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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR: Dolomite beach to be completed soon

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star February 27, 2022 | 12:00am



Families flock at the "dolomite beach" at Manila Bay, which was opened to the public on July 18, 2021. Visitors are asked to observe strict health protocols.

The STAR / Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Baywalk's 500-meter Dolomite Beach will soon be completed, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officer-in-charge Jim Sampulna said yesterday.

The DENR earlier opened a 140-meter stretch of the beach to visitors, Sampulna said, and it will be easy to cover the remaining portion of the beach with artificial white sand.

"We can now see the beauty of Manila Bay. I intend to continue that project because that is our commitment to President (Duterte)," Sampulna said.

Sampulna took over the post of DENR chief after Secretary Roy Cimatu's recent resignation due to health reasons.

The DENR also bared its plan for the beach to be swimmable by the early part of the year.

DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the quality of the water coming from major drainage outfalls discharging into Manila Bay is being continuously monitored.

He added they observed that the water quality from these outfalls improved by 50 percent.

Data from the Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) showed that the Baywalk area, which is a priority for rehabilitation, recorded an average of 21,100 most probable number per 100 milliliters as of the third quarter of 2021 from 5.75 million mpn/100 mL in 2019.

Four key stations in the Baseco beach area registered a decrease in coliform level from an overall geomean of 145,000 mpn/100 mL in 2020 to 21,500 mpn/100 mL in September 2021.

The MBCO also reported that in September 2021, the Baywalk sewage treatment plant – which treats wastewater from the Padre Faura, Remedios and Estero de San Antonio de Abad outfalls – received an influent of 8.8 million mpn/100mL and released an effluent of 9.4 mpn/100ml, passing the fecal coliform standard of 100 mpn/100mL for Class SB waters (fit for swimming and recreation).

Those interested in visiting the beach are advised to register online with the DENR Manila Bay Dolomite Beach Appointment System (<http://denrncrys.online>).

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/02/27/2163623/denr-dolomite-beach-be-completed-soon>



Dolomite beach project, tuloy pa rin — bagong DENR chief

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | February 26, 2022



File photo: DENR Soccsksargen / Dolomite Beach

Ipagpapatuloy pa rin ng bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na si Secretary Jim Sampulna ang nasimulang Manila Bay dolomite beach project sa ilalim ng kanyang termino.

Sa isang statement na inilabas ngayong Sabado, sinabi ni Sampulna na ito ay isang commitment ng ahensiya kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

“We can now see the beauty of Manila Bay. Maybe only around 500-600 meters of the Manila Bay is yet to be laid down with dolomite sand. I intend to continue that project because that is our commitment to our dear President,” ani Sampulna.

Matatandaang ipinahayag ni Pangulong Duterte sa kanyang huling State of the Nation Address (SONA) na ipagpapatuloy pa rin ng gobyerno ang pagsasaayos ng dolomite beach, sa kabila ng mga isyu sa environment at concerns ng mga health experts hinggil sa kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan.

Una nang nagbabala ang Department of Health (DOH) na ang crushed o dinurog na dolomite ay maaaring maging dahilan ng mga respiratory problems, lalo na kapag ito ay nasinghot. Binuksan ang nasabing beach simula noong Disyembre, kung saan ipinatutupad ang mga protocols sa lugar dahil na rin sa COVID-19 pandemic.

Si Sampulna ang pumalit kay dating DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na nag-resign noong nakaraang linggo dahil sa health reasons.

Ayon pa kay Sampulna, magpapatuloy din ang rehabilitation projects sa Boracay beach habang tuloy ang suporta niya sa pagbabawal sa mga single-use plastics.

“We need some legislation for that (ban on single-use plastic). Although there is no legislation on that yet, we are already advocating for it,” sabi ni Sampulna.

Ipinagtanggol din ni Sampulna ang desisyon na i-lift ang 4-year ban na itinakda ng administrasyon hinggil sa open-pit mining na aniya pa, may ipinatutupad na measures na naaayon sa batas para ito ay i-regulate.

Hinimok naman ng opisyal ang publiko na huwag iboto ang mga kandidato na aniya, “destroy the environment.” “They should be environment-friendly,” saad ni Sampulna.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/dolomite-beach-project-tuloy-pa-rin-bagong-denr-chief>



Dolomite tuloy – bagong DENR sec



February 26, 2022 @ 4:50 PM 15 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Sinabi ni bagong Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Jim Sapulna na hindi ititigil ang dolomite beach project sa ilalim ng kanyang termino.

Sa isang pahayag nitong Sabado, sinabi ni Sapulna na ito ang dolomite beach ay isang pangako ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

“Nakikita na natin ang ganda ng Manila Bay. Siguro mga 500-600 meters na lang ng Manila Bay ang hindi pa nalalatag ng dolomite sand. Balak ko pong ipagpatuloy ang proyektong iyan dahil iyan ang ating pangako sa ating mahal na Pangulo,” anang kalihim.

Sinabi ni Duterte sa kanyang huling State of the Nation Address na magpapatuloy ang gobyerno sa paglalagay ng dolomite beach, sa kabila ng mga alalahanin ng mga eksperto sa kapaligiran at kalusugan sa kaligtasan nito.

Pinalitan ni Sampulna si Roy Cimat, na nagbitiw noong nakaraang linggo dahil sa mga kadahilanang pangkalusugan.

Magpapatuloy din ang mga proyektong rehabilitasyon sa Boracay beach, dagdag pa ni Sampulna, na patuloy na susuporta sa pagbabawal sa mga single-use plastics.

“We need some legislation for that (ban on single-use plastic). Bagama’t wala pang batas tungkol diyan, we are already advocating for it,” dagdag pa ni Sampulna.

Ipinagtanggol din niya ang hakbang na alisin ang apat na taong pagbabawal na itinakda ng administrasyon sa open-pit mining, at idinagdag na may mga nakatakdang hakbang sa batas na kumokontrol dito.

Sa puspusang kampanya sa halalan, hinimok niya ang publiko na huwag iboto ang mga kandidatong “naninira sa kapaligiran.”

“Dapat environment-friendly sila,” sabi ni Sampulna. **RNT**



DENR OIC Sampulna to continue Manila Bay dolomite beach project

By TED CORDERO, GMA News

Published February 26, 2022 3:39pm

The interim chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has committed to continuing the programs of former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, including the controversial Manila Bay dolomite beach project.

In a statement on Saturday, DENR officer-in-charge Jim Sampulna said that he would continue the agency's priority projects "as a commitment to President Duterte."

"We can now see the beauty of Manila Bay. Maybe only around 500-600 meters of the Manila Bay is yet to be laid down with dolomite sand. I intend to continue that project because that is our commitment to our dear President," Sampulna said.

Sampulna was appointed OIC of the DENR after Cimatu [stepped down](#) last week due to health reasons.

The DENR OIC said Cimatu's initiatives made a huge impact on the Filipino people and "I intend to continue what he has started."

"What I can commit is, our initiatives in the next four months, we will do these for the benefit of the Filipino people," Sampulna added.

He said the Boracay rehabilitation project would be continued under his term.

Sampulna, who was the undersecretary for attached agencies, mining, and Muslim affairs before taking charge of the DENR, also clarified the issue of open-pit mining in relation to the lifting of the ban through Executive Order 130.

"It is in the law that open-pit mining is allowed. However, we have policies and guidelines on conducting open-pit mining which should be clear and followed," he said.

"There are misnomers that if it is open-pit, then it is destructive. But even prior to the start of the project, there is already a plan for rehabilitation where the degree of damage to the environment has already been measured... it will be restored after their operation," he added.

The national government, neighboring mining villages, and the "very strict" Mining Industry Coordinating Council, he said, are all constantly monitoring mining operations.

On the issue of banning single-use plastic, Sampulna noted that the DENR has been advocating for it.

"We need some legislation for that (ban on single-use plastic). Although there is no legislation on that yet, we are already advocating for it," he said.

"I am pushing to ban single-use plastic because it is harmful to the environment."



Sampulna also urged candidates in the May 2022 elections to refrain from nailing campaign materials to trees.

He asked the public not to vote for candidates who "destroy the environment." — **VBL, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/metro/823182/denr-oic-sampulna-to-continue-manila-bay-dolomite-beach-project/story/?fbclid=IwAR0V_IVS4IQywzxqxJjg3j2TSWYrvk1ilkIR6W3DMX2luh-Xm7EH5G9PQig



Dolomite beach project to continue under new DENR chief Sapulna

Angela Coloma, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 26 2022 01:26 PM



People flock to the spot on Roxas Boulevard covered with artificial sand at the reopening of the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach on Saturday, just as Metro Manila shifted to quarantine Alert Level 3 last year. Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/File

MANILA—New environment and natural resources Sec. Jim Sapulna will continue the dolomite beach project under his term.

In a statement released on Saturday, Sapulna said this was a commitment to President Rodrigo Duterte.

"We can now see the beauty of Manila Bay. Maybe only around 500-600 meters of the Manila Bay is yet to be laid down with dolomite sand. I intend to continue that project because that is our commitment to our dear President," Sampulna said.

Duterte in his last State of the Nation Address said the government would continue to replenish the dolomite beach, despite concerns by environment and health experts over its safety.

The health department earlier warned that crushed dolomite can cause respiratory issues, especially when inhaled. The beach has been open since December, with protocols in place due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Sampulna replaced Roy Cimatu, who resigned last week citing health reasons.

Rehabilitation projects on Boracay beach will also continue, added Sampulna, who will continue to support bans on single-use plastics.

"We need some legislation for that (ban on single-use plastic). Although there is no legislation on that yet, we are already advocating for it," Sampulna said.

He also defended the move to lift the 4-year ban the administration set on open-pit mining, adding that there are set measures in the law regulating it.

With the election campaign in full swing, he urged the public not to vote for candidates who "destroy the environment."

"They should be environment-friendly," Sampulna said.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/26/22/dolomite-beach-project-to-continue-under-new-denr-chief?fbclid=IwAR2GkMA0-FCigdsAOiL_E_DmI2WW8tRgro8HqO_JAMTFQMwDC2Cu-ZNxDdk



MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH PROJECT, TULOY PA RIN

by **DWIZ 882** February 26, 2022



Inihayag ng bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Jim Sapulna na tuloy pa rin ang Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach Project.

Ito ay sa kabila ng pagre-retiro ni dating Secretary Roy Cimatu dahil sa kanyang kalusugan.

Ayon kay Sapulna, nasa halos 500 hanggang 600 metro na lamang ng Manila Bay ang lalagyan ng dolomite sand.

Aniya, ito na raw kasi ang kanilang pangako kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na bababa na sa puwesto ngayong taon.

Maliban dito, tuloy rin ang rehabilitation projects sa Boracay Beach kung saan suportado ng DENR ang pag-alis sa single-use plastics.

Sa huli, nanawagan ito sa publiko na ang dapat ihalal ang kandidatong 'environment-friendly' at huwag ang mga maninira lamang ng kalikasan.—**sa panulat ni Abie Aliño-Angeles**



Ditch candidates destroying environment: DENR

February 26, 2022, 4:24 pm



CAMPAIGN MATERIALS. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said voters should not vote for candidates who harm the environment by nailing or stapling materials on trees. Posters such as those of a presidential aspirant during his motorcade in Pateros on Feb. 22, 2022 were not on trees but may contribute to harmful litter if not disposed of properly. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

MANILA – The new chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said voters should not elect officials who do not care about the environment.

DENR Officer-in-Charge, Undersecretary Jim Sampulna, cited candidates who nail campaign materials, like posters and tarpaulin, on trees.

"I wish upon all our Filipino brothers and sisters who are vying for elective positions for 2022 to avoid nailing your campaign materials in any living tree," Sampulna said in a news release on Saturday.

"So, I am asking, especially our voters, do not vote for candidates who are destroying our environment," he added.

Experts said nailing, screwing or stapling into trees damage the bark and puncture the insides, which may inhibit growth and increase vulnerability to disease.

Sampulna said the DENR is likewise against single-use plastics despite the absence of a law.

"We need some legislation for that (ban on single-use plastic). Although there is no legislation on that yet, we are already advocating for it," he said.

Sampulna replaced Roy Cimatu, who recently stepped down due to health reasons.

"The initiatives of Secretary Cimatu made huge impacts on the Filipino people and I intend to continue what he started," Sampulna said. "What I can commit is our initiatives in the next four months, we will do these for the benefit of the Filipino people."

Among Cimatu's projects are the ongoing restoration of Manila Bay and the continued Boracay Island rehabilitation.

"We can now see the beauty of Manila Bay. Maybe only around 500 to 600 meters of the Manila Bay is yet to be laid down with dolomite sand. I intend to continue that project because that is our commitment to our dear President," Sampulna said.



As for open-pit mining, he said there are policies and guidelines that must be followed.

"There are misnomers that if it is open-pit, then it is destructive. But even prior to the start of the project, there is already a plan for rehabilitation where the degree of damage to the environment has already been measured. It will be restored after their operations," he added. **(PR)**



DENR, DND to Build Battle Cannon Replica in Manila Baywalk

by [Village Connect](#)



To mark the challenges and achievements of the “Battle for Manila Bay” rehabilitation program, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with the Department of National Defense (DND) for the installation of a cannon replica along the Roxas Boulevard Baywalk in Manila.

Former Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the DENR and DND will be constructing a replica of a Fort Drum Island cannon near Manila’s Remedios drainage outfall to “serve as a *physical reminder of the DENR’s commitment and willpower in our battle to rehabilitate Manila Bay.*”



Fort Drum Island, otherwise known as El Fraile Island, is one of the four islands located at the mouth of Manila Bay that serves as a formidable line of defense protecting the capital city of Manila from naval invasion from Spanish colonial rule until World War II.

“*This landmark shall depict the three battles in Manila Bay—the Spanish-American War, Japanese-American War, and now, the modern Battle for Manila Bay,*” said Cimatu, who recently resigned from his post as DENR Secretary due to health reasons.

The cannon replica will be 19.04 cubic meters, while the original barrel will be 37 feet and weighs 10 tons. This will be built on a 251.1-cubic meter concrete platform along the Remedios area.

The DENR and DND projected the completion and inauguration of the cannon replica on April 9, 2022 during the celebration of the Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor).

Cimatu noted that the “heavily fortified” Fort Drum cannon defended and protected the entrance of Manila Bay against invaders—“*similar to the Battle for Manila Bay rehabilitation program as it protected the historical bay against pollution and degradation.*”



Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina of the DND's Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) said that "visitors who will be strolling along the Manila Baywalk will be reminded of the historical battles and unnamed heroes who defended our country through the Fort Drum cannon."

"Likewise, this project will bring an added perspective of what the Manila Baywalk and the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach is all about," Carolina said.

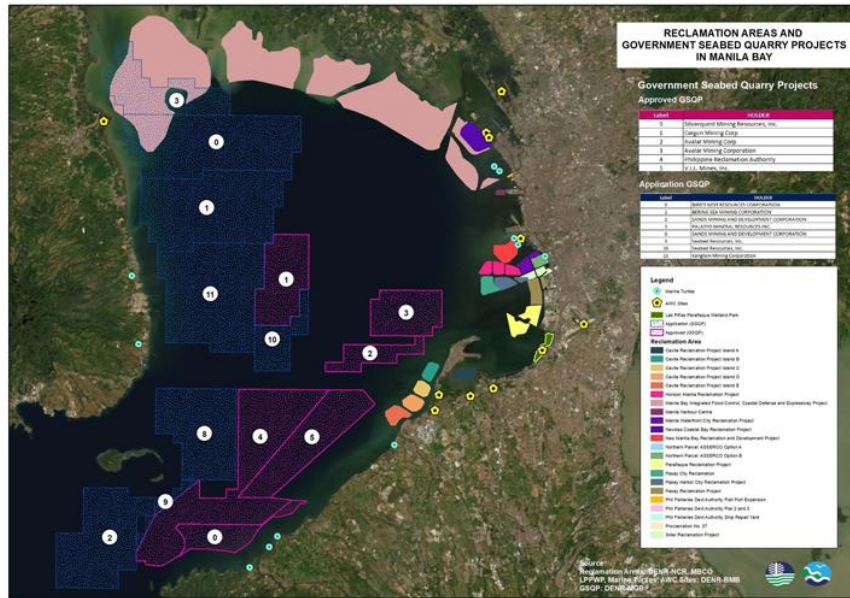
He also expressed hope that the new landmark will "give balikbayans (returning Filipinos) and the youth a sense of nationalism and pride on their origins and the heroism from their ancestors."

The Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, dubbed as "Battle for Manila Bay," started on January 27, 2019, and is in line with the Writ of Continuing Mandamus on Manila Bay issued by the Supreme Court in 2008.

It directs 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve the historic bay and maintain its waters to Class SB level which means the bay will be "*fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation.*"

Reclamation projects in Manila Bay: Environmental impacts vs econ benefits

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA FEBRUARY 27, 2022



This DENR graphic illustration shows the various land-reclamation and seabed quarrying projects in Manila Bay.

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

The 260-hectare Pasay City Reclamation Project is one of several development projects in Manila Bay, currently the subject of an ambitious rehabilitation program by the Duterte administration.

On January 27, an online public scoping was conducted in the area, with the proponents of the project hoping to convince various stakeholders to support the project.

Like the controversial “Dolomite Beach” along Roxas Boulevard in Manila, which gave the Bay Walk area the Boracay-like white-sand beach appeal, the reclamation projects in Pasay, and other similar development projects proposed in Manila Bay, are expected to face stiff opposition.

Environmental impact vs economic benefit

The group, Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham), opposes the 260-hectare Pasay Reclamation Project and other similar dump-and-fill activities in coastal areas despite their promised economic benefit.

Land reclamation is an urban expansion strategy for coastal areas like Manila Bay, a region that stretches from Cavite to Bataan provinces.

Land reclamation expands territories for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes, thus, promises the creation of economic opportunities through massive capital investment, the much-touted needed jobs and livelihood opportunities.

“While proponents of these reclamation projects promise economic development, we see that environmental impacts outweigh economic development,” Agham told the BusinessMirror.

The group said Manila Bay reclamation will adversely affect the environment through mangrove cutting, seabed dredging and dumping of soil on the coast, Agham said via e-mail through its Public Information Officer Jerwin Baure.



'Just one of many'

The 260 ha project is only one of the reclamation projects in and around Pasay area along Manila Bay.

Two other reclamation projects connect the Pasay-260 reclamation project to the mainland, the Pasay Harbor Phase 1 Island A (210 ha) and B (55 ha).

Other adjacent reclamation projects are also in Parañaque (286 ha) and Cavite (1,331 ha including the Sangley Airport).

"If all these reclamation projects push through, the physical characteristics of Manila Bay, such as the circulation of seawater might possibly be altered, which can potentially affect the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, a wetland of international importance that is recognized by the Ramsar Convention," Baure said.

Seabed quarrying

According to Agham, other environmental impacts of the project will involve seabed quarrying, or massive dredging of sand beneath the sea in Manila Bay, including those in Bataan and Pampanga, for the filling materials.

"The environmental impacts of reclamation are not only in the proposed site but also [in areas] where the filling materials will be sourced just like in the case in the 'dolomite beach' in Manila wherein the filling materials came from a mountainous area in Cebu," the group told the BusinessMirror.

Agham pointed out that several geological hazards—such as rapid subsidence, storm surges, and seismically induced liquefactions—are present in coastal areas around Manila Bay, particularly in Metro Manila.

"Furthermore, much of the concrete components used in many of the infrastructures in Metro Manila are made of Pinatubo lahar sand and other volcanic aggregates. These materials are porous and prone to 'concrete-cancer' which can lead to a sudden collapse of buildings, as explained by Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo," the group explained.

Agham warned that the site of the Pasay-260 reclamation project is susceptible to these hazards, which puts people's lives in harm's way if large infrastructures are built on the area.

Still teeming with marine life

According to the group, the proponents of the project presented "flawed" arguments.

It cited the initial presentation during the public scoping, where the proponents claimed that there is no significant marine life present in the proposed site due to the absence of marine fish, coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove forests.

The proponents failed to mention, according to Agham, the plankton communities in Manila Bay, citing a study by the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute.

The study showed that there is high biomass of fish eggs and larvae found in the eastern portions of Manila Bay, which include Metro Manila and Cavite areas.

"We fear that dumping of soil in the coastal waters of Manila Bay will affect the turbidity of the water, which can affect the primary production and survival of larval fish," the group said.

It further asked: "Do you have an estimated number of fishermen who will be impacted by the project? Initially, how do you see this project affecting the livelihood of fishermen living near the area?"



One big ecosystem

Moreover, while the proponents claim that there was no fishing activity in the area, Agham insisted that Manila Bay is one big ecosystem.

“The productivity of Manila Bay is dependent on coastal marine ecosystems, such as mangrove forests and adjacent estuarine ecosystems. Any adverse impacts on these ecosystems will affect the fisheries production of the entire bay and the livelihood of the fisherfolk that depend on its bounty,” Agham pointed out.

While the project proponents keep on insisting that there will be no adverse effect on the direct impact area, Agham said the proponents also failed to recognize that the project still has indirect impacts to other areas.

“It is necessary that projects involving major alteration in the natural environment must take into consideration both direct and indirect effects of the projects proposed,” the group said.

“As mentioned, the connectivity of natural habitats, especially the project’s proximity to the known fishing sites of other cities, indicates looming effects of the projects on the fisherfolk of Manila Bay, in general,” it added. The group has earlier released statements on Manila Bay reclamation.

Public accountability

Fisherfolks under the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said the project will make it accountable for the potential long-term environmental impacts of the project in Manila Bay.

“Although the target area to be reclaimed is no longer a fishing community, the project will still inflict damage to the marine resources and biodiversity of Manila Bay, which is the primary source of livelihood of many fisherfolks from neighboring towns,” Pamalakaya National Spokesman Ronnel Arambulo, told the BusinessMirror via e-mail on February 17.

“Pamalakaya remains steadfast in our stand against any form of reclamation in Manila Bay because this will bring irreversible damage and destruction to our fisheries and marine resources, and massive displacement of fisherfolks and coastal residents,” he said.

Environmental protection laws

Sought for comment, environmental lawyer Gloria Estenzo Ramos said the Philippines is notable for its strong legal framework for environmental protection and response to the climate crisis.

“Our laws require ecosystem-based management from ridge to reef. Despite this, its fragile natural ecosystems continue to suffer from natural resource overexploitation and unsustainable development practices as the implementation of our laws are weak,” Ramos, the vice president of Oceana Philippines, an international ocean advocacy nongovernment organization, told the BusinessMirror via e-mail on February 22.

She said the state of the country’s ocean is no different, as destructive activities—such as dump-and-fill (reclamation) projects, pollution, illegal fishing practices, among others—remain unabated, resulting in a serious and alarming decline of coral reefs, mangroves and fisheries resources.

Urgent action

“Thus, urgent action for environmental protection, preservation, and restoration should be at the forefront of the agenda of all our Filipino leaders, including those who are seeking national and local offices in the May 2022 elections,” Ramos pointed out.



Along with the staggering impacts of climate change, the country has to respond immediately and mainstream the health and resilience of its natural ecosystems and people by ensuring science-based management through just, inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance of the natural world, she added.

It is high time that decision-makers and citizens alike take a proactive stance when it comes to environmental protection, instead of the usual knee-jerk and short-term solutions. Preparing for natural disasters as devastating as Typhoon Odette means taking climate change and other pressing environmental problems seriously now—more than ever, Ramos explained.

“Our government leaders and elective candidates must ensure the protection of every Filipinos’ right to a balanced and healthful ecology as guaranteed in the 1987 Constitution and collaborate with the various sectors. They should also remain committed to protecting the nation’s marine wealth, including the preferential rights of subsistence fisherfolks of municipal fishing grounds within our territorial waters,” she pointed out.

Image credits: [Contributed illustration](#)



140 DENR Employees Join Annual Bloodletting Activity

Friday, February 25, 2022 Journal Online



An employee of the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) donates blood for the bloodletting activity held at the DENR Social Hall on Feb. 21, 2022. The annual event is organized by the Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division-Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service for the Compassion Project of the DENR-Association of Career Executives, and in partnership with the Philippine Children's Medical Center Pediatric Blood Center. The activity aims to inspire community participation, humanitarian response and volunteerism among its personnel especially at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 140 [DENR](#) employees registered for the event and 101 of them qualified for blood donation.



Consultations on proposed lift of South Cotabato anti-mining law done

[John Unson](#) - Philstar.com February 26, 2022 | 3:16pm



Representatives of ethnic groups from across South Cotabato participated in Thursday's public consultations on proposals to lift the controversial provincial open-pit mining ordinance.

Philstar.com / John Unson

KORONADAL CITY, Philippines — The South Cotabato Sangguniang Panlalawigan is done with its consultations on the viability of lifting an open-pit mining ban hindering since 2010 the extraction of copper deposits in the province, touted as Asia's largest.

Acting Natural Resources Secretary Jim Sampulna said Saturday he was glad to have spoken about the stand of the central office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the issue during a multi-sectoral hearing at a gymnasium here last Thursday.

Sampulna talked about the advantages of allowing the exploration of copper deposits in South Cotabato's nearby Tampakan town and how the venture can generate employment for thousands, boost the economy of the province and earn for the government much-needed revenues essential to recover from its so costly anti-pandemic initiatives.

"We have assured those present in the consultation that the government shall strictly enforce all regulations meant to ensure responsible copper mining in Tampakan," Sampulna said.

Foreign and Filipino mining experts and geologists have placed at no less than 5.8 billion in Euro currency the least value of copper deposits in Tampakan, home to indigenous Blaan communities.

Tribal datus of the Blaan and T'boli groups in South Cotabato are asserting their longtime wishes for copper mining in Tampakan --- based on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act that empowers them to harness, to their benefit, the natural resources obtainable in their ancestral lands.

"The IPRA is a law that we should also take into consideration in addressing the issue," Sampulna, a Maguindanaon, said.

The two South Cotabato SP public hearings on mounting cross-section clamors for the lifting of the ban, first in Tampakan on February 18 and followed by the session here on Thursday, involved all members of the provincial law-making body chaired by Vice Gov. Vicente De Jesus.

Blaan and T'boli datus took turns appealing for the lifting of the provincial anti-open pit mining ban during both public consultations, also participated by groups against the amendment of the ordinance to pave the way for copper mining operations in Tampakan.



Members of the Catholic community who are against amending the South Cotabato environment code, led by Bishop Cerilo Alan Casicas, were also given chances to talk about their position on the issue during the consultations.

A quick random survey by a bloc of reporters showed that not all Catholics in the province are opposed to having the ban lifted.

Besides Sampulna, Engineer Constancio Paye, Jr., president of the Mindanao Association of Mining Engineers Incorporated, also discussed during Thursday's consultation the advantages of allowing copper in Tampakan economy-wise.

A retired government mining engineer, Paye said the state has more stringent measures now on ensuring responsible mining of minerals and fuel deposits.

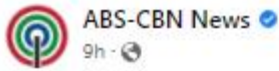
"There are multipartite monitoring teams and mine rehabilitation committees composed of representatives from different sectors, from the local government units, from non-government organizations and experts from different agencies of the national government that are to cooperate in ensuring responsible mining activities," Paye said.

Officials of big business blocs here and in nearby provinces are supporting the demand of the indigenous and settler communities to have what is for them anti-poor provincial open-pit mining ban amended immediately.

Vicente Lao, president of the influential Mindanao Business Council, earlier said he, too, wishes for the amendment of the ordinance.

In a statement, Lao said the fear environmentalists have about copper mining in Tampakan shall surely be addressed by the government and the company contracted to operate in the area.

Hundreds of representatives from pro-mining communities attended the consultations here last Thursday, among them tribal chieftains dressed in traditional attire.



Isang brown booby na nalubid ang kaliwang paa ang nasagip ng mga mangingisda sa Mobo, Masbate.

Matapos matiyak ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office na ligtas na ang ibon, agad din itong pinakawalan. Ang brown booby ay itinuturing na endangered species.

Isang pawikan naman na nanghihina ang nasagip ng mga mangingisda sa San Julian, Eastern Samar.

Tinatayang may bigat na 45 kilo ang pawikan, na napadpad sa bakawan nang abutan ng low tide. Nasa pangangalaga muna ng Liliputan Rocky Beach Park Management ang pawikan habang nagpapalakas. (📍: San Julian PNP) | via Aileen Perol-Jaymalin; Ranulfo Docdocan

Para sa iba pang mga balita, magtungo lamang sa news.abs-cbn.com.



DENR Bicol



267

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Rescued eagle 'Bangsa Bae' to honor Bangsamoro women

BY MANUEL CAYON FEBRUARY 27, 2022



Rescued Philippine eagle 'Bangsa Bae'

DAVAO CITY—The essence of the Bangsamoro woman now flies high in a recently rescued female Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) in Lanao del Sur.

The injured eagle was named “Bangsa Bae” by the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government after a resident turned it over to its environment office in Lanao del Sur.

The Philippine eagle was rescued on February 9 by a concerned citizen in the province’s interior town of Marogong.

“It was the first time that we found and rescued an injured Philippine Eagle which signifies the Bangsamoro region’s vast environment and natural resources,” said Environment Officer Benjamin Alangca of the Community Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy Office (Cenreo) in Lanao del Sur’s Second District.

The Environment officer said Hadji Solaiman Olama found the injured eagle and informed environmental authorities of BARMM.

He added it was a female Philippine Eagle. It was named Bangsa Bae “to honor the Bangsamoro women for their momentous efforts and sacrifice as a wife, mother and sister of the mujahideens [freedom fighters] who fought for the victory of Bangsamoro region.”

Upon the successful rescue, Bangsa Bae underwent an immediate surgical operation on its injured right wing since the bacterial infection was already fast spreading beyond its injured body parts.

Dr. Anita Chua, a veterinarian specialist of the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center of Zamboanga del Sur province, operated on the eagle, applying the first aid treatment and immediate medical assistance.

The Cenreo conservation and development section and DENR IX’s technical personnel assisted Chua.

Bangsa Bae has a wingspan of 51 centimeters and its injured right wing weighs 5 kilograms.

Bangsa Bae was turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation office in Davao City on February 12 to perform additional medical procedures on it.



Meanwhile, Director Mohamad Ali R. Dimaren of Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Research and Development Services said “this proves that there is presence of the Philippine Eagle in the Bangsamoro region, which we are committed to protecting and conserving endangered species.”

He reminded residents to turn over any wildlife animals to government and not to harm them. He said wildlife protection and conservation, as well as penalty for harming animals, is covered under Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

“The collection, trading, hunting, and care without a proper permit is strictly prohibited, especially for critically endangered wildlife such as the Philippine Eagle,” Dimaren explained.

Image credits: [BARMM Menre](#)



Angat dam, lalo pang bumaba ang level ng tubig

By **Bombo Dennis Jamito** -February 27, 2022 | 3:56 AM

Lalo pang bumaba ngayong weekend ang water elevation sa angat dam, kahit may mga naitatalang bahagyang pag-ulan.

Ayon sa pagasa-hydrometeorology division, bumagsak pa sa 196.01 meters antas ng tubig sa naturang dam, at malayo ito sa 212 meters na normal level.

Maging ang iba pang mga dam sa luzon ay nakitaan din ng mabilis na pagbaba.

Ayon naman sa national water resources board, may mga tinitingnan pa silang pamantayan bago magsagawa ng cloud seeding.

Malaking halaga rin kasi ang gugugulin dito, dahil gagamit ng eroplano para sa nasabing proseso.



Circular economy pushed as Philippines faces waste crisis

The Philippine Star February 26, 2022 | 12:00am



In a report, Tokyo-based Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the multilateral lender's think tank, said that transitioning to a circular economy could build better growth and create more value with fewer materials.

STAR / Miguel De Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is urged to establish policies and regulations on circular economy as the country is facing a waste crisis that may worsen in the coming years.

In a report, Tokyo-based Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the multilateral lender's think tank, said that transitioning to a circular economy could build better growth and create more value with fewer materials.

At present, there is no integrated circular economy strategy or policy framework that exists in the Philippines.

Environmental, climate, and sustainability lawyer and Ateneo de Manila School of Law faculty member Gregorio Bueta said the Philippines is facing a waste crisis, perhaps of an "unimaginable scale."

"It comes as no surprise that the Philippines is experiencing a waste crisis. More people, and living in dense, often ill-planned urban areas, in poor living conditions, can only result in more waste that cannot be handled by an already stretched and overburdened waste management system," said Bueta, one of the study's contributors.

The country is producing 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste per year, out of which 17 percent of the collected plastic waste and 31 percent of the uncollected waste is leaked into the ocean.

Sixty percent of plastic waste entering the oceans also comes from five Asian countries namely China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Government projections showed that generated waste will reach 23.6 million MT by 2025 from 21.4 million MT in 2020.

Bueta emphasized that the waste crisis in the Philippines has been brewing for several years already and was further exacerbated due to the pandemic which resulted in increased plastics and medical waste.

"Part of the problem is the inadequate waste management infrastructure around the country. There are only 237 sanitary landfills nationwide to service the 1,634 cities and municipalities in the country," Bueta said.



As a solution to the waste crisis, Bueta said it is necessary to have a roadmap for the journey toward a circular economy especially as the transition will not happen overnight amid policy changes and reforms needed.

He also called for the proper and effective enforcement of waste management and other environmental laws.

“It will be difficult to put in place new policies such as those related to a circular economy if other waste management and related environmental laws are not being properly and effectively implemented,” Bueta said.

“The danger is that the circular economy will just end up as another one of those policies good on paper. Countries like the Philippines fall into this situation, where excellent laws are crafted only to end up not being successfully implemented,” he said.

Further, the expert maintained that a cultural and societal shift is necessary alongside the shift in policies.

Bueta said one big hurdle is the fact that most policies only focus on dealing with the waste without commensurate efforts at reducing waste generation at source.

“If rising populations keep on consuming and using in the same business-as-usual manner, any circular economy scheme or system is bound to collapse. That is why proposals need to include a change in consumption and production patterns to close the loop,” he said.



3 PHL cities join WWF, Futurefold intl program

BYRIZAL RAOUL REYES FEBRUARY 27, 2022

The cities of Makati, Baguio and San Fernando (La Union) recently tapped digital technology by joining an international program led by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and climate technology software company, Futureproofed, in order to help enhance the development and implementation of the cities' plans.

Imee Bellen, project manager of One Planet Cities (OPC) of WWF-Philippines, told the BusinessMirror in an e-mail interview that the three Philippine cities have joined an international partnership with 47 other cities from 17 countries to use new digital tools, accessible data and quantified feedback for their transition toward the target of net-zero carbon emissions.

Through the partnership, Bellen said the three cities' local governments will be able to develop more impactful climate action plans while collaborating with their own departments, residents and other cities across countries.

She said the participation of Baguio, Makati and San Fernando is part of their engagement in the OPC project and is part of the "Year of Climate Action" partnership between WWF and Futureproofed that runs for the entire 2022.

"We are delighted to see our Philippine cities take a step further in their journey toward 1.5-degrees Celsius alignment while also strengthening both external and internal collaborations, Bellen said.

She added that the digital platform provided by WWF and Futureproofed will surely help in complementing the cities' One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) feedback results for their assessment and the effective climate action plan for their city.

To jumpstart their participation, more than 30 city government officials and staff from Baguio, Makati and San Fernando have joined the Local City Team Launch sessions with other cities from Indonesia, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom on February 15 and 17.

The first session was led by Futureproofed City Climate Coach Annabel Vanhoven, who presented the role of cities in climate change and an overview on the OPCC and Futureproofed cities.

In a breakout session, the participants were divided into groups per city to discuss the status, challenges and points of collaboration for their climate action plan with the various city departments present.

The results from OPCC will be announced by March 2022, with other local OPC activities in the pipeline for the 16 participating cities for the rest of the year.

Bellen said relevant feedback will be offered to the participating cities, which measures and policies will lead to the most significant emissions reductions and which actions are cost-effective in achieving their part toward the 1.5-degrees C trajectory of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

"No matter how good our data is, climate transition today is less of an information and technology issue, and more about implementation and cooperation," said a January 27 open letter that was signed and published by select participating cities, including WWF and Futureproofed, for the launching of the "Year of Climate Action."



“Sharing knowledge, in real time, across countries, contexts and continents, about what works and what doesn’t; aligning experts within cities and across departments behind an overarching political plan and motivating everyone to take ownership, will lead to success,” said the open letter.

AboitizPower breaks ground for second solar venture



ABOITIZPOWER IN PANGASINAN. AboitizPower team members plant a narra tree sapling on the site in Cayanga, Bugallon, Pangasinan province where the company's 94-MW peak solar power plant will soon rise. The sturdy and durable narra, considered as the Philippines' national tree, also symbolizes AboitizPower's strong resolve to contribute to a more reliable, cost-efficient, and sustainable power system for the country.

(Contributed photo)

February 26, 2022

ABOITIZ Power Corporation (AboitizPower) on Thursday, February 24, 2022, held a virtual groundbreaking ceremony for its 94-megawatt (MW) peak solar power project in Pangasinan, an undertaking seen to create a "brighter future" for the province.

Pangasinan Governor Amado I. Espino III welcomed AboitizPower's multi-billion-peso project, saying that this significant investment in sustainable power generation will help address the country's need for more and cleaner energy sources to fuel the nation's growth.

"Today marks a milestone in Pangasinan as we break new grounds to provide a safe and brighter future for our province and for our fellow Filipinos. This starts our tie-up to provide safe and renewable electric power to our people while protecting the environment for the next generations to enjoy," Espino said in his message of support during the virtual event.

AboitizPower, through a special-purpose vehicle wholly owned by subsidiary Aboitiz Renewables, Inc. (ARI), in December 2021 awarded to JGC Philippines, Inc. the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract for the project, with a total investment of P4.5 billion.

"Cayanga Solar is a very significant project for us at ARI. This marks the beginning of our exciting journey ahead — growing our renewable energy portfolio over the next 10 years to accelerate the Philippine energy transition to more environmentally sustainable sources," ARI Executive Director David J. Smith said.

The project will soon rise on a 196-hectare site in Barangay Cayanga, about 13 kilometers southwest of the province's capital. This will be the company's second solar facility after its 59-MW peak solar plant in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

Construction is set to begin on the project immediately and is targeted to be operational by the fourth quarter of 2022. JGC had completed the site investigation works and the results were used for the ongoing detailed engineering and design of the facilities. Temporary facilities are being erected and completion of the access road going to the plant is currently underway.



Once completed, the power plant is expected to produce about 147 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean energy annually or equivalent to the yearly power consumption of 60,000 average Filipino homes. The majority of the facility's capacity will be contracted for retail electricity supply, which can help bring cleaner and more sustainable energy to power consumers across the country.

"In our partnership with you, the Department of Energy (DOE) hopes that other companies and individuals will follow and do their advocacy for renewable energy and lessen our dependence on fossil fuels. The groundbreaking of this solar farm proves that solar energy is technically and economically competitive and could deliver clean and green energy, helping our nation to mitigate climate change impacts through the reduction of carbon footprints by offsetting the energy produced by these fossil fuels," DOE Undersecretary Felix William B. Fuentebella said.

AboitizPower is also looking to develop other renewable energy projects in the region, particularly wind and solar, with tendering on the 167-megawatt peak Laoag solar project in Aguilar, Pangasinan ongoing, and having already erected two met masts in the municipality back in February 2021 as well as two more in Bugallon in September 2021. Met mast refers to the structure where measuring equipment used for gathering resource data such as temperature, wind speed, and wind direction, among others, is installed to estimate energy production and understand the suitability of the site.

AboitizPower's 10-year growth strategy aims to contribute to a more reliable, cost-efficient, and sustainable power system for the country. With a projected investment of around P190 billion, the company is looking to grow its Cleanergy capacity to 4,600 MW, which will make up 50 percent of its total generation portfolio of 9,200 MW by 2030. **(PR)**

The challenge of convergent crises: climate change and microbial resistance

Climate change is not the only slow-moving crisis to reach a tipping point thanks to corporate greed and a lack of urgency. The difficulty in tackling antimicrobial resistance is similar to taking on the climate crisis, writes Muhammad Hamid Zaman.



The loss of antibiotic effectiveness contributes to nearly [1.2 million deaths annually](#). That is [more than either HIV or malaria](#). Image: [Staicon Life/Flickr](#)

By Muhammad Hamid Zaman Feb. 24, 2022

Climate change is not the only slow-moving crisis to reach a tipping point thanks to corporate greed, individual bad behavior, a stalemate in international negotiations, and a prolonged lack of any sense of urgency on the part of publics and policymakers. The same factors also have contributed to a dramatic rise in antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The extent of the threat to human health posed by AMR can hardly be overstated. Already, the loss of antibiotics' potency or effectiveness contributes to nearly [1.2 million deaths annually](#). That is [more than either HIV or malaria](#).

Some scholars have noted the [similarity of the difficulties](#) in addressing climate change and AMR. But so far there has been little discussion about the damage caused by the convergence of these crises.

Around the world, people who live in urban slums face the combined challenges of climate-related pressures and drugs that no longer work. Even where there is no government monitoring of drug-resistant infections, local doctors in these communities notice the problem. Resistant strains of bacteria develop in these areas due to the widespread availability of substandard drugs, the overuse of antibiotics, and the confluence of sewage and drinking water.

Some reports suggest that climate change leads to [changes in disease dynamics and drug resistance](#). While more research is needed to establish the connection, it is already clear that climate change forces people to move to places with [high population density, increased poverty, and limited sanitation](#).

These environments are ideal for drug-resistant infections to emerge. In fact, some of the most serious outbreaks in the recent past have surfaced in [polluted, low-income urban environments in South Asia](#).

It is no coincidence that poor communities [suffer the most devastating effects](#) of climate change, or that drug-resistant infections are likely to affect lower-income groups disproportionately. But climate change is not the only global problem that contributes to the growth of AMR in disadvantaged communities.



While there is some evidence (albeit limited) of a [correlation between climate change and conflict](#), the link between conflict and drug-resistant infections is [well established](#). Conflict overwhelms hospitals and makes treatment inaccessible. It also poisons the environment and allows new strains of bacteria to breed. Communities in conflict zones have a high risk of infection and a low likelihood of receiving appropriate antibiotics.

Microorganisms like [Iraqibacter](#), which emerged after the second Gulf war, are a reminder that conflict remains a potent and underappreciated driver of multidrug-resistant infections. Once again, its effects are felt most by those who are vulnerable and unable to move to a safer place.

If there is reason to believe that climate change and conflict are linked, it is safe to assume that communities affected by these crises also will be affected by a disproportionate burden of AMR.

As with [climate change](#) and conflict, those most at risk from antibiotic resistance are rarely part of the discussion about how to confront it. The action plans drafted in global capitals are disconnected from the realities on the ground. For example, small-scale farmers in Pakistan are aware that most of the available antibiotics no longer work for their cattle or poultry, but they don't know what to do about it. And the authorities make no effort to engage them to develop a viable solution. Left with few options, these farmers continue to increase the doses they administer or create their own medical cocktails from available drugs.

A true global effort on AMR, fully funded and supported by policymakers at all levels, is long overdue. Recent studies provide the necessary data to bring the issue to the forefront of international discussion. But, after more than two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, there seems to be little interest in taking on another global health crisis.

Perhaps one way for the fight against AMR to gain momentum is not to talk about the pathogens alone, but to raise awareness of the combined effects of climate change, conflict, and AMR on people and the planet. The convergence of these crises poses a significant threat to the health of both.

Muhammad Hamid Zaman, Professor of Biomedical Engineering and International Health at Boston University, is the author of [Biography of Resistance: The Epic Battle between People and Pathogens](#) (Harper Wave, 2020).

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www.project-syndicate.org

Wealthy countries still haven't met their \$100 billion pledge to help poor countries face climate change, and the risks are rising

Developing countries that have contributed the least to climate change are suffering the most from it, and the damage is escalating. Closer scrutiny of how climate finance gets from donors to projects is needed.



A flood-affected woman sits in a temporary shelter on a nearby dry land in Jamalpur, Bangladesh, July 21, 2019. Image: Mohammad Ponir Hossain/Reuters

By Rishikesh Ram Bhandary Feb. 25, 2022

After another year of [record-breaking temperatures](#) and [extreme weather disasters](#), wealthy countries are under pressure to make good on [their commitment](#) to mobilise US\$100 billion a year to help poorer countries deal with climate change.

Developed countries [now project](#) that they won't meet that pledge until 2023 – three years late and still woefully short of the [real need](#).

A report due February 28 [from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) is expected to provide more evidence of what billions of people are facing: Developing countries that have contributed the least to climate change are suffering the most from it, and the damage is escalating.

Small island states and low-lying coastal areas are [losing land to rising seas](#). [Flooding from extreme storms](#) is wiping out people's livelihoods in Africa and Asia. [Heat waves are harming people](#) who have no access to cooling, killing crops and affecting marine life communities rely on. Documents from the United Nations suggest that the cost for low-income countries to adapt to these and other climate impacts [far exceeds the promised \\$100 billion a year](#).

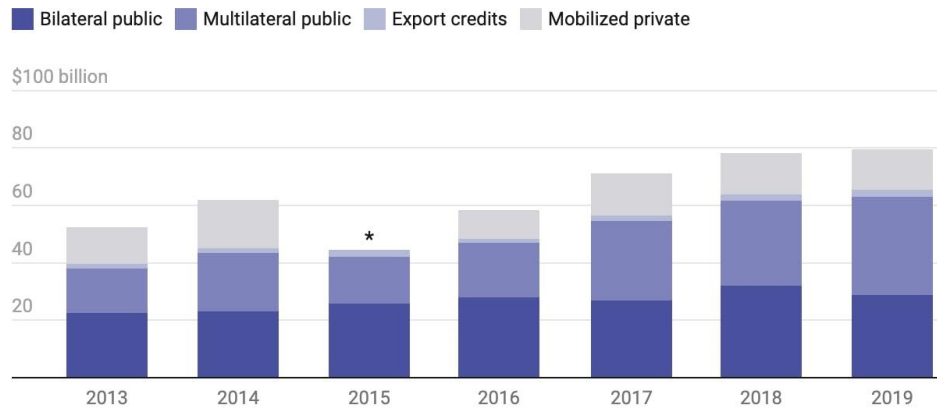
What's less clear is how much impact the [climate finance already flowing to these countries](#), estimated at [\\$79.6 billion](#) in 2019, is having. There is an overwhelming lack of data, as well as evidence that countries have been supporting [projects that could harm the climate](#) with money they count as "climate finance."

Part of the problem is how that money gets from donors to projects in countries in need. [I have worked closely with developing countries](#) seeking help to deal with climate change. I believe that by [paying closer attention to the strengths and weaknesses of climate finance delivery channels and matching them to countries' needs](#), the international community can make a real difference in the fight against climate change.



Climate finance for poor countries falls short

The OECD tracks four primary sources of climate finance: bilateral, between a funder and recipient; multilateral, often managed by development banks; export credits; and private finance mobilized by public investments. Wealthy countries have pledged to provide US\$100 billion a year. The total in 2019 was \$79.6 billion.



* Data for private finance mobilized in 2015 is unavailable. Published September 2021

Climate finance falls short for poor nations. Source: OECD

How does climate finance flow?

Donor countries have three major channels through which they can route climate finance: bilateral agreements between small groups of countries, international funds like the [Green Climate Fund](#) and development banks like the [World Bank](#). Each has benefits and drawbacks.

Bilateral agreements: First, countries can directly negotiate financing commitments, also known as bilateral agreements. These arrangements allow donors to target specific areas of need and are often more efficient than multilateral agreements, since they involve fewer entities.

For example, at the Glasgow climate conference in November 2021, South Africa and a group of donor countries announced [an \\$8.5 billion effort](#) to help South Africa transition away from coal while increasing renewable energy generation. This deal allowed four national governments and the European Union to come together and craft a package around what South Africa wanted.

Groups of donors have also come together to support national-level financing, though [new research](#) suggests these arrangements are underused.

A major drawback of bilateral arrangements is that they can be sensitive to the ebbs and flows of political attention. While issues in the news can attract funding, some countries struggle to get help.

Climate funds: It is precisely to ensure that countries have regular and consistent access to climate finance that a second option exists: international climate funds.

For example, the U.N.-backed [Green Climate Fund](#) is one of the largest and offers universal eligibility. The GCF's scope is also deliberately broad to allow room for programming based on what countries actually need, rather than what is politically attractive at any given moment.

However, the GCF has received pledges totaling only about [\\$18 billion](#). Developed countries are more likely to route contributions through their own bilateral channels or major development banks than through climate-focused funds.

Development banks: Finally, major development banks manage significant amounts of climate financing, though there are two key barriers to fully using them.

First, many of these banks have not ambitiously incorporated climate change into their programming. In fact, some [came under scrutiny](#) when their [joint statement](#) at the Glasgow climate conference did not include specific targets and timetables for ending financing for fossil fuel projects.

Second, most development banks have not been able to effectively mobilize finance from the private sector, [in part because of their business models](#). Development banks tend to prefer projects with lower risk and like to operate in settings where the cost of doing business is not very high. Private-sector funding is crucial to filling the climate finance gap, which means that development banks also need to use instruments that are better able to mobilize private capital such as equity instead of relying too heavily on lending.

Ultimately, splitting climate finance across these different channels is helping to render financing largely ineffective, with developing countries receiving a fraction of the resources necessary to make an impact. Spreading finance thinly across delivery channels means the international community is neither learning from experimentation nor betting on bold ideas.

Primary sectors for climate finance in 2019

The majority of climate finance has targeted mitigation projects, such as renewable energy, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, investments in adaptation projects are increasing.



"Other sectors" covers a wide range, including education, health, governance, mining, trade, tourism and others.

Getting serious about impact

Currently, the [efforts to track the \\$100 billion](#) are focused on counting how much money has actually flowed and where, not what impact has been achieved. Two key issues are complicating efforts to measure the impact.

First, there is no agreed-upon definition of what climate finance is, and countries use their own definitions. For example, in the past Japan counted money for new coal plants that are [more efficient than old ones, but still highly polluting, as "climate finance."](#)

Second, some projects focus on helping countries put in place plans and policies. For example, countries have been receiving [support to create national adaptation plans](#). The impact of these planning efforts really relies on how well the plans are implemented.

If the global community is serious about rising to the climate challenge, I believe the conversation needs to move forward in three ways:

- 1) The scale of financing should far surpass \$100 billion.
- 2) The international community should be more targeted about which sources and channels best meet specific needs.
- 3) More research is needed to assess the impact of international climate finance so far and establish a sound understanding of which delivery channels work best for which purposes.

The \$100 billion in promised funding is [much-needed glue](#) that helps hold the U.N. climate process together – it reflects the responsibility borne by countries that have been emitting greenhouse gases for years for driving climate change and the harm to countries that emit little.



Rishikesh Ram Bhandary, Assistant Director, Global Economic Governance Initiative, Global Development Policy Center, Boston University

[This story](#) first appeared in The Conversation.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/wealthy-countries-still-havent-met-their-100-billion-pledge-to-help-poor-countries-face-climate-change-and-the-risks-are-rising/>

27 FEBRUARY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH logs 1.2K new Covid-19 cases, 2.4K recoveries

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **February 26, 2022, 6:35 pm**



(File photo)

MANILA – The country logged 1,223 new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases and 2,400 more recoveries on Saturday, according to Department of Health (DOH) data.

Active cases are at 53,934, down from the previous day's 55,140, while the recovery count is at 3,549,735.

The DOH also reported 128 new fatalities, raising the death toll to 56,351.

The nation's tally of confirmed Covid-19 cases since the pandemic began two years ago stood at 3,660,020, of which 1.5 percent are undergoing treatment, 97 percent have recovered, and 1.54 percent died.

Of the active cases, the DOH said 48,842 are mild, 597 are asymptomatic, 2,780 are moderate, 1,417 are severe, and 298 are critical.

The positivity rate is 5.3 percent based on the 26,631 individuals tested for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) on February 24.

All laboratories were operational on that day but four failed to submit data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The concerned laboratories contributed at least 2.6 percent of samples tested and 0.8 percent among positive individuals based on data in the past 14 days.

Nationwide, coronavirus patients occupy 27 percent of 3,800 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 22 percent of 20,400 isolation beds, and 16 percent of 14,300 ward beds.

In Metro Manila, at least 26 percent of the 1,300 ICU beds are in use, including 24 percent of the 4,600 isolation beds, and 24 percent of the 4,000 ward beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1168610>

COVID-19 POSITIVITY RATE SA NCR, BUMABA

by **DWIZ 882** February 26, 2022



Bumaba pa sa 4% ang COVID-19 positivity rate sa National Capital Region (NCR).

Mas mababa ito kumpara sa naitalang 5% noong Pebrero 21, 2022.

Sa kabila nito, ayon sa OCTA Research, nananatiling nasa low risk classification ng COVID-19 ang nasabing rehiyon.

Naitala naman ang 2.30 daily average attack rate sa NCR habang nasa 25% ang healthcare utilization rate at 27 ang intensive care unit (ICU) utilization rate.

Maliban sa NCR, nasa low risk classification ang Bataan, Batangas, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Rizal, Zambales.

Samantala, kapwa naman nasa very low risk classification ng COVID-19 ang mga probinsya ng Aurora at Quezon. —**sa panulat ni Abie Aliño-Angeles**



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 714

PEBRERO 26, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

1.5%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
53,934

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.0%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,549,735

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.54%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
56,351

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,223**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **2,400**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **128**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,660,020**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 24

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 26
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 24

5.3%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

26,631

BILANG NG
TINIST

HALOS
91.7%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)
27% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.4K TOTAL BEDS)
22% Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.3K TOTAL BEDS)
16% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
14% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
26% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
24% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS)
24% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
17% Utilized

597 Asymptomatic

48,842 Mild

2,780 Moderate

1,417 Severe

298 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?
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



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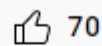


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