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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Dolomite Beach project, itutuloy ng bagong DENR secretary

[Angie dela Cruz](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon February 27, 2022 | 12:00am



DENR to implement 'cinema' system to prevent dolomite beach crowding Crowds gather as they wait for the famous Manila Bay sunset at the Manila Dolomite Beach during its second day being open on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Nangako ang bagong Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna na ipagpapatuloy niya ang Dolomite Beach project ng pamahalaan dahil ito ay kanyang commitment 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,” pahayag ni Sampulna.

Ang pahayag ni Sampulna ay ginawa kahit pa may banta ang mga health expert na may epekto sa respiratory system ang crushed dolomite kapag nasinghot.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi rin ni Sampulna na magpapatuloy din ang rehabilitasyon sa Boracay beach kasabay ng patuloy na pagbabawal sa paggamit ng single plastic.

Si Sampulna ay pumalit sa posisyon ni dating DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu makaraang magbitiw ang huli dahil sa isyung pagkalusugan.





## PAGLUWAG NG MINING RESTRICTIONS, MALAKING TULONG SA EKONOMIYA

[9 hours ago](#) [jake](#)

### Sa Ganang Akin

ni JOE ZALDARRIAGA



ANG pagmimina ay isa sa mga pinakamahalagang industriya na higit na makatutulong sa pagbangon ng ating ekonomiya.

Sa kasagsagan ng pandemya, iniulat ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ang naturang industriya ay nakapag-ambag ng halos P102.3 bilyon sa ating gross domestic product noong taong 2020.

Ayon sa DENR, ang produksyon ng gold, nickel ore, mixed nickel cobalt sulfide, scandium oxalate, chromite, at iron, ay nakapag-generate ng P132.69 bilyon samantalang ang kabuuang halaga ng mineral, mga produktong mineral, at mga hindi metallic na mineral na ating na-export ay umabot sa \$5.2 bilyon.

Inaasahan nating mas lalago pa ang industriya ng pagmimina sa mga susunod na taon dahil ilang araw bago matapos ang 2021, nilagdaan ng dating Environment chief Roy Cimatu ang isang administrative order na nagbabalik sa open-pit mining operations sa ating bansa.

Matatandaang apat na taon na ring nakahinto ang lahat ng open-pit mining operations matapos itong ipagbawal ni dating Environment chief Gina Lopez dahil sa maaaring hindi magandang epekto nito sa kalikasan at kaligtasan ng mamamayan.

Matagal nang pinayagan ng Pilipinas ang open-pit mining operations, katunayan nito ay tayo ang pinakamalaking exporter ng nickel ore sa buong mundo, ngunit ang pagbabawal ni Lopez ay nagresulta sa pagtigil ng napakaraming mining operations, kabilang na rito ang Tampakan Copper-Gold project ng Glencore Xtrata at Indofil na nagkakahalaga ng \$5.9 bilyon, bagama't pinatigil ang proyektong ito noong 2010 pa sa ilalim ng utos ng lokal na pamahalaan ng South Cotabato.

Ang Tampakan Copper-Gold project din ang pinakamalaking foreign direct investment ng Pilipinas.

Malugod na tinanggap ng industriya ang pagluluwag ng restriksyon sa pagmimina, ngunit dahil ang mga mineral ay maituturing pa ring "public assets," ang mga desisyon ukol sa mga ito ay nararapat lamang na sumailalim sa masusing pagsisiyasat mula sa publiko.

Hindi natin maipagkakaila na ang naturang industriya ay nakakagawa ng maraming trabaho, maraming oportunidad para sa ating ekonomiya, at nakakapagbigay ng kita sa gobyerno. Kaya naman upang mabalanse ang pangangailangan ng ating ekonomiya at kaligtasan ng ating kalikasan at mamamayan, higit na kailangan na ang bawat operasyon ukol dito ay palaging gawing maayos at responsable.



Bagama't naibalik na ang open-pit mining activities, naniniwala akong kinakailangan ng ating pamahalaan na maging mas matatag sa kanilang mga desisyon, lalo't kung ito ay nakakaapekto sa mga plano at operasyon ng mga negosyo.

Higit sa lahat—kailangan natin ng sariling pagkakakitaan upang ang ating bansa ay makabangon, at ang pagluluwag ng polisiya sa pagmimina ay isa lamang sa mga siguradong paraan na makatutulong.



# Duterte administration highlights infrastructure, economic performance

By [Genivi Verdejo](#) February 28, 2022



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with key government officials at the Malacañan Palace on Feb. 21, 2022. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE

President Duterte made notable achievements in infrastructure development and strengthens the Covid-19 response and economic recovery, as the country continues to face global challenges.

With only a few months left before he stepped down, the Duterte administration has highlighted its key accomplishments. Duterte has pushed the different government agencies to work on his 'Build, Build, Build' program that resulted in new expressways, airports and seaports, bridges and other projects.

The anti-illegal drug campaign has gained both criticisms and praise from various sectors here and abroad, but the head of state was determined to attain lower crime rate and ensure a safer Philippines.

Significant achievements can be seen in the laws that were passed during his term. Duterte has signed into law the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (Create) Act, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Modernization Act, Anti-Terrorism Law, Sin Tax Law, Tax Amnesty Law, the 105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law, as well as the Mental Health Law.

Programs such as One-Stop Service Center for OFWs, Overseas Filipino Bank (OF Bank) and OFW Hospital, OFW e-Card, salary increase for cops and soldiers, government workers' pay hike and Balik-probinsya were among his legacy programs.

Adding to the list of Duterte's achievements was the implementation of the 10-year passport, and 5-year driver's license validity. The national government enables people to have free wi-fi and more decent housing for the poor. Boracay and Manila Bay were rehabilitated as well as Marawi. His goals were centered on the economy and infrastructure; peace, justice and security; human development and governance, and foreign policy.

## Covid-19 response



President Rodrigo Duterte interacts with key government officials prior to holding a meeting with them at the Malacañan Palace on Feb. 14, 2022.

Karlo Nograles, acting presidential spokesperson and cabinet secretary said the implementation of a Covid-19 biosurveillance program and the establishment of Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) laboratories in 64 percent of all provinces in the country, were some of the key accomplishments of the national government. The testing capacity increased from an average of 30,000 to 40,000 tests each day in 2020 to an average of 75,000 to 80,000 tests every day in 2021.

"We expanded the One Hospital Command Center and increased the workforce by 217 personnel. This allowed us to accept 72,040 calls, out of which 71,901 cases, or 99.8 percent were resolved and closed," Nograles said.

A total of P635.81 million worth of Covid-19 sickness services, involving severe or critical and mild or moderate cases were provided, consistent with the Universal Healthcare Law, which was signed by the President in 2019.

The national vaccination program against Covid-19 was fast-tracked. A total of 107.277 million doses have been administered from March 1, 2021 to Dec. 28, 2021. The number of fully vaccinated individuals is at 48.647 million, while 1.614 million individuals have received booster doses, as of 2021.

To protect the welfare of the migrant workers during the pandemic, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) undertook various repatriation efforts, as part of the Kalinga at Malasakit campaign. A total of 872,861 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have been repatriated by DoLE as of Jan. 4, 2022.

## **Prioritizing health**

The government has increased the number of public health workers and has provided the benefits. The Department of Health (DoH) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) were ordered to expedite the health workers' benefits and payments. From 2016 to 2020, there has been an increase of 60,142 workers, thereby strengthening the country's public health workforce. Nograles said 478,969 public and private health care workers were recipients of special risk allowances (SRA) totaling P7.665 billion from December 2020 until June 2021.

RA 11509 or the Doktor Para sa Bayan Act was signed into law on Dec. 23, 2021. The Medical Scholarship and Return Service (MSRS) program was established for qualified and deserving students in state universities and colleges in regions where there are no medical courses. The MSRS includes financial assistance, free tuition, books, supplies, equipment, boarding allowance, and free from all medical school-related payments. State universities and colleges, especially in remote areas have been authorized by Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to offer a Doctor of Medicine program.





President Rodrigo Roa Duterte with Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar during a one-on-one interview on the Cabinet Report program.

Executive Order (EO) No. 104, also known as improving access to healthcare through the Regulation of Prices in the Retail of Drugs and Medicine Act was signed on February 17, 2020. It imposed price regulation through a maximum retail price (MRP), a maximum wholesale price (MWP), or both on at least 86 drug molecules or 133 drug formulas, selected based on set criteria. The EO prioritizes the people's welfare over the lobbying of big pharmaceutical companies to achieve accessible, affordable, and universal healthcare.

RA 11463 or the Malasakit Centers Act of 2019 was signed into law to provide convenience to Filipinos needing government's health response nationwide. The Malasakit Center is a One-Stop Shop where indigent patients can efficiently access financial medical assistance from agencies such as PhilHealth, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), among others. There are 149 fully operational Malasakit Centers nationwide, which served and assisted more than 3.3 million Filipinos since 2019.

## Reviving the economy

Economic recovery measures that were made into law include the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (Train) Act and the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (Create).

The first tax package, the Train Act was signed into law by Duterte on Dec. 19, 2017 and became effective on January 1, 2018.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, accompanied by Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, Senator Christopher Lawrence Go, San Miguel Corporation President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon Ang, and Public Works and Highways Undersecretary Rafael Yabut, leads the unveiling of the project marker of the South Luzon Expressway Elevated Extension Project during the inauguration ceremony in Alabang, Muntinlupa City on Feb. 15, 2022.



The law enhances the progressivity of the Philippines' tax system by providing an equitable relief to numerous low- and middle-income Filipino households. With the Train Act, ordinary workers have improved their levels of disposable income which resulted in an increase in economic activity. It also includes provisions amending the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997 effectively minimizing the rate of individual income tax, donor's tax, and estate tax.

Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) said to complement the Train Law, the enactment of the RA. 11213 or Tax Amnesty Act allowed taxpayers to settle long outstanding tax dues. As such, providing a 6 percent estate tax amnesty rate on unsettled estate of decedents who died on or before Dec. 3, 2017 or P5,000 or whichever is lower. It also provides an amnesty on tax delinquencies on all national internal revenue taxes, particularly on income, value-added, excise, withholding, donor, and percentage taxes for taxable year 2017 and prior years.

The second tax package, the Create Act was signed into law by the President on March 26, 2021 and became effective on April 11, 2021. It is the largest fiscal stimulus package for businesses in the country's history, providing private enterprises more than P1 trillion worth of tax relief over the next 10 years with a significant cut on the tax rate for corporations.

The law cuts the regular corporate income tax (CIT) rate by up to 10 percent, from 30 percent to 20 percent for domestic corporations with a taxable income of P5 million and below, and with total assets of not more than P100 million; and 25 percent for big corporations with assets of above P100 million. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will be the biggest beneficiaries of Create with the CIT rate reduction.

"As the Philippines continues to work on achieving goals like accelerating poverty reduction and minimizing social and economic inequality, the Duterte administration has campaigned for a simple, fairer, and more efficient tax system in order to promote investment, create jobs and reduce poverty," PCOO said.

The third tax package is the Real Property Valuation Reform, which is pending in the committees on ways and means, local government, and finance in the Senate while the fourth tax package is the Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act (Pifita), which is being discussed in the committee hearings of the Philippine Senate. The Pifita complements the Train Act by making passive income and financial intermediary taxes simpler, fairer, more efficient, and competitive in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region. All these were meant to achieve true change by generating a more sustainable stream of revenues.

"In this regard, our philosophy has consistently been to prioritize lives in order to ensure livelihoods," Nograles said.

With these economic recovery efforts, the Philippines has achieved the highest credit ratings ever received by the country, which have been maintained despite the waves of downgrades globally. "This high credit rating allowed the Philippine government to immediately access emergency financing with concessional terms for its Covid-19 response when the pandemic struck," he said.

"It allowed us to implement fiscally responsible 18 stimulus measures that helped save lives, jobs, and our economy; and allowed us to secure funding for economic investments," explained Nograles.



## Approved investments

In a span of three to four years, the annual growth of approved investments has almost doubled the country's total approved investments, which reflects the determination and political will of the administration. Government is working tirelessly for a V-shaped Philippine economic recovery in the coming years.

PCOO data showed the approved investments in 2015 was P686.9 billion, and was a little lower in 2016 at P686 billion. It then, recorded constant growth in 2017, 2018 and 2019 posting P908.7 billion, P1.1 trillion and P1.14 trillion, respectively. In 2020, the country registered P1.02 trillion in approved investments. With these, the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate averaged around 6.3 percent quarterly and 6.2 percent annually throughout the pre-pandemic governance of the present administration.

Almost all economies have suffered from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, such as work stoppage and business closures due to lockdowns, slowdown in economic activities, and hospitals struggling for space and exhaustion.

"With the government's delicate balancing of protecting the safety and welfare of the Filipinos from the virus and managing economic recovery, through Covid-19 response efforts and vigorous inoculation drive, the Philippine economy showed a steady growth in the second to fourth quarters of 2021

with growth rates of 12 percent, 6.9 percent, and 7.7 percent respectively after a decline in 2020 and in the first quarter of 2021," PCOO said.

## Build, build, build



The Department of Transportation, under the resolute leadership of Secretary Arthur Tugade, and through the Philippine Ports Authority, has completed 112 social and tourism port projects in the Mindanao region. The completed development projects include the rehabilitation and improvement projects at Cagayan De Oro Port, General Santos Port (Makar Wharf), Opol Port, Plaridel Port, Ozamiz Port, Zamboanga Port, Liloy Port, Dapitan Port, Davao (Sasa) Port, Mati Port, Babak Port, Malalag Port, at Cantillan Port. PHOTO BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



The Duterte Legacy Journal has cited all infrastructure developments as among the key accomplishments of the present administration. Despite the challenges and limitations brought about by the pandemic, the momentum for the Build Build Build program continued. Infrastructure spending for the Build Build Build program in 2021 reached 5.1 percent of the country's GDP.

"The roll-out of infrastructures played an important role in the economic recovery amid the Covid-19 pandemic. We expect that infrastructure spending will further increase to 5.8 percent of GDP," Nograles said.

Duterte has led us towards attaining the "Golden Age of Infrastructure" in the Philippines. A total of 31,977 kilometers of road projects which included construction, maintenance, widening, upgrading, and rehabilitation have been completed from July 2016 to September 2021. This has connected different communities to tourism destinations, trade, industry, and economic zones. More than 6,300 bridge projects and 12,394 flood control projects were completed to spur economic growth in different regions and enable a more disaster-resilient nation.

From July 2016 to November 2021, a total of 233 airport projects and 484 seaport projects were completed, which included construction, maintenance, widening, upgrading, and rehabilitation.

The brand-new train sets for the Metro Rail Transit Line 7 (MRT-7) arrived in December. The MRT spans more than 24 kilometers from North Avenue in Quezon City to San Jose del Monte in Bulacan. This will lessen the travel time from two to three hours to 35 only minutes and bring a greener and more energy-efficient means of transportation.

Duterte thanked the Department of Transportation (DoTr), San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and other partners for the significant progress made on the MRT-7 project which is expected to be partially operational by the fourth quarter. The total project cost is P77 billion, which was funded through a public and private partnership (PPP) with SMC under build-transfer-operate arrangement. It has a 25-year concession period. At present, six train sets or 18 rail cars out of the 108 rail cars have been shipped. The entire MRT-7 system will have a total of 36 train sets or 108 rail cars.

The Build, Build, Build program has accelerated the government's public infrastructure expenditure from an average of 1.6 percent of GDP from 2001 to 2010 and 3 percent of GDP from 2011 to 2016 to 5 to 6 percent relative to our GDP under the Duterte administration. This has resulted in 6.5 million jobs generated from 2016 to 2020 and close to 1.5 million jobs from March 2020 to August 2021, amid pandemic.

### **Care for migrant workers**

President Duterte vowed to serve and ensure the security and welfare of our modern-day heroes, especially throughout the pandemic. Duterte signed RA 11641, which created the Department of Migrant Workers on Dec. 30, 2021.

It aims to improve the coordination among government agencies concerned with Filipino migrant workers and overseas Filipino workers' (OFW) affairs. About 2.2 million Filipinos abroad will benefit from and will be catered to by the department.

### **National ID system**

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) recorded over 50 million registrations for the National Identification system in 2021, despite the pandemic. The system serves as a centralized



database of vital information of all Filipinos and resident aliens in the Philippines to identify and verify beneficiaries of assistance programs, such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and assistance to individuals in crisis situation.

It simplifies public and private transactions, promotes financial inclusion and accelerates the delivery of government social protection programs for all Filipinos. Duterte signed into law RA 11055 or the Philippine Identification System Act on Aug. 6, 2018.

### **Campaign against illegal drugs**

Duterte was known for his anti-illegal drug drive to ensure a safer place for the Filipinos. PCOO said among his accomplishments were the P73.83 billion worth of seized drugs, controlled precursors and essential chemicals (CPECs), and laboratory equipment.

Almost 1,000 drug dens and clandestine laboratories were dismantled, a total of 23,270 were declared drug-cleared barangays, 4,033 children involved in illegal drug activities were rescued and 218,665 anti-illegal drugs operations were conducted. During the anti-illegal drug operations, 315,635 illegal drug-related criminals, 13,821 high-value targets and 1,025 government workers were arrested and there were 6,215 illegal drug-related deaths.

Meanwhile, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) reported that from December 2018 to August 2021, a total of 2,965 members of communist terrorist groups and 80 key leaders were neutralized; 2,429 surrendered; 285 were apprehended and 251 died from legitimate operations.

### **Conviction of 197 Maguindanao massacre suspects**

The landmark decision in December 2019 saw the conviction of 197 suspects, including eight members of the Ampatuan clan, in the November 2009 Maguindanao Massacre.

The survivors and the families of the victims of the Maguindanao Massacre were provided assistance and assured that the government expedite the massive manhunt and arrest of the remaining suspects of the Maguindanao massacre.

The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) along with the Philippine National Police - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao monitored closely the Maguindanao Massacre

Case and constantly followed up the developments of the case in court through the Department of Justice (DOJ).

### **Pursuing developments in Mindanao**

The Creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is among the notable actions to spur growth in the southern part of the Philippines. On July 26, 2018, Duterte signed RA 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), replacing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The new Bangsamoro region will have greater fiscal and political autonomy. Following the ratification of the BOL by the residents of then-existing ARMM in January 2019, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was created in March 2019 for peace, stability and growth in the region.

The Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) was created under Administrative Order No. 3 on June 28, 2017 to facilitate the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of war-torn Marawi City. Four years after the five-month fighting between government forces and the militants, around





80 percent of the rehabilitation works have been completed.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) made efforts to rebuild Marawi. DHSUD Secretary Eduardo Del Rosario, who chaired the TFBM has worked hard to restore the county's only Islamic city. Major projects include the rehabilitation of mosques in cooperation with private partner-developers, the construction of major public facilities, infrastructure interventions, such as financial and livelihood.

### Rehabilitation of Manila Bay and Boracay



Boracay20181228

For a faster, more efficient, and coordinated rehabilitation of Manila Bay, Duterte signed Administrative Order No. 16 creating a Manila Bay Task Force. The task force directed a faster rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of Manila Bay. The dolomite beach project on shorelines of the bay is one of the phases to make Manila Bay an attraction for both Filipinos and foreign tourists.



MANILA-BAY

The EO 53, creating a Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) paved the way for the successful rehabilitation of Boracay Island in 2018 within six months. The BIATF has been extended to 2022 to ensure sustained efforts in maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of the island to attract millions of local and foreign tourists while preserving the environment.

### Addressing West Philippine Sea dispute

The Duterte administration made initiatives to improve the country's relations with China through bilateral visits and cooperative mechanisms. The closer ties helped create a more congenial environment for managing issues in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).



The Duterte administration has pursued to advocate for the country's Arbitral Award in different fora, such as the United Nations General Assembly in 2020 and 2021 that defined the Philippines' rights in the WPS.

According to a statement from PCOO, "In a multilateral setting, the Philippines had pushed for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (SCS), a document that sets forth the collective commitment of the ASEAN and China to promote peace, stability, and mutual trust and to ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes in the SCS."

"Under the Philippine Country Coordinatorship of the Asean-China Dialogue, the Philippines has successfully negotiated the first draft of the Code of Conduct in the SCS that will be acceptable to all concerned countries," stated in the PCOO statement.



## EcoWaste calls for stronger treaty vs plastic

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star February 28, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition yesterday joined the global call for a stronger and binding treaty that would address the “threats and injustice” caused by plastic waste.

“We appeal to the UNEA (United Nations Environmental Assembly) delegates to decide in favor of a stronger, legally binding global instrument that will prevent, reduce and remediate harms from the whole life cycle of plastic,” EcoWaste’s national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

The group made the appeal as world leaders are set to convene today until March 2 in Nairobi, Kenya for the UNEA.

Lucero pointed out that plastic pollution is “not just a simple problem, but a complex environmental, health, justice and climate issue,” adding that 99 percent of plastic are derived from fossil fuels.

The EcoWaste said it is one with other environmental organizations around the world in pushing for a legally binding treaty that would address the problems of plastic throughout its “full life cycle” – from extraction, manufacturing, distribution, consumption, waste management and disposal.

Lucero pointed out that around 12 million metric tons of plastic are thrown in oceans each year.

The group held a protest in Elliptical Road, Quezon City yesterday holding wooden placards that sum up their plea for action: “A strong plastic treaty to stop toxic pollution and environmental injustice.”

The EcoWaste said the hazardous substances used in making plastics such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers, phthalate plasticizers, grease, polyfluoroalkyl substances, ultraviolet stabilizers as well as heavy metals such as cadmium and lead could leach into food, soil and water.

“Plastics containing toxic chemicals that pose hazards to human health and the environment should not be manufactured and recycled. Like in the case of single-use plastics or SUPs, the world needs to act decisively to phase them out as recycling will not solve this toxic problem,” the group said.

The EcoWaste pointed out that based on studies, some 400 million tons of plastic are manufactured every year, with only less than 10 percent recycled and the rest ending up being incinerated, disposed in landfills or dumped in rivers and oceans.





## EcoWaste Coalition presses for legally binding agreement on world environmental protection

February 27, 2022 1 min read

EcoWaste Coalition activists gather along Elliptical Road in Quezon City on Sunday (February 27, 2022) ahead of the United Nations Environment Assembly to press governments including the Duterte administration to start negotiating for a legally binding global agreement addressing plastic pollution throughout the entire life-cycle of plastic and prioritizing public health, the environment, and human rights over profit.



((Ieshua Jai-ren Asuncion/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtvn))

Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2022/02/27/ecowaste-coalition-presses-for-legally-binding-agreement-on-world-environmental-protection/?fbclid=IwAR3bO-HJE4WtmwuLS\\_JT24laBoGu\\_hBKqkEIH6-wyOfxX3DTVFEcaKufJWQ](https://maharlika.tv/2022/02/27/ecowaste-coalition-presses-for-legally-binding-agreement-on-world-environmental-protection/?fbclid=IwAR3bO-HJE4WtmwuLS_JT24laBoGu_hBKqkEIH6-wyOfxX3DTVFEcaKufJWQ)



# Lawyer-environmentalist nangangamba na sa kaligtasan

By Jan Escosio February 27, 2022 - 10:58 AM



Matapos mabigo ang ilegal na pag-aresto sa kanya, lubhang nababahala na ang isang lawyer-environmentalist sa kanyang kaligtasan.

Ayon kay Atty. Beulah Coeli Fiel, pangulo ng Econest Waste Management Corp., ang dating operator ng sanitary landfill sa Hermosa, Bataan, nakatanggap siya ng impormasyon na aarestuhin siya ng weekend.

Aniya sa CCTV footages sa kanyang bahay, mapapanood ang mga umaaligid-aligid na mga awtoridad na naka-sibilyan.

Sinabi ni Fiel na sa media lamang niya nalaman na nagpalabas ng warrant of arrest para sa kanya si Judge Amelita Cruz Corpuz ng Balanga RTC Branch 66, noong Pebrero 14 at hindi rin ito ipinaalam sa kanyang abogado.

“I felt a genuine, insurmountable and unshakeable fear for my life after seeing those unidentified men from the CCTV footage, introducing themselves as policemen, but in civilian uniforms,” diin ni Fiel.

Magugunita na inireklamo niya ang ilang lokal na opisyal ng Hermosa sa Office of the Ombudsman base sa paniniwalang ilegal ang pagpapasara ng kanyang landfill noong 2020.

Paghihiganti naman aniya ng lokal ng pamahaalaan ang pagsasampa sa kanya ng kasong paglabag sa Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

Pinagbintangan si Fiel na tumatanggap sa kanyang landfill ng ‘toxic and hazardous wastes,’ mariin naman niyang itinanggi.

Boluntaryo na rin sumuko si Fiel at naglagak ng P120,000 piyansa.

“The case is a mere harassment suit. Environmental cases are highly technical issues, and the EMB did not even join the LGU of Hermosa in filing the trumped up criminal charges against me. Kasi po, tumatakbo pa po ang kaso namin ng Hermosa sa tanggapan ng DENR,” diin pa nito at aniya hindi

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/310024/lawyer-environmentalist-nangangamba-na-sa-kaligtasan>



# CSR: Green nature and calamity support

By [Lea Manto-Beltran](#) February 28, 2022



As the year 2022 unfolds, the world continues to grapple with familiar challenges – the continued Covid-19 pandemic, enduring crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste.

Yet, this year could be perfect time to environment concerns, with high-level conferences, symposia, and events scheduled, to help energize international cooperation and collective action.

This year will also mark two golden jubilees. In 1972, the world took up the environmental mantle at the historic UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. The meeting firmly placed the environment on the priority list of governments, civil society, businesses and policymakers, recognizing the inextricable links between the planet, human well-being and economic growth. Now, fifty years later, the Stockholm+50 meeting in June 2022 will commemorate the event, and reflect upon and move forward.

Experts hope that 2022 will be a year of breakthroughs for the environment.

In line with these world developments in the environment, many companies in the world, and in the Philippines take a second look at how to participate to help control and limit corporate social responsibility programs.

## Corporate Social Responsibility redefined

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), as defined by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Unido), is a management concept in which companies incorporate the addressing of social and environmental issues on their business operations and interactions with stakeholders. CSR issues can deal with environmental management, social equity, labor standards and working conditions, and good governance, among others.







In the Philippines, the birth of Corporate Social Responsibility and its practice can be traced back to the 1960s where companies gave donations in cash directly to foundations and other charitable organizations. It was more confined to philanthropic endeavors or the usual one-time-dole-outs to communities in need. A decade later, many companies have started to initiate CSR activities on education, environment, disaster response and recovery, and livelihood projects or skills building.

Recently, more and more companies are responding to the call to do more meaningful interventions. They have begun to mainstream CSR in their business practices for reasons related to business sustainability, stakeholders demands, enhancing competitive advantage, access to new markets and company branding.

Importance of Corporate Social Responsibility when buying a product, 83 percent of customers are willing to choose ethical goods to prevent environmental damage caused by its production. CSR is about more than social capital or reputation management. It's also about corporate social responsibility or CSR.

While many benefits exist, the psycho-social benefits of CSR are hard measure. However, the benefits of socially responsible workplaces and sustainable communities can be seen clearly. There are four main benefits of CSR—community, employee, economic and environmental benefits.

One key benefit is that CSR can help improve the social fabric of communities. Social enterprises bridge the gap between businesses and the nonprofit sector by providing benefits to society at large, while meeting the needs of individual communities.

When employees are included in CSR activities, their experience working for a company that values CSR results in higher levels of employee satisfaction.

Combined with an increase in motivation and empowerment, this leads to more engaged workers who are likely to produce higher quality work.

A company that benefits the local community is at an advantage when it comes to recruiting, motivating and retaining employees in that area. Additionally, CSR benefits may lead to providing opportunities for economic growth for vendors/suppliers and other organizations in the area.

The benefits of corporate social responsibility are also realized by the environment.

CSR helps organizations become more environmentally aware and encourages them to take actions that improve their environmental impact. Many companies have adopted green policies as a result of their CSR initiatives, and some businesses have even gone so far as to create separate divisions that focus exclusively on environmental sustainability.

### **Different types of CSR**

**Corporate Social Responsibility is based on these four tenets:**

Ethical, philanthropic, environmental and economic.

Ethical responsibility is about looking after the welfare of the employees by ensuring fair labor practices for the employees and also the employees of their suppliers. Ethical labor practices for suppliers mean that the companies will ensure the use of products that have been certified as meeting fair trade standards. Ensuring fair labor practices for employees means that there will be no gender, race, or religious discrimination among the employees and each employee will be given equal pay for equal work and better living wage compensation.



Philanthropic responsibility means serving humanity. This is one criteria that pays attention to the well-being of the underprivileged or needy people who badly require our support to sustain themselves on this planet. Companies fulfill their philanthropic responsibility by donating their time, money, or resources to charities and organizations at national or international levels. These donations are mainly given to a variety of worthy causes including human rights, national disaster relief, and clean water and education programs in underdeveloped countries.

No other business tycoon has fulfilled philanthropic responsibilities better than Bill Gates. Bill Gates has donated billions of dollars to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which supports numerous causes including education, the eradication of malaria and agricultural developments, etc.

Economic responsibility is an interconnected field that focuses to strike a balance between business, environmental, and philanthropic practices. Economic responsibility abides by the set standards of ethical and moral regulations. In this context, companies try to find a solution that can facilitate their business growth and generate profits by benefitting the community and the society.

Here, economic decisions are made by considering their overall effects on society and businesses at the same time. Hence, economic responsibility can improve business operations while engaging in sustainable practices.

Today, we need to focus on two main areas of our environment: limit pollution and reduce greenhouse gases. Companies are bound to fulfill their economic responsibility because awareness of environmental issues is growing largely among the consumers and today they want businesses to take necessary steps to save the planet and all lives. Companies that are concerned about reducing air, land, and water pollution have increased their standing as good corporate citizens while benefitting society.

Among above four types of CSR, environmental responsibility seem to be highlighted in 2022.

Environmental CSR aims to reduce any damaging effects on the environment from the business processes. Activities may focus on:

- energy use
- water use
- waste management
- recycling
- emissions
- eco-friendly office and business travel policies

Some of these are significant from both environmental and financial points of view.

### **Advantages of environmental CSR**

Green CSR can reduce business risk, improve reputation and provide opportunities for saving costs. Even the simplest energy efficiency measures can generate savings and make a difference to your business. e.g.

switching off lights and equipment when not in use

- reducing the use of water
- reducing the amount of paper you waste



Caring about the environment can increase revenue too. Many customers prefer to buy from responsible companies.

### How to reduce environmental impact

You can reduce business' environmental impact in many ways. For example, you can:

- create products that can be recycled
- optimize product life cycle
- source responsibly (eg using recycled materials and sustainable timber)
- reduce packaging
- buy locally to save fuel costs
- create an efficient (and fuel-efficient) distribution network
- work with environmentally conscious suppliers and distributors

### Green investments

Meanwhile, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin Diokno has highlighted the importance of green investments or projects aimed at the conservation of natural resources in driving the country's post-pandemic recovery.

"Since the Philippines is vulnerable to typhoons and climate-related risks due to its geographical location, green recovery is the ideal approach to strike a balance between implementing economic strategies and building climate and disaster resilience," Diokno said in a statement recently.

Citing data from World Bank's International Finance Corporation, the BSP chief said that investments in the Philippines and in three other big emerging markets — China, Indonesia, and Vietnam — may reach \$5.1 trillion if these economies adopt a post-pandemic "green recovery approach."

The said approach includes investments in energy efficiency, green infrastructure, support for environment-related research and development, and incentives for low-carbon vehicles.

Diokno said the BSP has incorporated sustainability principles in its portfolio management as part of its sustainable central banking strategy.





# US Supreme Court to hear high-stakes environmental case

Charlotte Plantive, Agence France-Presse

Posted at Feb 27 2022 09:51 AM

WASHINGTON - The conservative-dominated US Supreme Court is to hear an environmental regulation case on Monday with potentially far-reaching implications for the Biden administration's fight against climate change.

The high-stakes case concerns the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants, which produce nearly 20 percent of the electricity in the United States.

"This is the first major climate change case to be before the justices in 15 years and the court's membership has dramatically changed since then," said Richard Lazarus, a professor of environmental law at Harvard University.

In 2007, the Supreme Court, by a narrow majority, ruled that the EPA has the power to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants under the Clean Air Act of 1970.

The nation's highest court has been radically transformed in recent years, however.

Former Republican president Donald Trump, a climate change skeptic hostile to government regulation of industry, nominated three justices to the nine-member court, giving conservatives a 6-3 majority.

"Because we have the most conservative Supreme Court that we've had in decades, many of the people from the fossil fuel industry are asking the court to do all kinds of outrageous things to limit EPA authority," said Robert Percival, director of the Environmental Law Program at the University of Maryland.

In 2015, Democratic president Barack Obama unveiled his Clean Power Plan, which was intended to combat global warming by reducing carbon dioxide emissions from coal- and gas-burning plants and shifting energy production to clean sources such as solar and wind power.

The Clean Power Plan was blocked in the Supreme Court in 2016 and repealed by Trump, who replaced it with his own industry-friendly Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule.

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia threw out Trump's ACE rule on the last day of his presidency, however, setting the stage for the case currently before the Supreme Court: West Virginia vs EPA.

## - 'Christmas gift' -

West Virginia and several other coal-producing states asked the Supreme Court to intervene and define the powers of the EPA. By accepting the case, the court sent a signal to detractors of the agency and, more broadly, opponents of strong government regulatory authority.

"This was like a Christmas gift to regulated industries," Percival told AFP.

In its brief to the court, West Virginia accused the EPA of acting like "the country's central energy planning authority."

The EPA is "reshaping the power grids and seizing control over electricity production nationwide" without the express authorization of Congress, the state said.



No matter "how serious the problem," West Virginia said, a federal agency "may not exercise its authority in a manner that is inconsistent with the administrative structure that Congress enacted into law."

Harvard's Lazarus said there is "good reason for concern" that the court will rule against the EPA.

The court could find that Congress is "powerless to delegate an administrative agency the authority to issue regulations that address major public health and welfare issues such as climate change," he said.

"Or, that it can do so only with very precise statutory language enacted by Congress.

"In either event, given how partisan gridlock (is in Congress) such a ruling would seriously threaten the national government's ability to address some of the nation's most pressing problems including, but not limited to climate change."

### - 'Free from oversight' -

Several environmental protection groups have submitted their own briefs to the court in support of the EPA.

"In the absence of sustained efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," a group of climate scientists said, "the total increase in temperature could surpass 10 degrees (Fahrenheit) -- leading to physical and ecological impacts that would be irreversible for thousands of years, if ever."

"It is still possible to mitigate the human and economic costs of climate change," they said, "if greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants and other sources can be reduced.

"But such mitigation will require significant coordination at the federal level."

A group of Democratic lawmakers, including Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, submitted a brief urging the court to reject a case they said was being brought by those in favor of "an era free from oversight by the government."

"Metrics that boomed in the 20th century, from average lifespan to economic productivity, were made possible by a slew of new regulations aimed at protecting the public welfare," they said.

"As the excesses of powerful industries were reined in, however, these same regulations fostered resentment among those seeking to operate without such restraint.

"These cases are the direct product of that resentment."

**chp/cl/mdl**

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28 FEBRUARY 2022, MONDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





## MGA PROGRAMA SA KAPALIGIRAN IPAGPAPATULUY NG BAGONG DENR CHIEF

**PINURI** ng bagong hope ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si dating Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa mga naging trabaho nito at nangakong ipagpapatuloy ang mahahalagang programa at proyekto nito sa kapaligiran hanggang matapos ang termino ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Ayon kay DENR OIC Secretary Jim O. Sampaña, ipagpapatuloy niya ang mga nagawa ng aghensiya sa pamamagitan ni Cimatu sa mga natitirang buwan ng adminis-

trasyon ni Duterte.

Binigyang-diin ng opisyal na tubong Mindanao ang progreso sa isinasagawang pagpapanumbalik ng Manila Bay at ang tagumpay sa Boracay Island rehabilitation.

Dahil sa kapabayaang nangyari sa Boracay Island, ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang anim na buwang rehabilitasyon ng isla.

Umabot sa 400 hotels and restaurants ang ipinasara dahil sa paglabag sa environmental and sanitation laws habang tallo ang casinos ang permanenteng ipinasara. Sinira rin ang mga establisimyentong lumabag sa 30-meter shoreline.

Nito lamang January 2022 ay napili ang Boracay Island bilang "second most Instagrammable place in the world" ng presidiyosong Sig 7 Tri-

paraan para ma-save ang aming relationship.

Kung ayaw na niya, para-



vol. Ipagpapatuloy ni Secretary Sampaña ang priority projects bilang pangako kay Pangulong 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," pagdiin ni Sampaña.

"Meanwhile in Boracay, since it is also the commitment of the DENR to President Duterte, we intend to continue that," anyo.

Dagdag pa dito, si Sampaña na siyang undersecretary for attached agencies, mining, and Muslim affairs bago ito matalaga bilang OIC ng DENR ay nilhaw rin ang isyu tungkol sa open pit mining matapos langganin ang ban nito sa pamamagitan ng

Executive Order 130.

Sinabi pa nito na patuloy ang monitoring ng mining operations na isinasagawa ng national government, mga komunidad na malapit sa minahan at ng napaakahigat na Mining Industry Coordinating Council.

Samantala, sa isyu naman ng pagbabawal sa paggamit ng single-use plastic, sinabi rin Sampaña na ang DENR ay ipagpapatuloy ang adbokasiya nito at suportado rin nito ang "banning" kahit na wala pang batas tungkol dito.

Ipinasala rin ni Sampaña ang panswagang DENR at hinikayat nito ang mga kandidato sa May 2022 elections na hindi na ang pagpapako ng campaign materials sa mga puno.

Sinabi rin nito sa publiko na huwag iboto ang mga kandidato na sumisira sa kapaligiran.

ng mo kay

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# Duterte administration highlights infrastructure, economic performance

BY GENIVI VERDEJO

**P**RESIDENT Duterte made notable achievements in infrastructure development and strengthens the Covid-19 response and economic recovery, as the country continues to face global challenges.



President Rodrigo Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with key government officials at the Malacañan Palace on Feb. 21, 2022. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE



**PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**  
 PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE

President Rodrigo Duterte, accompanied by Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, Senator Christopher Lawrence Go, San Miguel Corporation President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon Ang, and Public Works and Highways Undersecretary Rafael Yaker, leads the unveiling of the project marker of the South Luzon Expressway Extension Project during the inauguration ceremony in Alibon, Marikina City on Feb. 15, 2022.

With only a few months left before he stepped down, the Duterte administration has highlighted its key accomplishments. Duterte has pushed the different government agencies to work on his 'Build, Build, Build' program that resulted in new expressways, airports and seaports, bridges and other projects.

The anti-illegal drug campaign has gained both criticisms and praise from various sectors here and abroad, but the head of state was determined to attain lower crime rate and recruit a safer Philippines.

Significant achievements can be seen in the laws that were passed during his term. Duterte has signed into law the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Modernization Act, Anti-Corruption Code, the Tax Amnesty Law, the 100-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law, as well as the Mental Health Law.

Programs such as One-Stop Service Center for OFWs, Overseas Filipino Bank (OF Bank) and OFW Hospital, OFW e-Card, salary increase for cops and soldiers, government workers' pay hike and 5000-probitays were among his legacy programs.

Adding to the list of Duterte's achievements was the implementation of the 10-year passport, and 5-year driver's license validity. The national government enables people to have their wi-fi and more decent housing for the poor. Bontoc and Manila Bay were rehabilitated as well as Marikina. His goals were centered on the economy and infrastructure, peace, justice and security, human development and governance, and foreign policy.

### Covid-19 response

Karlo Nograles, acting presidential spokesperson and cabinet secretary said the implementation of a Covid-19 bio-surveillance program and the establishment of Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) laboratories in 64 percent of all provinces in the country, were some of the key accomplishments of the national government. The testing capacity increased from an average of 30,000 to 40,000 tests each day in 2020 to an average of 75,000 to 80,000 tests every day in 2021.

"We expanded the One Hospital Command Center and increased the workforce by 217 personnel. This allowed us to accept 73,040 calls, out of which 71,900 cases, or 97.6 percent were resolved and closed," Nograles said.

A total of 2635.81 million worth of Covid-19 sickness services, involving severe or critical and mild or moderate cases were provided, consistent with the Universal Healthcare Law, which was signed by the President in 2019.

The national vaccination program against Covid-19 was fast-tracked. A total of 107,277 million doses have been administered from March 1, 2021 to Dec. 28, 2021. The number of fully vaccinated individuals is at 88,647 million, while 1.614 million individuals have received booster doses, as of 2021.

To protect the welfare of the migrant workers during the pandemic, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) undertaken various repatriation efforts, as part of the Ka-Hirap sa Malasakit campaign. A total of 872,881 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have been repatriated by Dole as of Jan. 4, 2022.

### Prioritizing health

The government has increased the number of public health workers and has provided the benefits. The Department of Health (DOH) and

the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) were ordered to expedite the health workers' benefits and payments. From 2016 to 2020, there has been an increase of 90,742 workers, thereby strengthening the country's public health workforce. Negotiated 478,969 public and private health care workers were recipients of special risk allowances (SRA) totaling P7.665 billion from December 2020 until June 2021.

RA 11569 or the *Doctor Paya sa Bayan Act* was signed into law on Dec. 21, 2017. The Medical Scholarship and Return Service (MSRS) program was established for qualified and deserving students in state universities and colleges in regions where there are no medical courses. The MSRS includes financial assistance, free tuition, board, lodging, equipment, boarding allowance, and free for all medical school-related payments. State universities and colleges, especially in remote areas have been authorized by Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to offer a Doctor of Medicine program.

Executive Order (EO) No. 104, also known as improving access to healthcare through the Regulation of Prices in the Retail of Drugs and Medicine Act was signed on February 17, 2020. It imposed price regulation through a maximum retail price (MRP), a maximum wholesale price (MWP), or both on at least 80 drug molecules or 133 drug formulas, selected based on set criteria. The EO prioritizes the people's welfare over the lobbying of big pharmaceutical companies to achieve accessible, affordable and universal healthcare.

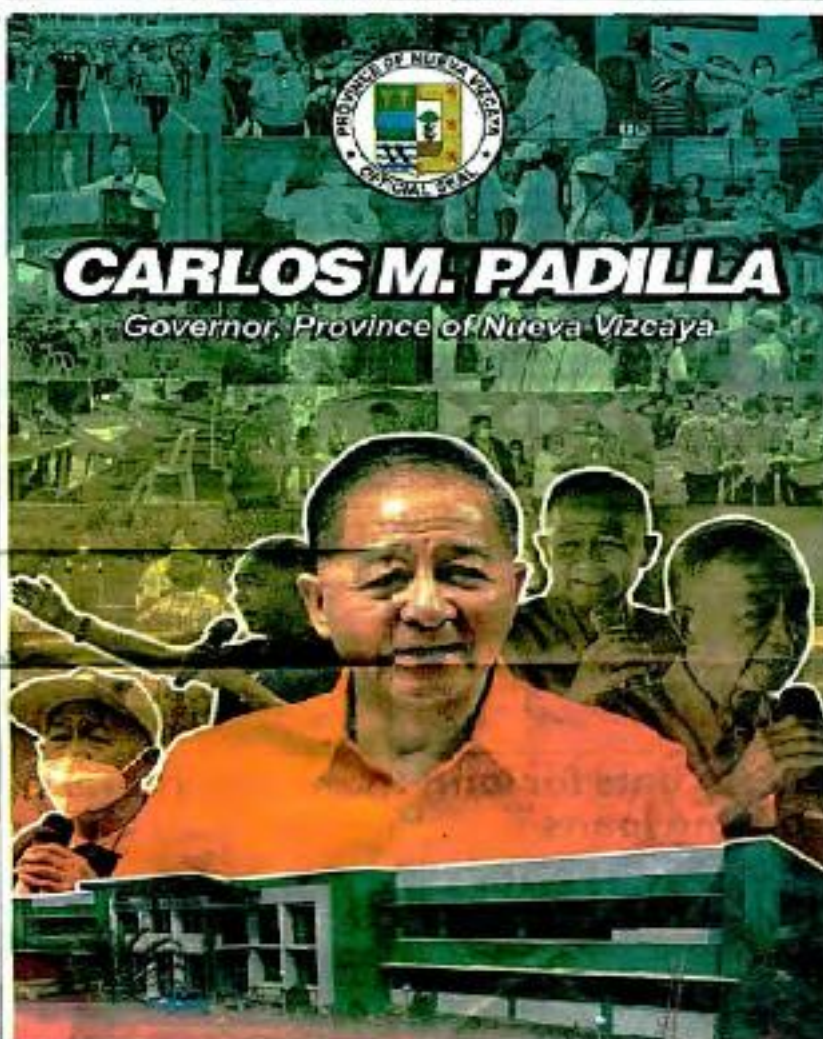
RA 11992 or the *Malasakit Centers Act* of 2019 was signed into law to provide

convenience to Filipinos needing government health services nationwide. The Malasakit Center is a One-Stop Shop where indigent patients can efficiently access financial and medical assistance from agencies such as PhilHealth, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), among others. There are 145 fully operational Malasakit Centers nationwide, which served and assisted more than 3.3 million Filipinos since 2019.

### Reviving the economy

Economic recovery measures that were made into law include the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act and the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE).

**Economic performance C2**



**CARLOS M. PADILLA**  
 Governor, Province of Nueva Vizcaya

## PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

### Accomplishments and Work In Progress

For more than five years, the Duterte administration has led the country through the most challenging period in its history. The Duterte administration has led the country through the most challenging period in its history. The Duterte administration has led the country through the most challenging period in its history.



Infrastructure projects... The Duterte administration has led the country through the most challenging period in its history. The Duterte administration has led the country through the most challenging period in its history.





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# The Manila Times



Duterte administration ...

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President Rodrigo Duterte interacts with key government officials prior to holding a meeting with them at the Malacañan Palace on Feb. 14, 2022.

## ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE FROM C1

# Duterte administration

The first tax package, the Train Act was signed into law by Duterte on Dec. 19, 2017 and became effective on January 1, 2018.

The law enhances the progressivity of the Philippine tax system by providing an equitable relief to numerous low- and middle-income Filipino households. With the Train Act, ordinary workers have lessened their levels of disposable income which resulted in an increase in economic activity. It also includes provisions amending the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997 effectively minimizing the rate of individual income tax, donor's tax, and estate tax.

Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) said to complement the Train Law, the enactment of the RA 11213 or the Amnity Act allowed taxpayers to settle long outstanding tax dues. As such, providing a 5 percent surcharge to amnesty rate on assessed estate of decedents who died on or before Dec. 3, 2017 or P5,000 or whichever is lower. It also provides an amnesty on tax delinquencies on all national internal revenue taxes, particularly on income subjectable, estate withholding, donor, and percentage taxes for taxable year 2017 and twice years.

The second tax package, the CREATE Act was signed into law by the President on March 26, 2021 and became effective on April 13, 2021. It is the largest fiscal stimulus package for businesses in the country's history, providing private enterprises more than P1 trillion worth of tax relief over the next 10 years with a significant cut on the tax rate for corporations.

The law cuts the regular corporate income tax

(CIT) rate by up to 10 percent, from 30 percent to 20 percent for domestic corporations with a taxable income of 25 million and below, and with total assets of not more than P100 million; and 23 percent for big corporations with assets of above P100 million. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will be the biggest beneficiaries of CREATE with the CIT rate reduction.

"As the Philippines continues to work on achieving goals like accelerating poverty reduction and minimizing social and economic inequality, the Duterte administration has campaigned for a simple, fair, and more efficient tax system in order to promote investment, create jobs and reduce poverty," PCOO said.

The third tax package is the Real Property Valuation Reform, which is pending in the committee on ways and means, local government, and finance in the Senate while the fourth tax package is the Personal Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act (PITA), which is being discussed in the committee hearings of the Philippine Senate. The PITA complements the Train Act by making passive income and financial intermediary taxes simpler, fairer, more efficient, and competitive in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region. All these were meant to achieve true change by generating a more sustainable source of revenues.

"In this regard, our philosophy has consistently been to prioritize lives in order to ensure livelihoods," Negralos said.

"With these economic recovery efforts, the Philippines has achieved the highest credit ratings ever received by the country which have been maintained



President Rodrigo Duterte with Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Mattle Andover during a one-on-one interview on the Cabinet Report program.

despite the waves of downgrade globally. "This high credit rating allowed the Philippine government to immediately access emergency financing with conventional terms for its Covid-19 response when the pandemic struck," he said.

"It allowed us to implement fully responsible 10 stimulus measures that helped save lives, jobs, and our economy and allowed us to secure funding for economic investments," explained Negralos.

### Approved investments

In a span of three to four years, the annual growth of approved investments has almost doubled the country's total approved investments, which reflects the determination and political will of the administration. Government is working tirelessly for a V-shaped Philippine economic recovery in the coming years.

PCOO data showed the approved investments in 2015 was P266.5 billion, and was a little lower in 2016 at P263 billion. It then, recorded constant growth in 2017, 2018 and 2019 posting P308.7 billion, P1.1 trillion and P1.14 trillion, respectively. In 2020, the country registered P1.02 trillion in approved investments. With these, the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate averaged around 6.3 percent quarterly and 6.3 percent annually throughout the pre-pandemic governance of the present administration.

Almost all economies have suffered from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, such as work stoppage and business closures due to lockdown, slowdown in economic activities, and hospitals struggling for space and resources.

"With the government's delicate balancing of protecting the safety and welfare of the Filipinos from the virus and managing economic recovery, through Covid-19 response efforts and rigorous vaccination drive, the Philippine economy showed a steady growth in the second to fourth quarters of 2021

from July 2021 to September 2021. This has converted different economic sides to tourism destinations, trade, industry, and economic sectors. More than 6,500 bridge projects and 12,334 flood control projects were completed to spur economic growth in different regions and enable a more disaster-resilient nation.

From July 2020 to November 2021, a total of 239 airport projects and 164 seaport projects were completed, which included construction, maintenance, widening, upgrading, and rehabilitation.

The brand-new trains for the Metro Rail Transit Line 7 (MRT-7) arrived in December. The MRT-7 spans more than 34 kilometers from North Avenue in Quezon City to San Jose del Monte in Bulacan. This will lessen the travel time from two to three hours to only minutes and bring a greener and more energy-efficient means of transportation.

Duterte thanked the Department of Transportation (DoT), San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and other partners for the algorithm program made on the MRT-7 project which is expected to be partially operational by the fourth quarter. The total project cost is 737 billion, which was funded through a public and private partnership (PPP) with SMC, under build-lease-operate arrangement. It has a 25-year concession period. At present, six train sets or 18 rail cars out of the 108 rail cars have been shipped. The entire MRT-7 system will have a total of 36 train sets or 108 rail cars.

The Build, Build, Build program has accelerated the government's public infrastructure expenditure from an average of 1.6 percent of GDP from 2008 to 2010 and 3 percent of GDP from 2011 to 2016 to 5 to 6 percent relative to our GDP under the Duterte administration. This has resulted in 6.5 million jobs generated from 2016 to 2020 and close to 1.5 million jobs from March 2020 to August 2021, amid pandemic.

### Care for migrant workers

President Duterte vowed to serve and ensure the security and welfare of our resident-seafarers, especially those during the pandemic. Duterte signed RA 11618, which created the Department of Migrant Workers on Dec. 30, 2021.

A 2020 to improve the coordination among government agencies concerned with Filipino migrant workers and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) affairs. About 2.2 million Filipinos abroad will benefit from and will be cared by the department.

### National ID system

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) executed over 50 million registrations for the National Identification system in 2021, despite the pandemic. The system serves as a consolidated database of vital information of all Filipinos and resident aliens in the Philippines to identify and verify beneficiaries of assistance programs, such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and assistance to individuals in crisis situation.

It simplifies public and private transactions, promotes financial inclusion and accelerates the delivery of government social protection programs for all Filipinos. Duterte signed into law RA 11095 or the Philippine Identification System Act on Aug. 4, 2018.

## Economic performance C3

# CREBA bats for long-term, low-interest housing loans

As the world looks to make the national economy towards full post-Covid recovery, the country's biggest organization of real estate and housing industry players are working hard for the passage of House Bill 3541 and 3537 filed by Rep. Marcelo S. Velasco and Majority Floor Leader Martin Romualdez, respectively, to create a Comprehensive Home Financing Program (CHFP) that will ensure a secure, earning Filipino and his loved ones to enjoy long-term housing loans whether or not they are members of the Social Security System (SSS), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), or the Pag-IBIG Fund.

Charles A. V. Conde, national chairman of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA), said that this is urgent and necessary if the national government is truly serious in addressing the country's 6.31 million housing backlog which continues to grow amidst an acute and sluggish housing program over the years.

"The NBI's Constitutional duty to shelter housing for its people, government must provide affordable and long-term sources of home loans for the millions of homeless Filipinos, especially the low-income earners," he explained. Under the umbrella, the annual



CREBA National President Noel Ted M. Carillo and Chairman Charles A. V. Conde (The Photos)

CHFP funding of P275-billion will be sourced through bond investments by the SSS at P25 billion, GSIS at P25 billion, a total source of P75 billion or all of Pag-IBIG Fund's lower bond portfolio in accordance with their respective Charter. P300 billion from the created new dual age age bands of banks plus a P10 billion government budgetary allocation to serve the national settlers' program for 28 years -- all with mandatory guaranty cover from the Home Guaranty Corporation.

The CHFP will be designed to address the housing needs of low-income earners, including those who are currently in the informal sector, working in the informal sector, and those who are currently in the informal sector. The CHFP will be designed to address the housing needs of low-income earners, including those who are currently in the informal sector, working in the informal sector, and those who are currently in the informal sector.

These fund sources, according to CREBA national president Noel Ted M. Carillo, have, in fact, been hindered by various enabling laws and the concerned agencies' respective charters and need only to be integrated for effective administration to social and economic housing beneficiaries.

Republic 30 years, CHFP loans for residential units, subdivisions or medium-rise or group of flats buildings shall be P1.2 billion and below at 5 percent fixed interest rate for six to 10 year housing, and above P1.5 billion up to P3,198,200 at 4 percent, for economic housing which shall remain LMI free.

The bill supports the Pag-IBIG Fund to address the issue with the National Home Mortgage Financing Corporation (NHMFC) acting as secondary mortgage institution -- all income earning citizens who qualify as beneficiaries under the Urban Development and Housing Act and who have not availed housing assistance from any government institution shall be eligible to have loans through the CHFP.

The high collection efficiency by the NHMFC Fund will be realized by empowering it to deputize employers, whether public or private, in the prompt collection of housing loan amortizations. CREBA's focus on the housing

with growth rates of 12 percent, 6.1 percent, and 7.7 percent, respectively after a decline in 2020 and in the first quarter of 2021," PCOO said.

### Build, build, build

The Duterte Legacy Journal has cited infrastructure development as among the key accomplishments of the present administration. Despite the challenges and limitations brought about by the pandemic, the momentum for the Build, Build, Build program continued. Infrastructure spending for the Build, Build, Build program in 2021 reached 5.1 percent of the country's GDP.

"The roll-out of infrastructure played an important role in the economic recovery amid the Covid-19 pandemic. We expect that infrastructure spending will further increase to 5.8 percent of GDP," Negralos said.

Duterte has led in ensuring that the "Golden Age of Infrastructure" in the Philippines. A total of 31,977 kilometers of road projects which includes construction, rehabilitation, widening, upgrading, and rehabilitation have been completed.



The Department of Transportation, under the resource leadership of Secretary Arthur Napaje, and through the Philippine Ports Authority, has completed 112 local and coastal port projects in the Mindanao region. The completed development projects include the rehabilitation and improvement projects at Cagayan de Oro Port, General Santos Port (Makar Wharf), Gupo Port, Marikina Port, Zamboanga Port, (Ilo) Port, Tagbilaran Port, Davao (Sasa) Port, Molit Port, Babak Port, Malinao Port, and Caramoran Port. PHOTO BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Secretary Eduardo A. Del Rosario was the Negros Occidental Speaker at the 28th CREBA National Conventions held in Cebu, October 2015.



CREBA Leaders with Secretary Del Rosario and key officials of the various key shelter agencies.





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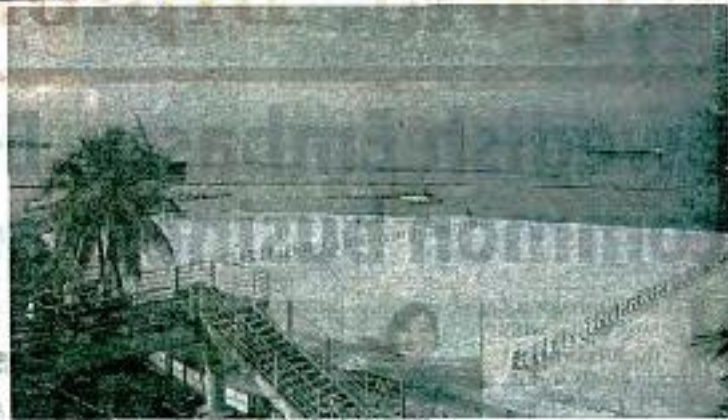
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White-sand Boracay island after the rehabilitation in 2018. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Manila Bay after the rehabilitation. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE FROM C2

### Campaign against illegal drugs

Duterte was known for his anti-illegal drug drive to ensure a safer place for the Filipinos. PCDO said among his accomplishments were the 773.85 billion worth of seized drugs, controlled precursors and chemical materials (CPCs), and laboratory equipment.

Almost 1,000 drug dens and clandestine laboratories were dismantled, a total of 23,179 were declared drug-dead barangays, 4,033 children involved in illegal drug activities were rescued and 218,605 anti-illegal drug operations were conducted. During the anti-illegal drug operations, 115,515 illegal drug-related criminals, 12,821 high-value targets and 1,025 government workers were arrested and there were 6,215 illegal drug-related deaths.

Meanwhile, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTE-ELCAC) reported that from December 2015 to August 2020, a total of 2,965 members of communist terrorist groups and 80 key leaders were neutralized; 3,429 surrendered, 285 were apprehended and 251 died from legitimate operations.

### Conviction of 197 Maguindano massacre suspects

The landmark decision in December 2019 saw the conviction of 197 suspects, including eight members of the Ampatuan clan, in the November 2009 Maguindano Massacre.

The survivors and the families of the victims of the Maguindano Massacre were provided assistance and assured that the government expedite the massive hunt, and arrest of the remaining suspects of the Maguindano Massacre.

The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFMS) along with the Philippine National Police - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in

Muslim Mindanao monitored closely the Maguindano Massacre Case and consistently followed up the developments of the case in court through the Department of Justice (DOJ).

### Pursuing developments in Mindanao

The Creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is among the notable actions to spur growth in the new heart part of the Philippines. On July 20, 2019, Duterte signed RA 10304 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), replacing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The new Bangsamoro region will have greater fiscal and political autonomy. Following the ratification of the BOL by the members of then-existing ARMM in January 2019, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was created in March 2019 for peace, stability and growth in the region.

The Task Force Saagun Marawi (TFM) was created under Administrative Order No. 3 on June 28, 2017 to facilitate the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of war-torn Marawi City. Four years after the five-month fighting between government forces and the militants, around 80 percent of the rehabilitation works have been completed.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) made efforts to rebuild Marawi. DHSUD Secretary Eduardo Del Rosario, who chaired the TFM, has worked hard to restore the county's only Islamic city. Major projects include the rehabilitation of mosques in cooperation with private partner-developers, the construction of major public facilities, transmigration interventions, such as financial and livelihood.

### Rehabilitation of Manila Bay and Boracay

For a safer, more efficient, and coordinated rehabilitation of Manila

Bay, Duterte signed Administrative Order No. 16 creating a Manila Bay Task Force. The task force directed a faster rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of Manila Bay. The dolphin beach project for shorelines of the bay is one of the phases to make Manila Bay an attraction for both Filipinos and foreign tourists.

The BOSS, created by a Secretary's Agency Task Force (SATF), paved the way for the successful rehabilitation of Boracay Island in 2018 within six months. The SATF has been extended to 2022 to ensure sustained efforts in maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of the island to attract millions of local and foreign tourists while preserving the environment.

### Addressing West Philippine Sea dispute

The Duterte administration made initiatives to improve the country's relations with China through bilateral visits and cooperative mechanisms. The disputes helped mean a more congenial environment for managing issues in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

The Duterte administration has pursued to advocate for the country's Arbitral Award in different forums, such as the United Nations General Assembly in 2020 and 2021 that defused the Philippines' rights in the WPS.

According to a statement from PCDO, "In a multilateral setting, the Philippines had pushed for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DCS), a document that sets forth the collective commitment of the ASEAN and China to promote peace, stability, and mutual trust and to ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes in the SCS."

"Under the Philippine Country Coordination of the ASEAN-China Dialogue, the Philippines has successfully negotiated the first draft of the Code of Conduct in the SCS that will be acceptable to all concerned countries," stated in the PCDO statement.



LWUA Administrator Galling "Gene" A. Mamoncang

## PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte's legacy to the Filipinos includes the provision of safe, clean, and affordable water at all times.

The Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), which has the mandate to promote provincial water supply development in the country, has already established 532 operational water districts spread in 105 different municipalities across the country. These water districts provide piped potable water to nearly 25 million Filipinos, who now have access to safe, affordable water and sanitation facilities.

To date, LWUA has implemented 495 projects — 49 are completed, 224 ongoing and 221 are in various stages of government activities.

This achievement was made possible through granting of loans, which — as of December 2021 — stand at P40.8 billion.

### Changes and Reforms

With the appointment of Administrator Galling "Gene" A. Mamoncang as LWUA administrator

of last year, he has hit the ground running. Shortly after assuming office, Mamoncang began on a series of visits to various water districts across the country to assess the situation first-hand and determine what the needs for water service improvements were — all in line with his priorities which include the formation of new water districts, the scouting of funds, increasing the effort on water supply development and sanitation infrastructure, and improving water quality and service in the country.

Accompanied by a small team, he made the rounds in Subic Bay and Lingga City in the province of Ilocos del Norte and Sanigo del Norte, respectively. The LWUA team also met with stakeholders in northern Mindanao and Soccsargen as well as water districts in Eastern Visayas, Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon,

# LWUA – Safe, clean and affordable water for every Filipino



Water district officers of Southern Tagalog Association of Water Districts



LWUA Odette Task Force Team in Marikina

and/or far north of the Ilocos region and Cagayan Valley. Water district officials thrashed out issues here, which was very helpful in mapping out specific projects needed to be carried out, particularly water district projects in Marikina, Zamboanga City, Odette, and Yolanda-affected areas.

### Odette's assistance

A powerful typhoon barreled across a large portion of Visayas and Mindanao, causing the LWUA Administrator to send a team of engineers and experts to the aid of affected areas. Six teams were sent to 181 wa-

ter districts in Iloilo, Region 6, Region 7, Region 8, Cagayan, and Region 10 in late December. Aside from assessing the extent of the damage caused by Typhoon Odette and repairing the damage to loan assistance for repairs and rehabilitation, the LWUA teams also delivered portable mobile treatment plant, relief goods, and drinking water to the displaced families.

### Brunt of the Pandemic

In order to maintain water districts from the burden of pandemic's lock-down, LWUA had also approved jobs aids for acquisition of billings of 60 affected water districts.



Groundbreaking of water supply project in Marikina City

With the effects of pandemic, challenges were encountered including limited funding and hampered infrastructure project.

### LWUA satellite field offices

LWUA is expanding its operations beyond its headquarters in the national capital to make its services more accessible and responsive to the people.

Beginning next month, LWUA will open six satellite offices across the country with mobile water treatment vehicles. Quezon City will be the first to launch on March 8, followed by Ilocos City (Ilocos), San Fernando (Pa-

litan), Iloilo City, Cagayan de Oro City, and Imit.

The LWUA field offices will cover respective regions from Region 1 to the BARMM to be headed by a licensed civil engineer. Each office would develop plans and programs in collaboration with the Regional Development Council (RDC). It is also responsible for monitoring and supervising the performance of water districts under its jurisdiction.

Mamoncang reported that LWUA is really shifting into high gear during this last stretch of the administration and all are expected to perform excellently upon the people on the pressure of the government.





## CSR: Green nature and calamity support PAGE 2/2

### GREEN NATURE FROM A4

Between business, environmental and philanthropic practices. Economic responsibility abides by the set standards of ethical and moral regulations. In this context, companies try to find a solution that can facilitate their business growth and generate profits by benefiting the community and the society.

Hence, economic decisions are made by considering their overall effects on society and businesses at the same time. Hence, economic responsibility can improve business operations while engaging in sustainable practices.

Today, we need to focus on two main areas of our environment: limit pollution and reduce greenhouse gases. Companies are bound to fulfill their economic responsibility because awareness of environmental issues is growing largely among the consumers and today they want businesses to take necessary steps to save the planet and all lives. Companies that are concerned about reducing air, land, and water pollution have increased their standing as good corporate citizens while benefiting society.

Among above four types of CSR, environmental responsibility seem to be highlighted in 2022.

Environmental CSR aims to reduce any damaging effects on the environment from the business processes. Activities may focus on:

- energy use
- water use
- waste management
- recycling
- emissions
- eco-friendly office and business travel policies

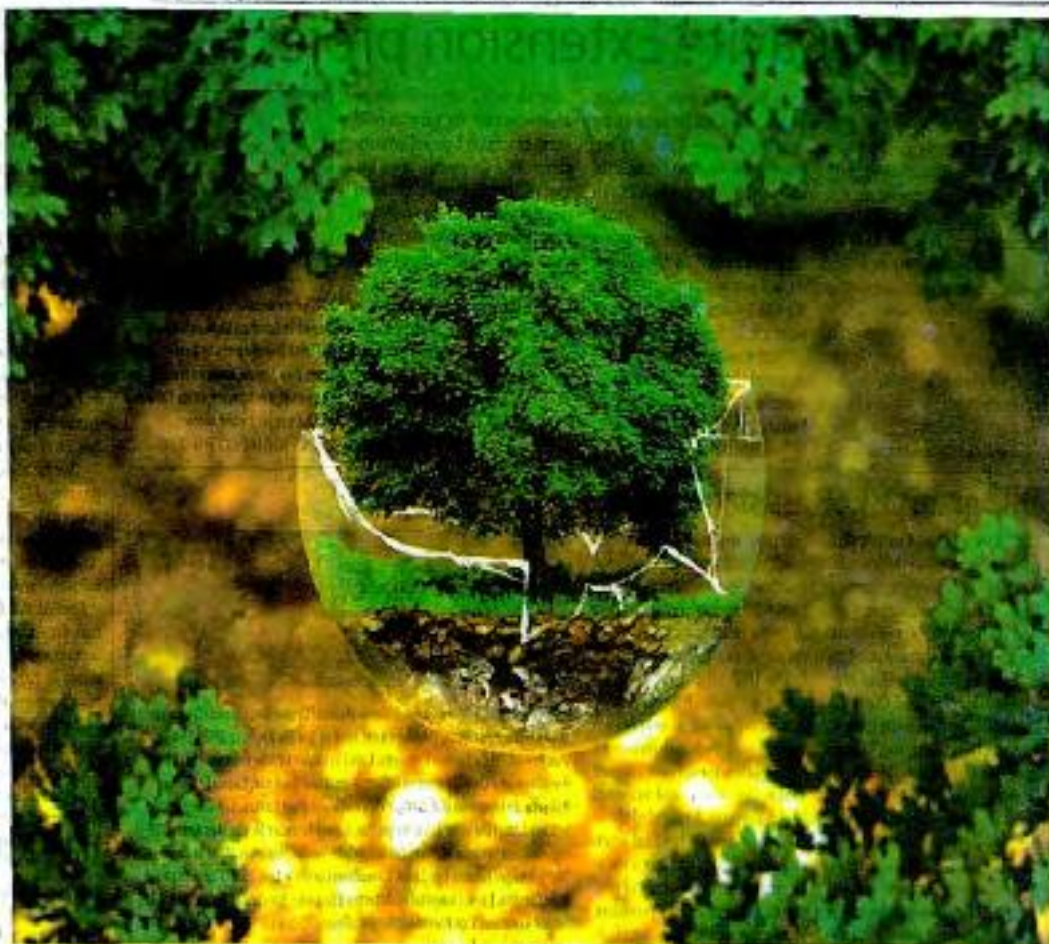
Some of these are significant from both environmental and financial points of view.

### Advantages of environmental CSR

Green CSR can reduce business risk, improve reputation and provide opportunities for saving costs. Even the simplest energy efficiency measures can generate savings and make a difference to your business, e.g.

- switching off lights and equipment when not in use
- reducing the use of water
- reducing the amount of paper you waste

Caring about the environment can increase revenue too. Many customers prefer to buy from responsible companies.



### How to reduce environmental impact

You can reduce business' environmental impact in many ways. For example, you can:

- create products that can be recycled
- optimize product life cycle
- source responsibly (e.g. using recycled materials and sustainable timber)
- reduce packaging
- buy locally to save fuel costs
- create an efficient (and fuel-efficient) distribution network
- work with environmentally conscious suppliers and distributors

### Green Investments

Meanwhile, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin Diokno has highlighted the importance of green investments or projects aimed at the conservation of natural resources is driving the country's post-pandemic recovery.

"Since the Philippines is vulnerable to typhoons and climate-related risks due to its geographical location, green recovery is the ideal approach to strike a balance between implementing economic strategies and building climate and disaster resilience," Diokno said in a statement recently.

Citing data from World Bank's International

Finance Cooperation, the BSP chief said that investments in the Philippines and in three other big emerging markets — China, Indonesia, and Vietnam — may reach \$5.1 trillion if these economies adopt a post-pandemic "green recovery approach."

The said approach includes investments in energy efficiency, green infrastructure, support for environment-related research and development, and incentives for low-carbon vehicles.

Diokno said the BSP has incorporated sustainability principles in its portfolio management as part of its sustainable central banking strategy.

LEA MANTO-BILTRAN



# CSR: Green nature and calamity support

**A**s the year 2022 unfolds, the world continues to grapple with familiar challenges – the continued Covid-19 pandemic, enduring crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste.

Yet, this year could be perfect time to embrace concerns, with high-level conferences, symposia, and events scheduled, to help engage international cooperation and collective action.

This year will also mark two golden jubilees. In 1971, the world took up the environmental mantle at the historic UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. The meeting firmly placed the environment on the priority list of governments, civil society, business and policymakers, recognizing the inextricable links between the planet, human well-being and economic growth. Now, 51 years later, the world is still grappling with the global environmental crisis.

By the time that UNFCCC will be a year of breakthrough for the planet.

In the Philippines, world developments in the environment, many corporations have led, and in the Philippines, we need to look at how to participate in help, and limit the corporate social responsibility programs.

## Corporate Social Responsibility redefined

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is defined by the United Nations Global Compact as a business model (UNGC). It means that companies should incorporate the interests of all stakeholders into their business operations and decisions. CSR issues can deal with environmental management, social equality, labor standards and working conditions and good governance practices.

In the Philippines, the kind of Corporate Social Responsibility and its practice can be traced back to the 1980s where companies gave support to the state in the education and other charitable organizations. However, it has to be philanthropic endeavors or financial assistance to the community. In the 2000s, many companies have started to integrate CSR activities on education, environment, social responsibility, and labor and good governance.

Recently, more and more companies reported to the public about their environmental interventions. They have begun to mainstream CSR in their business practices for reasons related to business sustainability, stakeholder demands, branding, competitive advantage, access to new markets and corporate branding.

## Importance of Corporate Social Responsibility

When buying a product, 83 percent of customers are willing to choose ethical goods to prevent environmental damage caused by its production. CSR is about more than social capital or reputation management. It's also about corporate social responsibility or CSR.

While many benefits exist, the psycho-social benefits of CSR are hard to measure. However, the benefits of socially responsible workplaces and sustainable communities can be seen clearly.

There are four main benefits of CSR—community, employee, economic and environmental benefits.

One key benefit is that CSR can help improve the social fabric of communities. Social enterprises bridge the gap between business and the nonprofit sector by providing benefits to society at large, while meeting the needs of individual communities.

When employees are included in CSR activities, their experience working for a company that values CSR results in higher levels of employee satisfaction.

Combined with an increase in motivation and empowerment, this leads to more engaged workers who are likely to

produce higher quality work.

A company that benefits the local community is at an advantage when it comes to recruiting, motivating and retaining employees in that area. Additionally, CSR benefits may lead to providing opportunities for economic growth for vendors, suppliers and other organizations in the area.

The benefits of corporate social responsibility are also realized by the environment.

CSR helps organizations become more environmentally aware and encourages them to take actions that improve their environmental impact. Many companies have adopted green policies as a result of their CSR initiatives, and some businesses have even gone so far as to create separate divisions that focus exclusively on environmental sustainability.

## Different types of CSR

Corporate Social Responsibility is divided into three categories: Ethical, philanthropic, environmental and economic.

Ethical responsibility is about looking after the welfare of the employees by ensuring fair labor practices for the employees and also the employees of their suppliers. Ethical labor practices for suppliers mean that the companies will ensure that the suppliers that have been certified as meeting ethical standards. Ensuring fair labor practices for employees means that financial, health, gender, race, or religious discrimination among the employees of each employee will be given equal pay, equal work and fair living wage compensation.

Philanthropic responsibility means contributing to the society. This is one criteria that pays attention to the well-being of the underprivileged or needy population. It may require our support to various items such as a living fund. Companies fulfil their philanthropic responsibility by donating their time, money, resources or their facilities and organizations involved in the community level. These donations are used primarily for a variety of welfare causes including disaster relief and social welfare.

Environmental responsibility means contributing to the environment. This is one criteria that pays attention to the well-being of the underprivileged or needy population. It may require our support to various items such as a living fund. Companies fulfil their philanthropic responsibility by donating their time, money, resources or their facilities and organizations involved in the community level. These donations are used primarily for a variety of welfare causes including disaster relief and social welfare.

No other business means that fulfilled philanthropic responsibility better than Bill Gates. Bill Gates has donated billions of dollars to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which supports concrete environmental and social development, the education, health and agricultural development, the economic responsibility to the underprivileged fields that focus to strike a balance.

► Green nature AS







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## Sa kaso ng sanitary landfill sa Bataan Lawyer-environmentalist nangangamba na sa kaligtasan

Matapos mabigo ang ilegal na pag-aresto sa kanya, lubha nang nababaha ang isang lawyer-environmentalist sa kanyang buhay at kaligtasan sa Bataan.

Ayon kay Atty. Beulah Cochi Fiel, pangulo ng Ecostart Waste Management Corp., ang dating operator ng sanitary landfill sa Hermosa, Bataan, nakatanggap ng impormasyon na aarestuhin siya ng weekend. Aniya sa CCTV footages sa kanyang bahay, mapapanood ang mga umaali-aligid na mga awtoridad na nakasibilyan.

Sinabi ni Fiel na sa media lamang niya nalaman na nagpalabas ng warrant of arrest laban sa kanya si Judge Amelita Cruz Corpuz ng Balanga RTC Branch 66, noong Pebrero 14 at

hindi rin ito ipinalam sa kanyang abogado.

Magugunita na inireklamo ni Fiel ang ilang lokal na opisyal ng Hermosa sa Office of the Ombudsman base sa paninwalang ilegal ang pagpapasara ng kanyang sanitary landfill noong 2020. Paghihiganti naman aniya ng lokal ng pamahalaan ang pagsasampa sa kanya ng kaso ng paglabag sa Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

Pinagbintangan si Fiel na tumanggap sa kanyang landfill ng "toxic and hazardous wastes" o nakalalasonong mga basura na mariin naman niyang itinatangi.

Boluntaryo na ring sumuko si Fiel at naglagak ng P120,000 piyansa.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATIONS  
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# THE PHILIPPINE STAR



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## EcoWaste calls for stronger treaty vs plastic

Environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition yesterday joined the global call for a stronger and binding treaty that would address the "threats and injustice" caused by plastic waste.

"We appeal to the UNEA (United Nations Environmental Assembly) delegates to decide in favor of a stronger, legally binding global instrument that will prevent, reduce and remediate harms from the whole life cycle of plastic," EcoWaste's national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

The group made the appeal as world leaders are set to convene to-

day until March 2 in Nairobi, Kenya for the UNEA.

Lucero pointed out that plastic pollution is "not just a simple problem, but a complex environmental, health, justice and climate issue," adding that 99 percent of plastic are derived from fossil fuels.

The EcoWaste said it is one with other environmental organizations around the world in pushing for a legally binding treaty that would address the problems of plastic throughout its "full life cycle" — from extraction, manufacturing, distribution, consumption, waste management and disposal.

Lucero pointed out that around 12 million metric tons of plastic are thrown in oceans each year.

The group held a protest in Elliptical Road, Quezon City yesterday holding wooden placards that sum up their plea for action: "A strong plastic treaty to stop toxic pollution and environmental injustice."

The EcoWaste said the hazardous substances used in making plastics such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers, phthalate plasticizers, grease, polyfluoroalkyl substances, ultra-violet stabilizers as well as heavy metals such as cadmium and lead could leach into food, soil and water.

"Plastics containing toxic chemicals that pose hazards to human health and the environment should not be manufactured and recycled. Like in the case of single-use plastics or SUPs, the world needs to act decisively to phase them out as recycling will not solve this toxic problem," the group said.

The EcoWaste pointed out that based on studies, some 400 million tons of plastic are manufactured every year, with only less than 10 percent recycled and the rest ending up being incinerated, disposed in landfills or dumped in rivers and oceans.

- Elizabeth Marcelo





## UN to agree on plan for 'historic' plastics treaty

By Nick Perry

**AFP** — More than 100 nations convening in Nairobi next week are expected to take the first steps toward establishing a historic global treaty to tackle the plastic crisis afflicting the planet.

Plastic has been found in Arctic sea ice, the bellies of whales and Earth's atmosphere, and governments have been under increasing pressure to unite in action against the global scourge.

Negotiators are hammering out the framework for a legally binding plastic treaty that diplomats say is the most ambitious environmental pact since the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

"This is a big moment. This is one for the history books," Inger Andersen, head of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), told AFP this week.

The exact scope of the treaty remains to be defined. There are competing proposals being drafted ahead of a three-day UN environment summit starting Monday in Nairobi.

World leaders and environment ministers meeting in-person and virtually are expected to kickstart the treaty process by appointing a negotiating com-

mittee to finalise the policy details over the next two years.

But more than 50 countries, along with scientists, businesses and environment groups, have publicly called for tough new regulations on industry to curb the torrent of plastic entering the environment.

This could include caps on the production of new plastic — which is made from oil and gas, and forecast to double by 2040 — redesigning products to make recycling easier or less harmful, and phasing out single-use items.

### 'TREATY WITH TEETH'

Many countries, including major plastic producers like the United States and China, have expressed general support for a treaty, but stopped short of endorsing any specific measures.

But there is broad consensus that countries acting alone cannot fix the problem, and a coordinated global response is needed.

Since the 1950s, the rate of plastic production has grown faster than any other material, vastly outpacing national efforts to keep the environment clean.

Today, approximately 300 million tonnes of plastic waste — equivalent to the weight of the human population —

are produced every year.

Less than 10 percent is recycled, with most ending up in landfill or the oceans.

By some estimates, a garbage truck's worth of plastic is dumped in the sea every minute, choking marine life and befouling coastlines around the globe. Microscopic particles of plastic can also enter the food chain, eventually joining the human diet.

"It is not something that stops at the border. As we know from plastics in the ocean... your trash becomes my trash, and my trash becomes your trash," said Andersen.

In October, dozens of major corporations including Coca-Cola and Unilever said a plastics treaty with binding targets was "crucial to set a high common standard of action for all countries to abide by."

Environment groups remain wary and want concrete targets and enforcement mechanisms enshrined in any treaty to ensure accountability.

"We are looking at something that is legally binding and has consequences, and not just a treaty that people can sign onto... but doesn't have the teeth to bite back," said Erastus Ooko from Greenpeace Africa.





## OPINION

# Can ESG data and insights deliver long-term value?

**E**nvironmental, social and governance (ESG) driven approaches are rapidly becoming mainstream in the investor and corporate communities, according to the 2021 EY Global Institutional Investor Survey. This is an annual survey that the EY Global Climate Change and Sustainability services team commissioned from a third party with the main objective of examining the views of institutional investors on the use of nonfinancial information in investment decision-making.

The survey notes three important themes that stand out: (1) the COVID-19 pandemic has been a powerful ESG catalyst; (2) there is a growing focus on the transition to a net zero economy, and climate change is increasingly central to investment decision-making; and (3) better quality nonfinancial disclosures and a clearer regulatory landscape, coupled with sophisticated data analytics capabilities, will enable ESG to realize its potential.

### THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ACTING AS A POWERFUL CATALYST

Investor attitudes towards ESG have undergone a rapid evolution under the pandemic. Now it's seen as a central element to the investor decision-making process.

The survey data shows that, since the pandemic started, 90% of investors are attaching greater importance to corporates' ESG performance when making investment decisions, and 86% of those surveyed said that a robust ESG program impacts analysts' recommendations.

In addition, COVID-19 has made investors more likely to divest based on poor ESG performance with 74% saying so, while around 86% said that having a strong ESG performance impacts their decision to hold on to an investment.

The way the pandemic has highlighted past and current issues on social inequality has also magnified the importance of social considerations, with consumers mobilized on social issues and investors placing a greater focus on the "S" element of ESG. The top 5 social concerns taking center stage, based on the survey, are: (1) consumer satisfaction, (2) diversity and inclusion, (3) impact on local communities, such as job creation, (4) workplace and public safety, and (5) labor standards and human rights across the value chain.

Because of this, the investment industry faces a major challenge moving forward on how to access and analyze the data required to link social impact to financial performance.

Without this information,

it will be difficult to achieve a comprehensive inclusion of these factors into portfolio decision-making processes.

### CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE HEART OF DECISION-MAKING

When the pandemic struck, many feared that it might put an end to the growing interest of investors on climate change. This fear did not materialize.

The significant progress that happened within the investment industry stems from the fact that the pandemic provided a stark and tangible example of what can happen when we fail to tackle systemic risks in our society. Investors could see what might happen to the economy if efforts to address climate change fail. This was further compounded by the results of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which found that without "immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions" in emissions, curbing global warming to either 1.5°C or even 2°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100 would be "beyond reach."

Investors have become increasingly aware of the risks posed by climate change, and they want their investments to reflect their preferences. Since there is an increased pressure to address the impact of climate change, investors surveyed said that they are placing a significant focus on their portfolios' exposure to climate risk, with 77% indicating that they are devoting time to evaluate the impact of physical risks, while 79% saying that they will devote time to evaluate the implications of transition risks, into their asset allocation and selection decisions.

As decarbonization is crucial to investment decision-making, and with the goal of making progress towards net zero, it is crucial that companies and investors undertake robust scenario planning. This translates the theories related to climate change impact into practice and helps ground the discussion about incorporating decarbonization factors into an organization's strategies so that it is not just an afterthought when considering the investment opportunities or the risks involved with operations.

### PERFORMANCE TRANSPARENCY AND ANALYSIS CAPABILITY IS THE FUTURE OF ESG INVESTING

While investors are considering ESG performance as central to their decision-making, there are two priorities that could help to realize its full potential.

First is the better-quality ESG data from companies and clearer regulatory landscape. These two factors allow investors to conduct a more structured and methodical evaluation of disclosures.

This is crucial as there has been an increasing concern of investors about the usefulness of key aspects of companies' ESG disclosures, with 51% of investors saying that current nonfinancial disclosures are not able to provide insight into how companies create long-term value, which was only 41% in 2020. In addition, despite the importance of ESG

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Can ESG data and insights deliver long term value?

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performance reporting to the industry, the transparency and quality of ESG disclosures, mainly around materiality, have been an ongoing concern, where 50% of investors surveyed said that they are concerned about a lack of focus on material issues – an increase from 37% in 2020.

Moreover, investor and corporate communities are broadly aligned on the importance of uniform standards and they believe that it would be helpful if risk transparency, reporting and assurance of disclosures were mandated by policy. As much as 89% of investors surveyed said they would like to see the reporting of ESG performance measures against a set of globally consistent standards become a mandatory requirement.

What this will lead to will be higher quality disclosures around ESG performance, which in turn can underpin good business management to help build and preserve stakeholder trust. The actions relating to the formation and the formal launch of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) during COP26 is a step in the right direction to more globally consistent standards.

Second, building data analytics capabilities and improving data management would be key to helping corporates produce trusted ESG performance reporting, with investors to incorporate that insight into their investment decision-making process.

Technology and data innovation can help corporates improve the way they collect, aggregate and own their data and help investors integrate ESG data into the investment analysis.

#### ACTIONS FOR CORPORATES AND INVESTORS

As ESG factors play an important role in economic health and recovery, there are a number of important actions for both the corporates issuing ESG reporting and the investors that will utilize that information.

Corporates should consider (1) having a better understanding of the climate risk disclosure element of ESG reporting, since there is growing pressure for companies to do more, (2) making strategic use of the sustainability and finance functions to help inject rigor and factor in materiality into ESG reporting, mainly because investors are concerned about the veracity and credibility of companies' ESG performance data, and (3) deepening engagement with investors and understand how nonfinancial disclosures help differentiate an entity from its competitors.

Investors should consider (1) updating investment policies and frameworks for ESG investments along-side building an ESG-driven culture, (2) updating approaches to climate risk management to understand the potential consequences of climate risks over different time horizons, and (3) putting in place a bold and forward-looking data analytics strategy.

With the increasing expectation that businesses create, protect and measure value across a broad group of its stakeholders, they can fully embrace ESG by ensuring that the risks it brings are managed and by fully taking advantage of the opportunities that come with it. This way, companies can better articulate how they are creating long-term value for all stakeholders.

*This article is for general information only and is not a substitute for professional advice where the facts and circumstances warrant. The views and opinions expressed above are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of SGV & Co.*



KATRINA F. FRANCISCO is a senior director from the Climate Change and Sustainability Services of SGV & Co.



STRATEGIC  
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# Abante

UNA SA DALITA



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## 4 estudyante imbentor ng bike na pangolekta sa basura

BUMLIB ang Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sa naimbento ng apat na estudyante na kakaibang bisikleta na sa bawat pad-yak ay nakapupulot ng nadadaraan nitong basura.

Ang imbensiyon ay gawa nina Louise Altez, Dennis Sagurit, Ceeje Amurao at Jasper Gu-mayagay, mga estudyante ng Technological Institute of the Philippines Quezon City (TIP-QC).

Para umano sa kanilang thesis bilang mga graduating mechanical engineering student ang naturang bisikleta.

Ang petmalung bisikleta ay may tatlong gulong, kung saan dalawa ang nasa likod na siyang pamapagitan sa lagayan ng basura.

"Napansin naming [na] mga matatanda na rin 'yung ibang street sweepers. At the same time, obviously namang nahibirapan sila, lalo sa very polluted areas here in Manila. So napaisip nga po kami, 'Why not help them?,' pahayag ng



[Louise Altez]

isa sa mga estudyante.

Inabot umano ang grupo ng mga estudyante ng TIP-QC nang anim na buwan sa pagbuo ng naturang bike.

Samantala, wala namang masabi si MMDA chairman Benhur Abalos sa imbensiyon ng mga estudyante.

"Napakagaling ng mga bata. 'Yun ang aking impresyon. At sa hanay naman

ng MMDA, puwede nating subukan. Puwede nating i-testing, lalong-lalo na sa panahon ngayon, napakalaking convenience nito," banggit ni Abalos.

Dahil sa imbensiyon, hindi lamang MMDA kundi maging ilang pribadong kompanya ang nagananis din na magamit ang bisikleta. (Mark Joven Delantar)

Abante MO





# NCR, 38 other areas under looser Covid curbs under Alert Level 1 starting March 1

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA

✉ sam.medenilla

**S**TARTING next month the National Capital Region (NCR) and 38 other areas in the country will be placed under Alert Level 1—the lowest government risk classification in terms of Covid-19 restrictions.

Acting Presidential spokesman Karlo B. Nograles said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ITF) issued the decision on Sunday.

This, after the ITF finally completed on Thursday the criteria for declaring Alert Level 1, which include having 70 percent of an area's target population and 80 percent of its senior citizens already fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

Aside from NCR, other areas

to be placed under Alert Level 1 are Abra, Agtayao, Baguio City, Kalinga, Dagupan City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Batanes, Cagayan, Santiago City, Isabela, Quirino, Angeles City, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Olungapo City, Pampanga, Tarlac, Cavite, Laguna, Marikina, Puerto Princesa City, Romblon, Naga City, Catanduanes, Aklan, Bacolod City, Capiz, Guimaras, Siquijor, Biliran, Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro City, Camiguin, and Davao City.

According to the Department of Health, intrazonal and internal travel will be allowed without regard to age and comorbidities in areas under Alert Level 1.

Likewise, establishments, persons or activities are allowed to operate, work, or be undertaken at full on-site or venue seating capac-

ity—provided it is consistent with minimum public health standards in areas under the said alert level.

In the case of face-to-face classes for basic education, such will still be subjected to the approval of the Office of the President before being allowed in areas with the same alert level.

## Alert Level 2

In a related development, Nograles said the following areas will remain under Alert Level 2 next month: Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Batangas, Lucena City, Quezon Province, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, Sorsogon, Antique, Iloilo City, Iloilo Province, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Cebu

Province, Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, Negros Oriental, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, Tacloban City, Western Samar, City of Isabela, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibogay, Bukidnon, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Davao de Oro, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao Occidental, General Santos City, North Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Butuan City, Dinagat Islands, Basilan, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato City and Lanao del Sur.

Nograles said the new alert levels will take effect from March 1, 2022 to March 15, 2022.






02-28-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

 Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CALAGA

**NOTICE**


Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Calaga, Zamboanga will accept bid or written bids on February 28, 2022 for the sale by Industrial that purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	Prop: San Rafael, Calaga, Zamboanga
Description	Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041207-4
Area	3,485 sqm.
Applied for by	Holcom Mining and Development Corp. represented by H2015, Pasig City

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest amount which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and / or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in a bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the sale, make a deposit of acquisition to three (3) months rental. Only deposits in cash, money order, check, remittance, certified checks, banker's order or holder's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental obligation, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

**FEB 16 2022**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES



 **Republic of the Philippines**  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
Alfonso Avance, 24th Floor, Quezon City  
Tel. No. 829-8835 to 29; 829-8833 to 38;  
829-7041-2031 to 43; 878-8252; 878-7893  
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> E-mail: [web@denr.gov.ph](mailto:web@denr.gov.ph)

**NOTICE OF BIDDING**  
**MISCELLANEOUS LEASE APPLICATION**

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Ciangayan City will accept oral or written bids for lease 11:30 A.M. on May 13, 2022 for the lease of tract of land herein below described:

**Location:** Ngy. Stn. N. No. 5, San Felipe, Zamboanga  
**Description:** Plan No. 03-000025-D  
Beginning at a point marked "A" of Plan No. 03-000025-D being N 85° 55' W., 1.483.20 m. from W.M. 27, San Felipe, Zamboanga to corner 1. Thence:  
Line 1-2: S 49° 05' E., 200.30 m.; Line 2-3: N 62° 52' W., 127.77 m.;  
Line 3-4: N 47° 03' W., 202.52 m.; Line 4-1: N 74° 37' E., 145.32 m.

**Boundaries:**  
North: Sahaya Zone  
East: Panshona  
South: Panshona  
West: West Philippine Sea

**Area:** 32,000 square meters

**Appraised:** Land - P 20,380,330.00  
**Value of:** Proposed/Existing improvements - P 19,520,330.00

**Applied for by:** HONDA AND ASSOCIATES CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION  
Rep. by: Jan Erik Castillo O. Tabilera

**Approved Annual Rental:** P 865,763.00

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not less than three percent per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one percentum (1%) of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be enabled to participate in the bidding, he must be a natural person, have applied, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a second deposit to a local bank (3) months' rental. Only deposit in such manner, under treasury warrant, certified check or manager's check can be accepted. A person having a representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time the bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months' rental, otherwise, such bid is raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

(SGD.) ROGER V. ENCARNACION  
CE-184/01-11

M1 - Feb. 14, 21, 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 2022



28 FEBRUARY 2022, MONDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

## **COVID-19 NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# PH logs 1K new Covid-19 infections, 2K recoveries

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [February 27, 2022, 5:03 pm](#)



**MANILA** – The Department of Health on Sunday recorded 1,038 new cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) and 1,999 more recoveries.

Of 52,961 active cases, 47,910 are mild, 2,780 are moderate, 556 are asymptomatic, 1,417 are severe, and 298 are critical.

There were 53,934 active cases on Saturday.

The figures pushed the overall tally of confirmed infections to 3,661,049 and recovered cases to 3,551,687.

“Of the 1,038 reported cases today, 1,015 (98 percent) occurred within the recent 14 days, February 14 to 27, 2022,” the DOH reported.

The regions with the most cases in the recent two weeks were the National Capital Region with 227 or 22 percent, Central Visayas with 104 or 10 percent, and Calabarzon with 104 or 10 percent.

The death toll has reached 56,401 with 51 new deaths, representing 1.54 percent of overall cases.

“Of the 51 deaths, 9 occurred in February 2022 (18 percent), 2 in January 2022 (4 percent), 1 in December 2021 (2 percent), 8 in November 2021 (16 percent), 3 in October 2021 (6 percent), 9 in September 2021 (18 percent), 5 in August 2021 (10 percent), 6 in July 2021 (12 percent), 4 in June 2021 (8 percent), 1 in May 2021 (2 percent), 1 in February 2021 (2 percent), and 2 in January 2021 (4 percent) due to the late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya,” the DOH said.

COVIDKaya is a digital application used by health care workers to collect and share data about Covid-19 cases.

According to the February 25 data, about 5 percent of 25,313 who were tested turned out positive for coronavirus.

About nine duplicates were removed from the total case count as three of those were recoveries and one was death.





Meanwhile, 44 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after validation.

All laboratories were operational on February 25, but one was not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH said the laboratory contributed, on average, 0.05 percent of samples tested, and 0.05 percent among positive individuals based on data in the past 14 days.

To date, 26 percent of 3,700 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 22 percent of 20,500 isolation beds, 15 percent of 14,100 ward beds, and 13 percent of 3,100 ventilators are used by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

In the NCR, 24 percent of 1,300 ICU beds, 23 percent of 4,500 isolation beds, 23 percent of 3,900 ward beds, and 15 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use. **(PNA)**



# NCR, 38 other areas under Alert Level 1 March 1-15

February 27, 2022, 4:57 pm



**MANILA** – The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Sunday approved placing the National Capital Region under Alert Level 1 effective March 1 to 15.

In a statement from the office Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, acting presidential spokesperson, the other 38 areas that will be under Alert Level 1 for the first half of March are:

- Abra, Apayao, Baguio City and Kalinga in the Cordillera Administrative Region;
- Dagupan City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan in Region I;
- Batanes, Cagayan, City of Santiago, Isabela, and Quirino in Region II;
- Angeles City, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Olongapo City, Pampanga, and Tarlac in Region 3;
- Cavite and Laguna in Region 4-A;
- Marinduque, Puerto Princesa City, and Romblon in Region 4-B; and
- Naga City and Catanduanes in Region 5.

In the Visayas, also under Alert Level 1 are:

- Aklan, Bacolod City, Capiz, and Guimaras in Region 6;
- Siquijor in Region 7; and
- Biliran in Region 8.

In Mindanao, the following areas under Alert Level 1 are:

- Zamboanga City in Region 9;
- Cagayan de Oro City and Camiguin in Region 10; and
- Davao City in Region 11

## Protocols

Movement of persons regardless of age (with restrictions on crowded and closed spaces and close contact settings) and full capacity in private establishments and government agencies are allowed, subject to minimum health protocols. under Alert Level 1.

The IATF reminded that well-fitted face masks must still be worn at all times, whether outdoors or indoors in private or public establishments, including in public transportation by land, air or sea, except when eating and drinking; participating in team and individual sports in venues where ventilation standards can be maintained; and practicing outdoor sports/exercise activities where physical distance can be maintained.

Public transportation in areas under Alert Level 1 shall be at full seating capacity. For intrazonal and interzonal travels involving public land transportation between an area with a higher alert level classification and an area under Alert Level 1, the passenger capacity shall be that which has the lower passenger capacity rate between the point of origin and point of destination.

For aviation, maritime, and rail public transport operating in and out of Alert Levels 1 areas, the passenger capacity will be at 100 percent.

The use of the Safe, Swift and Smart Passage (S-PaSS) travel management system shall not be required for interzonal travel to areas under Alert Level 1.





On contact tracing, the use of health declaration forms or paper-based contact tracing shall not be required for all agencies and establishments under Alert Level 1.

On the other hand, the use of digital contact tracing such as the StaySafe.PH application is optional.

On testing prioritization, protocols shall be implemented consistent with national guidelines for individuals who are unvaccinated or have higher exposure risk like those above 60 years old, with comorbidities, and health care workers. Testing shall be optional for other groups.

Antigen tests shall be recommended only for symptomatic individuals and in instances wherein reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction is not available.

The Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Committees may implement testing protocols in health facilities for health workers and patients based on their assessment of risk and benefit. On isolation and quarantine, establishments are no longer required to set up isolation facilities within the workplace.

For the purpose of claiming sick leave, health benefits or other relevant processes wherein the proofs of Covid-19 management are necessary, a medical certification may suffice provided it should include the following minimum information: name of patient, severity of symptoms, diagnosis as probable or confirmed Covid-19, and date of end of quarantine and/or isolation period.

Individuals 18 years old and above will be required to present proof of full vaccination before participating in mass gatherings or entry into indoor establishments, such as but not limited to churches, restaurants, fitness studios and gyms, indoor cinemas, meetings and exhibition venues, wedding receptions, birthday parties, hotels and other accommodation establishments, and venues for election-related events.

Proof of full vaccination shall also be required for those aged at least 18 years before entry in establishments identified under the principles of the 3Cs strategy against Covid-19: confined spaces with poor ventilation; crowded places with no physical distancing; and close-contact settings with face-to-face interaction.

### **Alert Level 2**

Under Alert Level 2 are (Luzon) Cordillera Administrative Region: Benguet, Ifugao, and Mountain Province; Region 2: Nueva Vizcaya; Region 3: Nueva Ecija and Zambales; Region 4-A: Batangas, Lucena City, Quezon, and Rizal; Region 4-B: Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan; and Region 5: Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, and Sorsogon; (Visayas) Region 6: Antique, Iloilo City, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental; Region 7: Bohol, Cebu Province, Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, and Negros Oriental; and Region 9: Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, Tacloban City, and Western Samar.

In Mindanao, Region 9: City of Isabela, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga Sibugay; Region 10: Bukidnon, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, and Misamis Oriental; Region 11: Davao De Oro, Davao Del Sur, Davao Del Norte, Davao Oriental, and Davao Occidental; Region 12: General Santos City, North Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat; Region 13 (Caraga(sad) Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Butuan City, and Dinagat Islands; and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao: Basilan, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato City, and Lanao Del Sur. (PR/OPS)



# 100% indoor venue capacity for fully vaxxed allowed in Alert Level 1 areas – Año

Published February 27, 2022, 4:24 PM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año bared Sunday, Feb. 28, that 100 percent indoor venue capacity will be allowed in areas placed under Alert Level 1, including in workplaces and business establishments.



Secretary Eduardo Año (Courtesy of PCOO)

However, Año stressed that attendees must be fully vaccinated so they can be allowed to enter in indoor venues.

“Minimum public health standards will be strictly enforced, particularly the wearing of (face) masks. Facilities must ensure good ventilation to include, proper exhaust system,” Año said.

Año pointed out the importance of each individual’s adherence to national and local guidelines or ordinances since the public “is now our first line of defense.”

He also reiterated the Commission on Elections’ (Comelec) guidelines on how election campaign activities should be conducted amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as stated under its Resolution No. 10732.

“Ito rin ay nakaanchor sa Alert Level system natin ano. So meron silang level 1, level 2, hanggang level 5 katapat ng alert level system (This is also anchored under the Alert Level system. So it has level 1, level 2 up to level 5 that is aligned with the Alert Level system),” he added.

The DILG Chief’s remarks came as Malacanang bared that Metro Manila and 38 other areas will de-escalate to Alert Level 1 from March 1 to 15 after they met the criteria set by the government.

These include low to minimal risk case classification, total bed utilization rate of less than 50 percent, full vaccination of 70 percent of its target population (denominator is 80 percent of its total population) and full vaccination of 80 percent of its priority group A2 (senior citizens) or target population (denominator is 85 percent of A2 population).

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/02/27/100-indoor-venue-capacity-for-fully-vaxxed-allowed-in-alert-level-1-areas-ano/>





# **#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**





# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 715

## PEBRERO 27, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 1.4%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
52,961

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 97.0%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
3,551,687

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.54%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
56,401

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,038**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,999**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **51**

KABUUKANG BILANG NG KASO **3,661,049**

### MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 25

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 27  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 25

# 5.0%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 25,313

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS

# 91.5%

ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

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

#### KABUUKANG 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 (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>26%</b> Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.3K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>22%</b> Utilized
WARD BEDS (14.1K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>15%</b> Utilized
VENTILATORS (1000 TOTAL VENTILATORS)	<b>13%</b> Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>24%</b> Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>23%</b> Utilized
WARD BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS)	<b>23%</b> Utilized
VENTILATORS (1000 TOTAL VENTILATORS)	<b>15%</b> Utilized

556 Asymptomatic
47,910 Mild
2,780 Moderate
1,417 Severe
298 Critical

#### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access these DOH Hospital hotlines across the country:

[1-800-888-8888](https://www.doh.gov.ph/hotlines)

#### DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

1555 | 02-886-908-09 | 02-886-908-09

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

#### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

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

**SeeYouDoc**  
seeyoudoc.com  
SeeYouDoc

**KonsultaMD**  
konsultamd.com  
KonsultaMD

**CloudRx**  
cloudrx.ph

**Teamed and Medgate**  
medgate.ph/shop/teamedplan/purchase

**MedCheck**  
medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

**TelAvanteMD**  
TelAvanteMD@avante-medical.com.ph  
TelAvanteMD

**HealthNow**  
healthnow.ph  
help@healthnow.ph  
HealthNow



Managing list of  
download ang StaySafe App  
o gamitin ang WFAAPP  
at pakuha sa StaySafe.ph



Maglingkapi ng Health  
Report via SMS  
2156-5779 (for Globe users)  
226-666-779 (for other users)



Maglingkapi ng COVID-19  
Info at MIPA  
VIBER: Kris Kosta COVID by DOH  
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH  
KONTRACOVIDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAIKURAPANG KALAMUNGAN? SUMANGGUMI LAMANG SA SUMANGGUMI:

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

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

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

[02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:028940000)





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**GUIDELINES ON THE NATIONWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
ALERT LEVEL SYSTEM FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE**  
As of February 27, 2022

**WHEREAS**, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19), since having been declared as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), has irreversibly affected millions of lives and families worldwide. Its unprecedented speed of transmission and infectivity has placed a huge burden on essential areas of governance, most importantly in vulnerable sectors such as the economy, education, and healthcare;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Executive Order No. (E.O.) 112, (s. 2020) provides that provincial governors shall be authorized to impose, lift or extend the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in component cities and municipalities upon the concurrence of the relevant regional counterpart body of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF); and, that the mayors of cities and municipalities are likewise authorized to impose, lift or extend ECQ in barangays, upon the concurrence of the relevant regional counterpart body of the IATF; *provided*, that this is without prejudice to the authority of the IATF to directly impose, lift or extend ECQ in these areas should circumstances call for it;

**WHEREAS**, the IATF issued the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines (IATF Omnibus Guidelines), as amended, to harmonize and codify existing guidelines of the IATF and member-agencies pertaining to community quarantine, which shall be applied to all regions, provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays placed under community quarantine;

**WHEREAS**, Guidelines for the Pilot Implementation of Alert Level System in the National Capital Region was adopted by the IATF and was published on 13 September 2021.

**WHEREAS**, the pilot area for implementation of the Alert Level System was expanded to include other provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 144-D (s.2021) issued on 18 October 2021.

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 151 (s.2021) issued on 11 November 2021, approved the nationwide rollout of the Alert Level System and adopted these Guidelines as the guidelines to be implemented and enforced in all areas under the Alert Level System.

**WHEREAS**, Section 6 of Executive Order No. 151 (s.2021) further provides that Executive Order No. 112 (s.2020) shall be deemed repealed once all areas of the country are placed under the Alert Level System.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVED**, that in consideration of the premises set forth herein, the IATF issues these Guidelines to enjoin and



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
**FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

proactively advocate the principles of 3C's (Closed, Crowded, and Close Contact) strategy against COVID-19 to curb the further spread of infection:

For purposes of these Guidelines, the following shall be defined as follows:

1. **Accommodation Establishments** - refers to establishments operating primarily for accommodation purposes including, but not limited to, hotels, resorts, apartment hotels, tourist inns, motels, pension houses, private homes used for homestay, co-lodges, serviced apartments, condotels, and bed and breakfast facilities.
2. **COVID-19** - refers to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 which is caused by the virus known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).
3. **COVID-19 Alert Level System** - refers to the new Community Quarantine Classifications for dealing with COVID-19 covering entire cities, municipalities and/or regions; aimed to manage and minimize the risk of the disease through System Indicators, Triggers and Thresholds determined by the IATF to specify the public health and social measures to be taken in relation to the COVID-19 response, as may be updated based on new scientific knowledge, information about the effectiveness of control measures in the country and overseas, and its application:
  - a. Alert Level 1 - refers to areas wherein case transmission is low and decreasing, total bed utilization rate, and intensive care unit utilization rate is low.
  - b. Alert Level 2 - refers to areas wherein case transmission is low and decreasing, healthcare utilization is low, or case counts are low but increasing, or case counts are low and decreasing but total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate is increasing.
  - c. Alert Level 3 - refers to areas wherein case counts are high and/or increasing, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at increasing utilization.
  - d. Alert Level 4 - refers to areas wherein case counts are high and/or increasing, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at high utilization.
  - e. Alert Level 5 - refers to areas wherein case counts are alarming, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at critical utilization.





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

4. **Essential goods and services** - covers health and social services to secure the safety and well-being of persons, such as but not limited to, food, water, medicine, medical devices, public utilities, energy, and others as may be determined by the IATF.
5. **Granular Lockdown** refers to a micro level quarantine for areas identified as "critical zones" by the local government unit (LGU) which may be declared regardless of Alert Level.
6. **Health and emergency frontline services** - refers to services provided by public health workers [all employees of the DOH, DOH Hospitals, Hospitals of LGUs, and Provincial, City, and Rural Health Units, and Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers including those managed by other government agencies (e.g. police and military hospitals/clinics, university medical facilities), uniformed medical personnel], private health workers, such as but not limited to medical professionals, hospital and health facility administrative and maintenance staff, and aides from private health facilities, as well as their service providers, health workers and volunteers of the Philippine Red Cross and the World Health Organization, and employees of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), health insurance providers, disaster risk reduction management officers, and public safety officers.
7. **Minimum public health standards (MPHS)** - refers to the national, local, and sector-specific guidelines on mitigation measures for its COVID-19 response across all settings by implementing non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), consistent with the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2021-0043 or the Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions. This term shall also encompass specific NPIs of community mitigation strategies or public health measures that do not involve vaccines, medications, or other pharmaceutical interventions, that individuals and communities can carry out in order to reduce transmission rates, contact rates, and the duration of infectiousness of individuals in the population.
8. **On-site capacity** - refers to the number of employees or workers who can be permitted or required to be physically present at their designated workplace outside of their residences.
9. **Skeleton workforce** - refers to the on-site capacity which utilizes the smallest number of people needed for a business or organization to maintain its basic functions.



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
**FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**PART I.**  
**ALERT LEVEL SYSTEM FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE**

**SECTION [1] GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. The DOH shall identify the Alert Level of the areas. These areas shall follow the protocols consistent with the declared Alert Level.
2. LGUs shall submit on a daily basis to their respective Regional Inter-Agency Task Force (RIATF) such data as determined by National Government Agencies based on the template provided for by the IATF Sub-Technical Working Group on Data Analytics.
3. MPIIS shall be implemented at all times consistent with the DOH Administrative Order No. 2021-0043 or the Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions.
4. The benefits for hazard pay and special risk allowances for all personnel in health facilities shall be applicable under the Alert Level System for the duration of the state of Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19.
5. Only hotels or accommodation establishments with valid DOT Accreditation shall be allowed to accommodate guests and clients subject to guidelines issued by the Department of Tourism and the IATF.
6. In all areas not under Alert Level 5, establishments permitted to operate under each Alert Level may be allowed additional venue/seating capacity on top of the existing allowable venue/seating capacities, as follows:
  - a. An additional twenty percent (20%) if the area where such establishments are located has a vaccination coverage above seventy percent (70%) for both Priority Group A2 (senior citizens) and Priority Group A3 (adults with comorbidities), as determined by the Vaccine Cluster of the National Task Force Against COVID-19; and
  - b. An additional ten percent (10%) if said establishments have been awarded Safety Seal Certificates under the Safety Seal Certification Program.
7. LGUs are enjoined to enact the necessary ordinances to enforce protocols contained in these Guidelines and to penalize, in a fair and humane manner, violations of these protocols. Law enforcement agencies are likewise strongly enjoined to observe fair and humane treatment of violators.
8. All national government agencies and instrumentalities, as well as private sector establishments, shall adopt measures to strictly implement and enforce the minimum





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public health standards set by DOH and other standards set by relevant government agencies.

9. As a national policy, all LGUs shall ensure unhampered movement by land, air, or sea of all types of goods and cargoes – including their personnel and delivery vehicles – to and from their destination regardless of alert level.
10. Notwithstanding the provisions under the different alert levels as set forth under this Guidelines, the IATF may, in exceptional circumstances, suspend the application of the rules or adopt rules applicable to a different alert level, in order to address the COVID-19 situation in a region, province, city, or municipality.
11. Other COVID-19 measures not specifically provided herein such as those on border control for international travel and those for the implementation of the Philippine National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines shall be governed by the appropriate IATF Resolutions.
12. Any violation of these Guidelines may be prosecuted under the appropriate local ordinance or as non-cooperation of the person or entities punishable under Section 9 par (d) or (e), as the case may be, of Republic Act No. 11332, otherwise known as the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concerns Act., and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

**SECTION [2] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 5.** The following protocols shall be observed in areas placed under Alert Level 5, except for portions thereof under granular lockdown:

1. Intrazonal and interzonal movement of all persons shall be limited to accessing goods and services from permitted establishments, for work in such establishments, or for such other activities allowed in this section. Any person below eighteen (18) years old, those who are over sixty-five (65) years of age, those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks, and pregnant women shall be required to remain in their residences at all times, except for obtaining essential goods and services, or for work in industries and offices or such other activities permitted in this Section.
2. Only the following establishments, persons, or activities are allowed to operate, work, or be undertaken for the duration of the Alert Level 5:
  - a. With full on-site capacity:
    - i. Public and private hospitals;
    - ii. Health, emergency, and frontline services, including those provided by dialysis centers, chemotherapy centers, IIMOs, health insurance



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- providers, disaster risk reduction management officers, and public safety officers, and the like:
- iii. Manufacturers of medicines and vitamins, medical supplies, devices, and equipment, including suppliers of input, packaging, and distribution;
  - iv. Industries involved in agriculture (crops, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and poultry), forestry, fishery, and such other components of the food value chain and their workers, including farmers and fisherfolks;
  - v. Logistics service providers (delivery and courier services; cargo handling; warehousing; trucking; freight forwarding; shipping, port and terminal operators and contractors and ancillary services (i.e. drivers, conductors, terminal workers);
  - vi. Essential and priority construction projects, whether public or private, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) including contractors, subcontractors, and consultants of the Department of Transportation for the construction of Build Build Build flagship infrastructure projects;
  - vii. Manufacturing related to food and other essential goods such as but not limited to soap and detergents, diapers, personal hygiene products, toilet paper, and wet wipes, and disinfectants;
  - viii. Companies that manufacture, distribute, and/or supply equipment or products necessary to perform construction or maintenance works, such as cement and steel, or spare parts;
  - ix. Essential retail trade and service establishments such as public markets, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies or drug stores, hardware, office supplies, bicycle shops, laundry shops, and water-refilling stations;
  - x. Food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and eateries, but limited to take-out and delivery;
  - xi. Public and private financial service providers involved in the distribution of government grants and amelioration subsidies;
  - xii. Business process outsourcing establishments (BPOs), and export-oriented businesses, including mining and quarrying activities; and
  - xiii. Public transport providers and operators;
- b. At a maximum of fifty percent (50%) on-site capacity:
- i. Media establishments and their total permanent staff complement, inclusive of reporters and other field employees.
- c. With an on-site skeleton workforce:





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- i. Dental, rehabilitation, optometry, and other medical clinics for the treatment of illness or injuries. Provided, that there is strict observance of infection prevention and control protocols. Provided, further, that dental procedures shall be limited to emergency cases only and that the wearing of full Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) by dentists and attendants shall be mandatory. Provided, finally, that home service therapy for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) shall be allowed;
- ii. Veterinary clinics;
- iii. Banks, money transfer services, including pawnshops only insofar as performing money transfer functions, microfinance institutions, and credit cooperatives, including their armored vehicle services, if any;
- iv. Capital markets, including but not limited to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange, Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation, Philippine Securities Settlement Corporation, and Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation;
- v. Water supply and janitorial/sanitation services and facilities, including waste disposal services, as well as property management and building utility services;
- vi. The energy sector (oil, gas, and power companies), their third-party contractors and service providers, including employees involved in electric transmission and distribution, electric power plant and line maintenance, electricity market and retail suppliers, as well as those involved in the exploration, operations, trading and delivery of coal, oil, crude or petroleum and by-products (gasoline, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas or LPG, jet oil, kerosene, lubricants), including gasoline stations, refineries, LPG stations, and depots or any kind of fuel used to produce power;
- vii. Telecommunications companies, internet service providers, cable television providers, including those who perform indirect services such as the technical, sales, and other support personnel, as well as the employees of their third-party contractors doing sales, installation, maintenance, and repair works;
- viii. Airline and aircraft maintenance, pilots and crew, and employees of aviation schools for purposes of the pilot's recurrent training for flight proficiency and type rating using simulator facilities; and ship captains and crew, including shipyard operations and repair;
- ix. Funeral and embalming services;
- x. Security personnel licensed by the PNP - Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies;
- xi. Printing establishments authorized by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and those controlled by other government agencies;



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- xii. Establishments engaged in repair and maintenance of machinery and equipment, for households and essential permitted establishments;
- xiii. Establishments engaged in repair and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized vehicles, including the sale of spare parts;
- xiv. Leasing of real and personal properties;
- xv. Employment activities that involve the recruitment and placement for permitted sectors;
- xvi. Teachers, professors and other staff for purposes of conducting online/offline, and flexible classes, completion of grades, and processing of student credentials, requirements and documents;
- xvii. Lawyers only when required to provide on-site legal representation necessary to protect rights of persons, whether natural or juridical; and
- xviii. All other establishments, to the extent necessary for the buying and selling of consumer goods or services via the internet.

All other businesses, persons, or activities, shall not be allowed to operate, work, or be undertaken on site during Alert Level 5.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is hereby authorized to issue a negative list of other industries that shall remain prohibited in areas under Alert Level 5.
4. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall be fully operational, with a skeleton workforce on site and the remainder under alternative work arrangements as approved by the head of agency unless a greater on-site capacity is required in agencies providing health and emergency frontline services, laboratory and testing services, border control, or other critical services, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).
5. The co-equal or independent authority of the legislature (Senate and the House of Representatives), the judiciary (the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, Sandiganbayan, and the lower courts), the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Constitutional Commissions, to implement any alternative work arrangements, is recognized.
6. Officials and employees of foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), whenever performing diplomatic functions and subject to the guidelines issued by the DFA, may operate with an on-site skeleton workforce.
7. Gatherings outside of residences shall be prohibited. Gatherings at residences with any person outside of one's immediate household shall likewise be prohibited. However, gatherings that are essential for the provision of health services, government services,





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or humanitarian activities authorized by the appropriate government agency or instrumentality shall be allowed.

Pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, or other religious ministers and their assistants may conduct religious services performed through online video recording and transmission, neurological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals, and they shall be allowed to move for such purposes. Corollary, immediate family members of the deceased who died of causes other than COVID-19 and for the cremains of COVID-19 shall be allowed to move from their residences to attend the wake or interment of the deceased upon satisfactory proof of their relationship with the latter, fully complying with the prescribed minimum public health standards for the duration of the activity.

8. Face-to-face or in-person classes at all levels shall be suspended. The education sector shall operate in accordance with the guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for higher education, Technical Educational and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for technical vocational education and training, and Department of Education (DepEd) for basic education.
9. The road, rail, maritime, and aviation sectors of public transportation shall be allowed to operate at such capacity and protocols in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).
10. Law enforcement agencies shall recognize any of the following IDs: (i) IATF IDs issued by the regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over permitted establishments or persons, (ii) valid IDs or other pertinent documentation issued by accrediting organizations or establishments allowed under Alert Level 5, and, (iii) if required by the LGU, local IDs for availing of essential goods and services. No other IDs or passes specifically exempting persons from alert level shall be required of workers of permitted establishments and/or offices without prejudice to requiring the presentation of other documents establishing the nature of their work.
11. The movement of cargo/delivery vehicles, as well as vehicles used by public utility companies, shall be unimpeded. Shuttle services of permitted establishments shall not be subject to an ID system but shall maintain compliance with minimum public health standards.
12. Private corporations are encouraged to process payrolls online. Payroll managers and such other employees required for the processing of payroll shall be allowed to travel to their respective offices during Alert Level 5.
13. Uniform curfew hours may be imposed by LGUs, subject to the guidelines issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Workers, cargo vehicles, public transportation, and operating hours of permitted establishments, however, shall not be restricted by such curfew.



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14. (a) The movement of the following authorized persons outside their residences (APOR), by land, sea, or air, within and across areas placed under Alert Level 5 shall be allowed: (1) health and emergency frontline services and uniformed personnel, (2) government officials and employees on official travel, (3) duly authorized humanitarian assistance actors (HAAs), especially those transporting medical supplies and laboratory specimens related to COVID-19, and other relief and humanitarian assistance, (4) persons traveling for medical or humanitarian reasons, and those leaving their residence to be vaccinated (with proof of schedule), and persons availing of DFA consular services (with confirmed appointments), (5) persons going to and from the airport including Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) carrying Overseas Employment Certificates, (6) any person whose purpose of travel is for a work, business, or activity that is also permitted in areas under Alert Level 5, and (7) public utility vehicle operators. The PNP shall be authorized to promulgate and regularly update the list of APORs. Authorized shuttle services shall be allowed to travel within and across areas placed under Alert Level 5, with priority given to persons rendering health and emergency frontline services.

**SECTION [3] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 4.** The following protocols shall be observed in areas placed under Alert Level 4, except for portions thereof under granular lockdown:

1. Intrazonal and interzonal travel shall be allowed subject to the reasonable regulations of the LGU of destination, except for those (i) below eighteen (18) years of age, and (ii) belonging to the vulnerable population, namely, those who are over sixty-five (65) years of age, those with immunodeficiencies, comorbidities, or other health risks, and pregnant women, provided that:
  - a. Those below eighteen (18) years of age, and those belonging to the vulnerable population, shall be allowed access to obtain essential goods and services, or for work in permitted industries and offices in accordance with existing labor laws, rules, and regulations.
  - b. Fully vaccinated individuals belonging to the vulnerable population and those below eighteen (18) years of age shall be allowed to participate in the following activities:
    - i. Specialized markets of the Department of Tourism such as Point-to-Point Travel subject to the reasonable regulations of the LGU of destination, and *Stations*; and
    - ii. Individual outdoor exercises even beyond the general area of their respective residences. Provided that, the minimum public health standards and precautions such as the wearing of face masks and the maintenance of social distancing protocols are observed.





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2. Fully vaccinated individuals, including those belonging to the vulnerable population, may participate in the permitted activities under this Section.
3. The following establishments and/or activities characterized as high risk for transmission **shall not be allowed to operate, or be undertaken** in areas classified under Alert Level 4:
  - a. Face to face or in-person classes for basic education, except those approved by the IATF and/or the Office of the President;
  - b. Face-to-face or in-person classes for higher education or for technical, vocational education and training, except those approved by the IATF and/or the Office of the President;
  - c. All contact sports, whether indoor or outdoor;
  - d. Cinemas and movie houses;
  - e. Funfairs/*peryas* and kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
  - f. Venues with live voice or wind instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters;
  - g. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments except as may be authorized by the IATF or the Office of the President; and
  - h. Gatherings in residences with individuals not belonging to the same household.
4. The following establishments, or activities, shall be allowed to operate, or be undertaken at a **maximum of 10% indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals only and 30% outdoor venue capacity provided that they have been issued a Safety Seal Certification**. Provided further, that all on-site workers/employees of these establishments, or organizers of activities are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and minimum public health standards shall be strictly maintained. Provided further still, that there is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place:
  - a. Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE),
  - b. Permitted venues for social events such as parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers;
  - c. Visitor or tourist attractions such as libraries, archives, museums, galleries, exhibits, parks, plazas, public gardens, scenic viewpoints or overlooks, and the like;
  - d. Amusement parks and theme parks; and



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- e. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, skating rinks, archery halls, swimming pools, and similar venues.
5. The following establishments, or activities, shall be allowed to operate, or be undertaken at a **maximum of 10% indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals only and 30% outdoor venue capacity**. Provided that all on-site workers/employees of these establishments, or organizers of activities are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and minimum public health standards shall be strictly maintained. Provided further, that there is no objection from the I.GU where these activities may take place:
- a. In-person religious gatherings. Provided that gatherings shall be limited to the conduct of religious worship and/or service, and processions and other similar mobile religious gatherings shall not be allowed. Provided further, that pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, or other religious ministers and the assistants of these religious congregations have been fully vaccinated;
  - b. Licensure or entrance/qualifying examinations administered by their respective government agency, and specialty examinations authorized by the IATF subject to the health and safety guidelines as approved by the IATF;
  - c. Dine-in services in food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and cateries, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols;
  - d. Personal care establishments such as barbershops, hair spas, hair salons, and nail spas, and those offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures, make-up services, salons, spas, reflexology, and other similar procedures including home service options, subject to the sector-specific protocols of the DTI;
  - e. Fitness studios, gyms, and venues for non-contact exercise and sports, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols. Provided that patrons/clients and workers/employees wear face masks at all times and that no group activities are conducted; and,
  - f. Film, music, and television production, subject to the joint guidelines as may be issued by the DTI, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the DOH.
6. Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inunment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19, and for the cremains of the COVID-19 deceased, shall be allowed, provided that the same shall be limited to immediate family members, upon satisfactory proof of their relationship with the deceased and with full compliance with the prescribed minimum public health standards.





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7. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain to be fully operational and shall adhere to at least a 40% on-site workforce. Those assigned to work off-site shall be subject to alternative work arrangements as approved by the head of agency in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Heads of agencies providing health and emergency frontline services, laboratory and testing services, border control, or other critical services shall operate at a workforce beyond the minimum as may be necessary to deliver their mandates.

**SECTION [4] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 3.** The following protocols shall be observed in areas placed under Alert Level 3, except for portions thereof under granular lockdown:

1. Intrazonal and interzonal movement shall be allowed. However, reasonable restrictions may be imposed by the LGUs, which should not be stricter as those prescribed under higher alert levels and subject to the oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of their respective RIATF. Provided, that those below eighteen (18) years of age, and those belonging to the vulnerable population, shall be allowed access to obtain essential goods and services, or for work in permitted industries and offices in accordance with existing labor laws, rules, and regulations. Individual outdoor exercises shall also be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status.
2. The following establishments and/or activities characterized as high-risk for transmission shall **not be allowed to operate, or be undertaken** in areas classified under Alert Level 3:
  - a. Face to face or in-person classes for basic education, except those previously approved by the IATF and/or the Office of the President;
  - b. Contact sports, except those conducted under a bubble-type setup as provided for under relevant guidelines adopted by the IATF, Games and Amusement Board, and Philippine Sports Commission, and approved by the LGU where such games shall be held;
  - c. Funfairs/*peryas* and kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides,
  - d. Venues with live voice or wind-instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters;
  - e. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments except as may be authorized by the IATF or the Office of the President; and
  - f. Gatherings in residences with individuals not belonging to the same household.



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3. The following establishments, or activities, shall be allowed to operate or be undertaken at a **maximum of 30% indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals only and 50% outdoor venue capacity**. Provided that all on-site workers/employees of these establishments, and organizers of activities are fully vaccinated against COVID 19 and MPIIS shall be strictly maintained. Provided further, that there is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place:
- a. Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE);
  - b. Permitted venues for social events such as parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers;
  - c. Visitor or tourist attractions such as libraries, archives, museums, galleries, exhibits, parks, plazas, public gardens, scenic viewpoints or overlooks, and the like;
  - d. Amusement parks or theme parks;
  - e. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, skating rinks, archery halls, swimming pools, and similar venues;
  - f. Cinemas and movie houses;
  - g. Limited face-to-face or in-person classes for higher education and for technical-vocational education and training;
  - h. In-person religious gatherings; gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 and for the remains of the COVID 19 deceased;
  - i. Licensure or entrance/qualifying examinations administered by their respective government agency, and specialty examinations authorized by the IATF subject to the health and safety guidelines as approved by the IATF;
  - j. Dine-in services in food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and eateries, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols;
  - k. Personal care establishments such as barbershops, hair spas, hair salons, and nail spas, and those offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures, make-up services, salons, spas, reflexology, and other similar procedures including home service options, subject to the sector-specific protocols of the DTI;
  - l. Fitness studios, gyms, and venues for non contact exercise and sports, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols. Provided that patrons/clients and workers/employees wear face masks at all times and that no group activities are conducted; and
  - m. Film, music, and television production, subject to the joint guidelines as may be issued by the DTI, DOLE, and the DOI.





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1. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain to be fully operational and shall adhere to at least a 60% on-site workforce. Those assigned to work off-site shall be subject to alternative work arrangements as approved by the head of agency in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Heads of agencies providing health and emergency frontline services, laboratory and testing services, border control, or other critical services shall operate at a workforce beyond the minimum as may be necessary to deliver their mandates.

**SECTION [5] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 2.** The following protocols shall be observed in areas placed under Alert Level 2, except for portions thereof under granular lockdown:

1. Intrazonal and interzonal movement shall be allowed. However, reasonable restrictions may be imposed by the LGUs, which should not be stricter as those prescribed under higher alert levels and subject to the oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of their respective RIATF.
2. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments shall **not be allowed to operate, or be undertaken** in areas classified under Alert Level 2 except as may be authorized by the IATF or the Office of the President.
3. The following establishments, or activities, shall be allowed to operate, or be undertaken at a **maximum of 50% indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals and those below 18 years of age, even if unvaccinated, and 70% outdoor venue capacity**. Provided, that all on-site workers/employees of these establishments, or organizers of activities are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and MPHS shall be strictly maintained. Provided further, that there is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place.
  - a. Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE);
  - b. Permitted venues for social events such as parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers;
  - c. Visitor or tourist attractions such as libraries, archives, museums, galleries, exhibits, parks, plazas, public gardens, scenic viewpoints or overlooks, and the like;
  - d. Amusement parks or theme parks;
  - e. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, skating rinks, archery halls, swimming pools, and similar venues;
  - f. Cinemas and movie houses;



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- g. Limited face-to-face or in-person classes for basic education subject to prior approval of the Office of the President;
  - h. Limited face-to-face or in-person classes for higher education and for technical-vocational education and training;
  - i. In person religious gatherings; gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 and for the cremains of the COVID-19 deceased;
  - j. Licensure or entrance/qualifying examinations administered by their respective government agency, and specialty examinations authorized by the IATF subject to the health and safety guidelines as approved by the IATF;
  - k. Dine-in services of food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and eateries, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols;
  - l. Personal care establishments such as barbershops, hair spas, hair salons, and nail spas, and those offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures, make-up services, salons, spas, reflexology, and other similar procedures including home service options, subject to the sector specific protocols of the DTI;
  - m. Fitness studios, gyms, and venues for individual non-contact exercise and sports; Provided that patrons/clients and workers/employees wear face masks at all times and subject to DTI sector-specific protocols.
  - n. Film, music, and television production subject to the joint guidelines as may be issued by the DTI, DOLE, and the DOH;
  - o. Contact sports approved by the LGU where such games shall be held;
  - p. Fairs/festivals or kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
  - q. Venues with live voice or wind-instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters; and
  - r. Gatherings in residences with individuals not belonging to the same household.
4. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain to be fully operational and shall adhere to at least a 80% on-site workforce. Those assigned to work off-site shall be subject to alternative work arrangements as approved by the head of agency in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Heads of agencies providing health and emergency frontline services, laboratory and testing services, border control, or other critical services shall operate at a workforce beyond the minimum as may be necessary to deliver their mandates

**SECTION [6] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 1.** The following protocols shall be observed in areas placed under Alert Level 1, except for portions thereof





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under granular lockdown, and without prejudice to the minimum public health standards and health and safety protocols issued by national government agencies specific to their sector:

**I. PREVENT**

- A. All health facilities shall implement the necessary and appropriate engineering and administrative controls, and use appropriate personal protective equipment in accordance with the latest Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) guidelines for health facilities.
- B. All public and private establishments, organizers of events, and local governments shall implement the following protocols:

**1. Administrative controls.**

- a. All private offices and workplaces, including public and private construction sites, may operate at full 100% capacity (consistent with national issuances on vaccination requirements for on-site work). However, they may continue to provide flexible and alternative work arrangements as deemed appropriate based on function or individual risk.
- b. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall adhere to 100% on-site workforce. Off-site work shall be under such work arrangements subject to relevant rules and regulations issued by the Civil Service Commission and the Office of the President.
- c. Public transportation in areas under Alert Level 1 shall be at full seating capacity. For intrazonal and interzonal travels involving public land transportation between an area with a higher alert level classification and an area under Alert Level 1, the passenger capacity shall be that which has the lower passenger capacity rate between the point of origin and point of destination. For aviation, maritime and rail public transport operating in and out of Alert Levels 1 areas, the passenger capacity will be at 100%. The use of acrylic and/or plastic dividers shall not be required. The use of the Safe, Swift and Smart Passage (S-PASS) travel management system shall likewise not be required for interzonal travel to areas under Alert Level 1.
- d. Designate a Safety and Health Officer/s who shall ensure, monitor, and evaluate proper implementation and strict observance of the minimum public health standards.



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- e. Prepare a contingency plan for the establishment which shall include coordination with the local government and health care provider networks, management of staff and visitors with COVID-19 symptoms, processes for establishment lockdown and disinfection, and alternative processes in case of escalation of Alert Level status.
- f. Regularly disinfect high-risk areas such as but not limited to areas for gatherings, highly touched surfaces, and frequently visited areas such as entrance and exit points, restrooms, hallways, elevators using Food and Drug Administration (FDA)- approved disinfectants.
- g. National government agencies and local government units endeavor to include health and safety in routine assessments to be conducted regularly.

**2. Engineering controls.**

- a. Ensure adequate air exchange and ventilation, consistent with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Department Order No. 224-21 *Guidelines on Ventilation for Workplaces and Public Transport to Prevent and Control the Spread of COVID-19*, viz:
  - i. Ensure adequate air quality and ventilation, to wit:
    - 1. If possible, windows shall be open;
      - Ensure that nearby spaces of open windows are free from toxic gases and pollutants;
    - Whether windows may or may not be opened, supply-only ventilation fans (i.e. floor, table top, pedestal fans) are provided and should be placed where air flow from these fans shall not be from person to person;
    - 2. Exhaust fans should be continuously operating while there are occupants in the area;
    - 3. Additional exhaust fans may be added to improve air exchange to achieve at least 6 air changes per hour; increasing the number of exhaust fans can increase the number of air changes per hour;
    - 4. If possible, establishments are highly encouraged to conduct the following air quality measurements: Air Change per hour -recommend at least 6 air changes per hour; and/or
    - 5. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Levels: recommend less than 1000 parts per million or ppm.





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6. Air ducts of ITVAC systems should be maintained and cleaned regularly as determined by the safety officer or technical expert.
- b. All land-based transport terminals are to ensure the compliance to sanitary standards, among others, that are set in accordance with Republic Act No. 11311 otherwise known as An Act to Improve Land Transportation Terminals, Stations, Stops, Rest Areas and Roll-On/Roll-Off Terminals, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
  - c. Install structures enabling active transportation (e.g. bike racks).
  - d. Maintain smoke-free and vape-free environment.
  - e. Support mental, and psychosocial needs, especially of vulnerable groups.
  - f. Make available context-specific and localized health and safety education materials.
  - g. Set up a mechanism for provision of care and referral for patients with symptoms or other emergency health conditions.
  - h. Install/maintain hand hygiene and sanitation facilities with the following:
    - i. Adequate and safe water supply
    - ii. Hand washing station or sink
    - iii. Soap and water or 70% Isopropyl (or Ethyl) Alcohol
    - iv. Hands-free trash receptacles
  - i. Install visual cues or signages on mask wearing, hand hygiene, DOH hotlines, and other health and safety reminders (resources downloadable from [www.healthphilippines.ph](http://www.healthphilippines.ph)).
  - j. Promote and incentivize use of interventions that ensure health and safety in all establishments, such as:
    - i. Using outdoor spaces or having outdoor options
    - ii. Ensure adequate air quality and ventilation, as specified for under Par. B(2)(a)(i) above.



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- k. The use of foot baths, disinfection tents, misting chambers, or sanitation booths for preventing and controlling COVID-19 transmission are **not recommended**. Temperature checking prior to the entry in any establishment may be dispensed with.
- l. The use of plastic/acrylic barriers/dividers are **optional**, as appropriate.
- m. The Safety Seal Certification Program of the national government to mark their compliance with minimum public health standards is optional but all establishments are encouraged to use it as a **marketing tool**.

**3. Wearing of Face Masks**

- a. At all times, well-fitted masks shall be worn properly, whether outdoors or in indoor private or public establishments, including in public transportation by land, air, or sea, except for the following instances:
  - i. Eating and drinking;
  - ii. Participating in team and individual sports in venues where ventilation standards can be **maintained**;
  - iii. Practicing outdoor sports/exercise activities where physical distance can be maintained.
- b. All establishments shall ensure implementation of national protocols on the proper use, handling, and disposing of appropriate personal protective equipment.

**II. DETECT**

**A. Contact Tracing**

- 1. Individuals, who have tested positive for COVID-19, shall inform their close contacts to trigger quarantine for unvaccinated close contacts and symptom monitoring for vaccinated close contacts.
- 2. Use of health declaration forms / paper-based contact tracing shall **not be required** for all the agencies and establishments.
- 3. Use of digital contact tracing such as the StaySafe.PH application is **optional** for all the agencies and establishments.
- 4. Establishments/employers will not have to provide a separate report to DOLE for COVID-19. Establishments/Employers should include COVID-19 cases report as part of work accident/illness report form.





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5. COVID-19 reporting to the local epidemiology and surveillance units and the Epidemiology Bureau of the DOH will continue until 31 March 2022. After said period, COVID-19 reporting shall transition to surveillance for selected workplaces which will become sentinel sites. Guidelines for this shall follow.

**B. Testing Prioritization**

1. Implement testing protocols consistent with national guidelines, which may be stricter for individuals who are unvaccinated or have higher exposure risk pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 148-B and No. 149, s. 2021.
2. Testing using RT-PCR shall be recommended and prioritized for:
  - a. Priority Groups A2 (persons above 60 years old) and A3 (persons with comorbidities) who are at risk for developing severe disease, especially for instances where the result of testing will affect the clinical management and use of COVID 19 therapeutics.
  - b. Priority Group A1 or healthcare workers for groups at highest risk for infection such as deemed necessary
3. Testing shall be optional for other groups not stated above, including for community level actions wherein case management of probable and confirmed cases remain the same. Specifically:
  - a. Testing shall NOT be recommended for asymptomatic close contacts unless symptoms will develop, and should immediately isolate regardless of test results. Instead, symptom monitoring is recommended. Should testing still be used, testing should be done at least 5 days from the day of last exposure.
  - b. Testing shall NOT be recommended for screening asymptomatic individuals.
4. Testing using antigen tests shall be recommended only for symptomatic individuals and in instances wherein RT-PCR is not available, consistent with previously issued guidelines.
5. Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Committees (HIPCC) may implement testing protocols in health facilities for health workers and patients based on their assessment of risk and benefit.

**III. ISOLATE AND QUARANTINE**

- A. Updated quarantine protocols for incoming international travelers shall be consistent with IATF Resolution No. 160 A/B (Summary in Annex A).



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- B. Updated isolation and quarantine protocols for general public & healthcare workers and authorized sectors shall be consistent with DOH Department Memorandum No. **2022-0013** (Summary in Annex B).
- C. Establishments are no longer required to set-up isolation facilities within the workplace.

**IV. TREAT**

- A. The management of COVID-19 shall be consistent with the latest recommendation from the Philippine COVID-19 Living Recommendations, which can be accessed through this link: <https://www.psmid.org/philippine-covid-19-living-recommendations/>
- B. Close contacts, asymptomatic confirmed cases, and mild to moderate confirmed cases shall be managed at the primary care level (e.g. health centers, private clinics thru face to face or teleconsultation). Health facilities are encouraged to adopt / scale-up telemedicine to facilitate delivery of appropriate health services.
- C. Confirmed cases with severe and critical symptoms shall be managed in the appropriate health care facility.

**V. REINTEGRATE**

- A. Isolation can be discontinued upon completion of the recommended isolation period, provided that they do not have fever for at least 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications, and shall have improvement of respiratory signs and symptoms.
- B. Repeat tests shall **not be required** for the safe reintegration into the community.
- C. For the purpose of claiming sick leave, health benefits, or other relevant processes wherein the proofs of COVID-19 management are necessary, a medical certification may suffice provided it should include the following minimum information: name of patient, severity of symptoms, diagnosis as probable or confirmed COVID-19, and date of end of quarantine and/or isolation period.
- D. To ensure promotion of their psychosocial well-being, individuals in quarantine and isolation are recommended to maintain and continue lines of communication to family and friends. They may also download the DOH Lusog-Isip Mobile Application for free (available in both Apple store or Google play store) or access the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) Crisis Hotline or the DOH Regional Helplines for mental health and psychosocial support concerns.





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**VI. VACCINATE**

- A. Individuals eighteen (18) years old and above will be required to present proof of full vaccination before participating in mass gatherings or entry into indoor establishments, such as but not limited to:
1. In-person religious gatherings; gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 and for the remains of the COVID-19 deceased;
  2. All indoor dine-in services of food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and eateries. For outdoor or *al fresco* dining and take out channels, no proof of full vaccination is required;
  3. All indoor personal care establishments such as barbershops, hair spas, hair salons, and nail spas, and those offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures, make-up services, salons, spas, reflexology, and other similar procedures including home service options;
  4. Fitness studios, gyms, and venues for exercise and sports;
  5. All indoor cinemas or movie houses operating at full capacity;
  6. Meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibition events, and permitted venues for social events such as parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers ;
  7. Venues with live voice or wind-instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters;
  8. Indoor ancillary establishments in hotels and other accommodation establishments; and
  9. Venues for election-related events.

Proof of full vaccination shall be required before entry in the list of establishments identified under the principles of 3C's (Closed, Crowded, and Close Contact) strategy against COVID-19. (See Annex C). Children ages seventeen (17) and below shall not be required to present proof of full vaccination status.



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**PART II**  
**GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GRANULAR LOCKDOWNS**

**Section [1] AUTHORITY TO DECLARE.** The authority to impose granular lockdown shall be given to the city and municipal mayors with respect to their component barangays subject to the concurrence of the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force (RIATF), and individual houses where one household member has been confirmed, residential buildings, streets, blocks, *puros*, subdivisions, and/or villages within their jurisdiction.

**SECTION [2] PARAMETERS FOR DECLARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.** The epidemiological parameters in the declaration of a granular lockdown, including specific interventions and activities to be conducted in such areas, shall comply with the National Task Force COVID-19 Memorandum Circular No. 2 dated 15 June 2020 or the Operational Guidelines on the Application of the Zoning Containment Strategy in the Localization of the National Action Plan Against COVID-19 Response.

**SECTION [3] DURATION.** Granular lockdowns shall be for a period of not less than fourteen (14) days.

**SECTION [4] EFFECTIVITY.**

1. Declaration of granular lockdowns by local chief executives shall be provisionally effective immediately and shall include due notice to the RIATF. The RIATF shall immediately act on the said declaration.
2. The IATF retains its mandate to impose and/or lift lockdowns on highly urbanized cities and independent component cities.

**SECTION [5] SECURITY.** The Philippine National Police (PNP) shall ensure peace and order at all times. They shall make sure that security protocols are maintained in lockdown areas.

**SECTION [6] MOVEMENT.** The privilege to enter and exit areas under Alert Level 5, granted to Authorized Persons Outside Residences as provided under Par. 14 Part I Section of these Guidelines, shall not apply in areas under granular lockdowns. Only health care workers (HCWs) and non-health personnel working in hospitals, laboratories, dialysis facilities, and community healthcare workers if their institutions are unable to provide accommodation for their personnel, and uniformed personnel tasked to enforce the granular lockdown, shall be allowed to move within, into, and out of the area under granular lockdown.

The following shall be allowed to enter and/or exit granular lockdown areas for specific purposes:





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1. Overseas Filipino Workers bound for international travel, and those returning to their respective residences after having completed facility-based quarantine upon arrival;
2. Individuals whose home or residence are located within an area under granular lockdown may enter the said area for the sole purpose of returning to their respective homes or residences but must thereafter remain therein for the duration of the granular lockdown;
3. Individuals under exceptional circumstances such as, but not limited to, those seeking urgent medical attention as validated by the municipal/city health officer; and
4. Food and essential items provided that they can only be picked up and/or unloaded at border collection points designated by the LGU.

**SECTION [7] ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS.** Households within areas under granular lockdown shall be provided assistance by their respective LGUs and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in accordance with their relevant guidelines.

**SECTION [8] REPORTING.**

1. LGUs shall report details of their granular lockdowns to the Department of the Interior and Local Government following a prescribed format which shall thereafter be submitted to their respective NTF Regional Task Force.
2. RTFs shall monitor all areas under granular lockdowns in the region, and shall provide monitoring reports to the National Task Force Against COVID 19.

**SECTION [9] INCORPORATION.** Succeeding issuances of the Department of the Interior and Local Government relative to the imposition of granular lockdowns, if any, shall form an integral part of these Guidelines.



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**Annex A:** Updated Quarantine and Isolation Protocols for Travelers (IATF Resolution No. 160 A/B)

	<b>Filipino Nationals</b>	<b>Foreign Nationals authorized to enter the Philippines</b>
Fully vaccinated adult	No mandatory facility-based quarantine. Wear masks and self-monitor for any sign or symptom for seven (7) days	No mandatory facility-based quarantine. Wear masks and self-monitor for any sign or symptom for seven (7) days
Unvaccinated, partially vaccinated adult	Facility-based quarantine until the release of their negative RT-PCR test taken on the fifth (5th) day from date of arrival. Home quarantine until their fourteenth (14th) day from date of arrival.	Not applicable since they are not allowed to enter the Philippines
Unvaccinated <u>minor children</u> *	Follow the quarantine protocols of their parent/s or an accompanying adult/guardian traveling with them	Follow the quarantine protocols of their parent/s or an accompanying adult/guardian traveling with them

\* All children in facility quarantine or isolation shall be accompanied by a guardian in the quarantine or isolation facility. Parents or guardians that are not confirmed COVID-19 cases may accompany the COVID-19 confirmed child provided risks and benefits are explained, informed consent is provided, and the adult has no comorbidity putting them at risk for severe disease and death.





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**Annex B: Updated Quarantine and Isolation Protocols for General Public & Healthcare workers and authorized sectors**

		<b>General Public</b>	<b>Healthcare workers and authorized sectors**</b>
<b>QUARANTINE</b>			
<b>Asymptomatic close contact****</b>	Fully vaccinated	0 days	Same
	Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	At least 14 days from exposure	Same
<b>ISOLATION</b>			
<b>Asymptomatic confirmed case</b>	Fully vaccinated	At least 7 days* from positive test (sample collection date)	Same IPCC may shorten up to 5 days if with booster
	Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	At least 10 days* from positive test (sample collection date)	Same
<b>Symptomatic, suspect, probable or confirmed case with MILD symptoms</b>	Fully vaccinated	At least 7 days* from onset of symptoms	Same IPCC may shorten up to 5 days if with booster
	Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	At least 10 days* from onset of symptoms	Same
<b>Symptomatic, suspect, probable or confirmed case with MODERATE symptoms</b>	Regardless of vaccination status	At least 10 days* from onset of symptoms	Same
<b>Symptomatic, suspect, probable or confirmed case with SEVERE and CRITICAL symptoms</b>	Regardless of vaccination status	At least 21 days* from onset of symptoms	Same
<b>Severely Immunocompromised*****</b>	Regardless of vaccination status	At least 21 days* from onset of symptoms with negative repeat RT-PCR	Same

\*Isolation can be discontinued upon completion of the required days, provided that, they shall not develop fever for at least 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications and shall have improvement of respiratory symptoms. Except for immunocompromised individuals, repeat testing nor medical certification is not required for safe reintegration into the community. Time based isolation is sufficient provided the affected individual remains asymptomatic.

\*\* Hospital IPCC, PHO coordinated with provincial IPCC, and other sectors authorized by the IATF with strict industry standards on IPC shall be authorized to implement further shortening of quarantine and isolation protocols for their fully vaccinated workers with boosters who are close contacts, suspect, probable, and confirmed cases whether asymptomatic, mild, or moderate, based on the institution's individualized risk and needs assessment.

\*\*\* All asymptomatic close contacts should continue symptom monitoring for 14 days, strictly observe MPHS which includes wearing well-fitted masks, physical distancing, among others.



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\*\*\*\*Includes (1) individuals receiving active chemotherapy for cancer; (2) Being within one year out from receiving a hematopoietic stem cell or solid organ transplant; (3) Untreated HIV infection with CD4 <200; (4) Primary Immunodeficiency; (5) Taking immunosuppressive medications (e.g., drugs to suppress rejection of transplanted organs or to treat rheumatologic conditions such as mycophenolate and rituximab); (6) Taking more than 20mg a day of prednisone for more than 14 days; (7) The degree of immunocompromise is determined by the Health care provider, and preventive actions are adapted to each individual and situation.





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**ANNEX C:** List of establishments identified under the principles of 3C's (Closed, Crowded, and Close Contact) strategy against COVID-19 wherein presentation of proof of full vaccination shall be required before entry:

1. Dine in services in food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and eateries.
2. Film, music, and television production
3. Fitness studios, gyms, and venues for non-contact exercise and sports.
4. Venues for all contact sports approved by the LGU where such games shall be held.
5. Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions.
6. Permitted venues for social events such as parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers.
7. Visitor or tourist attractions such as libraries, archives, museums, galleries, exhibits, parks, plazas, public gardens, scenic viewpoints or overlooks, and the like.
8. Amusement parks and theme parks.
9. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, skating rinks, archery halls, swimming pools, and similar venues.
10. Cinemas and movie houses.
11. Personal care establishments such as barbershops, hair spas, hair salons, and nail spas, and those offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures, make-up services, salons, spas, reflexology, and other similar procedures including home service options.
12. Venues with live voice or wind-instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters.
13. Funfairs/*peryas* and kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playrooms, and kiddie rides.
14. In-person religious gatherings; gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 and for the cremains of the COVID-19 deceased.



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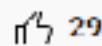


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