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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Productive year! DENR doubles forest rehabilitation gains in 2021

DEC 29, 2021, 3:44 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

WORKING without letup despite the obstacles thrown by the pandemic, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ensured that it has met its self-imposed target under the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) for 2021.

This, after the agency established 83,169 hectares of plantations--exceeding by 176 percent the 47,299 hectares established in 2020.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the ENGP accomplishment in 2021 "mirrors how the DENR has kept its momentum," noting that the gains "overcame the roadblocks thrown by the pandemic."

He also noted that the DENR was able to accomplish 88 percent of its 2021 target of 94,667 hectares for plantations.

Cimatu added around 60.4 million seedlings have been planted this year, exceeding by 170 percent the 37.2 million seedlings planted in 2020.

"The year 2021 has been a productive year as the DENR kept its momentum through the pandemic and further sustained its gains on many fronts like the rehabilitation and protection of the country's forest resources," Cimatu said.

The latest figures bring to 2.16 million hectares the areas planted under the ENGP, or a total of 1.81 billion seedlings planted since 2011.

Moreover, reports submitted to the NGP Office of the DENR-Forest Management Bureau (FMB) show that 54,895 ENGP-related jobs have been created from January to August this year.

This benefitted some 9,916 individuals hired as forest extension officers and technical workers tasked to provide technical assistance to NGP partners and beneficiaries.

They were tapped to conduct plantation development activities consisting of nursery management, seedling production, and enhancement planting in graduated-NGP areas experiencing tree seedling mortalities, which is unavoidable in tree plantation establishment.

The report also noted a dramatic increase in the number of families engaged under the program following the adoption of the family approach strategy as ordered by Cimatu in 2020 to award ENGP-contracts to forestry-resource dependent families.



Meanwhile, a total of 17,696 families have been part of the program from January to May this year alone, surpassing by 118 percent the 14,885 ENGP beneficiary-families in 2020.

Each ENGP beneficiary-family can be granted one to 10 hectares for a period of three years.

In total, around 5.7 million ENGP-related jobs have so far been created with 816,383 hired individuals.

Initially a six-year project, the DENR-led National Greening Program (NGP) was implemented by virtue of Executive Order (EO) 26 issued in 2011 to plant some 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares of land.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/productive-year-denr-doubles-forest-rehabilitation-gains-in-2021?fbclid=IwAR36zjdZknbZrO-BWFHfoULd-RSOXntWpwrAcCmeoO8nwgY2eQdsrlYv5I>



Phl lifts ban on new open-pit mines

Published 16 hours ago on December 29, 2021 02:31 PM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



The Philippines has lifted a four-year ban on new open-pit mines, an official said Wednesday, in a bid to revitalize the country's coronavirus-battered economy slammed by activists as "short-sighted".

The move sees the Philippine government reverse a ban imposed in 2017, when the then-environment minister blamed the sector for widespread ecological damage.

Manila has since reversed course, encouraging mining investments to shore up government revenues as lockdowns and quarantine restrictions ravaged the economy.

In April, President Rodrigo Duterte — who had previously threatened to shut down the sector completely — lifted a nine-year ban on new mining deals set by his predecessor.

Wilfredo Moncano, the director of the mines and geosciences bureau (MGB), told AFP Wednesday that the environment secretary Roy Cimatu had signed an order lifting the ban on open-pit mining in the country.

"We offered the mining [industry] as a potential contributor to the recovery of the economy," Moncano said.

"Once these are commercially producing... these are the ones that will be helping pay our loans to fight the pandemic."

Moncano said about nine prospective mining projects stand to benefit from the order and that the government could generate up to 80 billion pesos (\$1.6 billion) in taxes and royalties annually once commercial operations begin.

Open pit mining directly extracts minerals on the ground and differs from other methods that require tunneling or underground mining.

The Philippines is one of the world's biggest suppliers of nickel ore and is also rich in copper and gold, but the government estimates 95 percent of its mineral resources remain untapped.

Mining revenues contributed less than one percent of GDP to the economy last year, according to government data.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines welcomed the decision to lift the ban, saying it "will enable the industry to contribute more to our country's economic recovery".



But anti-mining advocates said the decision was a “short-sighted and misplaced development priority of the government”.

“Once again, the Duterte regime puts more premium to its flawed economic agenda categorising destructive mining as an ‘essential industry’ as part of the pandemic recovery,” the Alliance to End Mining said in a statement.



DENR lifts 4-year ban on open-pit mining

By: [Dempsey Reyes](#), [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:15 AM December 29, 2021



CARVED EARTH: This September 2016 photo shows the massive open pit created by the gold and copper mining operations of the company OceanaGold in Barangay Didipio, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya province. (Photo by RICHARD BALONGLONG)

MANILA, Philippines — With the year about to close, large mining companies got the one thing they were hoping for.

Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) signed Department Administrative Order No. 2021-40 on Dec. 23, lifting the four-year-old ban on the open-pit method of mining for copper, gold, silver, and complex ores in the country.

Enforced in 2017, the ban was one of the high-impact measures taken by the late Environment Secretary Gina Lopez, who was known for her green advocacies before she was asked by President Duterte to join his Cabinet.

While the mining industry sees the order as a boost to the sector and the country's economic recovery, the environmental advocacy group Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) calls it "a cruel Christmas gift and a truly ironic act of cowardice and betrayal from Cimatu and (President) Duterte."

"At this time when climate change brings devastating typhoons such as Odette, lifting the ban on open-pit mining is a shortsighted and misplaced development priority of the government. Once again, the Duterte regime puts more premium to its flawed economic agenda categorizing destructive mining as an 'essential industry' as part of the pandemic recovery," ATM said in a statement on Tuesday.

For job creation

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, through group vice president for communications Rocky Dimaculangan, said that as most mining applications had proposed the use of this method, the DENR's decision would enable the industry to contribute more to the country's economic recovery particularly from the ongoing pandemic through investment promotion, job creation and poverty alleviation.

The order also signals the possible revival of big-scale mining projects that were put on hold due to the open-pit mining ban. These include Sagittarius Mines Inc.'s \$5.9-billion Tampakan copper project in South Cotabato and St. Augustine Gold and Copper Ltd.'s \$2-billion King-king copper-gold project in Compostela Valley. Tampakan is said to be Southeast Asia's largest untapped copper and gold minefield.

The DENR said open-pit mining was a "globally accepted method of mining" and "the most feasible option" for mining near-surface or shallow ore deposits.



Gina Lopez

It has been adopted by thousands of mining companies worldwide and can be operated in a safe manner in adherence to global standards, Dimaculangan said. “It can be rehabilitated in a manner that provides alternative and productive land use after the life of the mine.”

Parameters, conditions

The DENR order covers all mining tenement holders that will adopt surface mining method and sets strict conditions and requirements for those that would use the open-pit method.

The lifting of the ban, according to the DENR order, is meant to “revitalize the mining industry and usher in significant economic benefits to the country by providing raw materials for the construction and development of other industries and by increasing employment opportunities in rural areas.

The order also establishes enhanced parameters and criteria for the types of surface mining methods under the Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility to address the environmental and safety issues involved, according to the DENR.

The order requires mining tenement holders “to conduct baseline information gathering and evaluation and incorporate the same in the mining project feasibility study, and (present) appropriate work programs, which shall be the basis of the [Mines and Geosciences Bureau] in determining whether the proposed mining projects satisfied the requirements.”

Ensure no hazards

Project proponents are required to ensure that their surface mining method would not pose any hazard to public health and safety that might result from ground failure or physical deterioration. They also have to ensure that their mining method will not release any hazardous chemicals into the environment and that they should have “proven and acceptable techniques” to control it through internationally accepted containment, collection and treatment methods.

Proponents of open-pit mining projects, according to the DENR, should have adequate information dissemination plans as part of a comprehensive stakeholders’ involvement process to ensure that all interests and concerns are considered.

They are also required to submit and present programs for surface and subsurface slope-stability monitoring of potential slope failures, as well as programs to mitigate the effects of such incidence, ensure the safety of their personnel and the surrounding communities.



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu (File photo by NIÑO JESUS ORBETA / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Lastly, proponents need to have “sufficient geological data to conduct proper and accurate assessment of local geology, rock mass characteristics, hydrogeology and surface hydrology” in their project areas.

“It is the policy of the state to promote the rational exploration, development, utilization and conservation of mineral resources in the country under the full control and supervision of the state in order to enhance national growth in a way that effectively safeguards the environment and protects the rights of affected communities,” the order reads.

The DENR said there were best-practice control strategies and technologies that could help avoid or manage the negative impacts of open-pit mining.

It also said there were existing laws and policies that banned mining in specific areas, including protected areas, critical watersheds, ancestral lands, and prime agricultural lands.

The new policy will take effect 15 days after its publication.

ATM vowed to continue its opposition to government efforts “to plunder our remaining forests and natural resources.”

“We hope this will be an eye-opener for all environmentalists to be more proactive in engaging in the 2022 elections,” the group said.



DENR allows, miners hail return of open pit

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA DECEMBER 28, 2021

MINING regulators have finally lifted the ban on open-pit mining method, in effect reversing an environmental policy put in place in 2017 by former Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary (DENR) Regina Paz L. Lopez.

The move was welcomed by the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) on Tuesday, saying it will enable the mining industry to contribute more to economic recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Most mining companies prefer to use open-pit mining, which is considered the safest, fastest and most economically feasible way to extract minerals.

To recall, a similar ban on open-pit mining caused the delay of the multibillion Tampakan Copper-Gold Project in Mindanao on account of a local ordinance passed by the Province of South Cotabato even before Lopez, an anti-mining advocate, imposed the ban during her short stint as DENR Secretary.

“We welcome the decision to lift the ban on open-pit mining. As most mining applications propose the use of the open-pit method, this decision will enable the industry to contribute more to our country’s economic recovery, particularly from the devastating effects of this ongoing pandemic through investment promotion, job creation, and poverty alleviation,” COMP said in a statement.

According to COMP, thousands of mines worldwide have adopted open-pit mining, the primary method of extracting ores, particularly gold, including in Australia, Canada, and the USA.

“There are economic, safety, and environmental considerations for employing this method. Where underground mining cannot be applied, the open-pit method is primarily employed although there are other forms of surface mining. The shape nature and location of the ore body determine the mining method. Open-pit mines can be operated safely, according to globally accepted standards, and can be rehabilitated properly in a manner that provides alternative and productive land use after the life of the mine,” COMP said.

It was learned from DENR sources that Cimatu has signed DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-40 but the document was not yet officially released to the media. The Cimatu order formally repealed Lopez’s DAO 2017-10.

DAO 2017-10 decried open-pit mines as a perpetual liability for the government and asserted that it caused “adverse impacts to the environment, particularly due to the generation of acidic and/or heavy metal-laden water, erosion of mine waste dumps and/or vulnerability of tailings dams to geological hazards.”

DAO 2021-40, however, said open-pit mining method is a globally-accepted method of mining and is considered to be the most feasible option for mining near-surface or shallow ore deposits.

The signing of DAO 2021-40 was recommended by members of a technical working group of DENR.

In a statement, the anti-mining group Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) said it is deeply dismayed by the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining. “This is a cruel Christmas gift from DENR and a truly ironic act of cowardice and betrayal from DENR Secretary Cimatu and President Duterte,” it said.



“At this time when climate change brings devastating typhoons such as Odette, lifting the ban on open-pit mining is a short-sighted and misplaced development priority of the government. Once again, the Duterte regime puts more premium to its flawed economic agenda categorizing destructive mining as an ‘essential industry’ as part of the pandemic recovery,” ATM said.



DENR lifts ban on open-pit mining

by [Manila Standard](#) [December 28, 2021](#)

The government has lifted the four-year-old ban on open-pit mining, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said.

The ban on open-pit mining was a policy initiated by the late former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez in 2017.

Reports said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu overturned Lopez's Administrative Order No. 2017-10, which banned the mining method for the extraction of copper, gold, silver, and/or complex ores in the country.

Cimatu, quoted in a GMANews.com report, said "lifting the ban on open-pit mining would revitalize the mining industry and usher in significant economic benefits to the country by providing raw materials for the construction and development of other industries and by increasing employment opportunities in rural areas where there are mining activities thereby stimulating countryside development."

The official also said open-pit mining "is a globally-accepted method of mining" adding that it is "the most feasible option for mining near-surface or shallow ore deposits."

Cimatu further defended the DENR's decision, saying that major concerns on open pit "cannot be attributed to the use of the method itself." He said concerns are often due to accidents involving wastes and tailings.

Further, Cimatu said the DENR has imposed conditions for open-pit mining including; use of surface mining shall not pose possible hazard to public health and safety resulting from ground failure or physical deterioration; "the open mine shall not release hazardous chemicals into the environment; the proponent has adequate information to conduct a comprehensive stakeholders' involvement process to ensure that all interests and concerns are considered, and has social acceptability of its project since the commencement of the exploration activities; that the proponent has submitted and presented appropriate program/s for surface and subsurface slope-stability monitoring of potential slope failures; and that the proponent has accumulated sufficient geological data to conduct proper and assessment of local geology, rock mass characteristics, hydrogeology, and surface hydrology."



Government eyes P120 billion with lifting of open-pit ban

BY SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA DECEMBER 29, 2021



open pit mining

THE government is expected to collect an additional P120 billion worth of revenue with the resumption of open-pit mining operations nationwide, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a televised interview on Wednesday, Environment Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones said this is the expected amount of funds to be collected by the government from four mining firms that will benefit from Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2021-40.

The issuance, which was signed last week, lifted the four-year-old ban on the open-pit method for mining.

“We project that if these four resume [their operations], we would probably collect P120 billion worth of additional income,” Leones said.

Untapped resources

The DENR official disclosed the ban on open-pit mining was reviewed as the government looks for additional revenue to fund its response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The resumption of open-pit mines, Leones said, will allow the country to utilize its still untapped mineral resources.

“We are only able to get less than 3 percent [of the said resources]. So we can still get more so we can utilize and harness the said resources,” Leones.

Close monitoring

Environmental groups opposed the new policy, which they alleged will lead to more environmental degradation.

Leones assured the public, however, that the DENR and other concerned agencies will closely monitor mining firms with open-pit mines to make sure they comply with all environmental laws.

“What we will do is if we catch them not strictly complying with our policies and environmental laws, we will not hesitate to shutdown their operations,” Leones said.

Meanwhile, mining firms welcomed the new development, which they claim will generate additional jobs.

As of Wednesday, Leones said they have yet to estimate how many jobs will be created with the implementation of DAO No. 2021-40.



But since the DENR started closing mining operations in 2017, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) initially estimated over 20,000 workers were affected by the said policy.

Image courtesy of BusinessMirror | BusinessMirror

Mining shares sustain rise, but uncertainty remains

December 30, 2021 | 12:07 am



By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

MINING stocks maintained their surge on Wednesday as the market cheered the lifted ban on open-pit mining, prompting traders and analysts to assess the longer-term impact on profits while staying wary on the move's continuity when the country elects new political leaders.

"Definitely it's a game changer for the mining industry, considering the lift will boost more investments towards the industry. What we saw today [in the stock market] was a knee-jerk reaction, as it will take time before formal business operations will take fruition," Astro C. del Castillo, managing director at First Grade Finance, Inc. said in a phone interview.

Signed on Dec. 23, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-40 lifted the nationwide ban on open-pit mining, repealing DAO 2017-10 issued by late DENR Secretary Regina L. Lopez, who was openly against mining.

Open-pit mining was first banned in the provinces in 2010 and later evolved into a nationwide ban in 2017.

"Mining related issues ended in green territory today, as market participants cheered the reports that mining regulators have lifted the four-year ban on open-pit mining," Timson Securities, Inc. Trader Darren T. Pangan said in a Viber message.

"Over the short-term, this development boosted the sentiment towards the sector. In the longer time horizon, investors may be assessing the impact that this may have on the bottom-line results of the affected companies," he added.

On Wednesday, the mining and oil index improved by 2.82%, with shares in Philex Mining Corp. gaining by 3.82% and in Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc. by 2.84%.

"I'm sure the industry will shift to higher gear, considering the opportunities opened. I think investors are wary that hopefully the regulation will not change, considering that the National Government will be changing in the next few months," Mr. Del Castillo said.

"The Philippines will be on the radar screens of investors, especially in foreign ones invested in our resource development, which is mines," he added.

Officials of listed mining companies welcomed the government decision, which Dante R. Bravo, president of Global Ferronickel, described as a help to "restart the economy."

"It is timely and an important policy change because it will signal to the investors that the government is already open to new mining investments. Open pit is one of the safest mining methods and this method will make a lot of mining projects viable and operable in a relatively short period of time," Mr. Bravo said in a text message.



“Generally, we are bullish in the metals market next year. Demand is strong as we are short of so many raw materials as consumption is rising sharply, and governments are focused on more infrastructure spending,” he added.

In a Viber message Philex Mining’s Public and Regulatory Affairs Head Francis G. Ballesteros said, “Hopefully, this will create a friendly investment climate for the mining industry in the country and encourage investors to support big-ticket mining projects like our Silangan copper and gold project in Surigao del Norte.”

“Responsible mining can be a catalyst of economic recovery amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Further, if allowed to flourish within the government regulations, it can unleash prosperity for all without compromising the needs of future generations,” he added.

Meanwhile, environmental groups opposed the lifting of the ban, citing the move’s environmental consequences.

Open-pit mining has been criticized for its effect on the environment, particularly the pollution and damage it causes. Acid mine drainage is one potential impact from mining that releases dangerous metalloids into local streams and groundwater.

“I think it’s not a surprise that there will be strong opposition to this, especially environmentalists. But as long as the government can walk the talk to implement the strict regulatory measures, then I guess it will be a win-win situation for government the environmentalists,” Mr. Del Castillo said.

“We hope these resources will trigger the government to look into manufacturing, not just importing the raw materials. The success of this mining industry should be a partnership with the public and government. The public should be responsible to report anomalies in the industry, while guarding the environment,” he added.

National Coordinator for Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment Leon A. Dulce said the government decision would be detrimental to the environment, especially after Typhoon Odette (international name: Rai.)

“This is a despicable move by the Duterte government to sneak in the reversal on the open-pit mining ban while people are preoccupied with responding to Typhoon Odette. Adding insult to injury, destructive mining is actually responsible for the degradation of watersheds in the Caraga, Negros, and Central Visayas regions that aggravated the floods and other destructive impacts of Odette,” he said in an e-mail message.

The Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment reiterated these sentiments in a statement, saying that lifting the ban is not a timely solution.

“We condemn the Duterte government’s lifting of the open-pit mining ban when people are still responding to the plight of millions affected by Super Typhoon Odette. Talk about priorities in these times of crisis,” the statement read.

“The promise that this move will bring in money for economic recovery is nothing but disinformation. Only 12% of mineral resources plundered in the Philippines by big mines trickle back to our economy as taxes, fees, and royalties. For every P10 worth of minerals they will plunder, only a peso will return to the Philippines,” it added.

NOT BUDGING | Despite criticisms, DENR defends move to lift ban on open-pit mining

December 29, 2021 , 08:07 PM

By Clarist Zablan

(December 29, 2021) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday defended its move to lift the ban on open-pit mining despite [mounting criticisms](#) from advocate groups and concerned citizens.

DENR undersecretary Jonas Leones said they have formed a technical working group that will assess and regularly monitor the compliance of mining companies with the enforced regulations.

“We have already put in place policies that will protect the environment,” said Leones in a government briefing. “Kung talagang magva-violate sila ay talagang istriktuhan natin, talagang ipapatigil natin ang operasyon.” Leones added that the lack of policies was the main issue with open-pit mines in the past.

DENR secretary Roy Cimatu on Tuesday [reversed the ban](#) on open-pit mining—usually done for extracting copper, silver, gold, and complex ores—which was enacted in 2017 by his predecessor, the late Gina Lopez. Cimatu maintained that this will help the country’s economy to recover amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Leones estimated that allowing open-pit mining will create as much as P120 billion in revenues. He also insisted that the move will generate a lot of job opportunities. The DENR, however, has yet to address the issue of the decision having adverse effects on residents in rural communities.

“Itong ating mineral resources dito sa Pilipinas less than 3% pa lang ang nakukuha natin diyan, so ibig sabihin wala naman tayong pagkukukunan, kung ma-utilize natin, maharness-natin ‘yung resources natin, malaking bagay para sa ating ekonomiya,” said Leones.

Lopez, who was a staunch environmental activist, had said mining, regardless of nature, is a “financial liability, poses risk to host communities, and kills the economic potential of the community.”

But Cimatu, a former military general, argued that environmental problems related to mining cannot be blamed on the method itself, noting there are existing strategies such as progressive rehabilitation of mined-out areas that can avoid or manage the negative impacts.

Environmental defenders, progressive groups, indigenous peoples, and politicians have condemned the DENR’s decision. They warned that allowing open-pit mining anew will expose agrarian communities to greater risks of flooding and landslides, especially with the country dealing with stronger typhoons each year due to the climate crisis.

Some critics also blasted Cimatu for allegedly favoring the business interests of mining companies instead of helping to protect the environment, which has noticeably deteriorated in recent years.

President Rodrigo Duterte has eased restrictions on mining in the Philippines, having lifted the moratorium on new permits early this year, much to the dismay of nature proponents.



Duterte has also earned the ire of cause-oriented groups for his failure to implement environmental laws and allowing human rights violations against environmental defenders. International human rights organization Global Witness ranks the Philippines as the third most dangerous country in the world for environmental advocates.

(PM)

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/not-budging-despite-criticisms-denr-defends-move-to-lift-ban-on-open-pit-mining?fbclid=IwAR3wdNh4odqkKWeiLqabLPW1wih1YzKt2Q9GMObw6rtBZA-spKRabdhbKx4>



[Cruel gift! More disasters, environmental damage seen from open pit mining](#)

DEC 29, 2021, 3:34 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

To the chagrin of environmental advocates, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is allowing beginning early January, open pit mining operations. This was banned previously by the late DENR Secretary Regina Lopez. "This is a cruel Christmas gift from DENR," an anti-mining group said.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources in issuing Administrative Order 2021-40 last December 23 is now allowing open pit mining to resume and lifted the 4-year-old ban on such activity imposed by the late DENR Secretary Regina Lopez.

The order was published in a newspaper last December 25 and will take effect 15 days later or early January 2022.

Severe damages

Though the resumption of open pit mining was hailed by the moneyed class and their foreign investors under the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, environmental advocates warned that this could lead to further environmental damage considering the severity of natural disasters affecting the country.

"We had pushed for its approval because the MGB initiated the memo to the Office of the President, offering the mining sector as a potential contributor to the recovery of the economy ravaged by the pandemic," MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said told Reuters.

Cruel gift

In a statement, the anti-mining group Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) said it is deeply dismayed by the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining.

"This is a cruel Christmas gift from DENR and a truly ironic act of cowardice and betrayal from DENR Secretary Cimatu and President Duterte," it said.

"At this time when climate change brings devastating typhoons such as Odette, lifting the ban on open-pit mining is a short-sighted and misplaced development priority of the government," the group said.

"Once again, the Duterte regime puts more premium to its flawed economic agenda categorizing destructive mining as an 'essential industry' as part of the pandemic recovery," ATM added.



Contraction

The Philippine economy contracted by a record 9.6 percent in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The mining sector accounted for P102.3 billion, equivalent to 0.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2020.

In April this year, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed Executive Order No. 130 that lifted the nine-year moratorium on new mineral agreements.

The DENR is hoping to revive the mining industry through the lifting of the ban on open pit mining. It said the move will help create much-needed jobs and provide raw materials for the development of other industries.

Open pit mining

Open pit mining is a globally accepted method, DENR said. It is defined as “the process of mining any near-surface deposit by means of a surface pit excavated using one or more horizontal benches.”

“There are best practice control strategies and technologies that can help avoid or manage the negative impact of open pit mining,” the DENR said, adding that major issues concerning mining can be attributed to accidents, not the method itself.

The DENR said mining tenement holders should ensure that using the open pit mining method will not pose hazards to public health and do not release hazardous chemicals into the environment.

The mining firms should prevent acid rock drainage and other heavy metals that may contaminate land and water bodies, as well as reduce the use of freshwater resources.

“We welcome the decision to lift the ban on open pit mining,” Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CoMP) Vice-President for Communications Rocky G. Dimaculangan said.

Economic recovery

“As most mining applications propose the use of the open pit method, this decision will enable the industry to contribute more to our country’s economic recovery, particularly from the devastating effects of this ongoing pandemic through investment promotion, job creation, and poverty alleviation.”

Dimaculangan said thousands of mines, including those in Australia, Canada and the United States, allow open pit mining. He noted open pit mines can be operated safely and rehabilitated properly.

Short-sighted

Meanwhile, Alyansa Tigil Mina in a statement criticized the Duterte administration for allowing open pit mining to resume, saying it is “short-sighted” and shows its “misplaced development priority.”

Reuters said the Philippines’ annual export revenue from its mineral extraction industry could increase by up to \$2 billion over the next five to six years as new mining projects take off, citing the government.

The Philippines is China’s biggest supplier of nickel ore and also has substantial copper and gold reserves.

More than a third of the Philippines’ total land area of 30 million hectares (74.1 million acres) has been identified as having “high mineral potential,” but only less than 5 percent of its mineral reserves has been extracted so far, according to the MGB.



Philex Mining Corp. is one of the Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific, the others being Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and PLDT, Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc.

Safest, fastest

Most mining companies prefer to use open-pit mining, which is considered the safest, fastest and most economically feasible way to extract minerals.

To recall, a similar ban on open-pit mining caused the delay of the multibillion Tampakan Copper-Gold Project in Mindanao on account of a local ordinance passed by the Province of South Cotabato even before Lopez, an anti-mining advocate, imposed the ban during her short stint as DENR Secretary.

According to COMP, thousands of mines worldwide have adopted open-pit mining, the primary method of extracting ores, particularly gold, including in Australia, Canada, and the USA.

“There are economic, safety, and environmental considerations for employing this method. Where underground mining cannot be applied, the open-pit method is primarily employed although there are other forms of surface mining,” the group said.

“The shape nature and location of the ore body determine the mining method. Open-pit mines can be operated safely, according to globally accepted standards, and can be rehabilitated properly in a manner that provides alternative and productive land use after the life of the mine,” COMP added.

Lopez’ s DAO 2017-10 decried open-pit mines as a perpetual liability for the government and asserted that it caused “adverse impacts to the environment, particularly due to the generation of acidic and/or heavy metal-laden water, erosion of mine waste dumps and/or vulnerability of tailings dams to geological hazards.”

DAO 2021-40, however, said open-pit mining method is a globally- accepted method of mining and is considered to be the most feasible option for mining near-surface or shallow ore deposits.

The signing of DAO 2021-40 was recommended by members of a technical working group of DENR.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/cruel-gift-more-disasters-environmental-damage-seen-from-open-pit-mining?fbclid=IwAR1K7AgN4_mlr7qJbeGJtTI5g0N5kDa7fH1aF_ZYRch0HKGb8bFK7nFCrDg



Duterte admin binawi 4-year ban sa open-pit mining; Environmentalists na-badtrip

By [James Relativo](#)(Philstar.com) - December 29, 2021 - 2:25pm



File photo ng isang open-pit mine

MANILA, Philippines — Nanggalaiti ang ilang nagtatanggol sa kalikasan sa kontrobersyal na desisyon ng gobyerno ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa "open-pit mining" — bagay na ginawa ng estado para isalba ang ekonomiyang napinsala ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Ang [desisyon](#) ni Environment Secretary ni Roy Cimatu noong ika-23 ng Disyembre ay pagbaliktad sa ["ban" ni noo'y DENR Secretary Gina Lopez sa bagong open-pit mines na ipinatupad noong 2017](#) dahil sa epekto nito sa mga komunidad at kalikasan.

"We condemn the Duterte government's lifting of the open pit mining ban when people are still responding to the plight of millions affected by Super Typhoon Odette. Talk about priorities in these times of crisis," ayon kay Kalikasan PNE national coordinator Leon Dulce, Miyerkules.

"Adding insult to the injury of many 'Odette' victims, open pit mining is actually responsible for the devastation of watersheds in regions heavily afflicted by the typhoon such as Caraga, Negros, and Central Visayas."

Aabot na sa 397 ang patay dahil sa Typhoon Odette, ayon sa huling ulat ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council ngayong araw.

Maliban pa 'yan sa P5.51-bilyong pinsalang idinulot ng bagyo sa agrikultura at P16.71 bilyon sa imprastruktura.

Ayon pa kay Dulce, "disinformation" lang ang pangakong magdadala ito ng pera para sa economic recovery lalo na't 12% lang daw ng mineral resources na nakukuha sa Pilipinas ang nakabalik sa ekonomiya sa pamamagitan ng buwis, mga bayarin at royalty.

"For every 10 pesos worth of minerals they will plunder, only a peso will return to the Philippines," banggit pa ng Kalikasan PNE.

"For the past 26 years, our poverty rates have only worsened while mining revenue steadily increased. We are left with areas like the Marcopper open pit mines, forever scarred and polluted, unfit for human life."

Nananawagan ngayon ang grupo sa iba pang mga pro-environment Filipinos na magkaisa at "biguin ang pro-mining Duterte-Marcos alliance" sa 2022 at ibalik ang open pit mining ban, maliban pa sa paglalagay ng moratorium sa mga bagong mining projects.



Ngayong taon lang din nang [i-lift ni Digong ang moratorium sa new mineral agreements](#) na ipinatupad noong 2012 para "para pataasin ang kita ng gobyerno" at pondohan ang mga proyekto gaya ng sa imprastruktura.

Kahapon lang nang banatan ni Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. ang bagong administrative order ng DENR, lalo na't ginawa raw ito habang abala ang lahat sa Kapaskuhan: "This move is happening in the final months of the Duterte regime. Pabaon ba ito?" ani Reyes.

The lifting of the ban on open pit mining was dated December 23, when everybody was preparing for the holidays. This move is happening in the final months of the Duterte regime. Pabaon ba ito? pic.twitter.com/xuPbYK8Bmv

— Renato Reyes, Jr. (@natoreyes) [December 28, 2021](#)

Malacañang dumepensa: 'May safeguards naman'

Sinagot naman ni acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles ang mga kritisismo sa utos ng DENR at sinabing maraming benepisyo rito, habang tinitiyak na hindi nasisira nang husto ang kalikasan.

"Yung objectives po is to revitalize the mining industry and usher in significant economic benefits to the country, the development of other industries and increasing employment opportunities in rural areas thereby stimulating countryside development," ani Nograles sa [briefing](#) ng Palasyo kanina.

"Meron naman pong mga nakalagay na conditionalities and requirements bago sila payagang magbukas [ng open-pit mining sa lugar]."

Ilan sa mga kondisyones ang mining project feasibility study at programang magpapakitang hindi magdudulot ng hazards sa public health and safety ang proyekto, na hindi ito maglalabas ng delikadong kemikal sa environment, atbp.

Kailangan din daw maglunsad ng komprehensibong stakeholder's involvement process habang tinitiyak din ang kaligtasan ng mga nagtratrabaho sa minahan. Dapat din daw na may oversight committee na na magsisigurong walang malalabag na administrative order.

Kinastigo naman ng Bayan Muna party-list ang gobyerno lalo na't ginagamit pang dahilan ng gobyerno ang economic recovery para makapanumbalik ang "mapaminsalang pagmimina."

"Open-pit mining is the most environmentally destructive form of large-scale mining," ani Bayan Muna chair at 2022 senatorial aspirant Neri Colmenares.

"For one thing, we should start with already-established rural economic activities such as agriculture, fisheries, and even eco-tourism. It should put more effort into allowing our farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs to increase their capacity and raise incomes without plundering our resources."

"Kayang-kaya natin ibangon ang ekonomiya nang hindi winawasak ang ating kapaligiran."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/12/29/2150747/duterte-admin-binawi-4-year-ban-sa-open-pit-mining-environmentalists-na-badtrip/amp/>



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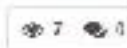
Baklas mining ban amoy pang-eleksiyon

By Abante News — Last updated Dec 29, 2021

FEATURED NEWS



Photo courtesy of Belenita G. Callesani FB



Malaki ang tinatawag na isang kongresista na nangangailang umano ng pambansang paggamitin sa eleksiyon ang pamahalaan kung kaya't pinsyagang alisin o bawlin ang lola ng ban sa open-pit mining.

Keugnay ito sa panayag ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ukol sa pag-ealis ng ban sa open-pit mining na maraming na kinondena ni Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Lufemis Cullamael.

"Merlin namang kinondena ang lifting ng ban sa open-pit mining. Hindi na nge natutugunan ng mayors at tama ang mga nasalanta ng kalamidad hoto na ngayon moa palalalan pa sa pagbibigay luwag ng mga kumpanya ng muna na lalong wawasakin. Ibabukayin ang mga bundok para sa open pit mining," ayon kay Cullamael.

Duda ang kongresista na may kinalaman sa paparating na eleksiyon kung kaya't tinanggal ang ban sa open-pit mining.

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Samentala, sinabi naman ni Bayan Muna party-list chairperson Nerli Colmenares na hindi dapat gamiting dahilan ng gobyerno ang pangangailangan na buhayin ang ekonomiya para payagan ang open-pit mining.

Sinabi ni Colmenares na maraming ibang paraan na magagamit upang gumulong ang ekonomiya.

"For one thing, we should start with already-established rural economic activities such as agriculture, fisheries, and even eco-tourism. It should put more effort into allowing our farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs to increase

their capacity and raise incomes without plundering our resources," dagdag pa nito. (Eralyn Prado/Billy Begas)



EDITORIAL - Balik muli sa pagmimina, nakaamba ang disgrasya

Pang-masa December 30, 2021 | 12:00am



INALIS na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagbabawal sa open-pit mining na ipinatigil noong 2017 ni dating DENR Sec. Gina Lopez. Nilagdaan ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu ang Department Administrative Order No. 2021-40 noong Disyembre 23. Nakasaad sa kautusan na inalis na ang apat na taong pagpapatigil sa open-pit mining method. Karamihan sa minimina sa ganitong pamamaraan ay ang copper, gold, silver at complex ores.

Ipinatigil ni Lopez ang ganitong pamamaraan ng pagmimina sapagkat sinisira nito ang likas na yaman, winawasak ang mga bundok at nawawalan ng ikinabubuhay ang mga magsasaka at mangingisda. Dahil sa matapang na adbokasiya ni Lopez laban sa illegal na pagmimina, kinuha siyang Kalihim ng DENR noong 2016. Sabi ni Lopez sa kanyang talumpati, “I don’t like mining, the foreigners and the rich are the only ones benefitting from it but the farmers and the fishermen suffer.”

Ipinasara niya ang 22 mining companies at 12 contracts sa pagmimina ang kanyang kinansela sa panahon ng kanyang panunungkulan sa Duterte administration. Ang 22 mining companies ay napatunayang lumabag sa mga itinatakdang batas at bumagsak din sa siltation, soil erosion, dust emission at kawalan ng social at development projects. Napatunayang sinisira ng mga ito ang kagubatan.

Hindi naipagpatuloy ni Lopez ang kanyang adbokasiya na mailigtas ang kalikasan laban sa mga mapag-abusong mining companies sapagkat ni-reject siya ng Commission on Appointment (CA) noong 2017. Labing-anim na senador ang bumoto para maalís siya sa puwesto at walo ang pumanig sa kanya. May pait sa tinig ni Lopez makaraang ma-reject, sabi niya, ang interes sa negosyo ang nangibabaw.

Ngayong inalis na ang pagbabawal sa open-pit mining, tiyak nang magpapatuloy ang pagsira sa kalikasan. Marami na naman ang mabubutas at mawawasak na bundok. Maraming mangingisda at magsasaka ang mawawalan ng ikabubuhay dahil sa walang taros na pagmimina. Aagos mula sa bundok ang latak na papatay sa pinagkukunan ng biyaya. Ito ang gusto ng pamahalaan sapagkat kikita sa buwis ng mining companies.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2021/12/30/2150875/editorial-balik-muli-sa-pagmimina-nakaamba-ang-disgrasya>



 ONE News 19h · @

Alyansa Tigil Mina tells News5 that the DENR's order lifting the nationwide ban on open-pit mining will further worsen climate change in the country, making the Typhoon #OndellePH hit most of the mining-affected areas. The DENR though insists that environmental concerns will be addressed.

Get updates via Viber: <https://bit.ly/3EuQLEc>
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LOOK: Duterte's partner Honeylet visits dolomite beach

Published December 29, 2021, 12:49 PM

by [Elson Quismorio](#)

President Duterte's longtime partner, Honeylet Avanceña was spotted visiting the so-called "dolomite beach" in Manila Bay.



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (left) and Honeylet Avanceña (Photo from Benny Antiporda's Facebook)



(Photo from Benny Antiporda's Facebook)

Avanceña was accompanied by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, who [shared photos](#) on his Facebook Wednesday, Dec. 29.

According to Antiporda, Avanceña, 52, was "amazed and thankful to the people who initiated the beach nourishment project".

The artificial white sand beach was reopened to the public on Tuesday, Dec. 28.



(Photo from Benny Antiporda's Facebook)

Avanceña and Duterte, 76, have an 18-year-old daughter named Veronica Kitty. Avanceña is a former nurse based in the United States.



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DZRH News

17h

LOOK: Maybahay ni Pang. Duterte na si Honayleth Avancera, bumisita sa Dolomite Beach kanina, ayon sa DENR. #SameSameAyunPhilippines

👤: DENR User: Benny Antiporda



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21h · 🌐



Ilala mandito ang pinakaantay: VIP na binata First lady honeylet Duterte na interview natin-
pinakasimang may bahay ni tatay di gong ❤️❤️👉

Napulat sa pagbabago ng manila boy naglakad lakad sa beach na animoy nasa baraczo ang
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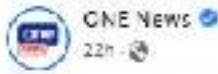
Back on Dolomite

by [Norman Cruz](#) [December 28, 2021](#)



People visit the reopened Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach in Malate, Manila on December 28. Others who want to visit the beach must register online via a website accredited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and must abide with health protocols.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/gallery/news-in-photos/314025642/back-on-dolomite.html>



Reopening of dolomite beach

People flock to the dolomite beach along Manila Bay early morning for its soft reopening. The DENR has set an online appointment system for visitors through QR codes to prevent overcrowding. (via News5/Justino Punsalang)

DETAILS: <https://bit.ly/3mf000r>





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DZRH News
10h · 🌐

...

Kasabay ng muling pagbubukas ng Dolomite Beach sa Maynila, Mas mahigpit ang panuntunan bago makapasok dito. Ayon sa DENR, hindi na pwedeng pumasok basta-basta ang mga gustong mamasyal dahil kailangan nang bumili ng online appointment. Paglilinaw ng ahensya, pinapayagan naman nila ang walk-in kung hindi nakapagbook basta't bakunado kontra COVID-19. #samasama_ayodilipino



**ONLINE BOOKING,
VACCINATION CARD
KAILANGAN BAGO MAKAPASOK
SA DOLOMITE BEACH — DENR**

@DZRHNEWS WWW.DZRH.COM.PH **DZRH** Sama-sama Tayo, Pilipino!



visit the COVID-19 Information Center for vaccine resources.
Get Vaccine Info.



10:08

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UNTV News and Rescue 11h

Malapus ang dalawang araw na operasyon, binara na muli sa publiko ang dolomite beach sa Manila Bay.

YOUTUBE.COM

Manila dolomite beach, muling isinara sa publiko
Malapus ang dalawang araw na operasyon, binara na muli sa publiko ang dolomite beach sa Manila Bay.

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Relocation not the only solution for Siargao coastal residents, gov't told

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com December 29, 2021 | 3:04pm



A resident stands atop his damaged house as he fixes the roof at a village in Dapa town on Siargao island on December 22, 2021, days after Super Typhoon Rai bared through the island.

AFP/Roel Catoto

MANILA, Philippines — Instead of relocating coastal residents in typhoon-stricken Siargao Island inland, the government should put in place climate-resilient housing technologies and ensure efficient disaster preparedness systems to protect them should another typhoon hit their communities, environmental groups said.

The Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines said that relocation is not the best and only solution for residents of coastal areas in Siargao after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said they will not be allowed to return to their homes there. Instead, they will be given parcels of land in other parts of the island.

“Relocating them somewhere else other than what they call as their home is easier said than done. The coastal communities of Siargao are not simply returning to their houses, but also their livelihoods and source of income; if they are relocated without consideration of this, the results will also be devastating,” YACAP said on Twitter.

Instead of off-site relocation, the government can rehabilitate mangrove forests in the area, if applicable, as this can mitigate the impacts of cyclones and other disasters in the future, YACAP added.

Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment, for its part, said that effective adaptive measures must be implemented.

“Coastal communities should instead be capacitated to adapt to coastal risks such as through adaptive housing technology, preemptive evacuation, and other disaster preparedness systems. This allows them to stay close to their livelihoods but still responsive to climate risks,” said Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan PNE.

Typhoon Odette (Rai)—the strongest tropical cyclone to hit the Philippines this year—unleashed violent winds and torrential rains that left hundreds of thousands homeless.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the typhoon damaged 531,128 houses in central and southern Philippines. It killed 397 people and left 83 missing.



Relocation

In meeting with President Rodrigo Duterte, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the agency and the local government of Siargao have agreed to ban coastal residents from returning to their homes “for their safety.”

He said the department will distribute parcels of lands to qualified tenured migrants under the Protected Area Community-Based Resource Management Agreement (PACBRMA).

PACBRMA is an agreement entered into by and between the DENR and organized tenured migrant communities or interested indigenous peoples in protected areas and buffer zones. It has a 25-year term, which is renewable for another 25 years.

Tenured migrants refer to occupants of protected areas who have actually and continuously occupied such areas for five years before its designation as such.

Siargao and its surrounding islets were declared as protected area in 1996 through Proclamation 902 by former President Fidel Ramos.

In response, Duterte said: “If you will rehabilitate a community and you would want to look for the space, if it’s a government land, give everything... Those idle government lands, idle lands of the government that are not productive, better give it to the people right away.”

Antiporda said the mayors in Siargao Island were told to identify temporary resettlement areas for the residents to stay in until the lands are distributed.

“Relocation should be voluntary and the provided areas should at least be able to cater their needs and livelihoods,” YACAP said.



Group slams DENR relocation plan for Siargao coastal residents

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star December 30, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) has opposed the plan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to relocate residents of coastal communities on Siargao Island who lost their houses due to Typhoon Odette.

“Coastal residents of Siargao, once victims of a natural calamity, are once again victimized by the government’s eviction order. This objectionable policy of the DENR to ban Odette evacuees from returning to their coastal communities is far worse than any typhoon that never brings permanent displacement,” the group said yesterday.

The DENR said typhoon-affected residents would be relocated to areas far from the sea to spare them from the onslaught of another typhoon.

The Pamalakaya said most of the residents to be affected by the relocation plan rely on the sea for their living.

“This eviction is not preventive, but a deadly measure for many coastal residents who subsist in seas by fishing,” Pamalakaya national chairperson Fernando Hicap said. “The DENR is using the natural calamity against the residents who temporarily sought shelter from the typhoon by permanently uprooting them from their communities and livelihood.”



Barge-hit coral sanctuary assessment ongoing

By Hilda Austria December 29, 2021, 12:45 pm



AGROUND. A barge runs aground at the coral sanctuary 1.5 nautical miles from the shoreline of Silaqui Island, Bolinao town, Pangasinan. The Philippine Coast Guard said Wednesday (Dec. 29, 2021) the assessment of the damage to the coral sanctuary is ongoing. *(Photo courtesy of Philippine Coast Guard)*

BOLINAO, Pangasinan – The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), local government unit, and the provincial environment office are coordinating with the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) for the assessment of the damage of the coral sanctuary in Silaqui Island here that was hit by a barge.

In an interview on Wednesday, PCG-Pangasinan station chief, Commander Mark Theodore Valencia, said the barge was seen at 1.5 nautical miles away from the shoreline of Silaqui Island.

However, the damage has yet to be determined by divers of the UPMSI, in coordination with other national government agencies.

“We have requested assistance for the assessment on the incident,” Valencia said.

He said the vessel was unmanned and had no cargo on board and there were no sighted traces of oil at the grounding site as the barge was non-propelled and had no oil.

The assessment began Tuesday but was later halted due to rough sea conditions in the area.

Valencia said the barge was attached to a boat, owned by a Singapore-based company, which encountered high waves and strong wind as it passed through the Ilocos region going to Taipei from Malaysia during the onslaught of Tropical Storm Odette.

“Due to the high waves and strong winds, the barge was detached from the main boat and drifted to Silaqui Island. It was discovered on December 27 to which we responded to inspect,” he said.

Valencia said the main boat is in Sta. Cruz, Zambales and waiting for the instruction from its company while the assessment on the damage to the coral sanctuary is ongoing.

“We have also contacted the local representative of the company to discuss the incident involving their barge,” he added. **(PNA)**



AYUDA IBUBUHOS SA LABIS NA NASALANTA NI ODETTE



December 29, 2021 @ 4:00 PM 15 hours ago

NAPAKABIGAT talaga ang kalamidad na dumapo sa Mindanao, Visayas at ilang bahagi ng Luzon na dinaanan ng bagyong Odette.

Nasa 388 na ang kumpirmadong patay habang nasa 60 pa rin ang missing at nasa 500,000 ang nawasakan ng bahay o bahagyang nasiraan nito.

Nasa 300, 000 ang mga nasa evacuation center habang nasa 200,000 ang nakikipanirahan sa iba.

Tinatayang umabot sa apat milyong mamamayan ang naapektuhan.

Nasa P20 bilyon ang tinatayang kabuuang halaga ng nasirang mga tahanan, imprastraktura at agrikultura.

Pati ang mahigit 4,000 bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease-19 ay nasira at 30 ospital at klinika lang mula sa 141 ang nag-ooopereyt.

Sa Pebrero 2022 pa makukumpleto ang pagbabalik ng kuryente sa maraming lugar habang kung magtanim ng palay at maghayupan ang mga magsasaka, maghintay sila ng 4-7 buwan bago sila muling aani.

Paano rin ang mga namatayang pamilya, lalo na ang mga haligi ng mga ito ang namatay at nawawala?

At ngayon, lumalaganap ang mga sakit, kasama na ang pagdurumi dahil sa pag-inom sa maruruming tubig at tiyak magkakaroon pa ng ibang mga sakit.

Ganyan kabigat ang sitwasyon, mga Bro.

MGA AYUDA

Kahit lubog sa krisis pampinansya ang pamahalaang nasyunal dulot ng COVID-19 na hanggang ngayo'y hindi pa alam ng lahat kung kailan huhupa at titigil, nagsusumikap ito na gumawa ng paraan para sa panandalian at pangmatagalang solusyon sa mga problema.

Nangako mismo si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magkakaroon ang mga pambansang obrero ng gobyerno P10,000 libo bawat isa anoman ang estado ng kanilang trabaho mula sa mga regular hanggang kontraktual.

Sana, magkaroon din ang mga obrero ng mga lokal na pamahalaan ng katulad na ayuda.

Ang nasa 97,500 pamilyang lubos na nawasakan ng tahanan ay magkakaroon naman ng P5,000 para sa panimulang pagkakaroon ng masisilungan.



Nag-order na rin ng tubig ang pamahalaan mula sa mga lugar na hindi naapektuhan ng bagyo at inatasan mismo ng Pangulo ang mga bumbero na magbiyahe at maghatid ng malinis na tubig sa mga nasalanta.

ng National Housing Authority ay mamimigay naman sa mga lokal na pamahalaan ng P100 milyon bawat isa para sa pabahay at ang Department of the Interior and Local Government ang mangangasiwa rito.

Magbibigay rin ng pautang ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan gaya ng Pag-IBIG para sa paggawa o pagkumpuni ng mga bahay ng mga miyembro rito.

At buong tinatanggap ng pamahalaan ang mga salapi at ayuda na nanggagaling sa ibang bansa gaya ng China, Japan, United States, Korea, Singapore, France at iba pa.

MGA KORAP IPAKULONG SA IMPIYERNO

Tiyak na may mga korap na opisyal ng pamahalaan at mga kasabwat nila ang ngayon pa lang ay naglalaway at sumisikwat na sa mga ayudang ipinararating sa mga biktima.

At sisikwat pa sila sa mga pondo ng pamahalaan at ayuda ng mga dayuhan at mga Pilipino na nagmamagandang loob sa pagtulong.

Ang dapat sa mga ito, hindi lang ipako sa krus kundi isama sa mga itatapon sa impiyerno at sementeryo.



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
 Intramuros, Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROHIBITION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OR HIRING OF NEW EMPLOYEES; CREATION OR FILLING UP OF NEW POSITIONS; GIVING SALARY INCREASES; TRANSFER OR DETAIL OF CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES; SUSPENSION OF ELECTIVE LOCAL OFFICIALS; AND FILING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCES OF LOCAL TREASURERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 09, 2022 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

ABAS, S. M.,	<i>Chairman</i>
GUANZON, M.R.A.V.,	<i>Commissioner</i>
INTING, S. B.,	<i>Commissioner</i>
CASQUEJO, M.S.,	<i>Commissioner</i>
KHO, A., Jr. T.,	<i>Commissioner</i>
TEROLINO, A. P.,	<i>Commissioner</i>

x-----x

Promulgated: December 16, 2021

RESOLUTION NO. **10742**

The Commission on Elections, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, RESOLVES, as it hereby RESOLVED to promulgate the following rules to implement the provisions of Section 261 subsections (g), (h) and (x) of the Omnibus Election Code:

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. Prohibited Acts. - Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines provides:

SEC. 261. Prohibited Acts. - The following shall be guilty of an election offense:

xxx

xxx

xxx

(g) *Appointment of new employees, creation of new position, promotion, or giving salary increases.* - During the period of forty-five (45) days before a regular election and thirty (30) days before a special election, (1) any head, official or appointing officer of a government office, agency or instrumentality, whether national or local, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, who appoints or hires any new employee, whether provisional, temporary or casual, or creates and fills any new position, except upon prior authority of the Commission. The Commission shall not grant the authority sought unless, it is satisfied that the position to be filled is essential to the proper functioning of the office or agency concerned, and that the position shall not be filled in a manner that may influence the election.

As an exception to the foregoing provisions, a new employee may be appointed in case of urgent need: Provided, however, That notice of the appointment shall be given to the Commission within three (3) days from the date of the appointment. Any appointment or hiring in violation of this provision shall be null and void.

(2) Any government official who promotes, or gives any increase of salary or remuneration or privilege to any government official or employee, including those in government-owned or controlled corporations.

(h) *Transfer of officers and employees in the civil service.* - Any public official who makes or causes any transfer or detail whatever of any officer or employee in the civil service including public school teachers, within the election period except upon prior approval of the Commission.

xxx

xxx

xxx

(x) *Suspension of elective provincial, city, municipal or barangay officer.* - The provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding; during the election period, any public official who suspends, without prior approval of the Commission, any elective provincial, city, municipal or barangay officer, unless said suspension will be for purposes of applying the "Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act" in relation to the suspension and removal of elective officials; in which case the provision of this section shall be inapplicable.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Resolution:

- a. **Appointment** is the selection, by the authority vested with the power, of an individual who is to exercise the functions of a given office. When completed, usually with its confirmation, the appointment results in security of tenure for the person chosen unless he is replaceable at pleasure because of the nature of his office.
- b. **Designation** connotes merely the imposition by law of additional duties of an incumbent official. It is considered only an acting or temporary appointment, which does not confer security of tenure on the person named.
- c. **Detail** is the movement of an employee from one department or agency which is temporary in nature, which does not involve a reduction in rank, status or salary and does not require the issuance of another appointment. It shall be allowed only for a limited period in the case of employees occupying professional, technical and scientific position.
- d. **Giving of remuneration or privilege** shall include giving of bonuses, other than the mandated 13th month pay and cash gift for government employees, incentives, Representation and Transportation Allowance (RATA) or other form of allowances regularly received, on top of their usual benefits and privileges.
- e. **Increase of salary** shall include adjustments in salaries as a result of increase in pay levels or upgrading of positions which do not involve a change in qualification requirements and do not require the issuance of a new appointment.
- f. **Promotion** is the advancement of an employee from one position to another with an increase in duties and responsibilities as authorized by law, and usually accompanied by an increase in salary. Promotion may be from one department or agency to another or from one organizational unit to another in the same agency.
- g. **Reassignment** is the movement of an employee from one organizational unit to another in the same department or agency which does not involve a reduction in rank, status or salary and does not require the issuance of an appointment.

- h. *Suspension* is the temporary forced removal from the exercise of the office. It shall include both suspension as a penalty and preventive suspension.
 - i. *Transfer* is a movement from one position to another which is of equivalent rank, level or salary without break in service involving the issuance of an appointment. The transfer may be from one department or agency to another or from one organizational unit to another in the same department or agency. This shall also include movement consequent to an order for the return/recall of the detailed/assigned/reassigned personnel to the original or previous place of assignment within the period of prohibition.
- APPOINTMENT OF NEW EMPLOYEES, CREATION OF NEW POSITION, PROMOTION, OR GIVING SALARY INCREASES**

SECTION 3. Prohibited Acts and Period of Prohibition. -
From March 25, 2022, Friday until May 08, 2022, Sunday:

- a. No head or appointing officer of any national or local government office, agency or instrumentality, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, shall, except upon prior authority of the Commission:
 - i. Appoint or hire any new employee in the civil service, whether permanent, provisional, temporary, substitute or casual. The appointment referred herein shall not include designation.
 - ii. Create and fill any new position.
- b. No government official shall promote or give any increase of salary or remuneration or privilege to any government official or employee, including those in government-owned or -controlled corporations.

SECTION 4. Designation not included. - The appointment referred herein shall not include designation as defined in Section 2 (b) hereof. Thus, designation of an incumbent official or employee in a committee or office which involves merely the imposition of additional duties is not included in the prohibition.

SECTION 5. Request for Authority to Appoint or Hire New Employees; Where and How to File. -

- a. Requests for authority to appoint or hire new employees shall be:

- i. in writing;
 - ii. stating all information pertinent to the appointment or hiring (i.e. name of appointee, position, salary grade, name of appointing authority, etc.) and the reasons for the same;
- b. Said request shall be filed with:
- i. the **Law Department** - when the request is for authority to appoint or hire new employees in the central or main office of national government agencies and government-owned or -controlled corporations.
 - ii. the **Office of the Regional Election Director** - when the request is for authority to appoint or hire new employees in the field or local offices of government agencies and government-owned or -controlled corporations in the region where the vacancy exists.
- c. The request shall be filed with the pertinent Department/Office in the following manner:
- i. A digital/scanned copy of the request shall be submitted through e-mail to:
 - i. law@comelec.gov.ph for the Law Department; and
 - ii. the e-mail address of the concerned Office of the Regional Election Director which may be found in this Commission's official website at www.comelec.gov.ph.

The attachments of the request, if any, such as the list of the names of the personnel to be appointed, hired, transferred, detailed or suspended, in MS Word and/or PDF Format, must be e-mailed together with the signed request.

- ii. On the same day of filing through e-mail, the hard copy of the request, including its attachments, if any, shall be sent by registered mail or recognized courier service to the Law Department or Office of the Regional Election Director.

In case there is a variance between the attachments sent through e-mail in Word and/or PDF file, and the hard copy, the former shall prevail.

A sample copy of the application for request for exemption from the ban on appointment is hereto attached as *Annex "A"*.

SECTION 6. Request for Authority to Create and Fill New Positions; Where and How to File. -

- a. Requests for authority to create and fill new positions shall be submitted in writing to the Law Department of the Commission.
- b. The Commission shall not grant the authority unless it is satisfied that the position to be created and filled is essential to the proper functioning of the office or agency concerned and that the filling up of such position shall not in any manner influence the results of the election.

A sample copy of the application for request for exemption from the ban on creation and filling of new positions is hereto attached as *Annex "B"*.

SECTION 7. When Request of Authority is Not Necessary. - No prior written authority from this Commission shall be needed for the hiring or appointment of workers under Contract of Service and Job Order whose services are neither covered by Civil Service law, rules, and regulations nor considered as government service.

Renewal of appointments of temporary, casual, substitute and contractual personnel are likewise not covered by this prohibition and will no longer require prior authority of the Commission.

However, the appointing authority shall furnish the Commission, through the Law Department for positions in the central or main offices, and through the Office of the Regional Election Director concerned for positions in the field offices, a complete list of workers appointed/hired by virtue of a Contract of Service or Job Order and employees whose appointments were renewed, indicating their positions, item numbers, salary grade and station, if applicable.

SECTION 8. Urgent Need to Appoint or Hire New Employees. -

- a. Where there is urgent need to appoint or hire new employees and such employees have already been appointed or hired without prior authority of the Commission, the requesting office or agency shall notify the Commission in writing, within three (3) days from the date of the appointment or hiring, stating therein:

- i. the exact date when the position became vacant;
- ii. the cause for vacancy;

- iii. the reason for the urgency of appointment or hiring; and
 - iv. all the necessary data or information regarding the same.
- b. Notice shall be made through the Law Department in case the position is in the central or main office, or through the Office of the Regional Election Director concerned in case of positions in the field offices.
- c. The appointment or hiring of new employees shall be valid, unless the same is found by the Commission:
- i. to have been made to influence, in any manner, the results of the election;
 - ii. to have been issued without the required notice; or
 - iii. that there is no urgent need for the appointment or hiring.
- d. The need to fill up a vacant position with a new employee may be considered "urgent" if:
- i. the position is essential to the proper functioning of the office or agency concerned;
 - ii. the position has been vacated by death, retirement, resignation, promotion or transfer of the regular incumbent;
 - iii. the appointment is issued within sixty (60) days from the occurrence of the vacancy;
 - iv. the vacancy cannot be filled by promotion or transfer of insiders within the same period; and
 - v. the position shall not be filled in any manner that may influence the election.
- e. Appointment to a position which has been vacant for more than sixty (60) days shall not be considered urgent and must, therefore, require prior written authority from the Commission, through the Law Department or the Office of the Regional Election Director concerned.

SECTION 9. Total Ban on Promotion, Salary Increases, Grant of Privileges. - The promotion or giving of increase of salary or remuneration or privilege to any government official or employee including those in government-owned or -controlled corporations, shall be strictly prohibited from **March 25, 2022, Friday** until **May 08, 2022, Sunday**.

SECTION 10. Injunction. - The Civil Service Commission (CSC), including all its field offices is hereby enjoined not to approve the appointment of new employees where no prior written authority of the

Commission or its regional offices is presented by the appointing authority concerned or proof that the required notice within the 3-day reglementary period as provided in Section 8 (a) hereof has been complied with.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Commission on Audit (COA), including all their field offices, shall not release or authorize the release of any appropriation, or pass in audit, payments or expenditures of public funds that may be directly used in violation of the foregoing prohibition.

All field offices of the CSC are directed to submit immediately to the Commission through the Law Department a written report on any violation of said provisions of the Omnibus Election Code through electronic mail (e-mail) at law@comelec.gov.ph.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

SECTION 11. Prohibited Act and Period of Prohibition. - From January 09, 2022, Sunday to June 08, 2022, Wednesday, no public official shall, except upon prior written approval of the Commission, make or cause any transfer or detail whatsoever of any officer or employee in the civil service, including public school teachers.

The phrase "transfer or detail" shall be construed in general terms. Any movement of personnel from one station to another, whether or not in the same office or agency, during the election is covered by the prohibition.

Transfer incidental to promotion, as well as that incidental to appointment, is within the purview of the prohibition against transfer during the election period.

The ban shall likewise include any movement consequent to an order for the return/recall of the detailed/assigned/reassigned personnel to the original or previous place of assignment within the period of prohibition.

SECTION 12. Request for Approval of the Commission on Transfer or Detail. - Requests for approval to make or cause any transfer or detail shall be:

- a. in writing;

- b. indicating the (1) office and place to which the officer or employee is proposed to be transferred or detailed or otherwise moved;
- c. stating the reasons therefor;

SECTION 13. Filing of Requests with the Law Department. - Requests for approval to make or cause any transfer or detail of any officer or employee in the civil service shall be filed with the Law Department, when:

- a. The official station is in the central/main offices of national agencies and government-owned or controlled corporations;
- b. The requests for transfer or detail involve Provincial, City/Municipal Treasurers and Schools Division Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents;
- c. The transfer or detail is inter-regional.

The Request for Approval shall be sent through e-mail to law@comelec.gov.ph and registered mail/recognized courier service, in the manner provided for under Section 5(c) hereof.

SECTION 14. Filing of Requests with the Office of the Regional Election Director. - Requests for approval to make or cause any transfer or detail of any officer or employee in the civil service shall be filed with the Office of the Regional Election Director where the employee/s sought to be transferred or detailed is stationed, when:

- a. It involves government officers or employees with official stations in the field offices including the National Capital Region;
- b. All other officers and employees not covered under Section 8 hereof.

The Request for Approval shall be sent through the e-mail of the concerned Office of the Regional Election Director which may be found in this Commission's official website at www.comelec.gov.ph, and registered mail/recognized courier service, in the manner provided for under Section 5(c) hereof.

A sample copy of the application for request for exemption from the ban on transfer is hereto attached as *Annex "C"*.

SUSPENSION OF ELECTIVE PROVINCIAL, CITY, MUNICIPAL OR BARANGAY OFFICER

SECTION 15. Prohibited Acts. - From **January 09, 2022, Sunday to June 08, 2022, Wednesday**, the provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding, no public official shall, except upon prior written approval of the Commission, suspend any elective provincial, city, municipal or barangay officer.

Consistent with Section 2 (h) hereof, the ban shall include preventive suspension or suspension imposed as a penalty.

No prior approval is required if the suspension will be for purposes of applying the *Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act* in relation to the suspension and removal of elective officials.

SECTION 16. Request for Authority of the Commission to Suspend Any Elective Provincial, City, Municipal or Barangay Officer, Unless Suspension will be for Purposes of Applying the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act: Where and How to File. - Requests for authority to suspend an elective provincial, city, municipal or barangay officer shall be submitted to the Law Department of the Commission, supported by:

- a. a certified true copy of the formal complaint executed under oath and containing the specific charges or in the absence thereof, a Certification from the requesting agency or local government unit stating that the agency or local government unit that promulgated the decision or resolution did not furnish them a copy of the said formal complaint; and
- b. a certified true copy of the Decision or Resolution suspending the concerned elective local official.

The Request for Authority to Suspend Any Elective Provincial, City, Municipal or Barangay Officer shall be sent through e-mail to law@comelec.gov.ph and registered mail/recognized courier service, in the manner provided for under Section 5(c) hereof.

A sample copy of the request is hereto attached as *Annex "D"*.

SECTION 17. When Request for Authority is Not Necessary. - Request for authority to suspend elective local officials shall not be necessary:

- a. If the offense involved is punishable under the *Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act*

- b. For those that were already implemented before the start of the election period but is continuously served during or even after the expiration of the election period.

SECTION 18. *Effect of the Onset of the Election Period.* - The onset of the election period will not have the effect of lifting any suspension, imposed as a penalty or preventive suspension, that is already being served.

SECTION 19. *Dismissal from the Service, Not Included in the Prohibition.* - Dismissal from the service, recall and removal of elective local officials is not included in the prohibition under paragraph (x), Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF PROVINCIAL, CITY OR MUNICIPAL TREASURER

SECTION 20. *Leave of Absence of Provincial, City or Municipal Treasurer.* - In view of the important role of provincial, city and municipal treasurers, the Department of Finance (DOF) is deputized to ensure that all provincial, city, and municipal treasurers remain in their present assignments and neither transferred/detailed, reassigned, whether temporarily or permanently, to another province, city or municipality, except upon prior written authority of the Commission, nor allowed to go on leave of absence from office during the period starting two weeks before and two weeks after Election Day, except upon prior written approval of the Commission. The DOF shall also ensure that no temporary or casual employee is designated as Acting Treasurer of the Office of the Treasurer.

SECTION 21. *Request for Approval of Leave of Absence of Provincial, City or Municipal Treasurer.* - Requests for approval of leaves of absence of provincial, city or municipal treasurers within the period of two (2) weeks before and two (2) weeks after Election Day shall be coursed through the appropriate Regional Office of the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) of the DOF, having supervision and control over local offices of treasurers, stating the purpose of the leave.

The Regional BLGF Office shall then request for a prior written approval by the Commission for the leave of absence of the requesting treasurer.

SECTION 22. *Where to File.* - The Regional BLGF shall file the request for approval of leave of absence with the appropriate Office of the Regional Election Director of the Commission. The Regional Election Director shall approve or disapprove the same, subject to the following conditions:

- a. that a personnel in an acting capacity is designated in the office of the treasurer whose leave of absence is being requested for approval during the period of absence so as not to disrupt or impede the proper functioning of the office;
- b. that an approval is prospective in application and without prejudice to the applicable Civil Service Law, rules and regulations on personnel action/movements; and
- c. that the leave of absence of the treasurer and the designation of an acting treasurer are not made to influence the election.

The Office of Regional Election Director concerned shall make a **weekly report** to be submitted to the Law Department via e-mail at law@comelec.gov.ph on actions taken on all applications for approval of leave of absence received. The hard copy of the report shall also be sent through registered mail/recognized courier service.

A sample copy of the weekly report is hereto attached as *Annex "E"*.

AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN TO APPROVE/DISAPPROVE REQUESTS AND THE PROCEDURE ON THE REQUEST

SECTION 23. *Authority of the Chairman to Approve/Disapprove Recommendations from the Law Department.* - The Chairman of the Commission is authorized to approve/disapprove recommendations of the Law Department on requests for exemption from the coverage of the ban involved in this Resolution, except those the Regional Election Directors are authorized to act upon, subject to reportorial requirements.

SECTION 24. *Requests for Authority Submitted to the Law Department.* - The Law Department shall prepare its recommendation on all requests received by it and submit to the Chairman for approval or disapproval.

SECTION 25. *Requests for Authority Submitted to the Office of the Regional Election Director.* - The Offices of the Regional Election Director shall approve or disapprove all requests received by them and submit a report containing a list of all the requests acted upon to the Law

Department, at the end of every week, via e-mail to law@comelec.gov.ph. The hard copy of the report shall also be sent through registered mail/recognized courier service.

A sample copy of the Regional Report is hereto attached as *Annex "F"*.

SECTION 26. Report of the Law Department on All Actions on Requests for Exemption to the Commission En Banc. - At the end of the election period, the Law Department shall make a Report of all the actions taken on the requests for exemption from the coverage of the ban involved in this Resolution, including actions of the Offices of the Regional Election Director.

All actions of the Chairman and of the Regional Election Directors granting the requests for exemptions from the coverage of the ban herein involved shall remain valid and effective, unless otherwise reversed or set aside by the Commission.

GRANT OF CONTINUING AUTHORITY

SECTION 27. Continuing Authority to Transfer Government Employees Granted to Certain Government Agencies. - For purposes of the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections, the Commission hereby grants continuing authority to the following government agencies to appoint or hire new employees from **March 25, 2022, Friday** until **May 08, 2022, Sunday**, and to transfer or detail their officers or employees from **January 09, 2022, Sunday** to **June 08, 2022, Wednesday**, in view of the nature of their functions:

- a. The President of the Philippines;
- b. Supreme Court of the Philippines, Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan, Court of Tax Appeals and the lower courts, including the Senate and Presidential Electoral Tribunal; and
- c. Such other government agencies as may be approved by the Commission En Banc.

SECTION 28. Grant of Continuing Authority. - The grant of continuing authority to appoint and transfer personnel during the election period may be granted to government agencies, upon the submission to the Law Department of a written request justifying the reasons therefor.

SECTION 29. Conditions for the Grant of Continuing Authority. -

The grant of continuing authority to government agencies to appoint or transfer officers or employees during the said period shall, however, be subject to the following conditions:

- a. that it is essential to the proper functioning of the office and shall not in any manner influence the conduct of the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections;
- b. that it shall not involve promotion or giving of any increase of salary or remuneration or privilege during the forty-five (45) day period before the May 09, 2022 Elections which is strictly prohibited without any exception whatsoever;
- c. that this authorization shall be prospective in application and without prejudice to the applicable Civil Service Law, rules and regulations on personnel actions/movements; and
- d. that they shall notify in writing the Commission, through the Law Department, as follows:

d.1. In cases of appointments - within three (3) days from the date of appointment, stating therein:

- i. Name of the officer or employee to be appointed or hired;
- ii. Position of said officer or employee to be appointed or hired;
- iii. The exact date when the position to be filled became vacant;
- iv. Cause of the vacancy; and
- v. All necessary data or information regarding the same.

d.2. In cases of transfers/details - within (3) days from the date of transfer/detail, stating therein:

- i. The office and place where the officer or employee came from and the office/place to which said officer or employee is transferred, detailed or otherwise moved;
- ii. Justifications or reasons for said transfer or designation; and
- iii. All necessary data or information regarding the same.

The written notice shall be sent to the Law Department via its e-mail at law@comelec.gov.ph as well as through registered mail/recognized courier service.

**AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO
TRANSFER OR REASSIGN ITS PERSONNEL**

SECTION 30. Basis of Authority. - There is an essential need to appoint, assign, reassign or transfer personnel of the Commission on Elections in order that it can effectively and efficiently carry out its constitutional mandate to conduct free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections.

SECTION 31. Grant of Authority - The Commission on Elections is hereby authorized to appoint or hire new employees or fill new positions from **March 25, 2022, Friday until May 08, 2022, Sunday** and transfer or assign or reassign its personnel from **January 09, 2022, Sunday to June 08, 2022, Wednesday**.

COMMON PROVISIONS

SECTION 32. Request for Authority/Approval Filed with the Incorrect Office. - Any Request for Authority/Approval filed with the incorrect office shall be deemed as not filed and shall not be given due course.

SECTION 33. When to File Request for Authority. - Requests for Authority shall be filed with the pertinent office at least ten (10) days before the intended appointment, hiring, creation and filling of new position, transfer, detail, leave of absence, or start of suspension, as the case may be.

Any request filed after the implementation of any of the aforementioned acts shall not be accepted or acted upon except as provided under Section 8 of this Resolution.

For this purpose, the date of the receipt of the request through e-mail shall be considered as the date of filing.

SECTION 34. Effectivity. - This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SECTION 35. Dissemination. - The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution in two (2) daily

newspapers of general circulation, give this resolution the widest dissemination and furnish copies thereof to all concerned.

SO ORDERED.

SHERIFF M. ABAS

Chairman

MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON

Commissioner

SOCORRO B. INTING

Commissioner

MARLON S. CASQUEJO

Commissioner

ANTONIO T. KHO, JR.

Commissioner

AIMEE P. FEROLINO

Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED by the Commission *En Banc* during its special online meeting on 16 December 2021 pursuant to COMELEC Resolution No. 10671 entitled: "Supplemental Resolution to COMELEC Resolution No. 9366 Promulgated March 25, 2015, entitled, 'Rule on the Enactment and Promulgation of Executive or Administrative Resolutions' Providing for Other Format of Meetings to Include Online Meetings Applicable in Times of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Imposition of Community Quarantines and Similar Emergency".



ATTY. CONSUELO B. DIOLA
Acting COMELEC Secretary

Instructions:

1. Please fill in the following details and submit the same to the Law Department or Office of the Regional Election Director concerned
2. Additional Sheets may be used.

**APPLICATION FOR REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION
FROM THE BAN ON APPOINTMENT
(For the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections)**

Name of Personnel	Position and Salary Grade	Date of Appointment	Cause of Vacancy, if applicable	Name of Requesting Authority, Position and Name of Agency

CERTIFICATION

I, _____ of _____, hereby CERTIFY as follows:

- 1) that the request is essential to the proper functioning of the office and shall not in any manner influence the conduct of the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections;
- 2) that the request shall not involve promotion or the giving of any increase of salary or remuneration or privilege during the prohibitive period before the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections which is strictly prohibited without any exception whatsoever; and
- 3) that this authorization shall be prospective in application and without prejudice to the applicable Civil Service Law, rules and regulations on personnel actions/movements.

Prepared and Submitted by: _____

Position & Name of Agency _____

Date: _____

Instructions:

1. Please fill in the following details and submit the same to the Law Department or Office of the Regional Election Director concerned
2. Additional Sheets may be used.

**APPLICATION FOR REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION
FROM THE BAN ON CREATION OR FILLING OF NEW POSITIONS**
(For the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections)

Name of Personnel	Position and Salary Grade	Date of Appointment	Cause of Vacancy, if applicable	Name of Requesting Authority, Position and Name of Agency

CERTIFICATION

I, _____ of _____, hereby CERTIFY as follows:

- 1) that the request is essential to the proper functioning of the office and shall not in any manner influence the conduct of the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections;
- 2) that the request shall not involve promotion or the giving of any increase of salary or remuneration or privilege during the prohibitive period before the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections which is strictly prohibited without any exception whatsoever; and
- 3) that this authorization shall be prospective in application and without prejudice to the applicable Civil Service Law, rules and regulations on personnel actions/movements.

Prepared and Submitted by:

Position & Name of Agency _____

Date: _____

Instructions:

1. Please fill in the following details and submit the same to the Law Department or Office of the Regional Election Director concerned
2. Additional Sheets may be used.

**APPLICATION FOR REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION
FROM THE BAN ON TRANSFER**

(For the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections)

Name of Personnel	Present Station	Transferred Station	Date of Effectivity of Transfer	Justification of Transfer	Name of Requesting Authority, Position and Name of Agency

CERTIFICATION

I, _____ of _____, hereby CERTIFY as follows

- 1) that the request is essential to the proper functioning of the office and shall not in any manner influence the conduct of the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections;
- 2) that the request shall not involve promotion or the giving of any increase of salary or remuneration or privilege during the prohibitive period before the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections which is strictly prohibited without any exception whatsoever; and
- 3) that this authorization shall be prospective in application and without prejudice to the applicable Civil Service Law, rules and regulations on personnel actions/movements.

Prepared and Submitted by:

Position & Name of Agency _____

Date: _____

Instructions:

1. Please fill in the following details and submit the same to the Law Department.
2. Attach herein the following:
 - 1) Certified True Copy of the Formal Complaint executed under oath.
 - 2) Certified True Copy of the Decision or Resolution suspending the concerned elective local official.
3. Additional Sheets may be used.

**APPLICATION FOR REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION
FROM THE BAN ON SUSPENSION**

(For the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections)

Name of Personnel	Position	Nature of Suspension (Preventive or as a Penalty)	Duration of Suspension	Name of Requesting Authority, Position and Name of Agency

CERTIFICATION

I, _____ of _____, hereby CERTIFY as follows:

- 1) that the request shall not in any manner influence the conduct of the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections;
- 2) the case does not involve a violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Prepared and Submitted by:

Position & Name of Agency

Date: _____

Instructions:

1. Please fill in the following details and submit the same to the Law Department.
2. There is no need to attach herein the individual request submitted by the requesting Agency.
3. Additional Sheets may be used.

**REGIONAL REPORT ON APPROVED/DISAPPROVED APPLICATIONS
FOR APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE RECEIVED**
(For the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections)

Requesting BLGF ¹	Name of Provincial, City or Municipal Treasurer	Provincial/City/ Municipal Office	Reason of the Leave of Absence	Period of the Requested Leave	Date of Approval/ Disapproval of Request

Prepared and Submitted by:

Regional Election Director, Region _____

Instructions:

1. Please fill in the following details and submit the same to the Law Department.
2. There is no need to attach herein the individual reports submitted by the requesting Agency.
3. Additional Sheets may be used.

**REGIONAL REPORTS ON APPROVED/DISAPPROVED REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM
THE BAN ON APPOINTMENT AND TRANSFER**

(For the May 09, 2022 National and Local Elections)

A. APPOINTMENT

Name of Personnel	Position and Salary	Date of Appointment	Name of Requesting Authority, Positions and Name of Agency	Date of Application for Exemption	Date of Approval/Disapproval of Request for Exemption

B. TRANSFER

Name of Personnel	Present Station	Transferred Station	Name of Requesting Authority, Position and Name of Agency	Date of Application for Exemption	Date of Approval/Disapproval of Request for Exemption

Prepared and Submitted by:

Position & Name of Agency _____

Date: _____

30 DECEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



OCTA: PH may have up to 2,000 new COVID-19 cases on Dec. 30

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 30, 2021 4:11:45 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 30) — The country is seen to record up to 2,000 COVID-19 cases on Dec. 30, the OCTA Research group said on Wednesday.

“Nationwide, we are projecting 1,600 to 2,000 new cases on Dec. 30,” OCTA Research fellow Guido David [tweeted](#).

Guido said the National Capital Region’s positivity rate, or the percentage of people who tested positive, has increased to 8.4% as of Dec. 28, while the region’s seven-day positivity rate has increased to 3.86%. This means that new infections in the region may breach 1,000.

The ideal positivity rate is 5% or below based on the World Health Organization’s standards.

On [Tuesday](#), OCTA warned of a possible rise in COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila. The trend is even concerning since this may not just be a “holiday uptick,” David said.

The slight increase in the number of COVID-19 cases is also a cause for concern for the [Philippine College of Physicians](#) amid the threat of the Omicron variant, but the Department of Health said Filipinos should not panic since the country is still at “low risk” for infection.

The country had seen a decline in the number of COVID-19 infections, which led to the government loosening restrictions.

Authorities are expected to announce new alert level classifications for Jan. 1 to 15 after the implementation of Alert Level 2 lapses this week.

In a briefing on Wednesday, acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles said the government may escalate the alert levels when cases spike, adding that local governments may implement granular lockdowns if there is clustering of infections.



OCTA raises concern as NCR's positivity rate tops 5%

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [December 29, 2021, 1:48 pm](#)



(File photo)

MANILA – The positivity rate in the National Capital Region (NCR) has exceeded 5 percent as of Monday, the first time since October, the OCTA Research Group said Tuesday night.

In a tweet, OCTA Research Group fellow, Dr. Guido David, noted new Covid-19 cases are expected to hit 1,200 with at least 400 infections in the NCR by Wednesday with such positivity rate.

Positivity rate is the percentage of Covid-19 tests performed which turned out positive in a certain area or region.

“There is now a concern that this is not just a holiday uptick. Please be advised that the situation is changing in the NCR and we must now be mindful of minimum public health standards,” David said.

He added the reproduction number in the region has increased to 1.03 and it could reach as high as 1.39 based on testing.

Reproduction number is the number of individuals a Covid-19 case could infect with the virus.

“This rapid increase in the reproduction number could only mean one thing. Let us continue to be extra vigilant,” he said. **(PNA)**



Covid cases to rise due to holiday-related mobility: DOH

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor December 29, 2021, 7:07 pm



Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire (*File photo*)

MANILA – A health official on Wednesday said cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) are expected to increase due to holiday-related mobility.

In a Viber message to reporters, Department of Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the uptick in the number of infections was also caused by reduced compliance to the minimum public health standards.

"We are continuously monitoring the situation, though we cannot still be certain that the increase in cases is due to the Omicron variant," she said. "We are calling on the public and the LGUs (local government units) to ensure safety protocols are implemented and every Filipino is vaccinated".

On Wednesday, the DOH reported 889 new infections, more than 50 percent higher compared to the 421 cases reported on Tuesday, bringing the country's overall tally to 2,839,790.

The OCTA Research Group said late Tuesday night that the positivity rate in the National Capital Region has increased by 5 percent for the first time since October.

Positivity rate is the percentage of Covid-19 tests performed which turned out positive in a certain area or region.

The group reminded the public to observe the proper health protocols as the increase may not just be a holiday uptick.

In a Palace press briefing on Wednesday, Acting Presidential Spokesperson, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles enjoined the LGUs to impose granular or localized lockdowns in areas with an uptick in Covid-19 cases to prevent infections from again reaching an alarming level.

He said President Rodrigo Duterte and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) are concerned about the surge in infections, noting LGUs should step up in efforts to control the movement of people.

Nograles emphasized that it is the "responsibility" of LGUs to impose granular lockdowns, especially in areas where there is a "clustering of cases." (**PNA**)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1164048>



Ika-4 na Omicron case ng Pilipinas may 22 close contacts, ayon sa DOH

(Philstar.com) - December 29, 2021 - 5:35pm



This photo taken on June 24, 2021 shows Philippine Airlines' (PAL) crew members wearing protective gear as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus welcoming a passenger on a flight prior to departure at General Santos City airport, on the southern island of Mindanao.

MANILA, Philippines — Halos dalawang dosenang "close contacts" ng ikaapat na kaso ng mas nakahahawang COVID-19 Omicron variant ang natuklasan ng gobyerno, pagbabahagi ng Department of Health (DOH) ngayong araw.

Matatandaang [ika-10 ng Disyembre nang lumapag sa NAIA sakay ng Philippine Airlines PR 127 ang isang 38-anyos na babaeng nakakitaan ng Omicron variant](#). Kasama niya ang [37-anyos na Pilipinong mister, na nagpositibo rin sa COVID-19](#).

"As of December 29, 2021, the DOH has found 22 close contacts of the fourth Omicron case from the PR 127 flight. This includes the husband of the case, who also tested positive," ayon sa DOH, Miyerkules.

"The DOH is currently verifying the test results of all close contacts and have coordinated with the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Units to verify the health status of these cases." Hindi pa naman idinedetalye ng kagawaran sa reporters kung ilan dito ang bahagi ng flight crew at mga pasahero.

Martes lang nang sabihin ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na isasailalim pa lang sa genome sequencing ang samples ng asawa ng ikaapat na kaso para malaman kung meron din siyang mas nakahahawang Omicron variant.

Matatandaang dinischarge mula sa COVID-19 facility ang mag-asawa matapos ang 10-day isolation habang sila'y asymptomatic. Nakatakda silang sumailalim sa re-swabbing. Kasalukuyang naka-isolate na rin sa ngayon ang mga kasama sa bahay ng magkabayak.

Sa huling ulat ng DOH ngayong araw, aabot na sa 2.83 milyon ang nahahawaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas. Patay na sa kasalukuyan ang 51,241 sa kanila. — **James Relativo**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/12/29/2150768/ika-4-na-omicron-case-ng-pilipinas-may-22-close-contacts-ayon-sa-doh/amp/>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 655

DISYEMBRE 29, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.4%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
10,418

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.8%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,778,131

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.80%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
51,241

MGA BAGONG KASO **889**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **214**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **28**

KABUUKANG BILANG NG KASO **2,839,790**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 27

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 29
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 27

4.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

27,615

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
47.2%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

KABUUKANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.5K TOTAL BEDS) **20%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (1.8K TOTAL BEDS) **23%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (1.22K TOTAL BEDS) **11%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL SPARE BEDS) **12%** Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.7K TOTAL BEDS) **23%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS) **21%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS) **17%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL SPARE BEDS) **14%** Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

536 Asymptomatic

4,384 Mild

3,346 Moderate

1,778 Severe

374 Critical



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Magbago man ang taon, patuloy pa rin na susundin natin ang **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Patuloy din ang pag-engganyo natin sa mga hindi pa nabakunahan para magpabakuna na para mas mapaingit natin ang ating proteksyon laban sa COVID-19. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alista sa mga sintomas, ita oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BIHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karantelang 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/DOHHospitalHotline> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa talong mahilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, bumawag lang sa sunusunod:

SMART: 0919-977-3333
DORP: 0215-777-7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukal sa COVID-19?

1-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kita Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!
I-download ang StaySafe App
O download ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa staysafe.ph

MAIBUHANG KATAMANGAN? SUMANGGUMI LAMANG SA SUNUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

30 DECEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-gg_Tf5sYA

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marunong salamat po, keep safe everyone
#SaveManilaDay

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marunong salamat po, keep safe everyone
#SaveManilaBay

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enr. berto
191K subscribers

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