by government entities alone. More organizations are stepping up to share the load. On top of this, such groups continue to call on the government to include climate issues on its agenda.

Today, we tend to heavily associate environmental protection with sustainability. While the term evades an exact definition, sustainability can be defined as any and all forms of development that meets the needs of the present population without compromising the right to a balanced and healthful ecology, as embodied under the Philippine Constitution, and needs of future generations.

There is a common misconception that sustainability is all about entities and governments finding ways to lessen environmental risks. However, the scope of sustainability initiatives is not merely confined to looking for the perfect solution, if any exists. It covers social economy, corporate governance, and even extends to financial concepts bundled together and forming what we now know as sustainable finance.

The principle behind sustainable finance is not new. It is the offspring of social considerations and governance initiatives and is considered as "a system in which resources are used to their maximum extent before being disposed of." It was also defined by the [European Commission](#) as a process which covers considerations for environmental, social and governance (ESG), like mitigating the effects of climate change, before governments and private corporations jump the gun in making investments in the financial sector. The result — viable and sustainable long-term programs.

Benefits of sustainable finance

In today's modern times, shifting the focus on social and environmental issues, including incorporating sustainable finance in a business model is a must to thrive. And it does not hurt that sustainable finance also provides a lot of benefits. For one, a corporate strategy anchored on sustainability and corporate social responsibility ([CSR](#)) measures adds value to a company's brand and increases stakeholder confidence. Results of a [McKinsey](#) report showed that companies keen on prioritizing such initiatives are much more likely to engage with their clients better when it comes to sustainability.



In the long run, as companies embed these initiatives within their organizational blueprints, they create positive value for society. In return, they gain consumer trust and become more resilient to such challenges which can threaten their very existence.

So how do we do it? How do businesses go about in railroading and integrating these green policies into their framework?

Invest

All things change, even consumer mindset. Decades earlier, the public may not be as invested in environmental issues. Today, a business' customers are more socially aware of the impact and gravity of their actions and decisions when it comes to protecting the environment. Hence, to cater and see eye to eye with the more socially and environmentally conscious consumer, more green financial products are being developed, opening an exciting array of opportunities for companies in the financial services sector.

Investing in the development of these products is the way to go, and the benefits are many — increase in profit, strengthen brand loyalty, and even promote employee satisfaction. These products include those for retail banking, corporate and investment banking, asset management services, and insurance.

Integrate

Start with a clear objective. What do you plan to achieve upon integrating sustainability measures in your organization? Cutting down carbon footprint, investing more in CSR programs, and presenting more eco-friendly initiatives — these are all viable goals. Once the goal is clear, the next step is to find the right sustainability leaders, like chief sustainability managers or directors, to lead the pack.

Including business partners also does the trick. Find meaningful ways to engage suppliers and other partners to help you achieve your goal.

Inculcate

Never forget the workforce as they form the backbone of any organization. It is equally important for companies to start from within and engage their employees as much as they do when it comes to investors and clients. Research has shown that corporate staff are much more skeptical when it comes to embodying their companies' policies. To counter this, leading by example could help.

Inculcating a shift in employee mindset is an integral step when a business introduces new initiatives on CSR and ESG. Starting from the inside and then rolling out these green initiatives to investors and consumers to create value is a great way to go in terms of embracing sustainability as part of corporate practice.

Setting clear goals, integrating new sustainability initiatives, and imbibing a shift in employee mindset are just some of the many ways that companies can further step up in terms of sustainability. In the end, caring for the environment and becoming sustainability stewards in the process may entail additional effort and sweat, but is still rewarding and is the right way to go.

Mhycke Gallego is the Advisory Services Practice Leader and Head of [Knowledge Management](#) of P&A [Grant Thornton](#). P&A Grant Thornton is one of the leading audit, tax, advisory, and outsourcing firms in the Philippines, with 24 Partners and more than 1000 staff members. We'd like to hear from you! Tweet us: @GrantThorntonPH, like us on Facebook: P&A Grant Thornton, and email your comments to pagrantthornton@ph.gt.com. For more information, visit our website: www.grantthornton.com.ph.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/01/26/business/top-business/sustaining-momentum-in-going-green/1830609>

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DOH tallies over 17,000 new COVID-19 cases

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 25, 2022 4:42:51 PM



The Department of Health's daily COVID-19 case tally dropped to 17,677 on Tuesday, which brought the nationwide total count to 3,459,646. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 25) — The Department of Health's daily COVID-19 case tally dropped to 17,677 on Tuesday, which brought the nationwide total count to 3,459,646.

Of the new infections, the DOH counted 17,157 (97%) that occurred within the past 14 days or from Jan. 12 to 25. The regions with the highest number of new cases in that period were Calabarzon (2,629 or 15%), Metro Manila (2,570 or 15%) and Central Luzon (2,266 or 13%).

The tally is smaller than the previous day's number which stood at over 24,000. However, the DOH said six laboratories were unable to submit their data, and were excluded from the count.

Of the total number of infections, 7.2% or 247,451 are active cases or people who currently have the disease — 235,181 have mild symptoms; 7,464 have no symptoms; 2,996 are in moderate condition; 1,502 have severe symptoms; and 308 are in critical condition.

The death toll also increased to 53,598 — 1.55% of all cases — after 79 more people lost their lives. Of the newly added fatalities, 60 (76%) occurred this month, and 19 last year: four in December, one in November, six in September, five in August, and one each in July, May and March.

Meanwhile, 33,144 others got well, raising the recovery count to 3,158,597 — 91.3% of the COVID-19 tally.

The DOH said it reclassified 35 initially tagged survivors as among the dead after validation, and deleted 87 duplicate cases, including 52 recoveries.

The six non-reporting laboratories contributed an average of 0.6% of tested samples and 0.8% of positive individuals in the last 14 days.

The positivity rate, or percentage of tested people with positive results, dropped to below 40% for the first time in 18 days. The figure is now at 37.2% based on 43,874 tests reported on Jan. 23.

The rate is still way beyond the ideal range of below 5%, which is recommended by the World Health Organization for countries to reopen.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/25/DOH-COVID-19-17000-cases.html>



IATF to tackle possible alert level de-escalation in NCR

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora [January 25, 2022, 4:50 pm](#)



(PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)

MANILA – The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) is set to meet and discuss the possible de-escalation of Metro Manila from Alert Level 3 to the less strict Alert Level 2 following the downward trend in reported coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases, Malacañang said Tuesday.

Cabinet Secretary and acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles said the task force would study this and announce its decision before the month ends.

"Dahil sa gumagandang datos sa National Capital Region, tatalakayin sa IATF kung handa na bang ma-deescalate ang Metro Manila sa Alert Level 2. Pag-aaralan pa ito ng IATF at asahan ninyong mailalabas ang desisyon bago matapos ang Enero (Because of the improving figures in NCR, we will discuss at IATF if Metro Manila is ready to de-escalate to Alert Level 2. We will study this and rest assured that a decision will come out before January ends)," he said in a Palace briefing.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III on Monday said the spike in coronavirus cases in Metro Manila may have reached its peak as the number of new cases from the region continues to decrease.

As of January 24, some 262,997 people are currently recuperating from Covid-19, of whom a total of 72,382 are in Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, at least 47 percent of the 1,300 intensive care unit beds for Covid-19 cases in the region is occupied, including 46 percent of its 4,500 isolation beds and 50 percent of 4,500 ward beds.

Duque said the health care utilization rate must be maintained at low-risk classification or less than 50 percent total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate.

The national government is also monitoring the Covid-19 situation in the Visayas and Mindanao where cases are trending upward.

"Habang kumukonti ang new infections sa Metro Manila, tumataas naman ang mga bagong kaso sa labas ng NCR. Bagama't bumababa ang mga kaso sa Metro Manila, nais nating balaan ang buong bansa -- hindi ito nangangahulugan na malapit nang matapos ang banta



ng Covid-19 Omicron o ano pa mang variant sa Pilipinas (While the number of infections in Metro Manila decreases, new cases outside the region increases. The cases are decreasing in Metro Manila but we want to warn the whole country that this does not mean a nearing end to the threat of Covid-19 Omicron or other variants)," Nograles said.

The official urged local government units to strengthen their respective vaccination campaign and convince their constituents to get vaccinated, noting that vaccine coverage in a number of areas outside the NCR remains low. **(PNA)**



PH, Metro Manila down to 'high risk' for COVID-19

By [Currie Cator, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Jan 25, 2022 12:50:00 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 24) — The risk classifications of the Philippines and the National Capital Region for COVID-19 have been lowered from "critical risk" to "high risk," Health Secretary Francisco Duque said Monday night.

Duque explained that the two-week growth rate, or the growth in cases in the span of 14 days, has decreased from 3,661% to 176% nationwide.

In NCR, the rate dropped to only 65% from 7,226%. The average daily attack rate, however, is still high at 84.56%.

Other regions classified as high risk are MIMAROPA, SOCCSKSARGEN, and BARMM.

Duque noted that cases in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, or the NCR Plus, have been declining, while "the rest of Luzon [is] showing signs of plateauing."

He said the Inter-Agency Task Force will meet on Thursday to discuss the possible deescalation of the alert level status in the capital region.

"Maganda po ang nangyayari sa NCR. Talagang mabilis na bumababa. Ganu'n din ang NCR Plus areas," Duque added. "Kung mapababa natin ito sa lalong madaling panahon, pwede na po tayong mag-Alert Level 2 ulit sa NCR."

[Translation: The situation is getting better in NCR. Infections are rapidly decreasing. Same goes for the other NCR Plus areas. If this continues, we can go back to Alert Level 2.]

"Pero ang binabantayan po natin, ang Visayas and Mindanao... Pataas po ang mga kaso," the DOH chief said.

[Translation: But we are closely monitoring the situation in the Visayas and Mindanao. Cases there are on the rise.]

Earlier in the day, Duque said the spike in COVID-19 cases brought by the highly contagious Omicron variant may have already reached its peak in Metro Manila.

Independent pandemic watchdog OCTA Research, meanwhile, said the wave of infections may be [far from over](#), as cases are only beginning to go up in other regions. It said the surge may end by March or April.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/25/PH-NCR-now-at-high-risk-COVID-19.html>

PH confirms 'stealth Omicron' cases, but no significant difference with other sub-lineage

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 25, 2022 2:47:52 PM



FILE PHOTO

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 25) — The country has detected cases of the "stealth Omicron" sub-lineage, the Department of Health confirmed on Tuesday.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the stealth Omicron or BA.2 is the predominant sub-lineage in most regions based on the latest genome sequencing run. She said this sub-lineage is more common in local Omicron cases detected in the country.

The other sub-lineage, the BA.1, has been detected in 8 regions and it is now predominant in the Bicol Region and among returning overseas Filipinos.

The official stressed there is no significant difference in the "clinical presentation" between the two Omicron sub lineages.

As of Jan. 19, at least 535 Omicron cases have been confirmed in the country.

Vergeire earlier said WHO and other experts across the globe are still studying the stealth Omicron, but initial findings have shown that patients infected with this subvariant experienced symptoms similar to those who had the Omicron variant.

There seems to be no difference when it comes to the severity of illness, but more studies have yet to be made to bring out more information on its transmissibility, she added.

The UK Health Security Agency has so far classified BA.2 as a "variant under investigation," one level below a variant of concern, after a significant rise in its detection.

Vergeire said BA.1 is the more dominant sub-lineage worldwide, but cases of the BA.2 sub-lineage are quickly increasing.

This is a developing story.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/25/Stealth-Omicron-BA.2-COVID-19-cases-Philippines.html>



OMICRON VARIANT SISTER NASA PINAS AT INDIA NA



January 25, 2022 @ 10:32 AM 20 hours ago

LUMILITAW na nasa Pilipinas at India na ang sister o kapatid ng Omicron variant na unang natagpuan sa United Kingdom kamakailan.

BA.2 ang tawag sa bagong anyo ng Omicron variant na tinagurian namang BA.1.

May 53 nang BA.2 sa UK hanggang Enero 10 samantalang kalahati ng mga kasong Omicron sa Denmark ay sa BA.2.

Sinabi ni Tom Peacock, virologist mula sa Imperial College of London na BA.2 na ang malaking bahagi ng Omicron variant sa India at Pilipinas at kumakalat ito sa Denmark, Germany at UK.

May paniniwalang mas higit na nakahahawa ito kaysa sa BA.1 subalit pinag-aaralan pa kung nakalilikha ito ng severe o malalang COVID at aabutin umano ang pag-aaral ng ilang linggo mula ngayon.

MABILIS MAKAHAWA ANG OMICRON

Sa India, noong Enero 1, 2021, mahigit 22,000 lang ang may COVID.

Pero mabilis na dumami ang biktima at pagdating ng Enero 6, mahigit 117,000 na ang biktima at naging mahigit sa 247,000 nitong Enero 13 at naging mahigit 317,000 na nitong Enero 20 at mahigit 333,000 kahapon.

Halos naging kasabay ng India ang Pilipinas sa pagdami ng may COVID na nasa 3,500 lang noong Enero 1, 2022 na naging mahigit 38,000 noong Enero 16 at bumaba sa mahigit 22,000 sa mga sumunod na araw at muling umakyat sa nasa 30,000 araw-araw.

MGA PAGKAKAIBA NG BA.1, BA.2 AT DELTA VARIANT

Pinag-aaralan na ng Statens Serum Institute ng Denmark ang pagkakaiba ng BA.1, BA.2 at Delta variant para matukoy ang mga karampatang aksyon laban sa BA.2 sa partikular.

Ayon sa nasabing institute, may taglay na (Spike)S-gene ang BA.2 na wala sa BA.1.

Naging madali umano ang pagkilala sa BA.1 dahil wala itong S-gene kumpara sa Delta variant.

Dahil naman sa pagkakaroon ng S-gene ng BA.2, mas mahirap umanong sundan o kilalanin ito at kung magiging talagang mabilis makahawa at makalikha ng seryoso o severe na COVID.

Maganda ring hintayin natin ang Department of Health ng Pinas na tumalakay rito.



Pero magandang balita na naniniwala ang nasabing institute na epektibo pa rin laban sa BA.2 ang mga ginagamit nating bakuna laban sa COVID.

MGA SINTOMAS

Heto ang kabilang sa mga dapat nating malaman ukol sa sintomas ng Omicron variant.

Sa Omicron variant, nakararanas ang mga biktima ng sakit sa ulo, pananakit ng katawan at pagod.

Ngunit wala ang pagkawala ng parlasa at pang-amoy at lagnat na kabilang naman sa mga sintomas ng ibang mga uri ng COVID.

Kaninong uri ng COVID naman kaya ang nararanasan ng mga biktima na hanggang tatlong araw na pagtulog?

MAGPABAKUNA

Bago pa lumitaw kung malaganap na ang BA.2 at kasabay ng BA.1 at Delta variant sa pananalasa sa Pinas, dapat magpabakuna ang mga dapat magpabakuna at mga nangangailangan na ng booster shot, kasama na ang mga menor-de-edad.

May bahay-bahay, bara-barangay, parma-parmasya, ista-istasyon ng mga sasakyan, pabri-pabrika, kasama na ang Manila Zoo bilang vaccination sites.

Wala na tayong dahilan para hindi mabakunahan laban sa anomang uring COVID.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 682

ENERO 25, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

7.2%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
247,451

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

91.3%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,158,597

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.55%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
53,598

MGA BAGONG KASO **17,677**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **33,144**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **79**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,459,646**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 23

DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 25
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 23

37.2%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

43,874

BILANG NG
TINIST

HALOS

98.1%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

D UMISTANSYA NG
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN
ANG PISIKAL NA
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)



50%
Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.7K TOTAL BEDS)



53%
Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.8K TOTAL BEDS)



53%
Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS)



25%
Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)



44%
Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (5.0K TOTAL BEDS)



45%
Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)



51%
Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)



24%
Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

7,464 Asymptomatic

235,181 Mild

2,996 Moderate

1,502 Severe

308 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access
here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc

✉ seeyoudoc.com
🗣 SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD

✉ konsulta.md
🗣 KonsultaMD

CloudPx

✉ cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate

✉ medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck

✉ medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD

✉ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
🗣 TelAventusMD

HealthNow

🌐 healthnow.ph/
✉ help@healthnow.ph
🗄 HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

doh.gov.ph

[📞 \(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)

26 JANUARY 2022, WEDNESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDyNUXiHL-8&ab_channel=enr.berto

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #DuterteLegacy

SAYANG DAW ANG PERA SA DOLOMITE? PANUORIN MO ITO!

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grabeh ang huling isda super sarap iloto ito wow na wow! manila bay blessing ng dagat umulan.

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MANILA

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#reclamationmanilabay

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


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