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**DENR**

# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# DENR tightens noose on establishments engaged in illegal mining

Published December 30, 2021, 2:57 PM

by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

Despite the prevailing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department of Natural Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it surpassed its target in terms of issuing closure orders and mining permits and contracts to erring establishments this year.



DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu

In a statement Thursday, Dec. 30, the DENR said that its Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) issued 144 cease and desist orders (CDOs) against violators of Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

This saw an increase of about 240 percent from the original annual target of 59 CDOs.

The DENR-MGB has also exceeded its target on the issuance of mining permits and contracts this year with a total of 4,526 agreements/contracts/permits, ore transport permit/certification, declaration of mining project feasibility, and other mining-related permits.

“With the unwavering support from the President, we were able to achieve this significant accomplishment for the year despite the challenges that the pandemic has brought to the mining sector,” said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

The DENR Chief said the accomplishments were manifestations of the “strengthened responsible mining campaign of the Department.”

“In our heightened campaign for responsible mining in the country, we are proud of our milestone in cracking down illegal and irresponsible use of our mining resources and areas beyond the target we have set,” Cimatu said.

“On the other hand, the increase in the issuance of mining permits/contracts will compel mining companies and entities to abide by environmental laws, policies, and regulations, thus, making our mining sector more responsible,” he added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/12/30/denr-tightens-noose-on-establishments-engaged-in-illegal-mining/>



# DENR sees lifting of open-pit ban not hindering measures to deter illegal mining

December 30, 2021 | 9:29 pm



THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the recent lifting of a ban on open-pit mining is not expected to hinder the department's efforts in deterring illegal mining activity.

"The lifting of the open-pit ban does not... result in more illegal miners because their areas are separate from that of the large-scale miners," Director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Wilfredo G. Moncano said in a text message.

On Dec. 23, Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-40 lifted the four-year ban. This supersedes DAO 2017-10, issued by the late DENR Secretary Regina L. Lopez, which had banned the open-pit method of mining for copper, gold, silver and complex ores.

DAO 2017-10 contended that "most, if not all, open pits have ended up as perpetual liabilities, causing adverse impacts on 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 dam to geological hazards."

Mr. Moncano said the DENR is working to ensure the closure of all small-scale illegal mines.

"The MGB-DENR has addressed this issue via a program on the Expeditious Approval of Declaration of Minahang Bayan (MB), coupled with the formalization of small-scale miners and small-scale mineral processors," Mr. Moncano said. "In 2016, there were only six Minahang Bayan or People's Small-Scale Mining Areas approved but now we have 49 all over the country, and about 50% of them are in Mindanao. But there are still more than a hundred MB applications pending."

"If these small-scale miners are inside approved MPSA and the MPSA holder does not give consent to the MB in its MPSA, the "Big Brother-Small Brother" set up also can be employed. The MPSA holder is the big brother who will help monitor them and implement safety and environmental practices at the same time buying the small-scale miner's production," he added.

In a statement, the MGB announced that it issued 144 cease and desist orders against violators of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, exceeding by 240% its original target of 59 orders.

"In our heightened campaign for responsible mining in the country, we are proud of our milestone in cracking down illegal and irresponsible use of our mining resources and areas beyond the target we have set," Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said.



The bureau also exceeded its target for mining permits and contracts, with a total of 4,526 permits, agreements, or ore transport certifications.

“The MGB expects to have more permits and contracts issued because of this new policy development,” Mr. Moncano said.

“The increase in the issuance of mining permits and contracts will compel mining companies and entities to abide by environmental laws, policies, and regulations, thus, making our mining sector more responsible,” Mr. Cimatú added.

The Department of Finance (DoF) said it supported the lifting of the ban, noting that the government has the capacity to enforce regulations to minimize the impact on the environment.

In a statement on Thursday, Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said: “I am confident that the DENR is fully capable of regulating mining operations in the country so that mining activities are conducted safely with due regard to the protection of the environment.”

“Strict monitoring and enforcement to ensure compliance with environmental standards shall be undertaken to prevent any abuse in the implementation of this type of mining activity,” he added.

The DoF said that with the return of open-pit mining, the industry must be mindful of the impact of its activities on the environment.

“The protection of the environment is nonnegotiable. We have to strike a careful balance between preserving and protecting the environment and pursuing our economic development objectives,” Mr. Dominguez said.

The DoF also said that the lifting of the ban will help revitalize the economy as it recovers from the pandemic, by generating additional revenue, royalty fees, exports, and jobs.

“The mining industry can become a key contributor to the nation’s economic recovery as the DENR has projected that open-pit mining will lead to the immediate development of 11 pending projects that are expected to generate about P11 billion combined in yearly government revenue, increase annual exports by P36 billion and provide employment to 22,880 people living in remote municipalities,” Mr. Dominguez said.

“These economic prospects can still be realized while we continuously implement strategies to manage and avoid the negative impacts of the open-pit mining method,” he added.

Environmental organizations and political parties expressed their opposition to the lifting of the ban. Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia C. Cullamat said the return of open-pit mining will negatively affect the environment and indigenous tribes.

“Sa gitna ng krisis sa klima at mga tumitinding bagyo, lalong lalala ang epekto ng mga sakuna sa mamamayan sa pagtanggá ng ban na ito. Tiyak na magdudulot din ito ng mas matinding panunupil at malawakang pagpapalayas sa mga katutubo mula sa lupang ninuno (As we endure the climate crisis, which features stronger typhoons, people will be put in greater danger with the lifting of the ban. This is sure to result in the oppression and eviction of indigenous peoples from their native land),” Ms. Cullamat said in a statement. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-sees-lifting-of-open-pit-ban-not-hindering-measures-to-deter-illegal-mining/>



## Rules set after lifting of mining ban

by [Manila Standard](#) December 29, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Wednesday that it has put in place policies that would help protect the environment following DENR's lifting of the open-pit mining ban.

In a briefing, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said that one of their measures to reduce open-pit mining's adverse impacts on the environment is the progressive rehabilitation of mined out areas, which they are now implementing.

"Hindi natin sila papayagan na mag-expand ng kanilang operation kung hindi nila irehabilitate 'yung na-disturb na area nila," he said.

(We will not allow the mining companies to expand their operations if they fail to rehabilitate the areas they disturbed.)

Leones added that through the DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2021-40, which lifts the four-year-old ban on open-pit mining, they have established a Technical Working Group that would assist all the DENR agencies to regularly monitor the compliance of the mining companies to the policy.

"So ang gagawin natin diyan, 'pag nahuli natin sila na they are not complying strictly with our policies in environmental laws, at sa mga bago nating polisiya sa mining, so talagang hindi tayo mamimili na ipasarado natin 'yan," he warned.

(If we catch them not strictly complying with our policies in environmental laws, as well as our new mining policies, we will not hesitate to shut them down.)

By signing the DAO 2021-40, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu overturned his late predecessor, former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez' DAO No. 2017-10, which banned the mining method for the extraction of copper, gold, silver, and/or complex ores in the country.

Cimatu explained that 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."

Leones noted that only less than three percent of the mineral resources in the Philippines have been obtained so far. Thus, it would be a big help to the economy should they be able to utilize and harness the other resources.

However, he said that mining companies have to be responsible for doing so. He emphasized that there are conditions and requirements for open-pit mining methods stated in the DAO 2021-40 that would help mitigate its impacts on the environment.

"Dito sa ating DAO, talagang masusi naming pinag-aralan kung ano 'yung dapat na gawin nila at ano yung mga compliance na dapat nilang sundin para masiguro natin na hindi nila masisira 'yung ating kapaligiran," Leones said.

(We have carefully studied our DAO so that mining companies would know what to do and the level of compliance they have to follow so they won't damage our environment.)

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314025879/rules-set-after-lifting-of-mining-ban.html>



# DOF backs DENR move to lift ban on open-pit mining

December 30, 2021, 2:56 pm



Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III

**MANILA** – The Department of Finance (DOF) has expressed its support behind the recent decision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to lift the ban on open-pit mining as it voiced full confidence in the government’s capability to strictly regulate mining operations to address and minimize the impact posed by these extractive activities on the environment.

In backing the DENR’s decision, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said Republic Act (RA) No. 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 does not prohibit open-pit mining as there are economic, safety, and environmental considerations for employing this method.

“As co-chair of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), I support DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu’s decision to lift the ban on open-pit mining. The matter was extensively discussed in the MICC and with advice and guidance from experts, the recommendation was to lift the ban,” he said.

Dominguez said adequate safeguards can be implemented to ensure the safety of this mining method.

“Strict monitoring and enforcement to ensure compliance with environmental standards shall be undertaken to prevent any abuse in the implementation of this type of mining activity,” he said. “I am confident that the DENR is fully capable of regulating mining operations in the country so that mining activities are conducted safely with due regard to the protection of the environment.”

As the official representative of the President to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Dominguez said he is mindful of the impact of mining activities on the environment and the country’s goal to significantly reduce its carbon footprint.

“The protection of the environment is non-negotiable. We have to strike a careful balance between preserving and protecting the environment and pursuing our economic development objectives,” he said.

With the lifting of the ban, Dominguez said the mining industry can become a key contributor to the nation’s economic recovery as the DENR has projected that open-pit mining will lead to the immediate development of 11 pending projects that are expected to generate about PHP11 billion combined in yearly government revenue, increase annual exports by PHP36 billion, and provide employment to 22,880 people living in remote municipalities.

“Clearly, it will revive an industry that will create jobs and spur economic growth in the countryside,” he said.



“More importantly, the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining will help revitalize the economy as we begin to recover from the pandemic by generating additional revenues, royalty fees, export value, and even more jobs in related industries. These economic prospects can still be realized while we continuously implement strategies to manage and avoid the negative impacts of the open-pit mining method,” he added.

Dominguez said tight monitoring and enforcement to ensure that mines strictly comply with laws and regulations can be done as proven by the operations of thousands of mines worldwide that effectively and safely use the open-pit mining method.

These include open-pit mines in Australia, Canada, China, and the United States (US).

Open-pit mining is a globally accepted method that is considered to be the most feasible option for mining near-surface or shallow one deposits.

As observed by the DENR, major issues concerning mining operations, including open-pit mining, cannot be attributed to the use of the method itself, but rather to accidents involving wastes and tailings confinements, which can be prevented through strict monitoring and regulation of such mining activities. *(PR)*



# DoF backs DENR move to lift mining ban

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) December 31, 2021

THE Department of Finance (DoF) has expressed its support behind the recent decision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to lift the ban on open-pit mining, sharing confidence that adequate safeguards can be implemented to ensure the safety of this mining method.

In a statement on Thursday, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd voiced full confidence in the government's capability to strictly regulate mining operations to address and minimize the impact posed by these extractive activities on the environment.

He pointed out that Republic Act (RA) 7942 or the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995" does not prohibit open-pit mining as there are economic, safety, and environmental considerations for employing this method.

"The matter was extensively discussed in the MICC (Mining Industry Coordinating Council) and with advice and guidance from experts, the recommendation was to lift the ban," Dominguez said.

The Finance chief said he is mindful of the impact of mining activities on the environment and the country's goal to significantly reduce its carbon footprint.

"We have to strike a careful balance between preserving and protecting the environment and pursuing our economic development objectives," he said.

With the lifting of the ban, Dominguez said that the mining industry can become a key contributor to the nation's economic recovery as the DENR has projected that open-pit mining will lead to the immediate development of 11 pending projects that are expected to generate about P11 billion combined in yearly government revenue, increase annual exports by P36 billion and provide employment to 22,880 people living in remote municipalities.

"Clearly, it will revive an industry that will create jobs and spur economic growth in the countryside," Dominguez said.

He said tight monitoring and enforcement to ensure that mines strictly comply with laws and regulations can be done as proven by the operations of thousands of mines worldwide that effectively and safely use the open-pit mining method.

As observed by the DENR, major issues concerning mining operations, including open-pit mining, cannot be attributed to the use of the method itself, but rather to accidents involving wastes and tailings confinements, which can be prevented through strict monitoring and regulation of such mining activities.





# DOF backs lifting of open-pit mining ban

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 30 2021 12:41 PM



A view of nickel ore stockpiles at a port in Sta. Cruz, Zambales in northern Philippines February 8, 2017. *Erik De Castro, Reuters/File*

MANILA - The Department of Finance said Thursday it supports the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining as this would enable the industry to become a key contributor to economic recovery.

It can also lead to the development of 11 pending projects that are expected to generate about P11 billion combined in yearly government revenues, increase annual exports by P36 billion, and provide jobs to 22,880 people, the DOF said in a statement.

The decision was also "extensively discussed" with advice from experts, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said.

"As co-chair of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), I support DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu's decision to lift the ban on open-pit mining... Clearly, it will revive an industry that will create jobs and spur economic growth in the countryside," Dominguez said.

Open-pit mining is a globally accepted method and most feasible option for mining near-surface deposits, the official said.

Dominguez said the DENR is fully capable of regulating mining operations in the country "with due regard to the protection of the environment."

Issues concerning mining operations can be prevented through strict monitoring and regulation, he added.

"Adequate safeguards can be implemented to ensure the safety of this mining method. Strict monitoring and enforcement to ensure compliance with environmental standards shall be undertaken to prevent any abuse in the implementation of this type of mining activity," Dominguez said.

The finance chief, however, noted that there should be a balance between pursuing economic development and protecting the environment.

On Dec. 28, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu issued an order lifting a nationwide ban on open-pit mining, which was imposed by the late former environment chief Gina Lopez.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/12/30/21/dof-backs-lifting-of-open-pit-mining-ban?fbclid=IwAR3n2T9NuDzUmb9rn0IYSWiIyaHQLh2IVk6NCTsAkwh4i97y7nNrtwudM-k>



ONE News posted a video to playlist Business World (FROM JULY-SEPTEMBER 2021).

16h · 🌐



#BusinessWorldLive | Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Atty. Wilfredo Moncano says the DENR order lifting the ban on open-pit mining has corrected past mistakes, particularly when it comes to rehabilitation. Several groups have been opposing the move due to environmental concerns.

Get updates via Viber: <https://bit.ly/36uQLSo>

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ONE News posted a video to playlist Business World (FROM JULY-SEPTEMBER 2021).

16h · 🌐



#BusinessWorldLive | The lifting of the nationwide ban on open-pit mining is expected to generate P23-billion in government revenue, says Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Atty. Wilfredo Moncano. He adds this will also create 30,000 to 40,000 jobs that would spur economic growth.

Get updates via Viber: <https://bit.ly/36uQLSo>

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### LIFTING BAN ON OPEN-PIT MINING SEEN TO REVITALIZE PH ECONOMY



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3 Comments



# DENR, partners 'defy' Covid-19 pandemic for nature's sake

By Catherine Teves December 30, 2021, 3:33 pm

**MANILA** – Despite the lingering coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) this year undertook measures for better managing and conserving the country's environment and natural resources (ENR) while gaining along the way international recognition for guarding against lead, a toxic chemical element.

Among such efforts were setting new policies, establishing partnerships, enforcing relevant laws and regulations, as well as enhancing DENR's information and education campaign (IEC) since climate change and other threats are increasingly hounding ENR anywhere in the world.



*PNA file photo*

"In this season of joy and beyond, let us do our best to give our people cleaner air to breathe, cleaner surroundings with reduced waste, ample refreshing water to drink, a healthy environment to enjoy and more productive natural resources for a provident and sustainable future," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu urged DENR officials and employees nationwide through his 2021 message for the agency's traditional Christmas lights switch-on event.

Cimatu hopes the switching of the Christmas lights will inspire them to further perform their duties "with renewed vigor."

This year, Hamburg-based World Future Council conferred its Future Policy Award (FPA) on DENR for coming up with and successfully implementing DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2013-24, the chemical control order (CCO), which prohibits the use of lead and lead compounds in paint and other products nationwide.

However, Cimatu assured that DENR would not rest on its laurels after emerging as among the five international 2021 recipients of FPA which recognizes international policies aimed at benefiting present and future generations.

Being chosen for the award "will inspire us to further strengthen implementation of our chemical control policy and to develop other policies to protect human health and the environment," he said.

According to WHO, sources of environmental lead contamination include mining, smelting, manufacturing and recycling.

The WHO said continued use of leaded paint, gasoline, and aviation fuel in some countries is also a source of contamination.

Lead adversely affects multiple systems in a person's body, the WHO warned.



To further guard against toxic chemical elements, the DENR issued this year DAO 2021-008 (CCO for Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds) and DAO 2021-009 (CCO for Chromium VI Compounds).

Cadmium and chromium VI compounds have various industrial applications but can adversely affect the environment and human health so there is a need to increase awareness about the availability of technically superior and safe alternatives to these elements, DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) said.

### **Making history**

The DENR and EMB made history this year by being able to close all remaining illegal open dumpsites in the country to comply with the two decades old Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

"This accomplishment mirrors the successful implementation of our Solid Waste Management Program, one of DENR's 10 priority programs for intensified environmental protection," Cimatu said.

He reminded local government units (LGUs) concerned to rehabilitate the closed dumpsites without harming the environment.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), which Cimatu chairs, boosted the implementation of RA 9003 by finally coming up this year with the country's list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAPs).

Plastic straws and plastic coffee stirrers are the initial NEAPs in such a list.

The DENR is advocating the use of environment-friendly alternatives to both products and other NEAPs, which NSWMC will include in the list to help reduce the volume of waste for disposal.

Recognizing increased use of face masks and other personal protective equipment around the country due to Covid-19, the DENR distributed to LGUs yellow trash bins where people can dispose of these items after use.

Disposing personal protective equipment (PPE) gears in the bins will help prevent spread of Covid-19 and contamination of land and water, the DENR said.

The EMB also announced requiring operators of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities to process and disinfect infectious waste materials they are handling.

Processing and disinfecting such materials are necessary so these may qualify as raw materials for co-processing in cement kilns, it said.

### **Global warming**

The Philippines further strengthened its bid to comply with Montreal Protocol, the international agreement promoting protection of Earth's ozone layer through phasing out ozone-depleting substances (ODS) like hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) that have high global warming potential.

In September, DENR and the UN Industrial Development Organization spearheaded the virtual kickoff of HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage II's second tranche which aims to help the Philippines further reduce its HCFC consumption.



Both partners cited HCFCs and several other ODS with high global warming potential aggravating Earth's warming.

Phasing out such ODS will not only save the ozone layer from further damage but is also a way of helping mitigate climate change, the partners said.

Ozone layer is the atmosphere's ozone molecule-dense portion that protects Earth from overexposure to ultraviolet radiation of the sun.

Impaired health, reduced plant, and fishing yields as well as damaged ocean ecosystems are among such overexposure's ill effects, experts said.

Scientists' discovery of a hole in the ozone layer fueled international action on the matter -- including UN member-countries' adoption of Montreal Protocol in 1987.

HPMP's implementing agency is United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the specialized UN agency promoting industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability, while DENR is the undertaking's lead government agency.

This month, the Philippines -- through DENR -- joined other member-countries of intergovernmental organization Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) in signing the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration.

Such a declaration aims to strengthen green recovery and ocean governance in East Asia, the DENR said.

"Through the declaration, the PEMSEA member-countries endorsed PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 as the region's decadal strategic guide anchored on the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia vision and commitment to blue economy," it added.

### **Continued rehabilitation**

The government continued rehabilitation of Boracay Island, Manila Bay as well as Cagayan, Bicol, and Marikina rivers to improve environmental conditions.

The DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force reported being on track to complete Boracay's rehabilitation by 2022.

Work to expand Manila Bay's dolomite beach is in progress so the government can open this area to the public next year, the DENR said.

Creating the beach is among activities for Manila Bay's rehabilitation which aims to make this water body fit again for contact recreation.

Authorities also aim to increase water-carrying capacity and facilitate water flow of Cagayan, Bicol and Marikina rivers so there will be a lower risk for these major channels to overflow during inclement weather and spill water that will flood surroundings.

Rehabilitation activities the government identified for such rivers include removing sediment and debris through dredging to improve water-carrying capacity and flow, as well as planting bamboo, particularly along the river banks to help prevent erosion.



Downpour from successive tropical cyclones in late 2020 caused water in Cagayan, Bicol, and Marikina rivers to overflow, spill into and flood surrounding areas, prompting creation of DENR-led multi-agency Build Back Better Task Force for the whole-of-government approach to post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery in the country's typhoon-affected areas.

### **Metal price**

The country's metallic mineral production value grew 22.34 percent to PHP121.16 billion in January to September this year from PHP99.03 billion in 2020, DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said.

"Strong metal price coupled with better mine production of nickel ore during the review period was the vital factor for this development," it said.

The MGB added that prices of gold, silver, copper, and nickel remained bullish year-on-year.

The country's mining prospects remain upbeat as MGB said passage of critical policies this year "created an optimistic buzz in the minerals sector."

"Such policies include DAO 2021-12 (Guidelines for the Automatic Renewal of the Exploration Period and the Timely Filing of Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility Under the Exploration Permit, Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement and similar mining tenements), EO 130 (Amending Section 4 of EO 79 series of 2012 Institutionalizing and Implementing Reforms in the Philippine Mining Sector, Providing Policies and Guidelines to Ensure Environmental Protection and Responsible Mining in the Utilization of Mineral Resources), DAO 2021-25 (Implementing Rules and Regulations of EO 130, Amending Section 4 of EO 79 series of 2012) and DAO 2021-29 (Extended Application Period for the Disposition of Residual Stockpiles)," it said.

As of Oct. 31 this year, the MGB said only about 2.48 percent of the Philippines' total land area of 30 million hectares were covered by mining tenements.

However, with EO 130 issuance, the government can again approve mineral agreements, it said.

The EO 130 lifted the moratorium on mineral agreements under Section 4 of EO 79.

### **Updating, amending**

The updating of MGB's geohazard maps continues so the public can access the latest information about flooding and rain-induced landslide risks around the country.

"As natural disasters bring great structural changes to Earth and impact lives of Filipinos, updating geohazard warnings is important in order to have widespread information on hazard susceptibility of areas," the MGB said.

The DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) this year maintained its call for the government to amend RA 9147, otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

"RA 9147 must be urgently amended and strengthened as illegal wildlife trade (IWT) has become increasingly sophisticated and organized two decades after the law's passage," the BMB said.

It said IWT in the country has already evolved into an industry valued at some PHP50 billion annually as crime syndicates involved in this illegal activity are exploiting loopholes in RA 9147.



Such loopholes include RA 9147's vague language as well as low fines and penalties that fail to deter IWT, it said.

"A strong legal framework will improve enforcement mechanisms, strengthen inter-agency cooperation against IWT, and result in a more forceful and dynamic response to this transnational crime," it added.

The BMB is not discounting the possibility of IWT facilitating the transmission of disease-causing viruses and other pathogens from wildlife species to humans.

The 4th National Environment Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit this July produced a resolution supporting the enactment of a law that will create DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB). NELE participants came up with the resolution, noting the Philippines is both a biodiversity gem and hotspot.

The Philippines hosts about two-thirds of biodiversity on Earth, they said.

IWT, pollution, habitat destruction, illegal logging, and illegal mining are among factors degrading and depleting biodiversity nationwide, they added.

EPEB's creation will help DENR mount an increasingly science-based nationwide crackdown on environmental crimes.

The DENR said such a crackdown is necessary as environmental crimes are becoming more organized, sophisticated, and even transboundary.

The EPEB, which DENR aims to have, will facilitate capacity-building for enforcers concerned so they can better crackdown on environmental crimes.

Despite EPEB's absence, the DENR and its partner-agencies reported still being able to apprehend environmental violators and confiscate trafficked wildlife species, hot logs, and even equipment used in illegal quarrying.

### **Protecting wetlands**

Cimatu sees a need for legislation aimed at protecting the country's wetlands.

"There has been no single Philippine legislation that advances wetland conservation and its wise use," he said.

Wetlands provide various ecological services so these ecosystems must be protected, conserved, and wisely utilized, he added.

Experts said among wetlands' services are natural water quality improvement, flood protection, and shoreline erosion control. Wetlands also provide opportunities for recreation and aesthetic appreciation.

Sasmuan Pampanga Coastal Wetlands this year gained the distinction of being the Philippines' eighth Ramsar site or wetland of international importance, the DENR said.

Cimatu considers such distinction a "landmark accomplishment that will become DENR's motivation to further preserve and conserve protected areas and wetlands across the country."

The Philippines' other Ramsar sites are Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, Naujan Lake National Park, Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park.





The DENR is partnering with telecommunications giant PLDT Inc. and its subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. to protect Caimpugan and other peatlands of Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.

### **Protected areas**

The BMB and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center this year formally agreed to work on developing PPPs that are appropriate for protected areas (PAs) nationwide.

Both agencies decided to establish policy guidelines that aim to ensure PPPs in PAs are aligned with sustainable development and biodiversity principles.

Some possible PA-based PPPs are eco-tourism and biodiversity-friendly enterprises, the PPP Center said.

PPP's are contractual arrangements between the government and the private sector so the latter can build, operate, and maintain infrastructure facilities and provide services that the former traditionally delivers.

PA refers to identified portions of land and water set aside because of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation, said RA 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System or NIPAS Act of 1992.

### **Forest interventions**

This year, DENR and its Forest Management Bureau (FMB) spearheaded the launch of the Save Our Watershed (SOW) campaign.

Such a campaign aims to help further generate public support for protecting and conserving the country's watersheds as these provide various ecological services but are threatened by deforestation, pollution, inappropriate agricultural practices, and other factors.

SOW also aims to raise public awareness about and promote action for sustaining and even building on milestones of FMB's Forestland Management Project (FMP).

FMP covers forest and watershed interventions in Upper Magat and Cagayan river basin where Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino provinces are Upper Pampanga river basin where Nueva Ecija province is, and Jalaur river basin where Iloilo province is.

Such a project is focusing on those river basins due to the extent of degradation there, the FMB said.

FMB and other agencies are encouraging the private sector to invest in Philippine forestry.

Guidebooks on the matter are available for potential investors in plantation development, cattle grazing, ecotourism, and other forestry-related development activities, the FMB said.

The Department of Trade and Industry believes private investments in industrial tree plantation development will complement efforts to improve products, industry, and value chain, the FMB said.

The National Economic and Development Authority sees the need to sustain knowledge-sharing as well as adapt innovations that will help optimize goods and services from forests, it said.



Reforestation through the nationwide DENR-led National Greening Program (NGP) continued despite Covid-19.

The latest available official FMB data show that since NGP launched in 2011, this program has already greened almost 2.10 million hectares of denuded land nationwide using around 1.8 billion tree seedlings.

The DENR launched NGP to help promote environmental stability and poverty alleviation, provide needed resources like timber and food, as well as enhance ecological services which include trees sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions that are raising the global temperature so climate is changing.

For its 2021 observance of Arbor Day and 158th year of Philippine forestry service, the FMB and various companies partnered on holding the virtual Bike, Hike, Plant+ tree-planting activity.

The companies were takbo.ph, Grab Philippines, Energy Development Corporation, Forest Foundation Philippines, M&S Company, Inc. and TreeDefi, the FMB said.

"A total of 777 bikers and hikers were able to complete approximately 90,515 kilometers of biking and hiking (plus walking and running), as verified by takbo.ph -- these are equivalent to 3,750 seedlings that will be planted in our partners' conservation sites in Quirino, Albay, Quezon City, and Sultan Kudarat," it added.

### **ENR-related disputes**

The DENR further expanded its pool of alternative dispute resolution officers (ADROs) to facilitate the settlement of ENR-related disputes.

Conduct of online comprehensive alternative dispute resolution (ADR) accreditation training program and mediation properly made such expansion possible despite Covid-19, DENR's Lands and Management Bureau (LMB) said.

"An additional 106 ADROs, divided into four batches, earned their accreditations in 2020 and 2021, bringing to 330 the number of DENR employees that were accredited as ADROs," LMB said.

DAO 2005-18 mandated the adoption of ADR principles and procedures in resolving appropriate ENR conflicts.

According to the DENR, resolving such conflicts through ADR has been successful.

"Since its rollout in the lands sector in 2018, a total of 1,020 cases have been referred for ADR as of Dec. 8, 2021 with some 281 cases still under ADR proceedings," the LMB said.

LMB also said a total of 739 ADR cases "have been mediated during the period of which 321 disputes, or 43 percent of 739 cases, were settled while 418 others failed to reach a settlement."

Such percentage accomplishment is far better than the near-zero percent conflict resolution rate LMB had before adopting ADR, the bureau said.

The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of DENR launched its pilot mentorship program.

This program aims to boost ERDB's capacity to produce, based on this bureau's studies, articles that can be published in 'Sylvatrop.'



'Sylvatrop' is DENR's official technical journal covering research findings on ecosystems and natural resources.

"Ten ERDB studies were selected for the pilot program," ERDB said.

Such studies are on germination, bioremediation, urbanization, solid and hazardous wastes, climate change, governance, and market chain analysis, it added.

ERDB also partnered with Batangas province's Lobo LGU on strengthening the protection and conservation of this municipality's natural resources.

Lobo watershed is the study site for pilot-testing valuation manuals on water, carbon, and tourism due to the intact ridge-to-reef ecosystem there, it said.

"In a study conducted by USAID along with NGOs and LGUs, the municipality was revealed to have the best-protected areas in the entire region of Batangas in 2013, 2015, and 2018," it added.

The Department of Tourism in 2015 declared Lobo municipality as an agro-ecotourism destination.

To enhance its IEC campaign, the DENR decided to begin including Filipino sign language interpreters in online lectures of this agency, so more people can learn about ENR.

The DENR said some of its IEC materials have braille versions already to help the blind understand the information they contain.

The BMB launched its family-friendly 'Samot-Sari' web series to teach children about Philippine biodiversity and its conservation, Cimatú said.

He said DENR also supports other IEC-related initiatives like the 'Our Fragile Earth' docu-series which features Philippine protected areas to educate the public about the importance of the country's biological heritage.

Covid-19 must not prevent learning so DENR continues to explore ways of using digital technology in disseminating ENR information, he said.

"We should not let Covid-19 hinder education of the next generation -- our teaching methods need to evolve to adapt to the constantly changing situation brought about by this pandemic," he added. **(PNA)**



## Muling pagbubukas ng Dolomite Beach naging maayos- DENR



December 29, 2021 @ 5:40 PM 2 days ago

MANILA, Philippines- Inihayag ng DENR na naging maganda ang kinalabasan ng muling pagbubukas ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach.

Sa kabila ng kaunting bisita sa Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach sa muli nitong pagbubukas nitong buwan kumpara sa pagdagsa ng mga tao noong Oktubre, iginiit ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nitong Miyerkules na naging maayos ito.

“Sa ngayon, okay. Maganda naman ang turnout kahapon. Medyo konti lang ang pumupunta kasi nga naka-online booking kasi ang engagement natin para ma-ensure natin ‘yung dating ng crowds,” ani DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones sa Laging handa briefing.

Muling binuksan ang artificial beach dalawang araw na ang nakalilipas mula nitong Martes. Muli itong isasara sa Bagong Taon, at bubuksang muli sa Enero 4, 2022.

Nagtalaga ang DENR ng online appointment system at nagpapapasok ng mga tao kada batch upang maiwasan ang kumpulan at mapigilan ang posibleng pagkalat ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Inilahad nu Leones na 300 indibidwal kada batch lamang ang pinapayagang makapasok sa beach at maaari lamang magtagal sa loob ng isang oras.

“So every hour meron lang kaming tinatanggap na 300 para maiwasan natin ‘yung naging lesson natin last time, na talagang nagdagsaan at maraming pumunta do’n,” aniya.

Dapat din umanong fully vaccinated at 12-anyos pataas upang makapasok sa beach

Ipinagbabawal naman ang pagdadala ng mga alagang hayop, paglalangoy, at paninigarilyo sa loob ng dolomite area.

“Bawal magkalat at bawal kumuha ng dolomite sand do’n para hindi naman masira ang ating project do’n,” ani Leones.

Isinara sa publiko ang dolomite beach mula Oktubre 29 hanggang Nobyembre 3, alinsunod sa utos ng Inter-Agency Task Force noong Undas. **RNT/SA**



UNTV News and Rescue

16h · 🌐

...

Muling bubuksan ang dolomite beach sa January 4, 2022 kung saan limitado lamang sa 300 tao ang maaaring sabay-sabay na pumasok na magtatagal lamang sa loob ng isang oras.

<https://youtu.be/UdvrnRB1pPo>



YOUTUBE.COM

Online at onsite registration, ipatutupad sa dolomite beach sa Jan. 4

Muling bubuksan ang dolomite beach sa January 4, 2022 kung saan limitado lamang sa 300 tao ang ...



174

1 Comment 5 Shares



# Environmental regulation at occupational safety, dapat mas higpitan ng DENR

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Dec. 30, 2021 at 11:26am



Mas pinapahigpitan ni Senator Joel Villanueva sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR ang pagpapatupad ng mga environmental regulation.

Iginiit din ni Villanueva sa DENR na maging higit na istrikto sa implementasyon ng mga occupational safety at health standards para sa mga manggagawa sa sektor ng minahan.

Mungkahi ito ni Villanueva makaraang tanggalin na ng DENR ang ban o pagbabawal sa open pit mining.

Kasama rin sa suhestyon ni Villanueva sa gobyerno na ikonsidera ang climate change sa paglalalatag ng pangmatagalang polisiya sa pagmimina.

Paliwanag ni Villanueva, naranasan na natin ang matinding pinsalang dinulot ng Bagyong Odette sa Cebu, Bohol, Surigao, Negros, at Palawan na dulot ng climate change.



## DENR urged to rethink ban on coastal settlement

December 30, 2021 | 9:55 pm



PHILSTAR

THE Environment department's plan to prevent residents from resettling along the coast in Siargao threatens to deprive thousands of their livelihood, nongovernment organizations said.

The plan by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) needs to be reconsidered because relocation does not guarantee safety, Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP) said.

"Relocation is not necessarily the best and only way. The current administration can implement people-focused policies," YACAP said in a statement.

"Relocating them somewhere else... 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," the group said, adding that if they are relocated without consideration for their future earning potential, the outcomes will be negative.

Gabriela Women's party-list Rep. Arlene D. Brosas said the DENR should take into consideration the rights of fisherfolk who rely on access to the waters.

"If giving them a bit of aid, tarpaulins, and wood from coconut trees is your plan for those who were affected, you don't have the right to dictate where they should be living," Ms. Brosas said.

Environment Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said on Tuesday that coastal residents of Siargao will no longer be permitted to return to their homes.

The DENR said it will work with local government units (LGUs) to identify qualified tenured residents who will be given land away from the sea for their safety.

"This will be settled as soon as possible, for now, the LGUs were instructed to look for a temporary resettlement area," Mr. Antiporda told BusinessWorld in a Viber message.

Terezo Ravelo, the barangay captain of Caridad in the Siargao municipality of Pilar, said on video that "We have no homes to come back to" after the storm surge swept over the seaside village.

Typhoon Odette first made landfall in Siargao on Dec. 16, where 447 families have been sent to public schools and government facilities serving as evacuation centers.

Mr. Ravelo said residents are returning to their destroyed homes and living in makeshift shelters, periodically returning to evacuation centers whenever it rains.



Mr. Antiporda said typhoon victims will need to prove they have resided in coastal communities for at least five years to be eligible for a Protected Area Community-Based Resource Management Agreement, applications for which will be processed by LGUs and the DENR.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte has said of relocation plans: “If it’s government land, give everything. Better give it to the people.” — **Marielle C. Lucenio**





# DTI urges online sellers to cut plastic waste

[Louella Desiderio](#) - The Philippine Star December 31, 2021 | 12:00am



Recognizing the need to instill trust and confidence in the use of online platforms, Lazada Philippines said it is implementing initiatives to educate shoppers on how to shop safely and securely online.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) wants online platforms to address issues on trust and plastic waste which may affect the growth of e-commerce.

Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said the agency is enjoining e-commerce platforms to have mechanisms in place to address consumer complaints and help build trust.

Recognizing the need to instill trust and confidence in the use of online platforms, Lazada Philippines said it is implementing initiatives to educate shoppers on how to shop safely and securely online.

The e-commerce platform also has a mechanism for resolving consumer complaints and for penalizing sellers for poor customer service.

As e-commerce has accelerated with both businesses and consumers forced to turn to online platforms due to the pandemic, it has also given rise to plastic waste, with plastic being used for packaging.

“We have advised platforms already since last year to minimize the use of their plastic,” Trade Undersecretary Ruth Castelo said.

She said the e-commerce platforms have committed to reduce the use of plastic in their packaging.

Lazada said it has rolled out several initiatives with brand merchants and other industry partners to equip consumers with the knowledge to make more informed and discerning consumption choices and to have access to sustainable packaging options.

The platform said it recently partnered with Starbucks to offer accessories and drinkware made from recycled coffee grounds on its virtual mall LazMall.

It also said it teamed up with beauty company L’Oréal Group for the use of alternative sustainable packaging materials for Garnier, Maybelline and L’Oréal Paris products purchased through the respective LazMall flagship stores in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

“Lazada will continue to remain committed to making a meaningful impact in sustainable e-commerce and keep sustainability at the core of our strategic plans,” the platform said.

For his part, Zalora Philippines co-founder and chief executive officer Paulo Campos III said the online shopping platform has been undertaking efforts to reduce the impact of its operations.



He said the platform has diverted 86 percent of its warehouse waste in Southeast Asia from landfills and into recycling centers.

He also said 68 percent of delivery and internal packaging is now made of sustainable materials, while delivery flyers incorporate 80 percent of recycled plastic.

“We are also working with key partners in developing more sustainable packaging options, which we will be announcing soon,” he said.

Lopez said the DTI expects e-commerce to continue to grow even beyond the pandemic, given the advantages in terms of convenience, wide choice of offerings, as well as deals and discounts.

The e-commerce roadmap released by the DTI earlier this year aims to increase the contribution of e-commerce to the economy to P1.2 trillion, or 5.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2022, from P850 billion or 4.3 percent of GDP in 2021 and P599 billion or 3.4 percent in 2020.

It is also targeting to have one million enterprises go online by 2022 and 750,000 in 2021 from the baseline of 500,000 in 2020.



# Libu-libong migratory birds sa Israel, namatay

Disyembre 30, 2021 7:14pm GMT+08:00

SINULAT NI: JAMIL SANTOS

Itinuturing ng isang opisyal sa bansang Israel na pinakamalalang wildlife disaster sa kanilang kasaysayan ang biglang pagkamatay ng libu-libong migratory birds na crane.

Ang mga crane ay mayroong mahabang leeg at binti, at nakikita sa mga katubigan, at kayang magpalipad-lipad ng lugar sa pamamagitan ng paglipad.

Sa ulat ng GMA News Feed, mapapanood sa video ang mga ibon na nanghihina at hindi makalakad hanggang sa tuluyang matumba.

Ito rin ang sinapit ng iba pang mga ibon hanggang sa tuluyan na silang pumanaw.

Makikita ang mga patay na ibon na nagkalat sa isang swamp.

Ayon kay Environment Minister Tamar Zandberg, ito na ang pinakamalalang wildlife disaster sa kasaysayan ng Israel.

Bukod sa 5,000 na namatay na crane, kinailangan katayin din ang daan-daang libong manok bilang pag-iingat.

Bird flu ang nakikitang dahilan ng mga awtoridad sa pagkamatay ng mga ibon.

Ipinagbawal muna ang pagbisita sa Hula Lake Park, isang nature reserve na nagsisilbi ring tourist spot.

"We are here at Hula Valley, at the Hula reservoir at the midst of a serious outbreak of bird flu which hurts the cranes. Actually this is the worst blow in wildlife ever. There are thousands of cranes which already died and we still don't know the further spreading amongst other wildlife, water sources. This is a contagious disease which hurts humans too," sabi ni Zandberg.

Sinabi ng tagapagsalita ng Hula Lake na posibleng nakahalubilo ng mga crane ang mga mas maliliit na ibon sa mga farm na apektado ng bird flu.

Sinabi ng mga awtoridad na pahirapan ang cleanup sa mga patay na ibon dahil marami sa mga ito ang mga nasa lugar na hindi madaling mapuntahan.

Patuloy ang monitoring ng mga awtoridad doon sa sitwasyon para matukoy kung nahawa ba ang ibang wildlife.

Sa kasalukuyan, wala pang report kung may taong nahawa sa bird flu.

Isang nakamamatay na viral infection ang bird flu o H5N1, na kadalasang tumatama sa wild aquatic birds. Maaari itong maipasa sa domestic poultry animals gaya ng mga manok.

Nadiskubre noong 1997 sa Hong Kong ang unang kaso ng H5N1 na naipasa sa tao.

**--FRJ, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/816481/libu-libong-migratory-birds-sa-israel-ano-kaya-ang-dahilan-ng-pagkamatay/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1ZHRJa0izFqRdWC7MHXyiQCMxmcxkmVTRmG7PzgEZIx0AUJFV9GZ0Plok](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/816481/libu-libong-migratory-birds-sa-israel-ano-kaya-ang-dahilan-ng-pagkamatay/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1ZHRJa0izFqRdWC7MHXyiQCMxmcxkmVTRmG7PzgEZIx0AUJFV9GZ0Plok)



## State of calamity idineklara sa Leyte sa #OdettePH



December 30, 2021 @ 2:40 PM 16 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Idineklara ang state of calamity nitong Huwebes sa buong probinsya ng Leyte dahil sa pinsala ng Bagyong Odette.

Dulot nito ang mas mabilis na proseso upang magamit ang calamity fund para maibigay ang paunang tulong sa mga biktima ng bagyo at para sa rehabilitasyon.

Batay sa deklarasyon ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan, matinding pinsala ang iniwan ng Bagyong Odette sa sektor ng komunikasyon, kuryente, transportasyon, imprastruktura at agrikultura sa probinsya.

Itinuturing ang Odette na pinakamalakas na bagyong pumasok sa Pilipinas ngayong taon.

Aabot sa 200 kilometro kada oras ang lakas ng hanging dala nito bago nag-landfall sa Siargao Island noong Disyembre 16.

Halos 400 din ang pinangangambahang namatay dahil sa pananalasa ng bagyo, ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. RNT/SA

31 DECEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# PH stays under Alert Level 2 until Jan. 15

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 30, 2021 3:12:25 PM

Updated Dec 30, 2021 5:03:00 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 30)** — The whole country will remain under Alert Level 2 from Jan. 1 to 15 despite the uptick in COVID-19 infections and growing concerns over the Omicron variant in the country, the Malacañang announced Thursday.

"The Inter-Agency Task Force on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, approved the recommendation to maintain all provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities under Alert Level 2 from January 1, 2022 to January 15, 2022," said Cabinet Secretary and acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles.

There are no aged-based mobility restriction under Alert Level 2. Areas under such status have low cases and decreasing virus transmission, or case counts are low but increasing, according to the IATF.

After the government announced the alert level status for January, the country saw a spike in COVID-19 infections - recording 1,623 fresh cases on Thursday.

The positivity rate - or percentage of tested people with positive results - also rose to 6.6% based on 30,933 tests reported on Dec. 28. Under World Health Organization standards, the ideal positivity rate is below 5% and must be maintained for at least 14 days for countries or regions to reopen.

Meanwhile, there are currently four detected cases of Omicron variant in the Philippines. The Department of Health (DOH) has identified 22 close contacts of the fourth person to test positive for the dreaded variant.

However, the DOH earlier said that if ever the new variant triggers a spike in cases, the country is now more prepared because of improved pandemic response and higher vaccination rates.



# COVID-19 infections on the rise as DOH lists 1,623 fresh cases

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 30, 2021 3:52:06 PM

Updated Dec 30, 2021 5:00:00 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 30)** — As predicted by experts, COVID-19 cases in the country spiked again on Thursday with 1,623 new infections, the Department of Health's latest bulletin showed.

The last time the daily COVID-19 count reached more than 1,000 was on Nov. 23 with 1,153 fresh cases.

Of the total case count, 11,772 are active cases broken down into 5,737 with mild symptoms, 3,315 with moderate symptoms, 1,771 in severe condition, 577 with no symptoms, and 372 critical patients.

Of the new reported cases today, 1,582 occurred in the past two weeks from Dec. 17 to 30. The top regions with the most cases in the last 14 days were National Capital Region with 1,063 cases, Calabarzon with 173 cases, and Central Luzon with 101 cases.

Meanwhile, the death toll rose to 51,373 with 133 new fatalities. Of the reported deaths, four occurred in December, six in November, 14 in October, 20 in September, 23 in August, six in July, five in June, nine in May, 21 in April, 15 in March, one in February, one in January, two in October 2020, three in September 2020, two in August 2020 and one in July 2020.

The late reporting was due to the delayed encoding of information to the COVID-Kaya data storage system, the DOH explained.

It added that 126 cases that were previously reported as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

The recovery count also jumped to 2,778,115 after 256 more patients survived COVID-19.

Moreover, 10 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, six are recoveries and one death.

The DOH also said that 143 cases that were found to have tested negative have been removed from the nationwide tally. Of these, 140 are recoveries.

Two laboratories were not operational on Dec. 28 while three others failed to submit their data to the COVID-19 Document Repository System. Based on data in the past two weeks, the DOH said the five non-reporting laboratories contribute on average 0.1% of the samples tested and zero positive cases.



The DOH also noted that the positivity rate - or percentage of tested people with positive results - rose to 6.6% based on 30,933 tests reported on Dec. 28.

Under the World Health Organization standards, the ideal positivity rate is below 5% and must be maintained for at least 14 days for countries or regions to reopen.

The last time the positivity rate went above 5% was on November 12 with 5.5%.

The independent OCTA Research [earlier predicted](#) that new cases for Thursday could reach between 1,600 to 2,000.

There are already at least four detected cases of Omicron variant in the country. The World Health Organization said it is not yet clear whether Omicron is more contagious or if it causes more severe disease than other variants of concern. However, preliminary evidence suggests there may be an increased risk of reinfection with Omicron.





# OCTA: Metro Manila now at moderate risk for COVID-19

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 30, 2021 4:16:14 PM



**FILE PHOTO**

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 30)** — An independent group monitoring the pandemic situation on Thursday raised the COVID-19 risk level of Metro Manila from "very low risk" to "moderate risk."

OCTA Research fellow Guido David said the risk level was heightened due to an increase in the number of new cases, positivity rate, and reproduction number.

The capital region logged an average of 215 infections per day from Dec. 23 to 29, up from the daily case average of just 79 recorded from Dec. 16 to 22, according to David.

The positivity rate went up from 0.69% last week to 3.86% this week, but it is still well within the ideal level set by World Health Organization at 5%. However, fewer RT-PCR tests were also conducted in the past week at 17,595 compared to the 14,119 the week before, David said.

The reproduction number -- which indicates how many people a single COVID-19 case will likely infect -- is now at a "critical" level at 1.47 compared to 0.51 a week ago, David reported.

But NCR still has a low healthcare utilization rate of 19%, he noted.

David said the spike in infections amid the holidays was "not surprising," but it remains unclear whether cases will drop once the revelries are over.

Because of this recent uptick, David reiterated the need to follow safety protocols, avoid mass gatherings, improve contact tracing and COVID-19 testing, and accelerate vaccinations, especially outside Metro Manila.

He also said it is now time for the government to reevaluate the alert level of Metro Manila, which is currently under Alert Level 2.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/12/30/OCTA-NCR-moderate-risk-December-30-2021.html>



# #OneDENR

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 656

## DISYEMBRE 30, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 0.4%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
11,772

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 97.8%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
2,778,115

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.81%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
51,373

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,623**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **256**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **133**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,841,260**

### MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 28

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 30  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 28

# 6.6%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 30,933

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS  
**53.6%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

**B**AWAL  
WALANG MASK  
AT FACE SHIELD

#### KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

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

ISOLATION BEDS (19.4K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **23%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (12.3K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **11%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
 **11%** Utilized

#### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **24%** Utilized

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

WARD BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)  
 **19%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
 **15%** Utilized

#### KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

577 Asymptomatic

5,737 Mild

3,315 Moderate

1,771 Severe

372 Critical



## UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Huwag maging kampante kapag tayo ay nasa labas ng ating mga bahay at nakikipagsalamuha sa mga iba. Sundin ang **Minimum Public Health Protocols** at magpabakuna para mabigyan natin ng proteksyon hindi lamang ang ating sarili kundi pati na rin ang iba laban sa COVID-19. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

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



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: [kontracovid.ph](https://kontracovid.ph)



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

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

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

31 DECEMBER 2021, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**Please click this link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmX4LLkO5iM>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH SARADO MULI!

1,942 views · Streamed live 22 hours ago

144 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...



enr. berto  
191K subscribers

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SUBSCRIBE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3Q8N9xei0M>

#DolomiteBeach #DuterteLegacy #DENR

PASABOG SA HULING ARAW PAGBUBUKAS NG DOLOMITE BEACH!

2,594 views • 30 Dec 2021

👍 141    🗨️ DISLIKE    ➦ SHARE    ⌵ SAVE    ...



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191K subscribers

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#DolomiteBeach #DuterteLegacy #DENR

LET's CONTINUE SPREADING AWARENESS!

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