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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Duterte wants to bring back Manila Bay's glory; Dolomite sand to be replenished

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by [Genalyn Kabiling](#)

President Duterte has directed concerned authorities to step up efforts to restore Manila Bay to its former glory after years of pollution.



President Rodrigo Duterte delivers his sixth and final State of the Nation Address before a joint session of Congress on July 26, 2021. (Malacañang)

The Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts will include the continued replenishment of the dolomite sand on the portion of its shoreline until the area returns to normal, according to the President.

“I urge the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to sustain its efforts and continue working with our LGUs to restore Manila Bay to its former glory,” he said in his sixth and final State of the Nation Address (SONA) Monday, July 26.

The President recognized the need to replenish the Manila Bay with the crushed dolomite rocks after being washed out by the “waves.”

“So every now and then, we still have to replenish because we cannot change the nature of our shores. That is how it is. It is not a permanent fixture there. It is there from the mountains and we break it down and bring it to the sea. But that would occupy that place irrespective of there is a high tide or low tide,” he said.

According to the President, the use of dolomite sand on Manila Bay will be continued until there is “normalcy” in historic bay.

“Nakakatulong ‘yan at nawawala ‘yan (It helps and it gets washed out) And the only way to do it is to replenish it until we can think of a good alternative of how we can process the whole thing back to its normalcy. If there was really normalcy at the time or at any other time in the past,” he said.

For now, the President also cited the government’s efforts to clean up Manila Bay and its surroundings and ensure the protection of the environment.

As of May 2021, he said all illegally operating open dumpsites surrounding Manila Bay have been shut down. At least 151 of 187 local government units surrounding the bay now have access to sanitary landfills. He said establishments were forced to comply with environmental laws and ordinances while those who did not have been closed down.



“As a result, pollutants have been largely reduced and coliform levels — also reduced to its barest maximum — are now on its lowest levels in years if not decades,” he said.

The cleanup and rehabilitation project of Manila Bay became subject to public scrutiny after the government poured crushed dolomite rocks to transform the polluted stretch of shoreline into a white sand beach back in 2020.

Some environmental advocates have questioned the overlaying of the artificial white sand over the Manila Bay shoreline, which they claimed focused on aesthetics instead of addressing the environmental problems.

Malacañang has backed the Manila Bay rehabilitation project, saying it will not only help improve its beach appearance but also address the problems of soil erosion and flooding in the area.



Duterte: Manila Bay's dolomite sand needs continuous replenishment

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#) Published Jul 27, 2021 5:42:58 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 27) — The Manila Bay's "white sand" will have to be continuously replenished until a good alternative is made available, President Rodrigo Duterte said on Monday.

In his last State of the Nation Address, the President admitted that the 389 million nourishment project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is not a permanent fixture and will have to be filled up again from time to time as the crushed dolomite gets washed out.

"*Nawawala minsan siya* (It gets washed out) because of the waves so every now and then we still have to replenish because we cannot change the nature of our shores," he said. "It is not a permanent fixture there."

"*Nawawala iyan* (It gets washed out) and the only way to do it is to replenish it until we can think of a good alternative of how we can process the whole thing back to its normalcy," he added.

The controversial "white sand" beach was seen as a waste of taxpayer's money by its critics, who pointed out that the DENR merely focused on aesthetics instead of the environmental concerns of Manila Bay.

Environmentalists also noted that the [overlaying of dolomite sand will not solve the solid waste problem](#) of the Manila Bay.

Early this year, a [fresh batch of crushed dolomite](#) was dumped along the Manila Baywalk, with the new haul covering darker-colored sand in the area.

The DENR assured that measures are in place to make sure that the dolomite will not be washed away by storms and high tide.

Undersecretary Benny Antiporda maintained that the [multimillion-peso project was thoroughly studied](#) and that its budget is not only for dolomite rocks.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque also [defended the project](#), noting that this will also prevent soil erosion and help in flood control.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/7/27/Duterte-SONA-2021-Manila-Bay-dolomite-needs-continuous-replenishment.html?%3F%3F>



SONA 2021: Duterte says gov't to continue replenishing Manila Bay dolomite beach

Angela Coloma, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 26 2021 10:08 PM



Crushed dolomite from Cebu is dumped in Manila Bay to create an artificial white sand beach. *April Raffles, ABS-CBN News/file*

MANILA - President Rodrigo Duterte said in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) Monday that replenishing Manila Bay's artificial sand is here to stay.

This, even as the crushed dolomite gets washed out during tropical cyclones and heavy rains in the area.

In his final SONA, Duterte said replenishing the crushed dolomite is needed because "we can't change the nature of our shores."

"That is how it is. it is not a permanent fix or form. That would occupy the place respective if it's high tide or low tide. And the only way to do it is to replenish it until we can think of a good alternative of how we can process the whole thing back to its normalcy," Duterte said, minutes before ending his more than two-and-a-half hour long address.

The Palace earlier this year said it could not drop the P389 million Manila Bay project, despite environmental concerns that it could do more harm than good.

Duterte also urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to sustain Manila Bay restoration efforts, which he claimed started in 2019, under his term.

"I urge the DENR to sustain efforts to continue working with all the LGUs to restore Manila Bay to its former glory," he said, claiming that the rehabilitation projects have reduced pollutants in the body of water.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/26/21/sona-2021-duterte-says-govt-to-continue-replenishing-manila-bay-dolomite-beach>



DENR pinuri si PRRD sa mga hakbangin nito sa kapaligiran



July 27, 2021 @ 5:49 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Dahil sa hindi matatawarang pagsuporta nito sa environment programs at project ng ahensya nagpaabot ng pasasalamat ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte at nangako na dodoblehin ang kanilang pagsisikap hanggang matapos ang termino nito sa 2022.

“We at the Department have the utmost gratitude to our honorable President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for his immeasurable support to the initiatives of the DENR and for reinforcing the need to protect and conserve the environment,” pahayag ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu matapos ang huling State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Duterte.

“The DENR’s programs and projects will not be successful without the President’s trust and confidence that we can deliver on his instructions,” dagdag ni Cimatu.

Sa press release ayon sa DENR sa kanyang huling SONA noong Lunes, Hulyo 26, binanggit ng pangulo ang ilang accomplishments ng DENR sa ilalim ng termino nito kabilang na dito ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay na nakasaad sa Supreme Court continuing mandamus na inilabas noong 2008

Ang pagsunod at paggawa ng aksiyon sa kautusan ay sinumulan lamang noong 2019 matapos mag-isyu ang pangulo ng Administrative Order 16 na nagsasaad, “Expediting the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of the Manila Bay and creating the Manila Bay Task Force.”

Kaugnay nito hiniling nito sa DENR na patuloy na makipagtulungan sa mga LGUs upang maibalik ang dating ganda ng Manila Bay.

Iniulat din ng pangulo ang pagpapasara sa 335 illegally operating open dumpsites sa bansa at pagtatayo ng 151 sanitary landfills para sa iba’t-ibang lokal na pamahalaan.

Ipinasara ng DENR ang lahat ng 335 open dumpsites alinsunod sa mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, na ipinag-utos ni Cimatu.

Samantala binanggit din ng punong ehekutibo na ang mga establisiyamento ay “have been forced to comply with environmental laws and ordinances while those who did not, have been closed.” Dahil dito, nabawasan ang polusyon at coliform levels na hindi nagagawa ng mga nakaraang taon.



Nasambit din ng pangulo ang matagumpay na pagpapabalik sa illegal shipment ng basura sa Canada. Ito ay dumating sa bansa noong 2013 ngunit naibalik lamang noong 2019.

Kaugnay nito ayon kay Cimatú, ang tungkulin na protektahan, panatilihin at pangasiwaan ang kapaligiran at likas na yaman ng bansa ay napakalaking tungkulin ngunit ito ay naging posible at madali dahil na rin sa determinadong pinuno sa katauhan ng pangulo.

Tiniyak din nito kay Pangulong Duterte na ang DENR ay mas lalo pang pag-iibayuhin ang trabaho upang magawa ang mandato at misyon sa mga nalalabing buwan ng termino nito.

“With the untiring support of President Duterte, we can assure the Filipino people that all personnel of the DENR will continue doing his and her responsibility to conserve and protect the country’s environment and natural resources,” sabi ni Cimatú.

“However, we also appeal to all Filipinos to join us in this crusade as part of the whole-of-nation approach. It is equally our duty and responsibility to do our share,” pagtatapos ni Cimatú. **Santi Celario**



Cimatu: 'Dolomite' Beach sa Manila Bay, nakaligtas sa habagat

JUL 27, 2021, 11:53 AM

Santiago Celario
Writer

Inutusan na ni Cimatu si Region 4A Executive Director Nilo Tamera na magsagawa ng inventory sa lahat ng mga fish pen, fish cage, baklad at sapra sa Cavite at alamin kung may kaukulang permit ang mga ito.

SINIGURO ni Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu sa publiko na matapos ang assessment ng beach nourishment project sa Manila Bay, ang dolomite sa lugar gaya ng geo-tubes at geotextiles na inilagay sa proyekto ay nananatiling buo pa rin.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang dolomite sand sa lugar ay hindi nawa-wash out at ang dolomite pebbles ay naitutulak lamang sa perimeter ng beach area.

Ang normal high tide level ay 1.3 meters at ito'y umaabot ng 1.5 to 1.6 meters dahil sa southwest monsoon gaya ng tinukoy nitong nakalipas na linggo.

Ang maraming basura na natangay ng alon at naipon sa lugar ay natukoy na nagmula sa Pasig River at Cavite na pawang sa tributaries ng Manila Bay.

Ayon sa kalihim ng DENR, ang malaking bilang ng puno ng kawayan mula sa mga fish pens, fish cages at baklads/sapras ay kabilang sa tinangay sa baybayin.

Inutusan na ni Cimatu si Region 4A Executive Director Nilo Tamera na magsagawa ng inventory sa lahat ng fish pens, fish cages, baklad at sapra sa Cavite at alamin ang mga ito kung may kaukulang permit ang mga ito.

Ayon pa sa opisyal, ang mga lehitimong operator ay required na kumpunihin ang kanilang napinsalang fish pens at cages at sa kabilang banda ang mga walang permits na napinsalang fish pens at cages ay kinakailangan i-demolish.

Bago pa aniya magsimula ang habagat o southwest monsoon, ay binigyang direktiba na niya ang Regional Executive Directors ng National Capital Region at Region 3 at 4A na mahigpit na magpatupad ng proper solid waste management lalo na sa kanilang nasasakupan.

Pinasalamatan at binigyang-halaga ni Cimatu ang lahat ng mga volunteer, river rangers at estero rangers na tumulong sa paglilinis ng Manila Baywalk at Baseco sa lahat ng basura sa pagpapatuloy ng isinasagawang rehabilitation sa Manila Bay. (SC)

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/cimatu-dolomite-beach-sa-manila-bay-nakaligtas-sa-habagat?fbclid=IwAR24JWdYSY5eKK4g0y4QHfC1a3y59yPVniVGZLNnZTQdKKD19ZE2ZVoE8VY>



Cleanup operations

July 27, 2021



Personnel of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority look at the tons of trash that washed up in Manila Bay during cleanup operations on Monday. PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO



Filipino climate advocates demand urgent and actual actions from the country's leaders to address the worsening impacts of climate crisis on September 25, 2020.

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Not easy being green: The environment and its defenders under Duterte

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - July 26, 2021 - 9:53am

MANILA, Philippines — The administration of President Rodrigo Duterte likes to talk about the rehabilitation of the country's most famous tourist island, Boracay, and the efforts to restore Manila Bay as proof of the government's pro-environment stance.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is also working to clean other degraded rivers and waterways, improve the management of solid waste and strengthen the implementation of environmental laws.

But for environmental groups, the Duterte administration failed to properly implement green laws and regulations, regulate industries to minimize environmental impact, and push for the passage of environmental bills.

"Claiming to be a green president during the campaign in 2016, his promises on regulating mining, land use, and protecting the rivers and forests have not been achieved. Promises that would have lessened the impacts of COVID-19 to the rural poor and indigenous peoples, if they were delivered," Green Thumb Coalition said in a pre-State of the Nation Address forum last week.

Philstar.com takes a look back at some of President Rodrigo Duterte's environmental policies and programs as well as the situation of environmental defenders in the past five years.

Moratorium on mining projects lifted

Duterte, who previously threatened to shut all mines in the country and criticized the industry for the environmental damage it has caused, [lifted a nine-year-old ban on new mining projects](#) earlier this year, saying it is necessary to boost government revenues.

Environmental groups said the move was one of the biggest blows to efforts to preserve the country's natural resources and may escalate threats against communities opposing mining projects.

"We also view Executive Order 130 as a 'license to kill' for anyone who stands in the way of mining companies," Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment said.



Environmental groups also condemned the government's decision to give miner OceanaGold a new 25-year license for the controversial Didipio copper-gold mine in Nueva Vizcaya despite protests by communities. The operations of the Australian-Canadian firm led to the decimation of the biodiversity-rich Dinkidi Hill and contributed to the decline of water resources in the area, groups said.

They also said they will challenge the mining permit renewal in court.

Greenlight for Bulacan airport, Kaliwa Dam

During Duterte's five years in office, projects feared to harm the environment and the communities that depend on it have been approved.

In December 2020, San Miguel Aerocity was granted a 50-year franchise to construct and operate the New Manila International Airport in Bulacan. Last June, the government issued the project—which is seen to threaten marine ecosystems and resources in Manila Bay—an [Environmental Compliance Certificate](#).

San Miguel bagged the project in 2019 after its unsolicited proposal went unchallenged. The massive airport supports the administration's ambitious infrastructure modernization plan.

It will be built over Barangays Bambang and Taliptip in Bulakan town, former homes to patches of mangroves since cut down and coastal villagers since displaced.

The New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project is also part of the administration's "Build, Build, Build" program. It is touted to address the capital region's dwindling water supply.

But environmental groups and indigenous peoples' organizations said the China-funded dam project will cause irreversible damage to the already degraded Sierra Madre mountain range, displace communities in Rizal and Quezon, and disrupt the lives and culture of Dumagats.

It was revealed during a House panel hearing in June that the [Free, Prior and Informed Consent process](#)—one of the requirements needed to proceed with the construction—was not yet completed. But work on the access road leading to Kaliwa Dam started as early as 2019.

Climate action?

After previously threatening that he would not honor the historic Paris Agreement, Duterte signed the accord in March 2017. Under the 2015 agreement, global warming must be limited well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts for a tougher ceiling of 1.5°C.

In 2020, the Duterte administration announced it would [no longer accept proposals to build new coal power plants](#), signaling a significant shift in the country's energy policy. It, however, does not include previously approved projects that are already in the pipeline.

The moratorium was announced in tandem with the relaxation on foreign ownership limits in large-scale geothermal energy projects, a decision that environmental groups said must be approached with caution due to their impacts on communities and ecosystems.

In April, the Philippine government finally submitted to the United Nations its [commitment to slash greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030](#) after failing to submit its pledge on December 31, 2020.

But for environmental groups, the country's commitment—or the Nationally Determined Contribution—was not ambitious enough. Of the target, only 2.71% is unconditional, which means it will be undertaken without international funding and assistance.



The consecutive typhoons that ravaged the Philippines in late 2020—including the strongest storm last year—prompted the House of Representatives to pass a [resolution declaring a climate emergency](#). While this declaration urges local governments and agencies to adopt policies to mitigate the impacts of climate change, it does not legally compel them to act. Groups are also calling for [concrete climate plans and actions](#) that protect both the people and the planet.

Wave of criticism vs Manila Bay's fake white sand beach

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources transformed a polluted stretch of Manila Bay's shoreline to an artificial white sand beach made from crushed dolomite rocks, prompting criticism that the project is an expensive and temporary effort that will not address the bay's environmental problems.

The government allocated P28 million for the overlaying of pulverized dolomite boulders on the coastline. Groups said the funds for the "beach nourishment project" should be realigned to the government's pandemic response.

Despite opposition, the project pushed through with the DENR saying it can help coastal resources in the area and prevent erosion. Malacañang even said the fake white sand beach can improve the mental health of Filipinos during the health crisis.

For environmental campaigners, the solutions to Manila Bay's problems include the reduction of waste and the rehabilitation of mangrove forests and seagrass beds.

'Deadliest' country for protectors of environment

The Philippines has been consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous countries for environmental and land activists. In 2019, it was identified by watchdog Global Witness as the [deadliest nation in Asia and the second in the world](#) for defenders of the environment, with at least 43 recorded deaths.

Farmers, indigenous leaders and government workers tasked with protecting the environment were among the victims. Most of the deaths were related to agribusiness and mining.

Environmental groups said the relentless vilification of activists and organizations may be driving the increase in killings. They feared that the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 will put defenders at much greater risk of attacks.

Few days before Duterte's last SONA, [two forest rangers of Masungi Georeserve](#) in Baras, Rizal were shot. Authorities are still investigating the incident.

Five years of Duterte: Has sustainability in the Philippines won or lost?

In the wake of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's final State of the Nation address, Eco-Business reviews his government's wins and losses in the climate and energy sectors over his last five years in power.



Protesters display an anti-Duterte banner on the pedestrian walkway of Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, Philippines. Rallyists marched on the main thoroughfares leading to the Batasang Pambansa, where President Rodrigo Duterte delivered the last state of the nation address of his term. Image: Movement Against the Anti-Terrorism Act (MATA)

By [Hannah Alcoseba Fernandez](#)

July 27, 2021

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's state of the nation address (SONA) on Monday may not have highlighted many of his government's sustainability achievements, but there have been notable battles won in the energy and climate landscape over the last five years of his administration.

There was the [clean-up](#) of world-renowned beach island Boracay, the [return](#) of an illegal waste shipment back to Canada, moves away from coal by key finance institutions, and the coal moratorium of 2020.

But green groups say credit must not be given solely to the Duterte administration, rather to the "collective effort of communities and movements who braved intensifying ecological challenges and the climate of impunity that this government has created."



Health workers join the protest rally at the University of the Philippines before President Rodrigo Duterte's State of the Nation address. Image: Alliance of Health Workers

“It is precisely because of the inadequacies of this and past administrations that much work is left to be done today,” said Gerry Arances, convenor of Power for People Coalition (P4P), a network of civil society organisations, communities and cooperatives that rally against fossil fuels.

“As Duterte delivers his last SONA, we find ourselves in a context that requires Filipinos to unite and work for a people-centered sustainable energy sector and demand leadership that would bring this about moving forward.”

In the wake of the final state of the nation address of the Philippine premier, Eco-Business reviews the government’s key achievements and failures in the climate and energy sectors over the last five years.



President Rodrigo Duterte delivering his sixth and last state of the nation address on 26 July 2021. Image: Presidential Communications Operations Office

Government ends new coal but submits underwhelming carbon emissions target

The Duterte government announced in 2020 that it will stop constructing new coal-fired power plants, signaling a shift in the country’s energy policy.

After all, the Philippines is projected to have the Asia Pacific region’s [highest share of coal](#) by 2030, and the new policy could stave off about 10 gigawatts (GW) of coal in the pipeline. However, the decision does not include 4GW of previously approved projects, apart from the 9.8GW currently installed.

The policy announcement was lauded by activists although not without scepticism, as industry experts said it was not coordinated with the rest of the government’s energy plans.

For instance, six months after the policy announcement, the Philippine government [submitted](#) to the United Nations its target to reduce harmful greenhouse gases by 75 per cent by 2030.

The target, known as a nationally determined contribution to the Paris Agreement, was heavily [criticised](#) by activists as most of it is conditional on funding and assistance from the international community. It does not include detailed steps on how to meet its target, such as an outright ban on coal.

Moreover, the latest [draft](#) of the Philippine Energy Plan, which charts the country’s energy landscape until 2040, has yet to reflect the moratorium and still proposes a significant share of coal in the energy mix of 58.9 per cent by 2030.

The Manila Bay clean-up, with potentially hazardous fake sand

Almost 12 years after the Supreme Court ordered a comprehensive clean-up of Manila Bay, it was in Duterte’s term that the massive rehabilitation began for the country’s most important body of water, which is one of its most polluted.

Similar to Boracay, which faced a six-month closure in 2018 to solve its garbage woes, Duterte announced the following year the clean-up and rehabilitation plans for Manila Bay, threatening to close down establishments, particularly hotels, that allow waste to contaminate the bay that also serves as the country's hub for local and international ports, shipping and fishing.

However, the rehabilitation effort was slammed by environmentalists when artificial white sand made from crushed dolomite was dumped on the shoreline of the bay as part of the beautification project.

Dolomite, a non-metallic material used in manufacturing bricks, cement, concrete, plastics and other construction materials, contains varying levels of crystalline silica, which builders [say](#) can cause lung damage or even cancer when breathed in.



Environmentalists decry the dumping of truckloads of crushed dolomite in the baywalk of Manila Bay in 2019. Image: Nilad

Environmental group Oceana Philippines likewise warned that since dolomite does not naturally occur in the bay, the sand could destroy its natural ecosystem.

Lawmakers called the artificial sand a waste of public funds as the estimated cost of the entire Manila Bay rehabilitation project was about US\$7.7 million, of which around US\$557,000 was allotted for the dolomite overlay.

Amid the criticism, rehabilitation efforts pushed through, including continuous bay and drainage canal cleaning and the setting up of sewage treatment plants.

Last year, the government cited the inauguration of the [solar-powered sewage treatment plant](#) as one of the highlights of the programme, as the plant is said to be capable of treating 500,000 litres of wastewater discharge per day that contributes to the pollution in Manila Bay.

Mining moratorium ends

Duterte stunned environmentalists in April when he lifted a nine-year moratorium on granting new mining permits, which the government claimed would revive the Philippines' economy amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

This, despite openly criticising the mining industry for the environmental degradation it has caused when he assumed office in 2016. He even imposed a ban on open-pit mining in 2017 and [appointed](#) Gina Lopez, a staunch anti-mining advocate, as environment and natural resources secretary.



Residents in the town of Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya oppose the reopening of the OceanaGold copper-gold mine in 2019. Image: Mining Injustice Solidarity Network

But by 2019, Duterte no longer mentioned the mining sector in his SONA, even though he had done so in the past. The following year, the department of environment and natural resources recommended the reopening of mines shuttered under Lopez's watch, including giving Canadian-Australian mining firm OceanaGold a new 25-year license for the Didipio copper-gold mine in Nueva Vizcaya despite protests from community groups.

It was [reported](#) in 2019 by the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights that OceanaGold allegedly committed human rights violations against indigenous people in the mined area. The alleged violations included beatings and suffering injuries while houses were bulldozed off cliffs and burned down after forced evictions were carried out without a court order.

Call for a climate emergency declaration as Duterte's legacy

After Duterte spent almost three hours on his final address, environmentalists expressed dissatisfaction with how he failed to lay out actions that the administration would take to approach the climate crisis during his final year in office.

Greenpeace renewed its call for the president to declare a climate emergency as part of his legacy, since the resolution was [passed](#) by the lower house of Congress last year.

A climate emergency declaration would compel the administration to position climate action as the central policy of the state, and recognise that the climate crisis is not just about disasters, but about a crisis for food, water, oceans, and biodiversity, and also about livelihoods, public health, jobs, and "a roof over one's head," said Lea Guerrero, country director of Greenpeace Philippines.

Guerrero added: "While President Duterte mentioned 'resilience' several times in his speech, along with small wins for farmers and public transportation, we know that the country cannot attain resilience from current and future crises without concrete and coherent plans to facilitate a people-centered action to address the multiple crises the country is facing."

"The Duterte administration must do more to prioritise solutions that empower communities and future-proof our country so that we can achieve a better normal," she said.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/five-years-of-duterte-has-sustainability-in-the-philippines-won-or-lost/>



12 key environmental issues left unmentioned in Duterte's final SONA, according to group

Published July 27, 2021, 12:19 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Pro-environment activist group Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) said Tuesday, July 27 that there were 12 major omissions in President Duterte's sixth and final State of the Nation Address (SONA) as far as environmental issues were concerned.



A recent cleanup operation at Manila Bay's dolomite beach. (Ali Vicoy/ MANILA BULLETIN)

The unmentioned issues were listed as follows:

1. At least 39,498 hectares (ha) of reclamation in Manila Bay and other coastal areas in Philippines remain in place despite Duterte's claims of stopping corrupt reclamation projects. The figure includes a 1,498-ha increase during Duterte's term, which began in 2016.
2. P250 billion, or P50 billion a year for the past five years, is the estimated value of wildlife poached.
3. P33 billion is the estimated annual loss from coral damage in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) from 2016 to 2019. The figure skyrocketed to P1.3 trillion annually by 2020.
4. There are 26 mine closures and suspensions to be reversed, plus the opening of 26 new mining projects in 2021. On top of this, there are 100 new mining applications filed following Duterte's Executive Order (EO) 130.
5. P1.1 trillion worth of minerals were allegedly plundered and shipped to benefit foreign markets, not the local economy.
6. The Philippines is the third in air pollution-related deaths around the world.
7. The Philippines is the second top marine plastics polluter in the world.



8. The Philippines rose from fifth to fourth place among the most long-term climate-vulnerable countries in the world.

9. The country suffered P41 billion in agricultural and infrastructural damage from Typhoons Rolly to Ulysses, which affected three million people. However, the earmarked aid amounted to only a third of the damage.

10. Four gigawatts of approved coal power projects are still in the pipeline despite the declared moratorium on greenfield coal projects

11. A total of 186 environmental defenders have been killed from July 1, 2016 to December 30, 2020. Available data showed that for every defender killed, 124 more suffered other human rights abuses.

12. These defenders represent 6.2 million ha of landscapes and seascapes, and provide ecosystem services at an estimated P1.1 trillion each year.

President Duterte delivered a nearly three-hour long SONA on Monday afternoon, July 26 at the Batasang Pambansa Complex in Quezon City.



Climate activists join a protest action ahead of the State of the Nation Address of President Rodrigo Duterte on July 26, 2021.
The STAR/Boy Santos

Climate crisis ignored in plans Duterte bared at SONA

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - July 27, 2021 - 12:17pm

MANILA, Philippines — For environmental campaigners, President Rodrigo Duterte's sixth and final State of the Nation Address was disappointing for its failure to mention actions to protect the environment and mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis.

Duterte's last SONA, delivered Monday, was the longest since 1986 but it did not lay down any plans on how the government will address climate change in his final year in office.

"This is a big gap considering that everything that transpires, all the other plans the president has laid out—for economic growth, for bettering Filipinos' welfare—will inevitably happen against the backdrop of the growing climate emergency," Greenpeace country director Lea Guerrero said in a statement Tuesday.

"We see this year after year whenever the country is assailed by typhoons and floods, and it's a significant part of our new reality."

While the administration made "important steps" in slowing down the expansion of coal energy, Guerrero said government must do more to prioritize concrete solutions that will empower communities and future-proof the country.

"Greenpeace is calling on President Duterte and his administration to transform words into action: ensure a transition to resilient and efficient food, energy, and transport systems; hold the big polluters accountable for climate impacts; uphold active citizen participation; and put people at the core of local and national policymaking," she said.

Environmental legacy?

Duterte's speech also contained little on the current state of the environment or any concrete plans to protect it.

He did mention though the much-touted Manila Bay rehabilitation, including the need to replenish the fake white sand beach made from crushed dolomite rocks "until we can think of a good alternative of how we can process the whole thing back to its normalcy."

Environmental groups and scientists have said the project was a costly and temporary effort that will not address Manila Bay's degradation.



Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment said that "Duterte's last SONA is the longest on record [and] is the gravest sin of omission that refused to recognize the scientific realities of our environment in crisis."

These include at least 39,498 hectares of reclamation in Manila Bay and other coastal areas, reversal of 26 mine closures and suspensions and the approval of 21 new mining projects, the group said.

It added the Philippines was identified as among the top marine plastic polluters and most long-term climate-vulnerable nations in the world.

The Philippines has been also consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous countries for environmental and land activists since 2017.

Waste problem

In his speech, Duterte also talked about some of the government's efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay such as the move to close down hundreds of open dump sites near the area and the reduction of the bay's fecal coliform level.

He also mentioned the move to return dozens of containers full of trash—misabeled as plastics for recycling—to Canada.

While EcoWaste Coalition welcomed the closure of open dumpsites, it lamented the poor enforcement of the mandatory waste segregation at source and the overdue issuance of the list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging.

Two decades after the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act became law, only two items have been so far added to the list: plastic soft drink straws and coffee stirrers.

The group criticized the government for its persistent pursuit of "[waste-to-energy](#)" disposal technologies.

It also renewed its call to ratify the Basel Convention Ban amendment, which aims to prohibit the export of hazardous wastes and others waste form developed to developing countries, and revise DENR Administrative Order 2013-22, which still allows the importation of recyclable materials with hazardous content.



Mayor Emi: Bike lane will help reduce air pollution

Published July 27, 2021, 4:39 PM

by [Jean Fernando](#)

Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano said the construction of the Metro Manila Bike Lane Network will help lessen air pollution.



Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano (Pasay LGU / MANILA BULLETIN)

Rubiano congratulated and thanked Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arturo Tugade and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar for the project that will provide an effective solution to the high prices of fuel, increasing fares, as well as traffic and air pollution.

She recalled that during her stint in Congress, she was one of the proponents of a House bill promoting the use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation.

The said House bill also promotes the creation of the local bike lane office that will take charge in implementing policies pertinent to the bicycle act.

Rubiano also said that biking in this pandemic time is not just a mere recreational activity but also becomes a way of life.



Call for nominations: Membership in the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE)

Published on: July 27, 2021

By PIA-NCR

The process for the nomination of membership in the Climate Change Commission's (CCC) National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE), pursuant to Rule VII of the Revised-Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9729, as amended, and CCC Resolution No. 2021-004, is open until August 11, 2021.

The NPTE is composed of experts in various disciplines related to climate change that provides technical advice to the Commission in climate science, technologies, and best practices for risk assessment and enhancement of the adaptive capacity of vulnerable human settlements to potential impacts of climate change, in accordance with the RA 9729 or the Climate Change Act of 2009.

The call aims to enhance the nomination, selection, and appointment process of the NPTE membership to broaden the country's pool of experts on climate change. This will also ensure the institutional, regional, and sectoral representation of the NPTE membership, with special consideration for gender balance.

The nominee must possess the following qualifications: (1) A Filipino citizen; (2) has a proven track record in his/her field of expertise; (3) has not committed plagiarism or has not been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude; (4) has no conflict of interest with the mandate of the CCC or NPTE, or shall endeavor to avoid any situation involving an actual conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest; (5) has not taken any position against indigenous peoples; and (6) a reputed and a recognized authority on climate change or any of the above specific fields of discipline, as it relates to climate science, public policy, or risk governance.

Pursuant to the Rule VII of the Revised-Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9729, as amended and the CCC Resolution No. 2021-004, the CCC invites government agencies and offices, academic and research institutions, and other relevant stakeholders to nominate reputed experts, professionals and practitioners, in any of the following fields of discipline related to climate science, public policy and administration, and climate risk governance:

1. Natural sciences: Climate change science and meteorology, Earth science and oceanography, Natural science, Environment, biodiversity, and human ecology, Health, agriculture and food security, Water and hydrology, Climate change adaptation and mitigation, Disaster risk reduction and management, Renewable energy and sustainable energy, and Low-emission infrastructure and transport;
2. Social sciences: Sustainable development, Development planning and management, Sociology and anthropology, Geography, Political science, Demography and population studies, Development communication, and Ethnic studies, including gender policies;
3. Law: Environmental law, International climate diplomacy and negotiations, and International law;
4. Economics: Economics, Climate finance, Sustainable finance, Circular economy, Sustainable consumption and production, Ecological solid waste management, Sustainable delivery of goods and services, and Analysis of potential loss and damage and disruption of services from climate change risk or impacts;



5. Data science: Mathematics, Climate change risk assessment, Climate change data ecosystem and analytics, Greenhouse gas inventory, and Climate change expenditure tagging;

6. Governance: Implementation of policy frameworks and strategies, program and project management; National security administration; Policy research and development, Technology needs assessment; and Monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of programs and projects related to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction and management, with preference to those with relevant work in rural and coastal communities; and

7. Priority thematic areas of the National Climate Change Action Plan and other technical areas relevant to the mandates and work of the CCC.

To ensure an inclusive and balanced representation in the Panel, nominations of experts from the provinces of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, as well as from multi-sectoral institutions and groups, are highly encouraged.

HOW TO NOMINATE:

The nomination must be in the form of a duly signed official letter addressed to the CCC, accompanied by documents that attest to the qualifications and integrity of the nominee.

Other details of the nomination process remain as posted, which may be accessed on the CCC website at <https://climate.gov.ph/news/534>.

For inquiries, please contact the NPTE Secretariat at npte-sec@climate.gov.ph.



AMID HEAVY RAINS: TULLAHAN RIVER CLEANUP, GOV'T MEASURES REDUCE FLOODING IN NAVOTAS, MALABON AND VALENZUELA

July 27, 2021 [Rannie Lao](#)

Communities along the Tullahan River are now reaping the benefits of government and private sector's flood mitigation efforts after monsoon rains flooded parts of Luzon and some areas in Metro Manila.

Thanks to government's construction of a river wall, the continuous operation of pumping stations and the ongoing P1-billion river dredging and cleanup initiative of San Miguel Corporation (SMC), floods that affected Navotas, Malabon and Valenzuela City following several days of heavy rains subsided quickly from before the mitigation programs were put in place.

The mitigation measures prevented water levels from rising, significantly reducing its damage to the flood-prone communities.

"With the heavy rains brought by Typhoon Fabian and the southwest monsoon the past few days, we closely monitored the flooding situation at critical sections of the Tullahan River. Despite the heavy rains even during the high tide period, there was no river overflow and the flash floods at nearby areas quickly subsided in a few hours," SMC president Ramon S. Ang said.

"Based on the feedback of the Valenzuela, Malabon and Navotas LGUs, the combination of the river wall, pumping stations, and dredging, have helped lessen the risk of flooding. We were also told that flooding was mostly situated at low-lying areas due to the heavy rains. We're glad many of our countrymen here remained safe. We will continue to evaluate the flooding patterns and, if needed, adjust our cleanup activities accordingly, in coordination with the LGUs," he added.

Valenzuela mayor Rex Gatchalian also thanked SMC for the dredging effort that significantly reduced the flooding in the area. "The floodwaters disappeared quickly. Yesterday, it was gone after five hours. Before it takes the whole day," Gatchalian said.

Earlier, in anticipation of the rainy season, SMC said that its dredging teams accelerated and intensified clean-up efforts at sections it is currently working on along the 27-kilometer river system, a main tributary to Manila Bay.

Currently, the teams are undertaking widening operations at the river's section between Marulas, Valenzuela and Potrero, Malabon. Meanwhile, dredging of sections in Barangay Bangkulasi and Tanong in Navotas City have been completed, while the cleanup team is also currently operating in Barangay Longos in Malabon City.

As of July 22, Ang reported that SMC had extracted 332,192 metric tons of silt and solid waste from the river. All wastes extracted are moved to government-approved disposal centers.

"There's still a lot that needs to be done to ensure that severe flooding is significantly reduced in these areas. And with the help of the national and local government, the communities, and other stakeholders, I'm sure that within five years from the start of the project, or by 2025, we will complete the cleaning, widening, and deepening the Tullahan river, and address widespread flooding in communities and cities areas where it flows. We hope to improve even the water quality so that it can be conducive to marine life," Ang said.



“This cleanup also supports the much larger goal of rehabilitating the Manila Bay and minimizing the amount of plastic and garbage brought to our oceans through our major rivers, threatening biodiversity and our traditional fishing grounds,” he added.

SMC’s P1 billion Tullahan-Tinajeros River System Cleanup project is part of the company’s wider set of sustainability goals, which include cutting its Group-wide utility water use by 50% 2025, and planting more than 7 million trees nationwide through its power business and other businesses units.

Recently, SMC also announced a major climate change initiative—dropping all future coal power projects in favor of executing on its long-term plan of supporting the needed power capacity expansion of the country, through cleaner and renewable technologies.

In 2017, it discontinued its plastic bottled water business to demonstrate its commitment to reduce plastic pollution of rivers, seas and oceans.

In cooperation with the DENR, the company has also announced another major river rehabilitation project, this time for the historic but long-biologically dead Pasig River.

Ang said the company is spending P2 billion for the five-year corporate social responsibility (CSR) project, or double the budget allocated for the Tullahan-River project. SMC aims to extract 50,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste monthly or a total of 3 million metric tons for five years.

The company will also undertake a river channel improvement program for tributaries belonging to Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) in Bulacan, future site of the New Manila International Airport (NMIA).



FOREST RANGERS SASANAYIN NG PNP

July 27, 2021 Rannie Lao



RIZAL- INIHAYAG ni PNP Chief, Gen..Guillermo Eleazar na sasanayin ang forest rangersmatapos na mabaril ang dalawang “georeserve guard” sa Baras.

Ayon kay Eleazar nakahanda ang PNP na turuan at magbigay ng mga pagsasanay sa mga forest ranger upang magkaroon ng kakayahang maipagtanggol ang kanilang mga sarili.

Kaugnay nito , ipinag-utos na ni PNP Chief, ang pagsasagawa ng malalimang imbestigasyon hinggil sa pagkakabaril sa dalawang forest ranger na nagbabantay sa Masungi Georeserve noong Hulyo 24.

“Hindi ito ang unang insidente ng pananakot, pananakit at pagpatay sa mga forest ranger dahil ilang mga kaparehong kaso din ang naitala ng inyong kapulisan sa Palawan at iba pang lugar sa mga nakalipas na taon,” wika ni Eleazar.

Sinabi pa ng heneral na , “Dahil dito, inatasan ko na ang ating PNP Training Service na makipag-ugnayan sa DENR sa pagsasanay ng self-defense, threat detection at iba pang mga paghahanda sa pansariling proteksyon sa ating mga forest rangers sa buong bansa,”

Nabatid na mismong Masungi Georeserve Foundation ay humingi na ng tulong sa mga pulis dahil hindi ito ang unang pagkakataon na nakaranas ng panghaharass ang kanilang mga forest ranger.**VERLIN RUIZ**



Church leads rally vs mining in Vizcaya

By [Vince Jacob Visaya](#)

July 28, 2021



PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT Anti-mining advocates stage a peaceful rally in front of the St. Dominic Church in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya on Monday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: Disgruntled over the renewal of OceanaGold's gold-copper mining's financial or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) for another 25 years, more than a hundred Catholic devotees and anti-mining advocates held a prayer rally at the [St. Dominic Church](#) premises here on Monday.

The advocates called for the stoppage of the mining activities in Nueva Vizcaya while sporting placards displayed and waved peacefully. Their placards include messages and slogans such as "OceanaGold Out Now," "Be a Good Steward of God's Creation," "[Kalikasan Para Sa Lahat](#)" and "Protect our Communities, No to [Foreign Large-Scale Mining](#)."

Nueva Vizcaya Catholic Bishop [Elmer Mangalinao](#), United Christian Churches of the [Philippines](#) Bishop [Joseph Agpaoa](#) and Gov. [Carlos Padilla](#) led the prayer rally.

Mangalinao said they would continue to air their voices and opposition against mining in the province despite the FTAA renewal.

"It breaks our heart but it will never silence us to fight for our common home. We strongly decry the decision," he said.

Padilla likewise said he was disappointed over the renewal.

"It was an act of injustice. It is very lamentable and disheartening indeed," Padilla said, adding resistance would remain among environment advocates.

Calling the renewal as a "day of mourning for those who care for the environment," Padilla said the "injustice is not only to our environment, but to our fellow Novo Vizcayanos, who had suffered enough from the negative effects of the mining operations in Didipio."

Last week, the [Australian OceanaGold Corp.](#) confirmed President [Rodrigo Duterte](#) signed the renewal of the Didipio Mines' FTAA in the [upland](#) town of Kasibu for an additional 25-year period beginning June 19, 2019. The initial 25-year Didipio FTAA took effect on June 20, 1994 and expired on June 20, 2019, a year after OceanaGold lodged its renewal application. An FTAA is a permit issued to a multinational company sharing technology and resources to explore and extract minerals in the Philippines.



OceanaGold Corp. has kept silent on the prayer rally.

Instead, the company announced in a statement it is focused on recruiting back old-time workers for regular and contractual works in the gold and copper-rich upland village of Didipio.

OceanaGold added the renewed FTAA reflects similar financial terms and conditions while providing additional benefits to the regional communities and provinces hosting the operation.



Environment-friendly and regenerative architecture in 55th episode of ‘Stories for a Better Normal’ series

Published on: July 27, 2021

By PIA-NCR

Filipino environmental advocates will gather virtually to demonstrate environment-friendly and regenerative architectural innovation on the 55th episode of “Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Change Pathways,” with the topic, “Building for Nature.”

The episode, conceptualized and hosted by three-term former Senator, now Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, will air on Thursday, 29 July 2021, 10:00 AM via Facebook Live at facebook.com/CCCPhI and facebook.com/iamlorenlegarda.

Joining the online conversation are Filipino innovators Architect Ronnie Yumang, ASEAN architect and environmental planner and Beau Bacongus, Earth builder and permaculturist.

The Philippines, due to its geographical location, is known for its vulnerability to natural hazards such as frequent earthquakes, volcanic eruptions as well as typhoons, sea-level rise, storm surges, landslides, flooding, and drought affecting the lives of every Filipino.

Hence, the challenge of adapting to the climate and reducing disaster risks cut across sectors and industries, including the field of architecture.

The upcoming episode will feature resilient and regenerative architectural practices and SuperAdobe technology as a sustainable solution to the shelter challenge.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, "Stories for a Better Normal" aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a ‘better normal’ can be realized within our communities.

This online discussion is organized in partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission, with support from the Department of Education, Philippine Information Agency, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, The Climate Reality Project-Philippines and Mother Earth Foundation. ###

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/07/27/environment-friendly-and-regenerative-architecture-in-55th-episode-of-stories-for-a-better-normal-series>



United Nations climate summit starts

By [Global Times](#) July 28, 2021



WE ARE ONE Wu Haitao (right, front), [China's](#) deputy permanent representative to the [United Nations](#) addresses the [Security Council's](#) meeting during the start of a summit aiming to tackle climate change at the UN headquarters in New York City on July 26, 2021. Haitao said that China has always held an objective position on important issues and the United Nations Security Council should play a constructive role in this regard. GLOBAL TIMES PHOTO

UNITED NATIONS: Nearly 200 nations start online negotiations on Monday to validate a United Nations science report that will anchor autumn summits charged with preventing climate catastrophe on a planetary scale.

Record-smashing heat waves, floods and drought across three continents in recent weeks, all amplified by global warming, make the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) assessment more than timely.

"It's going to be a wake-up call, there's no doubt about that," said [Richard Black](#), founder and senior associate of the [London-based Energy](#) and Climate Intelligence Unit.

The report, he noted, comes only weeks ahead of a UN General Assembly, a Group of 20 summit, and the 197-nation COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. The world is a different place since the IPCC's last comprehensive assessment in 2014 of global heating, past and future.

Lingering doubts that warming was gathering pace or almost entirely human in origin, along with the falsely reassuring notion that climate impacts are tomorrow's problem, have since evaporated in the haze of deadly heat waves and fires.

Carbon pollution from burning fossil fuels, methane leaks and agriculture has driven up the thermometer 1.1 Celsius so far, and emissions are rising sharply again after a brief, pandemic-imposed interlude, according to the [International Energy Agency](#).

Scientists have calculated that greenhouse gas emissions must decline 50 percent by 2030 and be phased out entirely by 2050 to stay within the range of 1.5 C. A third sea change over the last seven years is in the science itself.

"Today, we have longer observations with a much clearer signal of climate change," climatologist [Robert Vautard](#), also an IPCC lead author and director of France's Pierre-Simon Laplace Institute, told Agence France-Presse.

But after-the-fact analysis is not the same as foresight, and the IPCC, set up in 1988 to inform UN climate negotiations, has been criticized by some as a pattern that Harvard science historian [Naomi Oreskes](#) has called "erring on the side of least drama."

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/07/28/news/world/united-nations-climate-summit-starts/1808679>



'Habagat' threatens parts of Luzon with flood, landslides

By Ma. Cristina Arayata July 27, 2021, 4:41 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – Due to the prevailing southwest monsoon (*habagat*), flooding and rain-induced landslides continue to threaten some areas in Luzon, the weather bureau said Tuesday.

Moderate to heavy, with at times intense rains are forecast over Ilocos Region, Zambales, and Bataan until Wednesday.

Likewise, Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Abra, Benguet, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, and Occidental Mindoro will continue to experience light to moderate with at times heavy rains.

Occasional gusty winds will prevail, especially in the coastal and upland communities of the aforementioned areas.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warned that scattered to widespread flooding, rain-induced landslides are likely during heavy or prolonged rainfall, especially in areas highly susceptible to these hazards.

Meanwhile, no weather disturbance is expected to affect the country in the next two to three days, PAGASA forecaster Meno Mendoza said. (**PNA**)



NDRRMC nagbabala sa mas maraming pag-ulan ng habagat



July 27, 2021 @ 7:10 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Nagbabala ang National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council sa publiko at sa mga lokal na disaster council na mas maraming pag-ulan pa ang mararanasan dahil sa habagat.

“The state weather bureau also said that the country is currently experiencing mild La Niña which can bring a higher rainfall amount and winds,” pahayag ng NDRRMC.

Sinabi rin ng PAGASA na magpapatuloy ang mga pag-ulan sa iba’t ibang parte ng bansa hanggang Biyernes.

Dahil sa mga pag-ulan, pumalo sa 202,213 katao o 50,676 pamilya ang apektado sa Central Luzon, Calabarzon, MIMAROPA, Western Visayas, Cordillera Administrative Region, at National Capital Region.

Nanatili pa rin ang 38,472 indibidwal o 10,242 pamilya sa mga evacuation center habang ang 33,767 katao o 7,374 ay nasa wala sa evacuation centers.

Ayon pa sa ahensya, 480 barangay ang apektado ng habagat na pinalakas ni bagyong Fabian na nakalabas na ng Philippine Area of Responsibility.

Halos 244 barangay naman ang binaha habang nakapagtala rin ng apat na aksidente sa dagat; isang rockslide; isang sinkhole; tatlong storm surge; at isang mudflow sa walong rehiyon.

Bunsod rin sa habagat, hindi nadaanan ang 13 kalsada at anim na tulay.

Nasira naman ang halos P100 milyong halaga sa agrikultura at P2.4 milyon sa imprastraktura.

Bahagya namang nasira ang 447 bahay habang 143 ang pinatumba ng habagat. **RNT/ELM**

28 JULY 2021, WEDNESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

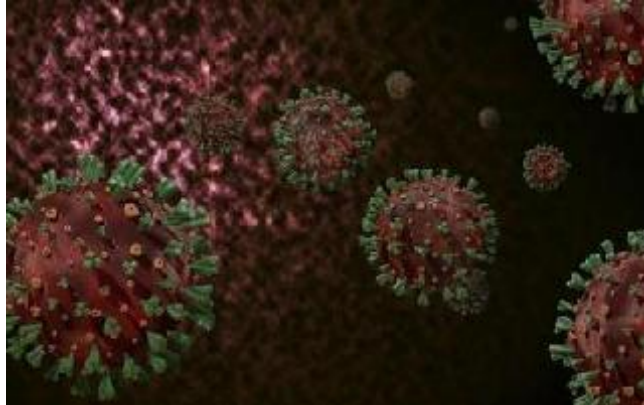
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



5.6K new survivors raise PH recovery tally to 1.47M

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [July 27, 2021, 5:58 pm](#)



MANILA – The country's overall tally of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) patients who beat the disease have reached 1,478,625 as 5,672 new recoveries were recorded on Tuesday.

The Department of Health (DOH) said the figure is equivalent to a 94.6-percent recovery rate from a total of 1,562,420 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

The DOH also tallied 7,186 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number of active cases in the country to 56,477 or 3.6 percent of all cases.

Of the active cases, 93.8 percent are mild, 1.1 percent are asymptomatic, 2.3 percent are severe, 1.58 percent are moderate, and 1.3 percent are in critical condition.

Also logged were 72 new fatalities, raising the death toll to 27,318 or 1.75 percent of the total cases.

“Upon checking with the team, the case numbers reported today are higher than usual because we had to do a 9 p.m. extraction, rather than a 1 p.m. extraction because CDRS (Covid-19 Data Repository System) records were not yet completely pushed to CK (Covid Kaya) at that time. The push was completed after 6 p.m.,” the DOH said.

It added that 162 duplicates were removed from the total case count as seven of those were actually recoveries and one death.

Meanwhile, 49 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

According to DOH data on July 25, about 13.2 percent of 30,016 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on July 25 while 13 laboratories were unable to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the past 14 days, the three non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 3.4 percent of samples tested and 3.7 percent of positive individuals.

To date, 58 percent of 3,500 intensive care unit beds, 48 percent of 19,500 isolation beds, 45 percent of 12,200 ward beds, and 39 percent of 2,800 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1148467>



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

BREAKING: Aktibong kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, higit 56,000; 7,186 ang bagong napaulat

By Angellic Jordan July 27, 2021 - 04:05 PM

  **DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 500** **HULYO 27, 2021**
Para sa kompletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: <https://incovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>



MGA BAGONG KASO **7,186** MGA BAGONG GUMALING **5,672** MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **72**

KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO **1,562,420**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING HULYO 25 DATOS NGAYONG HULYO 27 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG HULYO 25	HALOS 94.8% ANG MILD AT ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!	
<h1>13.2%</h1> PORSYENTO NG MGA NAGPOSITIBO	<h1>30,016</h1> BILANG NG TINEST	

KABUUNANG 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 (1.5K TOTAL BEDS) 58% Utilized	ICU BEDS (1.1K TOTAL BEDS) 47% Utilized	Mild 93.8% 1.1% Asymptomatic 1.3% Critical 2.3% Severe 1.58% Moderate
ISOLATION BEDS (19.5K TOTAL BEDS) 48% Utilized	ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS) 40% Utilized	
WARD BEDS (12.2K TOTAL BEDS) 45% Utilized	WARD BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS) 39% Utilized	
VENTILATORS (2.6K TOTAL VENTILATORS) 39% Utilized	VENTILATORS (1.8K TOTAL VENTILATORS) 37% Utilized	

RESBAKUNA KASANGGA NG BIDA **UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

Para sa kaligtasan ng ating mga tahanan at komunidad, tiyakin natin ang masusing pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Napatunayan na ang bisa nito, kaakibat ng ating pambansang pagbabakuna, upang labanan ang pagkalat ng anumang variant ng COVID-19. Panatilihin din natin ang kaligtasan ng ating mga tahanan, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa ating **BHERTS** o **One COVID Referral Center** sa cras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas ng COVID-19. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333.

Panatilihin din natin ang ating pagiging alisto sa iba pang mga karamdaman at tangkilikin ang ligtas na konsultayong hatid ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**. Puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/FreeTelemed> para malaman kung paano maabot ang kanilang serbisyo.

 <p>Itinaasap ka namin ng lugar para mag isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod: SMART: 0919 977 3333 GLDRE: 0915 777 7777 TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00</p>	 <p>May tanong ukol sa COVID 19? I-chat na sa KIRA! VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH MESSAGE: Department of Health PH KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph</p>	 <p>Manatiling ligtas! I-download ang StaySafe App O Gamitin ang WBAPP at pumunta sa StaySafe.ph</p>
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Mahigit 7,000 ang panibagong napaulat na kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Martes (July 27), pumalo na sa 1,562,420 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabi kasing bilang, 56,477 o 3.6 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 7,186 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

93.8 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 1.1 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.58 porsyento ang moderate; 2.3 porsyento ang severe habang 1.3 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 72 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 27,318 o 1.75 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 5,672 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 1,478,625 o 94.6 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



Residents of Marikina City line up for their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine at mega vaccination site in Marikina Sports Center on July 8, 2021.

The STAR/Boy Santos

'We are in a surge': OCTA calls for lockdowns as Metro Manila cases rise

[Christian Deiparine](#) (Philstar.com) - July 27, 2021 - 3:14pm

MANILA, Philippines — OCTA Research on Tuesday called for "circuit-breaking" lockdowns as it said a surge in COVID-19 infections has begun in Metro Manila where the highly transmissible Delta variant may be playing a factor.

The call came as authorities detect more cases of the Delta with local transmission and as President Rodrigo Duterte warned Monday a return to the lockdowns of 2020 is possible.

"Right now, it's official: we are in a surge here in the National Capital Region," OCTA fellow Ranjit Rye told a government briefing. "We can't disregard or not pay attention to this increase."

He said Metro Manila's reproduction rate is now at 1.33 from the 0.6 just last month. The figure refers to the number of persons a COVID-19 positive individual can infect.

The Department of Health on Monday acknowledged that the capital region is seeing an increase in cases, but cautioned against using the term "surge" as it maintained this has not been observed yet.

Health officials over the weekend reported 55 new Delta infections, six of which had indicated address in the Metro Manila. By July 24, the total count of persons with the variant has stood at 119, along with four deaths and 12 active cases.

"We need to have anticipatory, preventive, [and] circuit-breaking lockdowns," Rye continued in mixed English and Filipino. "If we do this in the next two weeks, we will not only bring down cases and deaths but also save the economy."

The OCTA member said Metro Manila is now reporting nearly a thousand additional cases. Should that reach 2,000, Rye said hospitals may be overwhelmed as they were in past months.

He added government should no longer wait for infections in Metro Manila to go up further before restricting movements. "If we lock down later with already 5,000 cases, we will be closed down for months," Rye said.

"We don't want what happened in Indonesia, in India, and what is happening in Thailand, where cases exploded because their response was too little and too late," the expert continued.



Health Secretary Francisco Duque III in the same briefing agreed with OCTA on the need for stricter measures. He said the pandemic task force and government experts would meet today and study the panel's recommendation for lockdown.

Government is expected to announce this week the new quarantine classifications for August.

How other areas are faring

While OCTA noted that the capital region is experiencing an uptick in cases, it is areas in Cebu province that are considered the Philippines' virus "hotspot."

"Their reproduction rate is high at around 1.9," fellow Guido David said in Filipino of Cebu City, Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu. "In fact, in terms of average daily cases, Cebu City is the highest in the entire country."

Davao City, meanwhile, which consistently reported the highest new cases in recent weeks, is seeing a decrease in infections despite confirming a Delta variant case, per OCTA.

Experts said that Cagayan de Oro remains a hotspot, too. A "critical risk" area, it remains with high ICU utilization rate and reproduction number.

OCTA said other areas considered hotspots are: Laoag City in Ilocos Norte, where a Delta cases was also confirmed, along with parts of Ilocos Sur, and Mariveles in Bataan.

Referencing Filipina weighlifter Hildilyn Diaz, who won the Philippines' first gold in the Olympics, Rye said the country should also "step up its game" in responding to the threat of the Delta variant.

"We need to work fast," he added, "work together, and urgently considered these bold moves."



Publiko pinaiiwas sa pagkain sa labas, social gatherings

By [Mer Layson](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 28, 2021 - 12:00am



Babala ni Prof. Ranjit Rye, mataas ang posibilidad na mahawahan ng virus kung kakain sa labas at dadalo sa mga maramihang pagtitipon, lalo na kung hindi pa bakunado laban sa COVID-19.

MANILA, Philippines — Pinaiiwas muna ng OCTA Research Group ang publiko sa pagkain sa labas at pagdalo sa mga social gatherings, kasunod na rin ng banta ng pagkalat ng Delta variant sa bansa.

Babala ni Prof. Ranjit Rye, mataas ang posibilidad na mahawahan ng virus kung kakain sa labas at dadalo sa mga maramihang pagtitipon, lalo na kung hindi pa bakunado laban sa COVID-19.

Pinayuhan din niya ang publiko na sa sandaling available na ang bakuna ay kaagad magpaturok upang maprotektahan sila laban sa virus.

Binigyang-diin ni Rye na ang pagpapabakuna ang long term solution sa problema sa COVID-19.

Sinabi naman ni Dr. Guido David na ang prevention ang susi upang makaiwas sa sakit ngayong limitado pa ang suplay ng bakuna.

“We are in a race against the Delta variant. 20% of our population are fully vaccinated, and we need 40% to 50% fully vaccinated for population protection,” ayon kay David.

“We will not meet that population protection until around September or October before herd immunity by the end of the year,” ayon pa kay Guido.

Sa datos ng Department of Health, nakapagtala na ang Pilipinas ng 119 kaso ng Delta variant ngunit 12 na lamang sa mga ito ang aktibo.

Nakapagbakuna na rin ng 17.5 milyong doses kabilang ang 6.3 milyon na fully-vaccinated na. Target ng gobyerno na makapagbakuna ng hanggang 70 milyong Pinoy upang makamit ang herd immunity laban sa COVID.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/07/28/2115711/publiko-pinaiiwas-sa-pagkain-sa-labas-social-gatherings/amp/>



LAHAT DAPAT MAKIGIYERA LABAN SA COVID-19 AT VARIANTS NITO



July 27, 2021 @ 3:21 PM 15 hours ago

TUMATAAS muli ang bilang ng mga biktima ng pandemyang likha ng coronavirus at may kinalaman dito ang mga anak o variant ng orig na coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Para maging malinaw na malinaw, may apat na anak o variant: Alpha mula sa UK, Beta mula sa South Africa, Theta mula mismo sa Pinas at nitong huli, Delta mula sa India.

ANG KALAGAYAN

Naglalaro na sa 1,555,000 ang kabuuang biktima ng COVID-19 sa mahal kong Pinas simula noong pumasok ang pandemya sa atin noong Enero 2020.

Mula sa kabuuang biktima, naglalaro na sa 27,300 ang patay at nasa 55,000 ang aktibo.

Titigan natin ang nagaganap.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, mga Bro, may 1,773 kaso ng Alpha variant, kasama ang 116 patay at 19 aktibo.

Ito namang Beta variant, may 2,019 kaso, kasama na ang 72 patay at 19 aktibo habang itong Theta, may 244 kaso, kasama na ang 1 aktibo at 3 patay.

Ang Delta variant? May 119 kaso, 4 patay at 12 aktibong kaso.

Kung ikukumpara natin ang sama-samang bilang ng mga kaso, patay at aktibo ng mga variant sa kabuuang bilang ng mga biktima ng orig na virus, malayong mas mabagsik pa rin sa pagpatay ang orig at mas marami pa rin ang biktima nito.

Tingnan na lang din ang araw-araw na natatagpuang positibo na nasa 5,500, kakaunti lang ang mga aktibo o bagong kaso ng nagsasama-samang variants.

Pero huwag tayong magpakasiguro, lalo na sa Delta variant na katuwang ng orig na virus sa India at Indonesia na pumapatay ng mahigit 1,000 araw-araw.

DELTA VARIANT GALING SA US, DENMARK

Ang Delta variant ay hindi naman talaga galing sa India subalit ang grabeng pananalasa nito sa nasabing bansa ang nagtulak sa iba na kilalanin itong Delta o India variant.

Lahat ng pag-aaral dito ay nagtuturo sa United States at Denmark na orig na pinanggalingan ng virus na ito.



Double mutant ang tawag dito dahil binubuo ito pangunahin ng virus na L452R na galing sa California, US at ng E484Q na galing naman sa Denmark.

Tinawag din ang Delta variant na B.1.617 at kahit galing sa ibang bansa, sa India nanalasa at ngayon lumundag ito sa Indonesia at kasama na ang Pilipinas sa nasa 100 bansang pinasok nito.

Ito ang gawa ng Delta variant: Sa loob lang ng 3-4 araw, maaaring maging severe o kritikal na ang pasyente, 60 porsyentong mas nakahahawa kumpara sa orig at ibang COVID variant at bawas nang malaki ang bisa ng lahat ng bakuna na ginagamit natin.

Kaya ngayon pa lang, pinag-uusapan na ang ikatlong tusok bilang booster o pampalakas sa unang dalawang tusok ng bakuna.

MGA PINASOK NG DELTA VARIANT

Sabihin na nating nagsimula ang pagpasok ng Delta variant sa bansa noong mga unang linggo ng Mayo, sa pamamagitan ng 11 crew ng M/V Athena Bridge, dalawang overseas Filipino worker mula sa Belgium, Oman at United Arab Emirates at ilang Indian na galing sa India at ngayon lumobo na sa 119 kaso.

Sa ulat ng Department of Health, kumalat na ito sa National Capital Region, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Central Luzon, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, Antique, at Ilocos Region.

Ngayong buwan lang, Hulyo 2021, pabilis nang pabilis ang pagkalat nito.

At ang masama, may lokal nang impeksyon sa anyo ng pamilya at iba na nahawaan ng may taglay ng virus.

Ang masama pa, kahit deklarado nang gumaling na ang ilan, may nakitaan muli ng pagbalik-positibo.

Sa paggala ng mga ito, lalong lalala ang hawaan at ang hawaan ay napakabilis.

SAMA-SAMA, TULONG-TULONG

Ginagawa ng pamahalaan, nasyunal at lokal, ang lahat ng pakikipaggyera sa COVID-19, kasama na ang Delta variant.

Nandiyan ang sama-sama nilang pagbili ng bakuna at pagbabakuna at mga border control o travel ban sa 10 bansa at mga border control sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at pagdedeklara ng mga community quarantine.

Nandiyan din ang contact tracing, panggagamot, paglalagay sa home o quarantine facility, pagtesting at retesting, agarang paglilibing ng mga patay at iba pa.

Ang pangunahing hinihiling naman ng pamahalaan sa mga mamamayan ay sumali ang lahat sa giyera, partikular ang pagpapabakuna at pagsunod sa mga health protocol.

Huwag sanang magpatumpik-tumpik ang mga hindi pa nababakunahan at huwag maging choosy sa bakuna.

Sa health protocol, hindi mahirap ang pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield, pag-social distancing, paghuhugas ng kamay at pananatili sa bahay ang mga bawal lumabas.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



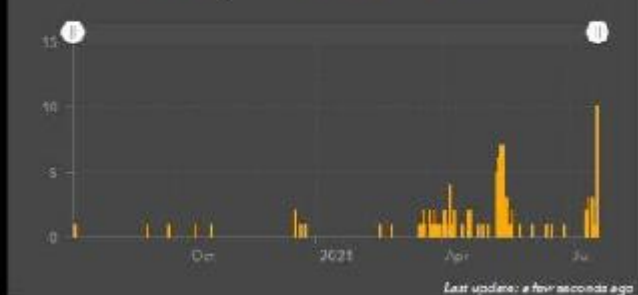
Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.



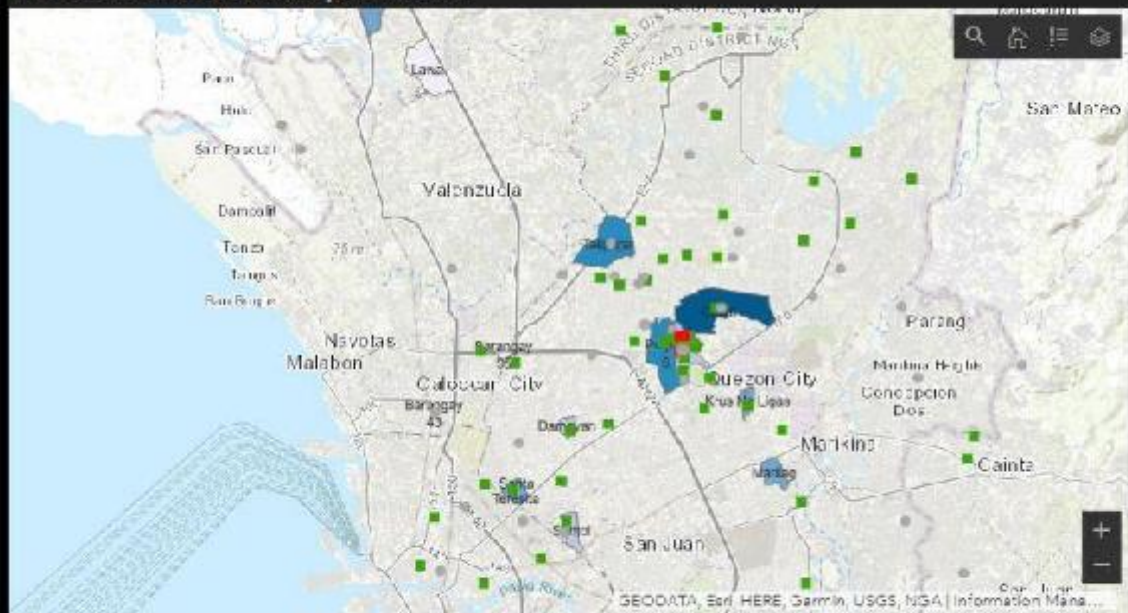
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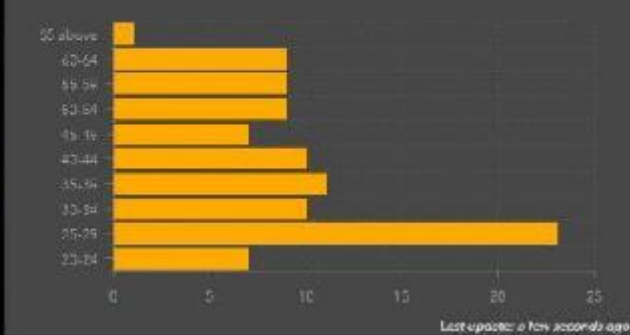
Residence of affected personnel



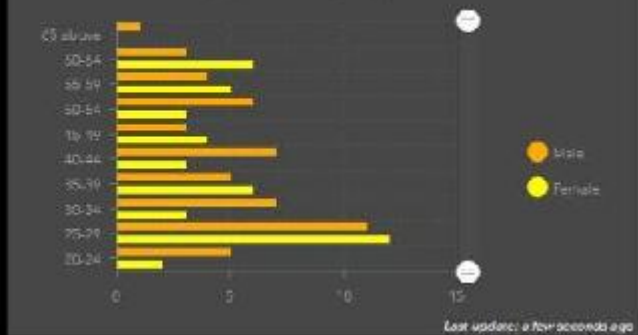
Please note the representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.

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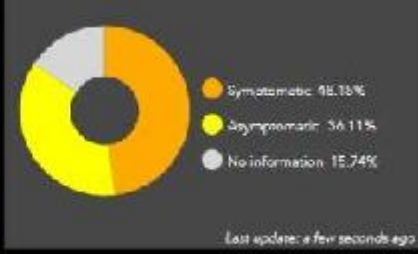
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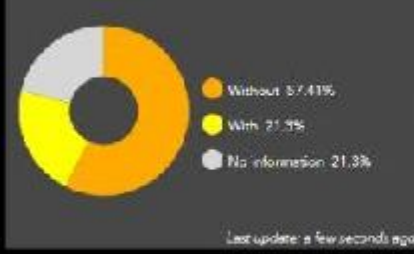
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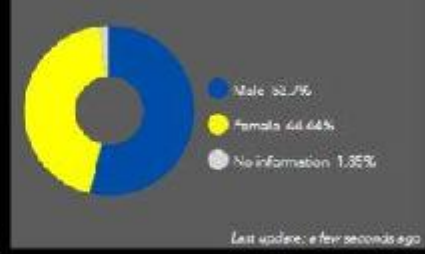
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what to know about the

DELTA VARIANT

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

IT SPREADS EASILY

The Delta, or B.1.617 variant, is highly transmissible. That means it's even better at finding unvaccinated individuals than previous strains.

Scientists have found that Delta is spreading 50% faster than Alpha (B.1.1.7), which was 50% more contagious than the original strain of the virus.



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IT MOVES QUICKLY



First discovered in India in late 2020.



In April 2021, it exploded in India and caused a devastating second wave there.



By mid-June 2021, the variant became responsible for 90% of cases in the U.K. and was linked with a COVID spike there.



The CDC announced this week that the delta variant now makes up 83% of all COVID-19 cases in the U.S. This is a large increase from the week of July 3, when it accounted for 50% of cases. Cases and hospitalizations (mostly among unvaccinated individuals) are rising across the country.

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DELTA SYMPTOMS

A U.K. study suggests that people infected with the Delta variant may have different symptoms than those identified previously for COVID-19. Patients have reported:



HEADACHES



SORE
THROAT



RUNNY
NOSE



FEVER

If you have symptoms, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.

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WHAT NEXT?

Viruses will continue to mutate if they continue to spread. The best way to protect yourself and your family and community (including kids who aren't eligible yet) from Delta and future variants is to:



get vaccinated.

And encourage your friends and family to as well.

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