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DENR vows to preserve Boracay wetland

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by [Tara Yap](#)

ILOILO CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to preserve one of the wetlands that underwent massive rehabilitation at world-famous Boracay Island in Malay town, Aklan province.

“This is one of the important wetland ecosystems in Boracay Island. With the new ecotourism attractions, this will serve as a learning laboratory – an arboretum for environmental enthusiasts and environmental practitioners,” said DENR-6 Regional Director Livino Duran.



The Boracay Wetland Conservation Park in Balabag village of Boracay Island. (DENR-6/Manila Bulletin)

Boracay Wetland No. 2 in Balabag village was rehabilitated via public-private partnership (PPP) by the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) through DENR’s Adopt-A-Wetland Program.

The wetland is now known as Boracay Wetland Conservation Park.

Restoration of the wetlands was one of the projects of the Duterte administration for Boracay’s long-term rehabilitation that started in 2018 with the then six-month tourism closure of the resort island.

To recall, many of Boracay’s wetlands were illegally reclaimed for the development of the country’s most famous beach destination. Some of the wetlands became resorts while others became residential areas.

Since 2018, DENR has also worked to recover nine out of the 12 original wetlands of Boracay. However, the three cannot be found.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/02/09/denr-vows-to-preserve-boracay-wetland/>



Pinas, UK magdadayologo ukol sa pagkamit ng Paris agreement



February 9, 2022 @ 6:45 AM 23 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Makikiisa ang Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) na pinamumunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa gaganaping 2nd United Kingdom-Philippines Climate Change and Environment Dialogue sa darating na Pebrero 10, 2022.

Sa ulat ni CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster chairperson at DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, ang ikalawang diyalogo ay magiging krusyal para sa Pilipinas dahil nakatutok ito sa pangako na ginawa sa 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) sa Glasgow, Scotland noong Nobyembre 2021.

“Climate change has been a necessary topic for the Philippines, especially that every year, the country experiences harsh weather conditions such as the devastation of typhoon Odette,” ani Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito ang unang diyalogo ay ginanap upang matutukan ang mga prayoridad sa climate at environment ng Pilipinas at UK.

Tinutukan din dito ang energy transition at nature-based solutions at adaptation.

Samantala, sa ikalawang diyalogo ay tututukan ang mga oportunidad para magkaroon ng progreso ang mga ginawa at mapagkasunduan ang mga prayoridad sa hinaharap at maging ang work plans.

Ayon naman sa napagkasunduan sa unang diyalogo sa COP26, ang UK at Pilipinas ay tututukan ang four strategic objectives para sa 2022.



Pinas, UK magdadayologo ukol sa pagkamit ng Paris agreement

Kabilang dito ang: “build the resilience of the economy, ecosystems and communities in the context of climate change; establish a development pathway towards net-zero; mobilize sustainable finance and greening the financial sector; and strengthen collaboration and increase awareness of institutions and communities in tackling climate change.”

Ayon naman kay DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Atty. Analiza Rebueta-Teh, ang diyalogong ito ay magsisilbing “platform to facilitate discussion on climate change and environment priorities between the UK and Philippine governments.”

“This dialogue is also an opportunity to take stock of progress made and agree on future priorities and work plan,” sabi ni Rebueta-Teh.

Dagdag pa nito na ang diyalogo rin ay magbibigay daan “ or the Philippines to sustain the goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius and abide by the pledges made during the Paris Agreement which was reiterated by 200 parties on the Glasgow Climate Pact during the COP26.” *Santi Celario*



DENR provides boats for river cleanup



By [Frederick Silverio](#)

February 8, 2022



TO HELP CLEAN THE RIVER Eight mini trash boats were recently turned over to the heads of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office in Meycauayan, Malolos, Calumpit, Hagonoy and Paombong in the province of Bulacan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office in Central Luzon donated eight trash boats to five municipalities in Bulacan to boost cleanup and rehabilitation activities in major river systems that drain to the Manila Bay.

On Monday, Emelita Lingat, chief of the DENR office in Bulacan, reported that four mini trash boats were given to the City of Meycauayan. She also said the City of Malolos and the towns of Calumpit, Hagonoy and Paombong received one unit each during the distribution ceremony held recently.

"The distribution of these trash boats would be supplemental in our cleanup efforts, as well as in our waterway patrolling and monitoring activities especially in the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System," Lingat said.

It was learned that the trash boats were in addition to the 13 motorized banca which had been doled out to Meycauayan, Malolos, Marilao, Obando, Paombong and Hagonoy since 2018.

For his part, DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno, Jr. noted that the endowment of trash boats to local government units (LGUs) would not only fast-track collection of floating trash in river systems connected to the Manila Bay, but would likewise strengthen the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act in each municipality.



DENR provides boats for river cleanup

"The magnitude of our waste problem can only be minimized through our collective efforts with the LGUs and the citizens. Local communities play a critical role in environmental sustainability, as waste management starts at home," Moreno said.

Since the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation program commenced in 2019, the DENR has collected more than 85,600 tons of waste materials from 3,900 cleanup activities conducted in Bulacan.

The province is part of the 190-length of Manila Bay area in Region 3. Of this, 43-kilometer is part of the coastline of Bulacan.



DENR lends helping hand to 'Odette' victims

The Philippine Army's 801st Brigade, which sent troops to help families repair damaged houses, also received 111 pieces of lumber equivalent to 800 board feet

BY ELMER RECUERDO

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas recently donated confiscated lumbers to victims of typhoon "Odette" in Southern Leyte for the reconstruction of their damaged houses.

The seized lumbers were from different anti-illegal logging operations all over the region.

DENR-8 enforcement division head Forester Glenn Garciano disclosed that a total of 645 pieces of lumber of assorted dimensions – totaling 9,435.33 board feet and have an estimated value of P500,000 – were sent to the devastated municipalities in Southern Leyte.

"The donation is in support to the efforts of the Office of Civil Defense in the region to rehabilitate or reconstruct the houses and other structures damaged during the onslaught of typhoon 'Odette,'" Garciano said.

The recipient barangays of the donated lumbers include Barangay Son-ok II in Pintuyan; Barangay Candayuman in Liloan and the municipality of Limasawa.

The Philippine Army's 801st Brigade, which sent troops to help families repair damaged houses, also received 111 pieces of lumber equivalent to 800 board feet.

Garciano said the recipients were identified by the provincial DENR office in Southern Leyte and the provincial government as the most-devastated areas in the province.

He added that the donated lumbers were sourced from the confiscated undocumented forest products from the three provinces of Samar Island – Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar.

Meantime, DENR regional executive director Tirso Parian Jr. stressed that donating the illegally cut trees to help families rebuild their houses provided an added meaning to the law enforcement campaign of the agency.

"We are glad that the fruit of our intensified forest protection and law enforcement efforts in the region will help typhoon victims in Southern Leyte rebuild their houses and structures which were damaged by typhoon 'Odette' last December," Parian said.



Maayos na management ng hazardous waste, hiniling na maaprubahan bago matapos ang 18th Congress

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Feb. 9, 2022 at 11:17am



Umapela ang mga myembro ng House Committee on Ecology at Ways and Means na pagtibayin ang panukala para sa komprehensibong “management” o pamamahala sa tinatawag na mga “hazardous waste,” na napapanahon ngayong may COVID-19 pandemic.

Ang House Bill 10527 ay nakalusot na sa dalawang komite kung saan iginiit ang kahalagahan na maprotektahan ang kalusugan ng mga mamamayan at ng kalikasan mula sa posibleng epekto ng hazardous waste.

Kasama rito ang mga health care waste, e-waste, at special household hazardous waste.

Ang “comprehensive national and local hazardous waste management program” ay magsusulong ng “pollution prevention”, ligtas at tamang paraan ng “disposal” o pagtatapon at pag-iimbak ng mga naturang basura, treatment at recycling at iba pa.

Kapag naging ganap na batas, ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay mangunguna sa pagpapatupad nito, kabilang ang pagbibigay ng tulong o insentibo para maitulak ang pag-aaral at mga programa para sa pamamahala ng mga nabanggit na basura.

Ang Department of Health (DOH) naman ay aatasan na magkaroon ng mga patakaran para sa ligtas na management sa infectious waste mula sa health care facilities.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/maayos-na-management-ng-hazardous-waste-hiniling-na-maaprubahan-bago-matapos-ang-18th-congress/>



EDITORIAL - Upos at sachets: pinalalala ang plastic pollution

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- February 10, 2022 - 12:00am



Upos ng sigarilyo ang nagpaparami sa mga basurang inaanud-anod sa karagatan ngayon. Tinatayang 766 milyong kilos ng upos ang nakokolekta bawat taon ayon sa United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). At hindi lang basta basura ang mga upos na ito sapagkat toxic at banta sa buhay ng mga lamandagat kapag nakain. Ang upos ay gawa sa microplastics na tinatawag na cellulose acetate. Hindi umano ito natutunaw. Ang microplastics ay ginagamit din sa mga foodchain at pinaniniwalaang nagdudulot ng seryosong epekto sa kalusugan ng tao na kinabibilangan ng pagbabago sa genetics, brain development at respiratory rates.

Bukod sa upos ng sigarilyo, sandamukal na sachets ng shampoo, hair conditioner, 3 in 1 coffee, catsup, toothpaste at iba pa ang inaanud-anod sa karagatan. Bukod sa sachets, kasama ring inaanod ang mga plastic straws na ginagamit sa softdrinks, milktea at iba pang inumin. Namumulaklak ang sachets sa mga estero at canal na unang hantungan bago anurin sa dagat. Ang mga ito ang nagpapabara sa mga drainage at nagiging dahilan ng pagbaha. Kung hindi lalinisin ang drainages, hindi masosolusyunan ang pagbaha dahil hindi naman nabubulok ang plastic sachets. Kahit abutin ng 10 taon hindi mabubulok o masisira ang mga plastic sachets. Mas matibay ang mga sachets kaysa karaniwang plastic bag. Mas makunat ang pagka-plastic ng sachets.

Nagbabala ang coalition ng environmental groups na kung hindi gagawa ng paraan ang pamahalaan para mabawasan ang paggamit ng single use plastic, aapaw ang may 59.7 bilyong sachets sa Metro Manila.



EDITORIAL - Upos at sachets: pinalalala ang plastic pollution

Hindi lamang pagbaha ang dulot ng upos at sachets kundi banta sa buhay ng mga lamandagat kabilang ang balyena. Marami nang balyena na sumadsad sa dalampasigan at namatay. Nang suriin kung ano ang ikinamatay ng mga ito, napag-alaman na dahil sa mga nakaing plastic na basura. Iba't ibang uri ng plastic ang nakuha sa bituka ng mga kawawang balyena.

Higpitan ang pagtatapon ng upos ng sigarilyo. Dati may ordinansa ang bawat lungsod na bawal magtapon ng upos. Pinagmumulta. Pero ngayon, wala nang sumisita sa mga nagtatapon ng upos. Ningas-kogon ang pagpapatupad ng batas.

Higpitan ang pagtatapon ng basurang plastics gaya ng sachets. Hindi dapat ipagwalambahala ang mga problemang ito na apektado ang buhay hindi lamang ang tao kundi pati mga lamandagat.



NegOcc gets signage for award-winning wetlands conservation area

By Nanette Guadalquiver February 9, 2022, 7:56 pm



SIGNAGE. Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson (3rd from left) and former governor Rafael Coscolluela (right), the provincial consultant for energy and environment affairs, lead the unveiling of the "Galing Pook" signage at the lobby of the Provincial Capitol in Bacolod City on Wednesday (Feb. 9, 2022). The Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Area Management Alliance with its entry titled "Network of Alliances for Coastal Wetlands Conservation" was one of the Top 10 winners in the "2021 Galing Pook Awards", which recognizes innovative practices by local government units. *(Photo courtesy of PIO Negros Occidental)*

BACOLOD CITY – Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson has underscored anew the need to protect the province's natural resources in the face of the challenges brought by climate change and environmental degradation.

Lacson emphasized this during the unveiling of the signage of the "2021 Galing Pook" award received by the provincial government for the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Area Management Alliance (NOCWAMA) with its entry titled "Network of Alliances for Coastal Wetlands Conservation".

"I am honored to accept the 'Galing Pook' signage here at the Capitol. Aside from being proof of the recognition given to us, it also serves as a reminder that we must remain committed to sustain the program that afforded as the award," the governor said during the ceremony held at the Capitol Social Hall.

Downstairs at the lobby, Lacson unveiled the signage together with former governor Rafael Coscolluela, the provincial consultant for energy and environment affairs.

In October last year, the NOCWAMA was one of the Top 10 winners of the "Galing Pook Awards", which recognizes innovative practices by local government units (LGUs).

The NOCWAMA manages the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area (NOCWCA) that spans a contiguous wetlands area with a coastline of 109.52 kilometers across 10 LGUs in southern Negros.



NegOcc gets signage for award-winning wetlands conservation area

The alliance is comprised of local governments, coastal villages, people's organizations, fisheries, and aquatic management resources councils, and community-based environment law enforcement units in the cities of Bago, Himamaylan, and Kabankalan as well as in the municipalities of Pulupandan, Valladolid, San Enrique, Pontevedra, Hinigaran, Binalbagan, and Ilog.

On Oct. 20, 2016, the NOCWCA was declared as the seventh Ramsar site (wetland of international importance) in the Philippines and later, the fourth East Asian Australasian Flyway Site.

Lacson acknowledged the work of the local chief executives of the 10-member LGUs and other sectors that are part of the alliance.

He thanked the Galing Pook Foundation as well for its efforts in promoting innovation, sustainability, citizen empowerment, and excellence in local governance.

The "2021 Galing Pook Awards" was presented by the Galing Pook Foundation, Department of the Interior and Local Government Academy, and SM Prime Holdings.

Other officials who attended the event included Third District Board Member Andrew Montelibano, chairman of the committee on environment; Provincial Environment Management Office head Julie Ann Bedrio; Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Edgardo Rostata; Dr. Jose Rene Gayo of the Galing Pook Awards; and SM City Bacolod mall manager George Anthony Jardiolin. *(PNA)*



Masungi welcomes PNP protection



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

February 10, 2022

THE [Masungi Georeserve Foundation](#) welcomed the Philippine [National Police's](#) (PNP) commitment to crack down on criminality in the Masungi Wildlife Sanctuary and the surrounding Upper Marikina Watershed, and to maximize the police's response to threats to environmental defenders.

Masungi trustees and advisors recently held a dialogue and hosted a site visit with top officials of the PNP represented by MGen. Valeriano de Leon, Police [Regional Office Calabarzon Director Gen. Eliseo Cruz](#), and Rizal Provincial Police Director Col. [Dominic Baccay](#).

The said meeting was the first time a high-level police delegation was sent to the Masungi Georeserve, a threatened karst landscape 45 kilometers east of [Metro Manila](#).

During the dialogue, the PNP said it would review previous incidents of attacks against environment defenders, promptly respond to reports of criminal activities, and explore designating police officers to collaborate with Masungi on protecting conservation sites.

"We have had a lot of challenges with the PNP through the years; as I emphasized in the meeting, we are more concerned about the future and that we become allies in the fight for climate and environmental justice," said Tony La Viña, environment advocate, human rights lawyer, and advisor to the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

"We hope that this will be a new era for collaboration on environmental law enforcement and the protection of our team. The attacks, including violence and disinformation, are orchestrated by notorious land grabbers, quarry operators, and proponents of illegal structures, such as swimming pools, concrete fortresses, and gamefowl farms inside the Masungi Wildlife Sanctuary and Upper Marikina Watershed. These unscrupulous groups intimidate and harass rangers and environmentalists so that they can go about their illegal activities unperturbed," she added.

In July last year, two Masungi park rangers suffered gunshot wounds after returning to their ranger station from their nightly patrol. An owner of an illegal swimming pool resort that was expanding into the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) was identified as the main suspect.

In 2021, the [Global Witness](#) reported that the [Philippines](#) was the third most dangerous country in the world for environmental defenders, with 26 murdered in 2020 alone. Almost 30 percent of the attacks were said to be related to resource exploitation (logging, mining and large-scale agribusiness), and hydroelectric dams and other infrastructure.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation and environmental advocates have been vocal against the presence of quarry operators, land grabbers, illegal loggers, and other protected area violators inside the UMRBPL. The degradation of the watershed, which only has some 20 percent of forest left, was identified as a driver of the massive flooding and landslides during Typhoon "[Ulysses](#)" in 2020 and Typhoon "[Ondoy](#)" in 2009.



Masungi welcomes PNP protection

The foundation continues to hold genuine dialogues with surrounding indigenous communities for innovative partnerships in landscape restoration and reforestation.



Green financing needed for resiliency



By [Anna Leah E. Gonzales](#)

February 10, 2022

SCALING up green financing and strengthening collaboration between the public and private sector will help the [Philippines](#) achieve a sustainable and resilient future, government officials and the [Asian Development Bank](#) (ADB) said.

In a virtual forum on Wednesday, [National Economic](#) and [Development Authority](#) Undersecretary [Mercedita Sombilla](#) said the government has started implementing reforms to promote sustainable and green practices.



National Economic and Development Authority Undersecretary Mercedita Sombilla. Photo from NEDA Website

Some of these initiatives include the Sustainable Finance Framework that engenders sustainability principles in the banks' corporate governance; the [Securities and Exchange Commission's](#) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines for Publicly Listed Companies to guide companies in assessing and managing non-financial, especially activities related to the environment; and the Philippine Sustainable Finance Roadmap and its Guiding Principles that lay down strategic actions to promote sustainable finance in the country.

Sombilla, however, said the help of the private sector is needed to further catalyze green finance.



Green financing needed for resiliency

"The government will not be able to do this alone. Private businesses and financial institutions are valued partners in catalyzing green finance to support investments in environmental sustainability and climate resilience," she said.

Sombilla said investors and financial institutions' green portfolios should include investments that enable resource conservation, shift to clean energy, create more green jobs, improve food systems and social protection, establish smart cities and infrastructure, and promote changes in production and consumption patterns.

Finance Assistant Secretary [Paola Alvarez](#), for her part, cited the need to help the private sector mobilize capital investments toward sustainable projects and strengthen communication with the international community.

"We work with the multilateral banks, we work with the multilateral partners, with bilateral partners like the [UK](#), the [US](#), [Japan](#) [and] [Korea](#). We work with them, especially in terms of exchanging of policy frameworks or experiences in order for us to have internationally accepted standards in terms of climate finance," said Alvarez.

At present, shifting to sustainable and green practices is part of the Philippine Development Plan and its update, which integrates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SDG Goal 13 aims to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters, integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning; and improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

Arup Chatterjee, ADB financial sector specialist, said the Philippines could tap green bonds to finance green infrastructure projects.

"Green bonds definitely are an effective instrument to achieve this climate and sustainable development goals," he said.



Plastic ocean threat must be solved – WWF



By Agence France-Presse

February 9, 2022



A plastic bag drifts past the [Indian Ocean](#) reef near Ahangama in Weligama on December 31, 2021. Plastic has infiltrated all parts of the ocean and is now found "in the smallest plankton up to the largest whale" wildlife group WWF said on Tuesday, calling for urgent efforts to create an international treaty on plastics. AFP PHOTO

PARIS: Plastic has infiltrated all parts of the ocean and is now found "in the smallest plankton up to the largest whale," wildlife group WWF said on Tuesday, calling for urgent efforts to create an international treaty on plastics.

While calling the situation very alarming that needs to be solved as soon as possible, tiny fragments of plastic have reached even the most remote and seemingly pristine regions of the planet: it peppers [Arctic sea](#) ice and has been found inside fish in the deepest recesses of the ocean, the [Mariana Trench](#).

There is no international agreement in place to address the problem, although delegates meeting in Nairobi for a United Nations environment meeting this month are expected to launch talks on a worldwide plastics treaty.

WWF sought to bolster the case for action in its latest report, which synthesizes more than 2,000 separate scientific studies on the impacts of plastic pollution on the oceans, biodiversity and marine ecosystems.

The report acknowledged that there is currently insufficient evidence to estimate the potential repercussions on humans.



Plastic ocean threat must be solved – WWF

But it found that the fossil-fuel-derived substance "has reached every part of the ocean, from the sea surface to the deep ocean floor, from the poles to coastlines of the most remote islands and is detectable in the smallest plankton up to the largest whale."

According to some estimates, between 19 and 23 million tons of plastic waste is washed into the world's waterways every year, the WWF report said.

This is largely from single-use plastics, which still constitute more than 60 percent of marine pollution, although more and more countries are acting to ban their use.

"In many places [we are] reaching some kind of saturation point for marine ecosystems, where we're approaching levels that pose a significant threat," said [Eirik Lindebjerg](#), Global Plastics Policy manager at WWF.

In some places there is a risk of "ecosystem collapse," he said.

Many people have seen images of seabirds choking on plastic straws or turtles wrapped in discarded fishing nets, but he said the danger is across the entire marine food web.

It "will affect not only the whale and the seal and the turtle, but huge fish stocks and the animals that depend on those," he added.

In one 2021 study, 386 fish species were found to have ingested plastic, out of 555 tested.

Separate research, looking at the major commercially fished species, found up to 30 percent of cod in a sample caught in the [North Sea](#) had microplastics in their stomach.

Once in the water, the plastic begins to degrade, becoming smaller and smaller until it is a "nanoplastic," invisible to the naked eye.

So even if all plastic pollution stopped completely, the volume of microplastics in the oceans could still double by 2050.

But plastic production continues to rise, potentially doubling by 2040, according to projections cited by WWF, with ocean plastic pollution expected to triple during the same period.

Lindebjerg compares the situation to the climate crisis — and the concept of a "carbon budget," that caps the maximum amount of CO₂ that can be released into the atmosphere before a global warming cap is exceeded.

"There is actually a limit to how much plastic pollution our marine ecosystems can absorb," he said.

Those limits have already been reached for microplastics in several parts of the world, according to WWF, particularly in the [Mediterranean](#), the Yellow and [East China Seas](#) (between [China](#), [Taiwan](#) and the [Korean Peninsula](#)), and in the Arctic sea ice.

"We need to treat it as a fixed system that doesn't absorb plastic, and that's why we need to go towards zero emissions, zero pollution as fast as possible," said Lindebjerg.

WWF is calling for talks aimed at drawing up an international agreement on plastics at the UN environment meeting, from February 28 to March 2 in Nairobi.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/02/09/news/world/plastic-ocean-threat-must-be-solved-wwf/1832307>



Boracay, Palawan still among foreign tourist favorites

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora February 9, 2022, 6:30 pm



Boracay Island (*File photo*)

MANILA – Philippine destinations such as Boracay, Palawan, Cebu and Bohol continue to capture the interest of the foreign market even after two years of closure to international travelers.

"As far as the inquiries are concerned, (the preferred destinations) are still the major staples of the Philippines such as Boracay, Palawan, Cebu, and Bohol," Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TCP) President Jose Clemente III said at the virtual Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum Wednesday.

Starting February 10, the Philippines will accept fully vaccinated tourists from 157 visa-free countries.

Since last week, most of the demands had been coming from North America, Europe, and some from the Middle East.

Clemente said this may be driven by the "liberal travel restrictions" in these regions, which is opposite to the stricter protocols implemented in Omicron-hit Asia.

"If you compare all of the travel restrictions either incoming or outgoing, Asia seems to have the toughest set of protocols as far as people coming in or going out. Our problem actually is if people are allowed to go out of their countries, what protocols or guidelines would they have going back from the Philippines? So that's what hampers travel," he said.

Clemente is hopeful Asian countries would soon loosen up their pandemic restrictions once they see a downward trend in Omicron cases.

"Long-haul markets, yes, we'll be seeing it now. Asian, medium-haul markets, short-haul markets, maybe a few more months before they really start considering," he said.

With the demand for new tourism products and new travel ideas, Clemente said TCP is working to produce seven to 21-day long programs that would cater the long-haul markets, especially Europe.



Boracay, Palawan still among foreign tourist favorites

But the executive said this could still take time because they would have to check with various suppliers who were severely hit by the pandemic over the past two years.

"*Maraming restart na mangyayari* (There would be a lot of restart that would take place) but that said, the confidence now is there in the Philippines. Parang hindi nawala 'yong confidence nila in the Philippines to visit and, in some cases, to come back," he said.

Among those allowed to enter starting February 10 are travelers from South Korea, Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States, and Germany-- some of the Philippines' top source markets.

Fully vaccinated Filipino nationals and foreign tourists are also exempt from the 5,000-passenger arrivals cap set by the Department of Transportation and its One-Stop-Shop, which only applies to unvaccinated travelers.

'On the right path and ready'

In the same forum, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat reiterated the Philippines' readiness to accept foreign tourists, two years since the country virtually closed its borders.

"We've already witnessed the successful reopenings of our most popular tourism sites to locals. With the opening to international travelers starting tomorrow, we are eager to show the world that we are ready and that we can keep pace, especially with our Asean neighbors who are taking similar steps towards reopening their borders," she said.

She is also optimistic about the "healthy rebound" of tourism, citing the high vaccination rate among tourism workers, the Philippines' internationally-accepted public health safeguards, and the 79 tourism circuits developed for the new normal.

As of February 4, at least 92.51 percent or 317, 892 out of 349, 534 tourism workers have received their Covid-19 jabs.

At least 76 quarantine hotels have also submitted a Letter of Intent to shift to regular hotels and cater to leisure tourists.

Clemente, for his part, said the public can rest assured that both the government and the industry stakeholders had been preparing for this reopening for a long time.

"My analogy is always that we're restarting an engine that has been unused for the past two years and it will take a lot of effort to get it running smoothly again," he said.

"Rest assured that we continue to look at the various scenarios to come up with solutions to possible hitches that may happen during the reopening but we are confident that we are now on the right path and we see the light at the end of the road," he added. (PNA)



ADB approves \$2 million grant for government's Typhoon Odette emergency response

By [Angelica Y. Yang](#) (Philstar.com)
- February 9, 2022 - 9:25am



Uprooted coconut trees and destroyed house are seen next to a sinage in General Luna, Siargao island on Dec. 21, 2021, days after super Typhoon Rai devastated the island.

AFP/Ferdinand Cabrera

MANILA, Philippines — Multilateral lender Asian Development Bank (ADB) just approved a \$2 million grant to support the Philippine government's emergency response to Typhoon Odette (international name Rai), which brought destruction to central and southern provinces in December last year.

The grant, which will come from the ADB's Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund, seeks to provide humanitarian assistance in 15,000 households, or roughly 75,000 people affected by the typhoon — in the form of food vouchers, and logistics support for food delivery and assistance.

ADB will be teaming up with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to deliver the food assistance to the communities.

"This assistance will help finance the humanitarian needs of those residents, especially people living in remote areas," ADB Director General for Southeast Asia Ramesh Subramaniam said in a statement posted on the bank's website.

Typhoon Odette pummelled portions of the country in December, making landfalls in Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Palawan before exiting in the West Philippine Sea.

It displaced hundreds of thousands of locals in Visayas, and brought destruction of over 1.7 million houses across eight provinces.



ADB approves \$2 million grant for government's Typhoon Odette emergency response

Estimates from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council show the typhoon has caused P24.6 billion or nearly \$500 million in damage to crops, public infrastructure and private property.

ADB, whose headquarters are in Mandaluyong, Manila, has vowed to help its member countries become prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.



DavaOr town cholera outbreak victims climb to 544

By Che Palicte February 9, 2022, 7:36 pm



MAKESHIFT HOSPITAL. An evacuation center in Caraga, Davao Oriental is converted into a makeshift hospital in this undated photo as the number of cholera outbreak-affected residents rose to 544 since Jan. 31, 2021. Of the number, 293 are still confined and the death count stands at six. *(Photo courtesy of Davao Oriental PIO)*

DAVAO CITY – The cholera outbreak in Caraga town in Davao Oriental that started last week has so far affected 544 individuals, the provincial government said Wednesday.

Data sent to the Philippine News Agency (PNA) showed the total reported cholera cases in the town that started January 31 has reached 544 while the death count remains at six.

Of the number, 293 are still confined at an evacuation center converted into a makeshift hospital and other infirmaries in the province.

Karen Lou Deloso, the provincial information officer, said the provincial government continues to coordinate with the local government unit of Caraga and various agencies in responding to the cholera outbreak.

Deloso said the Davao Oriental government -- through its provincial health office (PHO) and provincial disaster risk reduction and management teams -- has delivered additional supply of medicine and manpower to those affected by the outbreak.

She said water purifiers from a private firm were also provided to ensure that drinking water is clean and safe for residents to drink.

“Today, a group from the province is scheduled to conduct a house-to-house visit to the affected residents to demonstrate the proper mixing of medicines,” Deloso said.

She said a series of shock chlorination of the water source in Barangay Santiago, where the outbreak started, is scheduled to be conducted as a temporary solution to water problems in the area.

Deloso said the province is also eyeing the construction of a new water system in the village to ensure potable water for residents.



DavOr town cholera outbreak victims climb to 544

“This is as a long-term strategy of the province,” she said.

The Department of Health and the PHO have urged residents to continue observing proper sanitation and hygiene and boiling of water to prevent affliction. *(PNA)*



Vax program recovery key

Malacañang on Wednesday said the latest phase of the national action plan (NAP 5) would focus on the government's effort to revive the pandemic-battered economy.

“Our focus would be on the economy, it's like bringing back the livelihood of

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Vax program recovery key

As the number of fully vaccinated individuals increases, the government also expects that the economy will be boosted as the public will have the confidence to go out and spend their money

From page 1

countrymen in the light of the latest Omicron variant that is now predominant variant in the country,” acting presidential spokesperson and Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said in his interview in Radyo Pilipinas.

Nograles said part of the plan is to ramp up the vaccination rollout in the country which aims to inoculate 90 million Filipinos against Covid-19 before the end of June 2022.

Earlier this week, the government rolled out the pilot implementation of the inoculation of children aged five to 11 years old in six areas in the National Capital Region.

Nograles said the vaccination of the age group will be expanded in the rest of the country on 14 February.

As the number of fully vaccinated individuals increases, the government

also expects that the economy will be boosted as the public will have the confidence to go out and spend their money, according to the official.

“Our focus would be on the vaccination... There should be more jobs, more employment so we can push job promotion, investment, that’s our catch-up plan for the economy,” he said.

Nograles said the different clusters of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) are now working with the most updated version of the NAP, which includes shifts in protocols and policies to dealing with Covid-19.

New alert level for NCR

In the same interview, Nograles, who is also the co-chair of the pandemic task force, said that the new alert level for Metro Manila for the third and last

week of the month may be released on 13 or 14 February.

The official also said that the IATF will have a preliminary assessment today to discuss whether to place the region under a lower alert level.

“We will have a preliminary assessment because it is only 10 February, we still have a few days before 16 February. We will have another meeting on 12 or 13 to check the latest data in other regions,” he said.

The IATF placed Metro Manila and seven other provinces (Batanes, Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal, Biliran, Southern Leyte, and Basilan) under Alert Level 2 from 1 to 15 February.

On Tuesday, the country recorded 3,574 new cases of Covid-19, the lowest since the year began.

JOMELLE GARNER



Phivolcs monitors 'localized' quakes in Kanlaon Volcano

Published February 9, 2022, 5:04 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



(PHIVOLCS)

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) monitored “localized” earthquake activity in Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island since Tuesday evening, Feb. 8.

In an advisory, Phivolcs said 11 “very shallow” earthquakes between magnitudes 0.9 and 2.1 were recorded by the Kanlaon Volcano Network as of 9 a.m, Wednesday, Feb. 9.

“DOST-Phivolcs (Department of Science and Technology-Phivolcs) is currently monitoring localized earthquake activity on the lower northwest flank of Kanlaon Volcano, in the jurisdiction of Bago City, Negros Occidental, that began at 8:12 p.m. on Feb. 8, 2022, it said.

It added that ground deformation data from continuous GPS measurements indicate slight inflation of the middle to upper edifice since mid-October 2021, while short-term deflation since December 2021 and January 2022 was recorded by EDM and electronic tilt monitoring, respectively, on the southeastern flanks.

“Overall, localized shallow seismic activity and short-term ground deformation are likely caused by shallow hydrothermal or geothermal processes beneath the edifice that could generate phreatic or steam-driven explosions,” Phivolcs said.

It reminded the public that Kanlaon Volcano remains under Alert Level 1, which means it continues to manifest low-level unrest.

“The local government units and the public are strongly reminded that entry into the four-kilometer radius permanent danger zone must be strictly prohibited due to the further possibilities of sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions,” Phivolcs said.



Phivolcs monitors 'localized' quakes in Kanlaon Volcano

Furthermore, residents on the lower slopes of Kanlaon were advised to report any unusual observations to their local officials or to the Kanlaon Volcano Observatory at La Carlota City, Negros Occidental.

“Civil aviation authorities must also advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano’s summit as ejecta from any sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft,” it added.



Global tobacco-related deaths expected to double in next 8 years

February 9, 2022, 12:48 pm



(Anadolu photo)

ISTANBUL – The number of deaths worldwide from diseases caused by tobacco use is expected to double in the next eight years from the current level of more than 8 million people annually.

With the initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO), every year, February 9 is celebrated as World Smoking Boycott Day to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use.

According to WHO data from 2021, around 1.3 billion people worldwide smoke, and this figure is expected to reach 1.7 billion in 2025.

While the average age for tobacco use is 46 and older, for men, it covers the 45-54 age group and for women 55-64.

Over 8 million people worldwide die every year from tobacco-related diseases such as lung cancer, vascular diseases, heart disease, and respiratory diseases.

More than a million of these deaths are due to exposure to cigarette smoke.

Half of the child population in the world is exposed to tobacco smoke, according to WHO estimates, and about 70,000 children die before the age of five due to respiratory tract infections as a result of passive exposure.

There are over a billion active smokers in the world, and more than 80 percent of them live in developing or underdeveloped countries. *(Anadolu)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1167366>

10 FEBRUARY 2022, Thursday



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OCTA Research expects new COVID cases to further decline

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 09 2022 11:11 PM



Watch more on [iWantTFC](#)

A Philippine data analytics group believes the country's COVID-19 cases will continue to go down until next month. But the public is still urged to be cautious amid potential superspreader events during the campaign season. - **The World Tonight, ANC, February 9, 2022**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/02/09/22/octa-expects-new-covid-cases-to-further-decline>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 697

PEBRERO 9, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

2.7%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
96,326

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

95.8%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,472,160

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
54,690

MGA BAGONG KASO **3,651**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **12,834**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **69**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,623,176**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 7
DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 9
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 7

16.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

29,970

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
95.0%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

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

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
40% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
32% Utilized

4,150 Asymptomatic

ISOLATION BEDS (20.8K TOTAL BEDS)
36% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
29% Utilized

87,385 Mild

WARD BEDS (15.3K TOTAL BEDS)
32% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)
30% Utilized

3,029 Moderate

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
19% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
18% Utilized

1,447 Severe

315 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access
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bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

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• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

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bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

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HealthNow
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KonsultaMD
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CloudPx
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2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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10 FEBRUARY 2022, Thursday



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MANILA BAY UPDATE PHASE2 BINUSAN NG GRAY SAND! Miz July

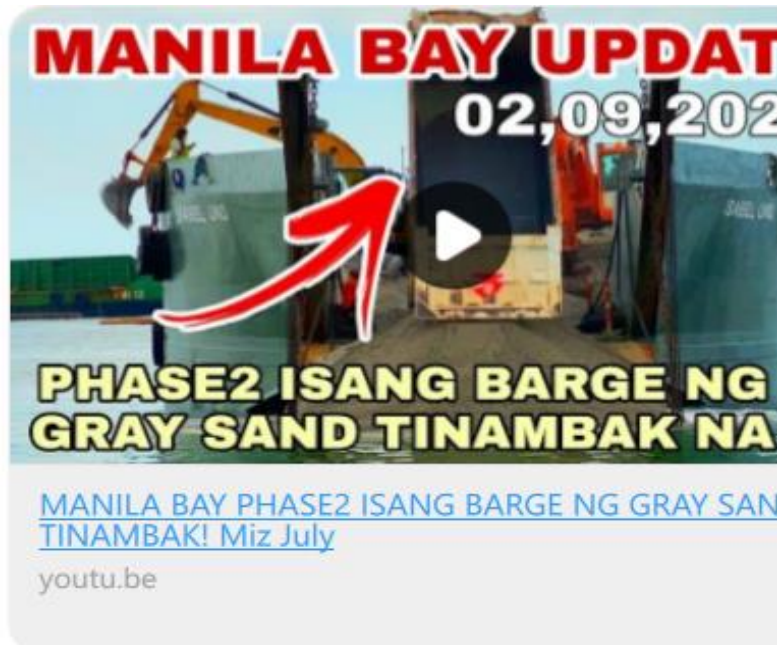
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Miz July
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