

DATE: AUGUST 24, 2020

DAY: MONDAY

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

## DENR files charges vs. Zobel personnel

*posted* August 23, 2020 at 06:30 pm

by [Manila Standard Business](#)

Environment officials filed charges before the Department of Justice against the farm manager of billionaire Beatriz Zobel de Ayala in Palawan province for alleged cutting of a native tree and unlawful occupation of forest lands within the Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape.

The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office filed the charges against farm manager Stephen John Zaragosa and three others who were manning the structures built by the group of Zobel de Ayala in Sitio Maypa, Barangay Pancol, Taytay, Palawan.

Zaragosa, along with Cirilo Ledesma, Nicasio Ledesma and Mario Caahay were named in the complaint for alleged violation of Sections 77 and 78 of Presidential Decree No. 705, as amended, or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Environment officials led by MSPLS Protected Area Superintendent Clarissa Pador and CENRO Officer Alan Valle earlier investigated reports that the group of Zobel de Ayala erected structures in the marine protected area.

DENR Mimaropa Regional Executive Director Lourdes Ferrer said that: "Pursuant to our office's existing procedures, specifically DENR Administrative Order No. 1997-32, Pador has conducted the necessary adjudication proceedings regarding the illegal cutting of a Bangar tree, and the CENRO of Taytay, Palawan has already filed a complaint for violation of Sections 77 and 78 of PD No. 705 against those who were positively identified by witnesses in the area".

Section 77 of PD 705 imposes penalty for the crime of cutting, gathering and/or collecting timber or other forest products without license. It provides that any person who shall cut, gather, collect, remove timber or other forest products from any forest land, or timber from alienable or disposable public land, or from private land, without any authority, or possess timber or other forest products without the legal documents as required under existing forest laws and regulations, shall be punished with the penalties imposed under Articles 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code.

Meanwhile, Section 78 of the same law imposes penalties for unlawful occupation or destruction of forest lands and grazing lands.

A monitoring team from DENR earlier found two structures in the area being claimed by Zobel de Ayala. The structures are made of light materials with cement post, a parking area made of metal frame, bamboo gate with metal frame and a developed backyard garden.

The area is a portion of Lot 1247 and 3556, CAD 841-D and within the timberland and Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape. MSPLS is a marine protected area which covers 200,115 hectares of both aquatic and terrestrial environment with diverse ecosystems in Palawan.

Puerto Princesa City-Environmental Legal Assistance Center Inc. asked the DENR to dig deeper into the alleged use and occupation of untitled lands in the area.

## Special waste, isama sa tamang paghihiwalay ng basura sa mga kabahayan – DENR



August 23, 2020 @ 5:00 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Iminungkahi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamahalaan na magkaroon pa ng isang depinisyon ng basura sa mga kabahayan para mapalakas ang proteksyon kontra sa mga kumakalat na virus.

Ayon kay Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, spokesperson ng DENR, na bukod sa mga nabubulok, hindi nabubulok at residual na basura sa mga kabahayan na kinokolekta ng garbage collectors ay dapat magkaroon ng special waste.

Sa isang interbyu, ani Antiporda, kinabibilangan ng special waste ang mga baterya ng sasakyan, bumbilya, mga face mask, at mga personal protective equipment (PPE) na dapat na nakahiwalay sa iba pang regular na household waste.

Giit ni Antiporda na dapat nakalagay ito sa dilaw na basurahan, o kung hindi naman kaya ay magkaroon ng sariling tapunan ng special waste ang mga barangay para sa infectious at hazardous waste.

Sa paraang ito, mapoprotektahan umano ng maayos ang mga residente maging ang kalusugan ng mga nangongolekta ng basura.

“Dapat ilagay sa dilaw na basura ang mga health care waste at infectious waste para matiyak na ligtas din ang ating mga garbage collector” ani pa ni Antiporda.

Sinabi pa ng opisyal ng DENR kapag nasa kulay dilaw na garbage bag ang mga special waste ay hindi na dapat galawin pa ito dahil alam na ito ay health care waste o infectious waste.

Sa kabila ng mungkahing ito, tiniyak naman ni Antiporda na hindi nagkukulang ang gobyerno sa pagtugon sa mga hazardous waste lalo na sa paglobo nitong panahon ng pandemya dahil na rin sa face masks at PPEs na ginagamit pang-araw-araw.

Siniguro rin ng opisyal na maaayos na naitatapon ang mga hospital waste ngunit nagiging problema ang tamang paghihiwalay ng mga hazardous waste sa mga kabahayan kung kaya’t magandang ipatupad ang mungkahi. **Santi Celario**

Source: [https://www.remate.ph/special-waste-isama-sa-tamang-paghihiwalay-ng-basura-sa-mga-kabahayan-dnr/?fbclid=IwAR2sb1rkN7a8qt1xDM5XkAZCoMFLLIaUUMQko\\_ICBJ2M9TNckJKH6fqNMRk](https://www.remate.ph/special-waste-isama-sa-tamang-paghihiwalay-ng-basura-sa-mga-kabahayan-dnr/?fbclid=IwAR2sb1rkN7a8qt1xDM5XkAZCoMFLLIaUUMQko_ICBJ2M9TNckJKH6fqNMRk)

# French Dev't Agency aids MMDA in waste management

By [The Manila Times](#)

August 24, 2020

The French Development Agency (AFD) and Sycdom, the Metropolitan Agency for the Treatment of Household Waste in the Paris Region, signed a grant agreement for a pilot project aimed at strengthening household waste management in Pasay City on July 21.



*Metro Manila produces about 6,700 tons of household waste per day*

This initiative, undertaken in partnership with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), seeks to contribute to improving the quality of the water of the Pasig River.

Metro Manila produces about 6,700 tons of household waste per day. In the absence of an effective waste collection system for its 17 million inhabitants, around 17 percent of the region's waste from various neighborhoods ends up in the Pasig River through dumping or by being washed away by floods.

### A pilot project for sustainable waste management

To address this, Sycdom, upon the request of the MMDA, will be leading a pilot project proposing waste treatment solutions at the Tripa de Gallina pumping station. This pilot project, which is expected to benefit between 20,000 and 25,000 residents of various barangays in Pasay City, will complement the wastewater phytotreatment system managed by the Greater Paris Interdepartmental Syndicate for Sanitation (SIAAP).

After an initial three-year phase aimed at raising awareness among local residents towards more sustainable practices, improving the Pasig River's water quality and reducing health risks, this project aims to be eventually replicated throughout Metro Manila.

This project worth (P35.5 million) is financed by a P 24.2 million grant provided to Sycdom by the French Development Agency in support of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

# Nestlé partnership to cut plastic footprint

By Kris Crismundo August 23, 2020, 4:15 pm



**REDUCING PLASTIC FOOTPRINT.** Sacks of soft plastic waste are collected in Baseco, Tondo, Manila as Nestlé Philippines and Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) partner to cut plastic footprint. Aside from Baseco, soft plastic wastes are diverted from landfills in Payatas, Quezon City and Rodriguez, Rizal. *(Photo courtesy of Nestlé Philippines)*

**MANILA** – Food and beverage maker Nestlé Philippines strengthens its partnership with the private sector for its plastic waste collection, recycling, and recovery program to reduce plastic footprint.

In a statement, Nestlé Philippines has partnered with Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) to gather soft plastic waste from Baseco in Tondo, Manila, Payatas in Quezon City, and Rodriguez in Rizal that will be co-processed and diverted from the landfill.

“With plastic waste continuing to accumulate in landfills and oceans, the need for tackling plastic pollution has never been so pressing. It is an urgent priority for us and an issue we take seriously,” said Nestlé Philippines Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Kais Marzouki.

Nestlé Philippines is also supporting PCEx and the City of Manila in their ‘Aling Tindera’ Waste-to-Cash program.

Under this program, sari-sari stores owned by women can earn points from the post-consumer plastic waste that they will collect and can be redeemed for cash.

The ‘Aling Tindera’ Waste-to-Cash program aims to increase income opportunities for women micro-entrepreneurs, to have an organized plastic waste collection, and cleaner environment and improved health for the community.

Nestlé Philippines is providing the container vans for each participating sari-sari store as storage for the collected plastic waste.

“We are determined to look at every option to solve complex packaging challenges and embrace multiple solutions that can have an impact now. For our part, we at Nestlé envision a waste-free future in the face of these complex challenges. We are glad to be taking a concrete step, one among many, toward realizing that vision through our partnership with PCEx,” Marzouki added.

PCEx is a non-profit organization, an offshoot of HOPE in a Bottle, a bottled water brand that commits to give 100 percent of its profit to build public school classrooms in partnership with the Department of Education.

PCEx Founder and President Nanette Medved-Po recalled that the HOPE initiative “in a way started with Nestlé”.

“Years ago, their Philippine CEO reached out to me about projects that Nestlé was supporting - like eco-bricks. From there, HOPE began to explore environmentally sustainable and affordable ways for companies to be responsible for their plastic footprints. In 2019, we established the Plastic Credit Exchange from our learnings and came back to Nestlé whom we felt would be a natural partner, given our common goals for sustainability,” Medved-Po said.

Aside from these initiatives, Nestlé commits to eliminate 130 metric tons of plastic straws by end-2020 as it shifts the plastic straws for ready-to-drink products to paper straws. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1113117>

## 2 mining firms ordered: turn over logs to DENR

By LEANDER C. DOMINGO, TMT

August 24, 2020

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has told two mining companies to immediately turn over all cut logs or harvested timber to the department for safekeeping. Gwendolyn Bambalan, DENR-Region 2 executive director, said the cut logs and harvested timber by mining companies in Cagayan Valley must all be properly stockpiled in a safe location to preserve their economic value. "These logs can be donated to the Department of Education for school building construction and other government agencies and local government units," Bambalan added. To monitor the status of logs cut by mining firms, she and Mario Ancheta, Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 2 director, conducted site visits and initiated discussions with OceanaGold Philippines Inc. in Didipio village in Kasibu town and FCF Minerals Corporation in Quezon town, both in Nueva Vizcaya. She said OceanaGold and FCF presented during the mining visit their compliance with the tree-cutting permits' terms and conditions that include seedlings replacement for every tree cut. With this, Bambalan urged DENR-Region 2 officials in Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya to strictly monitor the compliance of mining companies with the terms and conditions of the tree-cutting permits issued to them by the agency. She also ordered the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources and Community Environment and Natural Resources officers having jurisdiction over the mining sites to conduct regular assessment of the companies' compliance with the terms and conditions of the special tree-cutting and earth-balling permits issued to them. Bambalan explained that mining companies have been required by the DENR to replace each tree to be cut or affected with 100 seedlings of indigenous species. and to rehabilitate two hectares in every hectare of mined-out areas. "This will be their contribution to the National Greening Program and climate-change initiatives of the government," she said. "The planted seedlings will be maintained by the permittee for three years with a survival rate of at least 80 percent," Bambalan added.

## ILANG BAYAN SA MASBATE ILULUBOG NG MEGA TAILINGS POND NG FILMINERA



August 24, 2020 @ 12:06 AM 6 hours ago

NGAYON lang nahimasmasan ang ilang opisyal ng pobre kong lalawigan sa katakot-takot na delubyong posibleng mangyari sa ilang karatig-bayan ng Aroroy sakaling bumigay ang dambuhalang tailings pond ng Filminera 'dyan sa Barangay Panique.

Matapos kasi ang 6.5 magnitude na pagyanig sa Cataingan kung saan pinadapa nito ang matitibay at konkretong kabahayan, pagkabitak-bitak ng mga kalsada roon at pagkamatay ng isang retiradong opisyal ng PNP ay agad na binuo ng Kapitolyo ang Bantay Kalikasan Task Force na nagsagawa naman ng ocular inspection sa binurang kabundukan sa Aroroy dulot ng mapanirang open pit mining ng Filminera.

Ang ipinagtataka ng mga kababayan ko ay kung bakit ngayon lang binuo ang Task Force na kinabibilangan ng mga Board Members, Mining and GeoSciences Bureau at NGOs samantalang pinutakte ng reklamo ang ilan sa kanilang mga opisyal na posibleng burahin sa mapa ang Aroroy ng dambuhalang tailings pond noong ginagawa pa lang ito may 15 taon na ang nakaraan.

Bagaman hindi pa man huli ang lahat, ikinagulat ng marami ang pagbuo ng task force na 'yan gayong kaliwa't kanan ang pagsusumamo noon ng mga mahihirap na kababayan ko sa mga opisyal ng Kapitolyo na 'wag pahintulutan ang pagmimina ng mga puting unggoy dahil hindi lang itataob nito ang mga kaldero ng 50,000 na minero, tatabasin pa ang kabundukan sa Aroroy na sanhi ngayon ng malawakang pagbaha riyon.

Sa totoo lang, hindi naman natin hinihiling ngunit kung sa Aroroy nangyari ang malakas na pagyanig sa Cataingan kamakailan, hindi mapapatawad ng mga kababayan ko ang ilang opisyal ng lalawigan ng matagal nang bulag at nakabusal ang bibig dahil sa pinsalang posibleng idulot nitong higit pa sa nangyaring delubyong Yolanda sa Kabisayaan.

Hindi naman sa hinuhusgahan ko ang task force pero tinubuan na ako ng puting buhok bilang mamamahayag na kabisado ang istilo ng panunuhol ng Filminerang binabayaran ang sinomang kontra sa negosyo nila, nakikinita ko na ilang buwan lang ay sa kwarta pa rin magtatapos ang imbestigasyon na 'yan.

Ilang bayan sa Masbate ilulubog ng Mega Tailings

August 24, 2020

TITLE: pond ng Filminera

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Kumbaga sa sine, hindi ko pa nasimulang panoorin, alam ko na ang ending dahil bistado ko ang likaw ng bituka ng ilang politiko sa bayan kong sinilangang pera lang ang katapat kapalit ang gumagapang sa hirap na mga kababayang kong hanggang ngayon ay mulat nang habambuhay na silang magtitis samantalang patuloy na magpapasasa sa yaman ng Aroroy ang Filminera kasabwat ang ilang opisyal na ganid sa kwarta.

Kung makarating lang sa kaalaman ni Tatay Digong na bukod sa perhuwisyong ginagawa ng open pit mining ng Filminera, patuloy rin ang pangangamkam nito ng mga lupain kabilang na ang 12 ektaryang pag-aari ni Kapitan Noriel Quintal na matapos desisyunan ng Korte na siya ang ligal na may-ari ay hindi pa rin niya napakikinabangan dahil bantay-sarado na ito ng mga gwardya ng Kublai Khan Security Agency na nagsisilbing tagahasik naman ng karahasan ng naturang kompanya sa Aroroy.

Isa lang si Kapitan Quintal sa daan-daang kababayan kong kinamkam na nga ang lupain,tuluyan pang itinaboy sa kanyang dekada nang ipinundar na ari-arian dyan sa Goldbug, Aroroy.

Surmaryusep, sa madali't sabi, hindi pa ipinaglilhi sa sinapupunan ng sinomang ina sa Masbate ang politikong permanenteng magtutuldok sa kawalanghiyaan ng Filminera dahil nakatatak na sa mga dayuhang may-ari nito na kaya silang tapalan ng kwarta.

Si Tatay Digong lang ang magpapatigil sa operasyon ng kompanyang ito.

oOo

Para sa inyong komento o suhestiyon mag-text sa 09999388537/email [normanlaurio17@gmail.com](mailto:normanlaurio17@gmail.com)



# Last-ditch effort to save ancient tree in Agusan del Sur

By: [Chris Panganiban](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:19 AM August 24, 2020



**ENDANGERED LANDMARK** This 300-year-old rosewood tree (inset), locally known as “toog,” in San Francisco town, Agusan del Sur province, has been marked for cutting by the Department of Public Works and Highways but intervention from groups like Society of Filipino Foresters Inc. prompted Mayor Solomon Rufila to hold it in abeyance. —CHRIS V. PANGANIBAN

**SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur, Philippines** — The local government has put on hold the cutting of an iconic 300-year-old Philippine Rosewood (*Petersianthus quadrialatus*), locally known as “toog,” as tree experts and foresters’ groups made one last-ditch effort to save the species.

Tommy Valdez, national council president of Society of Filipino Foresters Inc. (SFFI), wrote Mayor Solomon Rufila on Aug. 12, appealing to hold in abeyance the scheduled cutting of the tree while the group is seeking help of tree expert Dr. Armando Palijon to save the ailing natural landmark along the Surigao del Sur-Agusan del Sur highway.

“The SFFI is willing to contribute to the cause of Dr. Palijon [in] the belief that sustainable forest management starts with a single tree,” said Valdez, representing the 12,000-member group of registered professional foresters in the country.

Earlier, a resolution of the municipal council approved the cutting of the upper part of the tree after villagers raised fear that the tree, whose trunk had been infected with fungi and termites, might fall down and put at risk the lives of residents and passing motorists.

Palijon warned that cutting the crown might eventually kill the tree. Unable to visit the site because of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, he and Marcelina Pacho, a former pathologist of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), joined a Zoom meeting on Aug. 21, and instructed foresters at the site on how to assess the tree’s condition.

The experts would soon release their findings and recommendations, a copy of which would be sent to the Agusan del Sur Environment Council for Sustainable Development, the DENR and the local governments of San Francisco and Agusan del Sur.

According to Jose Kanapi, vice president of SFFI Davao Region Council, the 5,000-meter toog could be sighted 10 kilometers away and has served as an important tree landmark to foresters since the early 1960s, even before it caught the attention of local officials and conservationists in the mid-1980s.

Kanapi, who once worked with Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines in Bislig City, said the tree along the Bureau of Forestry-Forest Reserve line marked the boundaries of the firm's timber license agreement.

He expressed dismay over the decision to cut down the tree. He vowed to step down from his post and burn his license live on video if the cutting would push through.

### Make noise

"I posted on SFFI's [social media] page a challenge to speak out," he said. "Silence from SFFI means go ahead cut the toog tree," said Kanapi, adding that 89 percent of SFFI members had been foresters working with the DENR ERDB and local government units.

Earlier, the Quezon City-based Philippine Native Tree Enthusiasts also sent a letter to Mayor Rufila, Agusan del Sur Gov. Santiago Cane Jr. and Hadja Didaw Piang-Brahim, DENR Caraga director, expressing support to save the toog.

Another call came from singer-composer and environmentalist Bayang Barrios-Villegas, who grew up in nearby Bunawan town. On social media, she asked netizens to make noise to save the tree and share her message until it reached the proper authorities.

"I hope they will [save] it," the Manobo singer posted. She said she had never heard a toog tree fall.

## DENR Bataan disinfects office

*posted* August 23, 2020 at 10:00 pm

by [Butch Gunio](#)

Pilar, Bataan—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Bataan employed a week-long work-from-home scheme to give way to the disinfection of their office here following the exposure of two employees to a suspected COVID-19 positive individual.

PENRO Raul Mamac underscored there was need for an immediate disinfection and sanitation of their offices to ensure safety of both the transacting public and their personnel.

Mamac said there was continuity of their operation by putting in place a system that saw their personnel providing services to the public while working from their homes.

Environment personnel transacted via email, Facebook, Messenger account, and telephones, Mamac said.

DENR Bataan has been strict with health protocols in its office building here to prevent the spread of the dreaded coronavirus.

“Clients and employees who will enter our office have to undergo the required protocols to prevent spread of the virus,” Mamac earlier said.

“We established a handwashing station in front of our office. They will be given tissue to dry their hands,” he said.

“Our personnel will put alcohol to their hands to sanitize them. A thermometer gun is used to check body temperature of an entering client or employee,” Mamac added.

“In case of high body temperature, we have a holding area where the individual could take a rest. Then the person’s body temperature will be taken again for validation”, he explained.

# PH cockatoo hatchling in wild gives hope

By: [Jhesset O. Enano](#) - Reporter / [@JhessetEnanoINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:42 AM August 24, 2020



SURVIVOR Gold, the Philippine cockatoo that has successfully hatched an offspring four years after it was rescued and nursed back to health, basks in the glow of sunlight in the wild of Palawan province. Habitat destruction and poaching have almost decimated the population of Philippine cockatoos, but climate change has posed the biggest threat to their survival. —PHOTO FROM KATALA FOUNDATION INC.

MANILA, Philippines — Four years after she was rescued and released back to the wild in Palawan province, Gold, a Philippine cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*), has successfully hatched an egg, marking a success story amid the persistent threats to her species' dwindling numbers.

The critically endangered bird was among the five hatchlings that were rescued in the Dumaran Island Critical Habitat in May 2016.

Wildlife wardens working under the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program of Katala Foundation Inc. (KFI) found the young birds starving due to the lack of food during the extremely dry months.

When she was rescued, Gold, which was named after the color of her leg band, weighed less than 60 grams—half of the normal weight for a cockatoo hatchling.

“To rescue hatchlings is a tough [decision] to make,” said Peter Widmann, KFI species conservation program director. “The great challenge is releasing them back to the wild and monitoring whether they are accepted by the wild flock.”

## Pet trade, habitat destruction

Locally known as “katala,” Philippine cockatoos or red-vented cockatoos used to be found all over the country's lowland forests and mangroves. But habitat destruction and poaching for pet trade pushed their population to near-extinction.

This endemic bird was also widely hunted, even for leisure, since some people consider them agricultural pests.

To date, there are only roughly 1,000 Philippine cockatoos left in the wild, with 90 percent of the global population found in Palawan province. Close to 75 percent are in the four project sites of KFI in the province, the biggest of which is in Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary, home to close to 500 cockatoos.

When Gold and the other hatchlings were rescued, they were brought to KFI's center in Narra town, where they were nursed back to health, said Indira Lacerna-Widmann, KFI chief operations officer.

Monitoring and rescuing hatchlings are no walk in the park: wildlife wardens need to climb up trees 10 to 80 meters to reach their nests.

When the birds began to gain weight, they underwent a soft release back in Dumarán, where they were taught how to survive in their natural habitat by relearning how to get their natural food and avoid predators.

In partnership with the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, KFI fully released the birds in January 2017.

Lacerna-Widmann said Gold's successful breeding four years after her rescue and rehabilitation showed that she was able to fully reintegrate with the wild population.

"The natural population of the Philippine cockatoo in Dumarán is very low," she said in an interview last week. "This breeding supplements their population with new ones and increases the genetic diversity of the species."

In protecting this critically endangered species, KFI and its partners engage with communities in its project sites, including indigenous peoples, particularly since the cockatoos live in lowland forests and in close proximity to humans.

Under the conservation program, former poachers are employed and trained to monitor and protect the cockatoos and their habitats, using the traditional knowledge and skills that they used to employ in their hunting days.

But one persisting threat to its survival, Lacerna-Widmann said, is the changing climate, which makes it harder for the birds to find food and to breed.

Feeding on seeds, fruits, flowers and buds, the cockatoo is dependent on good weather for its subsistence. Unfortunately, the longer and more extreme dry seasons have been taking a toll on its food source.

KFI monitoring has shown that there is a significant correlation between rainfall from November to January and the breeding season of the cockatoos from January to March.

#### El Niño effect

The foundation has observed that the El Niño phenomenon, which happens every five years since 2005, has affected the cockatoos' mating activities, according to Lacerna-Widmann.

"It has disrupted the normal breeding season," she said. "Maybe the cockatoos are very resilient also, but climate change has a huge impact on their breeding success."

If the dry season beginning November is so extensive, for example, it is likely that there will be no hatchlings during that breeding season.

"For their survival," she said, "it is important that climate change does not worsen."

Despite these challenges, KFI and its partners continue to double their efforts to ensure the survival of the critically endangered cockatoo.

Even amid the COVID-19 crisis, their work has not stopped, thanks to the support of local government units in project areas and funders, such as Wildlife Reserves Singapore, Chester Zoo, Beauval Nature, Fondation Segré, Zoologischen Gesellschaft für Arten und Populationsschutz in Germany and Loro Parque Fundacion in Spain.

"Every single individual counts," Lacerna-Widmann said, "and every breeding season counts as well."  
INQ

Philippine surfing paradise Siargao has no desire to be  
TITLE: another 'cesspool' like Boracay

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# Philippine surfing paradise Siargao has no desire to be another 'cesspool' like Boracay

After witnessing the impact too many tourists have had at other popular Asian destinations, Siargao's local population sought to set the island on a different, more sustainable course

**Andrew McKee**

Published: 12:15pm, 23 Aug, 2020

Despite its location, in the northeast of Mindanao, in the Philippines, long mythologised for its isolation, the reef-crowned island of Siargao has had an airstrip since the 1960s. It was opened under President Diosdado Macapagal, when the Philippines was still one of Asia's most prosperous nations. Back then, Siargao and much of the nation looked ripe for development.

As flights started landing in 1963, GDP per capita in the Southeast Asian archipelago was US\$168, measured in current dollar terms, more than China's US\$74 and India's US\$101. Two years later, Ferdinand Marcos

came to power, and decades of cronyism and corruption followed, feeding on inequalities established since Spanish and American occupations.

China's GDP per capita is now nearly three times that of the Philippines, where one in five people live below the poverty line and remittances from overseas workers account for more than 9 per cent of economic income. Developing physical infrastructure in Siargao was not a priority.

Then in 2008, under the presidency of Macapagal's daughter, Gloria Arroyo, Siargao's runway was extended, opening the island to a new breed of visitor, unlike the surfers who had been arriving on the overnight ferry for more than 40 years, drawn to the pristine reef breaks.

By 2017, passengers on one of the first red-eye flights direct from Manila were mostly locals escaping the Philippine capital's traffic and smog. Also on board were a few youthful travellers ready to brave the potholed dirt roads to the main strip on Siargao, General Luna, hunting through petrol-damp air for parties at coastal hotels, sniffing out *kinilaw* and *lambanog*, the local ceviche and a palm based liquor, in search of an endless summer.

It took decades for Siargao to reach "backpacker phase", but a sense of nervous apprehension hung around the young crowds that year, as if they knew it couldn't last.

That sense of fleeting wonder was captured in the 2017 Filipino film *Siargao*. Much like *The Beach* had done for Ko Phi Phi, in Thailand, almost two decades earlier, the movie cemented Siargao's status as an offbeat haven of hedonism, making it a magnet for the next wave, the young and fashionable; boutique, as always, followed backpacker.

Unlike Ko Phi Phi, but much like Ubud after *Eat Pray Love*, in 2010, these swooping revellers did not need to rely on word of mouth or secret maps; this generation was armed with smartphones and social media. The usual issues of overexposure soon loomed large.

Air passenger traffic in Siargao rose from 7,251 in 2011 to more than 128,000 in 2017 per Civil Aviation Authority figures. The island's population in 2015 was just over 94,000. In 2018, when Boracay was closed, these numbers surged to more than 332,000.

Landing on that airstrip in 2019, now fed by three airlines, fresh arrivals were met by a throng of minivan drivers at the airport exit. Once a neo-hippie trail, the coastal road was now a buzzing strip of restaurants, resorts and bars. Room rates had doubled.

The famed beaches of Boracay, only half the flight time from Manila, remain a cautionary warning of what may await Siargao. In 2007, Boracay's population was estimated at just over 16,500; that year the island was visited by more than 596,000 people. Over the following decade, tourism arrivals grew by nearly 13 per cent a year to more than two million in 2017. And while millions of dollars were flowing into Boracay, raw effluent was ebbing out into its coastal waters.

In February 2018, before a six-month enforced clean-up operation, President Rodrigo Duterte called it a "cesspool". At the time, that was a fairly accurate assessment; it was found that only 66% of businesses and 5% of households were connected to the mains sewer system.



Chef David del Rosario at his Siargao establishment CEV. Photo: courtesy of CEV

**Chef David del Rosario** moved to Siargao as its popularity crested when Boracay closed. After attending culinary school in New York, he established his restaurant brand, CEV, marrying underappreciated Filipino cuisine with Siargao's freshest seafood.

His Siargao establishment is based in Loose Keys, a shared space combining restaurant, bar, gallery and custom motorcycle rental shop. It has not been an easy transition but del Rosario's contentment is tangible, beaming from his face and each plate served – an explosion of colour and taste.

Despite being boosted by greater prominence in the World Surf League, better accessibility and more coverage, Siargao is a tricky place in which to set up shop. Materials are expensive, shipped in from mainland Mindanao, with fragmented local supply chains, extreme seasonality, brownouts and prime rents approaching Manila prices.

Perhaps because of the local tourism industry's roots in surfing, there has always been a sense of environmental responsibility among related businesses on the island. Over an indulgent breakfast at Greenhouse, Marja Abad – who runs the idyllic restaurant and surf retreat and is co-founder of the Siargao Environmental Awareness (SEA) Movement with her husband, James O'Donnell – details how their work allows "the present generation to absorb and manage the damage of these deeply ingrained issues of society".

Advocating environmental best practice, running educational workshops and overseeing volunteer initiatives and clean-up programmes, SEA Movement challenges the lack of ecological awareness. Supported by the Siargao Tourism Operators Association, they helped pass a ban on single-use plastic bags last year.

Waste is a serious issue on the island. Its infrastructure was not designed for current tourist numbers. In June 2019, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) forced the closure of a dump outside General Luna, evidence that existing landfill capacity had long since been exceeded.

A visit by the environment secretary that August highlighted the issue that 30 per cent of 1,298 structures investigated along the coast violated easement rules, which forbid construction within 20 metres of the shoreline, and faced demolition. A function hall in Cabontug Resort, owned by the local government, was the first to be dismantled.

Philippine surfing paradise Siargao has no desire to be  
TITLE: another 'cesspool' like Boracay

PAGE 1/ 3/4

August 24, 2020  
DATE



A surfer rides a wave at Cloud 9 in Siargao. Photo: Getty Images

Sewage running directly into the ocean from about 600 family homes was also highlighted, but without reference to any remedial assistance. This is all despite Siargao having been a “protected landscape and seascape” since legislation was passed in 1996. While it is encouraging that the DENR has formed a task force within the Environmental Management Bureau to investigate Siargao’s challenges, there are many deep-seated issues to be addressed, and soon.

Whereas Boracay’s close proximity to Manila made it vulnerable to the capital’s easy money, Siargao is further removed and has a proud and sizeable populace intent on protecting what they have, as demonstrated by a growing number of NGOs, in addition to SEA Movement.



Loose Keys combines a restaurant, bar, gallery and motorcycle rental shop. Photo: courtesy of CEV

Hardin ng Pagbabago (Garden of Change) is a community organic farming project established by a General Luna police captain. It not only strengthens barangay relations but addresses a deficit in locally grown produce, reducing food miles while rehabilitating vacant ground.

The project is being expanded with support from the mayor’s office. Meanwhile, businesses such as Lokal invest profits from rental accommodation and a restaurant into social enterprise projects spanning sustainable architecture, art, and innovation in the coconut industry.

Nature Kids of Siargao is a charity that educates the next generation about the importance of environmental protection and preservation. In tandem, it operates recycling and upcycling projects to reduce the burden on landfills, raise funds and provide employment for local people.

**Heading away from Siargao’s** main strip, traffic thins to reveal a sweeping landscape of emerald palms and paddy fields. Block housing gives way to wood and wicker, and an old farmer teases his buffalo uphill, dragging a tree trunk behind it.

In Pacifico, two women in bikinis stand in the middle of the road, selfie sticks raised high. Towards Burgos, once famed for its steady broadband connection, the pigs and fighting cocks stay a safer distance from the street. Further south, in Del Carmen, one of the first Spanish outposts, established in 1600, nearby mangroves defended the town against Moro pirate raids. Its hills protect the island from a more contemporary invasion.

With limitations on the numbers and size of aircraft that can land, Siargao may yet escape the degradation seen in Boracay, where there were no such checks on visitor numbers. The government and local community have a window of opportunity in which to execute a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable development plan; a blueprint for investments in Bohol, Palawan and many other idyllic spots throughout the archipelago. With the island already protected by national legislation, Siargao is the ideal starting point.





Siargao airport. Photo: Shutterstock

Down a back road near the waterfront in General Luna, the veranda of a small bamboo house is packed with surf racks, each board bashed but lovingly repaired. Two bright-eyed puppies bound down the steps, followed by Emily O'Shea and Joshua Goña. The Australian-Filipino couple are the co-founders of Grom Nation, a charity established in 2017 to help Siargao's young people cope with the tourism development through a combination of life-skills training, tutoring and counselling.

"Oh, that's just Oscar, don't worry about him," O'Shea says, shooing a dark, darting form off the veranda. "We get mice in these huts but it's nothing."

As in countless other beach destinations that are home to more tourists than locals at certain times of year, tourist money often takes precedence over education. Grom Nation provides school catch-up classes and children receive training in hygiene, healthy living and the concept of consent – a taboo subject but a necessary one given the influx of big-city vice in a country where the legal age of consent is 12.



Cloud 9 surf point, Siargao island. Photo: Shutterstock

While sunseekers pay up to US\$730 a night to stay at luxury Siargao establishments such as Nay Palad Hideaway – a price that can buy three rooms at the iconic Peninsula hotel in central Manila – O'Shea and Goña embody the spirit of the grass-roots movements that have risen in reaction to unequal progress, a lack of education and poorly thought out state systems.

Despite the kind of progress envisioned for the island as far back as that first airstrip in the 60s, such development must be guided to ensure that the local community shares in its success.

Goña was born on Siargao and is seen as a Kuya, or "big brother", by the dozens of children he helps. O'Shea was captivated enough by the island and its people to plough her Australian nursing salary into helping Goña and the community.

Everyone here wants to enjoy the fruits of progress, but not at the expense of that which they cherish. With a little investment and forward thinking, this might still prove possible, funded in part perhaps by those US\$730 room rates.

Source: <https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/3097958/philippine-surfing-paradise-siargao-has-no>

# Palace: What revolutionary government?

Published 12 hours ago on August 23, 2020 05:17 PM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Malacañang Sunday reiterated that the Duterte administration is now focused at dealing with the ongoing coronavirus disease pandemic amid the call from a private group for the establishment of a revolutionary government.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque made the remark after a group of President Rodrigo Duterte's supporters, People's National Coalition for Revolution Government and Charter Change, has appealed to the Filipino to join them in declaring a revolutionary government and for charter change, a Presidential-Federal-Parliamentary System of Government. The group, according to Roque, is free to express its opinion, But Malacanang is not taking this matter seriously.

"The call to establish a revolutionary government came from a private group and the organizers are free to publicly express their opinion," Roque said in a statement

"The focus, however, of the Administration is addressing COVID-19 and mitigating its socioeconomic impact."

"The most pressing and most urgent concern, which requires the Executive's full attention, is the gradual opening of the economy while safeguarding the people who are working/going back to work amid the pandemic," he added.

Meanwhile, Chief presidential Legal Counsel Secretary Salvador Panelo said the call for a revolutionary government is a workable concept that is already late in the day.

"It is an idea which is pregnant with repercussion, not the least whether or nor the forces of society are ready for it," Panelo said.

"Moreover, the call of a revolutionary government must come from the people and not from a single organization or an individual," he added.

The group assembled at Clark Freeport in Pampanga Saturday and presented a resolution purportedly approved by 300 supporters, appealed to Mr. Duterte to head Revolutionary Government which will take effect until 30 July 2022.

The three-page statement was unanimously approved on Saturday, 22 August 2020 at Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga.

According to the group, most of the developing countries of the world resorted to either revolutionary government or charter change or both to attain social, economic, cultural and political reforms that assure to themselves and to the next generations' better and prosperous future and they succeeded.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/08/23/palace-what-revolutionary-government/>

# Palace: Pinoys get lift soon

Published 1 day ago on August 23, 2020 03:20 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#)



Malacañang on Saturday expressed concern on survey results which showed four in 10 adult Filipinos expecting their quality of life to worsen in the next 12 months.

The survey results came as the coronavirus pandemic rendered millions jobless with no signs of slowing down.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey — which found that 36 percent of 1,555 adult Filipinos nationwide were pessimistic about their quality of life — is “certainly an issue that concerns the administration.”

The 36 percent pessimists figure in July was the second highest proportion in the 37-year series of SWS, according to the firm.

“The Palace acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic and the quarantine restrictions have adversely affected the socioeconomic conditions of our people for the respondents of the survey to have this opinion,” Roque said.

“It is for this reason government economists have prepared a whole-of-society program in our recovery plan called Recharge PH to mitigate its impact,” he added.

On the other hand, the same poll showed that 26 percent of respondents expect their lives to improve while 30 percent believe their lives will stay the same until next year.

The health crisis has sent 27.3 million people or nearly half of the adult workforce, out of jobs in July, according to SWS.

The Philippine economy also contracted by 16.5 percent in the second quarter as the country plunged into a recession and saw its worst downturn in three decades.

Conducted on 3 to 6 July, the SWS survey utilized a mobile phone and computer-assisted telephone interview and it has a sampling error margin of  $\pm 2$  percent for national percentages.

# PH Covid-19 cases rise by 2,378; recoveries climb to 131,367

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 23, 2020, 6:50 pm



**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday reported 2,378 new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections, raising the overall tally to 189,601 with 55,236 active cases.

The DOH said the additional cases reported were based on the total Covid-19 tests done by 99 out of 109 operational laboratories.

It also noted that around 91.5 percent of the cases are mild, 6.1 percent are asymptomatic, 1.0 percent are severe, and 1.4 percent are critical patients.

Majority of the newly announced cases are from the National Capital Region (NCR) with 1,022 cases, Cavite with 132 cases, Laguna with 128 cases, Rizal with 115 cases, and Cebu with 196 cases.

"Of the 2,378 reported cases today, 1,905 or 80 percent occurred within the recent 14 days (August 10-23, 2020). The top regions with cases in the recent two weeks were NCR with 818 or 43 percent, Region 4A (Calabarzon) with 331 or 17 percent and Region 3 (Central Luzon) with 153 or 8 percent," the DOH said.

It also reported 16,459 new recoveries and 32 deaths. These figures increased the number of recoveries to 131,367 and deaths to 2,298.

"Of the 32 deaths, 20 or 62 percent were in August, eight or 25 percent were in July, three or 9 percent were in June, and one or 3 percent were in May and the deaths were from NCR with 22 or 69 percent, Region 7 (Central Visayas) with four or 12 percent, Region 5 (Bicol) with two or 6 percent, Region 6 (Western Visayas) with one or 3 percent, Region 4A (Calabarzon) with one or 3 percent, Region 3 (Central Luzon) with one or 3 percent, and CARAGA with one or 3 percent," the DOH said.

It added that 26 duplicates were removed from the total case count, including nine recovered cases. Of the nine recoveries removed, four cases were validated to have died and already included in the count of new deaths.

As of Saturday, the 75 licensed RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) laboratories and 24 licensed GeneXpert laboratories have already conducted a total of 1,467,723 tests nationwide.

The DOH said it has 19,200 total bed capacity dedicated for Covid-19 patients. Occupied are about 49 percent of 1,700 intensive care unit beds; 47 percent of 12,400 isolation beds; and 50 percent of 5,100 ward beds.

There are 2,200 ventilators for Covid-19 patients with about 29 percent in use. **(PNA)**

# PPE makers soothed via new edict

Published 6 hours ago on August 24, 2020 12:05 AM

By [Raffy Ayeng](#)



After questioning the government's decision to purchase imported medical supplies from China despite adequate capacity from local producers, a group of mask and personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturers were promised to be given priority in government purchases under the Bayanihan II Act.

The P140-billion worth of Bayanihan II support to local industries was approved by the bicameral conference committee last 20 August to provide the government a more flexible response against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and to aid the recovery of affected sectors.

In a statement, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon Lopez said the government values the efforts of local manufacturers of medical supplies such as PPE and masks as the department and the Confederation of Philippine Manufacturers of PPE (CPMP) have actively collaborated towards the shared objective of providing world-class protection to medical frontliners and to Filipinos in general.

"For this reason, the DTI's Board of Investments (DTI-BoI) and the Department of Budget and Management Procurement Service (DBM-PS) have endeavored to have provisions in the Bayanihan II to give preference to locally-manufactured, internationally-certified PPE," according to Lopez.

Lopez reiterated that the government "is thankful to the CPMP members for responding to their call to repurpose part of their manufacturing capacities towards local production of internationally-certified medical-grade PPE and in the process, saving over 7,000 jobs and creating more opportunities for Filipino workers."

## Coordination key

"DTI is now coordinating with the CPMP and the Department of Health (DoH) and the DBM-PS on the implementation of Bayanihan II — anticipating its passage into law; as well as on aligning PPE demand requirements, timing of procurement and flow of production," the DTI secretary asserted.

Lopez furthered that the "DTI continues to work with the Industry to further strengthen the manufacturing repurposing program and the country's PPE ecosystem to lessen dependence on imports of these critical medical products, including filling-in the remaining value chain gaps (e.g. linking polypropylene resin producers with non-woven medical grade fabric manufacturers), attracting investments in important support services (e.g. local PPE testing laboratories), and developing an online real time platform for matching supply and demand (including from private hospitals)."

"DTI emphasizes that we have always been pushing for patronizing local manufacturers in sourcing PPE in the government procurement process. Thus, we also thank the Senate and House of Representatives for incorporating our proposals in the Bayanihan II and their continued support of our local manufacturers; as well as our partners from the DoH and DBM-PS," Lopez averred.

## Huge job orders

The department also reiterated its thrust in saving Filipino jobs, providing income opportunities, and inducing bigger demand to restimulate the economy amid the pandemic, all in line with the government's strengthened call for "ingat buhay para sa hanapbuhay."

On Friday, CPMP president Lawrence de los Santos has aired his group's sentiments to the government for choosing China-made PPE and masks over locally produced ones, despite their determined effort in meeting the local demand.

CPMP said they will add \$36 million investments to ramp up production of protective materials as they are expected by the government to provide 57.6 million face masks and 3 million coveralls capacity per month to supply the needs for frontliners amid the pandemic.

The Daily Tribune tried to get a reaction from Confederation of Wearables Exporters of the Philippines, CPMP's mother organization, but it failed to respond.

## 36 barangays in Cebu City report zero Covid-19 cases



File photo

August 23, 2020

THIRTY-SIX barangays in Cebu City no longer have any case of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), according to City Councilor Joel Garganera.

Garganera, who is also the deputy chief implementer of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Cebu City, said there are four barangays, which never had a single Covid-19 case since the pandemic began in March.

These are Taptap, Paril, Sudlon 1 and Buot. All are mountain barangays and sparsely populated.

On Saturday, Aug. 22, 2020, Garganera said the 32 Covid-19-free barangays are recent additions to the list.

However, the city councilor declined to reveal the names of the 32 barangays. He also refused to reveal his reason for withholding their names.

“Zero na na sila karon (They now have zero cases),” Garganera said.

Cebu City has 80 barangays of which 22 are in the highlands and are classified as rural barangays and 58 are in the lowlands and are classified as urban barangays.

City Health Department officer-in-charge Jeffrey Ibones said Garganera’s announcement was a good development, but he urged residents to remain vigilant and to continue following health protocol to prevent the spread of the highly infectious disease.

He attributed the lack of Covid-19 cases in these areas to the efforts of the City Government, EOC and the barangays as well as to public for cooperating with authorities.

Mayor Edgardo Labella, for his part, said despite the progress the City Government has made in fighting Covid-19, residents should not lower their guard.

It is high time to stay vigilant and strictly observe minimum standards of health protocol, he said.

On Saturday, Cebu City logged 12 new Covid-19 cases and 15 recoveries.

As of Aug. 22, the city had a total of 9,497 Covid-19 cases of which 1,255 were active. It also logged 7,619 recoveries and 623 mortalities.

On July 26, the City Government started implementing granular lockdowns.

Granular lockdowns are small-scale lockdowns or the locking down of only a particular household, compound, or sitio that is deemed to have the most number of active Covid-19 cases.

Garganera said that through this strategy, operations of businesses located within the barangay are not hampered.

Cebu City is on general community quarantine (GCQ) until Aug. 31. More businesses are allowed to operate in areas under GCQ status.

In a previous interview, Garganera said a total of 356 households and workplaces were placed on granular lockdown on Aug. 15.

The city councilor said the EOC has been looking at locking down a household or a certain floor of a building where a worker tests positive for Covid-19 to contain the disease. **(JL)**



## PADALA SA LBC: CELLPHONE NAGING LOTION



August 24, 2020 @ 12:16 AM 6 hours ago

KAYONG mga suki ng LBC, nakararanas na ba kayo ng pandaraya o panloloko ng kompanyang ito sa inyong mga padala?

Halimbawa, pera, alahas at iba pa.

Kung meron, ano na ang nangyari?

Ibinalik ba, binayaran o ano?

Itong nagsumbong sa atin, cellphone ang ipinadala niya sa kanyang kapatid sa Nueva Ecija pero ang nakarating doon, lotion.

Ipinadala ang cellphone sa pwesto ng LBC sa tabi ng Super 8, Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Ipinagkatiwala nito sa naturang kompanya ang naturang cellphone sa pag-asang makararating ito sa kanyang kapatid bilang tulong niya sa online na pag-aaral ng kanyang pamangkin.

### MGA PANGYAYARI

Hulyo 22 nang ipadala ang cellphone sa LBC, Sta. Maria at binigyan ang nagpadalang si Harlyn B. Gumafelix ng resibo.

Laman ng resibo ang tatak ng cellphone na Oukitel T15 Pro Touchscreen Black, nagkakahalaga ng P3,700, may Bar Code Number na 3620 5155 9868 at may petsang July 22, 2020.

Ipinadala ang cellphone kay Maria Ana Gajis na residente ng Rizal, Nueva Ecija.

Ayon sa LBC Track and Trace, dumating sa Rizal ang padala kinabukasan, Hulyo 22 ngunit walang impormasyong natanggap si Gajis ukol dito.

Noon namang Agosto 3, 2020, lumitaw sa rekord na dapat maimpormahan ang recipient ukol sa padala ngunit nabigo ang mga taga-LBC-Rizal na gawin ito sa katwirang marami umano ng kanilang ginagawa.

Agosto 6 nang lumitaw na ang padala ay nasa Internal Dispatch at tinawag itong Internal Mail Pending.

Pagdating ng Agosto 13, sinabing nasa biyaheng patungo sa COD Exchange ang padala at noong Agosto 14, nasa Vicargo Exchange na ito.

Sa araw ring ito, dala na ang padala ng San Jose Delivery Team at tinanggap ito ng LBC-Rizal.

## **HINDI CELLPHONE KUNDI LOTION PALA**

Agosto 17 nang ma-claim ni Gajis ang padala ngunit laking gulat nito nang buksan niya mismo sa harapan ng dalawang babaeng tauhan ang kahon.

Sa halip na cellphone, isang lotion ang laman nito kaya hindi tinanggap ni Gajis.

Ngunit pinilit itong tanggapin na lang ang padala kasunod ng pagbibigay sa kanya ng papel na nagsasaad ng kanyang complaint na iba ang dumating sa ipinadala.

Ngayon, itinatago ni Gajis ang lotion na patunay na hindi cellphone ang kanyang natanggap.

## **IMBESTIGASYON AT PERWISYO**

Dahil sa kanya ring complaint sa LBC-Sta. Maria, sinabi ng isang taga-LBC-Sta. Maria na iniimbestigahan na umano ang pangyayari at maaaring ibalik ang cellphone o kaya ang katumbas na halaga at kasama sa ibabalik ang binayaran nitong delivery fee na P263.00.

Halimbawang totohanin ng LBC na ibalik ang cellphone o kaya ang P3,700 na halaga nito at delivery fee na P253.00, sa palagay ba ninyo hindi agrabyado ang mga biktima?

Tinatanong natin ito dahil may mga gastos sa pag-claim at pagko-complain.

Namasahe ang mga ito sa pagpunta sa LBC para magpadala at tumanggap ng padala at mag-complain na rin.

Namasahe rin ang complainant para magsumbong sa Remate Online at umubos ang mga ito ng load sa pakikipag-kontak sa mga taga-LBC.

Umubos din ng load ang mga complainant na magkapatid sa ULTIMATUM.

Bukod dito ang kanilang sama ng loob sa masamang serbisyo ng LBC at sa pagkawala ng cellphone na gagamitin sa online class ni Angel Gajis na Grade 10 ngayon sa Pantabangan National High School Annex sa Pantabangan, Rizal.

Ngayon nganga ang bata sa pag-aaral na inaasahang handa na at kasama sa pagbubukas ng klase sa Oktubre 5, 2020.

Alam ba ninyo na sa maliliit na kita sa pagtitinda ng mga kakanin na kanyang gawang-bahay nanggaling ang pinambili ni Gumafelix sa ninakaw na cellphone sa LBC?

Mga anak ng tipaklong kayo riyang sa LBC, itigil na ninyo ang pagnanakaw sa mga padala o pagpapalit ng iba sa mga ito.

Kung may mga complaint namang ganito, dapat na bilisan ninyong aksyunan at hindi abutin ng siyam-siyam tulad ng sinasabi mismo ng inyong mga tauhan.

# Health versus economics

By: [Joel Ruiz Butuyan](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:07 AM August 24, 2020

The war against the coronavirus is being fought on two battlefronts — health and economics. As mankind waits for a vaccine which is the ultimate weapon in this war, governments all over the world are scrambling to deploy the right balance of defenses in these two battlefields. It's a very delicate job: Employ too many health defenses, and the people will suffer on the economic field; utilize too many economic arsenals, and people will suffer on the health front.

Those in the health sector naturally want our government to employ stringent health solutions, while people in the economic sector are logically calling on the government to shore up economic solutions.

The task of government is to provide a bridge between health and economics. The bridge between these two fields is not some elaborate formula but pure and simple empathy. Our country will get the right mix of health and economic remedies if our government exerts effort to sincerely understand the difficulties faced by its people. The current administration has unfortunately exhibited serious deficiency in empathy, which explains why it commits missteps and why it ends up prescribing unnecessarily harsh solutions.

Take for example the government directive to impose curfew hours from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. in Metro Manila and other cities. What these curfew directives aim to avoid, it horribly enables instead — a massing up of people. A curfew forces working people to cram into severely limited public transport during rush hours in the morning and during rush hours again in the late afternoon. It forces people to congregate in big numbers in work areas during a limited time span during the day.

A curfew prohibits flexible work schedules that could help employees avoid crowded public transport and packed workplaces. Without curfews, employees can be given the leeway to work on shifts like 12 noon to 8 p.m. or similar time slots that will enable them to avoid the daily mad rush.

Instead of a curfew on people, the government should consider a curfew on business establishments by mandating the closure of malls, restaurants, and bars from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. This will prevent the unnecessary congregation of people at night, but will still enable people to go to work at time slots when the crowd is sparse.

There's also a need to convey the view of a layman with a provincial vantage point. This is in relation to the issue of the total denigration being made on rapid diagnostic tests, and the strong push by some government departments and doctors urging the total abandonment of rapid tests, and advocating the complete shift to the more expensive RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) test. In an ideal world, their position is correct because an RT-PCR test is superior to a rapid test, as doctors affirm. Sadly, the fiction of an ideal world is not in our midst.

The realities on the ground are as follows: At P5,000 to P8,000 per test, the RT-PCR test is very expensive for a large majority of ordinary people, business companies, and cash-strapped local government units, especially if it's going to be a required test on a periodic basis. For all the higher expense that it entails, an RT-PCR test is also not a 100-percent foolproof test, and its result only reflects a person's lack of infection up to the time of testing. The moment a person steps out of the testing area, he/she can get infected with the virus and become an asymptomatic "spreader," rendering his just-administered RT-PCR test a useless expense. Moreover, in many provinces, an RT-PCR test is not accessible because it is restrictively allowed only for those who are already exhibiting symptoms or who had tested positive in a rapid test.

In the provinces, there's a dire need to harness even the limited usefulness of a rapid test, because having a rapid test is better than not having any test at all. Just like a pregnancy test, however, it must be administered with loud and clear warnings, such as to rely more on the presence of symptoms and to strictly observe quarantine rules even when the result is negative.

*Comments to fleamarketofideas@gmail.com*

## China hits back, deems PH acts in WPS provocative

posted August 24, 2020 at 01:10 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

China on Saturday urged the Philippines to stop its allegedly "illegal provocations" in the West Philippine Sea, claiming it was intruding into China's security and Sovereignty.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian issued the statement after the Philippines filed a diplomatic protest against China for what it said was China's "continuing illicit issuances of radio challenges [against] Philippine aircraft conducting legitimate regular maritime patrols in the West Philippine Sea."

The Philippines had sent military planes over the air space of the disputed Spratly Group of Islands, where most of the Philippine claims in the West Philippine Sea are located.

But China, which claims allegedly historic rights to the islands, said sending the planes was an intrusion on its security and sovereignty.

In its diplomatic protest, the Philippines also slammed the Chinese Coast Guard's confiscation of fish-aggregating devices installed by Filipino fishermen.

The Philippines filed a diplomatic protest against China following the confiscation of the devices in a shoal off Zambales.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said it sent a diplomatic protest to China on Thursday over the incident that took place in May 2020 in the Philippine-claimed Bajo de Masinloc.

"The DFA lodged a diplomatic protest to China over the illegal confiscation by the Chinese Coast Guard of fish-aggregating devices or payaos of Filipino fishermen in Bajo de Masinloc," the department said in a statement. The agency made its statement even as Malacañang on Friday expressed confidence the Philippines' latest filing of a diplomatic protest against China would not affect the ties between the two countries.

"The filing of the diplomatic protest would not affect the very good relations between our country and China," presidential spokesman Harry Roque told the state-run PTV-4.

The Philippines also "resolutely objected to China's continuing illicit issuance of radio challenges to Philippine aircraft conducting legitimate regular maritime patrols in the West Philippine Sea," Foreign Affairs said.

China claims nearly the entire South China Sea, including the waters within the exclusive economic zones of the Philippines.

The Scarborough shoal, locally known as Panatag Shoal or Bajo de Masinloc, is among the Philippine-claimed territories in the West Philippine Sea that are also being claimed by the Chinese under its nine-dash line map.

Philippine ships have long left the area, but maritime patrols continue to monitor the movement of Chinese vessels there.

Fishermen from Zambales have reported being turned away by the Chinese from the shoal, which is part of their traditional fishing grounds.

In July 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration invalidated China's nine-dash-line claim in the South China Sea. Roque said it was only normal to file a diplomatic protest against any acts that the country deemed to be an affront to its sovereignty.

"It is natural for our diplomats to file a diplomatic protest if they think the act violates our sovereignty or sovereign rights," he said.

Scarborough Shoal is a triangle-shaped coral reef located 124 nautical miles off Zambales. It is also an integral part of the Philippine territory under the municipality of Masinloc in Zambales province.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/332240>

# Chinese military plans another South China Sea drill

**Josephine Ma, South China Morning Post**

Posted at Aug 23 2020 07:43 AM

Beijing has announced it will stage a naval exercise in the South China Sea, the latest in a series of drills held amid ongoing tensions with the US.

Saturday's announcement came a day after it said it would stage a separate exercise in the Yellow Sea.

Hainan Maritime Safety Administration announced that the waters southeast of Hainan island would be sealed off for an exercise running from Monday until Saturday.

The United States has also been conducting a series of exercises in the region and on Friday the USS Ronald Reagan and its carrier strike group returned to the South China Sea for a series of air defence exercises after a joint drill with Japan.

The US Navy also sent a destroyer, the USS Mustin, through the Taiwan Strait following the exercise with Japan in what America said was a demonstration of its commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific".

Beijing has announced it will stage a naval exercise in the South China Sea, the latest in a series of drills held amid ongoing tensions with the US.

Saturday's announcement came a day after it said it would stage a separate exercise in the Yellow Sea.

Hainan Maritime Safety Administration announced that the waters southeast of Hainan island would be sealed off for an exercise running from Monday until Saturday.

The United States has also been conducting a series of exercises in the region and on Friday the USS Ronald Reagan and its carrier strike group returned to the South China Sea for a series of air defence exercises after a joint drill with Japan.

The US Navy also sent a destroyer, the USS Mustin, through the Taiwan Strait following the exercise with Japan in what America said was a demonstration of its commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific".

## Water interruption sa ilang lugar inanunsyo ng Manila Water



August 23, 2020 @ 2:48 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Makararanas ng water interruption ang mga costumer ng Manila Water sa Maynila, Makati at Mandaluyong simula gabi ng Martes, Agosto 25.

Ayon sa kompanya, magsisimula ng alas-10 ng gabi ang water interruption at tatagal hanggang alas-4 ng madaling araw ng Miyerkoles, Agosto 26.

Nakatakda kasing ayusin ang isang tubo ng tubig sa may Santa Mesa district sa Maynila.

Bunsod nito, apektado ang Barangay 763 hanggang 820, 866, 869 at 873 hanggang 905 sa Maynila.

Sa Makati, makararanas ng water interruption ang barangay ng Carmona, Kasilawan, Olympia, Poblacion, Santa Cruz, Singkamas, Tejeros at Valenzuela.

Apektado rin ang Mabini–J.Rizal, Namayan at Vergara sa lungsod ng Mandaluyong.

Pinayuhan ang mga residente sa nasabing lugar na mag-ipon na ng tubig bago pa mawalan dahil sa nasabing pagkukumpuni ng tubo. **RNT/LF**

# Bagyong Igme, isa nang severe tropical storm

Balita

## Bagyong Igme, isa nang severe tropical storm

By Ulat ng Bandera at Radyo Inquirer August 22, 2020 - 07:34 PM

Lumakas pa ang Bagyong Igme at ngayo'y isa nang ganap na severe tropical storm.

Sa severe weather bulletin ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration bandang 5:00 ng hapon, huling namataan ang sentro ng bagyo sa layong 500 kilometers north-northeast ng Basco, Batanes dakong 4:00 ng hapon.

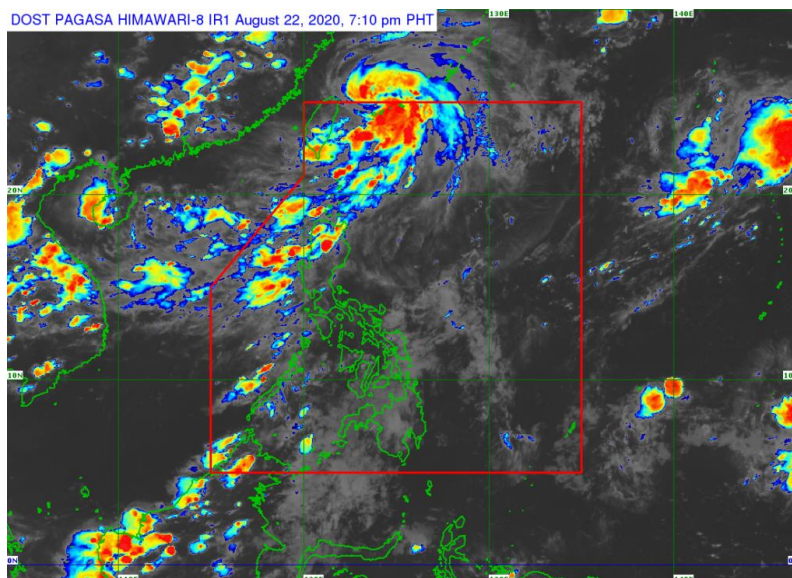
Taglay na nito ang lakas ng hanging aabot sa 95 kilometers per hour malapit sa gitna at pagbugsong aabot sa 115 kilometers per hour.

Bahagyang bumilis ang bagyo at kumikilos sa direksyong hilagang-kanluran sa bilis na 20 kilometers per hour.

Gayunman, wala pa ring nakataas na tropical cyclone wind signal sa anumang parte ng bansa. Ngunit, asahang makararanas ng intermittent gusts sa Batanes at Babuyan Islands dulot pa rin ng southwest monsoon na bahagyang pinalakas ng Bagyong Igme.

Iral ang mahina hanggang katamtaman na kung minsan ay malakas na buhos ng ulan sa Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Zambales, at Bataan bunsod nito.

Dahil dito, nagpaalala ang weather bureau sa posibleng maranasang pagbaha o pagguho ng lupa. Sinabi ng Pagasa na posibleng lumabas ng Philippine Area of Responsibility ang bagyo sa pagitan ng 5:00 hanggang 8:00, Sabado ng gabi (Agosto 22).



Pagasa

Source: [https://bandera.inquirer.net/262179/bagyong-igme-isa-nang-severe-tropical-storm?fbclid=IwAR2gGuj3ng\\_o9KkU2ryBZUWX2QBdgKFGi8IpU2upbsAWWZ9-utNz5ZJ2ugg#ixzz6VqWj8PkD](https://bandera.inquirer.net/262179/bagyong-igme-isa-nang-severe-tropical-storm?fbclid=IwAR2gGuj3ng_o9KkU2ryBZUWX2QBdgKFGi8IpU2upbsAWWZ9-utNz5ZJ2ugg#ixzz6VqWj8PkD)





# Phivolcs records 20 volcanic quakes around Taal

Published August 23, 2020, 11:14 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded 20 volcanic earthquakes at the Taal Volcano from Saturday to Sunday, which manifests that the active volcano is still under “abnormal” state.

Based on the Phivolcs bulletin on Sunday, weak steaming or fumarolic activity rising 5 meters high before drifting southwest was observed from the Taal Volcano’s main crater vents in the past 24 hours.

Taal Volcano has been under Alert Level 1 since March 19, 2020.

Phivolcs reminded the public that sudden steam-driven or phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall and lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas can occur and threaten areas within the Taal Volcano Island.

It strongly recommended that entry into the island and permanent danger zone, especially the vicinities of the main crater and the Daang Kastila fissure, should remain strictly prohibited.

Local government units were also advised to continuously assess previously evacuated barangays around Taal Lake for damages and road accessibilities and to strengthen preparedness, contingency and communication measures in case of renewed unrest.

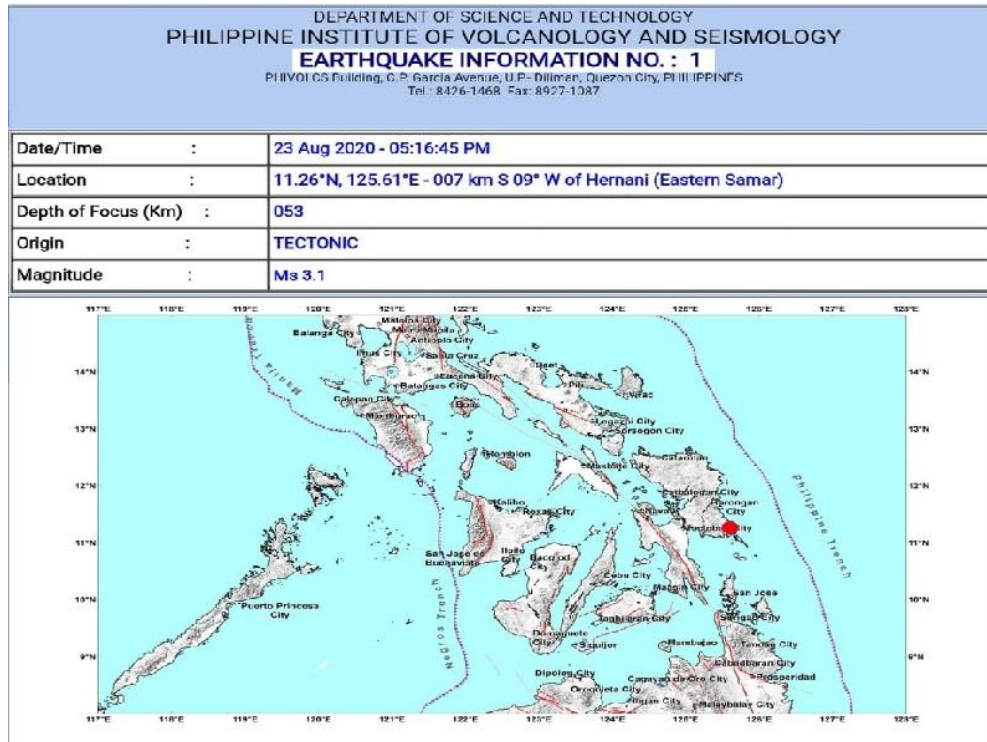
The public were asked to observe precautions due to ground displacement across fissures, possible ashfall, and minor earthquakes.

Likewise, Phivolcs requested aviation authorities to advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions and wind-remobilized ash may pose hazards to aircraft.

On January 12, 2020, Taal Volcano reached Alert Level 4, only one level away from the highest alert issued when a hazardous eruption is ongoing.

# Hernani, Eastern Samar niyanig ng magnitude 3.1 na lindol

By Mary Rose Cabrales August 23, 2020 - 06:05 PM



Niyanig ng magnitude 3.1 na lindol ang lalawigan ng Eastern Samar.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, naitala ang pagyanig sa 7 kilometers southwest ng bayan ng Hernani, alas-5:16 hapon ng Linggo (August 23).

May lalim na 53 kilometers at tectonic ang origin ng pagyanig.

Wala namang inaasahang pagkasira sa mga ari-arian, intensities at aftershocks.

# Critically endangered gorilla gives birth nearly one year after losing first child

INQUIRER.net / 07:37 PM August 23, 2020



Kala and her newborn inside their habitat in Bristol Zoo. Image: Facebook/Bristol Zoo Gardens

A critically endangered gorilla has welcomed a new baby months after her firstborn died last September.

The new western lowland gorilla was born on Wednesday, Aug. 19 in Bristol Zoo in Bristol, United Kingdom. Kala, the 9-year-old mother, gave birth naturally, as per the animal center's website on the same day.

The World Wildlife Fund classifies the said species as critically endangered.

Her mate, Jock, and the rest of their troop stayed nearby while Kala was in labor. Following the birth, keepers at the zoo spotted Kala cradling her child in her arms the next morning.

“We are all thrilled. There is something very special about seeing a newborn baby gorilla, they are such an iconic and charismatic species,” said Lynsey Bugg, curator of mammals at the zoo.

Bugg also noted that Kala is a “very attentive” mother and has been taking good care of her child.

“It’s very early days but we are cautiously optimistic,” she was quoted as saying. “The early signs are good and the baby looks to be a good size and is strong.”

Kala’s first baby died back in September 2019 just a week after she underwent an emergency Caesarean section, BBC reported on Aug. 22.

Though the zoo’s staff are excited over the new gorilla, Bugg explained that they are not yet certain of its sex. The baby now joins a troop of six gorillas, the report said, which are all part of a breeding program to help protect their species’ future. **Ryan Arcadio/JB**

Source: [https://technology.inquirer.net/103338/critically-endangered-gorilla-gives-birth-nearly-one-year-after-losing-first-child?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR35rgCDg-0w1AIt0\\_7wuSYNBKJ1zZ9UkKTZpYE3IMPv8klXy8OCfCJOPEo#Echobox=1598182957](https://technology.inquirer.net/103338/critically-endangered-gorilla-gives-birth-nearly-one-year-after-losing-first-child?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR35rgCDg-0w1AIt0_7wuSYNBKJ1zZ9UkKTZpYE3IMPv8klXy8OCfCJOPEo#Echobox=1598182957)

# Baby panda born at Washington's National Zoo

[China Daily/Asia News Network](#) / 05:50 PM August 23, 2020



This undated file photo provided by Smithsonian's National Zoo shows giant panda Mei Xiang at the zoo in Washington. (Photo provided by Smithsonian's National Zoo via Xinhua)

LOS ANGELES — The Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington welcomed a [new black-and-white furry creature](#) into its family.

After days of waiting in anticipation, giant panda matriarch Mei Xiang successfully delivered the bundle of joy at 6:35 pm local time on Friday, the zoo announced in a press release, reporting that its panda team heard the wiggly cub vocalize and briefly glimpsed it for the first time immediately after the birth.

"Pandas are an endangered species, so every panda on the planet means something, and it is important," Brandie Smith, the zoo's deputy director, told China Daily Saturday.

The birth is considered a miracle for the 22-year-old Mei Xiang, which means "beautiful fragrance" in Chinese. The female panda, who came to the country in 2000, is the oldest giant panda in the US and the second oldest documented in the world to give birth.

A neonatal exam will be performed when keepers are able to retrieve the cub, which may take a few days, the zoo said. The gender of the hairless baby, which is roughly 1/900th the size of its mother, will not be determined until a later day.

Both the mother and baby are thriving. In a video shared by the zoo on social media, Mei Xiang could be seen cradling the baby in her arms and gently nursing the newborn.

"Congratulations to Mei Xiang and @NationalZoo! This is the 3rd cub I have welcomed as Chinese ambassador. For 20 years, Meixiang and her kids have been adorable witnesses of China-US cooperation & a constant source of joy for the Americans. A precious gift at this unusual time," China's ambassador to the US Cui Tiankai wrote in a tweet.

Smith said the cub is the culmination of decades of partnership between the National Zoo and its colleagues in China to study the animals.

"Our colleagues in China were some of the first people we contacted when the cub was born. They have a lot of experience with cubs given that there are so many pandas that are born in the panda breeding centers in China. So we always look to them for advice and assistance," Smith said.

"This is part of our bigger program, where it's not just about breeding cubs in zoos and educating people about giant pandas, but it's also about conservation work we do in the wild," she added.

Female pandas only have a 24-72 hour window every year during which they could become pregnant. A team of experts artificially inseminated Mei Xiang with frozen semen collected from Tian Tian, Mei Xiang's mate, on March 22. On Aug 14 and Aug 17, zoo veterinarians confirmed evidence of a fetus on an ultrasound.

The zoo described the pregnancy and subsequent birth as uplifting and joyous news in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, which has kept the zoo shut for months.

“Giant pandas are an international symbol of endangered wildlife and hope, and with the birth of this precious cub we are thrilled to offer the world a much-needed moment of pure joy,” zoo Director Steve Monfort said in a statement.

Viewership on the zoo's panda-cam has reportedly increased 800 percent since the announcement of the pregnancy. Many panda lovers took to social media to express their happiness.

“So excited for Mei Xiang and the Zoo!! When Bei Bei left, we were so sad to see him go....and thought that was the end of the line for DC panda cubs. What a blessing to have another,” user Kim Bauhs wrote on Twitter.

“Mei is a star...her cubs have always received her best! I'm so happy we have another chance to see her shine,” said JoAnn M, another user.

Smith said that when a giant panda gives birth, there is a 50 percent that she will deliver a twin within 24 hours of the first birth. Staff is monitoring the pandas closely; however, that possibility diminishes with every passing hour.

“We are happy to get one. We can't be greedy,” she said.

Mei Xiang had given birth to three surviving cubs, Tai Shan, Bao Bao and Bei Bei, all of which returned to China in accordance with agreements between China and the US.

Mei Xiang and Tian Tian are the National Zoo's second pair of pandas. An agreement reached between the zoo and the Chinese government stipulated that the pair would live in the zoo for 10 years in exchange for \$10 million.

The current cooperative breeding agreement with the China Wildlife Conservation Association will expire in December, but Smith said the zoo is talking with colleagues in China to see if they can extend the current contract. Their conversation has been going very well, she said.

“We know that after this cub, she will be too old to have another cub, but we do know that if we can extend the agreements with this pair for another five years, we will continue to learn from these pandas. We will continue to celebrate them and educate the public and we will continue to work with our colleagues in China on other projects,” she said.

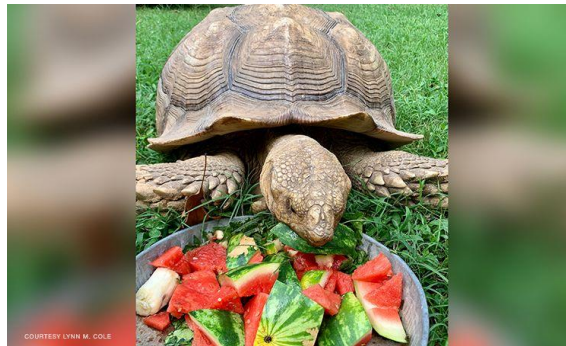
In 2016, the International Union for Conservation of Nature upgraded pandas, which are native to China, from “endangered” to “vulnerable”, after their population rose 17 percent in the decade up to 2014 due to conservation efforts.

There are only about 1,864 pandas in the wild, according to the World Wildlife Fund. Pandas International estimated that there are 600 more in captivity in panda centers, zoos and wild life parks.

# A 150-pound runaway tortoise is back home after 74 days on the lam

By David Williams, CNN

Published Aug 23, 2020 1:59:51 PM



**(CNN)** — Solomon the tortoise went on quite an adventure during an unplanned summer vacation, even though he didn't go far from home.

The 150-pound [Sulcata tortoise](#) managed to escape from his home in Ashland City, Tennessee, on June 8 and roamed around for 74 days, owner Lynn Cole told CNN.

She's had the 15-year-old tortoise since he was a hatchling the size of a ping-pong ball. He's now about 36 inches long and is still growing. Also known as the African spurred tortoise, they can live for more than 100 years.

Cole put up signs and hundreds of fliers and posted Solomon's pictures all over social media in hope that someone would find him. She reached out to zoos and animal rescue groups in the Nashville area with no luck.

Sulcata tortoises are [found in North Africa](#) along the southern edge of the Sahara Desert.

Solomon has a heated enclosure at home, and Cole was worried he wouldn't survive once the weather gets colder.

"If you knew the number of searches that were launched by ourselves, and other community groups and individuals," she said. "He just eluded our ability to spot him."

On Thursday Cole got a call from a man who said he saw Solomon at a home construction site just an eighth of a mile from her house.

She and her husband rushed to bring Solomon home.

The tortoise was tired, hungry and caked in mud, but seems to be in good health after his odyssey. He's a vegetarian and was able to eat grass, dandelions and other flowers while he was away.

She said she is taking him to the vet on Monday to be sure he's OK and is watching him like a hawk until then.

Cole said she gave Solomon a big bowl of his favorite foods once he got home, including collard greens, broccoli, cauliflower and watermelon rinds along with some bananas and carrots.

Cole isn't sure how Solomon got loose, but they've reinforced his area to keep it from happening again. She's talked to the Nashville Zoo and a local rescue group about fitting Solomon with GPS in case he does take off again.

For now, it seems that Solomon's wandering days are behind him.

"People are surprised to know that he's very attached to his humans and he's very happy to be home," she said.

*This story was first published on CNN.com, "[A 150-pound runaway tortoise is back home after 74 days on the lam.](#)"*

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/8/23/sulcata-tortoise-runaway-tennessee.html>

California fires force thousands to flee as more blazes

August 24, 2020

TITLE: feared

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DATE



Flames burn through dry grass as the LNU Lightning Complex fire moves through the area on August 19, 2020 in Winters, California. The LNU Lightning Complex fire is spread over 5 counties and has burned over 124,000 acres. The out-of-control wildfire has destroyed at least 50 homes and is zero percent contained. Justin Sullivan/Getty Images/AFP

## California fires force thousands to flee as more blazes feared

Published August 23, 2020 8:24pm

By JOCELYNE ZABLIT, Agence France-Presse

LOS ANGELES — Some of California's largest-ever fires are raging across the state, forcing tens of thousands from their homes as forecasters warned of further blazes sparked by lightning.

Several thousand lightning strikes in recent days ignited fires that left thick smoke blanketing the region on Saturday.

The total area burned for all the fires in California this week is "close to one million acres [400,000 hectares]," according to CalFire public information officer Jeremy Rahn.

"More lightning is anticipated tomorrow [Sunday] and into Tuesday—everyone must remain alert and have an evacuation plan," the agency said on Twitter.

The National Weather Service added: "With severe drought and exceptionally dry fuels present, dry thunderstorms could spark additional wildfires this weekend."

"The western US and Great Plains are shrouded under a vast area of smoke due to ongoing wildfires that extend from the Rockies to the West Coast."

About 2,600 firefighters are tackling the two largest blazes, out of 13,700 battling "nearly two dozen major fires," according to Rahn.

"If you don't believe in climate change, come to California," tweeted state Governor Gavin Newsom alongside a dramatic photograph of huge clouds of smoke rising from fires.

"This is from today. And is just a small part of the nearly 600 fires we are battling this week."

He had earlier tweeted an ABC News video showing apocalyptic images of smoldering orange roadsides thick with smoke, with sparks flying as trees burned ferociously.

Wineries in the famed Napa and Sonoma regions, which are still reeling from blazes in recent years, are under threat.

California fires force thousands to flee as more blazes

August 24, 2020

TITLE: feared

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"Many of these firefighters have been on the lines for 72 hours, and everybody is running on fumes," Assemblyman Jim Wood of the Healdsburg district in Sonoma told the Los Angeles Times.

"Our first responders are working to the ragged edge of everything they have."

### **Bodies recovered**

The two largest blazes—dubbed the SCU Lightning Complex and the LNU Lightning Complex—have burned about 660,000 acres and destroyed more than 840 structures.

The SCU fire had burned nearly 340,000 acres by early Sunday, making it the second-largest fire in California history. It was 10 percent contained.

The LNU blaze covered 325,000 acres and was the third largest in state history. It was 15 percent contained.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the 1.2 million acres burned in California in the past month is far higher than the 259,000 acres destroyed in the whole of last year. It was "an astonishing toll so early in fire season," the paper said.

Five deaths have been linked to the latest flare-ups, with four bodies recovered on Thursday, including three from a burned house in a rural area of Napa County.

But many residents have refused evacuation orders.

"At least if we're here, we know exactly what's going on," Napa resident John Newman, 68, told the San Francisco Chronicle as he sat in a lawn chair in his driveway. "Family is worried, but it's a little different if you're here firsthand."

Nature reserves were also ravaged. The Big Basin Redwoods State Park said that some of its historic buildings had been destroyed by flames.

The park, where giant redwood trees of well over 500 years old can be found, was "extensively damaged," it said.

About 119,000 people have been evacuated, with many struggling to find shelter and hesitating to go to centers set up by authorities because of coronavirus risks.

In some counties south of San Francisco, evacuees opted to sleep in trailers along the Pacific Ocean as they fled nearby fires, while tourists were urged to leave to free up accommodation.

Fire crews, surveillance equipment and other firefighting hardware was being sent from states including Oregon, New Mexico and Texas.

But faced with the sheer scope of the disaster, Newsom also asked for help from Canada and Australia, which he said had "the world's best firefighters." — **AFP**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/752578/california-fires-force-thousands-to-flee-as-more-blazes-feared/story/>



# Pagsusuot ng face mask sa mga kabataan nararapat – WHO

By [Bombo Jovino Galang](#) -August 24, 2020 | 12:00 AM

Naglabas ng panibagong guidelines at World Health Organization (WHO) sa mga bata.

Gaya sa mga may edad, dapat ang mga bata na may edad 12 pataas ay magsuot ng rin ng face mask lalo na at hindi matiyak na susunod sila sa social distancing.

Habang mga bata na may edad anim hanggang 11 ay maaaring magsuot ng face mask basta ginagabayan sila ng kanilang mga magulang.

Hindi naman kailangang magsuot pa ng face mask ang mga bata na may edad lima pababa.

Wala namang binanggit ang WHO na isagawa ang nasabing panuntunan sa mga paaralan.

Maraming paaralan naman sa United Kingdom ang pinapayagang pumasok ang mga mag-aaral ng walang face mask dahil tiniyak nila na mahigpit ang ipinapatupad nilang distancing.