

Air quality significantly improving; earth healing itself due to quarantine

Published March 25, 2020, 4:42 PM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

The sudden drastic slowdown in activities in the Philippines and other countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic is allowing the earth to heal itself from environmental degradation.



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu
(RTVM / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a statement on Wednesday, Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that the major cause of climate change, which is air pollution mainly due to industrial and transport-related carbon emissions, is being abated significantly.

He also highlighted the reduced volume of waste in public places because people are in strict home quarantine while factories, offices, buildings and businesses like restaurants are closed.

Air quality in the metropolis has improved substantially in recent days, with Metro Manila and Luzon having been placed under enhanced community quarantine measures to combat the COVID-19 outbreak, Cimatu said.

The air quality information system of the DENR's Environment Management Bureau (EMB) reported a significant drop in the concentration of particulate matter (PM) in Metro Manila's air quality based on the results gathered from air monitoring stations in the cities of Las Piñas, Marikina, Muntinlupa, and Parañaque.

Particulate matter is an indicator of air pollution. PM10 is 10 micrometers or less in diameter, while PM2.5 is finer or 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter.

On March 22, the 24-hour average level for PM10 in Las Piñas and Marikina went down to 31.67 and 27.21 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm) from a high 57.81 and 31.28 ug/Ncm, respectively, on March 9. The acceptable threshold standard level of PM10 is 60 ug/Ncm.

In Muntinlupa and Parañaque, PM2.5 levels on March 22 were recorded at 10.78 and 14.29 ug/Ncm, respectively—much lower when they were recorded at 28.75 and 27.23 ug/Ncm, respectively, on March 10.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE


PAGE
UPPER

LOWER
PAGE 1
STORY
BANNER
STORY
EDITORIAL
CARTOON

March 24, 2020
DATE

TITLE: Air cleans up amid breakdown

PAGE 1/ 2/2

Based on DENR Administrative Order No. 2013-13, the acceptable limit for PM2.5 is 50 ug/Ncm for the short term 24-hour average level, and 35 ug/Ncm for the one-year average level.

PM2.5 particles usually come from emissions of motor vehicles, fossil fuel power plants, and wood burnings, while PM10 specks come from emissions of crushing and grinding machines and dust from cemented and dirt roads.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/03/25/air-quality-significantly-improving-earth-healing-itself-due-to-quarantine/>

NATION

Air clears up amid lockdown

Published
5 hours ago

on March 26, 2020 01:00 AM
By [Maria Romero](#)



The quality of air in the National Capital Region (NCR) has significantly improved as life in the region was practically put on hold under the enhanced community quarantine to combat the dreaded coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday reported that a cleaner air was shown in the pollution levels registered at their various air quality monitoring stations in Metro Manila.

The Air Quality Information System of the DENR-attached Environment Management Bureau (EMB) revealed a significant drop in the concentration of particulate matter (PM) in Metro Manila's air quality based on the results gathered from air monitoring stations in the cities of Las Piñas, Marikina, Muntinlupa and Parañaque.

The DENR-EMB said the 24-hour average level for PM 10 in Las Piñas and Marikina on 22 March went down to 31.67 and 27.21 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm) from a high 57.81 and 31.28 ug/Ncm, respectively, on 9 March. The acceptable threshold standard level of PM is 60 ug/Ncm.

PM 10 is typically from emissions of crushing and grinding machines and dust from cemented and dirt roads.

On 14 March, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ordered the community quarantine in NCR. This was followed by enhanced community quarantine in Luzon on 17 March due to spiking cases of COVID-19.

Uniformed halt

According to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, the sudden stop of activities in many countries allows the earth to heal from environmental degradation. The major cause of climate change — air pollution, mainly from mass transport energy emissions, is being abated.

“In the same way, there is lesser trash in public places because people are in strict home quarantine and restaurants are closed,” Cimatu said.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/03/26/air-clears-up-amid-lockdown/>

Air quality in Metro Manila improves under lockdown

posted March 25, 2020 at 10:10 pm by **Rio N. Araja**

With Metro Manila under enhanced community quarantine to fight the spread of coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) disease, its air quality has significantly improved in recent days, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Air Quality Information System of the DENR-Environment Management Bureau showed a significant drop in the concentration of particulate matter (PM) in the metro's air quality based on the results gathered from air monitoring stations in the cities of Las Pinas, Marikina, Muntinlupa and Parañaque.

Last March 22, the 24-hour average level for PM10 in Las Piñas and Marikina went down to 31.67 and 27.21 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm) from a high 57.81 and 31.28 ug/Ncm, respectively, on March 9.

The acceptable threshold standard level of PM 10 is 60 ug/Ncm.

Based on DENR Administrative Order 2013-13, the acceptable limit for PM 2.5 is 50 ug/Ncm for the short term 24-hour average level, and 35 ug/Ncm for the long term one year average level.

In Muntinlupa and Paranaque, PM 2.5 levels on March 22, 2020 were recorded at 10.78 and 14.29 ug/Ncm, respectively - much lower when they were recorded at 28.75 and 27.23 ug/Ncm, respectively, on March 10.

"We can see the drastic drop in numbers of PM 2.5 in Muntinlupa and Paranaque, and the drop in numbers of PM 10 in Las Pinas and Marikina. This explains why our sky now is clear and looks clean," Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said in a statement.

"The sudden stop of activities in many countries allows the earth to heal from environmental degradation. The major cause of climate change- air pollution, due mainly by mass transport energy emissions, is being abated. In the same way, there is lesser trash in public places because people are in strict home quarantine and restaurants are closed," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said. "The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore on a global scale the realization that a country's economic and socio-political pillars are underpinned by healthy environment," Antiporda said.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/news/national/320431/air-quality-in-metro-manila-improves-under-lockdown.html>

With roads clear, Metro Manila breathes in cleaner air
during lockdown

PAGE 1/ 2

March 24, 2020
DATE



With roads clear, Metro Manila breathes in cleaner air during lockdown

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - March 25, 2020 - 6:59pm

MANILA, Philippines — The coronavirus pandemic has infected over 400,000 people across the globe, pushed economies on the brink of collapse and put a number of countries on unprecedented lockdowns. But there is one thing benefiting from the stoppage caused by the outbreak: the environment.

Although not by choice, air quality in the densely populated Metro Manila is improving due to dramatic reduction of vehicles in the road as people stay at home and public transport got suspended for a month-long community quarantine of the entire Luzon island ending April 12.

The cleaner air in the capital is a tiny bright spot in the beleaguered Philippines, which is facing an escalating health crisis due to the spread of coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-2019) that has infected 636 people, 38 of whom died as of Wednesday afternoon.

Twelve days since the Luzon lockdown was initiated in March 13, the average level for particulate matter of 10 microns (PM10) in Malabon City dropped to 19 micrograms per normal cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$) on Wednesday, while in Marikina it fell to 11 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$, data from the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Both readings were classified as “good,” which means breathing air poses little to no risk to individuals.

The gauge used by EMB measures PM10 a tiny microbe that can penetrate and lodge deep inside the lungs when inhaled. When exposed extremely to PM10, people may develop coughing, wheezing and even trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis. The World Health Organization identifies the safe levels of PM10 as under 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$.

Elsewhere in Metro Manila on Wednesday, PM10 levels were also recorded low in Pasig City (17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$), San Juan City (33 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$), Taguig City (33 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$) and Quezon City (5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$). The PM10 level in North Caloocan was at 75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$, which means it poses “moderate health risk concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.”

With roads clear, Metro manila breathes in cleaner air
during lockdown

PAGE 1/ 2/2

March 24, 2020
DATE

Air quality has improved since the days prior the lockdown. Last March 6, three days before the government declared a state of public emergency, the PM10 levels in North Caloocan (116 µg/Ncm) and Taguig (128 µg/Ncm) were deemed unhealthy for people with respiratory illnesses, while air quality in Navotas (68 µg/Ncm), Makati City (51 µg/Ncm), Mandaluyong (99 µg/Ncm) and Parañaque (56 µg/Ncm) were classified as “fair.”

180% decrease in PM2.5 levels

A separate reading using a different gauge of air quality by the Environmental Pollution Studies at the University of the Philippines-Diliman showed also some improvement. The office said air monitoring systems recorded as much as 180% decrease in PM2.5 pollution level since March 16.

Particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in diameter is the most dangerous kind of airborne pollution. PM2.5 dusts are small enough to enter the bloodstream via the respiratory system and travel throughout the body, causing asthma, heart disease and lung cancer.

UP Diliman’s Environmental Pollution Studies noted there was a 80% to 180% reduction in the levels of PM2.5 from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. at the Lung Center of the Philippines compound in Quezon City. There was also a 70% to 90% reduction in PM2.5 level along EDSA Muñoz since the enhanced community quarantine was implemented.

“On ordinary Thursdays, the PM2.5 would peak to 38 µg/m³ during evening rush hours, which can be unhealthy to sensitive groups,” Dr. Mylene Cayetano, technical adviser of www.airtoday.ph, said. Last year, the Philippines’ annual mean for PM2.5 was pegged at 17.6 µg/m³, according to the 2019 World Air Quality Report. The result was higher than the safety limit set by the World Health Organization at 10 µg/m and the country’s PM2.5 pollution level in 2018 at 14.6 µg/m³.

Short-lived changes

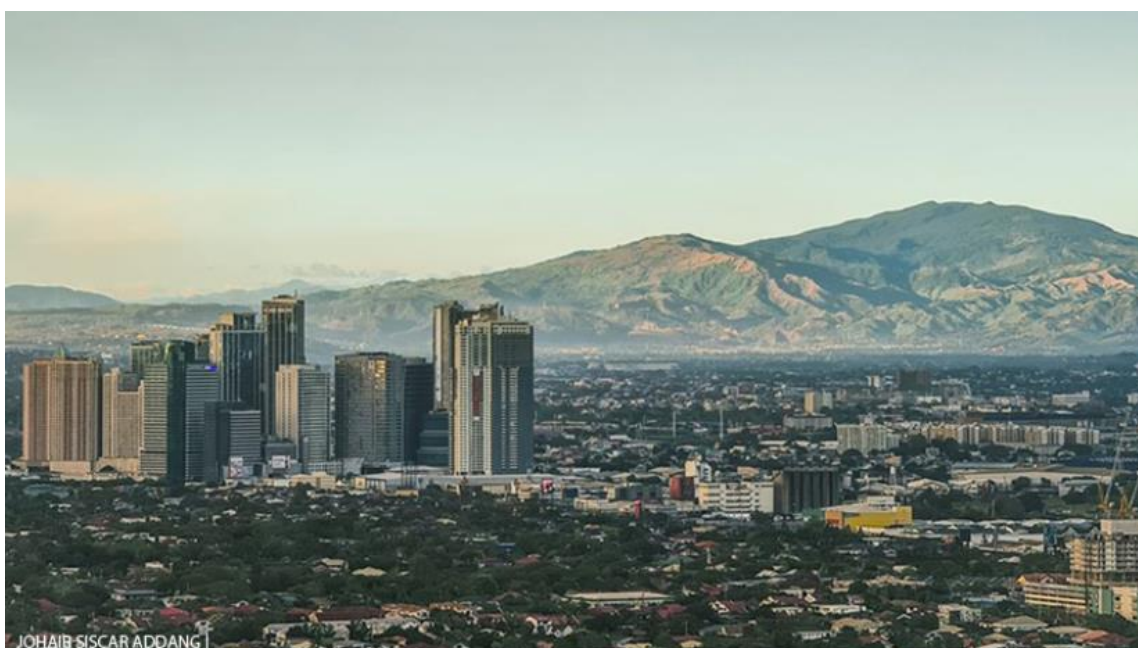
Over the past few days, images of bluer skies uploaded in social media supported the data that air quality has indeed improved in NCR, but experts believe the changes may be short-lived.

“Without long-term solutions to air pollution due to vehicle emissions, this cleaner air experience is short-lived. Expect normalcy in pollution levels after the enhanced community quarantine,” Cayetano said.

Declines in emissions during crises are usually followed by a rapid upsurge, the World Meteorological Organization said.

“The world needs to demonstrate the same unity and commitment to climate action and cutting greenhouse gas emissions as to containing the Coronavirus pandemic,” WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said on March 24. “Failure in climate change mitigation could lead to greater human life and economic losses during the coming decades.”

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/03/25/2003406/roads-clear-metro-manila-breathes-cleaner-air-during-lockdown>



Air quality sa MM, luminis dahil sa enhanced community quarantine

March 25, 2020 @ 8:10 PM 10 hours ago

Views: 174

Manila, Philippines – Dahil sa ipinatutupad na enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) nahihirapan ang mga residente ng Metro Manila bunsod ng 2019 Corona Virus Disease (Covid-19) subalit naging maganda naman ang epekto nito sa kapaligiran dahil luminis ang hangin sa Kalakhang Maynila nitong mga nakalipas na araw.

Iniulat ito ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), base na rin sa naitalang lebel ng polusyon sa mga air quality monitoring stations sa iba't-ibang lugar sa Metro Manila.

Nitong Marso 14, 2020, nang ipag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang community quarantine sa Metro Manila, na sinundan ng pagdedeklara ng enhanced community quarantine sa buong Luzon noong Marso 17 ng kasalukuyang taon.

Base sa kautusan, ipinagbawal sa publiko ang bumiyahe sa buong National Capital Region at bawal din ang mga tao sa lansangan bukod lamang sa mga front liners at mga naghahatid ng mga pangunahing serbisyo.

Sa ulat na inilabas ng Air Quality Information System ng DENR-Environment Management Bureau (EMB), bumaba ang konsentrasyon ng Particulate Matter (PM) sa air quality ng Metro Manila base na rin sa mga nakuhang datos sa air monitoring stations mula sa mga lungsod ng Las Pinas, Marikina, Muntinlupa at Paranaque.

Lumalabas sa datos, nitong Marso 22, 2020, ang 24-hour average level ng PM10 sa Las Pinas at Marikina ay bumaba sa 31.67 at 27.21 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm) mula sa 57.81 at 31.28 ug/Ncm noong Marso 9, 2020, base sa pagkakasunod. Ang katanggap-tanggap na "threshold standard level" ng PM 10 ay 60 ug/Ncm.

Ayon naman sa DENR Administrative Order No. 2013-13, ang katanggap-tanggap na limit ng PM 2.5 ay 50 ug/Ncm sa loob ng 24-oras average level kung short term, habang 35 ug/Ncm naman average level sa loob ng isang taon kapag long term.

Sa Muntinlupa naman at Paranaque, ang PM 2.5 level noong Marso 22, 2020 ay naitala sa 10.78 ug/Ncm at 14.29 ug/Ncm, ayon sa pagkakasunod, na mas higit na mababa sa nai-rekord noong Marso 10, 2020 na mayroong 28.75 at 27.23 ug/Ncm sa magkahiwalay na lungsod.

“We can see the drastic drop in numbers of PM 2.5 in Muntinlupa and Paranaque, and the drop in numbers of PM 10 in Las Pinas and Marikina. This explains why our sky now is clear and looks clean,” sabi ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

Ayon naman kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ito ang naging isa sa epekto ng COVID-19 crisis. “The sudden stop of activities in many countries allows the earth to heal from environmental degradation. The major cause of climate change- air pollution, due mainly by mass transport energy emissions, is being abated. In the same way, there is lesser trash in public places because people are in strict home quarantine and restaurants are closed.”

Ang numerong 2.5 sa PM 2.5 ay tumutukoy sa diameter na nasa micrometers o micron na humahalo sa solid particles at liquid droplets sa ating atmosphere. Kapag ito ay nalanghap, maaari nitong maapektuhan ang ating puso at baga. Nagmumula ang PM 2.5 particles sa emission ng motor vehicles, fossil fuel power plants, pagsusunog ng kahoy at iba pa; habang ang PM 10 ay nanggagaling naman sa emission ng crushing at grinding ng mga makina at alikabok mula sa mga semento at maruming kalsada.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore, on a global scale, the realization that a country’s economic and socio-political pillars are underpinned by healthy environment,” dagdag pa ni USecAntiporda.

“With Secretary Roy A. Cimatu at the helm, the DENR shall remain steadfast in doing its avowed task of providing Filipinos with healthy environment, likewise, important updates on crucial environmental concerns, such as clean air,” ang pagtatapos ng Undersecretary. **Santii Celario**

Metro Manila air quality improves during quarantine

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Mar 25, 2020 2:30:23 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, March 25) – Metro Manila's air quality has improved during the enhanced community quarantine to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Wednesday.

The government's restriction on movement and business operations in the entire Luzon entered its 9th day on Wednesday. Under the quarantine, only workers in critical industries like healthcare, food preparation, banks, groceries, and media are allowed to report to work while the rest were told to stay at home. Malls, offices and all forms of public transportation were also shut.

On March 22, the 24-hour average level for particulate matter or PM10 in Las Pinas dropped to 31.67 micrograms per normal cubic meter of air (ug/Ncm) while in Marikina it fell to 27.21 ug/Ncm. The acceptable threshold level in PM10 is 150 ug/Ncm.

PM10 are “inhalable particles with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.”

Also on March 22, the PM2.5 levels posted low marks of 10.78 ug/Ncm in Muntinlupa and 14.29 ug/Ncm in Paranaque. The acceptable limit in PM 2.5 is 50 ug/Ncm per 24 hours and 35 ug/Ncm per an average of one year.

As of March 20, the air quality index in some of Metro Manila cities tallied low marks such as Makati (2 PM10), Marikina (18 PM10), Paranaque (6 PM10), Pasig (45 PM10), San Juan (23 PM10), Taguig (38 PM10), and Quezon City (13 PM10).

All the scores meant that “air pollution poses little or no risk” in these areas.

Low PM10 emissions in Metro Manila were attributed to the reduced usage of crushing and grinding machines and low exposure of dust from cemented and dirt roads.

The low PM2.5 emissions in the region, on the other hand, were due to low emissions from motor vehicles, fossil fuel power plants, and wood burnings among others.

The Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine will last until April 13.

Source: https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/3/25/metro-manila-improves-air-quality-amid-quarantine.html?fbclid=IwAR0Jd_0zMVY0S313l6r5up0mgFxxqwlGRVzlcgHhBOjNKVv4k73LDn3f-Zo

LOOK: Data show less polluted air in Metro Manila amid lockdown

Kristine Sabillo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 25 2020 10:34 PM

MANILA—Various groups on Wednesday confirmed that the air quality in Metro Manila has improved after the government imposed an enhanced community quarantine in Luzon.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Institute of Environmental Science & Meteorology (IESM) at the University of the Philippines Diliman, and Airtoday.ph all released data on Wednesday showing how air pollution decreased in the metropolis.

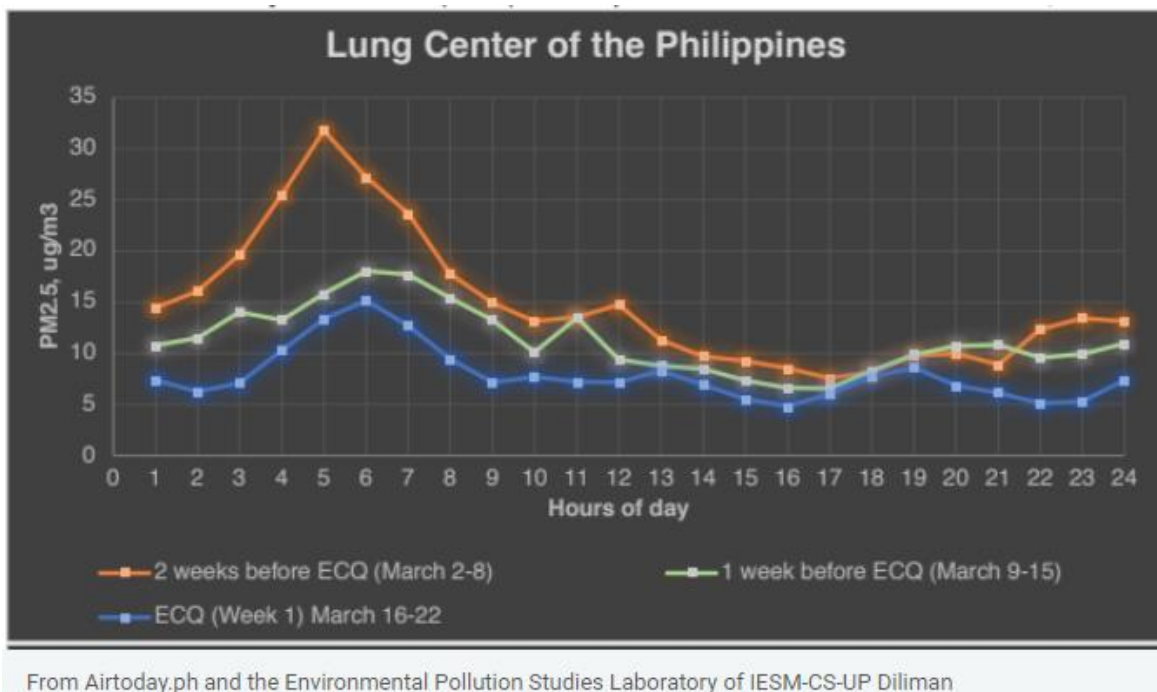
In a news release, the Environmental Pollution Studies Laboratory of IESM-CS-UP Diliman said that Airtoday.ph stations recorded a “180% decrease in PM2.5 since the enhanced community quarantine was imposed in Metro Manila in March 16, 2020.”

AIR POLLUTANTS

PM, or particulate matter, refers to the mixture of solid particles or liquid droplets in the atmosphere. These include water, dust and salt particles. PM2.5 refers to particulate matters that have a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometers or just 3 percent of the diameter of a human hair. High levels of fine particulate matter in the air can reduce visibility or make the sky look hazy.

According to the Environmental Pollution Studies Laboratory, PM2.5 is airborne dust particles that can enter the lungs, aggravate pre-existing respiratory conditions and cause shortness of breath.

It said a comparison of pre-ECQ and current air quality levels show the best improvement during evenings and early mornings. During this time, PM2.5 is reduced from 80% to 180% at the Lung Center of the Philippines, one of the partners of Airtoday.ph, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Makati.



Meanwhile, PM2.5 was also reduced by 70% to 90% along EDSA Munoz.

The same trend was observed in another Airtoday.ph station along EDSA Munoz, at 70-90% reduction in PM2.5 since the ECQ (Figure s 1&2).

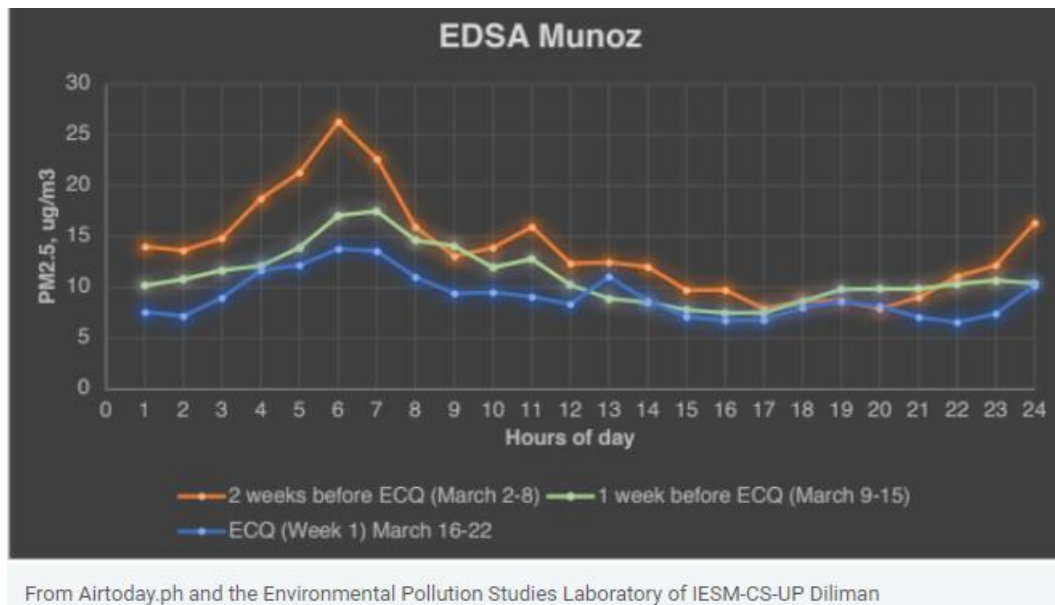
LOOK: Data show less polluted air in Metro Manila amid

March 24, 2020

TITLE: lockdown

PAGE 1/ 2/3

DATE



Dr. Mylene Cayetano, technical adviser of Airtoday.ph and head of the UP Environmental Pollution Studies Laboratory, said majority of air pollution in the area comes from vehicle emissions.

“Cordoning off East Ave. and Quezon Ave., both hospital zones, brings positive feedback of cleaning the air,” Cayetano said, referring to the road restrictions imposed because of the Luzon lockdown.

“The COVID-19 patients and the rest of the patients presenting in these QC hospital zone have either obstructive or restrictive breathing, thus, are in much need of clean air.”

SATELLITE IMAGES

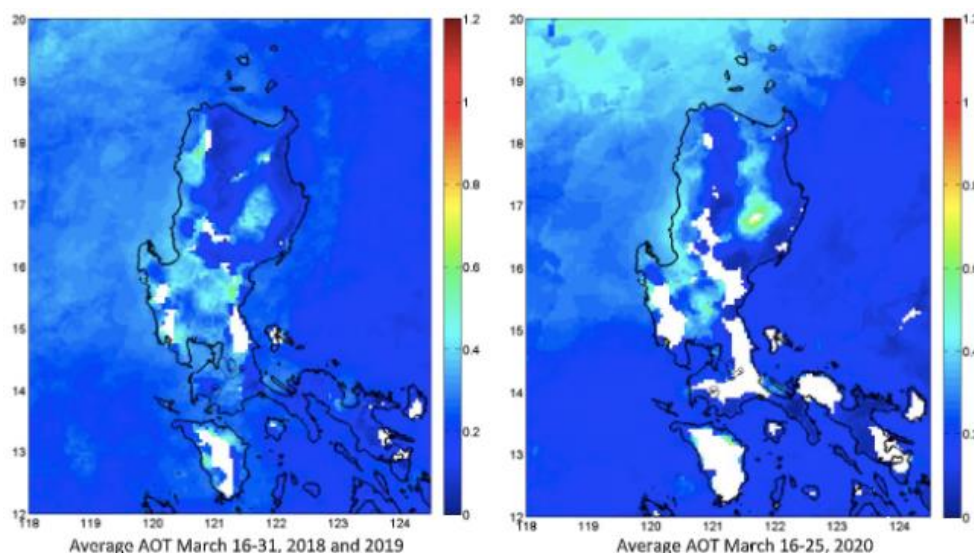
The IESM, UP Diliman also shared data from the Himawari satellite, which is used by the PAGASA for weather monitoring.

It shows the Atmospheric Optical Depth (AOD) or how sunlight is reflected from the Earth as it is blocked or scattered by particulate matter or air pollutants.

A lower AOD at 0.01 means the air is clean in that area while a 0.5 value means hazy conditions.

Satellite data from March 16 to 25 show a reduction in AOD compared to the same period in 2018 and 2019.

The IESM said it means Metro Manila’s air quality is better and there is less air pollution. The same can be said for Southern Tagalog but not for Central Luzon and Cagayan Valley where agricultural burning continues.



Satellite image from the Institute of Environmental Science & Meteorology, UP Diliman

LOOK: Data show less polluted air in Metro Manila amid

March 24, 2020

TITLE: lockdown

PAGE 1/ 3/3

DATE

The DENR also released that air quality improved based on data from their various monitoring stations in Metro Manila.

“On March 22, 2020, the 24-hour average level for PM10 in Las Piñas and Marikina went down to 31.67 and 27.21 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm) from a high 57.81 and 31.28 ug/Ncm, respectively, on March 9, 2020,” DENR said in a statement. “The acceptable threshold standard level of PM 10 is 60 ug/Ncm.”

DENR said that PM 2.5 levels in In Muntinlupa and Paranaque on March 22, 2020 were recorded at 10.78 and 14.29 ug/Ncm, respectively - “much lower when they were recorded at 28.75 and 27.23 ug/Ncm, respectively, on March 10, 2020.”

“This explains why our sky now is clear and looks clean,” said DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the lockdown imposed in countries around the world due to COVID-19 has allowed “the earth to heal from environmental degradation.”

“The major cause of climate change- air pollution, due mainly by mass transport energy emissions, is being abated. In the same way, there is lesser trash in public places because people are in strict home quarantine and restaurants are closed,” he said.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/25/20/look-data-show-less-polluted-air-in-metro-manila-amid-lockdown>

DENR urges trash collectors to disinfect waste amid COVID-19 outbreak

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 20 2020 05:34 PM



Trash collectors gather garbage at a creekside residential area in Tondo Manila on June 26, 2019. © Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/File

MANILA - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Friday urged garbage collectors to disinfect waste to stem the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Garbage collectors must disinfect collected waste before they are sent to trash sites, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

Garbage trucks must also be sanitized before it can start its next round of waste collection, he added.

He also stressed that medical waste, including masks and gloves used by health workers against infectious diseases, needs proper disposal.

The agency will coordinate with local government units on how to properly dispose waste.

As more than 50 million people in Luzon are placed under lockdown, Cimatu said households should segregate and sanitize their trash bags before they are collected.

Households can make their own cleaning solution by mixing 10 to 15 percent of bleach with clean water, he said. - **Report from Raya Capulong, ABS-CBN News**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/20/20/denr-urges-trash-collectors-to-disinfect-waste-amid-covid-19-outbreak>

Photos of rare clear view of Sierra Madre from Metro Manila go viral

Published March 25, 2020 6:45pm

A netizen captured a rare clear view of a portion of the Sierra Madre mountain range as seen from Metro Manila.

Taken by Johair Addang almost a week after the [enhanced community quarantine](#) has been implemented in Luzon, the photo quickly went viral on social media.

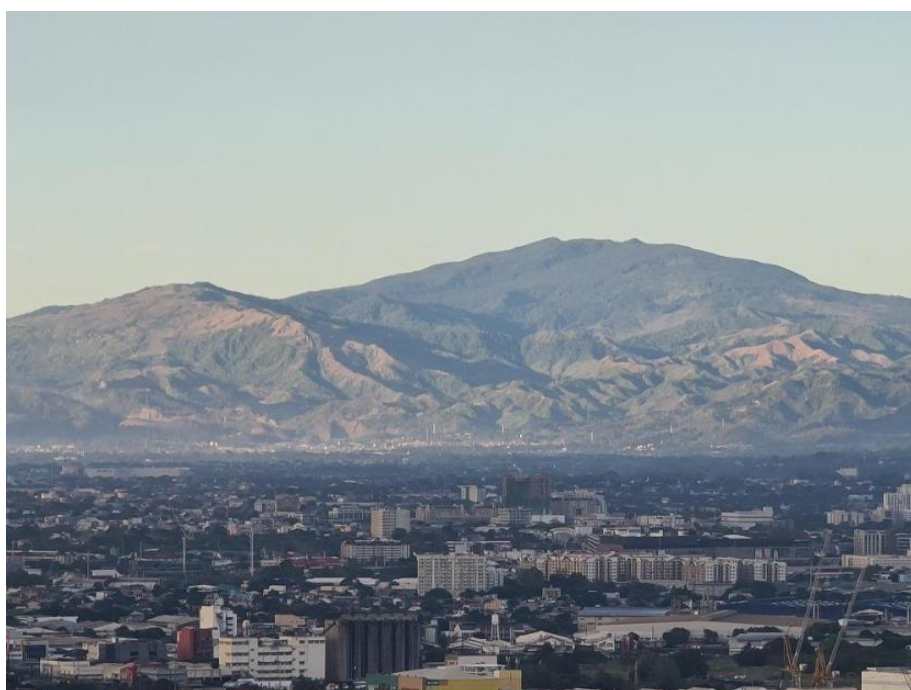
Addang said the photo was taken on Monday, March 23 at 5 pm, using Samsung S20 Ultra at the roofdeck of Lumiere Residences in Pasig City where Addang works.

"Dati kasi nakikita ko na 'yan pero shadow lang. Ngayon ko lang napansin na clear na at wala nang shadow," Addang told GMA News YouScoop.

He said would often take a break on the same exact spot where he took the photo, but he has never seen Sierra Madre as detailed as it was so he decided to take photos and share them on social media.

Sierra Madre is the longest running mountain range in the Philippines. It runs from the province of Cagayan from the north and Quezon to the south.

As of this writing, Sierra Madre has been mentioned in 11,000 tweets and landed on the trending list in the Philippines on Wednesday.



Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/hashtag/content/731272/photos-of-rare-clear-view-of-sierra-madre-from-metro-manila-go-viral/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook

LOOK: Manila after dark -- the community quarantine edition

Fernando G. Sepe Jr., ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 25 2020 06:47 PM

Hinahanap-hanap kita Manila. Ang ingay mong kay sarap sa tenga. Mga jeepney mong nagliliparan...

Except that unique, city experience is gone now, at least while the COVID-19 threat is here.

That's the iconic song that best describes the hustle and bustle of Manila. Who would think that one would experience in his lifetime a Manila bereft of the noise, the pollution and crowd of people one is used to seeing every day in every corner of the nation's capital?

A week into the "enhanced community quarantine" imposed by the government to stop the spread of the new coronavirus, that is exactly what's happening. And as the city falls into darkness after sunset, the few souls that dare to wander slowly creep into their own little nooks akin to the movie "I Am Legend," except that here the threat is real and it's not zombies but real people who might be carrying the deadly virus.



The sun starts to set on Manila as seen from Quezon Boulevard approaching Quiapo. © Fernando G. Sepe Jr., ABS-CBN News

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/multimedia/slideshow/03/25/20/look-manila-after-dark-the-community-quarantine-edition>



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/163550757135020/posts/1930488657107879/>



SUMUNOD SA BATAS PARA MAKAIWAS- COVID-19 LAHAT

March 25, 2020 @ 1:40 PM 16 hours ago
Views: 80

MARAMING pinaiiral na patakaran o batas ngayon laban sa Covid-19.

Dapat maging seryoso tayo sa pag-alam at pagsunod sa mga patakaran at batas na ito para maligtas tayo sa kalawit ni kamatayan o kaya'y labis na gutom at paghihirap kung matamaan tayo.

Ang karaniwang gutom at hirap ay ating matitiis at maalpasan pero para tayong dinaganaan ng langit at lupa kung tayo o miyembro ng pamilya natin ang mamatay o nagkasakit.

PAANO MALAMAN?

Marami ang paraan para malaman ang mga patakaran at batas laban sa Covid-19.

Una, sumangguni sa mga pamahalaang barangay, munisipyo, lungsod o lalawigan.

Dahil sa mga lockdown at iba pang pinaiiral na anyo ng community quarantine na pinaiiral ng local government units, maaaring sapat na ang pagpunta kina kapitan, kagawad at Sangguniang Kabataan para magtanong at magpalinaw sa mga malalabong bagay o hindi natin alam.

Ikalawa, gamitin ang mass media.

Maraming bukas na radio at telebisyon na nagbabalita.

Iwasan ang pagbabad sa mga Koreanovela, pelikula at shows at, sa halip, mag-interes sa mga balita at kuro-kuro ng mga reporter, broadcaster at bisita nila na naglalabas ng mga kaukulang kaalaman.

Ikatlo, kung may internet ka naman, mag-brows ka sa mga balita at punom-puno ang balita rito.

Magagamit mo rito ang iyong cellphone, laptop, personal computer at iba pang gadget.

HUWAG BALEWALAIN ANG COVID-19

Sabi ng iba, konti lang naman ang namamatay at naiimpeksyon.

Bakit daw ba kailangang isailalim sa Public Health Emergency, Community Quarantine ang buong Luzon, State of Calamity ang buong Pilipinas at pagbawalang lumabas ang mga tao kundi manatili lamang sa bahay?

‘Pag tinatanong naman sila kung gusto nilang mamatay, ayaw naman nila.

Seryoso ang Covid-19 kaya hindi dapat balewalain.

Lima nang doktor na nanggagamot sa mga may Covid-19 ng patay.

Deepest condolences po sa pamilya ng kamamatay na doktor sa Philippine Heart Center, si Philippine Heart Center past president Dr. Raul Diaz Jara matapos silang makagamot ng isang pasyente na sa una ay mas sakit sa puso ngunit sa huli, may Covid-19 pala.

Nauna rito, namatay rin si Dr. Israel Bactol, ng PHC na nakasama ni Dr. Jara; at sina Dr. Rose Pulido, ng San Juan de Dios Hospital; Fr. Greg Macasaer at isang Dr. Fernandez.

Namatay rin sa Covid si University of the Philippines Asian Center Dean Aileen Baviera.

Kasama sila sa 35 nang patay mula sa 552 nagpositibo sa buong Pilipinas.

Hindi dapat hintayin na maganap sa Pinas ang pagkamatay ng mahigit 6,620 sa Italy; 3,2281 sa China; 2,808 sa Spain; 1,934 a Iran, 1,100 sa France; 706 sa United States; 442 sa United Kingdom; 276 sa The Netherlands; 159 sa Germany, 122 sa Belgium at iba pa.

Ang community quarantine at pananatili sa bahay ang kabilang sa mga pinakaepektibong pangontra sa Covid-19.

Talo ng maagap ang masipag, ‘ika ng ng matatanda natin.

NAGKAKAUBUSAN NG DOKTOR

Nagaganap na ang isang nakatatakot na anyo ng pananalakay ng Covid-19.

Mabilis maubos ang mga nagdyu-duty na doktor, nars at iba pang nating medical professional.

Nag-quarantine ang marami sa nasa 600 doktor, nars, radiologist at iba pa sa Philippine Heart Center; 530 sa University of Sto. Tomas; 150 sa Medical City; at iba pa.

Kaya naman balak nang tawagin ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque III ang mga graduate sa pagkadoktor, nars at iba na hindi pa pasado sa pagsusulit upang maglingkod bilang katulong ng Department of Health laban sa Covid-19.

Lumalabas ding kulang na ang mga personal protective equipment, mask, gwantes at iba pa habang pila-pila na ang mga nagpapatsekap sa mga ospital at pununa na.

PANAHON NG PAGSUNOD

Malinaw na narito at aali-aligid lang ang kamatayan sa Covid-19, lalo na't napaparalisa na ang maraming ospital at doktor na dapat manggamot at mag-asikaso sa atin kun tayo'y tinamaan.

Kapag sinabing mag-stay at home tayo, sumunod sa curfew, mag-distansya sa isa't isa, huwag gumawa ng pag-uumpukan ng mga tao gaya ng misa, kasal at maging ng pakikilamay at iba pa, sumunod po tayo.

Kapag sinabing may lockdown at checkpoint ng mga sasakyan at limitado lang ang sakay ng mga motorsiklo at iba pa, sumunod po tayo.

Kapag sinabing magsuot tayo ng face mask, magtakip ng bunganga kung bumahin at umubo, magpatingin sa doktor kung may sintomas ng Covid-19 sa atin gaya ng lagnat, ubo, pagtatae at iba pa, sumunod po tayo.

Kung may malaman tayong posibleng may dala ng sakit, may galing sa ibang bansa at iba pa, tumulong tayong mag-report sa mga awtoridad.

Ang mga tumatakas sa mga quarantine area, dapat ding i-report sa mga kinauukulan upang maibalik sila sa mga quarantine area.

Kapag sinabing ang mga mahihirap lang ang mabibigyan ng rasyon ng batayang pangangailangan, huwag nang maghangad ang mga may kaya sa buhay.

Source: <https://remate.ph/sumunod-sa-batas-para-makaiwas-covid-19-lahat/>



Lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam, patuloy ang pagbaba

March 25, 2020 @ 7:28 PM 11 hours ago
Views: 134

Manila, Philippines — Bumabang muli ang water level sa Angat dam sa magdamag hanggang ngayong araw ng Miyerkoles, ayon mismo sa PAGASA.

Pangunahing pinagkukunan ng tubig ng mga water concessionaires ang Angat Dam, na siyang nagseserbisyo sa kabahayan at mga establisimyento sa Metro Manila at karatig-lalawigan nito.

Bukod pa rito, bahagyang bumaba din ang antas ng tubig sa Ambuklao, Binga, San Roque, Pantabangan at Caliraya dams.


Sa kabilang banda, nadagdagan ang water level ng La Mesa dam na nasa 76.94 meters.

Nadagdagan din ang water level ng Ipo dam na ngayo'y nasa 101.04 meters na.

Tumaas din ang antas ng tubig sa Magat dam.

Matatandaan nitong Biyernes, opisyal nang inanunsyo ng PAGASA ang pagsisimula ng tag-init. Remate News Team/MM

Source: <https://remate.ph/lebel-ng-tubig-sa-angat-dam-patuloy-ang-pagbaba/>



News5
19 hrs · 🌐

Bumaba ang lebel ng tubig sa mga dam kabilang ang Angat sa nakalipas na 24 na oras. Bahagya namang tumaas sa Ipo at La Mesa Dams. | via PAGASA-DOST

DATE UPDATED: 25-Mar-2020
TIME UPDATED: 6:00 AM

	Observation Time & Date	Reservoir Water Level (RWL) (m)	24-Hr WL Deviation	Normal High Water Level (NHWL) (m)	Deviation from NHWL (m)	Rule Curve Elevation (m)	Deviation from Rule Curve (m)	Estimated RR Amount to reach NHWL (mm) (C=0.5)	Gate Opening (meters)
ANGAT	6:00 AM 25-Mar	198.10	-0.23	212.00	-13.90	191.79	6.31		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	198.33			-13.67	192.03	6.30		
	6:00 AM 25-Mar	101.04			0.04	101.00	0.04	-	
IPO	6:00 AM 25-Mar	101.04	0.04	101.00	0.04	-	-		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	101.00			0.00	-	-		
	6:00 AM 25-Mar	76.94			0.01	80.15	-3.21	-	-
LA MESA	6:00 AM 25-Mar	76.94	0.01	80.15	-3.21	-	-		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	76.93			-3.22	-	-		
	6:00 AM 25-Mar	748.24			-0.01	752.00	-3.76	752.00	-3.76
AMBUKLAO	6:00 AM 25-Mar	748.24	-0.01	752.00	-3.76	752.00	-3.76		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	748.25			-3.75	752.00	-3.75		
	6:00 AM 25-Mar	570.96			-0.01	575.00	-4.04	574.00	-3.04
BINGA	6:00 AM 25-Mar	570.96	-0.01	575.00	-4.04	574.00	-3.04		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	570.97			-4.03	574.00	-3.03		
	6:00 AM 25-Mar	250.08			-0.26	280.00	-29.92	245.46	4.62
SAN ROQUE	6:00 AM 25-Mar	250.08	-0.26	280.00	-29.92	245.46	4.62		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	250.34			-29.66	245.71	4.63		
	6:00 AM 25-Mar	191.15			-0.41	221.00	-29.85	207.07	-15.92
PANTABANGAN	6:00 AM 25-Mar	191.15	-0.41	221.00	-29.85	207.07	-15.92		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	191.56			-29.44	207.17	-15.61		
	6:00 AM 25-Mar	164.98			0.12	193.00	-28.02	180.64	-15.66
MAGAT	6:00 AM 25-Mar	164.98	0.12	193.00	-28.02	180.64	-15.66		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	164.86			-28.14	180.74	-15.88		
	6:00 AM 25-Mar	287.97			-0.18	-	-	-	
CALIRAYA	6:00 AM 25-Mar	287.97	-0.18	-	-	-	-		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	288.15			-	-	-		
	6:00 AM 24-Mar	288.15			-	-	-		

SSSchneider

Trend for the past 24 hours:
 + Deviation indicates increase from previous WL
 - Deviation indicates decrease from previous WL

For further information, please contact:
 Sheila S. Schneider 0917-853-4819
 Ray A. Badite 0999-585-9329
 Oskar D. Cruz 0921-730-6027

Data Source: Dam Operating/Managing Agencies

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1930054657151279&set=a.182218585268237>

With world busy fighting coronavirus, China quietly builds

March 24, 2020

TITLE: installations on Philippine-claimed reefs

PAGE 1/ 2

DATE



With world busy fighting coronavirus, China quietly builds installations on Philippine-claimed reefs

[Patricia Lourdes Viray](#) (Philstar.com) - March 24, 2020 - 12:24pm

MANILA, Philippines — While the rest of the world is busy battling the coronavirus pandemic, China, where the virus originated, has taken advantage of the countries' preoccupation by building new facilities on Philippine-claimed territories in West Philippine Sea.

On Friday, government-funded Chinese Academy of Sciences launched two research stations on Fiery Cross (Kagitingan) and Subi Reefs in Spratly Islands to "help scientists expand their research into deep sea ecology, geology, environment, material sciences and marine energy," state-run [Xinhua reported](#). "They also play a part in monitoring ecological and seismic changes in key regions of the South China Sea," it added.

As it is, the state-sponsored think tank running the new installments has a research center based on Mischief Reef, which the July 2016 international arbitral award ruled to be part of the Philippines.

While Subi Reef and Fiery Cross are different territories not subject of the ruling, Manila is also laying claim on the islands located closer to the country, sitting around 100 km and 24 km off Palawan, respectively.

According to the news report, the new stations would serve as research units meant to support Beijing's all-encompassing development programs in South China Sea, an area where freedom of navigation has been under attack due to China's militarization.

With world busy fighting coronavirus, China quietly builds

March 24, 2020

TITLE: installations on Philippine-claimed reefs

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Specifically, new Chinese facilities in Fiery Cross are envisioned to monitor coral reef biomes or the island's flora and fresh water conservation, while those in Subi Reef will house seismic stability and fresh water monitoring systems.

Fiery Cross and Subi Reefs are two of Beijing's "big three" militarized islands in the Spratlys, particularly transforming the former into a fortified airbase in 2017.

In July 2016, a United Nations-backed tribunal characterized Fiery Cross Reef as a rock that can't sustain habitation or economic life. It is allowed a 12-nautical mile territorial sea.

As to Subi Reef, the arbitral tribunal also concluded that the island is a low-tide elevation, which means that it disappears during high tide and has no maritime entitlement.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/03/24/2003124/world-busy-fighting-coronavirus-china-quietly-builds-installations-philippine-claimed-reefs>

55 modernized jeeps roll out in Cebu

By [The Manila Times](#)

March 25, 2020

The country's public utility vehicle (PUV) modernization program was recently rolled out in the Queen City of the South with the launch of 55 units of the modern People's Jeep to ply different routes around the Metro Cebu area.



Cebu rolls out environmentally compliant jeep. PHOTO BY CPMPC

The new jeep will use the all-new Durabus Zhongtong Class 2, which is compliant with the Philippine National Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry.

It features a global positioning system device, speed limiter, front and rear cameras, indoor TV, air-conditioning, foam seats and security close-circuit TV.

A project of the Cebu People's Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CPMPC), the rollout is by far the biggest launch in line with the full implementation of the Duterte administration's PUV modernization program.

The People's Jeep is powered by environmentally compliant Euro 4/5 diesel engine, which significantly reduces carbon and sulfur emissions.

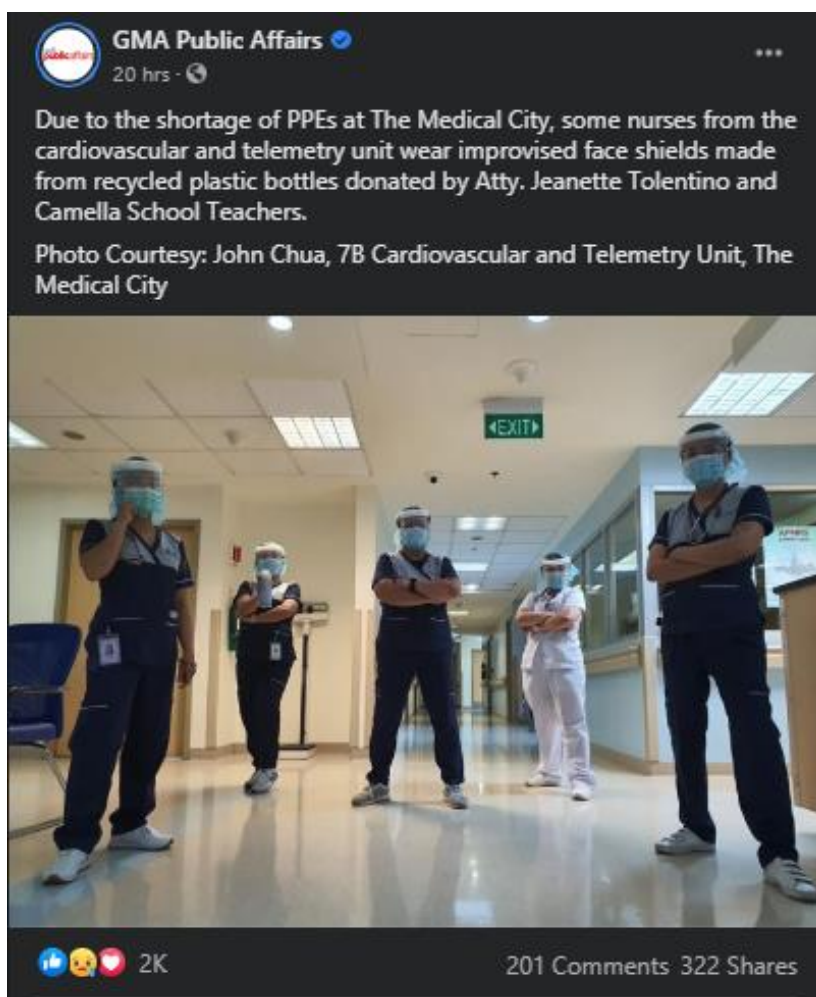
Fare payment is through the automatic fare collection system (AFCS) required under the PUV modernization program. The CPMPC has partnered with AF Payments Inc., the country's leading AFCS provider known for the Beep Card.

There are currently 12 units plying Route 13C, which runs from Colon Street in downtown Cebu City to the outer barangay (village) of Talamban.

The CPMPC is one of the country's biggest and multi-awarded cooperatives with more than 70,000 members nationwide.

It was founded in 1972 in Cebu City to test the viability of a service-oriented organization of micro, small and medium enterprises, professionals, housewives, farmers, fisherfolk and people from the informal sector.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/25/news/regions/55-modernized-jeeps-roll-out-in-cebu/705960/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#Echobox=1585099412



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10157853508316066&set=a.306967386065>

Cleaner hands, bluer skies: What has coronavirus done
for us?

TITLE:

PAGE 1/ 4

March 24, 2020

DATE

Cleaner hands, bluer skies: what has coronavirus done for us?

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

March 25, 2020

TOKYO: Deaths, economic meltdown and a planet on lockdown: the coronavirus pandemic has brought us waves of bad news, but squint and you might just see a few bright spots.

From better hygiene that has reduced other infectious diseases to people reaching out as they self-isolate, here are some slivers of silver linings during a bleak moment.

Wash your hands!

The message from health professionals has been clear from the start of the outbreak: wash your hands.

Everyone from celebrities to politicians has had a go at demonstrating correct technique — including singing “Happy Birthday” twice through to make sure you scrub long enough, and hand sanitiser has flown off the shelves.

All that extra hygiene appears to be paying off, at least in some countries, including Japan, where the number of flu cases appears to be sharply down.

Japan recorded 7.21 million cases by early March — usually around the peak of the flu season that runs until May.

That was far below figures for previous years, including the 21.04 million infections seen during the 2017/18 season.

Cleaner hands, bluer skies: What has coronavirus done
for us?

PAGE 1/ 2/4

March 24, 2020
DATE



Handwashing and hygiene in Japan has helped push down the number of flu infections this year, officials say. AFP PHOTO

Carbon curbs

Factory shutdowns, travel bans and a squeeze on demand spell economic disaster, but it isn't all bad news for the environment.

In the four weeks to March 1, China's CO2 emissions fell 200 million tonnes, or 25 percent, compared to the same period last year, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

That's a decline equivalent to annual CO2 emissions from Argentina, Egypt or Vietnam.

The slowdown in China also saw coal consumption at power plants there down 36 percent, and the use of oil at refineries drop by nearly as much.

Air travel is also grinding to a virtual halt, achieving at least a short-term drop-off in emissions from a highly polluting industry.

And there have been other environmental benefits, including crystal-clear waters in Venice canals usually choked with tourist-laden boats.

Unfortunately, experts say the cleaner air may be short-lived.

Cleaner hands, bluer skies: What has coronavirus done
for us?

TITLE:

PAGE 1/ 3/4

March 24, 2020

DATE

Once the health crisis is over, experts expect countries will double down to try to make up for lost time, with climate change concerns likely to be sidelined in a race to recover economic growth.

Save the pangolins

The source of the coronavirus remains in question, but early tracking focused on a market in China's Wuhan where a variety of live wildlife was on sale for consumption.

A number of animals, including bats and the highly endangered pangolin, have been identified as possible culprits for the virus.

As a result, China in February declared an immediate and "comprehensive" ban on the trade and consumption of wild animals that was welcomed by environmentalists.

Beijing implemented similar measures following the SARS outbreak in the early 2000s, but the trade and consumption of wild animals, including bats and snakes, made a comeback.

This time the ban is permanent, raising hopes that it could end the local trade in wildlife.

"I do think the government has seen the toll it takes on national economy and society is much bigger than the benefit that wild-eating business brings," said Jeff He, China director at the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Reports linking the virus to the pangolin have also scared off would-be consumers of the scaly mammals elsewhere, with bushmeat vendors in Gabon reporting a plunge in sales.

Apart, together

One of the most difficult aspects of the stringent lockdowns imposed to slow the spread of the virus has been loneliness, with families and friends forced to endure weeks or even

Cleaner hands, bluer skies: What has coronavirus done
for us?

PAGE 1/ 4/4

March 24, 2020

DATE

But some people have found the measures are creating a sense of community spirit, and prompting them to make more of an effort to check in with family and reconnect with friends.

In Colombia, where a nearly three-week period of self-isolation is now in place, 43-year-old Andrea Uribe has organised everything from group exercise classes to family talent shows using video messaging programmes including Zoom.

“I have called my parents more often, I have talked to friends that I usually don’t talk to... I have organised Zoom meetings with friends in multiple countries,” Uribe, who works in development, told Agence France-Presse.

“It is wonderful to be forced to be there for one another. It has made me more creative. It just shows that we need to be present in people’s lives.” **AFP**

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/25/news/latest-stories/cleaner-hands-bluer-skies-what-has-coronavirus-done-for-us/706227/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#Echobox=1585108732

Cleaner hands, bluer skies: What has coronavirus done for us?

posted March 26, 2020 at 01:10 am by **AFP**

Deaths, economic meltdown and a planet on lockdown: the coronavirus pandemic has brought us waves of bad news, but squint and you might just see a few bright spots. From better hygiene that has reduced other infectious diseases to people reaching out as they self-isolate, here are some slivers of silver linings during a bleak moment.

Wash your hands!

The message from health professionals has been clear from the start of the outbreak: wash your hands.

Everyone from celebrities to politicians has had a go at demonstrating correct technique – including singing "Happy Birthday" twice through to make sure you scrub long enough, and hand sanitizer has flown off the shelves.

All that extra hygiene appears to be paying off, at least in some countries, including Japan, where the number of flu cases appears to be sharply down.

Japan recorded 7.21 million cases by early March – usually around the peak of the flu season that runs until May.

That was far below figures for previous years, including the 21.04 million infections seen during the 2017/18 season.

"We estimate that one of the reasons behind it is that people are now much more aware about the need to wash hands... given the spread of the new coronavirus," Japanese health ministry official Daisha Inoue told AFP.

Carbon curbs

Factory shutdowns, travel bans and a squeeze on demand spell economic disaster, but it isn't all bad news for the environment.

In the four weeks to March 1, China's CO2 emissions fell 200 million tonnes, or 25 percent, compared to the same period last year, according to the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air. That's a decline equivalent to annual CO2 emissions from Argentina, Egypt or Vietnam.

The slowdown in China also saw coal consumption at power plants there down 36 percent, and the use of oil at refineries drop by nearly as much.

Air travel is also grinding to a virtual halt, achieving at least a short-term drop-off in emissions from a highly polluting industry.

And there have been other environmental benefits, including crystal-clear waters in Venice canals usually choked with tourist-laden boats.

Unfortunately, experts say the cleaner air may be short-lived.

Once the health crisis is over, experts expect countries will double down to try to make up for lost time, with climate change concerns likely to be sidelined in a race to recover economic growth.

Save the pangolins

The source of the coronavirus remains in question, but early tracking focused on a market in China's Wuhan where a variety of live wildlife was on sale for consumption.

A number of animals, including bats and the highly endangered pangolin, have been identified as possible culprits for the virus.

As a result, China in February declared an immediate and "comprehensive" ban on the trade and consumption of wild animals that was welcomed by environmentalists.

Beijing implemented similar measures following the SARS outbreak in the early 2000s, but the trade and consumption of wild animals, including bats and snakes, made a comeback.

This time the ban is permanent, raising hopes that it could end the local trade in wildlife.

"I do think the government has seen the toll it takes on national economy and society is much bigger than the benefit that wild-eating business brings," said Jeff He, China director at the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Reports linking the virus to the pangolin have also scared off would-be consumers of the scaly mammals elsewhere, with bushmeat vendors in Gabon reporting a plunge in sales.

Apart, together

One of the most difficult aspects of the stringent lockdowns imposed to slow the spread of the virus has been loneliness, with families and friends forced to endure weeks or even months apart. But some people have found the measures are creating a sense of community spirit, and prompting them to make more of an effort to check in with family and reconnect with friends.

In Colombia, where a nearly three-week period of self-isolation is now in place, 43-year-old Andrea Uribe has organized everything from group exercise classes to family talent shows using video messaging programs including Zoom.

"I have called my parents more often, I have talked to friends that I usually don't talk to... I have organized Zoom meetings with friends in multiple countries," Uribe, who works in development, told AFP.

"It is wonderful to be forced to be there for one another. It has made me more creative. It just shows that we need to be present in people's lives."

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/news/world-news/320429/cleaner-hands-bluer-skies-what-has-coronavirus-done-for-us-3262020.html>

Gas giant to plead guilty for '18 wildfires

By [Associated Press](#)

March 26, 2020

SAN FRANCISCO: Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) will plead guilty to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter for a swath of death and destruction left behind after its fraying electrical grid ignited a 2018 wildfire that destroyed three Northern California towns and drove the nation's largest utility into bankruptcy.

The plea agreement, announced Monday (Tuesday in Manila), resolves the charges facing PG&E as part of a previously sealed indictment in Butte County. It marks the second time this decade that the company's neglect has culminated in it being deemed a criminal.

PG&E already is serving a five-year criminal probation imposed after it was convicted of six felony counts for falsifying records and other safety violations underlying a natural gas explosion that blew up a neighborhood in 2010 and killed eight people in San Bruno, California.

As with its prior criminal conviction, no one from PG&E will go to prison for the company's felony crimes.

Instead, its plea agreement with the Butte County District Attorney's Office calls for PG&E to pay a \$4-million fine, the maximum allowed. It will also help pay for efforts to restore access to water for residents affected by the loss of a canal destroyed by what became known as the "Camp Fire."

"We cannot replace all that the fire destroyed, but our hope is that this plea agreement, along with our rebuilding efforts, will help the community move forward from this tragic incident," PG&E Corp. Chief Executive Officer Bill Johnson said.

In a statement, Butte County District attorney Mike Ramsey said he hoped the plea agreement would bring “a bit of a sense of justice done” for the fire.

Camp Fire survivor Lisa Williams was outraged with the outcome. “It’s a crime against society,” she said. “A fine doesn’t change their behavior. They pay it and repeat bad behavior.”

One of those who died was Jay Downer’s wheelchair-using brother, with his dog by his side. Jay Downer also said he was dismayed by the price PG&E would pay for its lethal negligence.

“If I fell asleep at the wheel of a car and killed one person, I would be charged with manslaughter and I would be spending time in jail,” Downer said.

PG&E is scheduled to enter its plea and face sentencing at a court hearing scheduled for April 24.

Investors seemed pleased with the PG&E’s plea as the company’s shares surged more than 12 percent to close at \$8.12, while the overall stock market tanked.

AP

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/26/news/world/gas-giant-to-plead-guilty-for-18-wildfires/706575/>