

26 NOVEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR ensures forest protection to fight climate change

Published November 25, 2021, 12:31 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to protect the country's remaining forests as part of its commitments before the recently concluded United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to limit the world's rising temperature by various means.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Nov. 25, the DENR said it is committed to "remain at the forefront of forest protection" as DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu promised to support "the pledges and contributions made by the Philippines" during the COP26.

"The DENR will be at the frontlines of ensuring that the verdant forest covers will be replenished to ensure adequate carbon sequestration to meet the country's contributions to sustain the goal of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius," Cimatu said.

The Philippine delegation, led by Department of Finance Secretary and Climate Change Commission chair-designate Carlos Dominguez and DENR-Climate Change Service office's Albert Magalang, "made significant contributions to the international conference for climate change," the agency said.

It was in terms of financial and cooperative mechanisms, loss and damage as well as halting deforestation, among others, DENR added.

The agency also said it served as the Philippine lead negotiator on Article 6 or the Cooperative Implementation of the Paris Agreement.

It also contributed to the completion of its rule book that establishes the modalities, procedures and guidelines on how countries will exchange and transfer international mitigation outcomes through carbon credits.

In the recent COP26, DENR said the country was among the 141 countries that endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forest and Land Use.

Among actions stated in the declaration were: conserving forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerating their restoration, facilitating trade and development policies, and promoting sustainable development.

DENR said the country also launched a roadmap for financing green investments, which aims to encourage investments in businesses, technologies and infrastructure, and help make the economy more resilient to climate change impacts.

A total of 200 parties concluded the conference on Nov. 13 with an agreement to sustain the goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius and abide by the pledges made during the Paris Agreement. The parties also agreed to revisit the emissions targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions next year and strengthen the targets in preparation for 2022, according to DENR.

Recently, the Philippine office of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) urged the government to immediately take concrete steps to address climate change.



The non-profit organization in a statement said the government must hastily put in place policies and make necessary executive decisions as the gathering “is not just a one-time event where world leaders make surprise announcements and flowery speeches.”

WWF said that while “most Filipinos are already suffering from the climate crisis,” it “doesn’t mean the situation is hopeless.”



DENR exec cited for efficient solid waste management strategies

NOV 25, 2021, 3:09 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda was cited by Coalition of Solid Waste Management Providers for his reforms and initiatives in addressing the country's solid waste problems.

IMPRESSED by his innovative reforms Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda was recently cited by a waste management stakeholders group.

Antiporda was given a Certificate of Recognition by the Coalition of Solid Waste Management Providers (CSWMP) for organizing the private group and encouraging them to work with the government in implementing effective ecological solid waste strategies in the entire country.

Antiporda Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns has thanked the group for the award.

He also hailed them for responding to the government's call in addressing the solid waste problem.

As an Alternate Chair of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, Antiporda has been instrumental in pulling together the sanitary landfill (SLF) operators and encouraging them to form a coalition "so that they can strengthen their partnership to effectively address the country's solid waste concerns.

It was the first time the DENR has been able to bring together all SLF operators and motivate them to go beyond their business interests and assist the government in solving the waste problems of the country.

Antiporda has also spearheaded the clean up of Manila Bay and revive it as one of the top tourist attractions in Metro Manila.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/denr-exec-cited-for-efficient-solid-waste-management-strategies?fbclid=IwAR2Sv-Bti10GQKteRM5k7rNaGDW4_8yRjiwcrTG-v1HWiKIRtYsXPhc3_lc



Usec. Benny Antiporda tumanggap ng Certificate of Recognition mula sa Coalition of Solid Waste



November 25, 2021 @ 1:43 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Dahil sa walang tigil na pagpapatupad ng epektibong ecological solid waste management sa bansa, tinanggap ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ang Certificate of Recognition mula sa Coalition of Solid Waste Management Providers (CSWMP) para sa pag-oorganisa ng pribadong sektor ng solid waste management service providers sa CSWMP para makipagtulungan sa gobyerno sa pagpapatupad ng epektibong ecological solid waste management para sa bansa .

Si Antiporda, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns ay nakikiisa sa mga aktibong miyembro ng Coalition of Solid Waste Management Providers na tumugon sa panawagan ng gobyerno sa pagtugon sa problema ng solid waste ng ating bansa.

Siya rin ay Alternate Chair ng National Solid Waste Management Commission, na naging instrumento sa paghila sa mga operator ng sanitary landfill (SLF) at hinikayat silang bumuo ng isang koalisyon “upang mapalakas nila ang kanilang pakikipagtulungan para sa isang mas mahusay na pamamahala ng solid waste upang epektibong matugunan ang problema ng bansa sa basura.

Ayon sa DENR, ang inisyatiba na ito ang kauna-unahan sa kasaysayan ng solid waste management sa bansa na nagawang tipunin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang mga operator ng SLF, ma-motivate silang lumampas sa kanilang interes sa negosyo at tumulong sa gobyerno sa paglutas ng problema sa waste management ng bansa.

Kabilang dito pinangunahan din ng DENR ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay upang muling ibalik ang ganda ng Baybayin at muling Buhayin ang ganda nito hindi lamang sa local tourist maging sa international tourist. **(Santi Celario)**

Source: https://www.remate.ph/usec-benny-antiporda-tumanggap-ng-certificate-of-recognition-mula-sa-coalition-of-solid-waste/?fbclid=IwAR072G5mEbOPJQvw4KM31D-vrQFujmJMvUbRvr4_RJhOFEV-k1-VBknIBg



EMB steps up air quality monitoring in SoCot

By Allen Estabillo November 25, 2021, 1:08 pm



Rammy Laspiñas, planning officer and airshed program focal person of the Environmental Management Bureau-Region 12 (Photo courtesy of the provincial government of South Cotabato)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has launched another round of air quality monitoring in parts of South Cotabato province to establish baseline data for every locality.

Rammy Laspiñas, the airshed program focal person of EMB-Region 12, said on Thursday the monitoring activities are ongoing in municipalities that are not covered by their existing monitoring stations in Koronadal City and Tupi town.

These are the municipalities of Tboli, Norala, Banga, Surallah, Sto. Nino, Lake Sebu, Polomolok, Tampakan, and Tantangan.

Laspiñas said they are specifically gathering air quality data in these areas that will serve as baseline data for future monitoring.

“We will use the reading to later check whether the air quality in a specific area has improved or not,” he told reporters.

HE said they are targeting to provide such data to all local government units (LGUs) in the province before the end of the year.

He said the LGUs may use them in crafting policies to further improve air quality within their jurisdiction.

EMB-12’s monitoring stations in Koronadal City and Tupi provide real-time updates on air quality within a 50-kilometer radius.

Laspiñas said of their September data, the air quality index in these areas only ranged from 30 to 43 micrograms per normal cubic meter or way below the 150 level, the standard set under the Clean Air Act.

“This means that the air quality in the area is quite good,” he said.

He said they have been conducting various initiatives in coordination with other agencies and LGUs to help further improve the area’s air quality level.



This includes roadside apprehension and garage testing for motor vehicles and air pollution monitoring for factories and related establishments.

Laspiñas said they set up joint checkpoints with the Land Transportation Office in the strategic areas to conduct random emission testing for passing vehicles.

Last month, he said they conducted garage testing at the public terminal in Koronadal City that covered 10 percent of public utility vehicles (PUVs) deployed by transport companies.

He said all companies and PUVs covered by the testing have all passed, indicating that their vehicles are well maintained.

For the factories, Laspiñas said they subject them to periodic stock and ambient sampling, depending on the schedule indicated in their permits.

“They are covered by third-party testing so we usually come in to confirm the results in coordination with the concerned LGU,” he said. **(PNA)**



More Minahang Bayan to be declared soon

By **Jed Macapagal** -November 26, 2021

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) sees improved production of gold, silver and chromite as the declaration of new Minahang Bayan (MB) areas is underway.

The MGB said in a statement there are 170 pending applications for areas to be declared as MBs, common areas where small-scale miners are allowed to operate.

“For metallic minerals, commodities will be limited only to gold, silver and chromite and shall have a term of two years, renewable for like periods but not to exceed a total term of six years. With MB very much in the scene, we are optimistic that gold, silver, and chromite production will rise,” said MGB.

At present, there are 43 operating MBs, 13 of which are located in Luzon, 3 in Visayas and 27 in Mindanao.

MGB said that out of the 30 million hectares (ha) total land area of the Philippines, only 2.48 percent or 745,685.48 ha is covered by mining tenements as of Oct,31, 2021.

The MGB said the figure only counts areas covered by permits issued by the national government.

The MGB said to date, t 313 mineral production sharing agreements have been approved. These cover a total land area of 576,482.65 ha.



London-based firm extends P120M to relocated illegal miners, settlers

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) November 26, 2021

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya: Over P120 million has been released to around 700 illegal occupants who have been relocated to a safer place from a Mines and [Geosciences Bureau](#) (MGB)-declared geohazard area in the gold deposit-rich upland village of Runruno.

[James Carmichael](#), [FCF Minerals Corp.](#) country manager, said the company continues in its efforts to complete the removal of the remaining illegal miners and settlers within the area covered by their financial or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) approved by the national government under the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR).



HAZARDOUS AREA Shown are shanties of illegal miners and settlers in a declared geohazard area in the gold deposit-rich village of Runruno in Quezon town, Nueva Vizcaya. PHOTO BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

The FTAA is a permit issued to a multinational company sharing technology and resources to explore and extract minerals in the [Philippines](#).

FCF Minerals is 100 percent owned by the London-based Metals Exploration.

It operates the Runruno Gold-Molybdenum project located some 285 kilometers north of Manila in this province, an area which has been known to be prospective in gold and other precious metals since the early 1960s.

"In conjunction with relevant government agencies, the company continues in its efforts to complete the removal of the remaining illegal miners, including their infrastructure and dwellings, from those areas scheduled to be mined as part of a mine plan particularly stages three and four," Carmichael said.

He added that the illegal occupants have been safely relocated and that they continue to work diligently with local authorities to complete their removal and resettlement from stages three and four of the project sites.

"We extended over P120 million financial assistance to cover more than 700 structures by the occupants that were removed from these project sites," Carmichael said.

He, however, noted that the company and the Philippine government have a growing concern near the project site because of the presence of more than 100 shanties with people living in them, also in an MGB-declared geohazard area.



The company recently informed DENR [Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan](#) of the renewed presence of at least 100 illegal settlers and shanties in Sitio Compound in Runruno.

"We are continually having talks with the local government units and concerned national agencies like the MGB under the auspices of the DENR for their relocation and safety," Carmichael said.

He added that he hopes that before any natural calamity hits the province, particularly this town, these illegal occupants will have already been evacuated and moved from the geohazard area within the project site to safer ground.

In November last year, 10 illegal small-scale miners and squatters died while two others were injured in a landslide at the height of Typhoon "[Ulysess](#)" in Runruno village, a highly susceptible landslide area based on the DENR-MGB list of geohazard areas in the province.

Meanwhile, FCF Minerals has praised the government's move in relocating illegal small-scale miners and squatters in Runruno village.

"We are very much satisfied with the move of government agencies in relocating villagers from landslide-prone areas to safer grounds in Runruno," Carmichael said.

He added that past operations of the DENR-MGB, [National Bureau of Investigation](#), Philippine Army and Philippine [National Police](#) in dismantling small-scale mining equipment and the process of their relocation should be maintained to prevent the return of illegal settlers in geohazard areas in the village.

"We will continue to provide fair and just compensation to the illegal small-scale miners and squatters whose properties have to be removed," Carmichael said.

He also recognized the assistance of the religious sector in the conduct of dialogues between the mine firm officials and the illegal small-scale miners and squatters for their relocation.

This town's local government has also purchased a two-hectare land in Boliwao village that will be transformed into a housing and relocation site for poor and legitimate illegal small-scale miners and squatters from Runruno village.

The relocation project will be jointly constructed with the funding support of the [National Housing Authority](#) with initial funding of around P50 million.



SoCot reports slowdown in illegal mining operations

By Allen Estabillo November 25, 2021, 1:02 pm



Siegfred Flaviano, head of South Cotabato Provincial Environment Management Office (Photo courtesy of the provincial government)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Illegal mining operations in South Cotabato province have slowed down in the past several months due to the intensified monitoring and law enforcement operations.

Siegfred Flaviano, head of the Provincial Environment Management Office, said they have not monitored any major illegal mining activity, especially the destructive “*banlas*” or sluice method, as of Thursday in various mining areas in the province.

He said some miners have only resorted to panning in the rivers the rocks or ores that are washed down from nearby mountains by the rainwater.

“There (are) some reports regarding those using hoses but these are very minimal based on our validation on the ground,” Flaviano said in a briefing.

He was referring to the sluice mining method, which is done by pouring a large amount of water onto a mountain surface to loosen rocks containing gold and then panning them using mercury.

These illegal activities were monitored by the provincial government in the past years in gold-rush areas in Tampakan and Tboli towns.

Flaviano said the majority of small-scale miners, especially those in Tboli, have already been complying with the mining regulations and assisting them in stopping the illegal activities.

He said they have tapped the *Minahang Bayan* associations to specifically help monitor “*banlas*” mining activities by including it as a requirement in their permits.

The province has three declared *Minahang Bayan* or people’s mining sites, covering areas in Barangays Kematu and Desawo, Tboli.

Flaviano said they also strengthened their enforcement operations against illegal mining activities in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and concerned local government units.

Last year, the local government and the DENR-12 activated a joint task force to monitor various environmental crimes, especially illegal mining and logging activities.



He said South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. has assigned additional personnel to help monitor the illegal mining activities and allotted additional funding for the task force's operations next year.

Flaviano said the improved situation has resulted in higher collections of mining and quarry taxes.

He said the provincial government already collected around PHP43 million in taxes this year from mining and quarrying activities. **(PNA)**



EXPORTATION NG BLACK SAND TINULDUKAN

PINAGTIBAY na sa House committee on environment and natural resources ang panukalang batas na nagbabawal sa mining companies na ilabas sa bansa ang kanilang miniminang black sand.

Sa pagdinig ng nasabing komite na pinamumunuan ni Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., inaprubahan ang substitute bill ng House Bill (HB) 6321 o "Black Sand Processing Act of 2020".

Base sa ilalim ng nasabing panukala, hindi na maaaring ilabas sa Pilipinas ang mina na nakukuha sa mga tabing ilog lalo na sa Northern Luzon.

Nais ng Kongreso na mismong ang Pilipinas ang makinabang sa nasabing mina imbes na ang ibang bansa kaya inaatasan ang mga mining at trading com-

panies na dalhin ang minang nilang black sand sa modestic processing facilities sa bansa.

Maraming industriya ang gumagamit ng mga materyales na gawa mula sa black sand kaya nagkaroon ng international demand nito. Kabilang sa mga pinaggagamitan ng black sand ay nuclear reactor at pagpo-produce ng kuryente bukod sa construction materials subalit hindi ito napakikinabangan ng mga Pilipino.

"The Philippines, being one of the fastest developing countries in the region, is at the receiving end by losing of billion of dollars from our importation of processed products needed in our continuous industrialization, not to mention the current administration's build, build, build initiatives," ayon sa panukala.
(BERNARD TAGUINOD)

Source:

<https://saksingayon.com/?fbclid=IwAR2BOvGXA16rI9p0SNnIIF7x9GyRNm6QCLCwo7I3dtKXMNWXGmblo738MIM>



Copper ore plant helps Toledo City manage mining wastes

By Carlo Lorenciana **November 25, 2021, 2:33 pm**



ORE SORTING PLANT. A newly completed copper ore sorting and processing plant in Toledo City, Cebu is seen to contribute to sustainable mining through better waste management processes. Aboitiz Construction on Thursday (Nov. 25, 2021) said the project provided employment opportunities to some 200 individuals, nearly 80 percent of whom were locally hired. *(Photo courtesy of Aboitiz Construction)*

CEBU CITY – The Cebu-based construction firm Aboitiz Construction on Thursday said it has finished the construction work on the British firm’s CD Processing (CDP) Ltd. copper ore sorting and processing plant in Carmen Copper Corporation’s operations center in Toledo City.

To manage mining wastes, the plant is seen to boost an environmentally-inclusive economy, with an aim to generate more jobs for the local residents.

“In line with our commitment to building a better future, we will continue to help other businesses to thrive and contribute to responsible operations which will lead to the provision of job opportunities and contribution to the economy’s growth,” said Alex Garciano, Aboitiz Construction vice president for construction operations, in a statement.

The new facility will help manage mining wastes efficiently through the reclamation of valuable copper-bearing ores from low-grade materials discarded by copper mines, thus, decreasing wastes.

The company said the project has provided employment opportunities to about 200 individuals, nearly 80 percent of whom were locally hired.

The CDP plant is a state-of-the-art ore sorting plant that uses the latest magnetic resonance analyzer technology, which will contribute to a safer, more sustainable, and cutting-edge working environment and operations.

The British firm has invested PHP583 million in its ore sortation facility in Cebu, a pioneer project approved by the Board of Investment (BOI). **(PNA)**



PHL among most exposed to climate change risks

November 25, 2021 | 12:31 am



THE PHILIPPINES is one of the countries most exposed to climate change physical risks, particularly floods and storms, according to Fitch Ratings.

Based on Fitch's Climate Change Physical Risk Exposure Heatmap rankings released on Wednesday, the Philippines ranked fourth in terms of risks arising from floods and storms.

The Philippines trailed Mozambique (1st), Vietnam (2nd), and Bangladesh (3rd) in the ranking of countries most vulnerable to floods and storms.

In a report, Fitch said climate change will lead to higher physical risks from higher temperatures, intense droughts, storms, floods, rising sea levels, among others.

"As the impact of secular climate change builds and extreme weather events strike, they will have a net negative effect on economic activity and public finances, and may trigger political shocks... Undiversified economies in harm's way of adverse climate trends, with weak buffers and limited adaptation capacity are most vulnerable," it said.

Fitch assessed the physical risk exposures using a range of current indicators and climate model projections for 2040-2059 using a scenario that involves a rise in global temperature of 2.4 Celsius above the pre-industrial average by 2100.

Fitch said it expects climate change physical risks to lead to some rating downgrades of the "most vulnerable" sovereigns.

"The climate is changing and this will have an increasing effect on sovereign creditworthiness. Fitch aims to capture this in sovereign ratings, as it does for all factors that it believes are relevant and material for creditworthiness," it said.

Based on the report, the Philippines already had the fifth-highest average annual rainfall from 2011 to 2020, next to Malaysia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, and Guatemala. An average of 20 typhoons or storms hit the Philippines every year.

"Flood risk is complex and reflects many other factors, including peak events within wet months, rainfall in areas upstream of major rivers, storm surges, and the effectiveness of infrastructure, such as flood defenses and drainage," Fitch said.



The report also showed the Philippines is the second-most exposed to risk of storms, after Japan but ahead of South Korea and China.

“The countries suffering the most damage from storms relative to gross domestic product (GDP) were Mozambique, Jamaica, Oman, El Salvador, the Philippines and Vietnam,” Fitch said.

The Philippines, alongside China, the United States and India, saw the highest number of climate-related natural disasters and extreme weather events in the past 20 years.

By 2100, Fitch warned that risks from climate change could mean losses of about 8% to Philippine GDP per capita.

“Climate change physical risks will have an adverse effect on GDP in some [of the world’s] regions through business disruption, damage and higher cost; a reduction in capital and labor productivity; shifting prices, terms of trade and economic rents; adverse health outcomes; and making some activities such as agriculture unviable,” Fitch said.

Fitch in July downgraded its outlook to the country’s “BBB” rating from “stable” to “negative,” citing the impact of the prolonged pandemic crisis. — **LWTN**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/phl-among-most-exposed-to-climate-change-risks/?fbclid=IwAR0Ny3HCUchLAUUfhCXSdu-m37nWhmWUBGSGAGoeHDcj-pi0r3G7xjqDhGU>



Coca-Cola boosts investments in recycling

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) November 26, 2021

[COCA-COLA Philippines](#) is elevating its efforts in investing in the recycling industry sector, with plans to open a pioneering plastic bottle recycling facility in Cavite by the first half of 2022.

In a statement, Coca-Cola said it will be opening PETValue Philippines next year, a pioneering PET plastic bottle recycling facility located in General Trias, Cavite.

The company said that the establishment of PETValue — a joint venture with Indorama — is expected to help spur domestic recycling capabilities and the development of a circular economy for PET bottles. It will also provide job opportunities and contribute to the local economy.

"At Coca-Cola, we're fully committed to make our vision of a World Without Waste come to life. This requires continued dedication and tangible efforts from us working in close partnership with industries, recyclers, local governments and other organizations, even consumers," said [Tony Del Rosario](#), Coca-Cola Philippines President and Vice-President for Franchise Operations for the [Asean](#) and [South Pacific](#) Unit-[East Asia](#) Region.

Today, many companies and brands are designing their packages with recyclability in mind and working hard to boost rates of collection and recycling. With technological advancements increasing by the decade, recyclers have found more efficient and faster ways to recycle PET plastic packaging and give the empty containers a second life.

In the Philippines, Coca-Cola is making progress toward these goals. In 2019, the beverage company introduced the Philippines' first beverage bottles made from 100-percent recycled plastic material with the launch of its [Viva!](#) Mineralized Water and [Sprite](#) 500-milliliter clear bottles made from 100-percent recycled plastic.

All these, according to Coca-Cola Philippines, is the company's efforts towards accelerating the transition to a circular economy in the country. The company is involved in many local partnerships that empower households and communities with information, resources and technology on proper waste segregation.

Coca-Cola believes that while recycling is only one of many solutions to help address the global plastic waste problem, its significant contribution toward reducing the amount of plastic that ends up in the environment cannot be underestimated. Good collection and recycling infrastructure help create a circular economy, it added.



Destruction at Arroceros Forest Park

By [Ma. Isabel Ongpin](#) November 26, 2021

LADIES and gentlemen, I hereby announce the wanton damage and perversion of a green area of Manila, the Arroceros Forest Park. Feverish construction has descended on it with a plan that is not for a forest but for what seems at close scrutiny to be an attempt at an ornamental garden. Though even that plan has its egregious mistakes. All ponds in the area have been covered. In the value of things as they now stand in a time of climate change, a forest with trees and natural pathways and ponds is a much more important asset than an ornamental garden that for its existence has had trees cut down, natural paths substituted with cement pathways. That is what is wantonly happening, a very clear act of vandalism.

It will perhaps still be called Arroceros Forest Park, but it will not be that. It will no longer be a mini forest in the midst of hot, arid and ungreen Manila, but a misbegotten attempt at a garden with lots of cement, less trees, no birds and an identity of inconclusive character. As it will be neither a forest nor garden, it will be some kind of cement labyrinth among the trees that were not cut, a poor shadow of what it once was.

I have been a supporter of the Arroceros Forest Park from its beginning with the Winner Foundation. We have come up against mayors who never want to leave well enough alone. Mayor Lito Atienza insisted on taking 800 square meters to build an Education building despite other city lots that were empty. Upon excavation of the site for the building, Chinese export pottery was found showing that it was an archaeological site and should be left for future ages to study. But despite all kinds of pleas the building went up and along the way in Atienza's administration, the Jai Alai building was demolished. This is a record of mindless destruction.

Next came Mayor Joseph Estrada who wanted to put up a gymnasium in the park, which would have meant more land would be grabbed from it, more construction and endangered trees and homeless birds. Fortunately, time ran out on the planned project, though it must be said of Mayor Estrada that he was approachable enough to talk to and decent enough to listen.

Now comes the champion forest depredator, Mayor Isko Domagoso. Despite the usual courtesy calls and conversation with Arroceros Park volunteers at the beginning of his term, where he promised that it would remain a forest park, it is on his watch that the wholesale destruction of the park is going on. And with nary a consultation or a notice given to the people who have cared for it over the years. This is consummate deception and discourtesy and a misuse of power. He may be the mayor but he does not own the park. The people of Manila are the owners and if they have representatives like the Arroceros Park volunteers who have over more than 20 years worked for its welfare, contributed their resources for its benefit and created a decent park out of it, they should have been consulted. So far, not a word has come from his "Honor" regarding the lamentations aroused. That seems to be his governance behavior. Letters to him go unanswered. Complaints are ignored.

The kindest thing one can say if one restrains oneself from losing one's temper, is that we are in the hands of ignorance. Only those who are in that state with climate change already wreaking havoc here would cut trees, would exchange a mini forest for a questionable ornamental garden, take out ponds, pour in cement and do it surreptitiously.

Where oh where is Mayor Alfredo Lim, the only mayor of Manila that allowed the Arroceros Forest Park to thrive? How dreadfully unfortunate is Manila to be in the hands of ignorance and deception.



One has to wonder why this frenzy of construction in haste and waste is causing more destruction than the improvement it claims to be doing. We all know what construction activities mean before, during and after elections. There is more than meets the eye here.

The current mayor has declared that the time of the "elitistas" is now over. He must be channeling Pol Pot. He will probably refer to those who demur, contradict or oppose his doings at Arroceros Park as "elites." Well, we are now veering from ignorance to demagoguery. This is the road to perdition. The trapos behind him have conquered and created just another one of them.

Goodbye, Arroceros Forest Park. You may be there in name but not in reality. It is a tragic end for you, for Manila, for the people who cared for you.



Legarda expresses disappointment on Glasgow Climate Pact

Published November 25, 2021, 4:49 PM by [Ben Rosario](#)

House Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda is disappointed at the outcome of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, United Kingdom.



Rep. Loren Legarda

A three-term senator, Legarda said the agreement reached at the conclusion of the COP26 last Nov. 13 among world leaders did not sufficiently address the global climate crisis. “Unfortunately, COP26 was not the COP that we had needed it to be. It did not give us enough reason to heave a big sigh of relief just yet, in light of the latest climate warnings issued in August that signaled ‘code red’ for humanity,” Legarda stressed in a privilege speech before the House of Representatives Wednesday, Nov. 23.

The House leader’s disappointment is shared by many who had expected better version of the Glasgow Climate Pact, the main output containing the decisions adopted by 197 countries in COP26.

“Even UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the approved texts as a ‘compromise,’ and that ‘we are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe,” she lamented.

“On climate ambition, countries’ pledges to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions or what we call as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), taken together, are still not enough to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. 1.5 is our climate threshold for our survival, but after COP26, experts are saying that global warming would still increase to 2.4 degrees Celsius or higher,” Legarda pointed out.

Legarda said the Glasgow Climate Pact also noted the developed countries’ failure to deliver support in jointly mobilizing 100 billion US dollars of climate finance per year from 2020 until 2025, as well as noting that the provision for adaptation remains insufficient to respond to the worsening climate change impacts in developing countries.

“These three aspects—ambition, adaptation, and finance—are the very foundations of our fight for climate justice. And without the clear, adequate, and predictable provisions for such, we cannot truly consider ourselves safe and resilient in the years to come,” she argued.

But while the COP26 did not meet expectations, Legarda said it still gave several “wins” for the climate agenda.



She cited for instance the unprecedented inclusion of language against coal and other fossil fuels in the Pact – even with COP26 having coal, oil, and gas industry executives present.

The Pact called on countries “to accelerate the... transition towards low-emission energy systems, including... accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.” It also invited countries “to consider further actions to reduce by 2030 non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions, including methane.” The explicit mention of methane is also a first in the history of COP.

“I think it’s clear: This is a death sentence on coal and fossil fuels,” she pointed out.

Legarda said another win is the inclusion of a special section on loss and damage in the Pact, which acknowledged that “climate change has already caused and will increasingly cause loss and damage and that, as temperatures rise, impacts from climate and weather extremes, as well as slow onset events, will pose an ever-greater social, economic and environmental threat.” “The Pact was not at all clear on whether developing countries will be compensated on loss and damage, but it builds the momentum for clearer and stronger provisions in future climate talks,” she stressed.

However, Legarda lauded the Philippine delegation to COP26 led by Finance Sec. Sonny Dominguez for being “steadfast in advancing our country’s positions and interests.”

26 NOVEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



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COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



COVID-19 sa Pinas 'di pa kontrolado – DOH

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 26, 2021 - 12:00am



OCTA says the COVID-19 situation in Metro Manila is unprecedented, comparing it to the situation during the last surge in July and August last year when stricter quarantine protocols were imposed.

Krizjohn Rosales

MANILA, Philippines — Naninindigan ang Department of Health (DOH) na hindi pa maikedklarang kontrolado na ang COVID-19 sa bansa sa kabila ng malaking pagbaba sa mga arawang kaso.

“We are not going to declare this soon. We are just coordinating with WHO on the process and the determinants of disease control or containment,” ayon kay Vergeire.

Kaugnay ito ng planong paghingi ng opinyon ni Secretary Francisco Duque III sa World Health Organization (WHO) kung maaari nang ideklara na kontrolado na ang pandemya sa Pilipinas.

Sinabi ni Vergeire na base sa mga karanasan sa mga nakaraan, maraming mga hindi inaasahan na maaaring mangyari tulad ng pagbaba ng kaso at muling pagtaas dahil sa iba’t ibang kadahilanan.

“Maaring ang ating NCR, mataas na ang bakunahan dito, tapos ang ating community response has been intensified. But if we compare to other areas in the country, some of the areas in the country, mababa pa rin ang pagbabakuna,” ayon kay Vergeire.

Kailangan pa rin umanong tulungan ang ibang lokal na pamahalaan para mapataas ang kanilang pagresponde sa mga komunidad at pagdisiplina sa publiko.

Dapat din na ganap na preparado na ang ‘health system’ ng bansa para makapagdeklara na kontrolado na talaga ang sakit.



Philippines targets COVID-19 vaccination of 13.5M kids aged 5 to 11

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com November 25, 2021 | 4:20pm



A teenage boy receives a BioNtech-Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine during the inoculation of the population aged 12 to 17 at a stadium in San Juan City, suburban Manila on November 3, 2021.

AFP / Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is eyeing to immunize around 13.5 million children aged five to 11 against COVID-19 after it expanded its vaccination drive to minors last month.

In a briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the country has “enough” supply to vaccinate Filipinos, including adolescents aged five to 11.

The government, however, has yet to provide a target date for the inoculation of this age group.

“We will wait for the emergency use authorization issued by the Food and Drug Administration for the inclusion of this specific sector of society,” Vergeire said in Filipino.

Last month, the Philippines started administering COVID-19 jabs to young people aged 12 to 17.

Only the vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are being used in the inoculation of minors.

The government allowed thousands of children in select areas to return to schools in mid-November, for the first time since the start of the pandemic in a pilot run of limited face-to-face classes.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/11/25/2143756/philippines-targets-covid-19-vaccination-135m-kids-aged-5-11>



VCO as adjunct therapy does not help COVID-19 patients already in hospitals - study

Jasmin Romero, ABS-CBN News Posted at Nov 25 2021 08:57 PM

MANILA - Despite its known antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties, virgin coconut oil (VCO) did not prove to have significant benefit for hospital-admitted COVID-19 patients, based on the results of clinical trials conducted at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH).

The study showed that this is regardless of the severity of the patient's COVID-19 condition.

“In conclusion, our clinical trial on hospitalized patients did not demonstrate significant benefit on the use of VCO as an adjunctive therapy for COVID-19 patients,” said Dr. Fresthel Monica Climacosa, one of the trial investigators.

The trials were conducted on enrolled and randomized 77 COVID-19 adult patients in the PGH, where they were divided in 2 groups: 39 in the treatment group and 38 in the controlled group.

They were given at least 15 ml VCO doses or one tablespoon 3 times a day after meals for 2 weeks. This was done orally or “via nasogastric tube”.

Individuals who were excluded in the study were those who had diabetes, chronic heart disease, and those with elevated lipid profile.

The trials also showed that VCO has not helped in significantly improving a patient’s stay in the hospital.

“We saw no significant difference in the duration of the hospital stay between the VCO group [and] our controlled [group]” said Climacosa.

“We further subdivide our patients according to severity and still found no statistical difference... in their length of hospital stay,” she added.

VCO also has no profound effect on easing COVID-19 symptoms such as cough, difficulty of breathing, weakness, and loss of appetite of the patients inside the hospital, according to the study results.

Trial investigators, however, noted that some patients experiencing abdominal pain and diarrhea from the consumption of VCO.

“Four patients experienced intolerable adverse effects which led to the discontinuation of VCO,” Climacosa said.

While no one from the VCO group was admitted to the ICU during the trial, nor was anyone intubated from them, one patient from the control group was admitted to the ICU while 3 were intubated.

In terms of mortality, no one from the VCO group died, while 3 from the control group expired.

But for the investigators, this remains “statistically insignificant”, citing more studies needed to be conducted.

“Exploratory studies on dosage regimen, the type of VCO formulation including the timing of administration may be needed to determine the role of VCO in the management of viral infections such as COVID- 19,” the doctor said.



But the scientists clarified that these results should not be confused from the results of another trial, which say VCO “could be used as adjunct treatment” for “suspect and probable” COVID-19 cases.

They said this trial was conducted on patients with susceptible infections, unlike in PGH where patients’ cases were more serious.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/11/25/21/vco-doesnt-help-covid-patients-already-in-hospitals-study-says?fbclid=IwAR2mnGFwmhcszlvmlPyUbFVX7WbJZWMcCOOJdjfE3oePxE7rkCb7pSnutaE>



Vaccines reduce COVID-19 transmission by 40%: WHO

[Robin Millard](#) - Agence France-Presse November 25, 2021 | 7:45am



The World Health Organisation (WHO) representative of Rwanda doctor Kasonde Mwinga receives the first injection of Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine at the Masaka Hospital in Kigali, on March 5, 2021.

AFP

GENEVA, Switzerland — Covid vaccines reduce transmission of the dominant Delta variant by about 40 percent, the WHO said Wednesday, warning that people were falling into a false sense of security concerning jabs.

The World Health Organization's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said many vaccinated people were wrongly thinking the jab meant they no longer needed to take any other precautions.

Fully-immunised people must stick with measures to avoid catching the virus and passing it on, Tedros insisted, spelling out how the more contagious Delta meant the vaccines were not as effective against transmission.

"We're concerned about the false sense of security that vaccines have ended the pandemic and people who are vaccinated do not need to take any other precautions," Tedros told reporters.

"Vaccines save lives but they do not fully prevent transmission.

"Data suggests that before the arrival of the Delta variant, vaccines reduced transmission by about 60 percent. With Delta, that has dropped to about 40 percent."

The more transmissible Delta variant is now overwhelmingly dominant around the world, having all but out-competed other strains.

"If you are vaccinated, you have a much lower risk of severe disease and death but you are still at risk of being infected and infecting others," said Tedros.

"We cannot say this clearly enough: even if you are vaccinated, continue to take precautions to prevent becoming infected yourself, and infecting someone else who could die."

That meant wearing a facemask, maintaining distance, avoiding crowds and meeting others outside or only in a well-ventilated indoor space, he said.

Delta dominance

Of 845,000 sequences uploaded to the GISAID global science initiative with specimens collected in the last 60 days, 99.8 percent were Delta, according to the WHO's weekly epidemiological report.



Maria Van Kerkhove, the UN health agency's technical lead on Covid, said the Delta variant itself was evolving and the WHO was trying to track circulation and changes in the virus.

"We're making plans here, looking through future scenarios about how much more this virus will change in terms of transmissibility or if there will be potential future immune escape, which will render some of our counter-measures less effective," she said.

The WHO has long stressed that the currently-available Covid-19 vaccines are primarily aimed at reducing the risk of severe illness, hospitalisation and death, rather than transmission.

WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan said that while vaccine protection against infection was not as high with Delta as with the variants it has overtaken, the level of prevention it gives against severe disease was "still above 80 percent in the majority of cases".

Social mixing in Europe

Europe's return as the pandemic's epicentre has been blamed on Delta, sluggish vaccine uptake in some nations, colder weather moving people indoors again and the easing of restrictions.

Last week, more than 60 percent of all reported Covid-19 infections and deaths were in Europe, with the sheer number of cases translating into unsustainable pressure on health systems and exhausted health workers, said Tedros.

Europe recorded more than 2.4 million new cases last week — an 11-percent rise on the week before. Infections were up 31 percent in Germany.

WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan said that people in Europe, even in the midst of a major resurgence in cases and huge pressure on health systems, were "back to pre-pandemic levels of social mixing".

"The reality is the virus will continue to transmit intensely in that environment," he said.



GAMOT VS COVID AT BAKUNA VS COVID



November 25, 2021 @ 5:45 PM 13 hours ago

ALAM na nating lahat na binigyang-pahintulot na ng Food and Drug Administration ang Malnupiravir bilang gamot laban sa coronavirus disease-19.

Kung gagamitin ang gamot na ito na gawa ng Merck & Co., Inc., may kondisyon ang FDA.

'Yun bang === compassionate special permit (CSP) at kailangan ang pagsubaybay ng doktor sa iinom nito.

At may suplay na nga ito sa Pilipinas.

Maaaring magkaroon ng iba pa katulad ng Paxlovid at Ritonavir.

KALAHATING KALIGTASAN

Kapsula at iniinom, hindi iniiniksyon, ang nasabing gamot.

Ngunit ito'y para lang sa mga mild at moderate ang tama at hindi sa nasa severe at critical.

Sa severe, makararanas na ang maysakit ng matinding-kakapusan sa paghinga at kailangan na ang oxygen na tutulong sa kanya para huminga.

Ang kritikal, nasa intensive care unit na ang biktima at tinatamnan na mga tubo para makahinga at bilang daluyan ng mga pagkain at gamot.

Ang Malnupiravir ay pinipigilan na maging severe at critical ang sakit na mild at moderate.

At kalahati sa mga maysakit ng mild at moderate ang nagagamot nito at kung gayo'y nakaliligtas din ito sa pagkakaospital at kamatayan.

MALNUPIRAVIR VS BAKUNA

Ito ang mahalagang usapin sa Malnupiravir at iba pang katulad nitong gamot.

Ginagamit lang ito sa mga tinamaan na ng sakit at hindi pwedeng inumin ito habang wala pang sakit ang tao.

Ang bakuna naman ay gamit laban sa pagkakaroon ng sakit o tagapigil ng pagkakasakit.

Kung matamaan ka naman, mas malamang na hindi ka magkakaroon ng severe at kritikal na kalagayan o maospital o mamatay.

Napakalaki ang pagkakaiba.



MAGPABAKUNA NA

Kaya naman, hindi dapat na maghintay ang isang Pinoy na magkasakit siya bago siya gamutin ng Malnupiravir at iba pa lalo't kakaunti pa lang ang suplay nito sa Pinas.

Mas maiging magpabakuna siya laban sa COVID-19 para may panlaban kaagad sa pagdapo ng virus upang hindi siya magkasakit.

An ounce of prevention is better than cure, sabi nga ng mga doktor.

Ngayon nga, mahigit nang 100 milyong dose ang natanggap ng Pinas na bakuna at pukpukan ang pagbabakuna, maging sa mga barangay.

Sa mga lugar na marami ang suplay ng bakuna, masasabing wala nang dahilan upang hindi mabakunahan ang mga dapat mabakunahan.

Nagsimula na nga ring magkaroon ng mga booster shot at pagbabakuna sa mga batang edad 12-17 anyos at palatandaan ito ng dami na ng bakunang itinuturok sa mga mamamayan.

50-70M HANGGANG DISYEMBRE

Naglalaro sa 50-70 milyon ang target ng ating gobyerno na mabakunahan hanggang sa katapusan ng taong ito.

Ito'y para makamit natin ang kahit papaano'y pagkakapigil ng pananalasa ng COVID-19 sa maraming Pinoy sa mga susunod na panahon.

Sana obligahin ng mga hindi pa nababakunahan ang kanilang sarili na magpabakuna para hindi sila kapitan ng sakit at maging ang kanilang pamilya.

At sa huli, makapamuhay na tayo nang normal at makabangon mula sa matindi at malawak na kahirapan.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 621

NOBYEMBRE 25, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.6%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
17,796

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,763,947

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.69%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
47,875

MGA BAGONG KASO **975**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,029**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **193**

KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO **2,829,618**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING NOBYEMBRE 23

DATOS NGAYONG NOBYEMBRE 25
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG NOBYEMBRE 23

2.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

38,961

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
58.1%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

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

KABUUNANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)
30% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.0K TOTAL BEDS)
27% Utilized

WARD BEDS (13.2K TOTAL BEDS)
16% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
19% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
29% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS)
20% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
21% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 52.7%

5.4% Asymptomatic

6.0% Critical

14.4% Severe

21.49% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ang mababang bilang ng mga nagpopositibo sa COVID-19 nitong mga nakaraang araw ay hindi dahilan para tayo ay maging kampante. Alalahanin na ang COVID-19 ay nasa paligid lang natin, at ibayong pag-iingat, pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** pagtanggap ng bakuna ang ating kailangan upang mailigtas natin ang bawat isa mula sa sakit na ito. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

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



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

26 NOVEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



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Manila Bay UPDATE NOVEMBER 25,2021
maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
[#SaveManilaBay](#)
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manila bay rehabilitation project ongoing