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DENR

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DENR naglabas ng mga alituntunin sa muling pagbubukas ng Dolomite Beach



January 3, 2022 @ 6:20 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Bilang pagsunod sa ipinatutupad na minimum public health standards and protocols naglabas ng mga alituntunin ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) noong Martes, Disyembre 28 kasabay ng muling pagbubukas ng Dolomite Beach.

Sa press release ayon kay DENR-Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) Director at Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach ground commander Reuel Sorilla, tanging ang mga bakunadong indibidwal lamang ang papayagang makapasok sa tabing dagat.

Ang Dolomite Beach ay muling binuksan sa publiko noong Disyembre 28 hanggang 29, 2021. Nagdesisyon din ang DENR na muli itong bubuksan mula Enero, 4, 2022 at sa mga susunod pang araw.

“As per IATF (Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases) standards, only fully vaccinated persons will be allowed,” paliwanag ni Sorilla sa muling pagbubukas ng Dolomite Beach noong Disyembre 28.

Kaugnay nito sinabi din ni Sorilla na ang mga batang may edad na 11-taong gulang pababa ay hindi papayagang makapasok sa tabing dagat.



DENR naglabas ng mga alituntunin sa muling pagbubukas ng Dolomite Beach

Samantala upang matiyak ang kaligtasan at maayos na pagbisita sa Dolomite Beach, tiniyak ni Sorilla ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng “one day before rule” para sa online registration (<http://denrncrsys.online>) at ang “post-dated appointments” ay hindi na kikilalanin.

“We advise successful online registrants to come on time for their scheduled batch as everyone in a given batch will be required to leave the beach area upon the lapse of the one-hour period for the next batch,” ani Sorilla.

Ayon pa sa DENR, ang mga online registered at walk-in visitors ay kinakailangang dalhin ang kanilang vaccination cards na siyang ipakikita sa entrance gate. Ipinatutupad din ang palaging pagsusuot ng face mask at physical distancing.

Ang pagpapapasok sa Dolomite Beach ay kada batch na may maximum na 300 visitors bawat batch. Santi Celario



DENR nabs 14 people for illegal quarrying in Davao City

Published January 3, 2022, 1:24 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have arrested 14 people for unauthorized quarrying activities in Davao City.

DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu said the operation of the department's Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) in Barangay Wawa was carried after receiving reports of the illegal activities of the suspects.



photo: DENR

The arrested suspects, according to Cimatu, will face legal proceedings under Republic Act (RA) 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

"Our achievements in 2021 are further bolstered with our enforcement activities, especially when it comes to anti-illegal wildlife trading, anti-illegal logging, and anti-illegal mining and quarrying activities," Cimatu said.

The DENR's ELEPS have been aggressive in running after violators of environmental laws.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/01/03/denr-nabs-14-people-for-illegal-quarrying-in-davao-city/>



14 minero arestado ng DENR sa illegal quarrying sa Davao City



January 3, 2022 @ 4:52 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Dahil sa paglabag sa kalikasan inaaresto ng mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) ang 14 na minero na nagsasagawa ng hindi awtorisadong quarrying activity sa Waan, Davao City noong Disyembre 11, 2021.

Sa press release ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang patuloy na pag-aresto sa mga environmental criminals ay kinakailangan upang matakot at panghinaan ng loob ang mga itong lumalabag sa batas pangkalikasan.

Kaugnay nito ang pahayag na ito ni Cimatu ay inilabas matapos ang isinagawang operasyon sa Barangay Waan, Buhangin District, Davao City na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa 14 na katao at pagkumpiska ng labing-apat na kagamitan.

"Our achievements in 2021 are further bolstered with our enforcement activities, especially when it comes to anti-illegal wildlife trading, anti-illegal logging, and anti-illegal mining and quarrying activities," saad ni Cimatu.



14 minero arestado ng DENR sa illegal quarrying sa Davao City

Samantala noong Marso 7, 2021 nang maglabas si Davao City Mayor Sara Z. Duterte ng cease and desist order (CDO) matapos balewalain ng mga operator ang naunang CDOs na inisyu ng City Mining Regulatory Board mula 2018 hanggang 2020.

Bukod sa ELEPS, kasama rin sa operasyon ang DENR-Region 11, Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Region 11, Davao City Police, Davao City Environment and Natural Resources Office, Task Force Davao at Public Safety and Security Command.

Ang mga naarestong minero ay dadaan sa legal na proseso sa paglabag sa Republic Act (RA) 7942 o ang Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Kaugnay nito ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement Benito Antonio de Leon, ang patuloy na pagtatagumpay ng ELEPS sa mga operasyon nito ay nagpapatunay lamang na ang DENR ay nangangailangan ng enforcement bureau upang palakasin ang kasalukuyan nitong ginagawa.

"May our victories catch the eye of our legislators to ensure that this kind of work would continue, even beyond the current administration," saad ni de Leon.

Sa mga nakalipas na buwan, pinangunahan din ng ELEPS ang pagkakaaresto sa ilang indibidwal na nagsasagawa ng hindi awtorisadong quarrying at operasyon sa loob ng Taal Volcano Protected Area Landscape. Santi Celario



Mining sector getting back on track

By [Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star)
- January 4, 2022 - 12:00am



For one, the industry continued to post gains in its production value, registering double-digit increases in the first nine months.

MANILA, Philippines — The country's mining industry had a lot to be happy about last year.

For one, the industry continued to post gains in its production value, registering double-digit increases in the first nine months.

Data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) showed that the country's metallic mineral production value went up by 22.34 percent from P99.03 billion in the same period last year.

"The generally favorable global metal prices propelled the Philippine mining industry's production value in the first three quarters of 2021, due in large part to the growth in the production of gold and nickel ore. Other metals, such as silver, copper, chromite and iron ore had lower output," Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) spokesperson Rocky Dimaculangan said.

"We believe the trend continued during the last quarter of the year," he said.

Employment and COVID efforts

Mining companies continued to employ their workers despite the pandemic.

"As in 2020, the industry remained resilient in 2021, proving that it can be a cornerstone in the country's post-pandemic recovery efforts by continuing to generate employment as well as tax and export revenues for the government amid the global health crisis," Dimaculangan said.



Mining sector getting back on track

"The industry also contributed extensively to assisting COVID-19-affected host and neighboring mining communities by way of medical supplies, food assistance and other social amelioration initiatives," he said.

COMP earlier said that its members were pulling out all the stops to keep their workers employed amid the pandemic as they implemented resilient strategies aimed at prioritizing health and safety.

Its members, composed primarily of the country's largest metallic mines, responded early to the pandemic, which enabled them to effectively mitigate the risks of infection within and around their mines.

An example of this is Philex Mining Corp., which retained the jobs of its nearly 1,900 employees at its Padcal mine in Tuba, Benguet.

The company also kept the jobs in its corporate offices in Mandaluyong, where around 80 employees are posted.

Aside from securing employment, mining firms also intensified their efforts to prioritize the health and safety of the workforce.

An example of this is Carmen Copper Corp.'s Trace, Test and Treat strategy, wherein the company's emergency responders and medical teams meticulously traced contacts of people exposed to persons positive with COVID-19 and provided regular testing.

Berong Nickel Corp. also strictly enforced health and safety protocols at its site, while Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. provided workers with the necessary personal protective equipment, Vitamin C especially for the frontliners, as well as conducted massive testing for all the mine site employees.

Ban on new mineral deals lifted

One of the biggest news in the mining industry last year was the lifting of the ban on new mineral agreements.

In April, President Duterte signed Executive Order 130, amending Section 4 of EO 79 issued in 2012 under the Aquino administration, which prohibits the grant of mineral agreements until new legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect.

The new EO allows the government to enter into new mineral agreements, subject to compliance with the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

It allows the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to continue granting and issuing exploration permits under existing laws, rules and guidelines.

MGB director Wilfredo Moncano earlier said the lifting of the moratorium on new mineral agreements would allow the mining industry to boost its contribution to the country's economy.

More policies needed to boost industry's potential

COMP said more policies must be implemented to make the country's mining industry attractive to investors.



Mining sector getting back on track

“While we welcome the issuance of EO 130, which lifted the moratorium on new mining permits, we look forward to further policy pronouncements, such as the lifting of the ban on open pit mining, that will help maximize the Philippine mining industry’s growth potential and attract more foreign and domestic investments,” Dimaculangan said.

“We also remain hopeful that business and investment policies will be more stable going forward. Our country has a lot of catching up to do in terms of investment attractiveness and mining policies compared to other mining jurisdictions all over the world,” he said.

COMP chairman Gerard Brimo said the Philippines is no longer on the radar of global mining investors, citing results of a survey by Canadian think-tank Frasier Institute, which excluded the country.

He said despite the potential of the country’s mining industry, the opportunity to grow it has been squandered.

“The problem is that policies went against the industry starting 2012, when a moratorium on new mining permits was put in place by a presidential executive order, the reason being was because the industry was not paying enough taxes,” he said.

Brimo said it took years for the said policy to be lifted as EO 130, which allows the government to enter into new mineral agreements, was only issued by President Duterte last year.

He said that the ban on open-pit mining hampered the growth of the industry. He pointed out that open-pit mining is a method being used all over the world to extract near surface deposits that cannot be extracted by underground methods.

Moncano said he was hopeful that the draft department administrative order (DAO) lifting the ban on open pit mining would be signed before the end of the Duterte administration.

(Note: On Dec. 29, 2021, the DENR issued Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-40, which lifts the nationwide ban on open-pit mining for copper, gold, silver and complex ores, effectively repealing the order issued by late environment secretary Regina L. Lopez, a known anti-mining advocate, in 2017.)

In addition to the policies against mining, Brimo cited the case of a foreign mining company, which had to wait for two years for its permit to be renewed in the Philippines because of a dispute with a local government unit.

Pushing for sustainability

As mining activities have been generally criticized for their potential negative impact on the environment and the communities around their site, mining firms in the country make it a point to ensure that they implement sustainability programs.

Among their efforts to contribute to environmental protection include the industry’s commitment to establish bamboo plantations in over 4,000 hectares of land in the next three years, as part of the DENR’S bamboo plantation program.



Mining sector getting back on track

In addition, COMP continues to adopt the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) initiative, a globally recognized sustainability program established in 2004 by the Mining Association of Canada in 2004 that supports mining companies in managing key environmental and social risks.

Dimaculangan said the group continues to move forward by successfully aligning its "Filipinized" version of TSM with the Global Industry Standard in Tailings Management issued by the Global Tailings Review led by the United Nations Environment Programme.

"As part of this alignment effort, COMP has likewise adopted the Filipinized version of the TSM Climate Change Protocol and its supporting guide, thus bringing to eight the number of protocols that COMP's member companies will implement in the coming years," he said.

Miners see no clarity on industry policy from 2022 candidates

January 2, 2022 | 9:43 pm



REUTERS

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

THE CHAMBER of Mines of the Philippines (CoMP) said it is not clear on whether mining policy implemented by the current government will enjoy any continuity in the succeeding administration in the absence of clear intentions expressed by the 2022 Presidential candidates.

"We have yet to hear a clear minerals development policy or strategy from any of the Presidential candidates. All candidates should develop a long-term minerals development policy as many future technologies (renewable energy, batteries, EVs, computers, etc.) all depend on scarce minerals, and securing these will be critical," CoMP Executive Director Ronald S. Recidoro said in an e-mail interview.

"The mining industry has always looked at changes in administration with cautious optimism. This is particularly true of the 2022 national elections, considering the policy gains we have secured in the last two years," he added. "We would like to ensure that these gains are sustained under the next administration, and that its fruits — increased socio-economic contribution from mining — are felt by the Filipino people."

On Dec. 23, the four-year ban on open-pit mining was lifted by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Its Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-40 repeals the 2017 order issued by the late Environment Secretary Regina L. Lopez.

DAO 2017-10 banned open-pit mining, noting that "most of the mining disasters in the country were to due tailings spills associated with open-pit mining."

Miners see no clarity on industry policy from 2022 candidates

Mr. Recidoro said the current government is taking the steps in the right direction.

“We think the (current) administration was right in making these policy corrections. With regulatory safeguards now firmly in place, and an improved fiscal regime being implemented, the time was right to allow new mines to come onstream. We can only hope that the new administration will see it fit to continue and build upon these reforms,” he said.

In April, the government lifted the nine-year moratorium on granting new mining permits.

“The mining industry under President Rodrigo R. Duterte’s administration was a mixed bag, but which has turned in our favor in the last 12 months. Early in his administration, Mr. Duterte voiced his concern over irresponsible mining practices he had seen while mayor of Davao City. He then appointed Secretary Regina L. Lopez to introduce radical change into how mines were regulated and operated. As a result, suspensions and closure orders were issued, and a ban placed on open-pit mining,” Mr. Recidoro said.

At the time, Mr. Recidoro said the excise tax on minerals doubled ahead of the moratorium on new mining permits. He said the industry “suffered tremendously during that time, but we took it as an opportunity to re-examine the industry, effect key environmental, social, and governance (ESG) reforms, and upgrade our capacities and capabilities.”

“Like the other mineral-rich countries, we should position the country as a global player and make best economic use of our mineral resources. Given the opportunity, we would be happy to provide the candidates with a briefing on the matter and emphasize the importance of a strong and responsible minerals industry to the country,” he added.

The Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF) said in a statement that the lifting of the ban would boost an economy still reeling from the pandemic by generating government revenue at the national and community level and increasing export revenue to help finance critical capital imports.

“Lifting the ban on open-pit mining will accelerate the growth of the mining industry, which will generate good paying jobs in the countryside and help dent rural unemployment and poverty,” the FEF read.

“Any negative effects on the environment can be mitigated with rehabilitation measures and other environmental safeguards that mining companies must adhere to. Open-pit mining is used worldwide and in countries with strict environmental laws, such as the US, Australia, and Canada,” the FEF added.

Meanwhile, environmental groups and political parties expressed their opposition to the resumption of open-pit mining, calling it a reversal of Mr. Duterte’s election promise.

“Isa na naman itong pangakong napako ng administrasyong Duterte. Sabi niya noong eleksyon na ipapasara ang mga dambuhalang mina na nakasisira sa kalikasan, ngunit ngayon binibigyang-daan ang open-pit mining, ang panghuhuthot sa yamang mineral ng bansa, ang matinding pagwasak ng mga kabundukan,” Bayan Muna Party-list said in a statement.



Miners see no clarity on industry policy from 2022 candidates

(This is another promise of the Duterte Administration that was not fulfilled. During the campaign, he said he will have the big mining companies closed. But now, he is giving way to open-pit mining, which damages the environment, robs us of our mineral wealth, and destroys our mountains.)

"Mukhang nais ng administrasyong Duterte na mangolekta ng malaki mula sa kompanya ng mina bago mag-eleksyon kung kaya't ngayon tinanggal itong ban sa open-pit mining," it added.

"It is crystal clear that if the Duterte-Marcos alliance wins the elections in 2022, we can expect more pro-mining policies from government. We must call on the opposition to campaign for the reinstatement of the open-pit mine ban and the moratorium on new mining projects. We call on all pro-environment Filipinos to unite and defeat the pro-mining Duterte-Marcos alliance," Leon A. Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment said in an e-mail, referring to the ticket of Presidential candidate Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. and his running mate, Davao Mayor Sara Z. Duterte-Carpio.

Anakpawis Party-list and the fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas also warned of major environmental consequences of the return of open-pit mining in a joint statement.

"The resumption of open-pit mining is (brining) our environment towards a major disaster in the making. The country's productive agricultural and fisheries resources will be sacrificed for this extreme greed for profit of mining corporations at the cost of the people's socio-economic rights, national patrimony, and sound and sustainable environment. Moreover, this order is a betrayal of the people who continue to defend their livelihood and rights to a healthy ecology," the statement read.

"As a result of the nickel tailings, traditional fish species that used to thrive in the municipal waters have become extinct. Moreover, the tailings have destroyed several reefs that used to be the breeding grounds of fish. Until now, those big mining companies responsible for the degradation of fishing waters have yet to compensate the affected fishing communities," it added.

OPEN-PIT MINING | Government lacks capacity to monitor reopening of open-pit mines – civil society group

January 3, 2022 , 04:34 PM
By Clarist Zablan

(January 3, 2022) – A non-government organization on Monday warned the environment department lacked the capacity to strictly monitor mining operations in the country, disputing the agency's assurance that it can [regulate the reopening](#) of open-pit mining in the Philippines.

The Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc (PMPI), an advocacy network of over 250 groups, joined the calls to lambast Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu's move to lift the ban on open-pit mining, dismissing his statement the method of mining can be done in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The group said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) do not even have the capacity to monitor all 50 active mining operations in the country, let alone include more open-pit mines under its watch once the lifting of ban takes effect next week.

"Our partner communities affected by mining operations are living testimonies of the lies peddled by this government and the mining corporations on the so-called 'Sustainable Mining' and 'Globally accepted method' on mining operations," PMPI said in a statement.

PMPI said the bad practices of mining corporations and the department's incapacity to enforce environmental safety standards have led to the destruction of marine ecosystems in the Manicani Island in Eastern Samar and Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay.

The open-pit mining operations in Manicani and Rapu-Rapu have faced controversies due to its devastating ecological effects in the surrounding environment, harming the livelihood of farmer and fisherfolk community living in the islands.

"To this government, and particularly the DENR, the many incidents of landslides and flooding wrought by Typhoon Odette, seem not enough reminder that a big shift in policies and development projects would give due protection to the environment is imperative now, more than ever," the group said.

Cimatu, a retired army general, [lifted the ban](#) on open-pit mining in the country saying it will help spur economic growth in the country and generate more jobs in communities living close to mines.

He dismissed concerns that open-pit mining will destroy the environment – the reason for the ban placed by his predecessor, the late Regina Lopez – saying that there are existing strategies to manage the negative environmental impacts that come with it. The DENR also said that the agency will strictly monitor violations of green laws by open-pit mines.

The move was met by [strong opposition](#) from green activists, indigenous peoples' groups and concerned citizens, calling out the agency for prioritizing profit over protecting the environment.

(MM)



EMB-7 probes SRP 'dumpsite'

By [Mitchelle L. Palaubsanon](#) (The Freeman)
- January 4, 2022 - 12:00am



"EMB-7 is looking into the matter," said Paquito Melicor Jr., director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas.

CEBU, Philippines — The Environmental Management Bureau-7 is looking into reports that the Cebu City government is dumping collected typhoon debris at an open area in the South Road Properties to see if the setup violates environmental laws and regulations.

"EMB-7 is looking into the matter," said Paquito Melicor Jr., director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas.

EMB is an attached agency of the DENR.

The city is currently using the NOAH Complex area at the SRP as a dumping ground for debris left by Typhoon Odette, a move City Councilor Joel Garganera, chairman of the committee on environment, said is not illegal and only temporary.

But in the photos captured by The FREEMAN yesterday, the garbage pileup at NOAH included not only twigs and branches from fallen trees but also household wastes such as plastics bags, containers, bottles, and similar materials.

The photos also showed that the dumping site sits several meters away from a pond.

On the second day of the massive citywide cleanup on Sunday, January 2, at least 1,020 tons of garbage was collected in Cebu City, according to City Administrator Suzanne Ardosa after the City Hall flag-raising ceremony yesterday.

This was an increase from the 880 tons of garbage and debris collected on the first day last December 30.

"Dili pa perfect. Naa pay mga lugar nga wala pa makuha. Padayon ang atong limpyo, but basically, our major thoroughfares, limpyo na," said Ardosa.



EMB-7 probes SRP 'dumpsite'

Ardosa thanked all the city government employees, the private sector, barangay officials, volunteers, among others, for participating in the two-part citywide cleanup.

Five teams were deployed in different parts of the city to clear typhoon debris and garbage. The Red Team was led by Market Administrator Raquel Arce; Yellow Team by lawyer Gerry Carillo; Blue Team by Engr. Joel Reston; Violet Team by Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources head Editha Peros; and Green Team by City Environmental Sanitation and Enforcement Team head Grace Luardo.

Stricter enforcement

Meanwhile, the city government is bent on going after residents who will indiscriminately throw their garbage in undesignated areas as a way of strictly enforcing City Ordinance No. 1361.

"A mo na nang i-impose ang kanang 1361 nga city ordinance penalizing those violators nga nagpataka og labay sa ilang basura," said City Councilor Jerry Guardo who is one of those tasked to oversee the clearing operations in Cebu City.

Guardo said that during the two-day massive clearing and cleanup in the city, they told residents properly dispose of their garbage.

He added that barangay officials are also expected to maintain cleanliness in their respective jurisdictions, as well as monitor residents' compliance with the ordinance.

Now that major thoroughfares in the city have been cleared, the city government is in the process of clearing secondary roads of debris and garbage.

After this, two teams will be deployed – one the north and one in the south district – to secure leaning electrical and telco posts and lines, especially in the interior portions.

Each team is composed of personnel from the Visayan Electric, telecom companies, quick response team, along with personnel from the City Parks and Playgrounds and Engineering Department.

"I'll be spearheading the team and I am forming duha ka teams. Naa na mi report coming from the ground asa to dapita ang dili pa passable nga mga sitios kay duna pay naka-block," said Guardo.
– Mary Ruth L. Malinao, Caecent N. Magsumbol, JMD (FREEMAN)



2 huli sa mahigit P600K 'hot logs'



January 3, 2022 @ 2:33 PM 16 hours ago

CARRANGLAN, Nueva Ecija – Nasakote ng pinagsanib na pwersa ng pulisya at environment officers ang dalawang lalaki na nagtangkang magpuslit umano ng 3,058.56 board feet ng illegally cut sawn lumber na nagkakahalaga ng P611,712 na lulan ng isang closed van sa kahabaan ng Maharlika Highway, Barangay Joson ng bayang ito, noong Linggo ng hapon.

Batay sa ulat, kinilala ang dalawang naarestong suspek na sina Jomer Deteques, 38, drayber; at Jayson Maniquiz, 36, pahinante, kapwa ng Batasan Bata, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Nabatid na pinara ng dalawang suspek ng sanib-pwersa ng Carranglan Municipal Police station, DENR-CENRO Muñoz City, kasama ang mga tauhan mula sa 2nd Provincial Mobile Force ng NEPPO, DENR-Nueva Vizcaya at Sta. Fe Police station ng Nueva Vizcaya PPO, bandang alas-1:30 noong Linggo ng hapon.

Nabatid na sakay ang dalawa ng kulay white and silver closed van, may plakang CCO6915 at galing umano sila ng norte at patungong katimugan nang harangain ng awtoridad.

Wala umanong naipakitang dokumento ang dalawang suspek at ngayo'y nakatakda silang sampahan ng kasong paglabag sa PD 705 o Revised Forestry Code, habang dinala ang mga kahoy sa opisina ng DENR sa Science City of Muñoz. Ver Sta Anna



Illegal lumber seized in Nueva Ecija

By [Ramon Efren Lazaro](#) (The Philippine Star)
- January 4, 2022 - 12:00am

CABANATUAN CITY, Philippines — Illegal lumber with an estimated value of P600,000 was intercepted in Nueva Ecija on Sunday.

The forest product was loaded in a truck that was intercepted along the highway in Barangay Joson, Carranglan town, according to a report received by Nueva Ecija police director Col. Rhoderick Campo.

The town police launched an operation after receiving information that a vehicle loaded with illegal lumber would pass through the area.

The driver of the vehicle refused to pull over when it was flagged down by the authorities.

Jomer Deteques and his helper Jayson Maniquiz were arrested following a brief chase.



[Pampanga](#)

DENR breathes new life to confiscated wood

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

December 29, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the City of San Fernando recently donated 500 wooden chairs to four public schools in Pampanga to support the government's efforts in the improvement of educational facilities amid the preparation of the pilot implementation of limited face-to-face classes in Central Luzon.

Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of the DENR-Central Luzon, noted that turned over logs from government projects were converted into school chairs to benefit more than 1,000 students from Baliti Elementary School in Apalit, Bacolor Central Elementary School in Bacolor, San Miguel Elementary School in Guagua, and San Roque Dau Elementary School in Lubao.

"Apart from our intensified effort to combat illegal logging activities in the region, we remain true to our commitment to help public schools secure adequate chairs and facilities," Moreno said.

For her part, Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Melissa Sanchez of the Department of Education (DepEd) of Pampanga expressed her gratitude for the assistance the schools received from the DENR, noting that these donated chairs would be fundamental in their ground works to hold face-to-face learning.

Aside from the endowment of chairs to public schools in Central Luzon, the DENR here has donated more than 10,000 board feet of confiscated lumber to local government units and other national government agencies to build temporary quarantine shelters and checkpoint facilities since the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic started.

DENR records show that over 294,687 board feet of illegal lumber worth P16 million have been apprehended in the region since 2020.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1916774/pampanga/local-news/denr-breathes-new-life-to-confiscated-wood>



Sea turtle hatchlings released in Ilocos Norte

By Leilanie Adriano January 3, 2022, 6:24 pm



HATCHLINGS. Baby sea turtles emerge from their nest in a guarded hatchery in Bangui, Ilocos Norte on Monday (Jan. 3, 2022). A 'pawikan' sanctuary is being proposed in the province to further protect marine turtles that often lay their eggs from dusk till dawn. *(Contributed photo)*

LAOAG CITY – Baby sea turtles emerged from a guarded hatchery in Bangui, Ilocos Norte and were guided back to the wild before the dark on Monday.

Eduardo Angadol, forestry senior manager of North Luzon Renewables and one of the spokespersons of the "pawikan" (sea turtle) conservation group in the province, reported to environment officials that the new hatchlings at the Bangui wind farm formed part of the relocated eggs last November to keep them safe during high tide and protect them from predators.

"The pawikan eggs in nest No. 4 laid last November 13 are emerging and we can release the hatchling by 5:30 p.m. today," he said.

Last January 1, at least 55 hatchlings out of the 106 eggs that were transferred last November 10 at the same hatchery were successfully released into the wild.

The Northwind Power Development Corp. which initiated the establishment of a guarded pawikan hatchery has assigned at least five monitoring members to help secure the endangered sea turtles that lay their eggs near the Bangui bay.

For strengthened protection of marine sea turtles, a multi-sectoral group is pushing for the establishment of a pawikan sanctuary in Ilocos Norte.

The emerging hatchlings are a good sign already," Noemi Ruadap, Community Environment, and Natural Resources officer, said as she expressed support to the proposed project.

Sea turtles often lay their eggs from dusk till dawn and the peak season is from November to March. *(PNA)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1164385>



Conserve water, public told

By [Catherine Talavera](#), [Paolo Romero](#) (The Philippine Star)
- January 4, 2022 - 12:00am



"This is to ensure that sufficient water is available for municipal irrigation and hydropower uses in the subsequent months, particularly during the summer season," the NWRB said in a statement issued yesterday.

Noel Celis / AFP

MANILA, Philippines — The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) is urging the public to conserve and use water wisely as Angat Dam's water elevation was below the normal high level at the end of 2021.

"This is to ensure that sufficient water is available for municipal irrigation and hydropower uses in the subsequent months, particularly during the summer season," the NWRB said in a statement issued yesterday.

It said that as of midnight of Dec. 31, Angat's water level was at 202.80 meters, or 9.20 meters below the normal high level of 212 meters.

"There was a slight increase in the water level with the rain brought by the northeast monsoon, but not enough to fill the dam near its ideal yearend elevation," the NWRB said.

It cited forecasts from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, which said the occurrence of La Niña phenomenon would persist until March.

"Rainfall could be enhanced by the northeast monsoon from January to February, which could provide more precipitation," the NWRB said.

It said this could bring near-normal rainfall over the Angat watershed area in the first semester of this year.



Conserve water, public told

With the current status of the Angat Dam and the forecast rainfall in the watershed, the dam may reach its minimum operating level of 180 meters by the middle of April.

The agency said there is a need to manage the releases from the dam as a precaution for any change in the projections.

Meanwhile, Sen. Grace Poe urged the government to take steps to avert a possible water shortage.

Poe said a water shortage in the midst of a pandemic is unthinkable, especially when handwashing is essential to avoid catching the virus.

DILG-NCR lauds Muntinlupa's aid in Manila Bay cleanup

January 4, 2022



Muntinlupa Environmental Sanitation Center head Lorna Misa presents the city's awards to Mayor Jaime Fresnedi in recognition of Muntinlupa's efforts on river cleanup drives and other local initiatives as part of the Manila Bay Cleanup, Rehabilitation and Preservation Program. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE [Department of the Interior](#) and Local Government (DILG) recognizes Muntinlupa's efforts on river cleanup drives and other local initiatives as part of the [Manila Bay](#) Cleanup, Rehabilitation and Preservation Program (MBCRPP).

[Muntinlupa Environmental Sanitation Center](#) head [Lorna Misa](#) presented the city's awards to Mayor [Jaime Fresnedi](#) during a courtesy call of the local environmental council last December 21.

The local government unit (LGU) has been recognized as one of the highly compliant LGUs in the implementation of the Manila Bay Cleanup, Rehabilitation and Preservation Program (MBCRPP), garnering a total score of 91.50 percent and ranking fourth place in the National Capital Region ([NCR](#)).

The results were released after the LGU Compliance Assessment held last December 6.

[Muntinlupa City](#) was also recognized as Top Performer in the Informal Settler Families (ISF) Category and Information Education and Communication and Institutional Arrangements (IEC-AC) Category in the said program.



DILG-NCR lauds Muntinlupa's aid in Manila Bay cleanup

The [Manila Bay Task Force](#) was awarded at the [Manila Hotel](#) on December 17.

In 2018, the city was also adjudged the Top Performing LGU for the [MBCRPP Annual Exit Conference](#) and Rank 2 for the [Regional Assessment](#) of LGU Compliance to the MBCRPP from the third quarter of 2017 to the second quareter of 2018.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/01/04/public-square/dilg-ncr-lauds-muntinlupas-aid-in-manila-bay-cleanup/1828086>



[EcoWaste urges pols: Don't post campaign materials on trees](#)

JAN 3, 2022, 12:20 PM



James Veloso
Writer/Columnist

"Nailing, tacking or stapling of campaign materials such as tarpaulin banners and posters damages the protective bark and punctures the inside of a tree, allowing the entry of harmful organisms and eventually causing stress, inhibiting growth or killing the tree," EcoWaste Coalition said.

If politicians are really serious about environmental protection, they should start by not using trees to post their campaign materials, an environmental group said.

In a statement Sunday (January 2), EcoWaste Coalition urged candidates for the national and local elections scheduled this May to mandate their campaign organizers and supporters not to nail, tack, staple or hang campaign posters and other materials on trees.

The group also petitioned to local environmental officials to immediately take down campaign materials attached to trees and issue notices of violation to concerned parties and individuals.

"Nailing, tacking or stapling of campaign materials such as tarpaulin banners and posters damages the protective bark and punctures the inside of a tree, allowing the entry of harmful organisms and eventually causing stress, inhibiting growth or killing the tree," the group said in its statement.

The group added that "injuring" trees goes against Republic Act No. 3571, as amended by Presidential Decree 953, is prohibited and is punishable.

RA 3571, enacted in 1963, 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 ground."

PD 953, issued in 1976, makes it punishable for "any person who cuts, destroys, damages or injures, naturally growing or planted trees of any kind, flowering or ornamental plants and shrubs, or plants of scenic, aesthetic and ecological values."

COMELEC Resolution No. 10730 pertaining to the Rules and Regulations for the 2022 polls states that "in cases where parties and candidates still persist in displaying, posting, or exhibiting their campaign or election propaganda on trees and plants, they shall be prosecuted for violation of these Rules, without prejudice to the institution of a criminal complaint for the violation of Republic Act No. 3571."

"It is our shared responsibility to care for the trees that help us fight global warming and climate change, purify the air, provide habitats for wildlife, prevent soil erosion and floods, and supply us with food, medicine, paper and other essentials," the group reiterated.



Pasig garbage contractor facing fines

Sotto says personnel of the city's waste and environmental offices had been deployed to help ease the trash pileup

BY NEIL ALCOBER

Metro Waste, the firm contracted by the Pasig City government to collect garbage, will face penalties for its failure to collect tons of trash during the holiday season, Mayor Vico Sotto assured yesterday.

"There are penalties for that. Their penalty will reach a million (pesos), so that we can make sure it won't happen again," Sotto said after residents took to social media to complain over the uncollected garbage.

"But again, we are also investigating other reasons. We will just look [at] what really happened," Sotto added in his speech during the flag-raising ceremony at the Pasig City Hall on Monday.

Metro Waste admitted encountering manpower problem, according to the mayor. "They have admitted their shortcomings and they promised me that they would fix the problem," he said.

Sotto has also ordered an investigation on the people who reportedly held a picket at the garbage transfer stations and blocked the dump trucks from entering the area.

He, however, noted that the garbage dumps are back to making their regular runs at the start of 2022.

I don't want to say that someone is sabotaging [us] like this; that someone is intentionally doing this. But the circumstances are not ordinary and we are investigating that and someone will be held accountable.

Aside from the private contractor, Sotto said personnel and equipment of the Solid Waste Management Office (SWMO) and the City Environmental and Natural Resources Office have also been deployed to help in collecting garbage.

Reports have it that some

personnel of Metro Waste have refused to come to work to press the release of their 13th-month pay. About 10 percent of its workforce also flunked random drug-testing, according to SWMO chief Allen Angeles.

Still, those who picketed and blocked the dump trucks at the garbage transfer areas were not employees of Metro Waste, the mayor said, citing information that reached his office.

"I don't want to say that

someone is sabotaging [us] like this; that someone is intentionally doing this. But the circumstances are not ordinary and we are investigating that and someone will be held accountable," Sotto said.

Residents have expressed fear of an outbreak of diseases arising from the uncollected garbage. Former mayor Robert "Bobby" Eusebio joined them in bringing the problem to Sotto's attention.





GCash users plant milestone 1 million virtual trees in GForest

By [Richmond Mercurio](#)(The Philippine Star)
- January 4, 2022 - 12:00am



GCash is a mobile wallet service by Globe Telecom.

MANILA, Philippines — The environmental sustainability feature on the GCash app has hit a new milestone, as more users are helping contribute in the fight against climate change.

Mobile wallet GCash said it has virtually planted one million trees through GForest.

The virtual trees are planted by GCash users via the GForest on the app, and GCash in turn plants the real trees on their behalf.

“With the impacts of climate change, GCash capitalizes on technology in contributing and raising awareness to environmental conservation and sustainability,” GCash president and CEO Martha Sazon said.

GForest was launched in 2019 and now has nine million users.

Users can earn green energy points by using the various cashless services of GCash, such as send money, pay bills, or bank transfer on the app.

GCash said these digital financial services also lessen their carbon footprint, in addition to planting trees.

GForest users can also collect green energy every time they walk if they enable GCash to access their health app or fitness tracker.



GCash users plant milestone 1 million virtual trees in GForest

These green energy points can be used to plant virtual trees.

As of November 2021, GCash said more than 133 million digital and paperless transactions have been made in GCash to earn green energy points for GForest users.

It said this is in line with the company's mission to support environmental sustainability by keeping individual carbon footprint low and helping fight climate change.

"We hope that through GForest, we are able to empower more Filipinos to help in protecting the environment," Sazon said.

GCash said it is the only fintech company in the country to have a sustainability feature integrated within its app, and has been recognized by global sustainability organizations.

"The GForest program proves that marrying new technologies with creative sustainability solutions are something organizations can achieve," GCash vice president for communications and public affairs officer Chito Maniago said.

Aside from GForest, GCash's various digital products and services enable users to go cashless for various transactions, which helps keep their carbon footprint low and fight climate change.



Shear line, amihan to bring rain showers over parts of PH

By Ma. Cristina Arayata January 3, 2022, 8:55 am



MANILA – While there is no weather disturbance that may affect the country, the shear line and the northeast monsoon or *amihan* will continue to bring rains over parts of the Visayas and Mindanao, the weather bureau said Monday.

In its 4 a.m. weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Caraga, Davao Region, Northern Mindanao, Central Visayas, Eastern Samar, Leyte, and Southern Leyte would have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms due to the shear line and the northeast monsoon.

"At present, we are not monitoring any weather disturbance that may affect the country," PAGASA weather forecaster Grace Castañeda said.

Castañeda added that the shear line and northeast monsoon continue to be the dominant weather systems in the country.

The shear line will also bring isolated rain showers or thunderstorms over the rest of Mindanao.

Castañeda said the public should be alert to possible floods or landslides during scattered moderate to heavy rains.

Bicol Region, Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, and Quezon will experience light rains while Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have isolated light rains due to northeast monsoon.

Moderate to strong winds and moderate to rough seas are forecast over the entire archipelago.



Shear line, amihan to bring rain showers over parts of PH

Strong to gale-force winds will prevail over the northern and western seaboard of northern Luzon, eastern seaboard of northern and central Luzon, the seaboard of southern Luzon, seaboard of the Visayas, and northern, western, and eastern seaboard of Mindanao.

Fishing boats and other small seacraft are advised not to venture out into the sea, while larger sea vessels are alerted against big waves, PAGASA said. (PNA)

04 JANUARY 2022, Tuesday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DOH reports 4,084 new COVID-19 cases, excluding data from 23 labs

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 3, 2022 4:05:59 PM



The number of new cases is lower than Sunday's count, but the Department of Health says 21 testing laboratories did not submit data on time while two were closed on Jan. 1.

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 3) — New COVID-19 cases nationwide reached 4,084 on Monday, with the total jumping to 2,855,819, the Department of Health announced.

This is lower than Sunday's 4,600 cases, breaking a six-day streak of new infections being higher than the previous day's count.

However, the DOH clarified 21 testing laboratories failed to submit their latest data while two were closed on Jan. 1. Based on figures over the past two weeks, the 23 laboratories contributed an average of 5.1% of all samples tested and 5.2% of all positive cases.

Around 99% or 4,057 of the newly reported cases were detected within the last 14 days, the department said. It listed the top contributing regions as Metro Manila with 2,831, Calabarzon with 571, and Central Luzon with 273.

Its bulletin also showed 24,992 or 0.9% of the total number of infected are currently ill. Of these active cases, 795 are asymptomatic; 19,252 are mild; 3,051 are moderate; 1,563 are severe; and 331 are critical.

Meanwhile, 16 more fatalities were confirmed, including eleven that occurred in December, three in October, and one each in September and August. This pushed the death toll to 51,856.

The number of survivors also rose to 2,779,241 after 497 more have beaten the disease.



DOH reports 4,084 new COVID-19 cases, excluding data from 23 labs

After final validation, the DOH said it reclassified as deaths 16 cases mistakenly reported as recoveries. Additionally, 18 duplicate entries were removed from its overall data, along with 178 cases found to have tested negative.

The department further detailed that 18,587 COVID-19 tests were reported on Jan. 1, with 20.7% yielding a positive result. This means one in five people tested for COVID-19 turned out infected.

According to US nonprofit Covid Act Now, the positivity rate should be below 3% to show there is adequate testing and that transmission has been controlled.

DoH: PhI now high-risk for Covid-19



Published 12 hours ago
on January 3, 2022 04:49 PM
By [Jom Garner](#)



The Department of Health (DoH) announced Monday that the Philippines is now classified as “high-risk” for Covid-19 amid the increase in the number of cases.

“Nationally, we are now at high-risk case classification from low-risk case classification in the previous week,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a media briefing.

Vergeire said that the country showed a positive two-week growth rate of 222 percent and average daily attack rate of 1.07 per 100,000 individuals.

She noted that cases in the recent week showed a positive increase; however, the national health systems’ capacity remains at low-risk classification with total beds utilization at 18 percent, and intensive care unit utilization rate at 21.71 percent.

Likewise, Metro Manila has also been classified as high risk for Covid-19 with a two-week growth rate of 813 percent and average daily attack rate of 5.42 per 100,000 population.

“The National Capital Region is at high-risk case classification for Covid-19 showing a high-risk one-week growth rate and two-week growth rate,’ she said.

Vergeire noted that the health systems’ capacity of Metro Manila remains to be under 50 percent capacity utilization.

The official also flagged five other regions that showed positive two-week growth rates which are now at low to moderate risk classifications.



DoH: PhI now high-risk for Covid-19

These are CALABARZON, Central Luzon, Zamboanga Peninsula, Davao Region, and Northern Mindanao.

"The rest of the region showed a positive increase only in the recent week. Healthcare utilization rates in all regions remained to be at low risk," she added.

Hospital admissions increase

As the cases continue to increase, hospital admissions in the recent weeks have also increased, according to Vergeire.

"In the recent week, admission increased by nine percent while allocated beds decreased by two percent at 883 beds," she said.

As of 1 January, she noted that the national healthcare utilization remains to be at low risk at 18 percent, it was slightly higher by two percent compared to the reported utilization rate last 25 December at 16 percent.

Meanwhile, there is also a slight uptick in the intensive care unit utilization rate of the NCR in the recent week by 103 or 44 percent.

"The ICU utilization rate remains to be at low risk overall at 27 percent capacity. ICU admissions increased by 44 percent in the recent week," she added.

The increase in cases came as the government reported more Omicron variant cases in the country.

So far, the country has reported 11 imported cases and three local cases which indicate a "high probability" of local transmission.

Vergeire said that of the three local cases, two were from Bicol and one was from NCR. All of them were either symptomatic or had mild symptoms.



PH now classified again as 'high risk' for Covid-19

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor January 3, 2022, 3:09 pm



(PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

MANILA – The country is now classified high risk for Covid-19 following the increase in cases toward the end of 2021, a health official said Monday.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the epidemic curve shows the current average daily cases have increased significantly by 570 percent this week – December 27, 2021 to January 2, 2022 – which is seven times higher than in previous weeks.

“Nationally we are now at high-risk case classification from low-risk case class in the previous week showing a positive two-week growth rate at 222 percent, and a “moderate risk average daily attack rate of 1.07 case for every 100,000 individuals,” Vergeire said in a media forum.

Latest data from the Department of Health showed that the island groups are showing signs of increase in cases while the National Capital Region (NCR) shows a sharp uptick in cases in the recent weeks.

“Likewise, the NCR is at high-risk case classification showing a high risk one week growth rate and two-week growth rate and moderate risk daily average attack rate of 5.42 cases per 100,000 population,” Vergeire said.

The health systems capacity in the region remains to be under 50 percent utilization while the national beds capacity is at low risk with total utilization at 18 percent and intensive care unit beds utilization at 22 percent.

The five other regions with positive one week growth rate and two-week growth rate include Region 4-A (Calabarzon), Region 3, Region 9, Region 11 and Region 10. These regions have low to moderate risk case classification.

“The rest of the regions showed positive increasing cases only in the recent one week. Healthcare utilization rate in all regions remains to be low risk,” Vergeire said. (PNA)

Unvaccinated vs COVID-19 bawal lumabas ng bahay sa NCR Alert Level 3 — MMDA

By [James Relativo](#)(Philstar.com)
- January 3, 2022 - 11:28am



Despite the earlier declaration made by the Malacañang that December 24 is a special working holiday for the recovery of the economy due to the pandemic, people with large baggages start arriving at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) in Parañaque City before dawn on Dec. 23, 2021 to catch their buses as they head to their respective provinces early to avoid the influx of passengers for the Christmas weekend.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Nagkaisa ang mga alkalde ng Metro Manila na 'wag munang palabasin ng bahay — "in principle" — ang lahat ng hindi pa nababakunahan laban sa COVID-19, habang nasa ilalim ng Alert Level 3 ang rehiyon, ayon sa Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Matatandaang [isinailalim sa Alert Level 3 ang National Capital Region \(NCR\) mula ika-3 hanggang ika-15 ng Enero](#) dahil sa biglaang pagsipa ng mga kaso ng COVID-19 kasabay ng banta ng mas nakahahawang Omicron variant.

"Ito'y in principle napag-agreehan nila [Metro Manila mayors], 'yung mga walang bakuna [laban sa COVID-19]... they shall remain in their residences at all times except for the procurement of essential goods and services," ani MMDA chair Benhur Abalos, Lunes, sa isang briefing.

"[The latter includes], but [are] not limited to food, water, medicine, medical devices, public utilities and energy, work and medical and dental necessities."



Unvaccinated vs COVID-19 bawal lumabas ng bahay sa NCR Alert Level 3 — MMDA

Sa kabila nito, papayagan pa rin naman daw ang individual outdoor activities at exercise sa labas ng "general area of residence" o sa loob ng sumusunod na lugar alinsunod sa guidelines ng Metro Manila local government units:

baranggay

purok

subdibisyon

village

Kaugnay pa rin kasi ito ng katotohanang karamihan ng mga nahahawaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas ay panay mga hindi pa nakakukuha ng kumpletong primary series ng bakuna, dahilan para hindi sila magkaroon ng karagdagang proteksyon laban sa nakamamatay na sakit.

"Para ano rin ito, para kang nag-[Enhanced Community Quarantine] only for the unvaccinated, for their own protection," dagdag pa ni Abalos.

"Dapat nasa bahay lang sila. Pwede silang lumabas kung bibili lang sila ng goods and services."

Papayagan pa rin naman daw ang interzonal at intrazonal movement sa ilalim ng Alert Level 3 ayon sa panununtunan ng Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, ngunit pwedeng magpatupad ng "reasonable restrictions" ang mga local government units basta't hindi ito mas strikto sa mas mataas na Alert Level systems.

Paano mga menor de edad, bulnerable?

Para sa mga wala pang 18-anyos o mga bulnerable ang kalusugan, ay papayagan din namang makakuha ng essential goods and services o para makapagtrabaho sa mga pinapayagang industriya o opisina basta't alinsunod ito sa mga existing rules and regulations.

"Individual outdoor exercises shall also be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status," paglilinaw ni Abalos.

"So covered pa rin tayo nitong IATF [policies]. Ang ginawa lamang nito... mas hinigpitan lang nating mga mayors ang mga unvaccinated. It is also for their own protection habang nasa Alert Level 3."

"For all you know, after two or three weeks tapos na tayo so balewala na po ito. It is only during Alert Level 3, dahil pinapakita naman ng siyensya na karamihan naman ng tinatamaan ng severe at fatality ang mga unvaccinated."

Sa kabila nito, wala pa rin naman daw nakikitang rason ang mga LGU na ire-impose ang mga curfews habang nasa Alert Level 3 ang NCR.

Bukod pa rito, suspendido raw muna ang mga face-to-face classes mula ngayong araw hanggang ika-15 ng Enero.

Sa huling ulat ng Department of Health (DOH) nitong Linggo, aabot na sa 2.85 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas. Sa bilang na 'yan, 51,570 na ang namamatay sa sakit.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2022/01/03/2151558/unvaccinated-vs-covid-19-bawal-lumabas-ng-bahay-sa-ncr-alert-level-3-mmda/amp/>



QC reinforcing Delta measures vs Omicron

She said the city has enough supply of vaccines, especially those made by AstraZeneca, as it has procured 1.1 million doses through an order made last year

BY PAULA ANTOLIN
@tribunephil_phau

Members of Task Force Omicron of the Quezon City government have met to discuss measures to address rising Covid cases in the country.

The task force said it will focus on several areas of intervention, including actively seeking cases, strict isolation of those infected and those showing symptoms, and enforcement of health protocols.

Likewise, the local government has decided to fast-track even more the vaccination of the population, including the provision of booster shots.

“We will reinforce the successful strategies that helped us survive the onslaught of the Delta surge,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

She said that the city has enough supply of vaccines, especially those made by AstraZeneca, as it has procured 1.1 million doses through an order made last year.

“We have a lot of vaccine doses that can boost the immunity of our constituents. We urge all to include getting booster shots in their list of New Year’s resolutions. Our vaccination sites are continuously operating to administer shots for everyone,” the mayor added.

The government has shortened the interval in getting booster shots to three months for vaccines made by Moderna, Pfizer, Sinovac, AstraZeneca and Gamaleya.

Those in Quezon City who wish to get vaccinated may visit www.aceservices.quezoncity.gov.ph/QCVaxEasy or visit the local government’s official Facebook page.



EDITORIAL - Higpitan ang mga hindi bakunado

(Pang-Masa)

- January 4, 2022 - 12:00am



NARARAPAT nang higpitan ang galaw ng mga hindi bakunado sapagkat malaki ang posibilidad na sila ang nagtataglay ng virus na kumakalat ngayon dahil na tumaas ang kaso. Kahapon, naitala ang 4,084 kaso ng COVID, batay sa report ng Department of Health (DOH). Mas mataas naman ang naitala noong Linggo na 4,600 kaso. Ayon sa OCTA Research Group, posibleng maging 10,000 ang kaso bawat araw.

Biglang tumaas ang kaso ng COVID makaraan ang Pasko. Kung dati ay nasa 300 hanggang 400 ang arawang kaso noong unang linggo ng Disyembre 2021 biglang tumaas makalipas ang Pasko at naging mahigit 4,000. Malaki ang posibilidad na tumaas pa ang kaso sa mga susunod na araw. Sinasabi ng health experts na Omicron variant na ang nananalasa sa bansa. Gayunman, sinabi ng DOH na hindi pa nila tiyak kung Omicron ang dahilan nang pagtaas ng kaso. Sa kasalukuyan, nasa high risk na ang bansa sa COVID-19.

Tumaas na ang bilang ng mga ina-admit sa ospital. Nagsimula ang pagdami ng COVID patients, makalipas ang Pasko. At ayon sa DOH, 85 percent ng mga pasyenteng nasa intensive care unit (ICU) ay hindi bakunado. Karaniwan sa mga dinadalang pasyente sa ospital ay hindi makahinga at kinakailangang kabitan ng mechanical ventilator. Karamihan ay mga senior citizen at mayroon ding mga bata. Sa advisory ng DOH, nakasaad: "Join the vaccinated, not the intubated".

Kahapon, nagpasya ang Metro Manila mayors na higpitan na ang galaw ng mga unvaccinated. Hindi na umano papayagang makapasok sa mall ang hindi bakunado. Kailangang magpakita ng vaccination cards ang mga papasok sa mall at iba pang establisimento.

Nararapat na ang paghihigpit sa mga hindi bakunado para hindi kumalat ang COVID-19 o ang Omicron variant. Hindi titigil sa pagkalat ang virus hangga't mayroong kakapitan – at 'yun ay ang mga hindi bakunado. Kailangang maging sapilitan na ang pagbabakuna sa pagkakataong ito. Napatunayan na ang mga bakunado ay hindi magdaranas nang matinding epekto ng virus kumpara sa mga unvaccinated.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2022/01/04/2151682/editorial-higpitan-ang-mga-hindi-bakunado/amp/>



NCR mayors restrict mobility of unvaxxed persons

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz January 3, 2022, 3:29 pm



Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos, Jr. (File photo)

MANILA – There will soon be enhanced restrictions regulating the movement of individuals still unvaccinated against Covid-19 in the National Capital Region (NCR) as agreed upon by the Metro Manila Council (MMC).

In a virtual presser on Monday, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. said MMDA Resolution No. 22-01, series of 2022, urges local government units (LGU) to enact ordinances for "enhanced restriction" on unvaccinated individuals.

Abalos said the resolution has been agreed upon "in principle" by the MMC -- composed of the 17 mayors in NCR and the MMDA -- in a meeting that included members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

"I to ay pinakita namin sa mga meeting namin kahapon [Jan. 2, 2022] sa mga alkalde ng Metro Manila. In principle, nagbotohan kami rito, subject to form and style, at ito ay inaprubahan nila (This has been presented in a meeting yesterday with Metro Manila mayors. In principle, we have voted, subject to form and style, it's already been approved)," Abalos said.

Due to the rising cases of Covid-19 and the threat of the Omicron variant, the resolution urged LGUs to mandate unvaccinated individuals to remain in their residences at all times except for the procurement of essential goods and services such as food, water, medical services, public utilities, and work.

The NCR is now under the stricter Alert Level 3 until January 15.

"Parang nag-ECQ [Enhanced Community Quarantine] pero only for the unvaccinated. For their own protection. Dapat nasa bahay lang sila (It's like having an ECQ but only for the unvaccinated. It's for their own protection. They should remain at home)," Abalos said.



NCR mayors restrict mobility of unvaxxed persons

Individual outdoor exercise is still allowed for all individuals regardless of vaccination status, age, or comorbidities within "the general area of their residence, e. g., within the barangay, *purok*, subdivision, or village subject to the guidelines of the Metro Manila local government units."

Moreover, the unvaccinated are prohibited from indoor and outdoor/al fresco dining in restaurants and other food establishments and from "leisure and social trips to malls, hotels, event venues, sports, and country clubs, and similar facilities."

They are also prohibited to travel via public transportation "by land, sea, and air" except for the procurement of essential goods and services.

As stated in an earlier resolution from the IATF, the unvaccinated are required to undergo a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test every two weeks at their personal expense and present a Covid-19 negative result prior to being admitted for work onsite.

"In the event that the RT-PCR test and/or result is/are not immediately available, a Rapid Antigen Test may be utilized in lieu thereof," the resolution read.

The resolution also covers individuals who reside outside NCR but who work and/or travel to the region.

These restrictions, it said, are part of the government's efforts to "forestall and immediately address" the perceived impact of rising Covid-19 cases and the highly-transmissible Omicron variant.

"The advances in public health and the economic gains that have been achieved in the recent months under Alert Level 2 must be sustained and preemptive measures must be adopted," the resolution read.

It cited Republic Act 11332 or the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Disease and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act that it is "the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Any individual or establishment found in violating this resolution can be prosecuted and may face fines and penalties under Republic Act 11332 -- a fine of not less than PHP20,000 but not more than PHP50,000 or imprisonment of not less than one month but not more than six months at the discretion of the proper court.

"Furthermore, any individual or establishment who or which will falsify the Covid-19 vaccine card shall be prosecuted under Act 3815 or the Revised Penal Code, as amended, pursuant to Section 12 of Republic Act 11525 or the Covid-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021," the resolution read.

Abalos said these restrictions are only "temporary" and will only be lifted once the Covid-19 alert level in NCR is at Alert Level 2 or below.

"*I to'y temporary lamang. I to'y habang nasa Alert Level 3 tayo o mas mataas para maproteksyunan din yung mga walang bakuna. Sana maunawaan po ng lahat ito* (This is only temporary. Only while we're at Alert Level 3 or higher to protect those who have not been vaccinated. I hope everyone understands)," Abalos said. (PNA)



Delta strain of Covid-19 'still around': Palace

By Azer Parrocha January 3, 2022, 12:26 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – Despite studies showing the Omicron variant to be a "milder strain" of Covid-19, Malacañang reminded the public Monday not to be complacent as other more lethal strains of the coronavirus, such as Delta, continue to exist.

Acting presidential spokesperson and Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles made this remark after [the Philippines saw 4,600 new Covid-19 cases on Sunday](#) -- the highest recorded in over two months.

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) earlier raised the alert level status in Metro Manila to Alert Level 3 until January 15 amid an increase in Covid-19 cases and the detection of 14 local Omicron cases.

"We're focusing so much on Omicron, we're forgetting that Delta is still around. Right now, *nagspe-*speculate *tayo na 'Omicron na siguro 'to, ang taas ang bilang'* (we are speculating that 'This is probably Omicron since there are high numbers). We have to remember Delta is still around so don't forget, don't say 'Ah, Omicron okay *lang 'yan kasi Omicron sabi nila* is milder (Ah, it's okay, this is probably Omicron because they say it's milder)," he said in an interview over ABS-CBN News Channel's Headstart.

Citing data from the Department of Health (DOH), he said Covid-19 cases peaked mid-December.

"We're seeing that many of the symptoms' onset actually came about *mga* (around) Dec. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26..DOH is saying that Dec. 20 onwards, *dito na nagkaroon ng pagtaas* (this was where we saw an increase). Exposure should have happened earlier -- five to seven days before," he said.

'Relearn' Level 3 protocols

Nograles enjoined the public to "relearn" the restrictions under Alert Level 3 after being used to the more lax protocols under the Alert Level 2 status.



Delta strain of Covid-19 'still around': Palace

He said the public can start adhering to restrictions within their residences by avoiding entry as well as gatherings among individuals not belonging to the same households.

"We have to remember, during that time when we downgraded from Alert Level 4 to 3, *sa mga* (in) subdivisions, they were strictly enforcing this— *na walang papasok sa subdivision na mga bisita* (that guests are not allowed to enter the subdivision)," he said in an interview over ABS-CBN News Channel's Headstart.

Nograles pointed out that subdivisions and barangays (villages) would even designate a pick-up point for riders to leave their deliveries and assign people to collect them.

"We came from Alert Level 2 and we're now upgrading to Alert Level 3 so again have to relearn, *kailangan ibalik natin yung dati na pagdating sa subdivision, mga condo, at maging sa mga barangay, huwag po tayong pumayag na may pumasok sa residences na hindi taga roon* (we should not let guests or other persons enter our residences)," he added.

He said the public will have to strictly follow minimum public health standards especially because the government could not check on their compliance due to their right to privacy.

"*Pagdating sa private places, hindi kasi. At dahil hindi natin ma-enforce 'yan* (When it comes to private places we cannot impose protocols. And because we cannot enforce them), the safest measure is to not allow *itong* (these) gatherings in residences *pag hindi ka nakatira sa bahay na iyon* (if you do not live in that residence)," he said.

He also reminded the public to bear in mind that these protocols are being enforced to protect their loved ones, especially senior citizens and persons with comorbidities from contracting Covid-19.

Cooperate with gov't

Meanwhile, Nograles urged restaurants and other establishments that are allowed to operate on a 30 percent indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals and 50 percent outdoor venue capacity to also cooperate with the government in enforcing health protocols.

"Restaurants have this obligation also to secure their employees and secure their customers," he said.

He emphasized the need to adhere to the government's Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate (PDITR) strategy.

"*Ang panawagan namin sa lahat* (Our appeal to all) is when you feel something is not right, *huwag ka nang lumabas, isolate ka na* (don't leave your homes, isolate), treat it as if you have Covid... Let's try to protect everybody in our families, in our communities, in our workplaces," he said.

He also encouraged the public to undergo reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing the moment they start to experience symptoms of Covid-19.

Meanwhile, Nograles said the IATF is currently in the process of determining whether there may be "adjustments" made to the current Alert Level 3 restrictions amid an uptick in Covid-19 vaccinations.

"*May meeting kami ng* (We have a meeting with the) IATF tomorrow. But for today, January 3 being Day 1 *ng* (of) Alert Level 3 *natin*. Let's all, as much as possible, take very high, extra precautions," he said.



Delta strain of Covid-19 'still around': Palace

Under Alert Level 3, intrazonal and interzonal movement will be allowed.

Those who are under the age of 18 and those with health risks will be allowed to go out to obtain essential goods and services, and for work in permitted industries.

On Sunday, the DOH has recorded 4,600 new Covid-19 cases bringing the nationwide tally to 2,851,931. (PNA)



MGA PASAWAY SA COVID-19 WALANG LUGAR SA LIPUNAN



January 3, 2022 @ 1:07 PM 17 hours ago

SADYANG mabigat sa lahat ang pinapasan nating pandemyang dulot ng coronavirus disease-19 kaya walang lugar ang kahit sinong pasaway sa mga umiiral na batas laban nasabing sakit.

Nang magkasakit sa COVID-19 ang 2,847,486 Pinoy na kinamatayan na ng 51,545, gumuho ang ating lipunan patungo sa labis na kawalan at paghihirap.

Magkagayunman, lahat ng pagsisikap ng pamahalaan at pakikipagtulungan ng mga mamamayan laban sa pandemya ay nagbubunga ng maganda.

‘Yun bang kumonti ang nagkakasakit at namamatay.

Pero may mga pasaway talaga na pinagmumulan ng pagkadiskaril ng pagsisikap ng lahat na mabago ang ating kalagayan mula sa pagkalugmok patungo sa pagbangon at pag-ahon, kasama na si Poblacion Girl o Party Girl.

SUPERSPREADER SI POBLACION GIRL

Pinaniniwalaang superspreader itong si Poblacion Girl makaraang maging pasaway ito sa patakaran ng Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Infectious Diseases.

Ilang araw makaraang makipag-party ito sa Mijo Comfort Food at Kampai Bar, sa Makati City, nagpositibo sa COVID-19 ang nasa 15 katao, ayon kay Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año.



MGA PASAWAY SA COVID-19 WALANG LUGAR SA LIPUNAN

Nagsabi ang Mijo Comfort Food na nag-negatibo naman sa COVID-test ang kanilang mga staff subalit may nagpositibo sa mga staff ng Kampai Bar.

Paano ang pag-uwi ng mga 15 katao na ito sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan at pakikisalamuha na rin sa iba ang mga pamilya ng mga ito?

Bagama't iniimbestigahan pa kung talagang likha ng pagiging pasaway ni Poblacion Girl ang pagkalat ng virus o siya ang nahawa sa iba, lumalakas ang paniniwalang si Poblacion Girl ang salarin dahil napatunayan sa test na nagpositibo ito makaraan ang ilang araw.

OMICRON O DELTA VARIANT

Anomang araw malalaman na mula sa Philippine Genome Center kung Omicron variant o Delta variant ang dala-dala ni Poblacion Girl.

Galing kasi siya sa United States na sinasalakay ng Delta at Omicron variants na ikinamamatay ng nasa 1,300 katao at ikinasasakit ng nasa halos 500,000 araw-araw.

Anoman ang idinating nito na variant, nagpositibo siya sa COVID-19 nitong Disyembre 27 at tama lang sana na tumalima siya sa alituntunin sa quarantine protocol na ilang araw bago siya lumabas sa pinagkwarantinahan sa kanya.

KARARATING LANG, LUMABAS KAAGAD

Dumating si Poblacion o Party Girl noong Disyembre 22 at idiniretso ito sa Berjaya Hotel sa Makati para sa kwarantine na karaniwang 10-14 araw.

Dapat na sumailalim siya sa 10-14 araw na quarantine bilang pag-iingat pero lumabas siya kinabukasan at nakipag-bonding at nakipag-party sa mga kakilala at kaibigan niya sa nasabing mga restoran at makaraan nga ng 5 araw, hayun nagpositibo na ang nakasalamuha niya, kasama ang mga staff ng restoran.

Dapat lang makasuhan si Poblacion o Party Girl para makulong at magmula, kasama ang mga kasabwat niya sa quarantine protocol violation, para magleksyon sila at maging babala na rin sa iba.



#OneDENR

Covid-19
Situation and Response



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 660

ENERO 3, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.9%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
24,992

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.3%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,779,241

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.81%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
51,586

MGA BAGONG KASO **4,084**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **497**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **16**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,855,819**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 1
DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 3
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 1

20.7%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

18,587

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
80.2%
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 (3.4K TOTAL BEDS)
23% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)
29% Utilized

795 Asymptomatic

ISOLATION BEDS (18.6K TOTAL BEDS)
23% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
27% Utilized

19,252 Mild

WARD BEDS (12.2K TOTAL BEDS)
16% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)
30% Utilized

3,051 Moderate

VENTILATORS (2.8K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
13% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
16% Utilized

1,563 Severe

331 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
seeyoudoc.com
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

TelAventusMD
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
TelAventusMD

CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/



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

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

04 JANUARY 2022, Tuesday



DENR

**NEWS
ALERTS**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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MANILA BAY UPDATE January 3, 2022 BAGONG AABANGAN!
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Kuya Bok Tv
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#manilabay #savemanilabay #battleformanilabay #whitebeach #whitesand #dolomitesand
 #dolomitebeach #DENR #philippines



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Source: <https://youtu.be/ZxOc-BUVa-8>

#DENR #DolomiteBeach #manilabay

PANALO NA SA GANDA, BABALIK KA PA BA?

3,233 views • Jan 3, 2022

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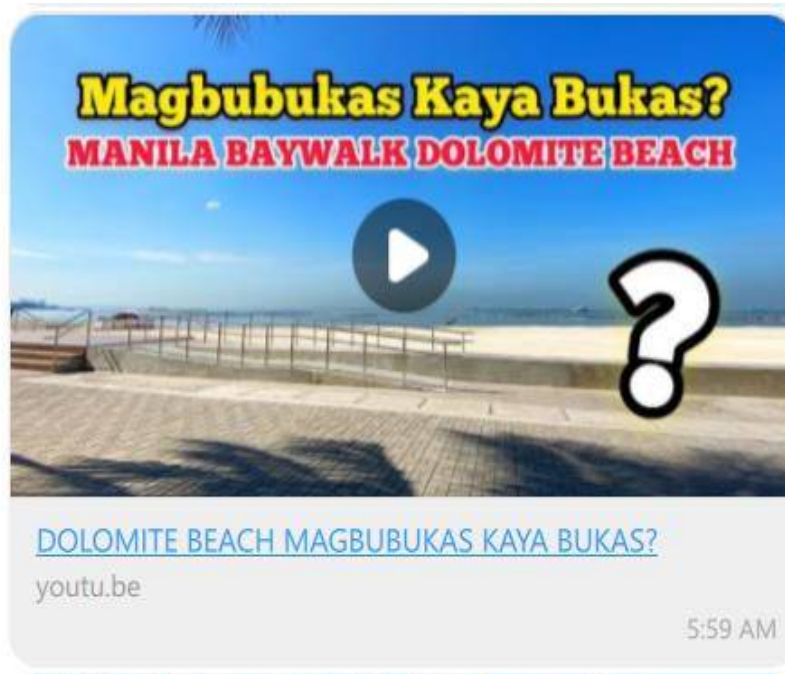
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#DolomiteBeach

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MANILA BAY KAABANG ABANG! WOW DOLOMITE MAY PA BEACH UMBRELLA NA! Miz July

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
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COVID-19 SA PILIPINAS

NEW CASES

DATE	NEW CASES
JAN. 2	4,600
JAN. 3	4,084*

+2 labs were not operational on January 1; 21 labs were not able to submit data

SOURCE: BWH

FROM 8AM TO 10PM, MAAARI RING PUMUNTA SA AMING FACEBOOK / TWITTER / INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS 10:35 PM

[Pilipinas, muling ibinalik sa high risk classification ng COVID-19 | SONA](#)

youtu.be

2:37 AM

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Source: <https://youtu.be/pn49JRts0Kc>

Pilipinas, muling ibinalik sa high risk classification ng COVID-19 | SONA

1,203 views • Jan 3, 2022

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Mula sa dating "low risk" classification, "high-risk" na ang Pilipinas sa COVID-19. 'Yan ay matapos makapagtala ng 222% na two-week growth rate at pagtaas ng positivity rate sa lahat ng rehiyon sa bansa.

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PH back to high risk for COVID-19

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As COVID-19 cases double by the day, the country is back to high risk classification. The rising cases reverse gains when the numbers improved to minimal risk last month.

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#FrontlineSaUmaga | Nagkasundo ang mga alkalde ng Metro Manila na limitahan ang galaw ng mga indibidwal na hindi pa nababakunahan kontra COVID-19. Pinayuhan ang mga unvaccinated individuals na manatili muna sa bahay habang nasa Alert Level 3 status ang rehiyon. | via Gerard

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