

19 FEBRUARY 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Cimatu resigns as DENR secretary, cites 'health reasons'

Published February 18, 2022, 5:32 PM

by [Alexandria Dennise San Juan](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has resigned from his post citing “health reasons,” Malacañang announced Friday, Feb. 18.



“Malacañang confirms the resignation of Roy Cimatu as secretary of the DENR due to health reasons,” Cabinet secretary and acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles said in a statement.

“We wish Secretary Cimatu good health as he transitions from his decades-long and stellar service in government to private life,” he added.

The Office of the President already released a memorandum also on Friday assigning DENR Undersecretary Jim Sampulna as officer-in-charge of the Department “effective immediately until a replacement is appointed or until otherwise directed by this Office.”

Cimatu took over the leadership of the DENR from the late environment advocate Gina Lopez whose appointment was rejected by the Commission on Appointments in 2017.

During his stint, Cimatu led the rehabilitation projects of Boracay in 2018 and Manila Bay the following year, including the dolomite beach.

Cimatu is the second former Armed Forces chief to head the DENR after the late Angelo Reyes who served during the Arroyo administration.

He also served as the Philippines’ special envoy to the Middle East during the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/02/18/cimatu-resigns-as-denr-secretary-cites-health-reasons/>



## Cimatu resigns for health reasons



By [Catherine S. Valente](#)

February 18, 2022

**(UPDATE) ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has resigned from his post for health reasons, Malacañang announced on Friday.**

Acting Palace spokesman Karlo Alexei Nograles said Environment Undersecretary Jim Sampluna was appointed as officer in charge of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"Malacañang confirms the resignation of Roy Cimatu as secretary of the (DENR) due to health reasons, with Undersecretary Jim Sampluna being designated as officer-in-charge of the department," Nograles added in a statement.

"We wish Secretary Cimatu good health as he transitions from his decades-long and stellar service in government to private life," he said.

DENR spokesman and Undersecretary Jonas Leones gave the same reason for Cimatu's decision to leave public service.

Cimatu, who oversaw the cleanup of Manila Bay and Boracay Island, was appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte as DENR chief in May 2017, replacing environment advocate Regina "Gina" Lopez, whose nomination was rejected by the Commission on Appointments.

Cimatu, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1970, was Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff from May to September 2002 during the Arroyo administration.

Shortly after his retirement in 2002, he was named Middle East crisis manager after then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ordered the immediate evacuation of all Filipinos in Iraq, when the US attack on Iraq was imminent.

Cimatu then became the special envoy to the Middle East and was also the chairman of the Philippine Middle East Preparedness Committee.

When then President Benigno Aquino 3rd assumed office, he extended Cimatu's term and the committee's operations up to June 30, 2011.

Duterte reappointed Cimatu as his special envoy to the Middle East in October 2016.



## Cimatu resigns as DENR chief due to health reasons

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:25 PM February 18, 2022



FILE PHOTO: Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. INQUIRER/GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

MANILA, Philippines — Secretary Roy Cimatu has resigned as the head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Malacañang confirmed Friday.

Cabinet Secretary and acting presidential spokesman Karlo Nograles said Cimatu's resignation is due to health reasons.

DENR Usec. Jim Sampulna has been designated as the agency's Officer-in-Charge, he added.

"We wish Secretary Cimatu good health as he transitions from his decades-long and stellar service in government to private life," Nograles said in a statement.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1556625/cimatu-resigns-as-denr-secretary-due-to-health-reasons#ixzz7LHdUAoE6>

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JUST IN:

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu resigns from his post due to health reasons. In a letter from the Office of the President dated 18 February, President Duterte has accepted Cimatu's resignation. Undersecretary Jim Sampulna has been appointed as officer-in-charge of DENR.

2:26 AM



## DENR's Cimatu quits post for 'health reasons'



BYBUSINESSMIRROR

FEBRUARY 18, 2022



Roy A. Cimatu

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has resigned, citing unspecified health reasons, weeks after a game-changing decision by government to lift the ban on open-pit mining spurred optimism among mining stakeholders of growth in the sector.

Reacting to the news, the Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), which has been critical of the DENR's policies on mining, said in a statement: "We are surprised by Sec. Roy Cimatu's resignation as DENR Secretary. We are praying he recovers from his health situation."

At the same time, ATM called on Undersecretary Jim Sampulna, who is temporarily taking over, "to listen to mining-affected communities and open the lines for discussion on resolving mining issues and concerns."

The nongovernment alliance also aired hopes that the DENR would consider "re-imposing the ban on open-pit mining and the suspension of operations of mining sites that are detrimental to communities."

Cimatu, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, was tapped by President Duterte to head the DENR in 2017.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/02/18/denrs-cimatu-quits-post-for-health-reasons/>



## Cimatu resigns as DENR chief

By Lade Jean Kabagani February 18, 2022, 6:17 pm Updated on February 18, 2022, 6:31 pm



Former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (*File photo*)

**MANILA** – Malacañang on Friday confirmed the resignation of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu due to health reasons.

Acting presidential spokesperson and Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said DENR Undersecretary Jim Sampulna has been designated as officer-in-charge of the department.

"We wish Secretary Cimatu good health as he transitions from his decades-long and stellar service in government to private life," Nograles said in a statement.

In a letter from the Office of the President dated February 17, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea informed Cimatu that his resignation has been accepted effective immediately.

Cimatu tendered his resignation on Monday after serving the department since May 2017, after he was picked by President Rodrigo Duterte to replace former Secretary Gina Lopez whose appointment was rejected by the Commission on Appointments.

Cimatu, a retired chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, also served as the country's Special Envoy to the Middle East with the rank of Ambassador under the term of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In October 2016, Duterte reappointed Cimatu to the same position.



## Cimatu resigns as DENR chief

At the height of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Cimatu was appointed as an overseer of the government's intensified pandemic response strategies in Cebu City on top of his job as DENR secretary.

Meanwhile, Nograles confirmed the appointment of former DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda as Senior Deputy Administrator of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), replacing Abraham Bagasin.

"We wish Senior Deputy Administrator Antiporda success in NIA, as it advances the government's national irrigation program towards growth in the agriculture sector," he added. *(PNA)*





## Cimatu steps down as DENR chief; Usec. Sampulna appointed OIC

By TED CORDERO, GMA News

Published February 18, 2022 5:23pm

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has resigned after nearly five years at the helm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Cimatu told GMA News Online in a text message on Friday that he stepped down from his position due to “health reasons.”

He did not elaborate.

In a statement, acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles confirmed Cimatu's departure from the Cabinet and wished him well.

"We wish Secretary Cimatu good health as he transitions from his decades-long and stellar service in government to private life," Nograles said.

Undersecretary Jim Sampulna was appointed as officer-in-charge of the department, “until a replacement is appointed or until otherwise directed by this Office,” according to a memorandum from the Office of the President signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea.

Cimatu was appointed as DENR chief in May 2017, replacing the late Gina Lopez, who was rejected by the Commission on Appointments.

He also served as Armed Forces chief from May to September 2002 and as special envoy to the Middle East during the administration of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. — **VBL, GMA News**



## DENR chief Cimatú resigns due to health reasons: Palace

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 18 2022 05:10 PM | Updated as of Feb 18 2022 07:27 PM



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Roy Cimatu speaks during the inauguration of the solar-powered Sewage Treatment Plant along Roxas Boulevard in Manila on July 30, 2020. Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/File

MANILA (UPDATED) — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who oversaw the cleanup of Manila Bay and Boracay island, has resigned from his post, Malacañang said on Friday.

Cimatu cited health reasons in the resignation letter that he submitted to President Rodrigo Duterte last Monday, according to Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea. He did not elaborate.

Undersecretary Jim Sampulna was designated as officer-in-charge of the environment department, said Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles.

"We wish Secretary Cimatu good health as he transitions from his decades-long and stellar service in government to private life," he said in a statement.

Cimatu served as chief of staff of the military in 2002 and later as special envoy for OFW and refugees. He [joined](#) President Rodrigo Duterte's Cabinet in 2017.

Cimatu headed the 6-month rehabilitation of Boracay in 2018 and the cleanup of Manila Bay the next year, which includes a controversial beach made of crushed dolomite.

Cimatu's latest official acts include lifting in December a nationwide ban on open-pit mining, which his predecessor, the late Gina Lopez, imposed in 2017.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/18/22/denr-chief-cimatu-quits>



## DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, nagbitiw sa pwesto

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)  
-Feb. 18, 2022 at 5:17pm



Nagbitiw bilang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si Roy Cimatu dahil sa kaniyang kalusugan.

Ito ang kinumpirma ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea.

Nagsumite ito ng kaniyang resignation kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nitong Lunes, February 14, na agad namang tinanggap ng pangulo.

Samantala, itinalaga naman si DENR Usec. Jim Sampulna bilang OIC.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/2316600095231066/posts/3975399686017757/?app=fbl>



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ONE News ✓

12 hrs · 🌐

Malacañang confirms the resignation of DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu due to health reasons, with Undersecretary Jim Sampulna being designated as Officer-in-Charge of the department, according to Cabinet Sec. Karlo Nograles.

"We wish Secretary Cimatu good health as he transitions from his decades-long and stellar service in government to private life," Nograles adds. (via News5/Maricel Halili)



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/1332307733841776/?app=fbl>



## Roy Cimatu steps down as DENR chief



MANILA. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu. (File photo)

LAUREEN MONDONEDO-YNOT, THIRD ANNE PERALTA-MALONZO  
February 18, 2022

MALACAÑANG accepted Friday, February 18, 2022, the resignation of Roy Cimatu as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Cimatu tendered his resignation last February 14 reportedly due to health reasons.

In a letter signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and released to media Friday, February 18, the Malacañang said Cimatu's resignation is "effective immediately."

"We refer to your letter, dated 14 February 2022, tendering your resignation as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. On behalf of President Rodrigo Duterte, I wish to inform you that your resignation has been accepted, effective immediately," the letter read.

DENR Undersecretary Jim Sampulna has been designated as officer-in-charge of the department, said acting presidential spokesperson Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles.

Cimatu graduated at the Philippine Military Academy in 1970 and spent most of his military service in terrorist-infested Mindanao region.



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## Roy Cimatu steps down as DENR chief

He was appointed as the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff in May 2002 by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. He retired from the service in September of the said year.

After bowing out of military service, Arroyo assigned Cimatu as the country's special envoy to the Middle East during the Iraq War.

In 2017, Cimatu was appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte as the DENR chief, succeeding the late Gina Lopez who was not able to get the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments.

He was among the former military personnel who were given government post by Duterte.

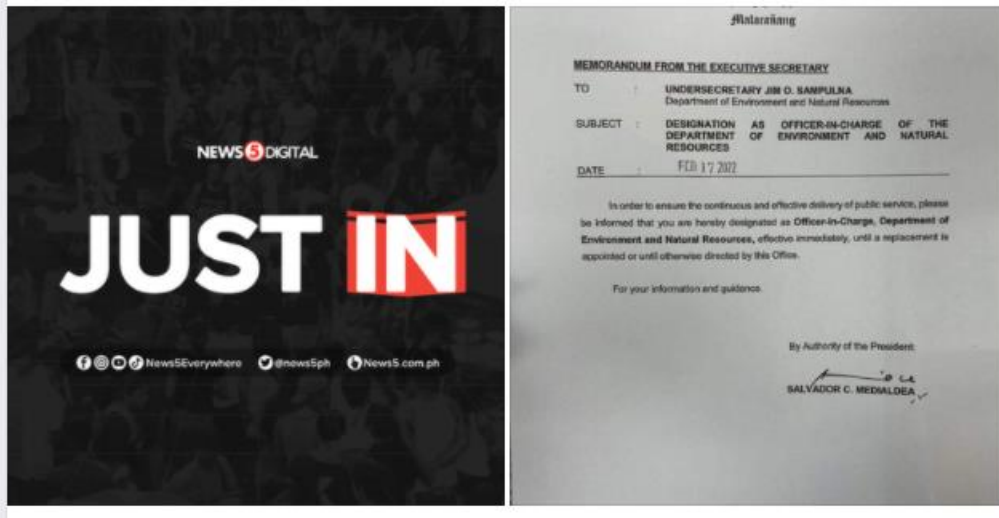
Cimatu also served as coronavirus disease (Covid-19) overseer from June to August 2020. (**SunStar Philippines**)



News5 ✓  
13 hrs · 🌐

JUST IN | Nagbitiw bilang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary si Sec. Roy Cimatu dahil sa dahilang pangkalusugan, ayon sa isang source ng News5. Noong Feb. 14 pa isinumite ni Cimatu kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang kaniyang resignation.

Si Usec. Jim Sampulna ang in-appoint na officer-in-charge ng DENR. | via Shyla Francisco





## Cimatu nagbitiw na sa pwesto



February 18, 2022 @ 5:10 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Kinumpirma ng Malakanyang ang pagbibitiw sa puwesto ni Roy Cimatu bilang Kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) dahil sa health reasons.

Si Undersecretary Jim Sampulna naman ang itinalaga bilang Officer-in-Charge ng departamento.

“We wish Secretary Cimatu good health as he transitions from his decades-long and stellar service in government to private life,” ayon kay acting Presidential spokesperson at Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles.

Samantala, “yes” naman ang naging sagot ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea sa isang text message nang tanungin at kumpirmahin mula rito ang pagbibitiw ni Cimatu sa puwesto. Kris Jose





## DENR Recognizes Solid Waste Management Campaign Partners

[Friday, February 18, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources ([DENR](#)) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda (2nd from left) hands over the certificates of appreciation to Hostillo Arturo Cornelio, Commander, Coast Guard District National Capital Region-Central Luzon (2nd from right) for the agency's active participation in the dismantling of illegal fishing structures in Cavite City. Also recognized were partner-agencies, stakeholders, and local government units (LGU) who have supported the DENR's Solid Waste Management Campaign and the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program in 2021. These include members of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Philippine Army Reserve Command, Cavite City LGU, Environmental Management Bureau regional offices, DENR Region 4A, and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Cavite. The hybrid awarding was part of the celebration of the 21st signing anniversary of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management of 2000 on February 2. Also in photo are [DENR](#) Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment Atty. Juan Miguel Cuna (left) and Michael John Encina of Philippine Coast Guard Cavite station (right).

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/denr-recognizes-solid-waste-management-campaign-partners/>



## Duterte appoints DENR exec Antiporda as NIA senior deputy administrator

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:43 PM February 18, 2022



Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda takes his oath before the office of Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea as new senior deputy administrator of the National Irrigation Authority. From the Facebook page of Benny Antiporda

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte has appointed Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda as senior deputy administrator of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Malacañang confirmed on Friday.



## Duterte appoints DENR exec Antiporda as NIA senior deputy administrator



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

JAN 19 2022

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of existing laws, you are hereby appointed  
**SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL IRRIGATION  
ADMINISTRATION**, *vice* Abraham B. Bagasin.

By virtue hereof, you may qualify and enter upon the performance of the  
duties of the office, furnishing this Office and the Civil Service Commission with  
copies of your oath of office.

**Mr. BENNY DIAZ ANTIPORDA**  
Thru: The Cabinet Secretary  
Office of the Cabinet Secretary  
Malacañang, Manila



THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES





## Duterte appoints DENR exec Antiporda as NIA senior deputy administrator

Cabinet Secretary and acting presidential spokesman Karlo Nograles said Antiporda will replace Abraham Bagasin, who is running for mayor in the municipality of Sanchez-Mira in Cagayan.

“We wish Senior Deputy Administrator Antiporda success in NIA, as it advances the government’s national irrigation program towards growth in the agriculture sector,” he said in a statement.

Also, another DENR official, Environment Undersecretary Edilberto Leonardo, of the department’s Protected Areas and Special Concerns, was appointed at the National Police Commission as commissioner for the national enforcement sector.



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

14 February 2022

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of existing laws, you are hereby appointed **COMMISSIONER, REPRESENTING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTOR, NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, for a term of six (6) years, *vice* Felizardo M. Serapio Jr.

By virtue hereof, you may qualify and enter upon the performance of the duties of the office, furnishing this Office and the Civil Service Commission with copies of your oath of office.



**Mr. EDILBERTO DELA CRUZ LEONARDO**  
Thru: The Secretary  
Department of the Interior and Local Government  
Quezon City



THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



Antiporda's appointment was signed by the President on January 19, 2022, while Leonardo's paper came out on February 14, 2022.

The reappointments of both DENR officials are reportedly not connected with the resignation of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who stepped down due to health concerns.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1556665/duterte-appoints-denr-exec-antiporda-as-nia-senior-deputy-administrator#ixzz7LHjYDHgr>

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Gov't rushes to finish rehabilitation in Manila Bay

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/1332243697181513/?app=fbl>



## DENR: Do not post campaign materials on trees

Published February 18, 2022, 9:57 AM

by [Marie Tonette Marticio](#)

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas reminded political candidates and their supporters to refrain from posting campaign materials on trees.

DENR-8 Regional Executive Director Tirso Parian, Jr. explained that Republic Act 3571 prohibits the cutting, destroying, or injuring of planted or growing trees, flowering plants and shrubs or plants of scenic value along public roads, in plazas, parks, school premises, or in any other public pleasure ground.

He likewise stated that Section 3 of Presidential Decree 953 punishes violators with imprisonment of six months to two years, or a fine of not less than P500.00, and not more than P5,000.00, or both.

Parian added that the Commission on Elections (Comelec), through the Fair Elections Act, may authorize political parties to create common poster areas for their candidates in public places, but in no instance shall it designate as poster areas any trees, plants, or shrubs along public roads.

“With the various ecological and health benefits that the trees provide, let us help each other in conserving and sparing our trees from any untoward acts against it,” he said.

“Cutting or injuring trees by posting or nailing election materials are violations sanctioned by our laws not only this election period but on a daily basis,” he added.

In Southern Leyte, District Engineer Manolo Rojas led the ‘Oplan Baklas’ in the government’s road right-of-way and campaign paraphernalia posted outside the authorized common poster areas.

“This is done to ensure the safety of motorists and the general public who use our major highways,” Rojas said.

The official said it is illegal to usurp or obstruct any portion of the road right-of-way by installing private or permanent structures such as stalls, sheds, billboards, signage, and advertisements.

The election period for candidates running for national positions started on Feb. 8, while the campaign period will kick off on March 25 for local candidates.

## Cebu City to hold Environment and Solid Waste Management Summit

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital Multi-Media Reporter|February 18,2022 - 06:06 PM



Notice of temporary closure can be seen in the Inayawan Transfer Station.

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Cebu City plans to hold an Environment Summit from March to April 2022 to discuss the solid waste management plan of the city.

The Commission on Audit (COA) has repeatedly reminded the city government of its lack of an approved ten-year solid waste management (SWM) plan.

Lawyer John Jigo Dacua, the head of the Department of Public Services (DPS), said that before Mayor Edgardo Labella died in November 2021, they were already in the process of revising the ten-year SWM plan for resubmission to the National SWM commission.

However, they faced intensive revisions on the plan since the Environment and Management Bureau (EMB) wanted technical changes on the transfer station in Barangay Inayawan such as putting a roof on the facility.

“Naggamit pa man gud ta atong transfer station kay ang problem gyod nato ang mga south barangays, naglisod sila nga deretso sa Binaliw. Naabot sa time, giisuehan og CDO (cease and desist order) sa EMB so there was a need to ammend. Deretso nalang ta sa Binaliw and the barangays complied,” said Dacua.





## Cebu City to hold Environment and Solid Waste Management Summit

The EMB Regional Office in Central Visayas (EMB-7) even suspended the use of the transfer station due to multiple violations through a cease and desist order issued on July 2021.

Dacua said that the closure should have proved advantageous to the city because it could revise the 10-year SWM plan to remove the transfer station entirely in the process of waste disposal.

However, Typhoon Odette came and the destruction it caused prompted the need for the transfer station again because the Binaliw Landfill was closed due to damages in the road.

Shortly after the typhoon hit on December 16, 2021, Mayor Michael Rama requested a special permit from the EMB to use the transfer station, which means that the 10-year SWM plan has to be revised again.

“Mayor Mike requested from EMB matagaan nga temporary permit to operate tungod sa kalisod and we had to make sure nga paspas ang clearing operations,” added Dacua.

With this, Rama has instructed the SWM Council to conduct an Environment Summit to coordinate the stakeholders and government agencies on a unified plan for solid waste management.

Reymarr Hijarra, who is tasked to lead the summit, said that the mayor wanted it to be hastened because of the need to create a comprehensive SWM plan.

“Ang problema sa basura nabantayan nako nga kailangan ioptimize. Daghan kaayo tag activities pero lahi-lahi. So we need to consolidate our resources. We can tap the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, city government, non-government organizations, engineering and construction, mga associations, barangays, etc.”

“Ato ni silang tapukon aron makuha nato ang ilang ideas ug resources. Cebu City really has a good set of ordinances towards improving solid waste management. Ang challenge ang pagimplement niini. We really need to implement it better,” he said.

The summit also aims to gather data on the current situation on garbage and waste in the city so that the steps the government will take will be “data-driven.”

Hijarra said that the 10-year SWM plan should be patterned on the actual waste production of the city’s residences and industries.

“The mayor wants us to tap on the technology including data. If we can have better data, we can equate it to better management. Maglisod tag manage kay wala tay mameasure,” he added.

The exact dates of the summit are yet to be announced, but Hijarra said all stakeholders are welcome especially public organizations, private organizations, and even businesses so they can contribute to the SWM plan of the city.

“It will begin a continuous relationship between the stakeholders launch point sa implementation sa 10-year solid waste management plan,” said Hijarra. /rcg

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/425754/cebu-city-to-hold-environment-and-solid-waste-management-summit#ixzz7LHmStOMB> Follow us: [@inquirerdotnet on Twitter](#) | [inquirerdotnet on Facebook](#)



## Nestlé PHL calls for development of markets to spur waste material collection, recycling

February 17, 2022 | 9:21 pm



BW FILE PHOTO

THE development of a market for waste recycling will help the Philippines achieve its environmental goals by offering rewards for the collection of materials currently deemed unrecyclable, the head of Nestlé Philippines, Inc. said.

The company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Kais Marzouki, said at a virtual forum organized by the Makati Business Club on Thursday that markets are essential, noting that materials that have recycling value routinely get collected and sent in for processing.

"Let the market forces solve the problem... here in the Philippines we have the palengkes (wet markets) that collect (waste materials). Why do palengkes collect plastic bottles? Because the plastic bottles have value. Somebody is happy to buy them back," he said.

"When it comes to our plastic laminates and flexible plastic, nobody is collecting these because they have no value," Mr. Marzouki added.

"The moment that you set up an industry that recycles packaging, for sure people will find value and will collect and bring it to the factory to get something in exchange for it and the industry will happily buy also recycled plastic," Mr. Marzouki said.

He called on the government to lay the groundwork for such markets via legislation and financing to the point where "the whole system can start running on its own."

Marc Schmidt, a Singapore-based Boston Consulting Group managing director and partner in the firm's Energy and Industrial Goods practices, said companies can own the origins of the inputs and increase their environmental or societal value, or own the entire production cycle and usage end to end. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/nestle-phl-calls-for-development-of-markets-to-spur-waste-material-collection-recycling/?fbclid=IwAR2BTAVOgKaqc2hSvQvqvmnEHL6gsmVwejcy7VcmwyReoELXVWg5UcmRYUU>



## Pro-environment advocacy group urges gov't, LGUs to invest on digital technologies

Published February 17, 2022, 7:29 PM

by [Waylon Galvez](#)

The Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship is urging the national governments and the local government units (LGUs) to invest on digital technologies, saying such move would ensure economic recovery and environmental sustainability of the country.

Engr. Felix Vitangcol, convener of the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship, explained that the adverse effects of climate change is now a big challenge facing all counties, the proof is the extreme weather events that include stronger typhoons.

“We only have to look at how the breakdown of power and telecommunication services hampered critical rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Odette in December. If we fail to optimize digital technologies, we will only widen social divides and expose the most vulnerable among us to economic and environmental risks,” said Vitangcol.



**GMA News** ✓

16 hrs · 🌐

Natagpuan ng mga awtoridad sa Thailand ang aabot sa 100 na unggoy na nakasilid sa mga bag na iniwan sa isang abandonadong gusali. Unang natagpuan ng mga residente sa lugar ang mga unggoy dahil sa pag-iyak ng mga ito. Ang iba, pinakawalan ng mga residente habang ang iba naman ay dinala sa wildlife quarantine center.

PANOORIN: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/.../aabot-sa-100-na-mga-ung.../video/>

Photos: Thai Department of Natural Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP)/Handout via REUTERS





## DPWH improves coastal bay walk in Ilocos Sur

Published February 17, 2022, 5:31 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has improved the 2.2-kilometer bay walk in Candon, Ilocos Sur to provide local residents and tourists a goof place for physical activities.

The Candon-Santiago-San Esteban-Sta. Maria Coastal Road in Candon has a 700 lineal-meter access road at Barangay Darapidap. The road is expected to promote better access and easier transportation to residents of Santiago Cove.



The brick road shorelines of Candon-Santiago-San Esteban-Sta. Maria Coastal in Candon, Ilocos Sur.

DPWH Region 1 Director Ronnel M. Tan made the report to DPWH Secretary Roger G. Mercado on the completion of the project.

Aside from the bay walk, the department also constructed a bicycle lane with drainage, which can now be used for outdoor activities such as biking, jogging, and brisk walking.

“This project is motivated by the need for a safe and spacious area. Locals can safely participate in recreational activities while coping with the economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic,” said Mercado.

The southern part of the bay walk is also being developed as a coastal park aimed at providing a place where children and families can spend time reconnecting with nature.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/02/17/dpwh-improves-coastal-bay-walk-in-ilocos-sur/>



## Kaliwa Dam construction eyed to start in June

By [Eimor Santos, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Feb 18, 2022 5:51:11 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, February 18)** — The controversial Kaliwa Dam project, once called by President Rodrigo Duterte as a "last resort" for Metro Manila's water woes, may break ground this year just before he steps down from office.

The construction of the Kaliwa Dam was previously set for January 2020 until December 2025. It will traverse the provinces of Quezon and Rizal and is seen to deliver 600 million liters of water per day to the capital region and nearby provinces, reducing dependence on Angat Dam in Bulacan.

In an interview with CNN Philippines on Friday, Engineer Ryan James Ayson, project manager from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), disclosed the new timetable with an 18-month delay. The regulator now hopes to start the construction in June with a target completion date of August 2026.

Ayson said restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the years-long negotiations with the Dumagats for a Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) - a requirement under the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 - which recognizes the IPs' rights to their ancestral lands. It's also a prerequisite for the issuance of a Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas from the environment department.

"Once we get those two permits, we would be applying for construction permits na po doon sa ating mga (with the) affected LGUs," Ayson said. "So hopefully by June of this year we can start our works at the dam site and we will finish by August of 2026."

The 60-meter-high Kaliwa Dam will cover a surface area of 291 hectares within Barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar and Barangay Magsaysay, Infanta, both in Quezon province. It also



## Kaliwa Dam construction eyed to start in June

includes a 27.7-kilometer raw water conveyance tunnel traversing from the dam's location to Teresa, Rizal. Portions of the project area lies within the ancestral domain of the Dumagat-Remontado IPs.

In January, community leaders complained that negotiations for a memorandum of agreement were being railroaded, leaving most of the IPs in the dark, particularly those opposed to the project.

*"Ang aming agenda sana ay ibaba sa mga komunidad ang draft ng MOA, pag-aralan ng lahat ng kasapi ng bawat komunidad at gagawan ng resolusyon kung ito ay pinapayagan o hindi,"* Conchita Calzado, a Dumagat leader, earlier told CNN Philippines.

[Translation: What we wanted was for the draft MOA to be distributed to communities so everyone can study it, and come up with a resolution if this will be approved or not.]

MWSS maintained that only 116 "legitimate" IP leaders were listed with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

"I'm not sure where this (allegation of) railroading comes from," Ayson said, noting that MWSS has been trying to secure an FPIC since 2015 in Quezon, and 2018 in Rizal.

"We have actually conducted three negotiations. Hindi naman ito isang beses lang (It's not a one-time thing). It took us more than 5 years for Quezon to actually convince these IPs," he added.

Aside from talks with IP leaders for the FPIC, the government is also directly negotiating with affected residents, who have expressed preference for a "disturbance compensation" over relocation, Ayson said.

According to the Environment department's Environmental and Management Bureau (EMB), a total of 1,465 households in Quezon and Rizal will be affected by the construction of the Kaliwa Dam. It will also "indirectly impact" 56 IP households and place around 284 more "at risk of flooding and other effects of possible dam failure or dam break," the EMB's 2019 report read.

MWSS is validating the figures. Ayson said latest data show 56 houses will be affected by the construction of the dam - 11 of them are IP families, while some 100 farmers stand to lose their livelihood.

In 2019, the Makabayan bloc, along with IP and environmental groups, filed a petition urging the Supreme Court to nullify the loan agreement for the ₱12-billion Kaliwa Dam project, bulk of which will be funded by China. Last year, the group Stop Kaliwa Dam Network reportedly asked the Infanta Regional Trial Court to stop the construction of the access road leading to the dam site.

Ayson said there's a hearing scheduled for March, but it would be business as usual pending any court decision.

"We've started pre-construction works, some tree-cutting, excavation of slopes, and leveling of the ground," he said.

With the "substantial delays" in the Kaliwa Dam project, the government is banking on the Cardona Treatment Plant, deep wells, and mobile water treatment plants to prevent a repeat of the 2019 water crisis, Ayson said. He added that MWSS is slated to get a normal allocation from the National Water Resources Board until June despite the low water level at Angat Dam.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/2/18/kaliwa-dam-project-construction.html>



## PH, JICA Ink Agreement to Advance Disaster Mitigation in Coastal Areas

[Wednesday, February 16, 2022 Journal Online](#)



The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has partnered anew with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to enable the Philippines increase its capacity of coping with climate change through engineering approach.

DPWH Secretary Roger G. Mercado and JICA Philippines Office Chief Representative Eigo Azukizawa signed on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 the Record of Discussions for the Capacity Development in Coastal Engineering for Disaster Resiliency Project, focusing on resilience of coastal communities against disasters.

The signing event held at DPWH Central Office was also participated by DPWH Undersecretary for Unified Project Management Office (UPMO) Operations Emil K. Sadain; UPMO Flood Control Management Cluster Project Director Ramon Arriola III; Project Manager Dolores Hipolito, and Mr. Masanaki Yamagiuchi and Ms. Chihiro Mototani of JICA.

In his message, Secretary Mercado thanked the Government of Japan thru JICA for its sustained support to the Philippines in developing not just the quality of road and transport infrastructure but also in making communities in the archipelago more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

Earlier, Secretary Mercado and Undersecretary Sadain participated at the 12th meeting thru teleconference format of the Japan-Philippines High Level Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation and reported the status of some big-ticket [projects under JICA financing](#).



## PH, JICA Ink Agreement to Advance Disaster Mitigation in Coastal Areas

The said projects are the Dalton Pass East Alignment Project, Central Mindanao Highway Project – Cagayan de Oro-Malaybalay Section, Parañaque Spillway/Tunnel Project, Davao City Flood Control and Drainage Project, and Urgent Bridges Construction Project for Rural Development Phase 2.

According to Undersecretary Sadain, Chief Implementer of Flagship Projects under Build Build Program, Japan-supported big-ticket projects have played a crucial role in shaping and bolstering the Philippine infrastructure landscape and the new cooperation between JICA and DPWH on coastal infrastructure is expected to help effectively meet the challenges of climate change and build safe, resilient, and sustainable communities.



The Project for the Capacity Development in Coastal Engineering for Disaster Resiliency in DPWH has a project duration of five (5) years from the date of 1st dispatch of JICA Experts in July 2021.

The project involves a two-step planning method: 1) Basic Planning Survey where implementation structures are determined, and 2) Detailed Planning Survey where detailed plan is formulated to start the core activities of the project.

Core activities of the project involve: lectures, case studies, development of guidelines, implementation of at least three (3) pilot projects, establishment of human resources development program on coastal engineering and the creation of roadmap.

Case studies will be implemented 3-4 times a year, wherein 2 cases are examined in each time.

On the otherhand, the Project Road Map, focuses on providing directions on better coastline management thru actual examples observed in the Philippines, such as improvement of existing laws and policies, strategies and regulations, land use, setting of clear demarcation/responsibility of related organizations, law enforcement, public awareness/education and technical knowledge dissemination/training of technical staff.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/ph-jica-ink-agreement-to-advance-disaster-mitigation-in-coastal-areas/>



## Global Summit Ends with One Million Rally of Hope and Renewed Calls for Unity on the Korean Peninsula

[Thursday, February 17, 2022 Journal Online](#)



WASHINGTON, DC — The **World Summit 2022 (Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula)** ended its third day with global encouragement, practical advice and prayers for renewed efforts to unite the Korean Peninsula and end the last division of the Cold War.

“Despite your difficult circumstances due to the coronavirus pandemic, I trust that you, our global leaders, will achieve peace and unification on the Korean peninsula with your commitment and devotion. Thank you,” said Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon**, co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and host of the **World Summit 2022**.

The Feb. 11-13 Summit was sponsored by UPF and the Royal Government of Cambodia. Cambodia Prime Minister **Samdech Hun Sen** and H.E. **Ban Ki-moon**, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, served as Summit co-chairs.

The Summit drew participants from some 160 nations, including 157 nations with diplomatic ties to one, or both of the Koreas. Nigeria, for instance, has “enjoyed cordial relations with both Koreas in trade, commerce, education, cultural exchange and technology transfer,” said Nigerian President **Muhammadu Buhari**. “And so, when it comes to what needs to be done to ensure a lasting peace on the peninsula, we are happy to be part of it,” he said.

In her address, Dr. Moon explained that building one family under God is the way to bring about a world filled with freedom, equality and peace.

As tears filled her eyes, she asked “the citizens of North and South Korea” to join with her and “unite as brothers and sisters.” “Only then can we achieve true unification on the Korean Peninsula,” she

## Global Summit Ends with One Million Rally of Hope and Renewed Calls for Unity on the Korean Peninsula

said, adding that when the people of the world become sons and daughters of God, we can “achieve world peace and unification in our lifetime.”

In his keynote address, Mr. Ban lamented that “despite our ardent aspirations and various efforts... we have not been able to make a lasting breakthrough” on the peninsula. Noting the recent spate of missile tests by North Korea, he urged the UN to implement its enacted sanctions while taking steps to help North Korean leaders “return to the dialogue table.”

Mr. Ban praised UPF and its *Think Tank 2022* project as “quite meaningful”—they offer a “robust platform” that can be built on and lead to a significant breakthrough, he said. He also thanked Dr. Moon, saying she “has been sparing no efforts” to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula.

Finally, speaking from his own experiences living in a divided nation, Mr. Ban said he hoped that “one day in the near future,” the people of the South can “directly engage with our brothers and sisters in the North.” “If we work together with wisdom, sincerity and resolve, I do believe we can illuminate the path to peace, both on the Korean Peninsula and beyond,” he said.

“I have great trust in the word ‘hope,’” said former Prime Minister of Japan **Shinzo Abe**, citing “trust and honesty” as crucial elements in discussions to advance peace in Korea.

In his remarks, US President **Donald J. Trump** (2017-2021) said that when he took office, the experts around him viewed the Korean situation as “absolutely hopeless.” He said he rejected that outlook and instead worked with allies, Mr. Abe of Japan and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, to craft “a bold, new strategy” that led to him meeting three times with North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-un and becoming the first US president to stand on North Korean soil.

Together, “we have planted seeds of peace and cooperation, and now we must let them bloom and grow, just like a giant tree. To waste that chance would be a profound tragedy,” Mr. Trump said. He added that countless people of goodwill around the world are “working, striving and praying for a Korea that is safe, prosperous, flourishing, united and finally at peace.”

“Personal connections” are so important to building trust, said Hon. **Mike Pompeo**, US Secretary of State (2018-2021), who recalled some of the ups and downs of his diplomatic meetings with North Koreans in his remarks.

H.E. **Jose Manuel Barroso**, European Commission President (2004-2014), said he followed several “peace processes,” including that of war-torn Angola. Although Angolan leaders were tempted to partition the nation, they found ways to work through their differences as one nation. Quoting Nelson Mandela, he added, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

US Vice President **Mike Pence** (2017-2021) listed religious freedom; dignity and respect for all life, born and unborn; equal treatment under the law; education and strong families as essential elements of a stable, prosperous nation.

“Independence and self-determination” are also vital ingredients to a strong nation, said Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. “Cambodia was also a victim of the Cold War and grand power politics, but positive engagement helped it find unity.” The Korean people share a language, culture and common history, the prime minister added. “You cannot cut the Korean bloodline. People are like water—you cannot cut the water.”



## Global Summit Ends with One Million Rally of Hope and Renewed Calls for Unity on the Korean Peninsula

Many world leaders invoked faith in God to resolve humanity's crises.

"What is impossible for us is possible for God," said H.E. **Federico Franco**, president of Paraguay (2012-2013). "Prayer continues to be the best weapon we have for the return of peace in the Korean Peninsula ... and all of you in Seoul are not alone; in all the countries of the planet, we are praying for peace between the two Koreas."

"God calls to every human heart and we need to hear His calling," said Mr. Pompeo. The **World Summit 2022** and its efforts are surely creating "a divine opportunity" for God to act on the Korean Peninsula, said Pastor **Paula White-Cain**, head of the Paula White Ministries and spiritual adviser to Mr. Trump.

Others linked unification in Korea to peacebuilding elsewhere in the world. "If we can achieve peace in the Korean Peninsula, there will be hope that peace can be established worldwide, since the steps taken for peace in the Korean Peninsula can be imitated by other nations," said H.E. **Jimmy Morales**, Guatemala President (2016-2020).

"Korea can eventually become a shining example to the world of how peace can arise from conflict," said H.E. **Gloria Arroyo**, Philippines President (2001-2010). "A heavenly unified Korea is a prerequisite for a heavenly unified world," said Dr. **Yun Young-ho**, co-chair of the [World Summit 2022](#) Executive Committee. Beeland Enterprises Chairman and world-renown investment expert **Jim Rogers** outlined an exciting future for the Asia-Pacific region, especially once Korea's 38th parallel no longer blocks travel and commerce.

Some 85 world leaders from 70 nations addressed the Summit in person or by video, and 11 Korean political and civic leaders from around South Korea offered their congratulations. Some 3,500 networks around the world broadcast all or part of the Summit, organizers said.

Other Feb. 13 speakers included Hon. **Richard Cheney**, US Vice President (2001-2009); Hon. **Dan Quayle**, US Vice President (1989-1993); Rt. Hon. **Stephen Harper**, Canada Prime Minister (2006-2015); H.E. **Mahinda Rajapaksa**, Sri Lanka Prime Minister; H.E. **Deve Gowda**, India Prime Minister (1996-1997); H.E. **Maithripala Sirisena**, Sri Lanka President (2015-2019); H.E. **Michel Temer**, Brazil President (2016-2018); H.E. **Anthony Carmona**, Trinidad & Tobago President (2013-2019); H.E. **Leni Robredo**, Philippines Vice President; Madam **Adi Koila Nailatikau**, First Lady of Fiji (2009-2015); H.E. **K.P. Sharma Oli**, Nepal Prime Minister (2015-2016 and 2018-2021); H.E. **Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani**, Pakistan Prime Minister (2008-2012); H.E. **Xanana Gusmao**, East Timor President (2002-2007); H.E. **Macky Sall**, Senegal President and African Union Chairperson; H.E. **Carlos Vila-Nova**, Sao Tome and Principe President; H.E. **George Weah**, Liberia President; H.E. **Goodluck Jonathan**, Nigeria President (2010-2015); H.E. **Adolphe Tiao**, Burkina Faso Prime Minister (2011-2014); H.E. **Paul Mba**, Gabon Prime Minister (2009-2012); H.E. **Albin Kurti**, Kosovo Prime Minister; H.E. **Ilir Meta**, Albania President; H.E. **Romano Prodi**, Italy Prime Minister (2006-2008) and European Commission President (1999-2004); H.E. **Dominique de Villepin**, France Prime Minister (2005-2007); and H.E. **Jose Maria Aznar**, Spain Prime Minister (1996-2004). **The Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet** were among the day's performers.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/global-summit-ends-with-one-million-rally-of-hope-and-renewed-calls-for-unity-on-the-korean-peninsula/>

19 FEBRUARY 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

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**COVID-19**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## DOH logs 2.2K new Covid-19 cases

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz February 18, 2022, 5:22 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 2,232 new cases of Covid-19, marking five consecutive days that Covid-19 cases fell below the 3,000 mark.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH reported 3,010 new recoveries, bringing the total number of recoveries to 3,527,720 or 96.7 percent of confirmed cases in the country.

To date, there are 65,796 active cases—with about 93 percent made up of mild and asymptomatic cases.

Of these active cases, 60,252 individuals are showing mild symptoms, 2,869 with moderate symptoms, those with severe symptoms at 1,422, the asymptomatic at 946, and those in critical condition at 307.

It reported 79 new deaths which bring the country's total to 55,409 or 1.52 percent of all confirmed cases.

Based on the latest testing data, there were 29,812 Covid-19 tests administered on Wednesday with a positivity rate of 9.1 percent.

The availability of hospital beds and other facilities, or health care utilization rate, in the whole country is currently at low risk.

Specifically, there are 3,800 beds at intensive care units (ICU) at 31 percent occupancy; 20,600 isolation beds at 27 percent occupancy; 14,800 ward beds at 21 percent occupancy; and 17 percent of 3,100 ventilators are currently in use.



## DOH logs 2.2K new Covid-19 cases

In the National Capital Region alone, there are 1,200 ICU beds at 32 percent occupancy; 4,600 isolation beds at 25 percent occupancy; 4,200 ward beds at 25 percent occupancy; and 21 percent of 1,100 ventilators are in use. *(PNA)*



## [Don't rush in removing those face masks](#)

FEB 18, 2022, 2:18 PM



Rose De La Cruz  
Columnist

*Do not rush in removing those masks, especially in public. The life you save is not just yours but many others. Always abide by the health safety guidelines. Even if you are fully- vaccinated and completed your booster shots, you are still not safe from COVID-19 and its mutations.*

I am no fan of Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, whose ineptness in handling the coronavirus and relations in mishandling the funds intended for health safety paraphernalia by awarding a multi-billion contract to Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corp., was exposed at the Senate Blue Ribbon committee hearings.

But I would support his call to not abandon those face masks too soon because the virus—though a bit moderate than the Delta variant—is still very much around and can still cause a resurgence that would again set us back economically, socially, physically, mentally, and academically.

Amid clamor to discard the face masks requirements as part of the overall package to return to normal, Duque said “take it easy, don't hurry on the masks, as risking fresh surges of infections will be costlier for everyone.”





## [Don't rush in removing those face masks](#)

### **Continue mask-wearing, WHO says**

The World Health Organization keeps reminding fully- vaccinated people to keep wearing masks and practice other COVID-19 safety measures and this coronavirus keeps mutating and spreading quickly affecting even those fully- vaccinated.

*“People cannot feel safe just because they had the two doses. They still need to protect themselves,” Dr. Mariangela Simao, WHO assistant director-general for access to medicines and health products, said at a recent news briefing in WHO Geneva headquarters.*

*“Vaccine alone won't stop community transmission,” Simao added. “People need to continue to use masks consistently, be in ventilated spaces, hand hygiene ... the physical distance, avoid crowding. This still continues to be extremely important, even if you're vaccinated when you have a community transmission ongoing.”*

The health organization's comments came as some countries, including the United States, have largely done away with masks and pandemic-related restrictions as the Covid vaccines have helped drive down the number of new infections and deaths.

### **'Play it safe'**

WHO officials keep asking fully- vaccinated people to continue to “play it safe” because a large portion of the world remains unvaccinated and highly contagious variants, like delta, omicron, and most recently Muare spreading in many countries, spurring outbreaks.

*“Yes, you can reduce some measures and different countries have different recommendations in that regard. But there's still the need for caution,” Dr. Bruce Aylward, a senior advisor to the WHO's director-general, said at the briefing. “As we are seeing, there are new variants emerging.”*

It has the potential “to be more lethal because it's more efficient in the way it transmits between humans and it will eventually find those vulnerable individuals who will become severely ill, have to be hospitalized and potentially die,” Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO's health emergencies program, said.

### **'Maybe 6 to 9 months of no surge'**

Duque said “in about six to nine months, na wala nang [when there is no longer any] surge baka pwede na tayong magtanggal [maybe we can remove it], but depending on the data,” Duque III told reporters during a ceremonial vaccination event at SM San Lazaro in Manila.

Duque said that it would also depend on whether the Inter-Agency Task Force will accept the recommendation of experts to gradually remove the use of face masks.

### **Campaign sorties are super spreaders**

However, Duque also expressed apprehension on the plan noting that it is already campaign season, when many events featuring candidates are always potential super spreader events.

*“Di po dapat magmadali, sayang naman. Nagmadadali ka, pag sumipa na naman ang kaso. Tumaas ang mechanical ventilator use rate mo. I alert level 4? 5? Ano, mag ECQ tayo? Ano, sarado na naman*



## [Don't rush in removing those face masks](#)

*tayo? Ano ba naman 'yung pag ma-mask? [We should not rush or our efforts will be put in vain. You are going to rush then cases will spike. Your mechanical ventilator use rate will increase. What happens then? Are we going back to alert level 4? 5? Are we going back to enhanced community quarantine? Are we going to close down? What is so hard with still wearing a mask?],” Duque stressed.*

### **‘Get kids vaccinated’**

Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje encouraged parents to get their children vaccinated against Covid-19. With her nephew ‘Nikoy,’ Cabotaje sought to make a strong pitch for pediatric vaccinations.

*“I have...the son of my brother [with me], I have my [grandchild from a cousin] joining all of you here who believe and participate in this Covid-19 vaccination,” Cabotaje said.*

### **From the mouth of babes**

For his part, Nikoy said: “I would like to have my vaccine because I want everyone to be safe and protected. I am also not afraid of the vaccine because I know that I’ll be saving more than one life, so also your titos and titas [uncles and aunts] should have their vaccine if they’re still not yet vaccinated, so we can be the solution for Covid-19.”

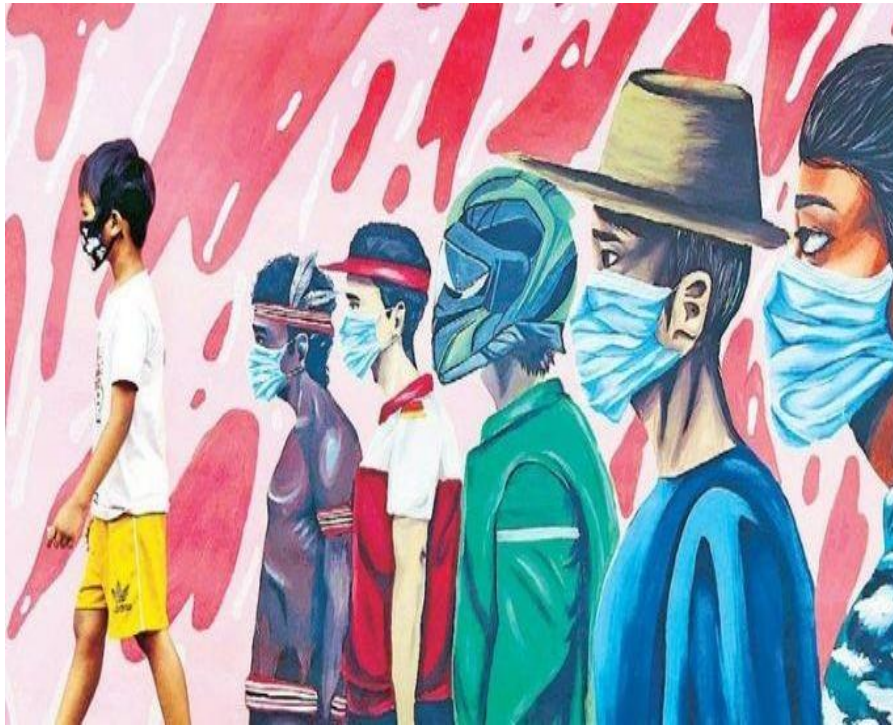
The event, dubbed Chikiting DOH Ligtas sa Covid-19, aims to boost confidence among parents and guardians that vaccines are safe and effective, with children of Department of Health’s official and employees getting vaccinated.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/168722493140749/posts/5178127098866905/?app=fbl>



## ‘Mask mandate to remain until end of pandemic’

By [Neil Jayson Servallos](#) (The Philippine Star)  
- February 18, 2022 - 12:00am



A boy walks past a mural at SSS Village in Marikina City yesterday. The government says wearing face masks will still be required even if the country is placed under Alert Level 1.  
Russell Palma

MANILA, Philippines — The mandatory wearing of face masks in public places will remain as the government policy until the COVID-19 pandemic dissipates, the National Task Force (NTF) against COVID-19 said yesterday.

Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., NTF chief implementer, said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases has yet to discuss whether the policy should be lifted or not.

“As of now, we haven’t discussed the removal of the face mask (policy). No such discussion has been made,” Galvez said in an interview with radio station dzBB, noting that the government is still trying to control COVID-19 cases nationwide.

“What I have been telling the media all this time is that the last component of our easing of (rules and restrictions amid the pandemic) would be the removal of the mask mandate because that’s our final defense,” he added. Earlier this week, Galvez said the mask mandate could be scrapped by the fourth quarter of this year, but only if the pandemic becomes “very manageable” at that time.

NTF medical adviser Teodoro Herbosa said the move could be possible, considering that the government would have fully vaccinated 90 million Filipinos by then, a number that represents about 81 percent of the whole population.

However, Galvez said the NTF’s official recommendation is that the mask mandate would not be scrapped until COVID-19 has been “totally eliminated.”



## ‘Mask mandate to remain until end of pandemic’

“Until the pandemic has ended... and while we cannot say that we are totally secured or that the COVID-19 is totally eliminated, we cannot remove the face mask (mandate),” he said.

Malacañang had said that face masks would still be required under Alert Level 1 classification, which may be in effect by March 1.

Under Alert Level 1, intrazonal and interzonal travel will be allowed regardless of age and comorbidities.

All establishments or activities may operate or be undertaken at full on-site or venue capacity, but minimum public health standards like observing physical distance, frequent hand washing, and wearing of face masks are observed.

Metro Manila and several other areas will be under Alert Level 2 until the end of February even with the decline in new COVID-19 infections and the low health care utilization rate.

Latest data on the National Vaccination Dashboard of the NTF showed that only over 60 million Filipinos have been fully vaccinated, with over eight million already having received their booster dose.



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 706

## PEBRERO 18, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 1.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
**65,796**

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 96.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
**3,527,720**

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.52%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
**55,409**

MGA BAGONG KASO **2,232**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **3,010**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **79**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,648,925**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 16  
DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 18  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 16

# 9.1%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 29,812

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS  
**93.0%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

**A**LAMIN  
ANG TAMANG  
IMPORMASYON

KABUANG PILIPINAS  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA  
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)  
**31%** Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)  
**32%** Utilized

946 Asymptomatic

ISOLATION BEDS (20.6K TOTAL BEDS)  
**27%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)  
**25%** Utilized

60,252 Mild

WARD BEDS (14.8K TOTAL BEDS)  
**21%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)  
**25%** Utilized

2,869 Moderate

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
**17%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
**21%** Utilized

1,422 Severe

307 Critical

### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

[bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines](https://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines)

### DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777  
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

[bit.ly/OHCCHotline](https://bit.ly/OHCCHotline)

### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

[bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine](https://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine)

SeeYouDoc  
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SeeYouDoc

Telimed and Medgate  
medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

HealthNow  
healthnow.ph/  
help@healthnow.ph  
HealthNow

KonsultaMD  
konsulta.md  
KonsultaMD

MedCheck  
medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

CloudPx  
cloudpx.ph/

TelAventusMD  
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph  
TelAventusMD



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App  
o gamitin ang WEBAPP  
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?  
Report via SMS

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:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

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

[\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)

19 FEBRUARY 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/BTAM36G6tZo>

#ManilaBaywalk #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay  
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MANILA

SEA SNAKE AT SEA SLUGS SA DOLOMITE BEACH MANILA BAY UPDATE 02-18-2022

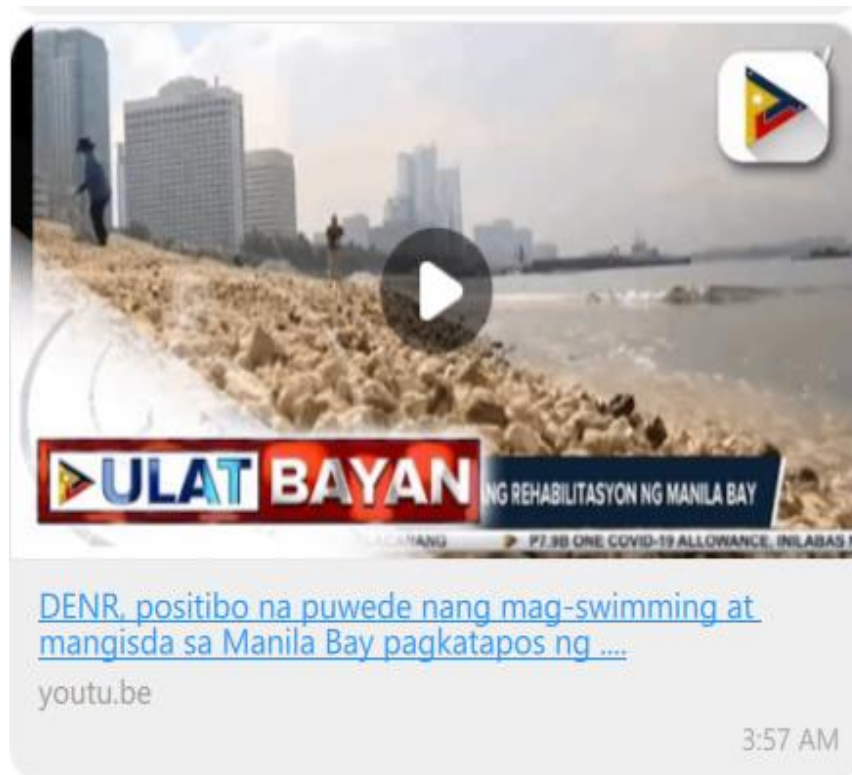
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sea snake at sea slug nakita sa dolomite beach manila bay  
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Itinalagang Officer-in-Charge ng kagawaran si Undersecretary Jim Sampulna.

State of the Nation is a nightly newscast anchored by Atom Araullo and Maki Pulido. It airs

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