

29 NOVEMBER 2021, MONDAY



DENR

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DENR wants stricter policies on anti-microbial products

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star November 29, 2021 | 12:00am



In a statement issued yesterday, the DENR said that high concentrations of antibiotics cause “irreversible environmental contamination” that may, in turn, affect the country’s ecological sustainability.

[twitter.com / DENROfficial](https://twitter.com/DENROfficial)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has called for stronger policies on the use and disposal of anti-microbial products as the country continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a statement issued yesterday, the DENR said that high concentrations of antibiotics cause “irreversible environmental contamination” that may, in turn, affect the country’s ecological sustainability.

“Important policy measures that target specific high-risk environments with elevated concentrations of antibiotics, such as wastewater treatment plants in hospitals, health care facilities, and pharmaceutical industries are of utmost importance,” DENR Undersecretary for field operations and environment, Juan Miguel Cuna, said.

“The proper use and disposal policies of these antibiotics are vital in maintaining ecological sustainability,” he added.

Cuna, during the “World Antimicrobial Awareness Week” media forum held last Nov. 18, said that the rise in antibiotic consumption can bring permanent damage to the environment and can also “endanger the health of humans and animals.”

“To improve knowledge and awareness on the impacts of antibiotic residues on the environment, there is a need to explain the causal relationship between their presence and effects on the ecosystem to avoid irreversible consequences,” he said.

Cuna said there is also a need for multisectoral collaboration in addressing the pressing issue of antimicrobial resistance.

“The emergent issue of antibiotic residues and antimicrobial resistance is a complex phenomenon that requires collaborative approaches and efforts from government, relevant organizations and stakeholders,” he said.

According to the World Health Organization, antibiotic resistance may develop when the bacteria in soil, rivers and seawater are always in contact with the chemicals found in antibiotics and disinfectant agents released by human activity.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/11/29/2144531/denr-wants-stricter-policies-anti-microbial-products>



DENR bats for proper disposal of antimicrobials

posted November 28, 2021 at 10:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Sunday underscored the importance of enforcing policies on the proper use and disposal of antimicrobials to maintain the country's ecological sustainability.

To stop the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials, Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment Juan Miguel Cuna echoed the campaign of the Department of Health against antimicrobial resistance during the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week High-Level Media Forum.

"Important policy measures that target specific high-risk environments with elevated concentrations of antibiotics, such as wastewater treatment plants in hospitals, health care facilities, and pharmaceutical industries are of utmost importance," he said.

"The proper use and disposal policies of these antibiotics are vital in maintaining ecological sustainability," he added.

Secretary Roy Cimatu emphasized the parallel importance of behavior change in addressing antimicrobial resistance and in caring for the environment.

"Just like addressing environmental issues, the Filipino people need behavior change to combat antibiotic misuse and abuse and prevent antimicrobial resistance in the country," he said.

He said the rise in antibiotic consumption could bring permanent damage to the environment, and could also endanger the health of humans and animals.

"Increased antibiotic consumption can cause irreversible environmental contamination and threaten human and animal health," he said.



DENR flags 'superbug' threat from improper disposal of antibiotic waste

November 28, 2021 | 9:37 pm



REUTERS

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said public health is at risk from the improper use and disposal of antibiotics from healthcare facilities and the pharmaceuticals industry, which could give rise to “superbugs” that resist treatments available on the market.

“Important policy measures that target specific high-risk environments with elevated concentrations of antibiotics, such as wastewater treatment plants in hospitals, healthcare facilities, and pharmaceutical industries, are of utmost importance,” Environment Undersecretary for Field Operations Juan Miguel T. Cuna said in a statement Sunday.

According to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) website, organisms resistant to antibiotics or “superbugs” that cause infections not treatable with current antimicrobial medicines are spreading rapidly, making antimicrobial resistance one of the top 10 global public health threats worldwide.

The WHO added that the environment plays a major role in antibiotic resistance because bacteria in soil, rivers, and seawater can develop resistance through contact with resistant bacteria, antibiotics, and disinfectant agents released by human activity.

The Department of Agriculture has also warned the public against the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials in animals, especially food-producing animals.

“The careless and excessive use of antibiotics in food-producing animals can result in resistant bacteria not only in livestocks but also in the people who consume meat and poultry products,” Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said in a statement on Nov. 18.

Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, in the same statement, called for “prudent and rational use of antimicrobials.” — **Bianca Angelica D. Añago**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-flags-superbug-threat-from-improper-disposal-of-antibiotic-waste/>



DENR seeks ₱181.6M for Covid waste management program

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

NOVEMBER 29, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is seeking a budget of P181.6 million to set up a preliminary treatment and storage facility for coronavirus-related healthcare waste.

The proposed budget for Covid-19 waste management forms part of its proposed P774-million solid waste management program budget for 2022.

Once its budget proposal is approved, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), the DENR is planning to provide funds for 227 local government units (LGUs) nationwide, representing 81 provinces and 146 cities, for the proper collection, treatment, storage and disposal of protective personal equipment, syringes, vials and other Covid-related healthcare waste from households, vaccination sites, and testing and quarantine facilities.

In a statement, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the plan will help address the increase in Covid-19-related healthcare waste in the country.

“While Covid-19 cases in the country have started to decline, healthcare wastes generated by the situation have continuously become a challenge among cities and provinces. Through this program, we hope to support LGUs in improving the collection of Covid-19 related healthcare wastes especially in remote areas and among small generators that are not serviced by treatment, storage and disposal facilities,” he said.

Benny D. Antiporda, the DENR’s Undersecretary for Solid Waste and LGUs Concerns, said the proposed treatment and storage facility will serve as a temporary and transit point for Covid-19 related healthcare wastes such as personal protective equipment, syringes, needles, and vials for chemical disinfection and storage before these are transported to a TSD facility.

The proposed waste management program was announced by Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change chair Senator Cynthia Villar, who sponsored the DENR budget at the Senate plenary session on November 15.

“I hope in behalf of the Senate that this program towards giving to 81 provinces and 146 cities of treatment and storage facility of Covid-19 will be the first priority of the DENR. We have allocated a big part of the budget for solid waste management program of the DENR and they will use this budget for this,” Villar said during the plenary session.

The proposal was developed by the DENR based on a recommendation of Villar and Senator Francis Tolentino during the Senate budget hearing last month to extend more assistance to LGUs for the management of Covid-related healthcare wastes.

The proposed P181.6-million budget will be coursed through the DENR regional offices. Each LGU will receive P800,000 for the establishment of special waste facilities.

The Covid-19 healthcare waste program for LGUs does not cover medical wastes coming from hospitals.



Aside from the preliminary treatment and storage facility, the solid waste management program budget for 2022 will include support for the establishment of trash traps, collection and disposal services for garbage patches, provision of solid waste management equipment such shredders, composters, and plastic recycling equipment for LGUs nationwide, and hauling services for solid waste collected in Boracay.



DENR acts on COVID medical waste

By **Jed Macapagal** - November 29, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing to allocate P181.6 million for the establishment of preliminary treatment and storage facilities for new coronavirus 2019-related healthcare waste from its P774-million solid waste management program budget for 2022.

The DENR said through the Environmental Management Bureau, funds will be provided for 227 local government units (LGUs) nationwide representing 81 provinces and 146 cities for the proper collection, treatment, storage and disposal of protective personal equipment, syringes, vials and other COVID-related healthcare wastes from households, vaccination sites, testing and quarantine facilities.

In a statement, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, said that while COVID cases in the country have started to decline, healthcare wastes generated by the situation have continuously become a challenge among cities and provinces especially in remote areas and among small generators that are not serviced by treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) facilities.

The DENR said the proposed treatment and storage facilities will serve as temporary and transit points for COVID-related healthcare wastes such as personal protective equipment, syringes, needles and vials for chemical disinfection and storage before these are transported to a TSD facility.

The proposed P181.6 million budget will be coursed through DENR regional offices as each LGU will receive P800,000 for the establishment of special waste facilities.

However, the DENR pointed out that the healthcare waste program for LGUs does not cover medical wastes coming from hospitals.

Aside from the preliminary treatment and storage facility, DENR's solid waste management program budget for 2022 will include support for the establishment of trash traps; collection and disposal services for garbage patches; provision of solid waste management equipment such as shredders, composters and plastic recycling equipment for LGUs nationwide; and hauling services for solid waste collected in Boracay.



Metro Manila cyclists ride from QC to Navotas to mark National Bicycle Day

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 28 2021 03:28 PM



Bikers ride out from Quezon City to Navotas led by the National Bicycle Organization with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on National Bicycle Day, November 28, 2021. Bicycle usage and demand for better cycling infrastructure in the country emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — Dozens of cyclists rode from Quezon City to Navotas as part of the celebration of National Bicycle Day (NBD) on Sunday.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and National Bicycle Organization led the event, which had the theme "Cleaner air through bicycle-friendly Philippines" this year.

Aside from the bike parade, NBP will also be celebrated through a coastal cleanup, lectures on bike road safety, and turnover of three free bike racks to the city government of Navotas, the DENR said in a statement.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda earlier said 300 bikers are expected to join the bike parade in Metro Manila, lower than the 10,000 participants prior to the pandemic.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority allowed only up to 300 bike participants to comply with health standards against the spread of COVID-19, Antiporda said.

In 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte declared the fourth Sunday of November of every year as National Bicycle Day, though the event has been celebrated for the past 7 years.

In 2014, 30,000 bikers took part in the nationwide NBD celebration, said Antiporda.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/28/21/cyclists-mark-national-bicycle-day-in-metro-manila>



DZBB Super Radyo

@dzbb



ICYMI: Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach sa lungsod ng Maynila, hindi pa mabubuksan sa publiko hanggang sa pagtatapos ng taon — Usec. Benny Antiporda, @DENROfficial. | via @luisitosantos03

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DENR coastal management program receives support from Germany

November 28, 2021 | 9:38 pm



THE German government is supporting a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) program that will make coastal management more prominent in the development plans of local government units (LGUs), the DENR said.

The DENR and the German government expect the focus on coastal management to better protect 70% of the population from storm surges, floods, and other life-threatening impacts of climate change.

“Having an integrated coastal management plan means that coastal communities can effectively protect, maintain, and sustain their coastal resources,” according to Rhodora May Sumaray-Raras, policy advisor for the German Environment Ministry’s coastal protection project in Western Visayas, as implemented by the German development cooperation company Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and its partners, writing in an e-mail Sunday.

Ms. Sumaray-Raras added that the program hopes to widen the use of scientific methods in coming up with environmental risk assessments, coastal zoning and spatial planning, and the economic valuation of natural resources.

The storm surge accompanying by typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) in November 2013 killed about 6,000 people in Tacloban City, while leaving 4.1 million people homeless and 1,800 missing.

The German government has also partnered with Bohol province, the Bohol Island Development Foundation, and the Zoological Society of London in providing training on mangrove rehabilitation, the management of marine protected areas, the establishment of mangrove nurseries, law enforcement, and awareness campaigns to protect coastal resources. Coastal resources such as mangroves, beach forests, and coral reefs are natural buffer systems that shield people from typhoons, storm surges, and other coastal hazards.

“Integrated coastal management is one of the region’s priorities under the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment... a number of national and local government authorities have been applying an Integrated Coastal Management system,” ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim said.

In a mobile message on Sunday, Climate Reality Project Philippines Manager Nazrin D. Castro said: “Sea level rise, together with other climate change impacts and natural hazards such as ocean acidification, saltwater intrusion, coral bleaching, and coastal flooding, will continue to threaten the lives and the economic lifeline of most of our coastal communities.”



She said the National Government must “provide LGUs with the necessary technical and financial assistance to develop science-based and risk-informed Local Climate Change Action Plans, Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Comprehensive Development Plans, and Annual Investment Plans.”

Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities Deputy Executive Director Kairos T. dela Cruz in an e-mail interview Sunday that is also important “to look beyond episodic events such as typhoons and storm surges and to focus on long-term planning opportunities around slow onset events (SOEs) such as sea-level rise, increase in sea temperature, and acidification.”

Mr. Dela Cruz said SOEs are small and incremental but are “even more dangerous than episodic extremes, enough to make communities inhabitable and bankrupt provincial regional economies.”

He added that since there is no “death toll or drama on TV,” SOEs are often neglected by the government and there is no budget for such events even though they can damage vulnerable communities irreparably in the long run. — **Bianca Angelica D. Añago**



Pasonanca Natural Park: Zamboanga City's important life support system

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA NOVEMBER 28, 2021



Rivers with pristine water are common in the Pasonanca Natural Park.

At the heart of Zamboanga City's vast forest is the Pasonanca Natural Park (PaNP), a 17,000-hectare protected area that provides an important life-support system not only to the unique flora and fauna that can be found within it, but also to the people of its surrounding communities.

It was only recently that researchers confirmed it has the presence of a nesting Philippine eagle, making it home to the Philippine national bird and the world's largest bird of prey.

With this recent discovery, the Zamboanga City passed City Ordinance 551, an ordinance declaring the Philippine Eagle and the Zamboanga bulbul as flagship species of the city.

Rich biodiversity; only water source

The PaNP was considered the third highest in the Philippines in terms of level of biological diversity.

Its natural resources are a natural magnet for learners in the field of biology. It is being visited by researchers, students and other entities for educational purposes and agencies for their environmental activities

According to the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-BMB), the PaNP is the only source of potable water for Zamboanga City.

Almost 1 million people living in Zamboanga City rely on the clean drinking water they source from the park.

The Tumaga River also provides industrial and irrigation water for the area around the city.

There are six streams, one river and 20 perennial springs within the protected area which serve as the main source of domestic water for the city.



Watershed forest reserve

The PaNP, a legislated protected area by virtue of Republic Act (RA) 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (Enipas) Act of 2018, was first proclaimed as a watershed forest reservation pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 1999 on December 17, 1989, giving it the name "Pasonanca Watershed Forest Reserve."

It was later proclaimed as a protected area under the Nipas Act of 1992, and was named as the Pasonanca Natural Park as mandated by Presidential Proclamation 132 on July 5, 1999.

The PaNP straddles seven barangays including Bunguiao, Tolosa, Salaan, Lumayang, Pasonanca, Dulian and Baluno.

Natural park

A natural park is defined as a relatively large area not materially altered by a human activity where extractive-resource uses are not allowed, and it is maintained to protect outstanding natural and scenic areas of national or international significance for scientific, educational, and recreational use, which best describes the PaNP.

The PaNP's Strict Protection Zone, or "No-Take Zone," covers a total area of 12,000 hectares of primary-growth dipterocarp forest, while the remaining 5,000 buffer zone area is characterized by secondary-growth dipterocarp forest.

According to the DENR Zamboanga Peninsula Office, Zamboangueño and Visayan tribes occupy and cultivate the buffer zone areas and multiple-use zone of the park. Around 90 percent of the total households have been occupying these areas since the 1950s.

The major occupation of the residents in the area is farming and only a small fraction are engaged as wage and salary workers, mostly as maintenance workers and glue guards of the Zamboanga City Water District that protects the PaNP.

Dipterocarp forest

The DENR-BMB added that the PaNP has the largest block of old-growth lowland dipterocarp forest remaining in Region 9.

The old growth and secondary forest covers about 60 percent of the area, while the rest is agricultural land, coconut plantations and built-up areas.

The DENR Zamboanga Peninsula, for its part, reported in the PaNP's latest profile that there are about 70 species of trees belonging to the Dipterocarpaceae and Palmae families thriving within the park dominated with white and red lauan.

The other important tree species thriving in the national park are the Mindanao narek, mangasinoro, tanguile, apitong, yakal, almon and dao.

Threatened species

PaNP, both an Important Bird Area and Key Biodiversity Area, is home to the most threatened premium species of trees.

A total of 11 of the 96 most threatened and premium species in the Philippines are found in the national park.

Of its estimated 15,000 flora, 50 percent are endemic, and about 70 percent to 80 percent are flowering plants. Most of these are threatened outside the PaNP.

Meanwhile, the DENR-BMB said among the threatened wildlife in the PaNP are the Philippine hawk eagle and the red-headed flameback.



In 2018, Birdlife International reported that many of the threatened and restricted-range species in the Mindanao and Eastern Visayas Endemic Bird Area have been recorded in or near to Pasonanca Watershed.

It included the threatened Mindanao bleeding-heart, Philippine dwarf kingfisher, Philippine leafbird, little slaty flycatcher, and Zamboanga bulbul, which is confined to western Mindanao and Basilan.

The Enteng's monitor lizard, one of the two newly discovered Philippine endemic species of Asian monitor lizard, is also recorded in the park.

Tourism potential

The DENR-BMB said the PaNP is a potential tourist magnet in Zamboanga City. Among the tourism activities it offers are trekking, river/swimming, bird watching, nature sightseeing, filming/photo shooting and camping.

It has a total of 30 outposts and seven Biodiversity Monitoring Stations (BMS) around the Core Zone.

The BMS serve as lodges or sleeping quarters of park visitors. Each station has a potable water source and five have electricity.

However, PaNP Protected Area Superintendent Domeliza Campaner told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on November 23 that the park remains closed to visitors because of the quarantine restrictions being implemented by the local government.

Protecting the PaNP

According to Campaner, there is a very minimal threat within the area's core zone due to the presence of Zamboanga City Water District guards, but the pandemic is a big challenge.

She said the more than 140 Zamboanga City Water District blue guards are now down to just 45.

"Ever since, the PaNP is being protected by the blue guards. But now, we have to find a way to strengthen our forest protection program," she said in Filipino, adding that they are hoping that in the 2022, "we can have an additional budget for forest protection."

While the core zone, a strictly "no-take zone," is well protected, within buffer zones, however, timber poaching, wildlife hunting, small-scale mining and farming posed serious threats to the biodiversity of the national park.

Heritage park

The PaNP is a candidate for the distinct title of an Asean Heritage Park (AHP), which represents the "cream of the crop" of protected areas in Southeast Asia.

According to Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the DENR-BMB is pushing for the PaNP to become the country's 10th AHP, because of its pristine old-growth forests and ecosystem function as a source of the water supply of the whole Zamboanga City and nearby municipalities.

Moreover, approximately three years ago, a pair of Philippine eagle has been sighted in the protected area.

"This is the first time that Philippine eagles were sighted in the area, considering that it is very close to the city," ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on November 24.



What makes PaNP unique is that “it is a primary watershed , and also a habitat for a globally important species, endemic only to one country.”

“These the criteria in the recognition of as AHPs,” she said.

According to Lim, once the PaNP earned the title as an AHP, various support will be coming not only from the DENR, but the Asean as well, further boosting its protection and conservation.

“AHP is a brand that can help promote protected areas or national parks recognized as such...as nature tourism sites and to mobilize resources for strengthening management. ACB, for example, prioritizes support to AHPs for its programs and projects,” she explained.

Image courtesy of DENR Zamboanga Peninsula photo



Metro Pacific taps SAP to attain sustainability

BYRIZAL RAOUL REYES

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Digital technology will have an important role to play in helping enterprises uphold their sustainability goals, according to leading infrastructure investment company Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC).

Chaye Cabal-Revilla, MPIC's Chief Finance, Risk and Sustainability Officer, told a recent news conference via Zoom that the company decided to tap German software giant SAP to help it achieve the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), with UN SDG 9, which seeks to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation as its anchor.

Cabal-Revilla said this initiative is part of the group's sustainability philosophy of integrating business and environmental stewardship in its investment strategies.

"MPIC has always been committed to elevating its sustainability initiatives across the group," she said.

"We have put sustainability at the heart of MPIC, and it is evident in how we design, build, and operate our business with minimal social and ecological disruption," she added.

In this aspect, MPIC and SAP share the same vision to create a more sustainable future for all.

"We believe that RISE with SAP will help us improve our operations and augment our sustainability initiatives," Cabal-Revilla said.

For his part, SAP Philippines Managing Director Edler Panlilio said companies need metrics to measure their performance.

"It is critical for organizations to be able to accurately capture, monitor, and then optimize the sustainability drivers in key business processes enabled by a strong digital core. Businesses need to focus on being purpose driven and impact more than just the top and bottom line but also the green line," Panlilio said.

To achieve its goals, Panlilio said SAP aims to embed sustainability into its core business processes to deliver visibility and velocity that are required to inform and drive better business decisions through embedded, validated, real-time data in a holistic, integrated manner.

He added that SAP also walks the talk by being an enabler and an exemplar of its own sustainability practices with a clear "Chasing Zero" vision.

"We hope to work collectively with businesses and executives to prioritize environmental, social and governance (ESG) activities that support the interests of the broader group of stakeholders," he said.

Panlilio further said that organizations are compelled to create a greener and cleaner future complemented by greater equality than the current environment.

He pointed out that technology solutions will do the heavy lifting capturing, managing, analyzing, and using sustainability data more efficiently for better sustainability stewardship.



“With SAP Sustainability Control Tower solution, companies are able to gain a greater degree of granularity in reporting, a higher level of transparency around ESG performance, and can identify levers and options for driving corrective and enhanced action that take financial, social and environmental valuation into account,” Panlilio said.

He said SAP has most recently introduced its Product Footprint Management solution that lets companies calculate carbon footprints for their products and across the value chain.

According to the International Data Corp., organizations are enhancing their operations through digital transformation initiatives.

In its “Covid-19 Impact on IT Spending” survey held from October 15 to 30, 2020, the think tank said respondents rate their top organizational goals for this year, with 55 percent wanting to digitally enhance their products and services and 38 percent of respondents wanting to accelerate the pace of digital transformation or innovation.



ASEAN renews partnership with IUCN on regional support for biodiversity

Published on: November 28, 2021

By ACB

LAGUNA -- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) has renewed its partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), providing further support to the ASEAN and its Member States in achieving their goals in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the region's recovery framework.

ACB Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim and Dr. Dindo Campilan, regional director for Asia of the IUCN, led the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a virtual ceremony on Wednesday following the final session of the webinar series on sustainable financing of the ASEAN Heritage Parks.

"As two organisations whose mandates are focused on conserving biodiversity through capacity development, information and knowledge sharing, and synergy development, we formalise again a partnership that is poised to reinforce our efforts," Dr. Lim said.

Dr. Campilan emphasised that the assets and strengths of the ACB complement those of IUCN. IUCN is a global authority on the status of the natural world, composed of 1,400 government and civil society organisations with more than 18,000 experts.

"It's becoming urgent that we work together and that organisations, such as the ACB and the IUCN need to build synergy because it is only by looking both at our strengths that we can contribute to our planetary problems," Dr. Campilan said.

The ACB and the IUCN first embarked on a partnership through an MoU in 2016. The IUCN welcomed the ACB as an official associate member of Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) in 2019, supporting efforts in the region to identify innovations and solutions in addressing biodiversity loss and to effectively manage protected areas and the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs).

Among the slated activities under the ACB-IUCN cooperation are the conduct of the 2nd Asia Parks Congress in May 2022 in Malaysia and the 7th AHP Conference in October 2022 in Indonesia.





The two organisations will also work closely on the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative, which seeks to ensure the effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Indo-Burma region; as well as the preparation of the new situation analysis of the intertidal wetlands of the Yellow Sea.

The ACB and IUCN also pledged to advance the region's adoption of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, the first global standard of best practice for area-based conservation. (ACB)



Science camp helps kids make career decisions

BYS&T MEDIA SERVICES NOVEMBER 28, 2021



In response to the new education and career landscape brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute recently held a special online edition of its Climate Science Youth Camp to help high schoolers plot their future, a DOST-SEI news release said.

Held annually since 2009, except for a brief respite in 2020 due to the pandemic, the DOST-SEI Climate Science Youth Camp brings together scientists and researchers to give students and teachers a close-up glimpse at nature and how to take care of it.

This year's virtual camp was focused on the phenomenon of harmful algal blooms (HABs), or the proliferation—sometimes due to pollution or climate change—of microscopic water plants that are toxic to many animals, including people.

In addition to its usual emphasis on climate science, the camp also focused on helping school children make sense of the post-pandemic landscape with the theme, "Finding a Career Path Through Research."

Marine biologist and camp leader Dr. Aletta Yñiguez underscored the need for inclusivity and diversity in science research.

"We weaved a story between what we are doing for the HAB program and the routes we took toward science and our contributions in the program," Yñiguez explained.

"We have diverse roles but our paths toward what we're doing now don't necessarily follow the expected—from computer scientist to geologist to marine informatics, or biology and computer science or community work," she added.

She noted: "We wanted to show that you can and should be creative and innovative in approaching science and potential careers in research."

DOST-SEI Director Josette T. Biyo urged participants to pursue careers in science regardless of their backgrounds.

"We hope that this camp has helped students get a better idea of the careers that are open to them. Anyone from any walk of life can help protect the environment, and anybody with a healthy amount of curiosity can learn to become a scientist," Biyo underscored.



The 2021 Climate Science Youth Camp was attended by over three dozen students and teachers, from the National Capital Region as well as from as far away as Region III and Region IV-A in Luzon.

The DOST-SEI plans to expand the youth camp offerings to include even more regions and participants, with meteorology and geology as key topics for 2022. **S&T Media Services**



Man who can't speak gives voice to the environment

Jun Santiago III, CSsR for Internews/ PCP

Posted at Nov 28 2021 04:36 PM | Updated as of Nov 28 2021 06:58 PM

Ramon Sta. Ana, 67, could barely talk. Six successive strokes permanently damaged his speech motor, leaving the former barangay captain dependent on interpreters for communication.

His words are slurred. But whatever voice is left of him, the mangrove caretaker is dedicating it to the protection of the environment.

Sta. Ana, or Mon to his family and friends, was a former chief of Barangay Cagsao in the coastal municipality of Calabanga in Camarines Sur. Although his chairmanship ended in an election loss in 2013, residents still call him "Kap".

His stint was marked with a funny love affair with water. Sometimes, Mon fights for it, to help his neighbors get access to potable drinking water. There are times that he fights against it, by ensuring that the barrio is protected from storm surges.

Cagsao lies in the typhoon path of the Bicol region. On sunny days, the sleepy town's black sand is littered with seashells, which, during low tide, produce chime-like music as waves lap the shore. At high tide, a battering sound of waves pounds the boulders of the mountainside walls like a canon.



Cagsao is one of the littoral barangays of Calabanga, Camarines Sur. It lies near San Miguel Bay in Bicol region, where heavy siltation and storm surges are perennial problems. *Jun Santiago III, CSsR*

Cagsao is practically unheard of except for disasters and its 10-hectare mangrove forest that was planted in 2008.

In the mornings, the towering trees and their gigantic roots were abuzz with fishermen and children looking for fish and shells to catch. At night, it was a sight to behold with fireflies lighting up the rural darkness. If it weren't for garbage improperly disposed of, the site is a perfect location for romantic films.

Calabanga, meanwhile, is infamous for hellish disasters. The town, located 405 kilometers south of Metro Manila, is part of the typhoon belt in the Bicol region in southern Luzon. It battles multiple storms annually, and disasters often brought its villages, including Cagsao, down to their knees.

In 2004, three successive typhoons lashed Calabanga, leaving the village black and blue. Since then, climate change became a catchphrase for the barrio folk who experienced its fatal consequences firsthand.



In 2007, a community-led effort planted thousands of mangrove propagules in belief that this will be their best defense against disaster. *Jun Santiago III, CSsR*

When Kap heard this, he convinced the project implementers to include his barrio. Awed by Mon's passion and sincerity, the organization agreed. How could they say no to the passionate old man who was desperate to uplift the lives of the people of Cagsao?

There began his uphill battle for the protection of mangroves as he faced resistance from the townsfolk, who thought mangroves were not the solution to their common curse.

Fisherman Jose Posada was quick to thumb down Mon's plan. A skeptic Posada stressed that the project was bound to suffer the same fate as the failed reforestation attempts in the past. "Taon-taon naman, nagtatanim, wala namang nangyayari," Posada said.

But Mon stood firm in his belief. The voters' cold reception to his unpopular stand did not deter him from carrying out his vision. Instead of a defeatist attitude, Mon launched an information drive to explain why mangroves are the villagers' best defense against storms and the best guardians of San Miguel Bay.

Cagsao used to have its own mangrove belt before men deforested the area. When the shore turned into the barren land, the community became at high risk of disasters.

While campaigning for the project to push through, Mon suffered a fourth stroke, which further damaged his speech motor. But Mon was unstoppable. He visited homes to convince the public about the benefits of mangroves. Through interpreters, the barangay captain unwaveringly explained how the forest is a natural buffer against disasters. He added that mangroves would provide the fishing community economic benefits because their roots serve as a nursery to marine life.

The people were slowly convinced. In April 2008, adult residents and children joined Mon in planting the initial 150,000 propagules. His critics, like Posada, eventually became forest caretakers, too.



Erwin Guerero, 8, joins adults of Cagsao on August 20, 2008 during the reforestation project. *Jun Santiago III, CSsR*



Mon's battle to protect Mangroves continued. Two years later, a group of fishermen asked for a "right of way" so they could conveniently dock their boats. The request meant cutting several young mangroves, which, at that time, was just beginning to entrench its roots.

Mon said no and passed an unpopular ordinance penalizing the cutting of mangroves.

In 2013, Mon ran again and lost.

Four years later, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) approved the cutting of young mangroves to pave the way for an "eco-tourism" site that resembled the famous bamboo forest in Kyoto, Japan.

Several mangroves were taken down to build a bamboo bridge and resting hut in the middle of the plantation. This attracted an unregulated number of tourists and visitors. It created a buzz and turned Cagsao into an online hit.

The site attracted v-loggers, who talked about the mangroves' beauty but not its destruction. Ironically, most vlogs on Youtube called for the protection of these trees while standing on a destroyed plantation that was built for tourists.

The bridge around the mangroves eventually fell after three years, and the eco-tourism site shut down. The once "instagram-able" tourist attraction has become a useless garbage at the heart of the forest.



ISN'T IT IRONIC? Mangroves were cut down to pave the way for the creation of an eco-tourism site where the local government teaches the public about the importance of mangroves. *Jun Santiago III, CSSR*

Even villagers wouldn't dare cross the bridge. Against Mon's advice, the bamboo pathway was built using metal nails that were not easily visible, especially in mud-filled lands where the plantation stood, making residents wary of accidentally stepping on the metal nails.

This pains Mon, who felt the eco-tourism project came too soon.

"Napakabata pa ng mga mangroves nang umpisahan ang eco-tourism project. Ang mangroves ay para sa storm surges sana, hindi para sa isang tourist attraction," he said through interpreter Armando Torres.

Mon never made a comeback in politics but continued to watch over the forest as a mangrove caretaker. Despite years in public service, he applied for the job without fanfare. Humility never escaped him as he proudly wears his caretaker ID.



HUMBLE AND PROUD: Mon proudly identifies himself as caretaker of the mangrove forest. He always wears this ID with a smile. *Jun Santiago III, CSsR*

The former barangay chieftain had no qualms picking up pieces of garbage that littered the sea and hung on the roots of mangroves as if they were decorations of Christmas trees.

Some forest visitors thoughtlessly hold tree planting activities at the mangrove site without considering the type of species the area needs. Each time, Mon would carefully pluck them out and replant them where they can survive.

He religiously submitted accomplishment reports to the DENR and never failed to remind them that what Cagsao needs is a second wave of mangrove reforestation. Mon has yet to hear from the DENR for this request.

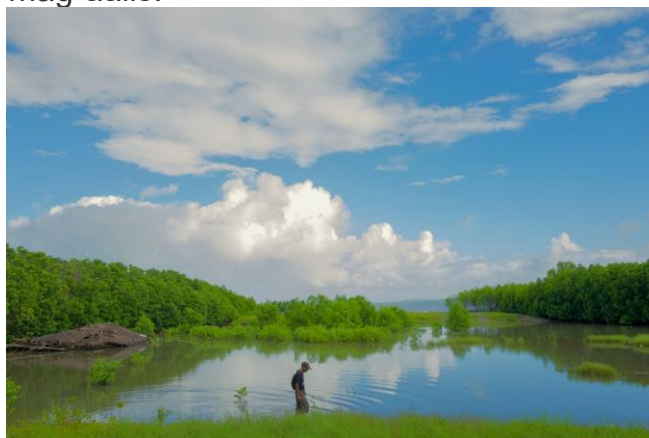
Mon felt like no one believed his vision just like the doomed Greek goddess Cassandra.

Looking at the mudflats in an interview earlier this month, Mon said: "Ito ang sinasabi kong malawak na lugar para muling pagtaniman. Pero walang naniniwala. Noong umpisahan ang site na iyan ay ganundin naman. Hindi daw mabubuhay at matagal pa bago mapapakinabangan, sayang lang ang resources."

Mon has always loved agriculture and the sea as a young man. But his father, a fisherman, did not want Mon to end up like him. So he sent Mon to Manila for a university degree. But after finishing commerce, Mon went back to the barrio to do what he loved to do: serve nature and humanity.

Months before the March 2020 pandemic lockdown, another bad news reached Mon's doorsteps. Incumbent barangay officials passed a resolution demanding the demolition of a mound that sprouted near the seashore because the piece of land was blocking the fishermen's route to the sea.

Mon vehemently opposed the proposal. This time, he had the mayor's backing. "Hindi yan aalisin." Mayor Ed Severo rejected the whims of the new barangay council. "Kalikasan ang naglagay, kalikasan ang mag-aalis."



Mon stands close to the natural sea wall (upper right most corner) that the mangroves created to protect the community of Cagsao against storm surges. This is Mon's last testament to the barrio. *Jun Santiago III, CSsR*



The piece of land that the fishermen petitioned to remove turned out to be a moor or a natural sea wall that the mangroves created through time to protect the community from the punishing whip of storm surges. The Tapar family, who had experienced nightmarish disasters in the past, said they have stopped evacuating ever since.

The plantation's success improved the fisherman's catch, too. The site benefitted academia after it turned into an outdoor classroom for students and environmentalists alike. The local government now prides itself as a protector of the environment. And international nongovernmental organizations are tapping each other's back for a job well done.

Mon does not mind to remain invisible despite his efforts. Mon said caring for the mangroves is his last testament to the barrio. He might have lost the elections but in looking after this forest, his constituents win.

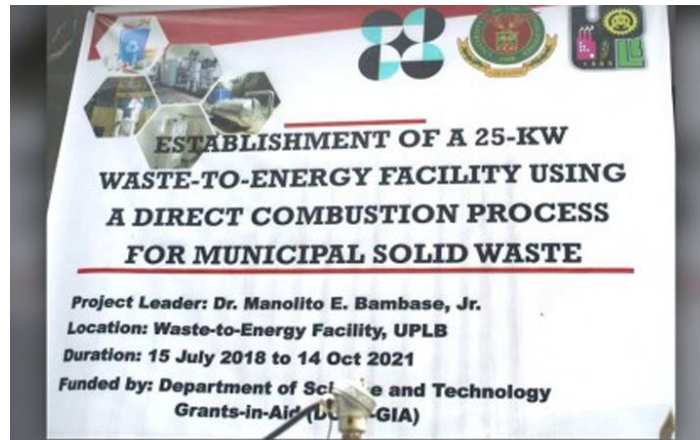
With support from Internews' Earth Journalism Network (EJN) and Photojournalists' Center of the Philippines (PCP)



Expert belies ecological benefits of WTE in vlog

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

NOVEMBER 26, 2021



A new campaign against waste-to-energy (WTE) dubbed Waste Burning Exposed by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)-Asia Pacific has debunked the alleged “myths” of garbage disposal by turning it into some form of energy.

The “Public Service Announcement” posted on YouTube featured distinguished professor and environmental scientist Dr. Jorge Emmanuel, discussing matters WTE which is now being eyed by the government as a solution to the country’s perennial garbage problem.

“WTE is simply waste incineration in disguise. It burns ton of municipal wastes to generate a small amount of net energy, while emitting massive amounts of toxic pollutants and greenhouse gases,” he said.

Similar to other countries in the Global South, waste incinerators are being peddled in the Philippines, despite a national incinerator ban, as a solution to managing waste.

In a privilege speech in September 2020, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian proposed the inclusion of WTE facilities in managing and treating the country’s growing waste.

Citing “sustainability” and “stability,” he justified that “incinerators do not only minimize waste but also generate energy.”

Environmental NGOs, private individuals, and communities have raised concerns stating that the supposed benefits far outweigh the health, economic, and environmental costs on cities and communities.

These claims was substantiated by Emmanuel in his campaign material, indicating “incinerators do fail in living up to their promises.”

“Continuous monitoring of the state-of-the-art waste-to-energy plant in Harlingen, Netherlands revealed dioxin levels exceeding legal limits so much so that grass and eggs in farms up to 10 km away had high amounts of dioxins. Even when governments adopt international emission standards, it doesn’t guarantee that dangerous emissions aren’t being released, especially in developing countries where there is no technical capacity to monitor emissions continuously,” he said.

In a news statement, Yobel Novian Putra of GAIA Asia Pacific, said there are several waste incinerator proposals in the Philippines and all proposals claim that incinerators are clean and safe.



“What they don’t tell is that even in Europe, where standards are high, waste incinerators have been recorded to emit highly toxic pollutants —such as dioxins and heavy metal—and release immense amounts of CO₂,” he said.

“Incinerators feed on highly combustible waste like plastic. Mostly made from fossil fuels, plastic that is burned in incinerators will add more than 850 million metric tons of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere—equal to the pollution from 189 new 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants,” Putra said.



INAEC submits climate pledge



BY LORENZ S. MARASIGAN

NOVEMBER 28, 2021



INAEC Aviation Corp., a member of the Lopez Group of Companies, is the first general aviation operator in the country to submit its Climate Neutral Now Pledge to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC Pledge).

Jay Lopez, the company's president, called this a "natural step" for INAEC, as the Lopez Group is strengthening its efforts to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2050 or earlier.

"The Lopez Group has firmly established itself as firm advocates of environmental protection and climate action, as manifested by our 'no-to-coal' declaration way back in 2016. While the global aviation industry accounts for a mere 2 percent of the total GHG emissions, 5 percent if you consider the other gases and water vapor trails produced by aircraft, conventional flying is nevertheless still a damaging way to travel for the climate," he said.

Lopez added that the aviation industry is an ever-expanding market, with more and more people expected to travel by air in the future.

By submitting its pledge, he said the company commits to "plan and implement actions to reduce these emissions, and consider contributing to the reduction of GHG emissions through credible carbon credits."



INAEC submits pledge to Climate Neutral Now

The Philippine Star November 28, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — INAEC Aviation Corp. became the first general aviation operator in the Philippines to submit its Climate Neutral Now pledge to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

By signing the UNFCCC pledge last September, INAEC joined a global initiative to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 or earlier. INAEC committed itself to measure its GHG emissions, plan and implement actions to reduce these emissions, and consider contributing to the reduction of GHG emissions through credible carbon credits.

As early as 2018, INAEC has been monitoring its carbon emissions, despite the fact that the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (or CORSIA), which took effect last Jan. 1, 2019, does not apply to general or business aviation operators.

“This is a natural step for INAEC as part of the Lopez Group of Companies,” said Jay Lopez, INAEC president.

“The Lopez Group has firmly established itself as firm advocates of environmental protection and climate action, as manifested by our “no-to-coal” declaration way back in 2016.

While the global aviation industry accounts for a mere two percent of the total GHG emissions, five percent if you consider the other gases and water vapor trails produced by aircraft, conventional flying is nevertheless still a damaging way to travel for the climate.

And the aviation industry is an ever-expanding market, with more and more people expected to travel by air in the future. We very much realize the need for timely action so that the 1.5-degree goal remains attainable. Our aim at INAEC is to contribute to a socially responsible, cleaner, and safer world for our children’s future.”

“We are glad to count INAEC as a participant in our Climate Neutral Now initiative. Action on climate by all stakeholders is urgent, and committing to our process helps organizations and companies understand their carbon footprint, ways to reduce it, and potentially compensate it. We invite INAEC and all their stakeholders to make the commitment and work to reduce their emissions further in a collaborative manner,” said Miguel Naranjo, representative of the UNFCCC Secretariat.

At present, INAEC monitors the fuel and energy consumption of its aircraft, equipment, and facilities and, based on the data, pinpoint and implement ways to reduce such consumption. This is done through efficient flight scheduling, personnel trip planning, energy efficiency reminders, and continuous awareness campaigns to employees regarding the climate emergency. INAEC will make annual reports to the UNFCCC on its GHG emissions monitoring and reduction actions.



A new perspective on Climate Change

posted November 28, 2021 at 07:30 pm

by [Danish Bernadeth Mahusay](#)

When I read Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, it opened a lot of perspectives that I was not conscious of before. When I think of climate change, I only think of the scientific and economic views. And these views only give me explanations on the effects of climate change and not why I should do something about it. Looking at it from a spiritual perspective gives you understanding, purpose and motivation. We are stewards of God's creation, and it is our responsibility to take care of our common home. I guess this is also why most people don't act on Climate Change—because they don't have the purpose. It is very moving to have these Catholic social teachings because they give authority to all believers. It is our responsibility.

I am also drawn on the Pope's message that "We are part of nature, included in it, and thus in constant interaction with it." When I think of taking care of the environment, it is no longer a burden because I am part of nature. I am one with nature. My decisions will affect not just me, the future generations, but also everything around me. I am now aware that part of the reason I was not conscious of the effects of climate change before is that I am not directly affected, I did not feel that there was a water shortage, so I did not use it with care. I was selfish, and the way I consume is not considering what is good for everything around me. I realized the effects of my actions, and I can say that I am now an informed consumer. I realized that less is more, and I should change my mindset.

I was also a fan of new technology advancements because I felt that it would make my life easier, but as I read more articles, I realized that a "technocratic" mindset is not good. Yes, advancements in technology are promising, but we should always be aware of its consequences on the environment. Before we participate in the new advances in technology, we should always evaluate the effects of the advancements on the environment.

One example is using too many gadgets that I don't need. As I looked at the gadgets at home, I realized that they use a lot of electricity and will be part of the electronic waste. I realized that I don't really need a new smartwatch because I already have one, I don't need a new phone just because there's a new model, I don't need to buy a new charger just because the cord is too short, or I need a new smart TV just because the old one is not big enough. These little things will make a huge impact on the environment because there will be less waste. Because of this, I also realized that less is more. Not having more gadgets will help me focus more, look at the things that really matter, and not waste my time on things that will not appear anymore in the future.

Because of this encyclical, I am more aware, and I feel more connected to God as a steward of His creation. It is our responsibility, and there are many things that we could do on our end. We need to be more conscious of our actions and always consider how they affect everything around us.

The author is an MBA student at the Ramon V. del Rosario College of Business, DLSU. She can be reached at danish_mahusay@dlsu.edu.ph.

The views expressed above are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the official position of DLSU, its faculty, and its administrators.

29 NOVEMBER 2021, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH logs 838 Covid-19 cases, lowest daily count for 2021

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor **November 28, 2021, 5:03 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday logged 838 new Covid-19 cases, the lowest single-day case count for 2021.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH also reported 1,217 new recoveries that reduced the country's active cases to just 16,630 or a mere 0.6 percent of total infections since March last year.

Of the active cases, 47.8 percent are listed as mild, 7.1 percent asymptomatic, 6.5 percent critical, 15.2 percent severe, and 23.36 percent moderate.

The new infections increased the country's total cases to 2,831,807, including the 2,766,816 who recovered from the dreaded disease.

Meanwhile, the death toll rose to 48,361 with 156 new fatalities.

According to DOH data on Friday, 2.4 percent of 34,241 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"About 13 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and, of these, 12 are recoveries. Also, 195 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it said. "Moreover, 117 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation."

Two laboratories were operational on Nov. 26 while all laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH said the two non-reporting laboratories contribute, on the average, 0.003 percent of samples tested, and 0 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 27 percent of 3,800 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 26 percent of 20,300 isolation beds, 16 percent of 12,700 ward beds, and 16 percent of 3,100 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 27 percent of 1,300 ICU beds, 24 percent of 5,100 isolation beds, 23 percent of 3,500 ward beds, and 20 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in Metro Manila. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1161170>



Metro Manila cities ready facilities for 3-day national vaccination

Philstar.com November 28, 2021 | 11:19am



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

AFP / Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila's biggest cities are gearing up for the three-day national vaccination program run from November 29 to December 1.

In Quezon City, the capital region's biggest city, around 150,000 individuals are targeted for vaccination in special sites including SM North Edsa Skydome, Eastwood City, Robinsons Magnolia, Waltermart North Edsa, SM Fairview, SM Novaliches, Fairview Terraces, Fisher Mall, Crossroad Parkway Mall, and Araneta Coliseum.

The city government in a statement said it will prioritize all unvaccinated minors aged 12-17 years old and adults, as well as administer booster doses to members of the A1 (healthcare workers), A2 (senior citizens), and A3 (immunocompromised individuals).

"We have tapped groups for additional medical workers and partnered with malls and establishments to have more sites. We want to maximize the three days allocated for this vaccination drive," Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

"While we wait for the supply provided for by the national government, we can use our own vaccines as booster shots."

Apart from administering first doses and booster shots, second doses of pediatric and adult populations shall proceed as scheduled in other vaccination sites.

In the city of Manila, the vaccination of first, second, and booster shots for all priority groups, including the general population of minors.

The capital city said in an advisory that it would be opening about 75 vaccination sites for National Vaccination Day.

Earlier, the national government adjusted the target for next week's three-day vaccination drive to just nine million doses from the initial 15 million due to a shortage in syringes and other logistical problems.

As of November 4, some 28.7 million Filipinos have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, while another 33.7 million are partially inoculated.

To date, 17,853 active cases of the pathogen remain in the Philippines, where health authorities have recorded 2.83 million coronavirus infections since the beginning of the pandemic.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/11/28/2144387/metro-manila-cities-ready-facilities-3-day-national-vaccination>



Return of face shield rule possible amid fears over Omicron variant — Galvez

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Nov 28, 2021 5:51:32 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 28) — The government may again require the wearing of face shields as an “added protection” amid the threat of the Omicron coronavirus variant, one of the officials leading the country’s pandemic response said on Sunday.

National Task Force Against COVID-19 chief implementer Carlito Galvez, Jr. said they will look into the possibility of bringing back the controversial face shield policy, which President Rodrigo Duterte lifted in most areas in mid-November.

“Some people from WHO (World Health Organization) also believe na kaya nagkaroon tayo ng magandang result dito sa Delta, as compared to others, is because of also the added protection of face shields,” Galvez said in a press briefing.

[Translation: Some people from WHO also believe that the reason why we were able to achieve good results during the Delta surge, as compared to others, is also because of the added protection given by face shields.]

He further noted that Health Secretary Francisco Duque III is in favor of imposing any measure that could help in the fight against the coronavirus.

Currently, only people in areas classified as Alert Level 5 or are under granular lockdowns are required to wear face shields. The President has meanwhile given local governments and private establishments in places under Alert Level 4 the discretion to keep or scrap the rule.

A wind engineer from the University of the Philippines earlier said face shields would only trap viral airborne particles. Some local health experts, however, have maintained the equipment provides an additional layer of protection against the highly contagious virus.

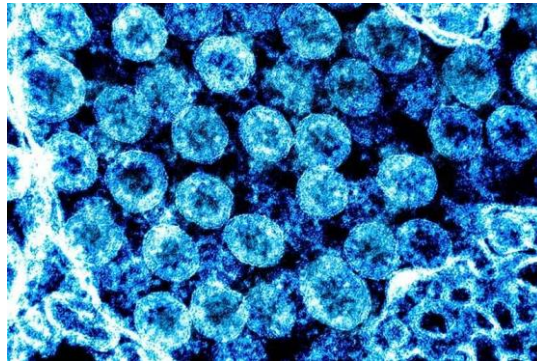
According to officials, no case of the Omicron variant has been detected in the Philippines so far. To prevent its entry, the government has temporarily suspended inbound flights from South Africa, Botswana, and other countries with cases or with the “likelihood of occurrences” of the new variant.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/11/28/face-shield-policy-omicron-variant.html>



Gov't may suspend flights from Hong Kong due to COVID-19 variant fears

Philstar.com November 28, 2021 | 1:36pm



This undated National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH handout photo obtained August 1, 2021, shows a transmission electron color-enhanced micrograph of SARS-CoV-2 virus particles, isolated from a patient.

Handout / National Institutes of Health / National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases / AFP

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is considering suspending flights coming from Hong Kong after a case of the new and potentially more infectious Omicron variant of the coronavirus was detected in the territory, the National Task Force Against COVID-19 said Sunday.

This comes after inbound international flights from South Africa and Botswana were already canceled due to the threat of the B.1.1.529 variant, which was classified as a variant of concern by the World Health Organization.

In a statement, the NTF said that the Technical Working Group on COVID-19 Variants and other agencies issued a final recommendation to do so pending the approval of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases.

"The inclusion of Hong Kong Flights as part of inbound international flights temporarily suspended due to the emergence of the Omicron variant is not yet final. We await the formal announcement from the IATF," the statement read.

Speaking in an interview over dzMM TeleRadyo, NTF spokesperson Restituto Padilla said that all countries where the variant was detected was banned, which may now include Hong Kong after the discovery of a case there.

"The movement of Filipinos is not prohibited but the flights that they will get on to return are banned. So they have no means to come here," he said in mixed Filipino and English.

As it currently stands, the IATF has also restricted travel from Namibia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Eswatini and Mozambique, which are adjacent to South Africa and Botswana.

"This variant has a large number of mutations, some of which are concerning," the World Health Organization has said of the variant, pointing to worrying characteristics.

"Preliminary evidence suggests an increased risk of reinfection with this variant, as compared to other VOCs," the WHO also said, though it clarified that it could take several weeks to complete studies of Omicron to see if there are any changes in transmissibility, severity or implications for COVID vaccines, tests, and treatments.

— with reports from Agence France-Press

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/11/28/2144390/govt-may-suspend-flights-hong-kong-due-covid-19-variant-fears>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 624

NOBYEMBRE 28, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.6%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
16,630

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,766,816

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.71%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
48,361

MGA BAGONG KASO **838**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,217**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **156**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,831,807**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING NOBYEMBRE 26

DATOS NGAYONG NOBYEMBRE 28
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG NOBYEMBRE 26

2.4%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

34,241

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS

54.9%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

**SANITIZE ANG
KAMAY AT IWASAN
ANG KULOB NA LUGAR**

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)
 27% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.3K TOTAL BEDS)
 26% Utilized

WARD BEDS (12.7K TOTAL BEDS)
 16% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
 16% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
 27% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (5.1K TOTAL BEDS)
 24% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS)
 23% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
 20% Utilized

Mild 47.8

7.1% Asymptomatic

6.5% Critical

15.2% Severe

23.36% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Huwag maging kampante dahil sa mababang kaso ng COVID-19 na naitatala araw-araw. Alalahanin na ang COVID-19 ay nasa ating paligid lamang. Kaya ugaliing sumunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** at makiisa sa darating na Bayanihan Bakunahan upang makaiwas mula sa COVID-19. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

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



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

29 NOVEMBER 2021, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjniUufX8tw&ab_channel=KaZammyTv

#PROTECTTHEOCEAN #SAVETHEOCEAN #LOVETHEOCEAN

LIVE : UPDATE DOLOMITE SAND ISANG MAKALIKASANG UMAGA

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