

02 JANUARY 2021, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR eyes full rehab of Boracay in 5 months

By: [Jhesset O. Enano](#) - Reporter / [@JhessetEnanoINQ](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:04 AM January 01, 2021



DENR eyes full rehab of Boracay in 5 months
newsinfo.inquirer.net

4:35 AM

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is expecting to finish the full rehabilitation of Boracay Island in May, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said on Wednesday.

Cimatu said the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, which he leads, was “on track” to meet all of its targets by the time its mandate ends this year.

The government launched the rehabilitation of the resort island in 2018, after President Duterte called it a “cesspool.” Boracay was closed to tourists for six months that year for cleanup and beach clearing activities, but road and drainage improvements have continued after the island was reopened in October 2018.

Compliance

In its 2020 year-end report, the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG), the implementing arm of the task force, said the number of structures violating the easement rules on the island was down to 342, or about one-fifth of the nearly 1,570 illegal structures identified on the island. Most of the structures, both commercial establishments and residential houses, were found inside the 12-meter road easement, while more than 330 establishments were inside the beach easement limit of 25 m plus 5 m, DENR records showed.

The BIARMG reported that more than 970 structures, or 79 percent, had already complied with the 12-m road easement rule. Only 90 establishments have remained noncompliant with the beach easement limit.

Due to the enforcement of the shoreline easement rule, water quality in Boracay has improved, said Natividad Bernardino, BIARMG general manager.



DENR eyes full rehab of Boracay in 5 months

She noted that the average fecal coliform level on “White Beach,” the main beach site for tourists, was at 10 most probable number per 100 milliliters. Before Boracay’s closure two years ago, the fecal coliform level in that area was recorded at nearly 900 mpn per 100 ml. The acceptable coliform level for recreational water is 100 mpn per 100 ml.

A total of 113 illegal structures in Wetland No. 6 were also removed, relocating more than 30 indigenous families who occupied the wetland in lands awarded to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform in March.



DENR: Manila Bay cleanup on track

By [Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (Philstar.com)

- January 1, 2021 - 12:00am



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said yesterday the rehabilitation of Manila Bay continued despite restrictions in mobilizing people, especially for the cleanup, monitoring and enforcement activities.

The STAR/Edd Gumban, file

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has maintained that it made significant strides in the cleanup of Manila Bay amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said yesterday the rehabilitation of Manila Bay continued despite restrictions in mobilizing people, especially for the cleanup, monitoring and enforcement activities.

Cimatu noted that the solar-powered sewage treatment plant (STP) inaugurated in July was among the DENR's major accomplishments for the rehabilitation of the bay.

The STP is capable of treating 500,000 liters of wastewater per day from three drainage outfalls: Padre Faura, Remedios and Estero de San Antonio Abad.

“Among the priority areas for rehabilitation, a significant decrease in fecal coliform was recorded in three sites – the Baywalk area, Estero de San Antonio Abad and Baseco Beach,” Cimatu said.

Aside from the priority areas, cleanup activities were regularly conducted in creeks, esteros and river systems with an average 60 metric tons of garbage collected daily.

Dredging and desilting operations were also conducted in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Highways.



DENR: Manila Bay cleanup on track

Cimatu said the Manila Bay Task Force likewise introduced geo-engineering interventions in the bay, such as the installation of trash booms and silt curtains.

In Baseco, a circumferential sewerage interceptor was constructed and communal septic tanks were installed to minimize the direct discharge of untreated wastewater to the bay.

Recently, Project Kubeta Ko was launched at the Parola Compound in Tondo by the city government of Manila, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Maynilad Water Services Inc., Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the DENR.

The project aims to minimize open defecation in Manila Bay by informal settler families. It adopted a portable, container-based toilet solution to provide temporary sanitation facilities for ISFs prior to relocation.



DENR NAGSIMULA NANG MAGTANIM NG NILAD MANGROVE TREES SA MAYNILA BAY



January 2, 2021 @ 12:15 AM 7 hours ago

ANG Department of Environment and Natural Resources, sa pakikipagtulungan sa pamahalaan ng Maynila City, ay nagnanais na maibalik ang makasaysayang nilad mangrove trees sa Maynila Bay sa pamamagitan ng isang proyekto na susuportahan ng rehabilitasyon.

Noong Disyembre 29, 2020, pinangunahang ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang pagtanim ng nilad mangrove trees sa paligid ng BASECO lagoon bilang kick off para sa “Nilad for Maynila”, isang proyekto ng research arm NG DENR na Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB).

Layunin ng proyekto na magtanim at magpatubo muli ng nilad mangrove plant sa mga baybayin ng Maynila Bay, dahil diyan hinugot ang pangalan ng capital city ng bansa.

“Nowadays, we can hardly find nilad growing in this place. We lost nilad in Manila primarily because of massive urbanization,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Noong unang panahon, sinabi ni Cimatu, ang dalampasigan ng Maynila Bay ay nakalinya na mayroon malagong puno, kaya ang salitang Manila o Maynilad ay “may nilad” o “mayroong nilad.”

“This is what we hope to re-live in Manila to allow this generation and the future ones to also experience the beauty and bounty of the bay,” binigyan-diin ng DENR chief.

Ang mangrove o bakawan species tulad ng nilad ay may kakayahang pigilan ang carbon ng tatlo hanggang limang beses, lalo na kung ikukumpara sa kagubatan sa kabundukan.



DENR NAGSIMULA NANG MAGTANIM NG NILAD MANGROVE TREES SA MAYNILA BAY

Sa panahon na may malakas na bagyo, ang isang lugar na may masaganang mga puno ng bakawan ang poprotekta sa mga komunidad sa baybayin, laban sa bagyo dahil ang mga ito ay kumikilos bilang buffer o nagpapahina ng lakas ng kalikasan.

“This is our new project cum study on the use of nilad mangrove in re-greening the coast of the City of Manila,” sabi ni ERDB Director Henry Adornado. “It is also the ERDB’s contribution and complementary activity to the ongoing Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts of the DENR.”

Ayon kay Adornado, ang layunin ng proyekto nito ay ibalik ang nilad at palaguin ang mangroves.

Idinagdag pa niya, ang nilad ay ginagamit hindi lang laban sa polusyon sa hangin kundi nagbibigay-depensa at katatagan din sa komunidad laban sa mga alon.

Umabot sa 150 ang mga planting material na binubuo ng earth-balled nilad na nagmula pa sa probinsya ng Quezon, at ang mga kahawig nito tulad ng tawalis at ang endangered gapas-gapas, ang itinanim sa paligid ng lagoon.

“We used earth-balled materials because these have higher survival rate compared to seedlings which grow in nurseries,” sabi ni Adornado.

Bukod sa BASECO, natukoy rin ng ERDB ang iba pang mga posibleng planting sites para sa nilad.

Ito ang mga lugar sa likod ng sewage treatment facility sa Roxas Boulevard at H2o Hotel.

Naroon din sa project launch sina DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones, Manila City Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna Pangan na kumakatawan kay Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso, Manila Department of Public Services Director Kenneth Amurao, at Barangay 649, Punong barangay Diana Espinosa.



DENR to extend white beach front in Manila Bay before Jan. 29 rehab anniversary

UNTV News • January 1, 2021



MANILA, Philippines – Rehabilitation efforts in Manila Bay were put on hold towards the end of 2020 due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), not all workers were able to come to work and movement of materials was hampered by the pandemic specifically with the implementation of community quarantine restrictions especially in Metro Manila.

Nevertheless, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said coliform content or pollution level in Manila Bay has already declined.

“There was already a drastic improvement. From millions and billions, naging thousands na lang yan but we still have to determine ano iyong cause ng fluctuations,” Leones said.

This year, the agency plans to identify possible sources of contaminated water such as creeks.

He added that rehabilitation of main waterways that flows through Manila Bay such as Marikina River, Pasig River, and Tullahan River is imperative.

Currently, a total of 134 creeks have been cleaned, although there are still over 300 others in the National Capital Region (NCR), Regions 3 and 4 that need rehabilitation.

“Unless we determine ang mga possible sources ng mga discharges maliban dito sa three outfall na ginagawa natin talagang hindi natin malilinis ang water quality dyan,” Leones added.

Before the rehabilitation’s anniversary in January 29, the task force in charge of the Manila Bay rehabilitation is targeting to extend the beach where dolomite sand was first placed.

Installation of public toilets and souvenir stalls is also part of the plan.

Once coliform level reaches safe level, swimming at the beach will soon be allowed.

“Kapag na meet na natin ang standard na hundered most probable number per 100 ml so we will issue an advisory that they can swim. But for the meantime, hindi pa natin nami-meet ang quality standard so hindi pa pwedeng magswimming,” the official said. **MNP (with reports from Rey Pelayo)**



DENR NAKIPAGTULUNGAN SA ROTARY CLUB SA PAGKABIT NG 80 TRASH TRAP



January 1, 2021 @ 11:26 AM 20 hours ago

NAKIPAGTULUNGAN ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan sa Rotary Club upang makapaglagay ng trash trap sa Quezon City na layuning malinis ang mga estero.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns at Supervising Undersecretary ng Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan Benny D. Antiporda, ang trash trap ay magsisilbing “defense trap” sa basura na manggagaling sa ibang barangay.

“We cannot solve the problem in Manila Bay if we cannot solve the problem in your barangay,” sabi ni Antiporda sa ginanap na programa noong Disyembre 23, 2020 sa Multi-Purpose Court sa Barangay Quirino 2-A.

Ang 19-foot trash trap na gawa sa fish net at recycled plastic bottles ay inilagay sa Buaya Creek sa Barangay Quirino 2-A.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na ang Rotary Club districts ay malaki ang naibabahagi sa pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng pamamahagi ng trash traps sa iba’t ibang lugar, ilan sa mga ito ay bahagi ng DENR’s Enhanced Adopt-An-Estero Waterbody Project.

Hinikayat din ni Antiporda ang mga residente na pinamumuan ni Chairman Noel Agdeppa na makibahagi hindi lamang sa tree planting bagkus ay sa pangangalaga nito upang matiyak ang paglaki ng puno.

Mahigit sa 80 trash trap ang ilalagay sa mga natukoy na sapa sa Quezon City.

Isa sa mga ito ang ikinabit sa Barangay Novaliches Proper noong Setyembre 21, 2019.

Kabilang naman sa mga dumalo sa aktibidad ay sina Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan Executive Director at Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Assistant Director Maria Matilda A. Gaddi, Rene Madarang ng Rotary District International 3780, dating EMB Regional Director



DENR NAKIPAGTULUNGAN SA ROTARY CLUB SA PAGKABIT NG 80 TRASH TRAP

Engineer Roberto Sheen ng Rotary Club of Diliman Silangan at Chi Armenta ng Rotary Club ng Cubao.

Nakiisa rin sa proyekto sina Barangay Novaliches Proper Kagawad Enrique Anonuevo, Kagawad Elena Quinto, iba pang opisyal ng barangay ng Quirino 2-A at mga estero ranger.

“Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan,” saad pa ni Antiporda “that’s why we need to take care of our environment.”



DENR eyes 300 landfills in 2 years

Published December 30, 2020, 4:36 PM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) revealed Wednesday that it aims to build 300 more sanitary landfills (SLFs) in the country by 2022.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda noted that through a public-private partnership, the move is designed to further improve the country's management of solid waste materials.

"Ambitious as it may seem to be as a target, but we shall aim to establish 300 SLFs by the end of 2022," said Antiporda.

Antiporda noted that SLF remains the primary long-term method of solid waste disposal allowed under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The DENR official made the statement during the hybrid consultation meeting with SLF operators, which combined face-to-face and teleconferencing recently.

Some 21 SLF operators were present during the meeting, either personal or via Zoom.

Antiporda said the meeting was aimed at closer collaboration among SLF operators, LGUs, and the DENR, through the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), where he sits as alternate of Environment Secretary and NSWMC Chair Roy A. Cimatu.

There are currently 189 SLFs in operation servicing 399 LGUs across the country.

However, Antiporda lamented that "the number of SLFs remains small 20 years after RA 9003 took effect."

During the consultation meeting, Antiporda called on the SLF operators to look into the viability of offering their facilities to LGUs with illegal dumpsites in anticipation of an aggressive campaign by the DENR to close these down starting January.



Labor dept beneficiaries enlisted for bamboo planting



By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)

January 2, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has partnered with 100 beneficiaries of the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) to plant bamboo along riverbanks.

Planting bamboo along riverbanks has many environmental benefits because they function as carbon sinks, produce oxygen, control soil erosion, provide organic matter, regulate water levels in watersheds, conserve biodiversity and beautify the landscape, among others.

According to DENR Region 2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan, the 100 individuals are beneficiaries of DoLE's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged (Tupad) who will participate in bamboo planting along the riverbanks of flood-prone areas of Tuguegarao City and the towns of Alcala, Gattaran and Enrile.

Bambalan said the bamboo planting program kicked off on December 18 along the riverbanks in Barangays Cataggaman Viejo and Larion Alto in Tuguegarao City with Dole Region 2 Director Evelyn Ramos, City Mayor Jefferson Soriano and Social Welfare and Development Assistant Region 2 Director Lucia Alan attending the event. Planting in Alcala, Gattaran and Enrile towns started the following day.

A memorandum of agreement on the joint activity was signed that marked the celebration of the 21st charter anniversary of Tuguegarao City.

Committed to supporting the rehabilitation of Cagayan River, Soriano expressed his gratitude to the national government agencies involved. "This marks the launch of the city government's 'One Million Trees of Tuguegarao Project,' which include the planting of bamboos and natives species."

Bambalan explained that one of the interventions proposed under the Build Back Better Program under Executive Order 120 is riverbank stabilization through the planting of bamboo and other suitable species within the easement areas of the Cagayan River and its tributaries.

She said government agencies are now working together to restore the natural defenses of the Cagayan River and the Cagayan Valley region, urging residents and Tupad beneficiaries to protect the bamboos they will plant.

"Let us take good care of the bamboo because it is not only a flood protection but also for food and livelihood," Bambalan said.

As the lead agency in the activity, Bambalan said the DENR has identified families and displaced workers living within or adjacent to the easement areas of Cagayan River and its tributaries in initiating the planting activity and maintenance.



Labor dept beneficiaries enlisted for bamboo planting

She added the DENR has provided the bamboo seedlings for planting and trained concerned local government units in the implementation of sustainable environment and natural resource management interventions within the Cagayan River.

The DoLE also provided financial assistance in the form of daily subsidy to the selected planters for 14 days while the DSWD provided food packs to the planters, and allocated funds for necessary and urgent projects within the Cagayan River under its Risk Resiliency Program–Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation program.

Bambalan said the Tuguegarao City government was tasked to provide technical, financial and legislative support to the initiatives, and took charge of clearing obstructions such as illegal encroachments within the Cagayan River and the river easements with the assistance of concerned agencies.

She added that concerned barangays will conduct periodic maintenance and protection activities of planted seedlings and submit reports to the nearest community DENR office of any disturbance and the need for replanting.



On leasing paradise

By: [Sara Mae Mawis-Klasen](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 12:14 AM January 02, 2021

“There is pleasure in the pathless woods, there is rapture in the lonely shore, there is society where none intrudes, by the deep sea, and music in its roar; I love not Man the less, but Nature more,” said Lord Byron, an English poet.

I basked in the warmth of the sun and melted into the clear blue saltwater. That day, my father turned 60. My family and I celebrated this milestone by retreating into the lush and tranquil Lio Beach, El Nido, Palawan.

In its website, Lio Beach promises “endless possibilities with every visit—from exciting activities, culture and nature encounters, unique shopping and dining experiences, to peaceful retreats and relaxing accommodations.”

On that day, and most likely for months, however, it is slowly picking up from the devastating effects of the new coronavirus disease. Most shops and restaurants were closed, while guests barely filled the welcoming hotels—a far cry from the crowded and lively Lio Beach in December of any year.

Nevertheless, Lio Beach continues to live up to its name as an eco-conscious and low-impact tourism estate. Trash was nowhere in sight, while domesticated and wild animals freely roamed around the premises. Foreshore remained an oasis for weary swimmers and tanning addicts under the watchful eyes of the estate’s security personnel and staff.

The Philippine Fisheries Code defines foreshore land as a string of land margining a body of water; the part of a seashore between the low-water line usually at the seaward margin of a low tide terrace and the upper limit of wave wash at high tide usually marked by a beach scarp or berm. Meanwhile, in its Administrative Order No. 2004-24, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) defines foreshore as that part of the shore, which is alternately covered and uncovered by the ebb and flow of the tide.

Foreshore in other parts of the Philippines may not be as idle and peaceful as that in Lio Beach. In its orientation on foreshore-related applications, the DENR found that foreshore is often used for maintaining, among others, wharves, piers, fish canneries, recreational places and residential, commercial and industrial estates.

Pursuant to Commonwealth Act (CA) No. 141, foreshore may be the subject of a Foreshore Lease Agreement (FLA) between the DENR and its applicant so that the latter may occupy, develop, utilize and manage the same. Under the Constitution, this lease will be for a period of 25 years and renewable for not more than 25 years, at the government’s option.

A FLA may be entered into upon the filing of the necessary application by any qualified Filipino citizen or a private corporation, association or partnership duly constituted under Philippine laws, at least 60 percent of whose capital is owned by Filipino citizens. Thereafter, the relevant Community Environment & Natural Resources Office (Cenro) shall inventory and survey the foreshore to determine its existing or appropriate uses, availability of open areas, extent of the area and the number of settlers.



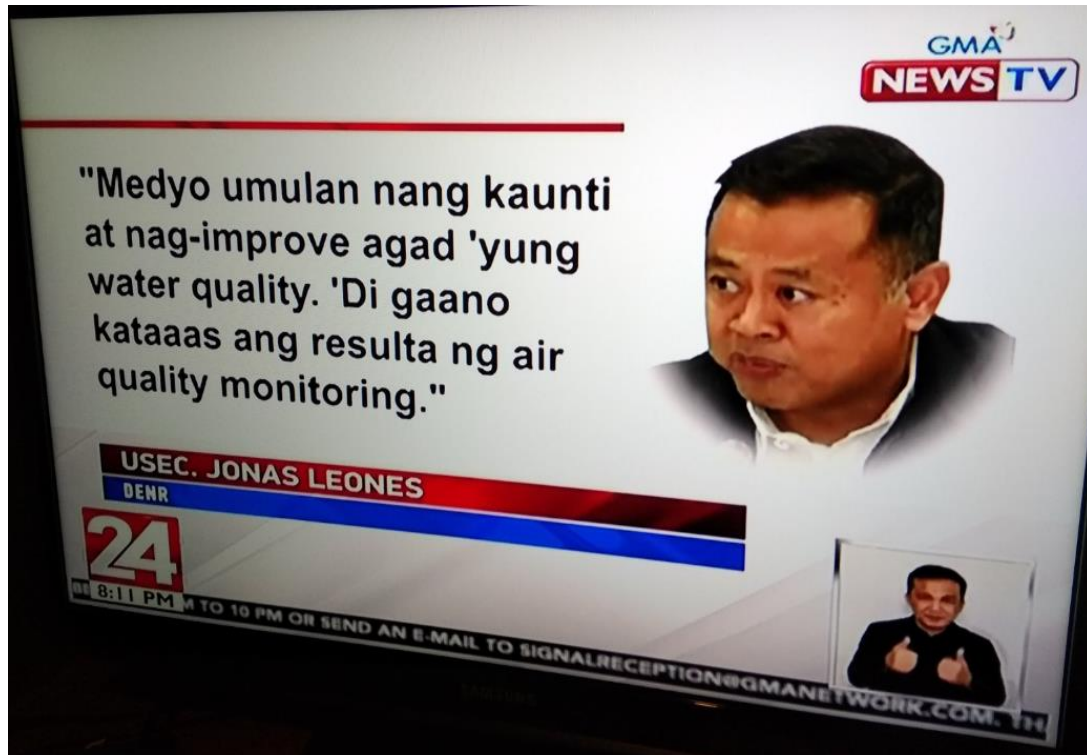
On leasing paradise

The owner of the property adjoining the foreshore shall be given preference to apply within 60 days from receipt of the corresponding “Notice of Preferential Rights.”

Upon being granted the foreshore lease, the applicant must comply with the terms of the FLA and, among others: (a) shall not assign, encumber or sublet his rights therein without the prior consent issued by the relevant DENR official; (b) shall not assign, encumber or sublet the foreshore to persons or entities not otherwise authorized under CA No. 141; (c) subject its projects to the Environmental Impact Assessment System; (d) strictly implement the approved development plan; and (e) pay the annual rent.

The FLA may be cancelled on the following grounds: (a) violation of the provisions of CA No. 141 regarding foreshore lands and the above-mentioned conditions; and (b) failure to pay rent for two consecutive years.

Upon the expiry or termination of the FLA, all buildings and other permanent improvements made by the applicant-lessee, his heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns shall accrue to the government.





Impact of Covid and the climate crisis will continue to banner 2021



By [Ludwig O. Federigan](#)

January 2, 2021

As a new year unfolds, the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) andemic, the environmental challenges, and the long-term impacts of climate change will continue to manifest, according to the 2021 Global Risk Forecast.

The 2021 Global Risk Forecast is an annual risk intelligence forecast that evaluates various threats that impact countries, organizations, and people. Published by the Crisis24, a GardaWorld company, it is one of the world's leading risk management companies.

In a statement, the report said that while 2020 divulged the fragility of our global systems of trade, travel, hospitality and medicine, among others, the year 2021 offers the opportunity to be ready to get back to work in earnest in both traditional and novel ways.

Part of the Global Risk Forecast 2021, the Environment Assessment Rating – an assessment of the impact of environmental factors – classified the Philippines as “moderate” where “environment hazards pose some challenges to the operating environment.” It also includes assessing seismic events, extreme weather and climate conditions, and the impact of man-made hazards such as industrial pollutants and industrial accidents.

The 10 most expensive climate events cost over \$145B

While we welcome 2021 with opportunity, we will inherit the perils of 2020. Without mentioning that the Covid-19 pandemic unleashed global social, geopolitical, and economic disruptions, wildfires, windstorms, cyclone climate

s and floods – characterized the ten most financially-devastating climate events in 2020.

Over \$145 billion in losses and damages – estimates based on insured losses – and killed over 3,400 people, these climate-related disastrous events touched almost every part of the planet and brought catastrophic results to millions of people.

Based on the report titled “Counting the cost 2020: A Year of Climate Breakdown” released by a United Kingdom-based charity organization, Christian Aid, a few days ago, it summarizes the top 10 events whose financial costs are worth over \$1.5 billion:

1. The Australian bushfires that started in late 2019 affected more than 18 million hectares. It destroyed thousands of buildings, killed more than a billion wild animals, and caused at least 34 deaths. The smoke from the fires that traveled long distances affected millions of people. The total cost of damage, included smoke-related health issues, has been estimated at \$5 billion. Other estimates have put the total as high as \$70 billion.



Impact of Covid and the climate crisis will continue to banner 2021

2. The locust invasion in East African countries such as Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda in the first half of 2020 destroyed crops, trees and pastures, and threatened food security. Considered one of the worst outbreaks, the World Bank estimated crop losses could amount to \$8.5 billion to include other economic, human and environmental impacts.
3. Windstorms or extra-tropical cyclones hit Europe. Windstorms Ciara and Alex have combined damage amounting to more than \$5.9 billion. Total deaths reached 30 in eight countries.
4. The Bay of Bengal, one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change, experienced one of the strongest storms on record. Cyclone "Amphan" killed at least 128 people and brought more than \$13 billion in losses in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.
5. The Atlantic hurricane season with 30 named storms hit the United States and Central America – mostly in Honduras and Guatemala – have a combined cost of \$41 billion and at least 400 fatalities.
6. China, one of the countries with the highest risk of floods, experienced intense floods that affected more than 35 million people, most of them from the densely-populated Yangtze River basin, including the provinces of Sichuan and Guizhou, and the city of Chongqing. The cost has been estimated at \$32 billion and left at least 278 dead or missing.
7. Extreme rainfall due to the monsoon season caused floods and landslides in India. It is the second consecutive year India experienced abnormally high rainfall during the monsoon season. Between June and October last year, total damage amounted to \$10 billion and at least 2,067 deaths.
8. In Kyushu Island in Japan, whose rainfall pattern has been changing over the last decades, the record-breaking extreme rains caused floods and landslides in July 2020 that brought 82 deaths and estimated damage of more than \$8.5 billion. More than 250,000 people evacuated.
9. Like any other developing country, Pakistan, which contributed little to climate change, experienced heavy rains during the monsoon season that caused 410 deaths and damage estimated at more than \$1.5 billion.
10. The United States, which officially withdrew from the Paris Agreement in November 2020, was hit with one of the most destructive wildfires on the West coast. More than 8 million acres of land were burned across California, Colorado, Arizona, Washington, and Oregon, and caused damages amounting to \$20 billion. Forty-two people died.

The Philippines had its share of climate-related disasters in 2020. Typhoons "Rolly" (international name "Goni") and "Ulysses" (international name "Vamco") were the two most damaging tropical cyclones that underwent "rapid intensification" – the process by which tropical cyclones increase their strength in short periods of time and that is becoming more common due to global warming. These two typhoons that happened just weeks apart killed 97 people and delivered over half-a-billion dollars in losses and damages.



Impact of Covid and the climate crisis will continue to banner 2021

The magnitude of the climate crisis through these catastrophic events clearly shows that climate-related risks exempt no one.

As the world looks forward to the efficient roll out and distribution of a vaccine for the Covid-19 pandemic, the vaccine available to prevent further disasters and, at the same time, address the climate crisis is to act with urgency in cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Countries can achieve this by enhancing their ambitions and accelerating climate action.

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum and a Non-Resident Fellow of Stratbase ADR Institute. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) and an executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University (USA). You can email him at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.



Hold on to hope for COVID-19 cure, protection of environment and human rights –Pabillo

Published December 31, 2020, 7:05 PM
[by Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

As the pandemic-affected Filipino nation welcomes 2021, Manila Archdiocese's Apostolic Administrator Bishop Broderick Pabillo has asked all Filipinos, especially the Catholic faithful to hold on to hope for a "transparent and equitable cure" to the COVID-19, for a "no-nonsense response to the climate emergency", and "for respect to human rights and human life for everyone."



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

He said aside from the pandemic crisis, everyone should equally give due attention to the preservation and protection of environment, and of human rights and human life.

"Let our attention not only be focused on the coronavirus and its various strains. The climate emergency is still upon us. The new lifestyle that the new situation calls us to reject unbridled commercialism and the throw away culture. It should be more caring for the earth," Pabillo said in his New Year's message.

"Human right should also not be set aside. There cannot be a better future if human rights and human life are not respected and valued," he added.

The Catholic Church leader even took a swipe at the supposed non-transparent use of COVID-19 vaccines by some Cabinet offices and presidential guards.

"There are glimmers of hope for 2021 in the horizon. Everybody is speaking of the vaccine and how it can be effectively delivered to all, first and foremost, to the frontrunners and the vulnerable. Unfortunately, the news of government people already getting the vaccine surreptitiously and without undergoing the transparent process does not abode of a good beginning," he said.



PAGKAISAHANG LUPIGIN ANG KRISIS, KAHIRAPAN, KAGULUHAN SA BAGONG TAON



January 1, 2021 @ 3:46 PM 15 hours ago

BAGONG Taon muli at gaya ng dapat nating gawin, hindi tayo magpapatalo sa mga nagpapalubog sa atin sa kumunoy ng malawakang krisis, kahirapan at kaguluhan.

Sa halip, naririyang ang pagtataas ng ating mga paa upang humakbang o lumundag tungo sa pagbabago o pag-ahon mula sa nasabing mga problema.

Subalit dapat maging malinaw ang mga pinag-uugatan ng mga problema upang makahakbang o makalundag tayo nang tama at makapunta sa gusto nating puntahan na kalayaan mula sa krisis, kahirapan at kaguluhan.

PINAKAGRABENG KALAGAYAN

Pinakamatindi ang pagsulpot ng isang taon nang problema sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 na maaaring magtagal pa ng kung ilang buwan o kaya'y isang taon pa.

Grabe talaga ang idinulot nitong krisis sa kabuhayan at sikmura sa milyon-milyong mamamayan sa ilang buwan at hanggang ngayon, marami pa rin ang nakararanas ng nasabing mga krisis dahil sa pagkawala ng trabaho at kaunting pinagkakakitaan.

Nagkandalugi-lugi rin, lalo na ang mga maliliit na negosyante, at hindi nila alam kung kailan muli sila makababangon o makapagsisimula muli sa pagkasimot ng kanilang mga capital.

Kasama sa hirap at gutom ang milyon-milyong pamilyang OFW na nawalan ng padala mula sa nag-abroad nilang miyembro ng pamilya na nawalan din ng pagkakitaan sa mga bansang kinalalagan nila.

Daang libo na nga rin ang umuwi nang wala ni anomang dala kahit man lang pasalubong sa mga paslit nilang supling.



PAGKAISAHANG LUPIGIN ANG KRISIS, KAHIRAPAN, KAGULUHAN SA BAGONG TAON

Naapektuhan din mismo ang mga malalaking negosyante, ang ilan ay tuluyang nagsara, lalo na ang mga nabubuhay sa utang.

Ang pamahalaan dumapa rin sa hirap sa pangongolekta ng buwis mula sa taumbayan at kompanya.

Ang ibang bansa, hindi rin nakatulong dahil dumapa rin ang kanilang ekonomiya.

NANGANAK DIN NG KAGULUHAN

Dati-rati, may mga tigil-putukan tuwing sumasapit ang Kapaskuhan.

Karaniwang nagbibigayan ang pamahalaan at rebeldeng komunista para sa pagkakaroon ng tigil-putukan ngunit sa taong ito, tuloy-tuloy ang giyera.

May paniniwala sa hanay ng mga rebelde na sa panahon ng krisis sa COVID-19, ang mga kakulangan o kabiguan ng pamahalaan sa pagkalinga sa mga mamamayan ay isang malaking pagkakataon na maisulong nila ang kanilang paniniwala na sila ang makapaghahatid ng tunay na pagbabago at ginhawa sa mga mamamayan.

May paniniwala rin silang makakabig nila ang simpatya ng mamamayan na maging pwersa nila sa kanilang balak na pagpapabagsak sa pamahalaan sa mga kalunsuran at kanayunan.

Ang mga terorista, dumami rin ang kanilang mga pangkat na naghahasik ng kaguluhan at kamatayan para sa kanilang mga pansariling interes, kabilang na ang pangarap nilang magkaroon ng sariling sakop na teritoryo ng bansang Pilipinas.

Naririyang din ang pagsasamantala ng mga politiko, lalo na ang mga nasa oposisyon na nakatuon ang mga mata sa halalang 2022.

Kahit maliit na bagay, kanilang pinalalaki para lang makalikha ng pagkayamot ng mga naniniwala sa kanila at wala pang paninindigan at magkaroon ng epekto sa botohang 2022.

MGA HAKBANGIN

Malaking kalutasan sa pangkalahatang problema sa krisis, gutom at kaguluhan ang pagkakaroon natin ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Pero magandang sipatin ang pagbabakuna at masasabi nating hindi tayo dapat magmadali kundi magpahinog ng pagkakataon para rito.

Si Margaret Keenan na sinasabing kauna-unahang binakunahan ng Pinay nurse na si May Parsons noong Disyembre 8, 2020 sa labas ng clinical trial ay muling tinurukan ng ikalawang bakuna na gawang Pfizer/bioNTech nitong Dis. 29 at isusunod na ang iba pang kasama niyang nabakunahan.

Pinalipas ng United Kingdom ang 21 araw bago muling binakunahan si Keenan.



PAGKAISAHANG LUPIGIN ANG KRISIS, KAHIRAPAN, KAGULUHAN SA BAGONG TAON

Sumunod na ring nagbakuna ang United States at Canada at ngayo'y may 50 bansa na mula sa mahigit 218 bansa na pinasok ng pandemya ang nagsimula nang magbakuna rin.

Nauna rito, nagbabakuna na ang China ng milyon-milyong mamamayan nila gamit ang mga sarili nilang gawang bakuna at sumabay naman ang Russia sa nasabing tatlong bansa.

Ang UAE at Bahrain na sari-sari ang mga taong nakatira gaya ng libo-libong overseas Filipino worker, inaprubahan ang mga gawang Amerika, Europa at China na bakuna at nagbabakuna na rin.

Katwiran ng dalawang bansa, kung epektibo at ligtas ang pagbabakuna sa kanila, ligtas din sa iba pang bansa ang bakunang ginagamit nila ngayon.

Inaaprubahan na rin sa Chile at Brazil ang mga gawang China na Sinovac vaccine bagama't sa Brazil, pinupulitika ito ng maglalabang maging Pangulo sa susunod nilang presidential elections.

Bumili na rin ang Bolivia at Argentina ng Sputnik 5 ng Russia habang balak na ring gagawa ang Turkey ng Sputnik 5 na bakuna makaraang bumili ng 50 milyong dosage ng bakunang gawang China.

TAMANG HINDI MAGPADALOS-DALOS

Kung iisipin, tama lang na hindi nagpapadalos-dalos ang pamahalaang Duterte sa pagbili ng bakuna.

Ang pinag-uusapan kasi rito na napakahalaga ay kung ligtas at epektibo ang mga bakuna.

Ayon sa US Food and Drugs Administration, pasado ang isang bakuna kung 50 porsyento itong epektibo at kung mapatutunayang ligtas makaraan ang pagbabakuna.

Giit naman ng World Health Organization, pasado rin ang 50% na epektibo pero hangga't maaari paabutin ito sa 70 porsyento at kasama na rin ang pagiging ligtas ang mga ito.

Ang gawang China na nasa 80%, ang Pfizer/bioNTech na nasa 90% epektibo, Moderna na gawa ring US na nasa 95% epektibo at Sputnik 5 na nasa 95% ay pawang mga pasado sa pamantayan ng USFDA at WHO.

Sa patakaran ng USFDA at WHO, kung grabe talaga ang nagaganap na COVID-19 sa isang bansa, pwede nang gamitin ang 50% epektibo bilang pamigil sa pagkalat ng pandemya, pamigil sa pagkakaospital at pamigil sa kamatayan.

Para sa Pilipinas, problema na lang ngayon ang presyo at kung paano iingatan ang mga mabibiling bakuna dahil may mga bakuna rito na kinakailangang ilagay sa -70 degrees celcius na lamig na katumbas ng dry ice (gaya ng mga gawang Amerikano) upang hindi masira.



PAGKAISAHANG LUPIGIN ANG KRISIS, KAHIRAPAN, KAGULUHAN SA BAGONG TAON

Ang iba pang mga bakuna ay pwedeng ilagay sa ordinaryong malamig na sisidlan para hindi rin masira sa biyahe at warehouse bago makarating sa mga mababakunahan.

Kaya naman, maghinay-hinay lang tayo para sa huli, ang magkakambal na kakayahan nating bumili at kalidad ng bakuna ang mapagsama na magamit natin sa pagbabakuna.

DENGVAXIA SCANDAL 'DI DAPAT MAULIT

Para sa ULTIMATUM, inilatag ni Pang. Digong ang tamang hakbangin at patakaran sa pagbili ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Tinanggihan nitong sumubo sa alok ng mga hindi pinangalang kompanya ng gamot na magbigay ang gobyerno ng advance payment para masiguro ang pagkakaroon ng mahal kong Pinas ng bakuna.

Tinanggihan ni Pang. Digong ang alok para hindi masayang ang salaping bayan kung papalpak ang mga nag-alok na kompanya at magkaroon ang Pinas ng tamang panahon para sa pagbili ng bakunang mapatutunayang ligtas at epektibo.

Nang inalok sa pamahalaang Benigno Aquino III ang bakunang Dengvaxia, sinasabing nagmaniobra at nagkandarapa pa ang mga opisyal dito para sa paglalabas ng P3.5 bilyon para mabili ang bakuna.

Hayun, nagkandamatay-matay ang maraming nabakunahang bata, ayon kay Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Acosta at nakademanda ngayon ng mga kasong kriminal ang mga opisyal ni Aquino.

Iniiimbestigahan at may kaso ring isinampa kaugnay ng mga maniobra sa paglalabas ng salapi mula sa iba't ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan gaya ng PhilHealth para rito.

Pero ang isang iskandalong napakalaki ay ang pagtuturok ng Dengvaxia sa mga inosenteng bata na halos isang milyon mula sa mga pampublikong paaralan nang walang balita na nagpaturok muna ang mga taong Aquino para makita ang epekto ng bakuna.

Hayun nga at mahigit 100 bata ang namatay sa Dengvaxia na napatunayan ng PAO mula sa iniiimbestigahan pang 600 patay.

Limang taon ang pag-oobserba sa mga nabakunahang bata mula sa mga taong 2016-2017 === kung mamamatay o magkakasakit sila nang grabe.

Si Dr. Janette Garin na noo'y Secretary of Health ang nagturok ng kauna-unahang pagbabakuna sa bata na sinuotan ng yellow t-shirt na may tatak na "Dengue is dangerous."

Ngayon naman, inunang mabakunahan ang mga sundalo at pulis na miyembro ng Presidential Security Group at nagbabantay kay Pang. Digong ng bakunang laban sa COVID-19 para rito ma-testing ang mga bakuna kung nakamamatay o epektibo.



PAGKAISAHANG LUPIGIN ANG KRISIS, KAHIRAPAN, KAGULUHAN SA BAGONG TAON

Napakagandang hakbang ito sa halip na unahing mabakunahan ang mga health care worker, senior citizen, mahihhirap at guro at mga mag-aaral.

Maituturing na isang malaking sakripisyo ang ginawa ng mga PSG at ilang senador, kongresman at miyembrong gabinete na nabalitaan na ring nagpaturok dahil isinalang muna nila ang kanilang mga sarili sa panganiib sa halip na isalang ang muna ang iba, lalo na ang mga inosenteng bata.

Sa ngayon, ang ligalidad at iligalidad sa pagpapasok at paggamit ng COVID-19 vaccine ang pinagtutuunan ng mga noo'y nagpakalat ng Dengvaxia.

Pero inaasahan nating maitutuwid ang lahat sa oras na napatunayan nang epektibo at hindi mapanganib ang mga bakunang ginamit at may dahilan na ang pamahalaan ng pagpili ng mga epektibo at ligtas na bakuna at pagbili sa abot-kayang halaga.

Ang sagot sa malawakang krisis, kagutuman at kaguluhan?

Tiyak na darating ang panahon ng hindi na mapasusubaliang epektibo at ligtas na bakuna bilang malaking bahagi ng kasagutan sa nasabing tanong.

Ngunit may mahahalaga pang ibang usapin at kabilang dito ang sana'y aktibong partisipasyon ng mga mamamayan sa giyera sa pandemya.

Naririyang pa rin dapat ang pagsunod natin sa mga minimum na health protocol gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield, social distancing, pagiging malinis lalo na sa kamay, pag-iwas sa mga kulob na lugar at pagtulong sa contact tracing sa mga tinatamaan at iba pa.

Tiyak ding mababawasan ang dahilan ng mga kritiko ng pamahalaan na politiko, komunista at terorista para siraan o kaya'y pabagsakin ang kasalukuyang pamahalaan.

Pero mas maganda sana, hindi ba magagawa ng mga kritiko ang makipagtulungan sa pamahalaan upang higit na malakas ang laban sa pandemya at iba pang mga problema, gaya ng bagsak nating ekonomiya, para sa kapakanan ng sambayanan?



1,765 new cases bring COVID total to 475k

President formally extends GCQ in NCR, 7 other areas
posted January 01, 2021 at 07:28 pm
by [Willie Casas](#)

The Philippines started the New Year with coronavirus cases on the rise, as the Department of Health logged on Friday 1,765 new cases, bringing the total to 475,820.

While the daily tally saw a dip that went down to less than 1,000 from December 27 to 29, it has gone back up again to under 2,000 as regularly logged in December.

The slump in COVID numbers has been attributed to fewer people being tested and some laboratories closing for the holidays.

“Eight labs were not able to submit their data to the COVID-19 Data Repository System (CDRS) on December 31, 2020,” read the DOH COVID-19 Case Bulletin #293.

The department also reported 26,677 active cases, which is 5.6 percent of the total number of cases. Of the active cases, 81.9 percent are mild cases; 9.8 percent are asymptomatic; 5.1 percent are critical; 2.7 percent are severe; and 0.44 percent are moderate.

It also reported that 106 persons recovered recently, bringing the total recoveries to 439,895, which is 92.4 percent of the total.

The DOH also reported four new fatalities, bringing the death toll to 9,248, which is 1.94 percent of the total. It also reported that 9 duplicates that were removed from the total case count, as seven recovered cases have been removed.

Both the DOH and the OCTA Research team said a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country was likely during and after the holiday season.

GCQ formally extended

Duterte eased quarantine restrictions in Isabela province and Iloilo City, which were both on the GCQ list he announced last Monday.

Meanwhile, President Rodrigo Duterte has extended the general community quarantine classification for the National Capital Region and seven other areas until the end of January, Malacañang said on Friday.

The rest of the country was placed under the modified general community quarantine.

The following areas will be under GCQ until January 31, according to the statement released by Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque: Metro Manila, Santiago City, Batangas, Tacloban City, Iligan City, Lanao del Sur, Davao City, and Davao del Norte.

Duterte earlier said the restriction was to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which experts said could surge after the holiday gatherings.

Metro Manila, which accounts for about a third of the country's gross domestic product, has been under GCQ since August, with stricter lockdowns enforced in earlier months as COVID-19 infections rose.

Topics: [Philippines](#) , [COVID-19](#) , [tally](#) , [Department of Health](#) , [New Year](#) , [COVID-19 Data Repository System](#)



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque on the additional measures to address the COVID-19 new variant

By OPS Published on January 1, 2021

MANILA, Jan. 1 -- The Office of the President, upon the joint recommendation of the Department of Health and the Department of Foreign Affairs, included the United States of America (US) as among the countries subject to travel restrictions.

In this regard, foreign passengers coming from the US, or who have been to the US within 14 days preceding arrival in the Philippines, shall be prohibited from entering the country effective January 3, 2021, 12:01AM, Manila time, until January 15, 2021.

On the other hand, effective immediately, passengers coming from the US, or who have been to the US within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, arriving before January 3, 2021, 12:01AM, Manila time, shall be allowed to enter the Philippines. However, they shall be required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period, even if they obtain a negative RT-PCR test result.

Also, effective immediately, Filipino citizens coming from the US, or who have been to the US, within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, including those arriving January 3, 2021, 12:01AM, Manila time, shall be allowed to enter the Philippines. However, they shall be required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period, even if they obtain a negative RT-PCR test result.

Further, the Office of the President provided the following rules to Filipino and foreign passengers merely transiting through a country covered by travel restrictions:

A. All passengers, Filipinos or foreigners alike, merely transiting through any of the countries covered by the Memorandum of the Executive Secretary, dated 29 December 2020, and other succeeding memos, shall not be deemed as having come from or having been to that country, provided the passengers stayed in the airport the whole time and they were not cleared for entry by the immigration authorities of the said country covered by our travel restrictions.

B. The abovementioned passengers (in A) who arrive in the Philippines are not required to complete a 14-day facility-based quarantine and may be allowed home quarantine after getting a negative RT-PCR test result at point of entry.

C. Transiting foreign passengers who left the airport or were cleared for entry into the country covered by our travel restrictions shall be prohibited from entering the Philippines.

D. Transiting Filipino citizens who left the airport or were cleared for entry into the country covered by our travel restrictions shall be allowed to enter the Philippines. However, they shall be required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period, even if they obtain a negative RT-PCR test result. (OPS)



Covid-19: New variant 'raises R number by up to 0.7'

Published
6 hours ago

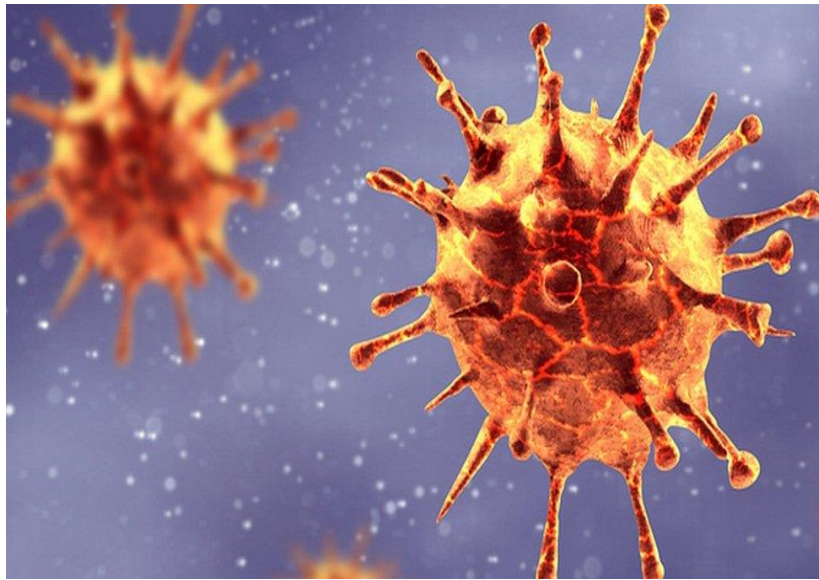


IMAGE COPYRIGHTGETTY IMAGES

image caption Researchers have been tracking changes to the "spike" of the virus

The new variant of Covid-19 is "hugely" more transmissible than the virus's previous version, a study has found.

It concludes the new variant increases the [Reproduction or R number](#) by between 0.4 and 0.7.

The UK's latest R number has been estimated at between 1.1 and 1.3. It needs to be below 1.0 for the number of cases to start falling.

Prof Axel Gandy of London's Imperial College said the differences between the viruses types was "quite extreme".

"There is a huge difference in how easily the variant virus spreads," he told BBC News. "This is the most serious change in the virus since the epidemic began," he added.

The Imperial College study suggests transmission of the new variant tripled during England's November lockdown while the previous version was reduced by a third.

Cases of Covid-19 have begun to increase rapidly during the second spike, and the number of cases recorded in a single day reached a new high on Thursday.

Early results indicated that the virus was spreading more quickly among under-20s, particularly among secondary school age children.

But the very latest data indicates that it was spreading quickly across all age groups, according to Prof Gandy who was a member of the research team.

"One possible explanation is that the early data was collected during the time of the November lockdown where schools were open and the activities of the adult population were more

Covid-19: New variant 'raises R number by up to 0.7'

restricted. We are seeing now that the new virus has increased infectiousness across all age groups."

Tougher restrictions

Prof Jim Naismith, of Oxford University, said he believed that the new findings indicated that even tougher restrictions would soon be needed.

"The data from Imperial represent the best analysis to date and imply that the measures we have employed to date, would - with the new virus - fail to reduce the R number to below 1.

"In simpler terms, unless we do something different the new virus strain is going to continue to spread, more infections, more hospitalisations and more deaths."

The R number is the average number of people an infected person infects. If it is above 1 the epidemic is growing.



Analysis
By Pallab Ghosh
Science correspondent

The most chilling finding from this piece of research is that the November lockdown in England, hard though it was for many people, would not have stopped the variant form of the virus spreading. The same severe restrictions that saw cases of the previous version of the virus fall by a third, would see a tripling of the new variant. This is why there has been such a sudden tightening of restrictions across the country.

It is unclear whether the current restrictions will be enough to control the spread of the virus. Given the fact that it has taken two lockdowns to stop the earlier version of the virus overwhelming the NHS, many scientists fear that further tightening will be necessary.

Infection levels will begin to drop as enough people are vaccinated. But until then it is now more important than ever for people to follow social distancing guidelines, wear masks where required and to regularly wash their hands.

The new year brings with it hope of a more normal life in the next few months but also a new form of the virus that all of us will have to combat in the coming days and weeks.



Covid-19: New variant 'raises R number by up to 0.7'

Professor Lawrence Young, of Warwick University, said early indications suggested that vaccines would be effective against the new form of the virus.

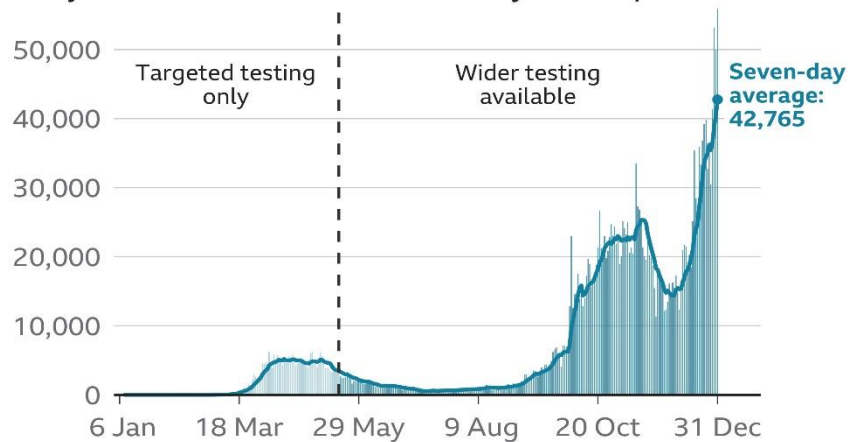
"Variants virus have been around since the beginning of the pandemic and are a product of the natural process by which viruses develop and adapt to their hosts as they replicate.

"Most of these mutations have no effect on the behaviour of the virus but very occasionally they can improve the ability of the virus to infect and/or become more resistant to the body's immune response."

Further research is needed to understand why the variant is spreading so quickly. But early indications are that vaccines should be effective against it.

Daily confirmed cases hits new record

Daily confirmed coronavirus cases by date reported



Source: Gov.uk dashboard, updated to 31 Dec 09:00 GMT



The new virus has been designated "Variant of Concern 202012/01" or VOC by Public Health England.

It was detected in November and thought to have originated in the south-east England in September.

There is no evidence to suggest that it is more deadly, but it will increase the number of cases which in turn will add further pressure on the NHS.

The variant can now be found across the UK, except Northern Ireland, but it is heavily concentrated in London, as well as south-east and eastern England.



Rain and thunderstorms expected over Quezon, Bicol Region, MIMAROPA

Published January 1, 2021 5:35pm
By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

The Tail-end of a Frontal System is expected to bring cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms over the Bicol and MIMAROPA Regions, and over Quezon province, according to PAGASA's Friday afternoon forecast.

In its 24-hour forecast, the weather agency warned affected residents of possible flash floods or landslides due to moderate with at times heavy rain.

Cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms may also prevail over Caraga, the Davao Region, and SOCCSKSARGEN due to the warm winds from the Pacific Ocean called the Easterlies.

PAGASA said flash floods and landslides are possible.

Meanwhile, the Cagayan Valley, the Cordillera Administrative Region, and Aurora may experience cloudy skies with light rain due to the northeast monsoon.

The monsoon may also bring partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated light rain over Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon.

However, the weather agency said the northeast monsoon has no significant impact on the affected areas.

Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers may, meanwhile, prevail over the rest of the country due to localized thunderstorms.

PAGASA said flash floods and landslides are possible during severe thunderstorms.

The synoptic station at the Science Garden, Quezon City recorded a minimum temperature of 22.8°C at 6:30 a.m. and a maximum temperature of 27.6°C at 2 p.m. — **DVM, GMA News**



For the UN and humanitarian partners helping typhoon-affected Filipinos does not stop for Christmas

By UNIC Manila Published on January 1, 2021

MANILA, Jan. 1 -- In four municipalities of Albay province, where tens of thousands of Filipinos lost their homes in the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly, 1,030 families that celebrated Christmas in evacuation centers have received building materials, tools and cash to help put a roof over their heads in time for the New Year.

Throughout December, the United Nations (UN) Migration Agency, International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), an NGO, have been distributing Shelter Repair Kits to households in 17 barangays in the municipalities of Tiwi, Malinao, Malilipot and Tabaco, in Albay province. The Shelter Repair Kit is intended for the emergency repair of a damaged house to make it livable. It consists of corrugated galvanized iron for roofing, coco lumber for posts and framing, nails, hammer, saw and shelter-grade tarpaulin. IOM also started distributing cash assistance this December in the 17 barangays.

On 15 December, five-months-pregnant Rosewinda Callejo (pictured below), a resident of Tagoytoy, Malinao, Albay, received cash assistance and a shelter repair kit. "Happiness is all I am feeling right now because I have received assistance from you. Thank you so much. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," she said.



On 15 December, Rosewinda Calleja, a resident of Tagoytoy, Malinao, Albay, received cash assistance and a shelter repair kit. Photo by UN

"End of the year holidays are very important for the Filipino people; it is the time when families come together. This is why the United Nations and its humanitarian partners proudly continue to deliver humanitarian assistance to the very last day of this difficult year. We are not merely rebuilding homes of people most affected by the two typhoons but also bringing them hope and dignity," noted Gustavo Gonzalez, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Philippines.



For the UN and humanitarian partners helping typhoon-affected Filipinos does not stop for Christmas

IOM's emergency shelter assistance is part of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) support of \$3.1 million (PhP 150 million) awarded to the Philippines by the UN Under-Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock. The CERF funding will allow UNICEF, IOM and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to provide life-saving assistance in water supplies, sanitation services, hygiene, emergency shelter and food to address time-critical needs, particularly of the poorest single-headed households, elderly and people with disabilities in the hardest hit areas of Albay and Catanduanes.

The CERF funding is one of the projects of the Humanitarian Needs and Priorities Plan (HNP) that was launched by the UN and humanitarian partners in the Philippines in November to come to the aid of close to 280,000 people affected by Super Typhoon Rolly and Typhoon Ulysses.

The HNP calls for US\$52.6 million from resource partners to provide assistance in terms of food, access to clean water- sanitation-hygiene (WASH) facilities, emergency shelter and livelihood, health and early recovery. Some 80 humanitarian partners in the country – including the UN, NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the private sector, which comprise the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in the Philippines, have been working throughout November and December to implement the HNP.

The HCT has so far received USD12.9 million, or just 25 percent of the support called for in the HNP. Yet, in just two months since Typhoon Rolly, the HCT has deployed wide-ranging assistance in Regions NCR, II, III, CALABARZON, and V. Cash assistance has been distributed to some 3,125 families. Emergency shelter support, including 13,599 shelter-grade tarps, 2,600 roofing materials and 7,700 tool kits, has benefitted families beyond the four municipalities in Albay province. Some 57,210 individuals have received hygiene kits and more than 52,000 people have been given water kits. Back-to-School Kits, and food for children suffering acute malnutrition, have also been distributed. At the same time, the HCT continues to support the management of evacuation centers, benefitting 32,421 persons, half of whom are children.

The HCT is calling for more support from resource partners to ensure that more typhoon affected Filipinos are reached and that no one is left behind. To date, at least 30,000 people remain displaced from Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses and are staying in 181 evacuation centers across Regions NCR, II, III, CALABARZON, and V. Four evacuation centres remain open in Albay.

More than 8,600 schools which were either damaged or destroyed will require support in clean up and repairs. Damaged self-learning modules will need to be reprinted and redistributed, while educational supplies will have to be distributed to support education continuity of 101,800 teachers and 2.8 million K-12 learners from affected schools throughout the country.

There are still 19,047 vulnerable and underserved households in need of food assistance while 15,525 farming and fishing households have yet to receive support. Initial assessment put agricultural damage at more than USD 22million, mostly to crops such as rice and corn, thus severely affecting about 20,000 farmers. About 96 per cent of rice farms in Camarines Sur are already non-recoverable and will need support for replanting. Meeting the daily food needs of people still displaced is a challenge, especially in hard-to-reach villages that have been isolated from any support.



For the UN and humanitarian partners helping typhoon-affected Filipinos does not stop for Christmas

“As the Philippines is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters and climate change on the planet, we have both a moral imperative on the humanitarian side and a clear economic case to support the Government of the Philippines in adapting and strengthening its capacity to respond to weather-related shocks. If we do not address this issue more holistically, we are merely building sandcastles after each typhoon,” said Gonzalez.

The HNP was launched on 9 November by the HCT to address the needs of 260,000 of the most vulnerable people in provinces most affected by Super Typhoon Rolly.

On 27 November, the HCT released a revised HNP, further extending support to areas severely affected by Typhoon Vamco (Ulysses) in Northern Luzon.

The revised HNP brings together collective humanitarian activities from November 2020 to April 2021 with a new total funding request of US\$52.6 million (PhP 2.5 billion). The call for resources will directly assist 278,100 affected people in terms of food, access to clean water-sanitation-hygiene (WASH) facilities, emergency shelter and livelihood, health and early recovery.

Following a review of overall needs, 18,100 most vulnerable people who were severely affected by Typhoon Vamco in Cagayan were added to the original target of 260,000 people in Albay and Catanduanes. (UNIC Manila)



Baha, landslide sa Bicol sumalubong sa New Year's eve



January 1, 2021 @ 3:19 PM 15 hours ago

Bicol – Sumalubong ang baha at pagguho ng lupa sa ilang bayan ng Bicol bago ang pagsapit ng 2021.

Tinatayang 40 pamilya ang dinala sa evacuation centers sa probinsya ng Camarines Sur at Sorsogon, batay sa Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

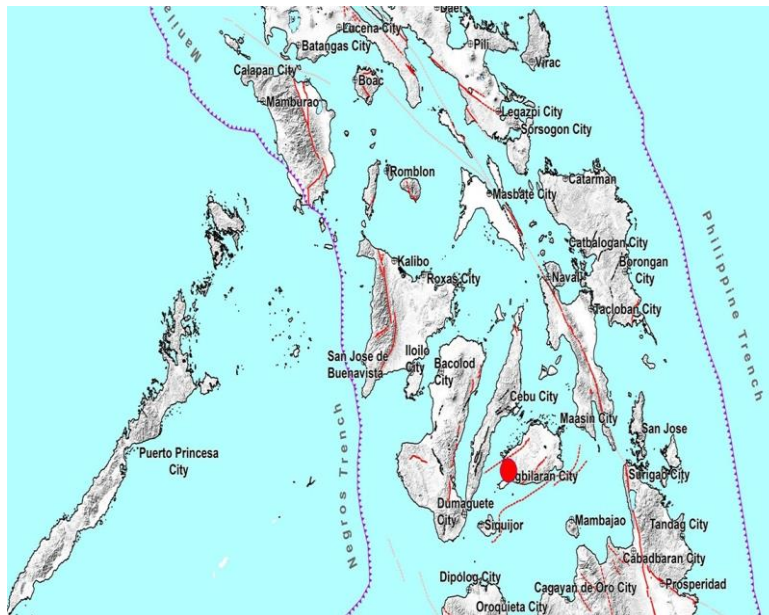
Ani Gremil Alexis Naz, OCD Bicol spokesperson, naitala ang pagbaha sa 12 barangay mula sa Juban, Casiguran, Bulusan, Gubat. Matnog, ay Bulan sa Sorsogon.

Gayundin ang 10 barangay sa Lagonoy, Siruma, Ocampo, at Buhi sa Camarines Sur.

Naitala rin ang 11 landslide sa siyam na barangay sa Bulusan, Gubat, Juban, at Sorsogon City gayundin sa Barangay Malinao sa Libmanan at Genorangan sa Lagonoy sa Camarines Sur. **RNT/FGDC**



Bohol sinalubong ng Magnitude 3.6 lindol sa bagong taon



January 1, 2021 @ 7:49 AM 23 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Niyang ng Magnitude 3.6 na lindol ang probinsya ng Bohol sa bisperas ng Bagong Taon ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Naitala ang epicenter ng lindol sa layong pitong kilometro sa northeast ng Tagbilaran, na may lalim na 10 kilometers.

Naramdaman ang Intensity III sa nasabi ring syudad.

Walang inasahang aftershocks at pagkasira. **RNT**



#Kalamidad trends as disasters hit Philippines in 2020

January 1, 2021 10:39 AM by [Kristan Carag](#)



A fisherman catches fish as the Taal Volcano continuously erupts in Talisay, Batangas, Philippines, January 16, 2020. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez

Aside from the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Philippines also had to contend with various calamities. #Kalamidad went viral as various parts of the country suffered from typhoons, earthquake, and even a volcanic eruption.

2020 TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION

2020 in the Philippines went off with an explosive start, literally. Taal Volcano, located in the province of Batangas, had a phreatic eruption on January 12, releasing steam, lava, and ash. The ash from the volcano reached up to the provinces of Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, Rizal, and Metro Manila. Following the eruption, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) raised Alert Level 4 over Taal Volcano, which meant a hazardous explosive eruption could happen within hours to days. Aside from the eruption, PHIVOLCS also recorded volcanic earthquakes around the volcano.

The eruption forced people residing in the volcano island, and 14 kilometers away from the main crater of Taal Volcano to evacuate. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said that the eruption affected 124,76 families or 464,728 individuals in Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, and Quezon.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) had to cancel domestic and international flights at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City due to the ash released by Taal Volcano. Affected areas also had to cancel classes, and work in all government offices due to the health hazards caused by the ashfall.

At least 20 cities and municipalities in Cavite, Laguna, and Batangas also experienced power and water service interruption.



#Kalamidad trends as disasters hit Philippines in 2020

Following the eruption, President Rodrigo Duterte banned human settlement in the volcano island. The President also signed Proclamation No. 906 that placed the entire CALABARZON region under a state of calamity.

The Department of Agriculture reported that the eruption left more than Php 3 billion worth of damages in agriculture in the CALABARZON Region. NDRRMC also said that at least 14,082 houses suffered damages due to the eruption. Out of the said number, 4,573 were totally damaged while 9,509 were partially damaged.

As of March, PHIVOLCS has lowered the status of Taal Volcano to Alert Level 1 due to a decreasing trend in volcanic activity.

Reports stated that at least 39 people died in relation to the eruption of Taal Volcano. While no one was reported to have died during the eruption, some evacuees either during the evacuation or while staying at an evacuation center.

TYPHOON AMBO

Typhoon Ambo, the first tropical cyclone to hit the Philippines in 2020, tested the capability of the country to adapt amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from ensuring the safety of their constituents, local government units must also ensure that they observe health protocols, including the wearing of face masks and social distancing, in evacuation centers.

Typhoon Ambo made seven landfalls from May 14 to May 15 at various parts of Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Masbate, and Quezon before it weakened into a low pressure area.

NDRRMC reported that Typhoon Ambo affected up to 140,147 families, or around 578,571 individuals in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Eastern Visayas, and the Cordillera Administrative Region. Typhoon Ambo also injured 169 individuals.

Typhoon Ambo also damaged 27 hospital facilities, 306 school facilities, and three other structures in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAMROPA, Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, and the Cordillera Administrative Region. A total of 57,269 houses in Central Luzon and Eastern Visayas also incurred damages due to Typhoon Ambo. Parts of Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, and the National Capital Region lost electricity following the onslaught of Typhoon Ambo.

NDRRMC estimates that Typhoon Ambo left more than Php 614 million worth of damages in infrastructure, and Php 960 million worth of damages in agriculture.

The local government of Northern Samar declared province-wide state of calamity after the strong winds, and heavy rains brought by Typhoon Ambo displaced many residents. The provincial government of Eastern Samar also placed the towns of Sulat, Taft, Can-avid, Dolores, Maslog, Oras, San Policarpo, Arteche, and Jipapad under state of calamity.



#Kalamidad trends as disasters hit Philippines in 2020

MAGNITUDE 6.6 EARTHQUAKE IN CATAINGAN, MASBATE

The Philippines also experienced a series of earthquakes in 2020. One of these strong earthquakes happened on the morning of August 18. Based on data from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), the epicenter of the earthquake is located at five kilometers south-east of Cataingan, Masbate. The earthquake is tectonic in origin and had a depth of 13 kilometers.

PHIVOLCS recorded the following intensities:

Intensity VII – Cataingan, & Pio V. Corpuz, Masbate

Intensity VI – Palanas, Dimasalang, Placer, & Esperanza, Masbate

Intensity V – Masbate City, Cawayan, Baleno, Aroroy, & Mobo, Masbate; Almagro, & Tagapul-an, Samar

Intensity IV – San Jacinto, Masbate; Almeria, Naval, Cabucgayan, Caibiran, Culaba, Kawayan, Maripipi, & Biliran, Biliran; Catarman, Mapanas, and Palapag, Northern Samar; Iriga City, & Baao, Camarines Sur; Ormoc City, City of Tacloban, Babatngon, Barugo, Capoocan, Dagami, Dulag, Jaro, Julita, Kananga, La Paz, Palo, Pastrana, Tanauan, Tolosa, & Leyte, Leyte; Bulusan, Irosin, & Sorsogon City, Sorsogon; Ligao City, & Legazpi City, Albay; San Andres, Quezon; Cebu City; Bantayan, Madridejos, Santa Fe, & Talisay City, Cebu; Ivisan, & Roxas City, Capiz; Kalibo, Aklan; Sagay City, Negros Occidental

Intensity III – San Pascual, Milagros, & Claveria, Masbate; Catbalogan City, Samar; Baybay City, Abuyog, Hilogos, Isabel, Javier, and Matalom, Leyte; Naga City; Goa, and San Jose, Camarines Sur; Panganiban, Catanduanes; Mulanay, Quezon; San Julian, & Balangiga, Eastern Samar; Batan, Makato, Malinao, New Washington, Numancia, & Tangalan, Aklan; Iloilo City; Bacolod City; Bago City, Kabankalan City, Victorias City, & Binalbagan City, Negros Occidental; Daanbantayan, Cebu

Intensity II – President Roxas, Capiz; Ibajay, Lezo, and Nabas, Aklan; Patnongon, San Jose de Buenavista, & Tibiao, Antique; Daet, Camarines Norte; Virac, Catanduanes; Guinayangan and Lopez, Quezon; Lapu-Lapu City; Mandaue City; City of Bogo, Cordova, Pinamungajan, and Sogod, Cebu; La Carlota City, Negros Occidental; Candijay, Bohol

Intensity I – Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental; Sibalay City, Negros Occidental

Instrumental Intensities:

Intensity V – Masbate City, Masbate

Intensity IV – Naval, Biliran; Palo, Leyte; Legazpi City, Albay; Iriga City, Camarines Sur; Roxas City, Capiz; Iloilo City

Intensity III – Bago City, Negros Occidental; Malinao, Aklan; Pandan, Antique; Jamindan, and Tapaz, Capiz; Ormoc City

Intensity II – Gumaca, Quezon; Sipocot, Camarines Sur; San Jose de Buenavista, & Valderrama, Antique; Lapu-Lapu City; La Carlota City, & Sibalay City, Negros Occidental; San Francisco, Cebu; Talibon, Bohol

Intensity I – Ibajay, and Malay, Aklan; Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental

The NDRRMC said that the earthquake caused the death of one person and injured at least 50 people in the province of Catanduanes. The quake also affected 1,524 families, or around 6,474, individuals in the province.



#Kalamidad trends as disasters hit Philippines in 2020

The agency also reported that 1,305 houses and 86 schools in Masbate suffered damages due to the earthquake. The quake also damaged six roads and seven bridges in Masbate and Camarines Sur. The NDRRMC estimates that the earthquake left more than Php 27 million worth of damages in infrastructure.

TYPHOON PEPITO

Typhoon Pepito affected a total of 34,980 families, or 165,763 individuals, when it traversed the Philippine Area of Responsibility from October 19 to October 22.

During the onslaught of Typhoon Pepito, the NDRRMC monitored 20 incidents of flooding, and 12 incidents of landslide in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Davao Region, and the Cordillera Administrative Region. The floods and the landslides affected 40 road sections and 14 bridges.

NDRRMC reported that nine houses in the provinces of Quezon and Benguet suffered damages due to Typhoon Pepito. The agency estimate that Typhoon Pepito left at least Php 29 million worth of damages to infrastructure, and Php 76 million worth of damages to agriculture.

Parts of Quirino, Quezon, and Benguet provinces also experienced a power interruption due to Typhoon Pepito.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION OFEL

Tropical Depression Ofel made landfall in Can-avid, Eastern Samar; Matnog, Sorsogon; Buria Island, Masbate; Torrijos, Marinduque; and San Juan, Batangas before it left the Philippine Area of Responsibility on October 15.

TD Ofel affected 5,844 families, or around 26,685 individuals.

NDRRMC reported that vehicles cannot pass through 11 roads and four bridges due to the landslides and floods caused by TD Ofel. The agency said that 22 areas in Laguna, and Quezon experienced floods.

TD Ofel also caused power interruption in seven municipalities in CALABARZON and MIMAROPA.

NDRRMC said that seven house in Mandaue City, Cebu got totally damaged due to TD Ofel. The agency also estimates that TD Ofel left more than Php 1 million worth of damages in agriculture in CALABARZON and Western Visayas.

TROPICAL CYCLONES QUINTA, ROLLY, SIONY, TONYO, ULYSSES

If 2020 in the Philippines started with a calamity of fire, the year ended with a deluge of water in the country. From October to November, a series of tropical cyclones simultaneously hit various parts of the country. The weather disturbances brought large amounts of rain that submerged various areas in rain water.



#Kalamidad trends as disasters hit Philippines in 2020

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration reported on October 23 that a low pressure area, found east of Mindanao, developed into a tropical depression, which the agency named Quinta. Quinta strengthened into a typhoon on October 25 before it made landfall in Tabaco City, Albay. Typhoon Quinta also made landfall in Malinao, Albay; San Andres, Quezon; Torrijos, Marinduque; and Pola, Oriental Mindoro. Typhoon Quinta reached the West Philippine Sea on October 27.

NDRRMC reported that Typhoon Quinta affected 209,204 families, or around 888,375 individuals, in Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, and Eastern Visayas. Typhoon Quinta also left at least 27 people dead, and 40 injured.

The NDRRMC also monitored 73 flooding incidents, 26 landslides, 12 maritime incidents, and a storm surge due to Typhoon Quinta.

Vehicles cannot pass through 144 road sections, and 20 bridges in Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, and the Cordillera Administrative Region following the onslaught of Typhoon Quinta. NDRRMC also reported that 93,881 houses got damaged. The agency estimates that Typhoon Quinta left more than Php 1.5 billion worth of damages in infrastructure.

The NDRRMC also estimate that Typhoon Quinta left more than Php 2.6 billion worth of damages in agriculture in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, and Eastern Visayas.

255 municipalities in CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, and Eastern Visayas experienced power outage. Parts of Quezon province, and Camarines Sur also experienced water outage.

Five provinces, and 13 municipalities declared a state of calamity due to Typhoon Quinta.

Days after Typhoon Quinta devastated the Philippines, Typhoon Rolly entered the jurisdiction of the country in October 29. The tropical cyclone intensified into a Super Typhoon a day later. Super Typhoon Rolly made landfall in Bato, Catanduanes; Tiwi, Albay; San Narciso, Quezon; and Lobo, Batangas before it left the Philippine Area of Responsibility on November 3.

NDRRMC reported that Super Typhoon Rolly affected up to 522,600 families, or more than two million individuals, in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, the Cordillera Administrative Region, and Metro Manila. The NDRRMC also noted that Super Typhoon Rolly forced 178 COVID-19 patients, and 417 staff members of quarantine facilities to evacuate. Super Typhoon Rolly killed 25 people, and injured 399 individuals.

Super Typhoon Rolly caused flooding, landslides, and toppled trees and utility posts, which affected 60 road sections and 70 bridges.

The NDRRMC further reported that 122 cities or municipalities had a power outage, while 32 cities or municipalities experienced a water service interruption due to Super Typhoon Rolly.



#Kalamidad trends as disasters hit Philippines in 2020

Super Typhoon Rolly damaged 170,773 houses. NDRRMC estimates that Super Typhoon Rolly left more than Php 12.8 billion worth of damages to infrastructure.

Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, the Cordillera Administrative Region, and Metro Manila incurred more than Php 5 billion worth of damages to agriculture due to Super Typhoon Rolly

The provinces of Cavite, Catanduanes, and Camarines Sur declared a state of calamity due to Super Typhoon Rolly. The municipality of Mulanay in Quezon province also declared a state of calamity.

Severe Tropical Storm Siony entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility on November 1, amidst the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly, while a low pressure area east of Mindanao developed into Tropical Depression Tonyo on November 7. The two left minimal damages compared to Typhoon Quinta, and Super Typhoon Rolly.

While the country still reels from the devastation left by Typhoon Quinta, and Super Typhoon Rolly, another low pressure area developed into a tropical depression, which PAGASA named Ulysses, on November 8. TD Ulysses intensified into a typhoon, and it made landfall thrice at various parts of Quezon province.

NDRRMC reported that Typhoon Ulysses killed 101 people, and injured 85 others. Typhoon Ulysses also affected more than one million families, or more than four million individuals, in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Metro Manila, and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Typhoon Ulysses caused flooding, mudflow, landslide, and soil/rock collapse that affected 252 road sections, and 121 bridges in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, Cordillera Administrative Region, and Metro Manila.

380 cities and municipalities also suffered a power outage, while 71 municipalities experienced a water service interruption due to Typhoon Ulysses.

NDRRMC estimates that Typhoon Ulysses left around Php 12.9 billion worth of damages to infrastructure. NDRRMC mentioned that Typhoon Ulysses damaged more than 189,069 houses.

NDRRMC also estimates that Typhoon Ulysses caused Php 7.3 billion worth of damages to agriculture.

Following the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses, President Duterte signed Proclamation No. 1051 that placed the entire Luzon group of islands under state of calamity.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION VICKY

As of December 18, the NDRRMC reported that at least nine people have died, two suffered injuries, and one remains missing after the onslaught of Tropical Depression Vicky. The NDRRMC also said that TD Vicky affected 43,664 families, or around 175, 949 individuals, in Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Davao Region and Caraga



#Kalamidad trends as disasters hit Philippines in 2020

The NDRRMC monitored incidents of flooding, and landslide in Negros Oriental, Cebu, Surigao Del Sur, and Agusan Del Sur.

NDRRMC said that TD Vicky caused floods, landslides, mudslides, soil collapse, road cut, and toppled an electric post, which blocked 15 road sections and five bridges in Eastern Visayas, Davao Region, and Caraga

Parts of Davao Oriental and Davao De Oro also lost power.

NDRRMC reported that TD Vicky damaged a total of 1,054 houses in Central Visayas, Davao Region, and Caraga. The agency estimates that TD Vicky left more than Php 162 million worth of damages to infrastructure in Bicol Region, Central Visayas, Davao Region, and Caraga.

TD Vicky also left more than Php 51 million worth of damages to agriculture in Davao De Oro, Agusan Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur, Surigao Del Norte, and Surigao Del Sur.



Duterte nakatitiyak ng ‘brighter days’ sa 2021



Sinabi rin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na natapos ang 2020 na may maraming pagsubok pero nalampasan ng mga Filipino dahil sa kakaibang ugali nang pagiging matatag.

Presidential photo/Karl Norman Alonzo

[Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 2, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Nakatitiyak si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na mas magiging maliwanag ang mga araw ng 2021 dahil mas handa na ang mga Filipino sa mga darating na hamon ng taon.

Sa kanyang mensahe sa pagsisimula ng 2021, binanggit ni Duterte ang “indomitable spirit” ng mga Filipino.

“I am confident that all of us will see brighter days ahead because we believe in the indomitable spirit of the Filipino,” ani Duterte.

Sinabi rin ni Duterte na natapos ang 2020 na may maraming pagsubok pero nalampasan ng mga Filipino dahil sa kakaibang ugali nang pagiging matatag.

Ayon pa sa Pangulo, sa panibagong paglalakbay na tatahakin, mas matalino at mas matatag na ang mga Filipino at mas handa sa kakaharaping pagsubok.

Binanggit din ng Pangulo na sa kabila ng pagkawala ng maraming buhay at pinagkakakitaan dahil sa COVID-19 pandemic, maraming natutunang aral ang mga mamamayan.

“We realized the value of human life and our relationships with each other. We understood what it means to be a family, a community, a nation,” ani Duterte.

Natuto rin aniya ang mga mamamayan na tingnan ang kapakanan ng mga kababayan.

Hinikayat din ng Pangulo ang mga mamamayan na tingnan ang mga natatanggap na biyaya at maging mapagpasalamat.



UNABRIDGED 2020 YEAR-ENDERS: Pain and sorrow in the year that was but hope springs eternal

[January 1, 2021](#) 8 min read

By **Brenda L. del Rosario**

MANILA – This country of 106.7 million inhabitants quite literally started 2020 with a “bang” when one of its active volcanoes erupted only 12 days into the year that was after almost 50 years of inactivity.

Disastrous it may have been, Taal’s phreatic eruption only amalgamated Filipinos into what cooperation, mercy and compassion, and unity are all about even as the country would absorb a lot more of unfortunate events through 2020.

Although in some areas politics reared its ugly head on the ground especially on the distribution of “ayudas” as it would be the day to day affair as Filipinos trudge on 2020 after the outbreak of Covid-19 that compounded matters even more, Filipinos continue to fight and say: “Yes the Filipino can.” Hope, indeed, springs eternal.

Here is a blow by blow account of the series of events and challenges that transpired in the tumultuous year of 2020:

JANUARY 2020

12 – Taal Volcano in Batangas erupted and spewed ashes across Calabarzon, Metro Manila, and some parts of Central Luzon and Ilocos Region, resulting in the suspension of school classes, work schedules, and flights in the area.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who was in Davao City during the eruption, ordered the suspension of classes and government work in Calabarzon, Central Luzon and Metro Manila

13 – University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) games were postponed due to Taal Volcano eruption

13 – Provincial board of Batangas declared the whole province of Batangas under state of calamity. PRRD fled back to Manila.

14 – PRRD visited Batangas for personal assessment and made pledge of P130 million to affected families. He also approved the recommendation of Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana to declare the island of Taal of “no man’s land.”

26 – PHIVOLCS downgrade its warning to Alert Level 3 due to an inconsistent, but decreasing volcanic activity in Taal

30 – Philippines confirmed its first case of COVID-19. She was a woman-tourist who came from Wuhan City in Hubei, China, where the latest strain of coronavirus was first detected in late 2019

UNABRIDGED 2020 YEAR-ENDER: Pain and sorrow in the year that was but hope springs eternal

FEBRUARY 2020

01 – a Filipino-Chinese passed away after contracting Covid-19 making the Philippines the first country outside China to record a confirmed death due to Covid-19.

14 – Phivolcs downgraded Taal Volcano’s warning to Alert Level 2 after the latter’s decreasing volcanic activity

MARCH 2020

03 – A magnitude 5.5 earthquake hit the province of Leyte damaging six schools

06 – DOH confirmed the local transmission of Covid-19

09 – 2,000 Covid-19 tests have been conducted at a rate of 200 to 250 people accommodated by tests per day

10 – suspension of the nationwide Comelec registration

11 – Government announced the first Filipino who die from Covid-19

13 – Giant networks ABS-CBN and GMA announced the suspension of their respective drama shows and other entertainment programs to be replaced with reruns of previous series or extended newscast run

15 – Reruns and extended newscast are the only programs broadcasted by ABS-CBN and GMA

15 – implementation of lockdown/community quarantine in Metro Manila and other parts of the country

15 – The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) suspended all gaming operations in the country, including the land-based casinos in Entertainment City and Newport City.

16 – Department of Health (DOH) announced new hospital protocols in admitting the symptomatic and asymptomatic Covid-19 patients

16 – President Rodrigo Duterte declared a state of calamity all over the Philippines on March 16, 2020, by virtue of Proclamation No. 929. Luzon was then placed under enhanced community quarantine

16 – Department of Education (DepEd) ordered a “no final examination” to public schools in areas with suspended classes and instructed to compute the students’ final grades for the 2019–20 academic year based on “their current academic standing.” It directed other schools to administer final examinations within that week on a “staggered basis” and for teachers and students to observe social distancing measures.



UNABRIDGED 2020 YEAR-ENDER: Pain and sorrow in the year that was but hope springs eternal

19 – Start of the suspension of all congregational prayers in the Bangsamoro region until April 10 by the Regional Darul Ifta' of Bangsamoro

21 – the country received aids from China to combat Covid-19

22 – DFA announced that the country would be receiving a donation from Singapore

23 – PRRD called on Congress to hold special sessions to enact the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act that would authorize President Duterte to “reallocate, realign, and reprogram” a budget of almost ₱275 billion from the estimated ₱438 billion national budget approved for 2020, in response to the pandemic

25 – PRRD signed the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act into law that will last for three months only (June 25) due to its sunset provision

APRIL 2020

Start of Social Amelioration Program (SAP) distribution (1st Tranche)

02 – Fabunan Medical Clinic in Zambales stopped operation after the government issued a cease and desist order. Run by doctors Ruben and Willie Fabunan who claimed that their patent medicine Fabunan Antiviral Injection (FAI), can treat dengue, chikungunya, dog bite, snakebite, and HIV/AIDS

08 – The CBCP held a televised interfaith prayer service against the spread of the coronavirus nationwide

08 – the FDA warned the public against the use of drugs or vaccines that are not yet certified to treat COVID-19, particularly the Fabunan Antiviral Injection

MAY 2020

12 – – PAGASA urged residents to begin preparing for the storm Ambo, particularly in the Bicol and Eastern Visayas regions and parts of Luzon

13 – Outer reach of Typhoon Ambo caused heavy rains in some provinces and caused flooding in Koronadal

14 – Typhoon Ambo (international name Typhoon Vongfong) made land fall in San Policarpo, Eastern Samar and caused around ₱1.57 billion in damages, and killed five people

23 – No casualty was reported, and no major damage occurred after a magnitude 5.4 earthquake struck Aurora in the morning

JUNE 2020

08 – Start of Social Amelioration Program (SAP) distribution (2nd Tranche)

21 – The Philippines breached the 30,000-mark Covid-19 cases



UNABRIDGED 2020 YEAR-ENDER: Pain and sorrow in the year that was but hope springs eternal

21 – DOST and Phivolcs monitor an ongoing series of earthquakes on the west lower flanks of Kanlaon Volcano, Negros Island. This began at 4:03 pm with the largest registering magnitude of 4.7 at 1:15 am and was felt at intensity 5 at La Carlota City.

25 – Bayanihan Heal as One Act expires

AUGUST 2020

18 – A 6.6 magnitude earthquake struck Masbate leaving at least 2 dead and 170 injured. The earthquake was also felt in several parts of Luzon and the Visayas

20 – The Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or Bayanihan 2 a reconciled version of Bayanihan Act was approved by the bicameral committee

SEPTEMBER 2020

11 – PRRD signed the Bayanihan 2 into law

OCTOBER 2020

05 – Opening of classes for RY 2020-2021

24 – Phivolcs warned of lahars down the slopes of Mayon Volcano in Bicol Region when Typhoon Quinta makes a landfall in the country

25 – Typhoon Quinta (international name Typhoon Molave) made a landfall affecting Albay, Sorsogon, Batangas and Cavite

27 – State of calamity was declared in Batangas

30 – Super Typhoon Rolly (international name Typhoon Goni), explosively intensified over the Philippine Sea, becoming a Category 5-equivalent super typhoon. NDRRMC raised a nationwide red alert in preparation for the storm's impact wvhe

NOVEMBER 2020

01 – Super Typhoon Roli made a landfall, where Signal #5, the highest tropical cyclone warning signal, was raised in Catanduanes, Albay, and Camarines Sur and Signal #4 in Metro Manila.

Due to the damages caused by the typhoon, the name Rolly will be retired and will be replaced with a new name for a future typhoon occurrence

02 – Camarines Sur placed the province under a state of calamity

04 – Catanduanes placed the province under a state of calamity

09 – PAGASA raised tropical cyclone wind signals for Typhoon Ulysses



UNABRIDGED 2020 YEAR-ENDER: Pain and sorrow in the year that was but hope springs eternal

10 – PAGASA had raised a Signal #2 wind signal for 17 provinces, parts of 6 provinces, 2 islands, including Metro Manila. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), also began sending out emergency alerts to mobile phone users about possible storm surges

10 – Forced evacuation started in Polilio Island and other parts of the country to be affected by Typhoon Ulysses

11 – the NDRRMC has reported ₱12.9 billion of infrastructure damages, along with ₱5 billion of agricultural damage, a combined total of ₱17.9 billion

11 – Typhoon Ulysses (international name Typhoon Vamco) made a landfall in the province of Quezon. It also brought heavy rains in Central Luzon including Metro Manila and nearby provinces

11 Flooding and minor landslides in Cebu due to Typhoon Ulysses

12 – Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) closed due to Typhoon Ulysses

12 – Marikina River surpassed the water level. The local government of Marikina declared the city under state of calamity

13 – PAGASA announced that the name Quinta would be removed from its list of typhoon names as this typhoon caused almost ₱5-billion in damages and will no longer be used in the future. A replacement name will be chosen in 2021

13 – Magat Dam was forced to continue releasing water when its water level reached 632 ft, 0.3 meters below the dam's spilling point. This caused major, massive flooding problem in the province of Cagayan.

DECEMBER 2020

02 – President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed an Executive Order allowing Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) to grant emergency-use authorization (EUA) to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments

02 – The NDRRMC officially declared that Typhoon Ulysses left 111 casualties (including 101 validated deaths, and another 10 missing) damages reached ₱20.3 billion

25 – A magnitude 5.4 earthquake hit off Mindoro at 3:18 a.m. that was felt in nearby provinces Batangas, Cavite, Laguna and Metro Manila

29 – The government expands travel ban from four countries to 20 to limit the spread of new Covid-19 virus strain that was first detected in England. The ban took effect from midnight of Dec 29 to Jan 15. (AI/MTVN)

Duterte OKs GCQ classification for Metro Manila, 7 areas

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 01 2021 04:10 PM



People take in the view of Metro Manila's skyline and sunset from Antipolo on December 31, 2020. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — President Rodrigo Duterte has extended the general community quarantine classification for the capital region and 7 other areas until the end of January, Malacañang said on Friday.

The rest of the country, meanwhile, was placed under the modified general community quarantine.

The following areas will be under GCQ until January 31, according to the statement released by Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque.

- Metro Manila
- Santiago City
- Batangas
- Tacloban City
- Iligan City
- Lanao del Sur
- Davao City
- Davao del Norte



10 science discoveries and milestones in 2020 worth celebrating

Published December 31, 2020 10:15pm

Although 2020 felt like the world stopped with the onslaught of a pandemic, there are still numerous triumphs, especially in the field of science, that are worth celebrating.

From vaccine creation to genetic sequence classification, here are a few discoveries and milestones that highlighted this year.

1. Discovery of genetic sequence of SARS-CoV-2

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in Wuhan, China, Chinese scientists soon were able to release the genetic sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 strain.

Not only does this discovery help in creating a vaccine against the virus, but it also helps other scientists study and know the origin of the strain.

2. Development of COVID-19 vaccine

After almost a year of staying indoors due to the pandemic, scientists have finally discovered a COVID-19 vaccine.

Just last November, Pfizer announced that its vaccine is 9% effective against the coronavirus. Their vaccine has since been used in America, United Kingdom, and Canada.

United Kingdom was first to use Pfizer's vaccine after it was given the emergency use authorization (EUA). Among its citizens, 90-year-old Margaret Keenan was the first to be injected with the vaccine.

Aside from Pfizer, other vaccines were also given EUA, such as China's Sinovac and Cansino, Russia's Sputnik V, and America's Moderna.

The COVID-19 vaccine is the fastest vaccine to be developed in all of human history. Before its creation, the vaccine for the mumps virus was hailed the fastest, with scientists finalizing it after four years.

3. Discovery of new microsnail subspecies in Masungi Georeserve

Filipino scientists from the University of the Philippines Los Baños discovered a new microsnail subspecies that can only be found in Masungi Georeserve.

Called the hypselostoma latispira masungiensis, the subspecies was discovered in October in the reserve in Rizal.

The new microsnail subspecies is different from the others based on its size, which is only 5 millimeters or the size of a worker ant.

4. 2020 may be the second hottest year.

According to the United Nation's World Meteorological Organization's data, 2020 may possibly be the second hottest year.



10 science discoveries and milestones in 2020 worth celebrating

Based on the data, the planet's temperature increased over 1.2 degrees Celsius this year.

It is also possible that the past six years, from 2015 to 2020, have been the hottest recorded since 1850.

5. Comet NEOWISE's visit

In July, Comet NEOWISE was visible all over the world, including the Philippines.

NASA discovered it in March 27 using the near-earth object wide-field infrared survey explorer, which the comet was soon named after.

With the wideness of the comet's orbit, it is estimated to be seen from the planet every 6,800 years, making its visit to our night sky a once in a lifetime opportunity.

6. Return of NASA astronaut Christina Koch to Earth

NASA astronaut Christina Koch was finally able to return to Earth on Feb. 6 after almost a year in the International Space Station.

Aside from her recent feat, Koch also led the first ever all-female spacewalk in 2019.

She was also recognized for being the first woman to stay the longest in space—she clocked in 328 days.

Koch could also be the first woman on the moon as she was chosen among 18 astronauts to practice for NASA's Artemis Program set to bring the world's first woman and the next man to the moon in 2024.

7. Female scientists behind CRISPR win Nobel Prize

Two female scientists won this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry for creating CRISPR/Cas9.

Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna's creation was applauded for its ability to edit a human being's DNA, which could be used to help in cancer therapy and in healing inherited diseases.

The CRISPR is said to be able to change a person's DNA within just a matter of weeks.

Charpentier and Doudna's win also marked the first time time two women were honored with the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

8. Return of China's lunar mission

China's lunar mission called Chang'e safely and successfully landed back on Earth and brought rock samples from the moon this year.

In November, China sent a rocket to the moon to study its origin.

After the US and the Soviet Union, China is the third country to successfully bring home samples from the moon.



10 science discoveries and milestones in 2020 worth celebrating

9. Scientists confirm existence of water on the moon.

Scientists confirmed this year that there is, in fact, water on the moon.

Reports said that NASA discovered H₂O, the chemical signature of water, on the moon using their reflecting telescope called stratospheric observatory for infrared astronomy.

The water on the moon was seen at a high altitude near the North Pole, and over 100 to 400 parts per million H₂O was discovered.

This discovery, scientists said, has a great influence on the next lunar mission.

10. Japanese space capsule with asteroid samples

Japan's space capsule was able to bring back samples from the asteroid Ryugu this month.

This feat occurred after six years since the capsule was launched toward asteroid Ryugu, which is 300 million kilometers away from Earth.

Scientists believe that the asteroid samples contain organic matter which can answer how life began on our planet. – **Kaela Malig/RC, GMA News**



Sir David Attenborough calls for people to make environmental New Year's resolutions

4:32AM • SOURCE: AAP

Sir David Attenborough has called on all people to make positive changes for the planet in a new year's day message from isolation at his London home.

In the address released ahead of his latest natural history series *A Perfect Planet*, the 94-year-old broadcaster said he had, like so many, spent much of 2020 indoors, away from loved ones and nature.

"It has been a challenging few months for many of us, but the reaction to these extraordinary times has proved that when we work together, there is no limit to what we can accomplish," he said.

"Today we are experiencing environmental change as never before, and the need to take action has never been more urgent."

Sir David said the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow would be "a crucial moment in our history".

Five days ago the environmentalist joined Instagram, and he's gained over 4 million followers so far. Source: Seven Sharp

"This could be a year for positive change, for ourselves, for our planet and for the wonderful creatures with which we share it," he said.

He urged all people to consider making changes in the interests of restoring the planet.

"As we make our new years' resolutions, let's think about what each of us can do. What positive changes can we make in our own lives?"

The *Perfect Planet* five-part series was filmed in 31 countries across six continents and features the environmental impact of volcanoes, sunlight, weather, oceans and lastly, humans.



10 still missing after Norway mudslide buries homes

AP

By [Associated Press](#)
January 2, 2021

OSLO: Rescue workers were still searching on Thursday for survivors after a landslide that destroyed homes in a Norwegian village, leaving 10 people missing, including two children. An entire hillside collapsed in Ask leading to the evacuation of around 1,000 people. Homes were buried under mud, others cut in two and some houses were left teetering over a crater caused by the slide, with several falling over the edge. Toril Hofshagen, a Norwegian official involved in rescue operations, told NTB news agency that people had to be evacuated because conditions were unstable. The NVE said the disaster was a “quick clay slide” of approximately 300 by 800 meters (yards). Quick clay is a sort of clay found in Norway and Sweden that can collapse and turn to fluid when overstressed. On Thursday rescue workers searched two homes which had collapsed, looking for missing people, but found nobody. Police said 10 people had been injured including one seriously who was transferred to Oslo for treatment. One-fifth of the 5,000 strong population of the municipality of Gjerdum that includes Ask have been evacuated.



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



[SEC. ROY CIMATU! DITINANTAN ILLEGAL NA TUBO! HULIHIN LAHAT! PARUSAHAN!](#)

youtu.be

4:43 AM

MANILA BAY

SEC. ROY CIMATU! DITINANTAN ILLEGAL NA TUBO! HULIHIN LAHAT! PARUSAHAN!

2,929 views • Streamed live on 31 Dec 2020

👍 145 💬 1 ➦ SHARE ⚙️ SAVE ⋮



ESME TVKo
125K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE



- Headline**
- Editorial**
- Column**
- Opinion**
- Feature Article**




[ROY CIMATU TUMALON SA SEA WALL! TUBO NA LUMALASON SA MANILA BAY!](#)

youtu.be

6:28 AM

MANILA BAY

ROY CIMATU TUMALON SA SEA WALL! TUBO NA LUMALASON SA MANILA BAY!

11,270 views • Streamed live on 30 Dec 2020

508 9 SHARE SAVE ...



ESME TVKo
125K subscribers

JOIN SUBSCRIBE



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



HETO NA! GINALUGAD NA ANG MGA KANAL!

ORANGE PIPE BUMULAGA ITO NA KAYA YON?

[GINALUGAD NA ANG MGA KANAL! NI DENR SEC ROY CIMATU ANG KAHABAAN NG MALATE MAYNILA!](#)

youtu.be

4:43 AM

MANILA BAYWALK

GINALUGAD NA ANG MGA KANAL! NI DENR SEC ROY CIMATU ANG KAHABAAN NG MALATE MAYNILA!

144,310 views • 31 Dec 2020

2.5K 72 SHARE SAVE ...



KHOPARS VLOG
94.4K subscribers

[JOIN](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)

[#ManilaBayUpdate](#)
[#ManilaBay](#)
[#ManilaBayRehabilitation](#)

SHOW MORE



- Headline**
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



BAKIT UMITIM NA ANG TUBIG?

SEKRETONG TUBO MANANAGOT KAYO!

BUMUBUGA NA PARANG BASUKA SA BAHO! SEC ROY NAPATALON SA SEAWALL MANILA BAY

youtu.be

4:43 AM

MANILA BAY

KULAY ITIM NA TUBIG! SEC ROY NAPATALON SA SEAWALL MANILA BAY TUBO NA ILEGAL

4,312 views • 1 Jan 2021

88 1 SHARE SAVE ...

ESME TVKo
125K subscribers

JOIN **SUBSCRIBE**

JANUARY 01,2020 UPDATE NATIN ANG TUBO NA NAKATAGO KULAY ITIM NA TUBIG LALONG BUMAHO MANILA BAY



- Headline**
- Editorial**
- Column**
- Opinion**
- Feature Article**



MANILA BAY

SUMISIRIT!! TUBO NG STP BINUTAS? UMALINGASAW MA AMOY! MANILA BAY SEC ROY CIMATU

7,679 views • 1 Jan 2021

325 10 SHARE SAVE ...



ESME TVKo
125K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

TUBO NA CONNECTED SA STP SINADYA BANG BUTASIN? SINABOTOHE? WISH MAAKSYONAN AGAD NG DENR ANG PROBLEMA G ITO.UMAALINGASAW NA AMOY SA MANILA BAY.BUMAHA NA DIN!

SHOW MORE



- Headline**
- Editorial**
- Column**
- Opinion**
- Feature Article**



DENR USEC. LEONES
"MGA WALANG SEWER LINE HINDI EXCUSE YUN!"

DOBLENG-PARUSA SA PINAGMUMULAN NG ILIGAL NA TAGAS!

DENR USEC. LEONES DOBLENG PARUSA SA PINAGMUMULAN NG ILIGAL NA TAGAS!

youtu.be

4:42 AM

#BattleForManilaBay #SaveManilaBay #DENR

DENR USEC. LEONES DOBLENG PARUSA SA PINAGMUMULAN NG ILIGAL NA TAGAS!

40,572 views • 31 Dec 2020

👍 793 💬 13 ➦ SHARE ⚙️ SAVE ⋮



engr. berto
132K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#BattleForManilaBay #SaveManilaBay #DENR



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



[MATUTUKOY NA! PINAG MULAN NG WASTE NA TINATAPON SA MANILA BAY! KAKASUHAN NA ANG SALARIN!](#)

youtu.be

4:54 AM

MANILA BAYWALK

MATUTUKOY NA! PINAG MULAN NG WASTE NA TINATAPON SA MANILA BAY! KAKASUHAN NA ANG SALARIN!

26,955 views • 1 Jan 2021

645 19 SHARE SAVE ...



KHOPARS VLOG
94.4K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBay
#ManilaBayUpdate
#DENR

SHOW MORE