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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



P43 billion needed for multi-year Manila Bay rehabilitation –DENR

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Published September 13, 2021 5:14pm



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Monday said that it would take P43 billion and a multi-year inter-agency effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Monday said that it would take P43 billion and a multi-year inter-agency effort to fully rehabilitate Manila Bay.

“Ito po yung ginawa natin after the issuance of Administrative Order No. 16. Based po sa mga planning ng inter-agency, nag-come up kami ng P43 billion,” DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said during the House budget hearing on the proposed P25,295,589,000 budget for the DENR in 2022.

(This is what we did after the issuance of Administrative Order No. 16. Based on the planning of the inter-agency task force, we came up with the figure of P43 billion.)

Administrative Order No. 16 created a Manila Bay Task Force and expedited the restoration and rehabilitation of the bay.

Leones added that at least P3 billion had been given to the project since 2019.

The undersecretary noted that the funds would be used for different projects that would address the issues at Manila Bay, such as the relocation of residents and the restoration of water quality.

These projects would be implemented in several years and would involve different agencies.

In 2022, the DENR proposed around P1 billion for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, which is one of DENR’s top 10 priority programs for 2022.



P43 billion needed for multi-year Manila Bay rehabilitation –DENR

Meanwhile, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu appealed to lawmakers to allow more funds for the national greening program, which was “drastically” cut from their budget proposal.

“The single program that was cut drastically in our proposal is the national greening program and for this, we would like to manifest our request if ever this will be considered,” he said. — **DVM, GMA News**



P43B kailangan sa multi-year Manila Bay rehabilitation – DENR



September 13, 2021 @ 6:39 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Iginiit ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na naghahanap sila ng P43 bilyon para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Sa House budget hearing, sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones na nasa P3 bilyon na ang nailaan sa proyekto mula 2019.

“Ito po yung ginawa natin after the issuance of Administrative Order No.16. Based po sa mga planning ng inter-agency, nag-come up kami ng P43 billion.”

Giit ni Leones, gagamitin ang pondo sa iba’t ibang proyekto sa Manila Bay partikular na ang relokasyon sa mga residente at restorasyon ng kwalidad ng tubig.

Sa 2022, inilatag ng DENR ang nasa P1 bilyon para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. RNT/FGDC

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/p43b-kailangan-sa-multi-year-manila-bay-rehabilitation-denr/>



P43-B PONDO PARA SA REHABILITASYON NG MANILA BAY INIHIRIT NG DENR

written by [DWIZ 882](#) September 14, 2021



© ERWIN DIZON / CNN PHILIPPINES

Aminado ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources na naghahanap na sila ng P43 bilyon para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila bay.

Sa house budget hearing, inihayag ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones na nasa P3 bilyon na ang nailaan sa proyekto simula noong 2019.

Ayon kay Leones, gagamitin ang pondo sa iba't ibang proyekto sa Manila bay partikular na ang relokasyon sa mga residente at pagpapanumbalik sa kalidad ng tubig.

Para naman sa susunod na taon 2022, inilatag ng DENR ang nasa P1 bilyon sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila bay.—sa panulat ni Drew Nacino



DENR seeks over P1.6-B budget for Manila Bay rehab program

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:17 PM September 13, 2021



FILE – In this Sept. 6, 2020 photo, workers continue to pour white sand composed of crushed dolomite over the 500 meter stretch of Manila Bay as part of the DENR's Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project aimed at discouraging people from littering in the bayside. INQUIRER file photo / MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is seeking a P1.67-billion budget for the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, which includes the controversial dolomite project.

During its budget presentation before the House committee on appropriations on Monday, the DENR said it is proposing P1,673,503,000 for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The amount is a part of the proposed P25.295-billion budget of the agency for 2022.

Aside from the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, other priority projects of the DENR are as follows:

- Clean Air – P143.01 million
- Clean Water – P315.49 million
- Solid Waste Management – P1.073 billion
- Enhanced National Greening Program – P3.689 billion
- Intensified Forest Protection and Anti-Illegal Logging – P696.41 million
- Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation – P1.016 billion
- Scaling up of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management – P271.801 million



DENR seeks over P1.6-B budget for Manila Bay rehab program

- Geohazards, Groundwater Assessment and Responsible Mining – P407.65 million
- Improved Land Administration and Management – P415.345 million

The project first drew ire from the public in September last year, with fisherfolk group Pamalakaya calling the project a “completely absurd and highfalutin rehabilitation” effort that would hardly solve “the environmental degradation problems of the bay.”

Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Sonny Batungbacal also warned that covering the bay’s coastline with dolomite sand “would not do anything” and that the artificial sand could easily be washed out by storm surges or rising tides.

But President Rodrigo Duterte has publicly declared support for the dolomite project, recently saying that “dolomite is beautiful to the eyes.”

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1487189/denr-seeks-over-p1-6-b-budget-for-manila-bay-rehab-program#ixzz760007lbc>

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DENR seeks over P25-B budget for 2022, including P1.6-B for Manila Bay rehab

RG Cruz, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Sep 13 2021 03:52 PM



A member of the construction team inspects the sand dumped at the Manila Bay dolomite white sand beach project on April 13, 2021. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News/File*

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is seeking a P25.29 billion budget for next year, higher than the P23.59 billion it received in 2021.

In its presentation before the House appropriations committee, DENR said nearly P4 billion will be allotted to the General Administration and Support while over P1.8 billion will be allocated to the Support to Operations (STOs).

The DENR also highlighted its 10 "priority programs" to be funded next year:

- Manila Bay Rehabilitation - P1.673 billion
- Clean Air - P143.01 million
- Clean Water - P315.49 million
- Solid Waste Management - P1.073 billion
- Enhanced National Greening Program - P3.689 billion
- Intensified Forest Protection and Anti-Illegal Logging - P696.41 million
- Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation - P1.016 billion
- Scaling up of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management - P271.801 million
- Geohazards, Groundwater Assessment and Responsible Mining - P407.65 million
- Improved Land Administration and Management - P415.345 million



DENR seeks over P25-B budget for 2022, including P1.6-B for Manila Bay rehab

Part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation program is the controversial dolomite beach project, which is expected to be finished in 2022.

- [Palace says DENR can't drop Manila Bay's dolomite makeover](#)

The project has been criticized for its alleged excessiveness in the face of a global health crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [DENR di pa masabi kung inaanod ang dolomite sand sa Manila Bay](#)

In terms of Solid Waste Management, the DENR said it shut down 270 open dumpsites nationwide as of this year.

- [Duterte on dolomite beach in Manila Bay: 'It's beautiful to the eyes'](#)

—Reports from RG Cruz, ABS-CBN News



Dagdag pondo para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, inihirit ng DENR

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Sep. 14, 2021 at 5:29am



Humirit ng dagdag na pondo ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones, naghahanap sila ng P43 bilyon pondo para sa nasabing proyekto.

Dagdag ito sa P3 bilyon nailaan sa proyekto simula noong 2019.

Gagamitin ang pondo partikular sa iba't ibang proyekto sa Manila bay tulad ng reloksyon sa mga residente at pagpapanumbalik sa kalidad ng tubig.



DENR gagastos ng P43B sa Manila Bay rehab

[NEWS](#)

By [Abante Tonite](#) Last updated Sep 13, 2021



Aabot sa P43 bilyon ang gugugulin ng pamahalaan para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, batay sa pagdingin ng House committee on appropriations nitong Lunes.

Sa deliberasyon ng komite, nagtanong si Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Ferdinand Gaité kung magkano na ang nagastos ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones na mula 2019 ay gumastos na silang P3 bilyon at hihingi ng panibagong P1 bilyon para maipagpatuloy ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa 2022.

Ipinahayag din ni Leones na matapos lumabas ang Administrative Order No. 16 na nagpapabilis sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay ay gumawa ang inter-agency task force ng plano at umabot sa P43 bilyon ang gugugulin dito.

Dahil sa kakulangan ng oras, humingi na lamang si Gaité ng report mula sa DENR kaugnay ng paggastos na ginawa ng gobyerno sa Manila Bay rehabilitation project. (Billy Begas)



Atienza threatens to block DENR's proposed budget for 2022

Published September 13, 2021, 4:25 PM
by [Hannah Torregoza](#)

House Deputy Speaker Lito Atienza on Monday, Sept. 13 threatened to block the approval of the budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) after he was unable to ask questions during the Lower House's briefings on the proposed P5.024-trillion national budget for 2022.

Atienza criticized House Committee on Appropriations Vice Chairman and Aklan Rep. Teodorico Haresco, whom he said prevented him from fully asking important questions to DENR, specifically on the wrong direction the agency is taking with regards to its budget.

"We would have wanted to fully support the DENR's request for a bigger budget for 2022, however, because of the manner in which the committee cut short our interpellation, most of our relevant questions were not asked at all," Atienza said in a statement.

According to Atienza, he would have asked the DENR why the Laguna de Bay is still filled with fish pens and fish cages despite President Duterte's pronouncement in his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) that he would clear it of all obstruction.

The lawmaker also said he wanted DENR to respond why it spent hundreds of millions on the white sand dolomite beach at Manila Bay when it has nothing to do with cleaning up the area.

"This negates any effort to clean the Bay, and is a clear waste of money," he pointed out.

"Among their top 10 priority programs is the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, for which they are asking P1.6 billion. Government need not spend anything if they are able to force the two water concessionaires—Maynilad and Manila Water—to fulfill their obligations as stipulated in their service agreement to provide wastewater treatment facilities to clean the water coming from millions of households in Metro Manila which flow directly into the Bay?" Atienza also said.

According to Atienza, the small water treatment plants that are now in the Bay area is not sufficient to clean up the waters of Manila Bay.

"It will only be clean when the sewer lines of Metro Manila are made to run correctly through a sewage network built by these two companies. We have been fining them since 2009 for their non-compliance but until now, patay malisya sila!

"Meanwhile, they keep collecting from consumers a so-called environmental fee or sewerage fee since 1997 for a service which they have not been rendering!"

But since he was not allowed by the panel's chairman to pursue these questions, Atienza said he will raise the matter during the plenary deliberations.

"This forces me to withdraw my proposal to increase their budget since they have not answered my questions regarding the proper utilization of such budget. Kaya magkita na lang tayo sa Plenary (let's see each other at the plenary)," he said.

"If they cannot give us satisfactory answers, then instead of supporting their request for additional budget, we may end up asking for a suspension of their budget!" Atienza stressed.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/09/13/atienza-threatens-to-block-denrs-proposed-budget-for-2022/>



Pangangalaga sa kapaligiran, karagatan pahalagahan – Usec. Benny Antiporda



September 13, 2021 @ 6:30 PM 12 hours ago

Manila – Naniniwala si DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na ang pangangalaga sa ating kapaligiran at karagatan ay dapat bigyan ng atensyon at halaga at hindi dapat ipagsawalang bahala.

Ayon kay Antiporda, noong nakalipas na administrasyon maliit lamang na bahagi ang ibinibigay na atensyon ng national government sa marine life para sa pangangalaga sa ating katubigan.

Sinabi pa ng DENR official na totoong nagdeklara na marine protected area simula pa noong nakalipas na 1970s proteksyon subalit ito’y limitado lamang sa regulation ng fishing, at maliit na bahagi lamang sa polusyon.

Ginawa ni Antiporda ang pahayag sa kanyang pagsasalita sa Marine Environment Protection Forum nitong nakalipas na September 09, 2021 via zoom application.

Inimbitahan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa Marine Environment Protection Forum na ang tema ay Green Maritime Philippines: Protect and Conserve.”

Sinabi ni Antiporda na siyang rin undersecretary sa Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns na binigyan atensyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang pagkasira ng Boracay island’s beach at matapos umanong maging tapunan ng basura ang dagat ng Boracay at naging dahilan ng pagkasira ng isla.

“In the past administrations, relatively little attention was given by the national government to marine life below the surface of the water. while it is true that we have declared marine protected



Pangangalaga sa kapaligiran, karagatan pahalagahan – Usec. Benny Antiporda

areas dating back to the early 1970s, protection was largely limited to the regulation of fishing, with little done against pollution,” ayon kay Antiporda.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na dahilan para itayo ni Pangulong Duterte ang Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force na pinamumunuan ng DENR, para muling i-rehabilitate ang Boracay’s environment, na nasira matapos ang 3 dekada dahil sa mabilis na development nito at turismo dahil lamang sa kita.

“And so President Duterte created the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, headed by the DENR, to rehabilitate Boracay’s environment, which was badly damaged by 3 decades of haphazard development in the rush for tourism profits.”

Idinagdag pa ng opisyal ng DENR na nitong 2018 ang Boracay Island ay isinara sa turismo at ang task force ay naghigpit at kailangan kumuha at gumawa ng sariling sewage treatment facilities at ang koneksyon ng establisyemento upang matugunan ang solid wastes ng open dumpsite sa wetlands at iba pang paglabag sa environmental laws.

Kaugnay nito sinabi pa ni Antiporda nitong Enero 2019 ang Pangulong Duterte ay inuna ang cleanup at rehabilitation ng Manila Bay, na halos mangamoy na ng basura sa kabila ng kautusan ng Korte Suprema nitong December 2008 order or writ of continuing mandamus para linisin at muling ibalik ang historic glory ng Manila Bay.

Sa kasalukuyan ang Manila Bay ay makikita ang kagandahan nito at ang amoy nito ay iba na kesa sa nakalipas na 2 taon. AT ang rehabilitation activities nito ay mismo pinangunahan ng Manila Bay Task Force ay nagpapatuloy.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay ay hindi lamang sa baybayin lamang kundi kailangan din malinis ang source ng polusyon nito at ang pinagmumulan nito gaya ng mga rivers, esteros at drainage system na napupunta sa ang dumi at liquid waste nito sa baybayin.

Nanawagan din si Antiporda sa publiko na dapat makilahok sa pangangalaga sa ating kalikasan upang maprotektahan ito. (**Santi Celario**)



PH treatment facilities ‘not enough’ to handle healthcare waste

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:52 PM September 13, 2021

MANILA, Philippines —The Philippines does not have enough treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities to handle the healthcare wastes so far generated amid the country’s fight against the coronavirus pandemic, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Monday.

DENR-Environmental Management Bureau Assistant Director Visminda Osorio said as of June 30, 2021, the total generated healthcare waste in the country has reached 634,000,687.73 metric tons.

“There is lacking of—our TSD facilities are not enough to cater the health care waste generated nationwide because at this time, there are only TSDs located within in Region 3, Region 4-A, NCR, Regions 1, 5, 7, 8, and 10 that has the capability to treat the healthcare wastes generated in the country,” Osorio said.

“Right now, what we are doing is those healthcare waste facilities are advised to do the initial disinfection prior to disposal, and part of the regions that has no TSD facility, they do it through safe burial or concrete vaulting within the premises,” she added.

The Department of Health (DOH) earlier [warned sanctions against medical facilities that are not following protocols on proper disposal of healthcare wastes](#).

The DOH said healthcare wastes should be sealed inside a bag before being disposed in designated areas approved by the DENR.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1487132/ph-treatment-facilities-not-enough-to-handle-634m-metric-tons-of-healthcare-waste#ixzz76OPecoWx>

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COVID-19 medical waste beyond PH disposal capacity, says DENR

RG Cruz, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Sep 13 2021 06:23 PM



Members of the Hospital housekeeping staff of the Amang Rodriguez Hospital in Marikina City dispose healthcare waste into a containment facility on September 30, 2020. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/File*

MANILA - The Philippines' current medical waste is beyond the country's existing capacity for disposal, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Monday.

In the agency's budget briefing with the House Appropriations Committee, Environmental Management Bureau assistant director Eng. Visminda Osorio said that as of last June, the total generated healthcare waste weighed more than 634 million metric tons, including personal protective equipment and COVID-19 test kits.

"The capacity of existing TSDs (treatment, storage and disposal) facility ... is approximately 15,383.19 metric tons per day," Osorio explained.

"As of this 2021, based on our record ... there are 5,615,123 metric tons per year. So the generated health care waste, as of June 20, 2021, approximately increased (by) 11.30% of the total capacity of the existing TSD facilities nationwide," he added.

- [How our hospitals are disposing the tons of trash caused by COVID treatments](#)

Osorio said there are 47 TSD facilities in the country, and only 25 cater to hazardous waste that amount to 95,634 metric tons a day.

"TSD facilities are not enough to cater (to) the health care waste (being) generated nationwide because, at this time, there are only TSDs located within Regions 3, 4A, NCR, 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 that has the capability to treat the healthcare waste generated in the country," he said.



COVID-19 medical waste beyond PH disposal capacity, says DENR

Osorio said healthcare waste facilities were advised to do initial disinfection prior to disposal.

"Part of the regions that have no TSD facility do it through safe burial or concrete vaulting within the premises, as allowed based on the (Department of Health) healthcare waste management protocol," he said.

DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said they are now requiring these parts of regions without proper facilities to undertake treatment of hospital waste.

"We have already conducted a consultation with the local government units and (may) MOA na po kami sa DILG so that we can assist the local government units on how they can dispose of these PPEs," he said.

The DENR recognizes the increase in the volume of medical waste because of the pandemic, Leones said.

"Ang ginawa natin unlike before... konting sanitation lang ginagawa natin diyan at dinidretso na lang natins a landfill. But because of this special policy naging special waste na po ito, 'yang mga PPEs (ay) special waste so that di na lang po sila dapat konting sanitation," he said.

Probinsiyano Ako Rep. Jose Bonito Singson, however, was not satisfied with the DENR's statements to address the medical waste issue.

"They should issue clear guidelines already to guide the LGUs and all the other agencies and everybody else for the general public to follow on how to properly dispose of these considered toxic," he said.

Leones promised to share a copy of the sought guidelines with the House of Representatives.

Philippine Hospital Association President Dr. Jaime Almora in August said waste management is getting difficult for hospitals, since a bulk of the hazardous waste is made up of used intravenous plastic bottles, and there is a separate fee being collected by third-party treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for these.

- [COVID-19 waste now becoming a burden to hospitals, LGUs](#)

Almora said the DENR and Department of Health have set rules for hospitals to segregate regular hospital waste from COVID-19 waste and hazardous waste. But because of the surge in COVID-19 cases, these rules are probably already being neglected by some hospitals.

Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda said the DENR in 2020 created a COVID-19 waste management plan, which covers the segregation and treatment of COVID-19 and hazardous waste.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has released a memo circular instructing local government units to adopt the said plan, but not all LGUs may have followed the protocols, he said.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10159772681685168/?app=fbl>



Porsiyento ng medical waste sa bansa, tumaas pa – DENR

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Sep. 14, 2021 at 4:31am



Aminado ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na tumaas ang medical waste sa bansa sa gitna ng COVID-19.

Sa ginanap na budget briefing ng ahensya, naging kapansin-pansin para sa mga mambabatas ang pagdami ng medical waste tulad ng PPE, face mask, face shield, at maging mga syringe bunsod ng vaccination program.

Nanawagan naman si Iloilo Representative Janette Garin na isaayos ang disposal ng medical waste dahil bukod sa banta sa kalusugan, at hindi ito biodegradable o nabubulok na makakasama sa kalikasan.

Nabatid na mula June 1, 2020 hanggang July 31, 2021, 661,906 o 1,697.20 metric tons kada araw ang total generated healthcare waste ng bansa.

Ibig sabihin, mas mataas ng 11.03% ang healthcare waste kumpara sa kapasidad ng mga treatment, storage, disposal (TSD) na matatagpuan sa National Capital Region, Regions 3, 4A, 1, 5, 7, 8 at 10.



Environment front liners pilot-test special course

posted September 13, 2021 at 11:10 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will pilot-test a special course for enforcement front liners tomorrow until Oct. 12, 2021 in Quezon City.

Secretary Roy Cimatu said a total of 10 environment workers of the agency have been assaulted while on duty since 2017 with nine of these 10 incidents resulting in death.

Four of the 10 incidents took place during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

To take part in the training skills are DENR's enforcement personnel, and members from the Philippine National Police and its Maritime Group, Philippine Coast Guard, Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine Air Force.

The entire course consists of five modules with two weeks of webinar, two weeks of practicum and 12-hour community service on the field.

The DENR chief underscored the urgent need for a continuous environmental training program for enforcement officers to manage challenging situations effectively. Rio Araja

LLDA, dumepensa sa usapin ng korapsyon at backlog sa isinagawang 2022 budget briefing

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)
-Sep. 13, 2021 at 11:31am



Mariing itinanggi ni Laguna Lake Development Authority o LLDA General Manager Jaime Joey Medina ang ginawang pagpuna ni Deputy Speaker Lito Atienza na mayroong nangyayaring korapsyon at backlog sa ahensiya.

Sa nagpapatuloy na isinagawa ng Fiscal Year 2022 budget briefing ng Committee on Appropriation, dumepensa si Medina sa naging obserbasyon ni Deputy Speaker Atienza sa pagsasabing walang nangyayaring korapsyon sa LLDA.

Katunayan umano ay mas pinaprayoridad pa nila ang mga maliliit na mga mangingisda at binibigyan nila ang mga ito ng 60 percent kumpara sa 40 percent sa mga malalaking mangingisda.

Paliwanag pa ni Medina, mayroon na silang tinanggal na mga tiwaling opisyal para patunayan na seryoso sila sa kanilang kampanya laban sa korapsyon.

Nilinaw din ni Medina na hindi advisable na tanggalin ang lahat ng mga aquaculture dahil magkakaroon umano ng problema sa food security at mamahal ang presyo ng mga isda.

Giit pa ni Medina na simula pa noong taong 2016, ang ginagawa ng LLDA ay magbawas ng bilang ng aquaculture area kung saan ang dating 15,000 na hektarya na may permit, ang panuntunan ay magbawas sa pamamagitan ng scientific bases ng 9,000 hektarya, ngayon ay kanilang minimintina kaya't nababawasan na umano ang sinasabi ng kongresista na mga backlog.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/2316600095231066/posts/3839477562943304/?app=fbl>



DEC 28 2020

Joint DENR - DA Administrative Order
No. 2020 - 02

SUBJECT: ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN-PHILIPPINES: ~2020-2030 AS THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN THE COUNTRY

In pursuit of the objectives of the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act (Republic Act No. 9147), the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act (Republic Act No. 11038), the Plant Quarantine Law (Presidential Decree No. 1433), the Amended Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (Republic Act No. 10654), and the Philippine commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and to address the threats of invasive alien species (IAS) to Philippine biodiversity, economy and social welfare, the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) for the Philippines (2020-2030) attached hereto as "Annex A" is hereby adopted for information and guidance of all concerned.

The NISSAP provides nine (9) strategic goals towards a holistic, collaborative and multi-sectoral approach in managing the risks of IAS. These are: (1) leadership and coordination; (2) prevention; (3) early detection and rapid response; (4) control and management; (5) restoration; (6) research and information management; (7) education and public awareness; (8) international cooperation; and (9) training needs. Each of the nine strategic goals provide its guiding principles, objectives, implementing guidelines and planned actions spanning three timelines – short term (2020-2021), medium term (2022-2023) and long-term (2024-2030).

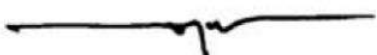
The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), Forest Management Bureau (FMB), and Environmental Management Bureau (EMB); and the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) shall disseminate the NISSAP, undertake capacity building for field offices and other relevant agencies, coordinate the conduct of surveys and researches, undertake public awareness campaigns, and develop specific policy guidelines to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the NISSAP by all concerned.

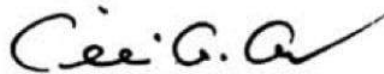
The DENR, through the BMB and the DA through its Policy Research Service shall facilitate the creation of the inter-agency coordinating body for IAS. Further, the DENR and DA, in collaboration with other concerned agencies and stakeholders are hereby authorized to coordinate the implementation and mainstreaming of the NISSAP with the plans and programs of concerned national government agencies and local government units including government-owned and controlled corporations and government financial institutions and state universities and colleges. The NISSAP shall be revised and updated as often as necessary to integrate relevant developments on IAS management.

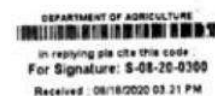
Funds for the implementation of the NISSAP shall be included in the annual budgetary proposal of concerned DENR and DA offices.

All Department Orders, Circulars, and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

This Order shall take effect immediately.


ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources


WILLIAM D. DAR, PH.D.
Secretary
Department of Agriculture





Balanga City 3rd runner up in mangrove protection tilt

By Ernie Esconde September 13, 2021, 8:25 pm



RECOGNITION. Balanga City in Bataan gets the third runner-up award in the 2021 national tilt for mangrove protection and management programs known as “Para El Mar” (For the Sea). Mayor Francis Garcia cited fishermen, concerned citizens and personnel of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for Balanga's well-maintained mangrove area. *(Contributed photo)*

BALANGA CITY, Bataan – This component city of Bataan received the third runner-up award in the 2021 national tilt for mangrove protection and management programs known as “Para El Mar” (For the Sea), Mayor Francis Garcia announced on Monday.

Prieto Diaz in Sorsogon was chosen as the champion, followed by Palompon, Leyte as first runner up and Ibajay, Aklan as second runner up.

Garcia credited fishermen, concerned citizens and personnel of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the well-maintained mangrove area here, especially at the Wetland Park.

Various groups, including students, conduct regular mangrove planting in the area adjacent to Manila Bay.

Thousands of migratory birds flock in the mangrove and fishpond areas from September to April.

The mayor said “Para El Mar” recognizes the initiatives of local government units in the protection and management of mangroves in the country.

“Kailangan back-up ng city ordinances at resolutions ang mga ipinatutupad na project at programa, kasama na ang enforcement to prevent illegal cutting of mangroves and illegal fishing activities para mag-benefit ang ating mga mangingisda sa mas masaganang huli (The implementation of projects and programs, including the enforcement to prevent illegal cutting of mangroves and illegal fishing activities must be backed-up by city ordinances and resolutions so our fishermen would benefit from abundant yields),” Garcia said in an interview.



Balanga City 3rd runner up in mangrove protection tilt

The tilt started in 2019 with the awarding intended to be made every two years.

Organizing the competition were the Marine Protected Area Support Network, Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, United States Agency for International Development, Zoological Society of London, University of the Philippines, DENR and the Department of Agriculture. (*PNA*)



Planting of trees in watersheds may surpass 5M: MWSS

By Ben Cal September 13, 2021, 9:15 pm



Angat dam (File photo)

MANILA – The five-year watershed rehabilitation program jointly launched by the government and private sectors in 2017 may surpass its target to plant 5 million trees, an official of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said on Monday. MWSS corporate communications chief Susanne Sta. Maria said 4,131,326 trees have already been planted in 9,509 hectares of identified denuded areas under the project dubbed as the Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC).

“Four years after its maiden launch, AMTC is now on its way to surpassing its targets of 5 million trees,” she said in an emailed statement.

She said the stakeholders are committed to planting 1,173,831 trees that will be streamed on Facebook live this year.

“We are now on track to hit 5 million trees alongside with its bold plan for the nationwide expansion of the massive tree-planting project, which is set to celebrate its four-year milestones on Tuesday,” Sta. Maria said.

The AMTC’s watershed rehabilitation program aims to restore the health of seven critical watersheds – namely Angat, Ipo, Kaliwa, La Mesa, Laguna Lake, Umiray, Upper Marikina and Manila Bay – that are crucial in supplying water to Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

MWSS Chairman and Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco said the AMTC is now on track for its nationwide expansion.

“Watersheds are not only crucial in the provision of water for agricultural, domestic and industrial purposes. They also serve as habitats to diverse plant and animal species; and play other ecological functions such as flood mitigation. Illegal logging, grazing and mining are some of the human activities that have adversely affected the state of our country’s watersheds. Despite the growing



Planting of trees in watersheds may surpass 5M: MWSS

awareness of environmental protection among Filipinos, much still needs to be done to raise that awareness to the ideal level,” said Velasco, also chairman emeritus of the MTFI.

Velasco said though the MWSS is making headway to achieve water security, the critical statement of the seven watersheds “is a cause for worry.”

“Our progress can be gleaned from the increased population being served. To further improve this, we have embarked on water infrastructure projects. More can be done to improve the performance of the water industry sector. Better watershed management will definitely be a key,” he said.

The MWSS and the Million Trees Foundation Inc. (MTFI) will hold the Annual Million Tree Challenge Awards and Recognition.

Aside from the recognition of AMTC partners and the country’s top water security advocates, the event will also highlight the AMTC scorecard, the showing of the 15-minute AMTC documentary, and the launching of MTFI’s FLOW (For the Love of Watersheds) magazine.

It was on Aug. 25, 2021 when the MWSS Board of Trustees approved MTFI to become the official non-profit institutional partner of MWSS for the implementation and expansion of AMTC. (*PNA*)



In defense of trees

posted September 13, 2021 at 09:50 pm
by [Diana Noche](#)

The drama of nature inspires a passion in even the most jaded city folks. Trees can rise up to awe-inspiring heights, spread their limbs, block the sky, and bring unknown tranquility to our hearts.



Trees stand tall in Lucban, Quezon.

Each tree is an extensive community of inter-dependent lives. There are millions of creatures for whom the forest is home. Every day the sun rises over a spread as far as it can reach out. Birds chirp and frogs croak raucously. At night, bats and crickets chime in their racket. Fireflies, with lamps in their bellies, blink like neon bar signs. Through it all, the wind sings in the thick of the branches and rejoices with the song of the trees.

What could be more perfect than a forest? Graced with eye and soul-calming greenery, a forest of real trees, growing beautifully, is the perfect convergence of design, purpose, and beauty that evokes admiration at the infinite artistry of nature.

A lot of people generally regard a tree as merely a green living thing that stands in their way, or timber used for homes, furniture, and other man-made structures. Others who regard trees far beyond their commercial value and are more perceptive to their true worth beside the timber procured from them and their carbon offsetting function would be in awe at such extraordinary creation (or mournful when a tree is cut down the same way when one loses a good friend).

The place where I live has been home to three generations of families. It used to be swampland. The roads were short and people had to wade through water hyacinths to reach home. Every now and then “tilapia” and some mudfish would pop out of the offensive water to say hello. Some families



In defense of trees

took advantage of the living situation: they raised ducks and goldfish. That was a few years after World War II.

The land which was not submerged under the swamp can be had for P5 per square meter. No kidding. P5 per square meter. Postwar in a span of some 40 years, the place has not been spared from the reach of intense urban development. Gone are the “tilapia”, ducks, mudfish, and the goldfish pens, buried under concrete and three-story buildings, except for some indelible memories surviving only in yellowed photographs and grandfather tales.



Centuries-old acacia tree in Sariaya.

My house stands right in front of a big residential house where there used to be a swarm of informal settlers. The family who lived in that big house planted the lot with several trees: chico, macopa, santol, langka, eucalyptus, duhat, and malunggay. For many summers, the trees bore fruit and children in the neighborhood and passersby had their fill of the sun-ripened yield.

That lot where the big house stood has now been dug up and bulldozed to make way for a four-story condominium building. The trees were mutilated – helpless, voiceless victims of man’s quest to outsmart Mother Nature.

Each tree forms a kinship group. It creates one of the strong spirits in any place. To feel and taste the wind rustling through the leaves ... to smell their perfume ... to watch them dance in the violent storms ... to hear the call of the birds as a new day begins ... to watch butterflies and bats flutter their wings.

Trees are not solely for our eyes or for our ears. Trees find their way inside us and get absorbed in our heart. Trees offer us intimations on how to love, how to co-exist with all creations, and how to understand what genuine optimism means.

It’s high time we enforce more stringent laws against wanton felling of a tree.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/364854>



Do good for the planet

PH Climate Change commissioner says it all starts with the decisions we make every day

posted September 13, 2021 at 10:00 pm

by [Bernadette Lunas](#)

It is hard to imagine how a person's decision to forego single-use plastic or buy a product with an "eco-friendly" tag creates a significant impact in the fight against climate change. It is, after all, a global issue involving millions of people. One piece of plastic doesn't make much damage, right?



DO GOOD TO FEEL GOOD. Recognizing the opportunity it has as a leading health and beauty products retailer, Watsons launches a sustainability program that includes offering consumers with sustainable products that are good for them and the environment.

Wrong.

While the problem is large-scale, climate change experts say individual action – which may seem irrelevant – does make a difference, good or bad.

"Every act matters; it all accumulates," said Philippine Climate Change Commission commissioner Rachel Herrera.



Do good for the planet



Rachel Herrera, commissioner of Philippine Climate Change Commission

In 2016, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation predicted that there will be more plastic than fish in oceans by 2050. That was before the pandemic and all the plastic that came with it. As the war against a virulent disease continues, another war is happening – has been for a long time – and people are urged not to look the other way.

“Climate change is not just an issue for the future but an urgent issue today. We must do good now; this is the only time we can act for the planet that we have,” Watsons public relations and sustainability director Viki Encarnacion said during the virtual launch of Watsons Philippines’ sustainability program.



Do good for the planet



Viki Encarnacion, PR and sustainability director at Watsons Philippines

The launch of “Do Good” campaign is part of the 180th anniversary of its parent company, A.S. Watson Group. In keeping with ASW’s commitment to sustainability, Watsons Philippines’ program “pledges to restore thousands of perfect smiles through life-changing free surgeries to kids with cleft palate, to reduce tons of carbon dioxide emissions, and to offer more sustainable choices in stores”.

Sustainable choices

As the leading beauty and wellness retailer in the country with over 900 stores nationwide plus online reach via its website, Watsons sees the opportunity to work together with consumers by offering sustainable products – one of the four pillars of the Do Good campaign.

The retailer highlights in stores products that are “clean” (non-toxic, no forbidden ingredients), “cruelty-free” (don’t involve animal testing at any point in the production process), “green” (made in eco-friendly way), and “natural” (made exclusively from botanicals or contain a percentage of plant-derived ingredients).



Do good for the planet



Jared De Guzman, senior assistant vice president of GOBE health at Watsons Philippines

“We have specific areas in the stores indicating ‘Sustainable Choices and Clean Beauty’, including a Sustainable Choices button on our website to make it easier for consumers to see which product supports this goal,” Jared De Guzman, senior assistant vice president of Global Own Brand and Exclusives at Watsons Philippines, told Manila Standard.

Herrera welcomes such initiative as this that offers consumers choices that are good for them and the environment. She said, “There is a clamor for more sustainable products, more choices.”

“So far, efforts to reduce warming of the planet focuses on the supply side. Equally important is your personal choice. It all starts with the decisions that we make daily,” Herrera said, adding, “It is not every day that big brands come up with opportunities to take the lead in doing good and encourage its customers and partners to engage in meaningful climate action.”

Making the planet and people smile

Also part of Watsons Do Good campaign is its commitment to reducing carbon footprint by collecting 65,000 kilograms of trash via Trash for Cash program and 40 million plastic bottles. The retailer vows to invest in programs that offset carbon dioxide emissions and in alternative energy sources.



Do good for the planet



Watsons highlights clean, green, natural, and cruelty-free products in stores.

Much like how its founder, Alexander Skirving Watson provided free medicines to the needy, Watsons will be offering the same as well 3,300 free cleft palate surgeries – the third pillar of the program.

The last pillar is dedicated to its employees, as the company promises to maintain a healthy and sustainable workforce.

“Watsons has always been at the forefront of sustainability since its founding 180 years ago. In recent years, we’ve invested in various initiatives that take our commitment to the planet that sustains us all,” shared Watsons general manager Danilo Chiong.

As Herrera simplifies the ways an individual can help – “eating sustainably, advocating for the people and the environment, repairing and refilling instead of buying, turning down plastic, and helping organizations that do good for the planet like Watsons” – she highlights that it must be a collective effort to truly make a difference.

“At the end of the day, we are more effective at doing good if we do it together.”



Environmentalists: PH ‘Asia’s deadliest country’

posted September 13, 2021 at 10:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

Environmentalists on Monday claimed the Philippines remains Asia’s deadliest country.

The international human rights and environment group Global Witness said the Philippines is still the worst place for land and environmental defense in Asia.

“Global Witness data demonstrate that the murder of environmental defenders doubled under the Duterte government compared to its predecessor,” Leon Dulce, Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) national coordinator, said.

“We clearly need a new leadership that will protect our nature’s front-liners and stop destructive projects that aggravate our country’s ecological, climate and human rights crises,” Dulce added.

Kalikasan PNE is a leading partner of Global Witness in in the documentation of environmental defender killings.

A Global Witness report entitled “The Last Line of Defence” showed a total of 227 environmental defenders murdered across the world, the deadliest year on record.

The Philippines ranked third overall with 29 killings, trailing behind Colombia, 65 and Mexico, 30, making it the country with the highest figures outside the Americas.

The report said the worst massacre on record occurred in the Philippines was when nine indigenous Tumandok tribe leaders and members were massacred on Dec. 30, 2020, during which 17 other indigenous people were arrested for their opposition against the Jalaur mega-dam project in Panay Island.

It noted that a total of 166 land and environmental defenders were killed until the end of 2020, which is double the number killed under the previous regime.

Dulce urged the government to adopt the recommendations made by Global Witness to address the unabated killings of land and environmental defenders.



[PH '3rd deadliest country' for environmentalists](#)

SEP 13, 2021, 3:44 PM



Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

Global Witness said that many threats and attacks against land and environmental defenders occur after communities voice their concerns about corporations and their activities.

At least 227 protectors of the planet were reported killed in 2020 with Colombia posting the most with 65 deaths, Mexico next with 30 and the Philippines with 29.

The Global Witness, an international rights watchdog based in Britain, said the Philippines remained the worst place in Asia for land and environmental defenders, according to the Philippine Star.

In the list, following the Philippines were Brazil (with 20 deaths), Honduras (17), Democratic Republic of Congo (15), Guatemala (13), Nicaragua (12), Peru (6), India (4) and Indonesia (3).

Seventy percent of the victims had been working to defend forests from deforestation and industrial development, while others died for their work to protect rivers, coastal areas and the oceans.

“The unaccountable exploitation and greed driving the climate crisis is also having an increasingly violent impact on people,” the report said. “This is a crisis against humanity.”



PH '3rd deadliest country' for environmentalists

Indigenous peoples

Global Witness said over a third of all fatal attacks in 2020 targeted indigenous peoples, who make only 5 percent of the world's population.

The report mentioned the massacre of nine indigenous Tumandok leaders and the arrest of 17 other community members on Panay Island a few days before 2020 ended.

The community opposed the construction of a mega-dam project in Iloilo, which would submerge their ancestral lands. Members of the community had been also accused as supporters and members of communist rebel groups.

Global Witness also attacks of the defenders of nature came mostly from logging with 23 deaths, which were reported in the Philippines, Brazil, Nicaragua and Peru.

Twenty-eight of the victims killed were state officials or park rangers who were attacked while working to protect the environment. Attacks were documented in eight countries, including the Philippines.

New Leaders sought

Global Witness said that many threats and attacks against land and environmental defenders occur after communities voice their concerns about corporations and their activities.

The group also criticized governments for being "all too willing to turn a blind eye."

"They are failing to protect defenders—in many cases directly perpetrating violence against them, and in other arguably complicit with business," it said.

In the Philippines, 166 land and environmental defenders were killed since the election of President Rodrigo Duterte in 2016 until the end of 2020.

Duterte lifted a nine-year ban on new mining project earlier this year, which is seen to escalate threats against communities opposing mining projects.

The Kaliwa Dam and the New Manila International Airport—both feared to harm the environment and communities—have been also approved under his watch.

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment—a partner of Global Witness in documenting killings—said the plight of defenders will only get worse under the leadership of Duterte.

"Global Witness data demonstrates that the murder of environmental defenders doubled under the Duterte government compared to its predecessor," said Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan PNE.

"We clearly need a new leadership that will protect our nature's frontliners and stop destructive activities that aggravate our country's ecological, climate and human rights crises," he added.

Among its recommendations, Global Witness said the United Nations should formally recognize the human right to a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment, and governments should ensure effective and robust regulatory protection of the environment.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/168722493140749/posts/4619831978029756/?app=fbl>



‘Philippines worst place for land and environmental defenders’

By [Rhodina Villanueva](#) (Philstar.com)
- September 14, 2021 - 12:00am



In the report titled “The Last Line of Defense,” Global Witness noted a total of 227 environmental defenders murdered across the world, the deadliest year on record.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines remains the worst place for land and environmental defenders in Asia, according to the latest annual report of the UK-based international human rights and environmental group Global Witness.

In the report titled “The Last Line of Defense,” Global Witness noted a total of 227 environmental defenders murdered across the world, the deadliest year on record.

The Philippines ranked third overall with 29 killings, behind Colombia (65) and Mexico (30), making it the country with the highest figures outside the Americas.

Leon Dulce, national coordinator of the Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment, yesterday said: “Global Witness data demonstrate that the murder of environmental defenders doubled under the Duterte government compared to its predecessor. We clearly need a new leadership that will protect our nature’s frontliners and stop destructive projects that aggravate our country’s ecological, climate, and human-rights crises.” Kalikasan PNE is a leading partner of Global Witness in documenting environmental defender killings.

The report said the worst massacre on record occurred in the Philippines when nine indigenous Tumandok tribe leaders and members were massacred last Dec. 30, 2020.

The incident also led to the arrest of 17 other indigenous people, all of who have been vocal against the Jalaur mega-dam project in Panay Island.



‘Philippines worst place for land and environmental defenders’

It further noted that a total of 166 land and environmental defenders were killed since President Duterte assumed office in July 2016 until the end of 2020, which is double the number killed under the previous regime.

“The plight of environmental defenders will only get worse under the Duterte regime. President Duterte continued to appoint the likes of retired generals Antonio Parlade and Debold Sinas to critical positions in government despite their atrocious human rights track records,” Dulce pointed out.

“The President has also embarked on extractive and destructive policies and programs such as Mining Executive Order 130 and re-intensified Build Build Build infrastructure like the Kaliwa Dam and the Manila Bay Aerocity.

These industries have track records of really leaving a trail of blood,” he added.

Based on the report, the Philippines’ 29 killings last year were lower than the 43 and 30 deaths registered in the country in 2019 and 2018.

“On average, our data show that four defenders have been killed every week since the signing of the Paris Climate agreement – but this shocking figure is almost certainly an underestimate, with growing restrictions on journalism and other civic freedoms, meaning cases are likely being unreported,” Global Witness said.

Other countries on the list include Brazil, Honduras, Peru, Nicaragua, India and Indonesia.

Global Witness said in 2020 the disproportionate number of attacks against indigenous communities continued – with over a third of all fatal attacks targeting indigenous people in Mexico, Central and South America, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia.

The report stressed that figures show the human cost of the destruction wrought by exploitative industries and corporations.

It added that at least 30 percent of recorded attacks were reportedly linked to resource exploitation – across logging, hydroelectric dams and other infrastructure, mining and large-scale agribusiness.

Global Witness said logging was the industry linked to the most murders with 23 cases – with attacks in Brazil, Nicaragua, Peru and the Philippines.

“One day, we hope to report an end to the violence against those defending our planet and their land, but until governments get serious about protecting defenders and companies start putting people and planet before profit, both climate breakdown and the killings will continue,” Global Witness senior campaigner Chris Madden said. – **Catherine Talavera**



Pilipinas, nanatiling Asia's deadliest country for protectors of nature ayon sa isang international rights watchdog

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Sep. 13, 2021 at 4:31pm



Nanatili pa ring pinakadelikadong bansa sa Asya ang Pilipinas para sa mga nais protektahan ang kalikasan ayon sa isang international rights watchdog.

Batay sa ulat ng Global Witness, noong nakaraang taon ay umabot sa 29 ang nasawi na nagbabantay sa kalikasan.

Nanguna naman sa buong mundo ang Colombia kung saan mayroong 65 na land and environmental defenders ang nasawi.

Sinundan ito ng Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, India at Indonesia.

Ayon sa Global Witness, 70% ng mga biktima ay nasawi mula sa mga ilegal na gawain sa kalikasan tulad ng deforestation at industrial development.

Nabatid ding ilan sa mga namatay ay dahil sa pagprotekta sa mga ilog, coastal areas at karagatan.

Attacks on environmental defenders hit record numbers

In 2020, 227 land and environmental defenders were killed in 2020—an average of more than four a week. In Asia, the Philippines is the most dangerous country for environmental activists.



Joseph Sandinao, a leader of a tribal community who was detained by police for defending their lands from people they called land grabber, is seen from his house in the village of Kibenton, Impasugong town in Bukidnon province Mindanao. Image: Jeffrey Maitem/ Global Witness

By [Sonia Sambhi](#)

Sept. 13, 2021

With worsening climate change effects being felt across the globe the situation for frontline communities and environmental activists is increasingly dire. 227 land and environmental activists were murdered in 2020 for defending their land and the planet, hitting record numbers for the second year in a row, a new report by international non-profit Global Witness, published on Monday.

Titled *Last line of defence: The industries causing the climate crisis and attacks against land and environmental defenders*, the report mentioned that lethal attacks are taking place in the context of a wider range of threats including arrests, smear campaigns, and for women, gender-specific threats such as sexual violence.

‘Criminalising’ dissent and martial law fuel attacks on Filipino environmental defenders

On average, the data shows that four defenders have been killed every week since the signing of the Paris Climate agreement—but this shocking figure is likely to be an underestimate as there are growing restrictions on journalism and other civic freedoms—which means that cases are likely being underreported.

Attacks on environmental defenders hit record numbers

Once again, [the Philippines](#) surfaced as the most unsafe country in Asia for environmental activists. According to the report, the deteriorating human rights situation in the Philippines has received increasing condemnation from international actors – including the United Nations, European Union and the US government.

A [UN report released in June](#) detailed systematic human rights violations in the country—highlighting the dangerous rhetoric from the government, including calls for the bombing of indigenous peoples.

TOTAL NUMBER OF DOCUMENTED KILLINGS PER COUNTRY

Colombia 65	Brazil 20	Honduras 17
	Democratic Republic Congo 15	Guatemala 13
Mexico 30	Nicaragua 12	India 4
		Indonesia 3
Philippines 29		South Africa 2
		Thailand 2
		Costa Rica 1
	Peru 6	Nepal 1
		Kiribati 1
		Uganda 1
		Saudi Arabia 1
		Iraq 1
		Sri Lanka 1
		Argentina 1
		Canada 1

Total number of documented killings per country, with Philippines documenting the highest number of killings in Asia. Image: Global Witness

In the Philippines, opposition to damaging industries is often met with violent crackdowns from the police and military. Data from Global Witness found that over half of the lethal attacks were directly linked to defenders' opposition to mining, logging, and [dam projects](#).

President Duterte used the Covid-19 pandemic to further crackdown on dissent—implementing one of the strictest lockdowns enforced by the police and the military. The government also took advantage of the pandemic to rush through the [Anti-Terrorism law](#), which came into effect in June.

Critics argue that this will accelerate 'red-tagging'—labelling activists and social leaders as communist rebels—and will lead to an increase in violence against environmental and indigenous defenders. Duterte has [prioritised mining](#) for economic recovery from the pandemic, allowing the industry to operate throughout 2020, as well as recently reversing a ban on open pit mining.

Attacks on environmental defenders hit record numbers

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTED KILLINGS BY SECTOR³

Logging 23	Land reform 12	Poaching 6	Road 2	Fishing 1
Water & Dams 20	Sector could not be confirmed 112**			
Mining & Extractives 17				
Illegal crop substitution 17				
Agribusiness 17				

Number of documented killings per sector. Logging was the sector linked to the most murders with 23 cases - with attacks in the Philippines, Brazil, Nicaragua, and Peru. Image: Global Witness

The figures show the human cost of the destruction wrought by exploitative industries and corporations. At least 30 per cent of recorded attacks were reportedly linked to resource exploitation—across logging, hydroelectric dams and other infrastructure, mining, and large-scale agribusiness.

Logging was the industry linked to the most murders with reported 23 cases—attacks were in the Philippines, Brazil, Nicaragua, and Peru. This figure is likely to be higher as the reasons behind these attacks are often not properly investigated nor reported on, the report documented.

“One day, we hope to report an end to the violence against those defending our planet and their land, but until governments get serious about protecting defenders, and companies start putting people and planet before profit, both climate breakdown and the killings will continue,” said Chris Madden, senior campaigner with Global Witness.

“This dataset is another stark reminder that fighting the climate crisis carries an unbearably heavy burden for some, who risk their lives to save the forests, rivers and biospheres that are essential to counteract unsustainable global warming. This must stop,” he added.

In 2020 the disproportionate number of attacks against indigenous peoples continued once again—with over a third of all fatal attacks targeting indigenous people despite only making up 5 per cent of the world’s population. These were documented across the Philippines, Mexico, Central and South America. This year, Global Witness also recorded attacks against indigenous people in Indonesia and Saudi Arabia.

Indigenous peoples were the target of 5 of the 7 mass killings recorded in 2020. In the most shocking of these, [9 Tumandok indigenous people](#) were killed and a further 17 arrested in raids by the military and police on the 30 December on the island of Panay in the Philippines. Numerous reports state that these communities were targeted for their opposition to a mega-dam project on the Jalaur river.

Attacks on environmental defenders hit record numbers

Businesses and governments are to blame

The report found that many threats and attacks against environmental defenders occur after communities voice their concerns about companies and the projects which affect their rights. In countries rich in natural resources and biodiversity, corporations are operating with almost “complete impunity”, the report noted.

Businesses—often enabled or encouraged by negligent governments—are commonly responsible for toxic waste, air pollution and mass deforestation. But since the balance of power is tipped in the favour of the corporations, and against communities and individuals, these companies are seldom held to account for the consequences of their commercial activities.

In the occasional case that they are brought to court, it’s usually the trigger-men—the ones holding the guns—not the decision-makers, who take the fall. In addition, corruption on the local level often prevents any effective investigation by state law enforcement.

Companies with complex and opaque global supply and value chains are able to operate in countries with weaker governance and benefit from the accountability gap that exists between countries. “Globalisation has produced a disjuncture between business-related activities and the development of capabilities to govern those activities. These ‘governance gaps’ create an environment in which business-related human rights abuses can occur with relative impunity,” said Christiana Ochoa.

The report found that governments have failed to protect the environmental defenders, and in many cases, have even perpetuated violence against them or have been complicit with business. Countries like Sri Lanka and the Philippines have used the pandemic to strengthen draconian measures to control citizens and close civic space.

But governments also have the power to turn the tide on both human rights abuses and the climate crisis. The report recommends that governments ensure that national policies protect land and environmental defenders and eliminate legislation used to criminalise them. It also calls on companies and financial institutions to carry out mandatory due diligence that provides accountability for violence and other harm to environmental activists through their global operations and supply chains.

Lastly, governments should ensure access to justice by investigating and pursuing prosecutions of all relevant actors, including implicated corporate actors, for violence committed against environmental activists.

14 SEPTEMBER 2021, Tuesday



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DOH logs 20,745 new COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com)

- September 13, 2021 - 4:01pm



Photo shows the Philippine General Hospital in Manila, the country's largest coronavirus referral facility
The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Monday reported 20,745 new coronavirus cases to push the country's total to 2,248,071.

Active cases were down by 1,658 from the 181,951 on September 12. DOH said five laboratories did not turn in screening results.

- Active cases: 180,293 or 8.0% of the total
- Recoveries: 22,290, bringing the number to 2,032,471
- Deaths: 163, or now 35,307 in total

New school year amid COVID-19

- Classes in the Philippines reopened again [virtually](#) amid the pandemic, with government yet to allow a safe return to classrooms.



DOH logs 20,745 new COVID-19 cases

The Philippine Genome Center said it is cutting back RT-PCR testing services to focus more on detecting cases of [COVID-19 variants](#) in the country.

Authorities reported 640 more infections of the [Delta variant](#). This brought the country's total to 2,708.

Some two million doses of [Sinovac's](#) COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the Philippines.



PH detects 640 more Delta variant cases

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor September 13, 2021, 11:50 am



MANILA – Health authorities have detected 640 more cases of the more transmissible Delta, the dominant variant in the country, for a total tally of 2,708, the Department of Health (DOH) reported on Monday.

In a statement, the DOH said aside from the Delta variant, also detected were cases of Alpha variant (24), Beta variant (28), and Theta variant (5), based on the latest whole-genome sequencing report by the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH).

Five hundred eighty-four of the 640 new Delta cases are local cases, 52 are returning overseas Filipino (ROF), and four cases are currently being verified if these are local or ROF cases.

Of the 584 local cases, the top regions indicated as addresses of the cases were the National Capital Region with 112 cases, Cagayan Valley with 52, and Region 4-A (Calabarzon) with 49.

“There were two cases whose indicated address was the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao,” the DOH said.

Based on the case line list, three cases are still active, 13 cases have died, while 624 cases have been tagged as recovered.

Case details are being validated by the regional and local health offices.

Meantime, of the new 24 Alpha variant cases detected, about 23 were local cases, and one is a ROF.

Based on the case line list, one case died while 23 cases have been tagged as recovered.

To date, the Alpha variant, first detected in the UK, cases in the country is now 2,448.

For the 28 Beta variant cases, all are local cases and have been tagged as recovered.

The total Beta variant cases are now at 2,725.



PH detects 640 more Delta variant cases

The five additional P.3 variant cases were all local cases. Based on the case list, all have been tagged as recovered.

“The UP-PGC also announced that starting September 9 they will be scaling down their COVID-19 RT-PCR testing services to shift their resources on the detection of COVID-19 variants through whole genome sequencing,” the DOH said.

The shift would lead to an expected increase in the sequencing capacity and detection of Covid-19 variant cases in the country in the succeeding months.

As cases with the Delta variant and other variants of concern comprised the largest percentage of cases included for sequencing on this latest run, the DOH reminded the public to adhere to the minimum public health standards to prevent the transmission of the Covid-19 and its variants. *(PNA)*

Coronavirus deaths surge to more than 4.6 million worldwide

Agence France-Presse
Posted at Sep 13 2021 07:06 PM



Workers disinfect a COVID-19 victim's body in a cardboard coffin before cremation, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, at a cemetery on the outskirts of Colombo, Sri Lanka on August 19, 2021. *Dinuka Liyanawatte, Reuters/file*

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 4,627,854 people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1000 GMT (6 p.m. Philippine time) on Monday.

At least 224,558,780 cases of coronavirus have been registered.

The vast majority have recovered, though some have continued to experience symptoms weeks or even months later.

The figures are based on daily reports provided by health authorities in each country.

They exclude revisions made by other statistical organizations, which show that the number of deaths is much higher.

The World Health Organization estimates that the pandemic's overall toll could be two to three times higher than official records, due to the excess mortality that is directly and indirectly linked to Covid-19.

A large number of the less severe or asymptomatic cases also remain undetected, despite intensified testing in many countries.

On Sunday, 6,105 new deaths and 402,431 new cases were recorded worldwide.

Based on latest reports, the countries with the most new deaths were Russia with 719, followed by the United States with 692 and Iran with 487.



Coronavirus deaths surge to more than 4.6 million worldwide

The United States is the worst-affected country with 659,975 deaths from 40,955,260 cases.

After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Brazil with 586,851 deaths from 20,999,779 cases, India with 442,874 deaths from 33,264,175 cases, Mexico with 267,748 deaths from 3,511,882 cases, and Peru with 198,764 deaths from 2,161,086 cases.

The country with the highest number of deaths compared to its population is Peru with 603 fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Hungary with 311, Bosnia-Herzegovina with 305, the Republic of North Macedonia with 300, Montenegro with 287 and the Czech Republic with 284.

Latin America and the Caribbean overall has 1,461,739 deaths from 43,966,780 cases, Europe 1,274,018 deaths from 65,041,142 infections, and Asia 809,911 deaths from 52,034,613 cases.

The United States and Canada has reported 687,170 deaths from 42,496,355 cases, Africa 202,912 deaths from 8,051,997 cases, the Middle East 190,248 deaths from 12,821,544 cases, and Oceania 1,856 deaths from 146,350 cases.

As a result of corrections by national authorities or late publication of data, the figures updated over the past 24 hours may not correspond exactly to the previous day's tallies.

Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, sumampa na sa higit 225.48 milyon

By Angellic Jordan September 13, 2021 - 02:00 PM



Reuters photo

Pumalo na sa 225.48 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 225,482,944 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 41,853,362 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 33,264,175 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 20,999,779 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 7,226,276 ang napaulat na kaso sa United Kingdom.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 cases sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- Russia - 7,140,070
- France - 6,905,071
- Turkey - 6,658,251
- Iran - 5,295,786
- Argentina - 5,224,534
- Colombia - 4,930,249
- Spain - 4,907,461
- Italy - 4,606,413
- Indonesia - 4,167,511
- Germany - 4,087,109
- Mexico - 3,511,882



Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, sumampa na sa higit 225.48 milyon

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 4,644,220 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 202,071,105 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://rado.inquirer.net/300665/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-sumampa-na-sa-higit-225-48-milyon#ixzz76OGkSeEx>

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Gorillas at US zoo being treated for COVID

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Sep 13 2021 01:49 PM

Several gorillas at Zoo Atlanta in the southern US state of Georgia have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, the zoo said.

The western lowland gorillas were tested after keepers saw them coughing and other symptoms, it said.

Initial tests indicated they were positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 and the zoo said in a statement Friday it was awaiting the results of confirmatory tests from the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

Gorillas at risk of developing complications were being treated with monoclonal antibodies and the zoo's whole population of 20 gorillas was being tested.

"The teams are very closely monitoring the affected gorillas and are hopeful they will make a complete recovery. They are receiving the best possible care," said Sam Rivera, senior director of animal health at Zoo Atlanta.

"We are very concerned that these infections occurred, especially given that our safety protocols when working with great apes and other susceptible animal species are, and throughout the pandemic have been, extremely rigorous."

The zoo said it believed the gorillas were infected by an asymptomatic keeper, despite the employee being fully vaccinated and wearing personal protective equipment.

"While humans are known to be able to transmit the virus to animals such as gorillas, and these cases have occurred at other zoos, there is currently no data to suggest that zoo animals can transmit the virus to humans," the zoo said.

In any case, it said visitors did not pose a threat due to the distance between them and the primates' habitat.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that 13 of the zoo's gorillas were infected, including 60-year-old Ozzie, the oldest male gorilla in captivity.

Rivera told the paper Ozzie was showing mild symptoms.

"We don't feel that we're out of the woods," he added. "We're taking it on a day by day basis."

Zoo Atlanta said it has been authorized to use the Zoetis Covid vaccine, developed for animals, and would inoculate the gorillas when they recover.

The zoo said it would also vaccinate its orangutans, Sumatran tigers, African lions, and clouded leopard.

COVID-19 has also been known to infect domestic cats and dogs.



IATF releases ratified guidelines on granular lockdowns

By Azer Parrocha September 14, 2021, 12:31 am



(File photo)

MANILA – The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) has ratified the guidelines on the pilot implementation of granular lockdowns and alert levels system in Metro Manila, Malacañang announced on Monday night.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, who is also IATF-EID spokesperson, said the new classification framework will start on Sept. 16.

“In this new classification framework, we proactively advocate the Principles of 3C’s (Closed, Crowded and Close Contact) Strategy, which shall be applied in Metro Manila starting September 16, 2021,” he said in a press statement.

He said there should be a need to strike a delicate balance between health and the economy.

“We should strive for total health and this can only be realized by carefully balancing our Covid-19 response by considering both the health of our people and the economic health of the nation, which this policy shift is all about,” he added.

Under the new guidelines, the new community quarantine classifications will have five Alert Levels that would determine the activities allowed in cities and/or municipalities.

These include:

* Alert Level 1 - refers to areas wherein case transmission is low and decreasing, total bed utilization rate, and intensive care unit utilization rate is low.

* Alert Level 2 - refers to areas wherein case transmission is low and decreasing, healthcare utilization is low, or case counts are low but increasing, or case counts are low and decreasing but total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate is increasing.



IATF releases ratified guidelines on granular lockdowns

*Alert Level 3 - refers to areas wherein case counts are high and/or increasing, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at increasing utilization.

* Alert Level 4 - refers to areas wherein case counts are high and/or increasing, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate are high.

*Alert Level 5 – refers to areas wherein case counts are alarming, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at critical level.

The Department of Health (DOH) shall identify the Alert Level of the pilot area that “shall follow the protocols consistent with the declared Alert Level.”

“Areas placed under Alert Level 5 shall observe the guidelines applicable to Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) as provided for under the IATF Omnibus Guidelines on the implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended,” the new guidelines stated.

On September 3, the IATF issued a resolution which provides that under the new classification framework, which focuses on the imposition of granular lockdown measures, community quarantine shall be reduced to either ECQ or general community quarantine (GCQ) “with the latter having an alert level system (Alert Level 1 to 4) with each alert level limiting restrictions only to identified high-risk activities.”

Authority to impose granular lockdown

City and municipal mayors will have the authority to impose granular lockdowns with respect to their component barangays subject to the concurrence of the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force (RIATF), and individual houses where one household member has been confirmed.

According to the new guidelines, granular lockdown or a micro-level quarantine for areas identified as “critical zones” by the local government unit (LGU) may be declared “regardless of Alert Level.”

Granular lockdowns must last for at least 14 days.

The declaration of granular lockdowns must be provisionally effective immediately and must include due notice to the RIATF.

The IATF retains its mandate to impose and/or lift lockdowns on highly urbanized cities and independent component cities.

Households within areas under granular lockdown must also be provided assistance by their respective local government units (LGUs) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The pilot test guidelines also provide that the Philippine National Police shall ensure peace and order at all times, and that the security protocols are maintained in lockdown areas.

During the lockdown period, only health care workers and non-health personnel working in hospitals, laboratories, and dialysis facilities “if their institutions are unable to provide accommodation”, and uniformed personnel tasked to enforce the granular lockdown, shall be allowed to move within, into, and out of the area. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1153434>



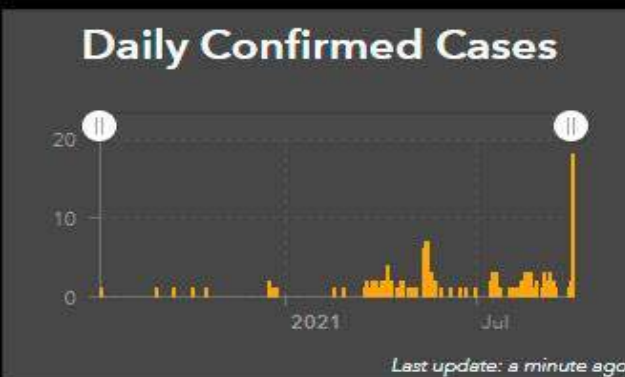
#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

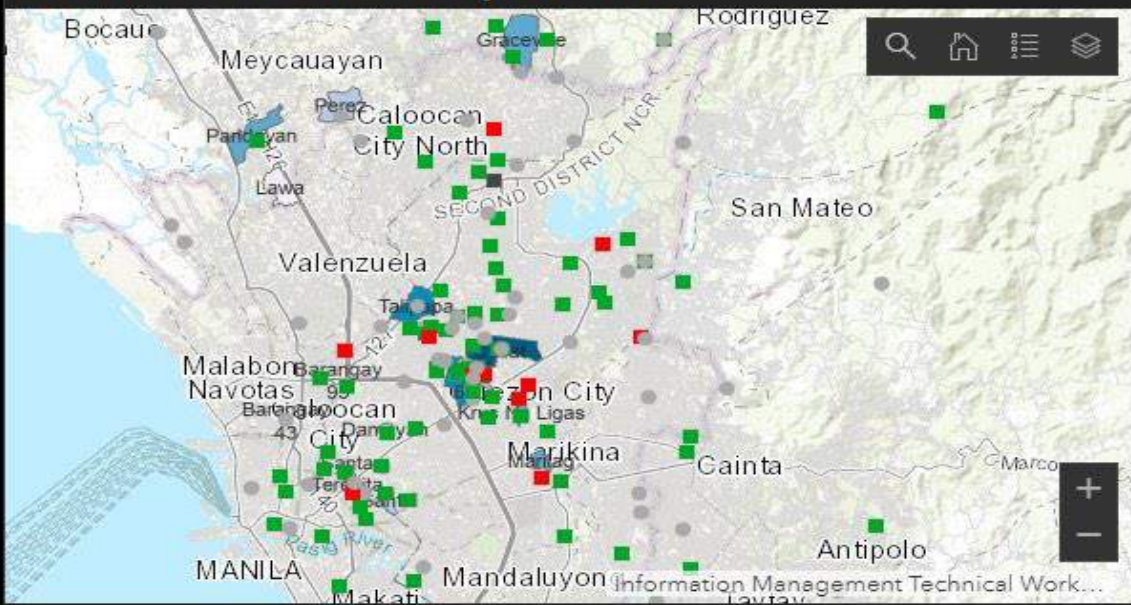
DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.

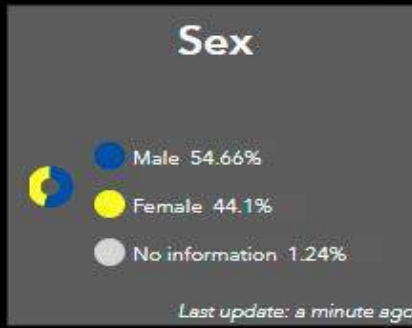
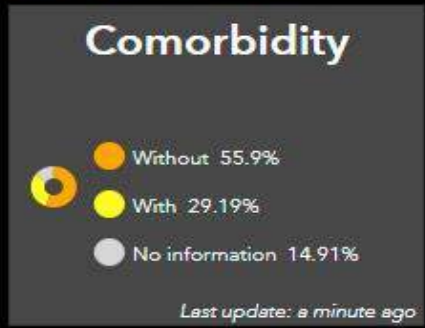
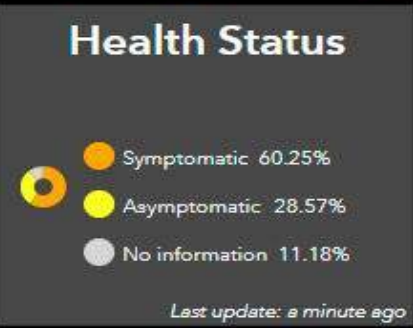
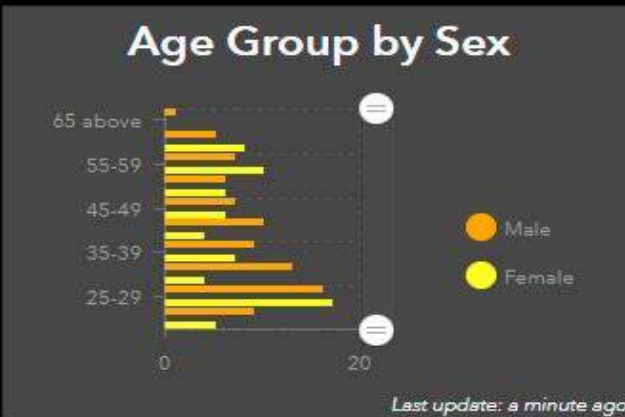
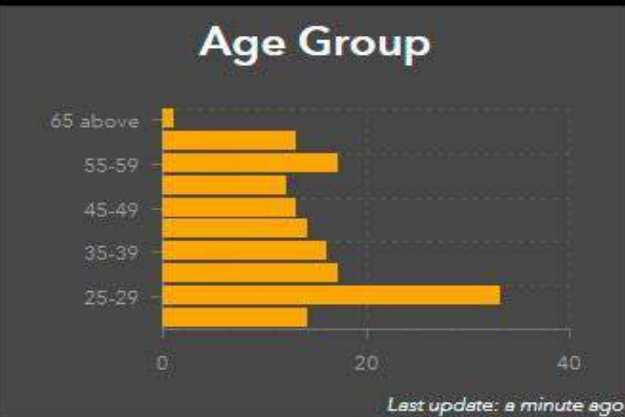


Residence of affected personnel



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.

[Map](#) [Map Legend](#)





PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

8.0%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
180,293

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

90.4%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,032,471

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.57%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
35,307

MGA BAGONG KASO **20,745**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **22,290**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **163**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,248,071**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING SETYEMBRE 11

DATOS NGAYONG SETYEMBRE 13
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG SETYEMBRE 11

26.7%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

71,860

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
95.4%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



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 (4.3K TOTAL BEDS)
74% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.5K TOTAL BEDS)
69% Utilized

WARD BEDS (16.1K TOTAL BEDS)
74% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.3K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
57% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)
78% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
65% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.4K TOTAL BEDS)
72% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
61% Utilized

Mild **86.0%**

9.4% Asymptomatic

0.6% Critical

1.4% Severe

2.62% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ipagpatuloy natin ang ating masusing pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** para sa kaligtasan ng ating mga sarili at ng ating mga minamahal sa buhay. Maging alisto din tayo sa mga sintomas, at sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

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



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

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



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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

f OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**GUIDELINES ON THE PILOT IMPLEMENTATION OF ALERT LEVELS SYSTEM
FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), since having been declared as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), has irreversibly affected millions of lives and families worldwide. Its unprecedented speed of transmission and infectivity has placed a huge burden on essential areas of governance, most importantly in vulnerable sectors such as the economy, education, and healthcare;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Executive Order No. (E.O.) 112, (s. 2020) provides that provincial governors shall be authorized to impose, lift or extend the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in component cities and municipalities upon the concurrence of the relevant regional counterpart body of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF); and, that the mayors of cities and municipalities are likewise authorized to impose, lift or extend ECQ in barangays, upon the concurrence of the relevant regional counterpart body of the IATF; *provided*, that this is without prejudice to the authority of the IATF to directly impose, lift or extend ECQ in these areas should circumstances call for it;

WHEREAS, the IATF issued the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines (IATF Omnibus Guidelines), as amended, to harmonize and codify existing guidelines of the IATF and member-agencies pertaining to community quarantine, which shall be applied to all regions, provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays placed under community quarantine;

WHEREAS, IATF Resolution No. 136-A (s.2021) issued on 03 September 2021, provided for, among others, the shift in the policy of classifying Provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), and Independent Component Cities (ICCs) for purposes of community quarantine. In the new classification framework, which focuses on the imposition of granular lockdown measures, community quarantine shall be reduced to either ECQ or General Community Quarantine (GCQ) with the latter having an alert-level system (Alert Level 1 to 4) with each alert level limiting restrictions only to identified high-risk activities. The pilot area for this policy shift shall be the National Capital Region (NCR) starting from 16 September 2021, or the date of implementation, whichever comes first.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVED, that in consideration of the premises set forth herein, the IATF issues these Guidelines to enjoin and proactively advocate the principles of 3C's (Closed, Crowded, and Close Contact) strategy against COVID-19 to curb the further spread of infection which shall be applied in the NCR beginning 16 September 2021:

For purposes of these Guidelines, the following shall be defined as follows:

1. **COVID-19 Alert Levels System** - refers to the new Community Quarantine Classifications for dealing with COVID-19 covering entire cities and/or municipalities; aimed to manage and minimize the risk of the disease through System Indicators, Triggers and Thresholds determined by the IATF Sub-Technical Working Group on Data Analytics to specify the public health and social measures to be taken in relation to the COVID-19 response, as may be updated based on new scientific knowledge, information about the effectiveness of control measures in the country and overseas, and its application.
 - a. Alert Level 1 - refers to areas wherein case transmission is low and decreasing, total bed utilization rate, and intensive care unit utilization rate is low.
 - b. Alert Level 2 - refers to areas wherein case transmission is low and decreasing, healthcare utilization is low, or case counts are low but increasing, or case counts are low and decreasing but total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate is increasing.
 - c. Alert Level 3 - refers to areas wherein case counts are high and/or increasing, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at increasing utilization.
 - d. Alert Level 4 - refers to areas wherein case counts are high and/or increasing, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at high utilization.
 - e. Alert Level 5 - refers to areas wherein case counts are alarming, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at critical utilization.
2. **Granular Lockdown** - refers to a micro-level quarantine for areas identified as "critical zones" by the local government unit (LGU) which may be declared regardless of Alert Level.
3. **Minimum public health standards (MPHS)** - refers to the national, local, and sector-specific guidelines on mitigation measures for its COVID-19 response across all settings by implementing non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), consistent with the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2021-0043 or the Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions. This term shall also encompass specific NPIs of community mitigation strategies or public health measures that do not involve vaccines, medications, or other pharmaceutical interventions, that individuals and communities can carry out in order to reduce transmission rates, contact rates, and the duration of infectiousness of individuals in the population.

PART I.
ALERT LEVEL SYSTEM FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

SECTION [1] GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The DOH shall identify the Alert Level of the pilot area. This area shall follow the protocols consistent with the declared Alert Level. For the duration of the pilot implementation, classification of the pilot area shall be done weekly, unless otherwise specified.
2. Close contacts, regardless of the vaccination status and possession of a negative COVID-19 test result, of probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases shall undergo fourteen (14)-day quarantine in accordance with the isolation and quarantine protocols set by the DOH.
3. LGUs in pilot areas shall submit on a daily basis to their respective Regional Inter-Agency Task Force (RIATF) such data as determined by National Government Agencies based on the template provided for by the IATF Sub-Technical Working Group on Data Analytics.
4. MPHS shall be implemented at all times consistent with the DOH Administrative Order No. 2021-0043 or the Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions.

SECTION [2] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 5. Areas placed under Alert Level 5 shall observe the guidelines applicable to Enhanced Community Quarantine as provided for under the IATF Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended.

SECTION [3] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 4. Areas placed under Alert Level 4 shall observe the following protocols:

1. The following persons shall not be allowed outside of their respective residences:
(i) persons below eighteen (18) years old, (ii) those who are over sixty-five years (65) of age, (iii) those with immunodeficiencies, comorbidities, or other health risks, and (iv) pregnant women; provided, that they shall be allowed access to obtain essential goods and services, or for work in permitted industries and offices.
2. Intrazonal and interzonal travel for persons not otherwise required to remain at their residences in the preceding paragraph may be allowed subject to the reasonable regulations of the LGU of destination.
3. Individual outdoor exercises shall be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status but shall be limited within the general area of their residence, e.g. within the barangay, purok, subdivision, and/or village.

Provided, that the minimum public health standards and precautions such as the wearing of face masks, and the maintenance of social distancing protocols are observed.

4. The following establishments and/or activities characterized as high-risk for transmission shall not be allowed to operate, or be undertaken in areas classified under Alert level 4:
 - a. Indoor visitor or tourist attractions, libraries, archives, museums, galleries, and cultural shows and exhibits;
 - b. Indoor venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, events (MICE);
 - c. Indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas, and venues with live performers such as karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters;
 - d. Outdoor and indoor amusement parks or theme parks, funfairs/*peryas*, kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
 - e. Indoor recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, and similar venues;
 - f. Indoor limited face to face or in-person classes, examinations, and other education-related activities at all levels, except those previously approved by the IATF and/or of the Office of the President;
 - g. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments except as may be authorized by the IATF or the Office of the President;
 - h. Social events such as but not limited to concerts and parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers, parades, processions, motorcades, and gatherings at residences with any person outside of one's immediate household;
 - i. Indoor sports courts or venues, fitness studios, gyms, spas or other indoor leisure centers or facilities, and swimming pools;
 - j. All contact sports, except those conducted under a bubble-type setup as provided for under relevant guidelines adopted by the IATF, and approved by the LGU where such games shall be held;
 - k. Personal care services, which include medical aesthetic clinics, cosmetic or derma clinics, make-up salons, reflexology, aesthetics, wellness, and holistic centers, and other similar establishments; acupuncture and electrocautery establishments, and massage therapy including sports therapy establishments. It also includes establishments providing tanning services, body piercings, tattooing, and similar services. Home service for these activities are likewise not permitted; and
 - l. Specialized markets of the Department of Tourism such as *Staycations*.
5. Outdoor or al fresco dine-in services in restaurants and eateries shall be allowed at a maximum of thirty percent (30%) venue/seating capacity regardless of vaccination status. Indoor dine-in services may be allowed at a limited ten (10%)

encouraged to operate with a minimal on-site capacity necessary to implement full operations, while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements. For this purpose, the movement of workers of said establishments residing in areas not covered by granular lockdowns shall remain unrestricted.

10. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain to be fully operational and shall adhere to at least 20% on-site capacity while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements.

SECTION [4] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 3. Areas placed under Alert Level 3 shall observe the following protocols:

1. Movement of persons shall be allowed except for reasonable restrictions based on age and comorbidities, as may be determined by the LGUs, which should not be stricter as those prescribed under Alert Level 4 and subject to the oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of their respective RIATF. Provided, that they shall be allowed access to obtain essential goods and services, or for work in permitted industries and offices.
2. Intrazonal and interzonal travel for persons not otherwise required to remain at their residences in the preceding paragraph may be allowed subject to the reasonable regulations of the LGU of destination.
3. Individual outdoor exercises shall be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status.
4. Except for those located in areas under granular lockdowns, the following establishments, or activities, shall be allowed to operate, or be undertaken at a maximum of 30% on-site or venue/seating capacity. Business establishments listed hereunder that are awarded Safety Seal Certifications shall be allowed to operate at an additional ten (10) percentage points beyond the prescribed on-site or venue/seating capacity, whichever is applicable.
 - a. Indoor visitor or tourist attractions, libraries, archives, museums, galleries, and cultural shows and exhibits;
 - b. Indoor venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, events (MICE);
 - c. Indoor recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, and similar venues;
 - d. Indoor face to face or in-person examinations approved by the IATF;
 - e. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments;
 - f. In-person religious gatherings;
 - g. Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19;
 - h. Social events such as but not limited to concerts and parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and

venue/seating capacity but will cater only to individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in addition to their allowed outdoor or al fresco capacity. Provided, that all workers/employees of these establishments have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Provided further, that LGUs where these restaurants and eateries are located may decrease the allowable venue capacity. Provided further still, that the joint guidelines of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Tourism promoting MPHS in these establishments i.e., placing of acrylic or similar dividers, regular disinfection, and appropriate seating configuration ensuring social distancing, shall be strictly enforced and observed. The DTI and DOT are directed to issue guidelines promoting safe behaviors in these settings.

6. Personal care services limited to barbershops, hair spas, nail spas, and beauty salons shall be allowed at a maximum of thirty percent (30%) venue/seating capacity if such services are conducted outdoors regardless of vaccination status. These establishments are allowed to operate at a limited ten percent (10%) indoor venue/seating capacity but may only cater to individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in addition to their allowed outdoor capacities. Provided, that patrons/clients and service providers wear face masks at all times. Provided further, that all workers/employees of these establishments are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Provided further still, that MPHS shall be strictly maintained. Provided further still, that there is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place.
7. In-person religious gatherings shall be allowed at a maximum of thirty percent (30%) venue/seating capacity if conducted outdoors regardless of vaccination status. These gatherings may be allowed at a limited ten (10%) venue/seating capacity but may accommodate only individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in addition to their allowed outdoor capacities. Provided, that pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, or other religious ministers and the assistants of these religious congregations have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Provided further, that the religious denominations should strictly observe their submitted protocols and the MPHS. Provided further still, that there is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place. Outdoor religious gatherings shall be limited to the conduct of religious worship and/or service. Processions and other similar mobile religious gatherings shall not be allowed.
8. Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 shall be allowed, provided that the same shall be limited to immediate family members, upon satisfactory proof of their relationship with the deceased and with full compliance with the prescribed minimum public health standards.
9. Except those located in areas covered by granular lockdowns, all other establishments, or activities not otherwise specified in Section 3(4) may be allowed to operate or be undertaken at 100% on-site or venue/seating capacity, provided they implement the minimum public health standards. However, they are

- birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers, motorcades, and gatherings at residences with any person outside of one's immediate household;
- i. Indoor dine-in services of food preparation establishments such as commissaries, restaurants, and eateries;
 - j. Indoor sports courts or venues, fitness studios, gyms, spas or other indoor leisure centers or facilities, and swimming pools;
 - k. Personal care services which include beauty salons, beauty parlors, medical aesthetic clinics, cosmetic or derma clinics, make-up salons, nail spas, reflexology, aesthetics, wellness, and holistic centers, and other similar establishments; acupuncture and electrocautery establishments, and massage therapy including sports therapy establishments. It also includes establishments providing tanning services, body piercings, tattooing, and similar services.
5. The operations of (i) indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas, and venues with live performers such as karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters, and (ii) outdoor and indoor amusement parks or theme parks, funfairs/*peryas*, kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides shall remain to be prohibited.
 6. All other establishments, or activities in areas not covered by granular lockdowns and which are not otherwise specified in Section 4(4), may be allowed to operate or be undertaken at 100% on-site or venue/seating capacity, as the case may be, provided they implement minimum public health standards. As such, the movement of persons residing in areas not covered by granular lockdowns working in allowed establishments/activities remains unrestricted. However, they are encouraged to operate with a minimal on-site capacity necessary to implement full operations, while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements. For this purpose, the movement of workers of said establishments residing in areas not covered by granular lockdowns shall remain unrestricted.
 7. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain to be fully operational and shall adhere to at least 30% on-site capacity while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements.

SECTION [5] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 2 Areas placed under Alert Level 2 shall observe the following protocols:

1. Movement of persons shall be allowed except for reasonable restrictions based on age and comorbidities, as may be determined by the LGUs, which should not be stricter as those prescribed under Alert Level 4 and subject to the oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of their respective RIATF. Provided, that they shall be allowed access to obtain essential goods and services, or for work in permitted

industries and offices.

2. Intrazonal and interzonal travel for persons not otherwise required to remain at their residences in the preceding paragraph may be allowed subject to the reasonable regulations of the LGU of destination.
3. Individual outdoor exercises shall be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status.
4. Except those located in areas under granular lockdowns, the following establishments, persons, or activities shall be allowed to operate, work, or be undertaken at a maximum of 50% on-site or venue/seating capacity. Business establishments listed hereunder awarded with Safety Seal Certifications shall be allowed to operate at an additional ten (10) percentage points beyond the prescribed on-site or venue/seating capacity, whichever is applicable:
 - a. Indoor visitor or tourist attractions, libraries, archives, museums, galleries, and cultural shows and exhibits;
 - b. Indoor venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, events (MICE);
 - c. Indoor entertainment venues with live performers such as karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, theaters, and cinemas;
 - d. Amusement parks or theme parks, funfairs/*peryas*, kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
 - e. Indoor recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, and similar venues;
 - f. Indoor limited face to face or in-person classes, examinations, and other education-related activities at all levels;
 - g. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments;
 - h. In-person religious gatherings;
 - i. Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19;
 - j. Social events such as but not limited to concerts and parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers, and gatherings at residences with any person outside of one's immediate household;
 - k. Indoor dine-in services of food preparation establishments such as commissaries, restaurants, and eateries;
 - l. Indoor sports courts or venues, fitness studios, gyms, spas or other indoor leisure centers or facilities, and swimming pools;
 - m. Personal care services which include beauty salons, beauty parlors, medical aesthetic clinics, cosmetic or derma clinics, make-up salons, nail spas, reflexology, aesthetics, wellness, and holistic centers, and other similar establishments; acupuncture and electrocautery establishments, and massage therapy including sports therapy establishments. It also

includes establishments providing tanning services, body piercings, tattooing, and similar services.

5. All other establishments, persons, or activities in areas not covered by granular lockdowns and which are not otherwise specified in Section 5(4) may operate at 100% on-site or venue/seating capacity, as the case may be, provided they implement minimum public health standards. As such, the movement of persons residing in areas not covered by granular lockdowns working in allowed establishments/activities remains unrestricted. However, they are encouraged to operate with a minimal on-site capacity necessary to implement full operations, while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements. For this purpose, the movement of workers of said establishments residing in areas not covered by granular lockdowns shall remain unrestricted.
6. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain to be fully operational and shall adhere to at least 50% on-site capacity while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements.

SECTION [6] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 1. Areas placed under Alert Level 1 shall observe the following protocols:

1. Movement of persons shall be allowed except for reasonable restrictions on activities and spaces that are closed, crowded, or enable close contact, as may be identified by the LGUs subject to the oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of their respective RIATF.
2. Except for those located in areas under granular lockdowns, all establishments, persons, or activities, are allowed to operate, work, or be undertaken at full on-site or venue/seating capacity provided it is consistent with minimum public health standards.

PART II
GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GRANULAR LOCKDOWNS

Section [1] AUTHORITY TO DECLARE. The authority to impose granular lockdown shall be given to the city and municipal mayors with respect to their component barangays subject to the concurrence of the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force (RIATF), and individual houses where one household member has been confirmed, residential buildings, streets, blocks, *puros*, subdivisions, and/or villages within their jurisdiction.

SECTION [2] PARAMETERS FOR DECLARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION. The epidemiological parameters in the declaration of a granular lockdown, including specific interventions and activities to be conducted in such areas, shall comply with the National Task Force COVID-19 Memorandum Circular No. 2 dated 15 June 2020 or the Operational Guidelines on the Application of the Zoning Containment Strategy in the Localization of the National Action Plan Against COVID-19 Response.

SECTION [3] DURATION. Granular lockdowns shall be for a period of not less than fourteen (14) days.

SECTION [4] EFFECTIVITY.

1. Declaration of granular lockdowns by local chief executives shall be provisionally effective immediately and shall include due notice to the RIATF. The RIATF shall immediately act on the said declaration.
2. The IATF retains its mandate to impose and/or lift lockdowns on highly urbanized cities and independent component cities in accordance with Executive Order No. 112 (s.2020).

SECTION [5] SECURITY. The Philippine National Police (PNP) shall ensure peace and order at all times. They shall make sure that security protocols are maintained in lockdown areas.

SECTION [6] MOVEMENT. The list of Authorized Persons Outside Residences under the IATF Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, shall not apply in areas under granular lockdowns. Only health care workers (HCWs) and non-health personnel working in hospitals, laboratories, and dialysis facilities if their institutions are unable to provide accommodation for their personnel, and uniformed personnel tasked to enforce the granular lockdown, shall be allowed to move within, into, and out of the area under granular lockdown.

The following shall be allowed to enter and/or exit granular lockdown areas for specific purposes:

1. Overseas Filipino Workers bound for international travel, and those returning to their respective residences after having completed facility-based quarantine upon arrival;
2. Individuals whose home or residence are located within an area under granular lockdown may enter the said area for the sole purpose of returning to their respective homes or residences but must thereafter remain therein for the duration of the granular lockdown;
3. Individuals under exceptional circumstances such as, but not limited to, those seeking urgent medical attention as validated by the municipal/city health officer; and
4. Food and essential items that are intended for delivery within an area under granular lockdown provided that they can only be unloaded at border collection points designated by the LGU.

SECTION [7]. ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS. Households within areas under granular lockdown shall be provided assistance by their respective LGUs and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in accordance with their relevant guidelines.

SECTION [8]. REPORTING.

1. LGUs shall report details of their granular lockdowns to the Department of the Interior and Local Government following a prescribed format which shall thereafter be submitted to their respective NTF Regional Task Force.
2. RTFs shall monitor all areas under granular lockdowns in the region, and shall provide monitoring reports to the National Task Force Against COVID-19.

SECTION [9]. INCORPORATION. Succeeding issuances of the Department of the Interior and Local Government relative to the imposition of granular lockdowns, if any, shall form an integral part of these Guidelines.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, insofar as they are not inconsistent with these Guidelines shall be applied suppletorily. In case of doubt, these Guidelines shall prevail.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the IATF Chairperson and the Co-Chairperson shall be duly authorized to sign these Guidelines on behalf of the IATF.

APPROVED during the 139th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this September 13, 2021, via video conference.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary, Department of Health
IATF Chairperson


KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES
Secretary, Office of the Cabinet Secretariat
IATF Co-Chairperson

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Undersecretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, (s.2014) and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. In the Regular Meeting of the IATF held on 13 September 2021, via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, the Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine and Restrictions for COVID-19 in Identified Pilot Areas were unanimously approved and adopted.
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III and Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles upon the authority of the IATF Members;
7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect;
8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 13th day of September 2021, Manila.


ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO/GRANDE
Undersecretary of Health
Head Secretariat, IATF

14 SEPTEMBER 2021, Tuesday



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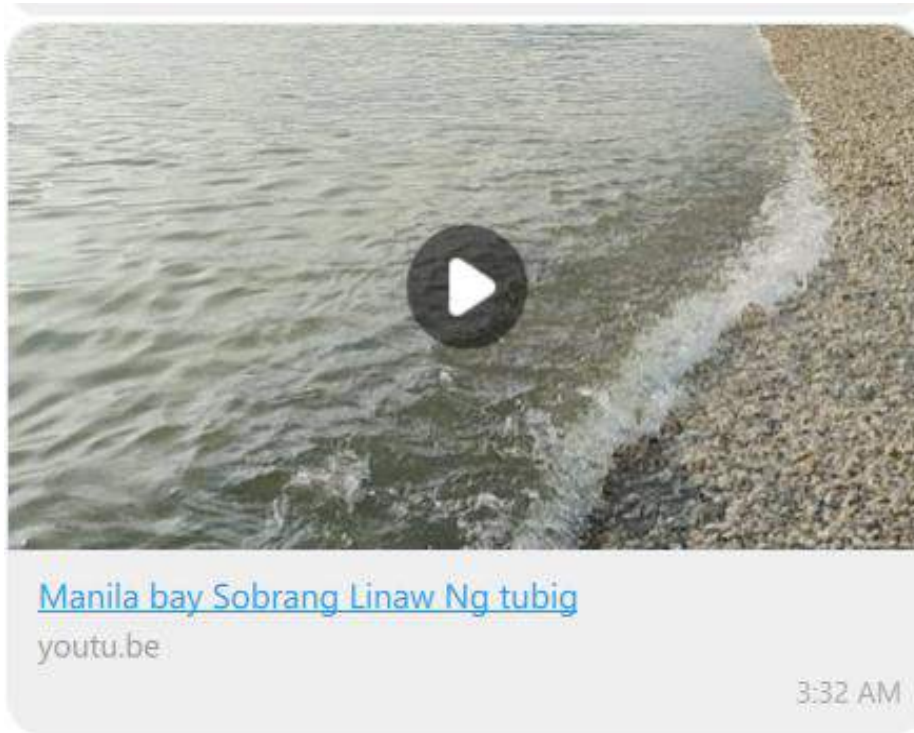
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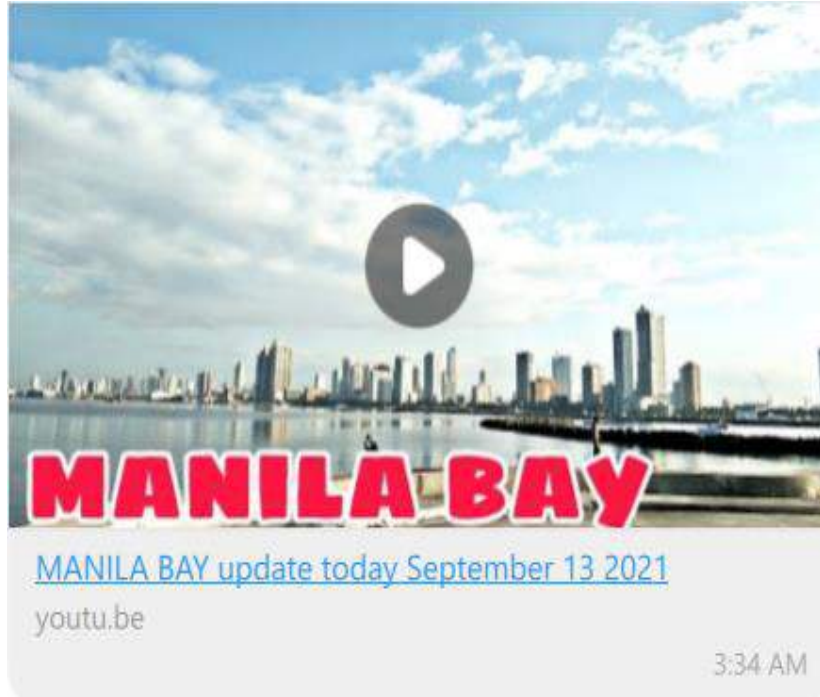
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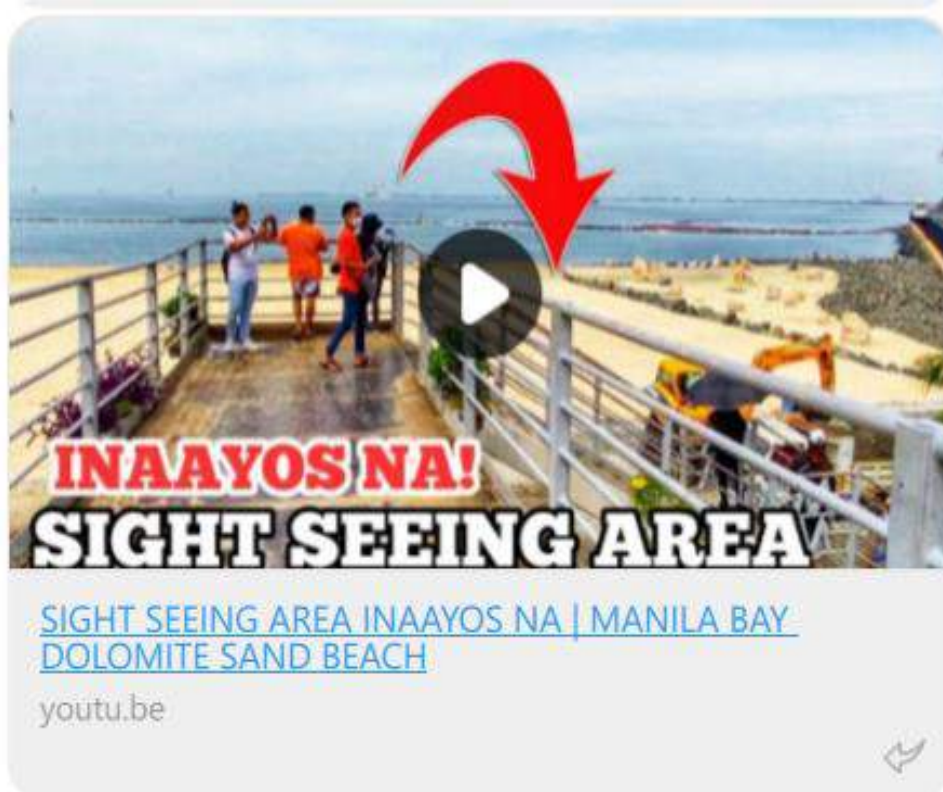


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