

Suplay ng kahoy, siniguro ng DENR para sa

TITLE: konstruksyon ng COVID-19 facilities

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April 4, 2020

DATE



## Suplay ng kahoy, siniguro ng DENR para sa konstruksyon ng COVID-19 facilities

April 3, 2020 @ 6:34 PM 12 hours ago  
Views: 120

Manila, Philippines – Upang matiyak na may magagamit na suplay ng wood materials ngayong umiiral ang enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) kumilos na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang masiguro ang suplay ng kahoy para sa pagtatayo ng COVID-19 facilities at sa pagbiyahe ng pagkain sa buong bansa habang sinuspinde din ng ahensiya ang ang pagbiyahe ng forest products at wildlife species.

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu hindi isinama ang wood pallets, boxes at crates sa suspensiyon dahil ayon sa kalihim, ang dahil hindi ito “subject to any transport permit or document from the DENR.”

“Considering that these wood-based forest products are used for the transport of food products that are basic requirements during this time of crisis, movement of these should not be restricted,” ani Cimatu.

Ayon sa Section 10.2 of DENR Administrative Order No. 1994-07 o ang Revised Guidelines Governing the Issuance of Certificate of Origin of Logs, Lumber and Non-Timber Forest Products, ang delivery receipt o sales invoice at tally sheet ay sapat na para sa pagbiyahe ng mga nasabing produkto.

Nabatid sa ulat na sa ilalim ng memorandum ni Cimatu, ang mga exempted wood products ay manggagaling lamang sa mga legitimate wood processing plants na yaong mga nag o-operate na may valid permits at rehistrado na gumawa ng semi-finished o finished wood pallets, boxes or crates ayon sa kanilang DENR-approved current log supply inventory. Ang mga parating pang raw materials ay maaari ding gamitin kung ito ay nabigyan ng angkop na permits/transport documents bago mag March 26, 2020.

Tabla mula sa Falcata (*Falcataria moluccana*) ang karaniwang ginagamit sa paggawa ng kahoy na palletes, boxes at crates. Ito ay fast-growing “softwood” tree na naaani limang taon mula sa pagtanim nito.

Sa hiwalay na memorandum noong March 26, sinuspinde ni Cimatu ang pagtanggap, pag proseso at pag isyu ng lahat ng transport-related permits o documents sa buong bansa para sa lahat ng forest products at wildlife. Hindi kasama sa suspensiyon ang permits para sa pagbiyahe ng nakumpiskang tabla o lumber na gagamitin sa pagtayo o pag expand ng mga COVID-19 health facilities.

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Kasama sa mga confiscated lumber ang white and red lauan, apitong, bagtikan, toog, molave, mangkono (iron wood), narra, yakal, at kamagong.

Lahat ng nakumpiskang kahoy na iba-biyahe ay kailangan ng approved Deed of Donation na pirmado ng kinaukulang Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) at Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) bilang donors, at ng recipient institution. Kailangan din ang Transport Permit sa anyo ng certification attesting and consistent with specifics na nakasaad sa accompanying “Deed of Donation.

Bukod dito, kailangan din ang Tally Sheet na pirmado ng opisina nang kinaukulang CENRO bilang scaler. Dapat na nakasaad sa tally sheet ang sukat ng donated wood, uri ng mga wood species, bilang ng piraso at volume in board feet or cubic meters.

“The DENR supports the continuing and earnest work of the government to limit the movement of people and non-priority products at this time, and prevent the further spread of the virus,” sabi ni Cimatú.

Sinabi ni Cimatú na ang kilos na ito ng DENR ay bilang pagsunod sa Republic Act 11469 o ang Bayanihan to Heal as One Act na inisyu ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte noong Marso 24, 2020. Nakasaad sa Section 3 ng batas na “there is a need to mitigate if not contain the transmission of COVID-19, among others.” **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://remate.ph/suplay-ng-kahoy-siniguro-ng-denr-para-sa-konstruksyon-ng-covid-19-facilities/>

## 6 men in Kalinga stopped for not wearing masks, arrested for illegal logging

They could have passed through safely at the checkpoint had they wore their face masks

*Frank Cimatu*

Published 10:01 PM, April 03, 2020

Updated 10:02 PM, April 03, 2020



BAGUIO CITY, Philippines – Wear your face masks all the time. Even if you are about to do something illegal.

Six men including a minor were apprehended in Tabuk City in Kalinga last April 2 for transporting illegal lumber.

They could have passed through safely at the checkpoint had they wore their face masks.

Arrested were driver Heron Villanueva, 30, married; and his companions identified as Elmer James De Leon, 22, single; Armino Jacinto, 45, married; Arvie Jacinto, 19, single; Joey Garcia, 30, single and a minor.

According to the Tabuk police, the tanod of Barangay Dagupan Centro manning a checkpoint along Quezon Street flagged down the approaching Isuzu Elf truck supposedly to remind the 6 occupants to wear face masks as protection against the COVID-19 disease.

But one of the tanod discovered sawn lumber covered by a blue tarpaulin at the back of the truck. He asked Villanueva to show documents that would allow him to transport the logs and Villanueva couldn't show one. The tanod called the police who then impounded the truck and arrested the 6.

A Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) personnel calculated the logs at more than 800 board feet with an estimated value of P40,133.30.

Both the confiscated lumber and the truck were turned over to the DENR while the suspects were placed under the custody of Tabuk CPS.

Tabuk City and Kalinga were among the few cities and provinces in the North without a single positive coronavirus disease case.

Tabuk was among the first cities to impose a 14-day quarantine for residents and travelers coming in from outside. – **Rappler.com**

Source: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/256937-kalinga-illegal-logging>

# Illegal logging continues in MIMAROPA despite Luzon lockdown

The seized lumber appears to have been illegally cut while most people were staying at home for the lockdown

*Keith Anthony Fabro*

Published 8:30 AM, April 03, 2020

Updated 8:30 AM, April 03, 2020



PALAWAN, Philippines – Illegal logging in provinces under the Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan (MIMAROPA) region continue even amid the [enhanced community quarantine in Luzon](#), as environment authorities seized over 1,100 board feet of lumber, mostly from banned tree species, during the said period.

In the first two weeks of the Luzon lockdown, which covers MIMAROPA, enforcers seized abandoned lumber in separate locations in the region. The lumber was believed to be illegally cut while most people were staying at home, observing extreme measures to fight [COVID-19](#). No violators, however, were captured.

“We know that illegal loggers would take advantage of the situation, so we strengthened our monitoring and enforcement teams through the LGUs and communities to prevent them,” DENR MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado said in a statement on Wednesday, April 1.

In Occidental Mindoro, 880.28 board feet of amugis, lauan, and banuyo were confiscated on March 22 in Sitios Anduyan and San Pablo in Barangay Alipaoy, Paluan town. The items are from premium tree species used to build structures and make furniture.

“We have to retrieve the lumber immediately; otherwise, the perpetrators would get them back, or other people might take them for personal use,” said Ernesto Tañada, provincial environment chief in Occidental Mindoro.

The apprehended lumber has been documented and put under the custody of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Sablayan

Meanwhile in Romblon, on March 23, environment enforcers found 266 board feet of apitong lumber in Barangay Espana in San Fernando town. The team, backed by the police, also retrieved 120 board feet of red lauan in Barangay Mabini.

“It is difficult at these times, but we maintain to be on call 24/7 to protect our forests,” said Romblon environment officer Maximo Landrito.

In Palawan, enforcers recovered 10 sacks of mangrove charcoal in Barangay Aberawan, El Nido town on March 16. The group also apprehended 10 sacks of forest tree charcoal abandoned at Sitio Talogon, Barangay Bagong-bayan in Taytay town, March 21.

“Our team likewise responded to a slash-and-burn (*kaingin*) cultivation in Sitio Sablayan, Barangay Pancol, also in Taytay on March 23. The incident shall be under further investigation as we have already identified the owner of the lot, as well as those who initiated the activity,” Taytay CENR Officer Alan Valle reported.

The regional environment chief thanked the communities for keeping a watchful eye on the environment despite grappling with the dreaded disease. CENRO Sablayan received a tip on the abandoned lumber from a concerned citizen. Meanwhile, CENRO Taytay was informed of the illegal activities through social media.

With COVID-19 cases [present in MIMAROPA](#), Adornado assured that the enforcement teams across the region are taking precautionary measures against the disease whenever it responds to environmental law violation reports. – **Rappler.com**

Source: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/256848-illegal-logging-continues-mimaropa-despite-luzon-lockdown>

# 2 green sea turtles rescued, tagged, released back to sea

Published April 3, 2020, 2:57 PM

By *Marie Tonette Marticio*

**TACLOBAN City** – Two green sea turtles were turned over to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Regional Maritime Unit of the Philippine National Police in Barangay Anibong here.



Two green sea turtles were turned over to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Regional Maritime Unit of the Philippine National Police in Barangay Anibong here. (DENR-8 / MANILA BULLETIN)

The endangered species were handed to them by fisherman Florencio Amarillo who claimed that both sea turtles got tangled in his fishing net while fishing at Cancabato Bay recently.

"The turn-over of two juvenile green sea turtles by a responsible fisherman to the proper authorities is a beacon of hope in these trying times," Tirso Parian, Jr., Regional Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 8.

Upon assessment by DENR technical personnel, one of the green sea turtles bore a tag with number 1315K.

Records from the Conservation and Development Division showed that it was previously captured, tagged, and released to Cancabato Bay on September 8 last year.

The other was untagged, and so a tag with 1727M identification number was pinned for identification and monitoring prior to its release.

Having been assessed as fit to be released, members of the PCG, PNP Maritime Group, and personnel from the DENR brought the sea turtles to an uninhabited coastline of Cancabato Bay, San Jose and successfully released back to the bay.



Gimelina Parris, Zoology Technician of DENR who made the assessment of the captured green sea turtles said the fact that they were not butchered but turned-over to the authorities is highly commendable and speaks a lot about the maturity of some residents in supporting the wildlife conservation efforts.

"Both juvenile green sea turtles were female and so there is hope that their population will continue to increase," she noted.

Under Sec. 27 and 28 of R.A. 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act," injuring, killing, collection and trading of wildlife are prohibited and any violation thereof is punishable with a fine P1,000 to P5 million and/or imprisonment of 1 month to twelve years, depending on the classification and status of the wildlife.

According to the World Wildlife Organization (WWF), green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) are among those listed as endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

They are described as large and weighty turtles with a wide and smooth carapace. They have an average life span of up to 80 years, can grow up to 5 feet, and weigh up to more than 300 kilos.

Adult green sea turtles are herbivorous while as juveniles, they also eat invertebrates like crabs, jellyfish, and sponges.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/03/2-green-sea-turtles-rescued-tagged-released-back-to-sea/>

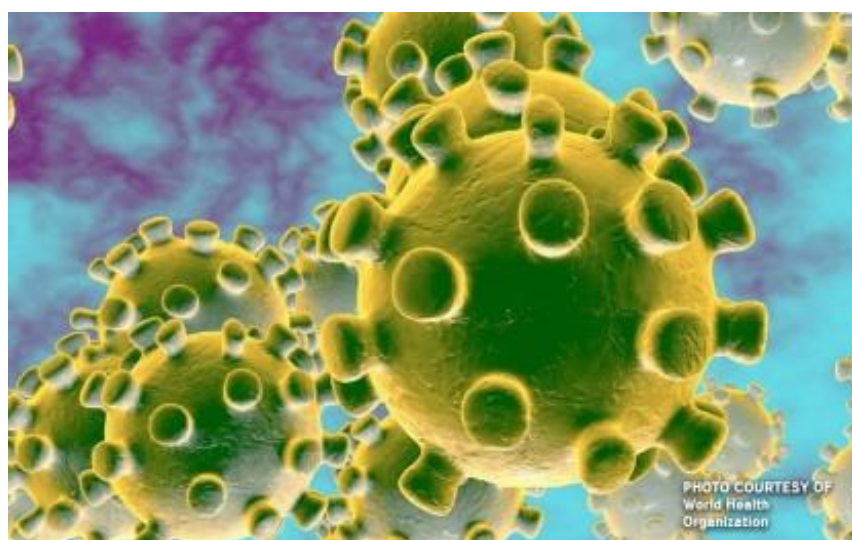
# Gov't cites accomplishments in fight vs. Covid-19

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos April 3, 2020, 7:15 pm

**MANILA** – The Duterte administration has detailed its accomplishments in addressing the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic in the country.

The signing of the Republic Act (RA) 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act helps the government bolster its ongoing efforts to fight Covid-19 as the new law allows President Rodrigo Duterte to wield special powers to contain the spread of the virus.

In the accomplishment and transparency tracker uploaded on website [covid19.gov.ph](https://covid19.gov.ph), the government cites the accomplishments of various state departments since RA 11469 was inked by Duterte on March 24.



To stop the further transmission of Covid-19, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has prioritized the production of 26,000 test kits for field implementation and distribution to five hospitals that can do the testing starting April 4 to 25.

The DOST has also produced 500,000 “reusable, washable and re-wearable” face masks.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), on the other hand, has helped the Department of Health (DOH) streamline the logistical operations of ambulances to Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patient referrals to public hospitals within Metro Manila.

The DICT has also provided technical assistance for DOH, drafted protocols for digital solutions to track Covid-19 patients, and augment the Epidemiology Bureau’s data gathering and disease surveillance and response functions compliant with cybersecurity and privacy laws, rules and regulation.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has also processed the facilitation of in-kind donations from four foreign governments, 12 private companies, individuals and civil society organizations.

To ensure the unhampered distribution of medical supplies, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has expedited the release of six ventilators and 40,000 test kits from the Temasek Foundation, 48 cartons of personal protective equipment (PPE) sets from the Xiamen Boson Biotech, and 57,600 test kits from the Alibaba Foundation.

The DOST has also facilitated the requests for transportation and provision of testing kits, PPE sets, and other medical supplies to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.



The Department of Transportation (DOTr) likewise has an ongoing study on the deployment of “floating” quarantine facilities that will be used to house persons suspected of having Covid-19, while the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has formed a task force that will facilitate the conversion of public buildings into health facilities or food hubs.

The National Transmission Corporation, meantime, has forged an agreement with the Lung Center of the Philippines that allows its health workers to be temporarily lodged at Transco dormitory facilities.

The Department of Budget and Management has also started drafting an executive issuance that will cover public health workers’ Covid-19 special risk allowance, which is in addition to the hazard pay granted to them under the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers.

### **Budget allocation**

Under RA 11469, Duterte is also allowed to augment funds for Covid-19 response.

As of March 27, funds are yet to be reprogrammed, reallocated or realigned pending the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases’ (IATF-EID) submission of its final budgetary requirements.

However, the DBM on March 27 already transmitted to the Department of Finance (DOF) a draft joint circular that will cover the utilization of PHP100-billion funds from national government agencies and government-owned and -controlled corporations.

The DBM has also begun preparing an initial master list of all unreleased appropriations under the Special Purpose Funds estimated at PHP372.719 billion.

### **Social welfare**

In an effort to help displaced families due to Covid-19 outbreak, an expanded and enhanced Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program has been implemented for two months.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has so far distributed food and non-food items to around 4,753 beneficiaries from March 13 to 29.

The DSWD has also procured 69,200 family food packs for 69,200 families; 15 family tents; 577,830 face masks; and 10,000 sando bags for rice repacking.

It has also granted PHP3,000 cash assistance to at least 54 stranded passengers at Clark International Airport in Pampanga.

The DSWD has likewise attended to the requests of 556 individuals who sought medical, educational and burial assistance from March 16 to 27.

### **Businesses**

The government has also adopted several measures to minimize the disruption to the supply chain.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has issued several advisories on the unrestricted movement of food supply, as well as the cargo and business personnel.

The Department of Agriculture has likewise formulated the Food Resiliency Action Plan, which includes quick response measures on the movement, trucking, and marketing of food supplies from the provinces to the metro areas.

The BOC has also issued orders providing for online filing of goods declaration, clearance of relief consignment entered during a state of calamity, and suspension of the seven-day period to lodge goods declarations.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has also begun its preparations for the implementation of the PHP1-billion Enterprise Rehabilitation Financing, which includes restart or restock of businesses to avoid foreclosure of their business assets, once quarantine restrictions are lifted.

To allow enterprises engaged in the manufacture of much needed medical supplies to operate and sell domestically, the IATF-EID has recommended the suspension of export percentage requirements for export enterprises.

The DTI has also liberalized the grant of incentives for the manufacture or importation of critical or needed equipment or supplies, including healthcare equipment.

### **Helping Filipino workers**

The national government has also implemented measures aimed at easing the plight of the workers affected by the month-long implementation of enhanced community quarantine.

Around noted 3,082 establishments with 137,496 affected workers have likewise implemented flexible work arrangements, while some 6,060 firms with 190,932 affected workers have opted for temporary closure.

From March 25 to 26, some 8,641 beneficiaries already received PHP5,000.00 financial assistance under the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Covid-19 Adjustment Measures Program.

The DOLE has also provided a 10-day disinfection job to 51,293 Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers Program beneficiaries who are expected to receive payment in three tranches (March 30, and April 6 and 7).

The DBM has also signed a budget circular that grants hazard pay to government workers who physically report for work during the imposition of enhanced community quarantine in Luzon.

For overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), the DFA has maintained close links with the World Health Organization and foreign governments to ensure timely exchange of critical information on the status of their status, provision of the necessary assistance, and facilitation of their safe repatriation.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has also provided transport, food, and accommodation assistance to returning and departing OFWs.

### **People's safety**

To protect people against Covid-19, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has assisted in providing disinfection and sanitation services for vehicles and public spaces by installing 336 sanitation tents and 76 gantry facilities.

The DPWH has also decontaminated 415 convergence areas like checkpoints, government facilities, schools, hospitals, and markets.

The Environment Management Bureau, meantime, has issued 90 special permits to transport pathological and infectious waste to augment the capacity of treatment, storage and disposal facilities.

To promote public awareness of Covid-19 outbreak, the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) has employed communication strategies such as virtual pressers, television and radio specials, social media cards and infographics, short video and audio materials, public service announcements, outdoor advertising, and news and feature articles.

The PCOO, in partnership with DICT, has likewise launched the Laging Handa website as an aggregator of all information related to the COVID-19 situation and government response.

To stop further transmission of Covid-19, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology has imposed a total lockdown on all jail facilities, disinfected jail cells, implemented "no mask no entry" policy, and adopted alternatives to physical visitation like regulated phone calls and video conferencing.

The DOTr Emergency Operations Center has also been established to respond to transportation-related queries from the public after the government limited the land, sea, and air travels.

The Bureau of Immigration has likewise issued several memoranda on travel restrictions pursuant to the directives of IATF-EID and implemented immigration formalities for passengers arriving from China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, South Korea, Iran, and Italy.

### Local governance

Duterte earlier directed all local government units (LGUs) to make sure that their constituents are receiving necessary assistance amid the health crisis.

As the government seeks effective monitoring of local governments' compliance to Duterte's directives relative to Covid-19 response, the DILG has activated the National and Regional Emergency Operations Centers to facilitate the coordination of operating units and partner agencies, as well as monitor LGUs.

The National Bureau of Investigation has also started investigating and filing charges against local government officials who willfully disregard, contravene, or violate national guidelines on community quarantine set by the IATF-EID.

### Law and order

Amid the implementation of Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine, Duterte ordered the military and police to maintain peace and order in the country.

To fulfill Duterte's order, the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, and the Bureau of Fire Protection has created a National Joint Task Force Coronavirus Shield which establishes a collaborative effort in addressing the effects of Covid-19.

The National Prosecution Service, meantime, has introduced electronic online inquest (E-inquest) in Metro Manila on March 27.

All other prosecution offices located within provinces or cities under the enhanced community quarantine have been given the option to adopt the E-inquest guidelines.

### Tax, utilities

The government has also moved the statutory deadlines and timelines for the filing and submission of any document, payment of taxes, fees, and other charges.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has promulgated issuances extending the deadlines for the filing of the 2019 income tax returns from April 15 to May 15; the filing of Certificate of Residence for Tax Treaty Relief Forms until April 30; and availing of Tax Amnesty on Delinquencies from 23 April 2020 to 23 May 2020.

The Manila International Airport Authority and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines have also extended airport concessionaires' "rental holiday" for one month.

The National Water Resources Board, meantime, has ordered all water utilities and water service providers to refrain from disconnecting water supply to individual households for the entire duration of the nationwide public health emergency.

The Environment Management Bureau has also ordered the automatic 60-day extension of all existing treatment, storage, and disposal registration certificates nationwide which may expire during the enhanced community quarantine period.

Duterte is expected to submit his weekly report on the national government's Covid-19 response to Congress on April 6. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1098779>



## MAY COVID, MILYON NA AT DASAL AT CONDOLENCES

April 3, 2020 @ 4:33 PM 15 hours ago

Views: 85

LUMAGPAS na sa isang milyon ang positibo sa Corona Virus Disease sa buong mundo.

Limang porsyento naman lagi ang namamatay.

Bagama't 21 porsyento ang sinasabing nakarerekober o gumagaling sa sakit, hindi naman nakagagaan gaano sa ating kalooban, lalo na kung iisiping may mga sinasabing gumagaling pero pagresbak ng sakit ay sa sementeryo o crematory o sunugan ang ending.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, may 1,016,482 nang kumpirmadong positibo, 53,245 patay at 213,001 gumaling.

At mabilis pang dumarami oras-oras, araw-araw.

### SA PINAS

Sa mahal kong Pinas nga lang, nasa 10 kada araw ang nadaragdag na patay sa nakalipas na limang araw at may kabuuang bilang nang 107 patay mula sa 2,633 kumpirmadong kaso (hindi kasali ang hindi kumpirmado) habang nasa 1,154 ang persons under investigation, 6,321 ang persons under monitory at 51 ang gumaling.

Sa ibang mga bansa, napakabilis ang pagdami ng biktima sa United States of America na meron nang 245,373 kumpirmado, 6,095 patay.

Sinundan ito ng mga bansang Italy na may 115,242 kumpirmado at 13,915 patay; Spain – 112,965 at 10,348 patay; Germany – 84,794 kumpirmado at 1107 patay; at China – 81,620 kumpirmado at 3,322 patay.

Wala pang palatandaan na humuhupa na ang Covid-19.

Habang mabagal na ang pagdami ng orig na Covid-19 sa China, dumarami naman ang mga tinatawag na asymptomatic o walang sintomas at nanggagaling sa ibang bansa habang nagbubukas ito ng mga paliparan at barko mula sa ibang mga bansa.

## HUWAG MAGRELAKS

Dahil parami nang paraming biktima sa ating bansa na kagaya ng nagaganap sa ibang mga bansa, tama lang ng isaisip natin ang laging sinasabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na nagsasabing ang pinakamasamang kalagayan ang dapat nating paghandaan.

‘Yun bang === maghanda tayo sa higit na kamatayan kaysa buhay upang magawa natin ang lahat para tayo mabuhay kaysa mamatay.

## HUWAG MAGING OA

Pero ang isa sa dapat nating iwasan ang sobrang aksyon na tumutungo na sa sinasabing overreaction o over-acting.

Halimbawa na lang sa mga checkpoint.

Akalain ba nating hinaharang at hindi na pinalulusot sa mga checkpoint maging ang mga maysakit na gustong pumunta at magpa-check up sa doktor at ospital na nasa ibang lugar sa kadahilanang hindi tagaroon o kakilala ng mga nagtse-checkpoint ang mga ito.

Nahaharang din mismo ang mga pagkain, mga frontliner at mga suplay na medikal.

Mismong mga nagugutom at gustong magpatulong sa iba nilang mga kamag-anak sa ibang barangay o bayan ay hinaharang din.

Isa pa, may mga munisipyo na ayaw magkaroon ng palibing ng mga namamatay at hihintayin na lang daw ang pagtatapos ng lockdown at quarantine period sa Abril 14.

Anak ng tokwa, ano ba ‘yan, ha?

Napakalalaking perwisyo ang mga ito sa taumbayan at maraming nasa checkpoint ang hindi gumagamit ng kukote, at maging ang ilang local government unit.

Dahil sa mga ito, tuluyan nang pinabuwag mismo ng pamahalaan ang mga ganyang uri ng checkpoint, lalo na sa mga highway.

## CONDOLENCES PO

Nakikiramay po tayo nang lubos sa pamilya ni Sta. Rosa Diamonds 102 Club Treasurer Lion Judith Unay sa pagkamatay sa Covid-19 ang frontliner niyang kabiyak na si Captain Raul Unay.

Nasawi rin sa Covid-19 ang iginagalang nating si Lions Presidents League Past President Lion Felipe “Philip” Obnial.

Isama na rin nating ipagdasal ang pamilyang naiwan ng lahat ng 12 doktor at isang nars na Pinoy na nasawi sa giyera ng bansa sa nasabing sakit.

Siyempre, tagos din sa dibdib ang ating pag-alaala sa lahat ng iba pang nasawi sa sakit at pag-alala sa mga naulila nilang pamilya.

Condolences na rin sa lahat ng pamilya ng mga nasawi sa mundo, kasama ang sa mga doktor, pari, madre, nars, lider ng bansa, sundalo, pulis at ordinaryong mamamayan.

Kasama ng ating pakikiramay ang taimtim na panalangin na sana'y matapos na ang salot sa pinakamadaling panahon at manumbalik sa normal ang ating pamumuhay.

Source: <https://remate.ph/may-covid-milyon-na-at-dasal-at-condolences/>

# Are bats to blame for the coronavirus?



By [The Manila Times](#)

April 4, 2020

In February, scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences published findings indicating a possible connection between the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic and bats.

Their study published in Nature showed that 96 percent of the coronavirus genome spreading around the world today was identical to another coronavirus found in bats. However, bat viruses have long been a part of bat evolution, as stated in a study by Charles Calisher published in 2006.

“The correspondingly ancient origins deduced for certain zoonotic viruses [viruses from animals that infect humans] maintained in bats, such as the henipaviruses and lyssaviruses, suggest a long history of cospeciation,” wrote the authors.

If such viruses are as ancient as bat evolution itself, the question then arises as to why humans are just now being exposed to such viruses?

## **The human factor**

If a bat or another wild animal is confirmed as the source of the Covid-19 pandemic, these species still cannot be blamed for the spread all by themselves.

Stephen Morse, a professor of epidemiology at the Columbia University Medical Center, wrote extensively on the different factors that facilitate the spread of new diseases.

These factors also include deforestation, building of dams, human travel and breakdown of public health measures, among others.

“Responsible factors include ecological changes, such as those due to agricultural or economic development or to anomalies in climate; human demographic changes and behavior; travel and commerce; technology and industry; microbial adaptation and change; and breakdown of public health measures,” wrote Morse in an essay published in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases in 1995.

As humans live closer and closer to bat and forest habitats, this exposes us to more of these diseases

They also mention Nipah virus outbreaks in Malaysia and India during the early 2000s, both of which were found to have come from local bats.

Though these incidents before today's coronavirus seem more isolated and far away, other factors have changed the way these viruses can travel from one area to the next.

In 2017, the International Air Transport Association or IATA said that the number of connected cities by plane doubled since 1995, while the largest number of passengers carried by airlines were those in the Asia-Pacific, reaching 1.5 billion passengers in 2017 alone.

IATA also announced that China would eventually add 921 million new passengers from 2016 to 2032, surpassing the United States.

An inevitable outcome of human practices

By merely looking at our steady encroachment on wildlife habitats and increased human travel, it is no wonder why the coronavirus has spread so far and wide.

Add to this the unprepared or weak health care systems of various countries around the world, as well as increased wildlife trade, it would seem that in hindsight this could have been predicted.

Scientists from the Zoological Society of London and Columbia University wrote in one study that over half of newly discovered diseases from 1990 to 2000 came from animals.

The authors added, "this supports the suggestion that zoonotic EIDs [emerging infectious diseases] represent an increasing and very significant threat to global health." The study was published in 2008.

## **Long-term, local solutions**

The focus at the moment, and rightly so, is supporting the ongoing work to decrease the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths. In the Philippines and all over the world, governments, health agencies, scientists, food distributors, transportation, other sectors and frontliners are doing what they can to keep people as safe and as comfortable as possible.

In the long-term however, one of the solutions is to focus on these zoonotic diseases at their source: wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Two bat coronaviruses were already identified in bats in the Philippines, as noted in a study by scientists from Japan and the University of the Philippines Los Banos published in Emerging Infectious Diseases last 2010. Meanwhile, according to the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines has over 78 different kinds of bats.



Increased study and stronger conservation actions for bat and wildlife habitats must be pursued in order to better understand where these viruses come from, and possibly derive ideas or direct solutions for cures or disease management.

Unfortunately the top three threats to bats and these habitats are deforestation, agriculture and logging, according to a preliminary study led by Krizler C. Tanalgo published in PeerJ Preprints in 2018.

Forest conservation efforts have long been an effort by nongovernment organizations and government agencies in the Philippines, including work done by the Haribon Foundation.

Haribon's Forest Governance Project involves strengthening local community efforts to ensure their forest resources are sustained and protected. This also includes the conservation of forest species from Philippine Eagles to rare hornbills, including bats that live in these areas.

As Covid-19 spreads, more questions will be unveiled. Some of the answers, however, have long been discussed by science. Now, we must encourage further support for such studies.

The sound implementation of environmental policies must also be pursued, to help us better understand wildlife and protect ourselves from future pandemics.

Albert Balbutin Jr.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/04/04/business/green-business/are-bats-to-blame-for-the-coronavirus/709487/>

# AboitizLand launches project for pawikan



By [The Manila Times](#)

OPINION

April 4, 2020

AboitizLand Inc., the real estate arm of the Aboitiz Group, has initiated its Pawikan Conservation Project with the Aboitiz Foundation and environmental science experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman.

The project establishes a five-year management plan to preserve sea turtle nesting sites located at Seafront Residences, the company's first residential project outside the Visayas.

Located in Barangay Calubcub II in San Juan, Batangas, the beach community is a 43-hectare, 800-unit development with its shoreline tagged by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as prime nesting grounds for the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle, or pawikan.

“We recognize that the pawikan is vital to the marine ecosystem. Knowing that it is endangered, we are making efforts to preserve the sea turtle population by protecting their nesting sites,” said Rafael de Mesa, AboitizLand first vice president of operations. “We will always strive to commit to sustainability. Together with the right facilities and the collaboration of the local community, we can build new homes while at the same time protect the pawikan's home too.”

AboitizLand's Pawikan Conservation Project is geared toward protecting and preserving the Olive Ridley sea turtles through research, proper monitoring, establishment of hatchling facilities, as well as community education drive.

During the first two years of implementation, research and profiling of the Olive Ridley sea turtles and their nesting sites will be completed. Barangay Calubcub II was also categorized into beach zones to identify and evaluate safe sea turtle nesting sites. If a zone is found to be vulnerable to high-tide flooding and poaching, sea turtle nests would be relocated to a safer hatching facility. Ideally, sea turtle nests must remain in their original site as long as risks are minimal. As of January 2020, 903 hatchlings were successfully released back into the ocean since the program started.

The following phase of the project will be rolled out in the next three years, starting this 2020. The following steps will include strategy evaluation and improvement as well as facilities enhancement.

THE TIMES

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/04/04/business/green-business/aboitizland-launches-project-for-pawikan/709489/>

Senators seek 'balancing act' between public health

April 4, 2020

TITLE: safety and economy

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# Senators seek 'balancing act' between public health safety and economy

By: [Christia Marie Ramos](#) - Reporter / [@CMRamosINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:57 PM April 03, 2020



Men wearing protective mask buys food as people rush before the Munoz market closes for it's morning business as they cut their operations to four hours a day as part the enhanced community quarantine to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus in Metro Manila, Philippines on Thursday, March 19, 2020. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

MANILA, Philippines — While some senators are not totally averse to extending the month-long enhanced community quarantine over Luzon, they concede that there should be a delicate balancing act between ensuring health public safety and protecting the economy.

For Senate President Vicente Sotto III, safety and economy should be taken into account when deciding whether or not to extend the quarantine.

“Have to study it well. Balance safety and economy. I agree with the thinking, ‘Life first, Economy later,’” Sotto told reporters in a Viber message.

President Rodrigo Duterte placed the entire Luzon under quarantine as the number of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the country soared. The quarantine became effective on March 17 and will be lifted on April 13.

Like Sotto, Senator Panfilo Lacson also said extending the quarantine is “a most difficult decision” as it involved the need to strike a balance between “flattening the curve of COVID-19 and the looming economic recession due to inactivity.”

“It is better left to those who have unlimited access to all the data to decide which is the best course of action to take moving forward. I’m sure if Congress is provided with all those data, we can help in the policy direction,” he said.

Senator Francis Tolentino said that extending the month-long lockdown should have an “empirical basis,” taking the health of the public and the economy into consideration.

Senators seek 'balancing act' between public health

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“I leave that decision to the President, however, we should have an economic stimulus law to resuscitate the economy in the long term which is likewise a job of Congress,” he said.

Meanwhile, Senator Joel Villanueva said that while he is in favor of extending the quarantine, supply chain experts should be consulted first to ensure that there is sufficient supply of food and basic necessities during the continuation of the quarantine period.

“The increasing incidence of (COVID-19) positive individuals tells us that the pandemic is not yet over. I am in favor of extending the quarantine... At the same time, we have to consult our supply chain experts as we need to probably exempt some sectors in this lockdown, especially the food, manufacturing, and delivery sector,” he said.

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Emerging Infectious Diseases earlier said it is still finalizing parameters in evaluating if the [quarantine](#) would be lifted, extended or expanded.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1253405/senators-on-ecq-extension#ixzz6Ib426uHK>

## Red tape in government relief

posted April 04, 2020 at 01:15 am

by [Emil Jurado](#)

### "The result is a delay in much-needed help for the poor."

Santa Banana, some of my friends have done nothing but complain about the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in Metro Manila and Luzon. They say that since there is nothing good coming out of all this, they have stopped watching TV, listening to the radio, or browsing the Internet.

But how can you keep yourself informed about what is happening when you shut the world out? Certainly I do not have that luxury, because I am a journalist who must write three columns a week. Information is our ally during this pandemic.

\* \* \*

The most common complaint these days is red tape in the distribution of assistance to the poorest of the poor. Since it is the barangay that is the frontliner in the implementation of the lockdown, officials have to be guided by instructions from the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Unfortunately, this guidance is much delayed.

The result is that the barangays cannot act, much to the detriment of the people.

This week we heard how some members of the urban poor community demanded that they be given food. And what did the cops do? They arrested them! Since when has it been a crime to cry for help?

This is the problem with the police, They lack maximum tolerance. This crisis demand sacrifices from everybody.

\* \* \*

There is an ongoing debate on whether the lockdown should be lifted or extended.

The Inter-Agency Task Force is now studying whether it should extend the lockdown of Luzon (originally up to April 12) and Metro Manila (up to April 14). Some people say the lockdown should be extended for one more month; otherwise our gains will go to waste.

My wife and I are now at our wits' end. We are staying with my daughter, and it is difficult for us to just stay indoors when we need food and medicine. We have a 24-hour curfew in Paranaque City. Still, we know that everybody must sacrifice and that the lockdown should be extended—with some compromises—for the common good. Lifting the restrictions would be toying with the lives of people. My wife and I see the need for draconian measures. Santa Banana, we have not yet seen the peak of this!

The Philippines is number 33 in the list of countries suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic. First on the list is the United States. China, where the virus started, is third; Italy is second.

\* \* \*

Makati Mayor Abigail Binay reported that the city has started distributing the midyear bonuses to senior citizens. I am supposed to receive P5,000 while my wife is supposed to receive P4,000. The problem is we cannot go out of our homes. I wonder if there is a way we can get our bonuses without having to leave our daughter's home in Paranaque. Just asking, Mayor Abby.

\* \* \*

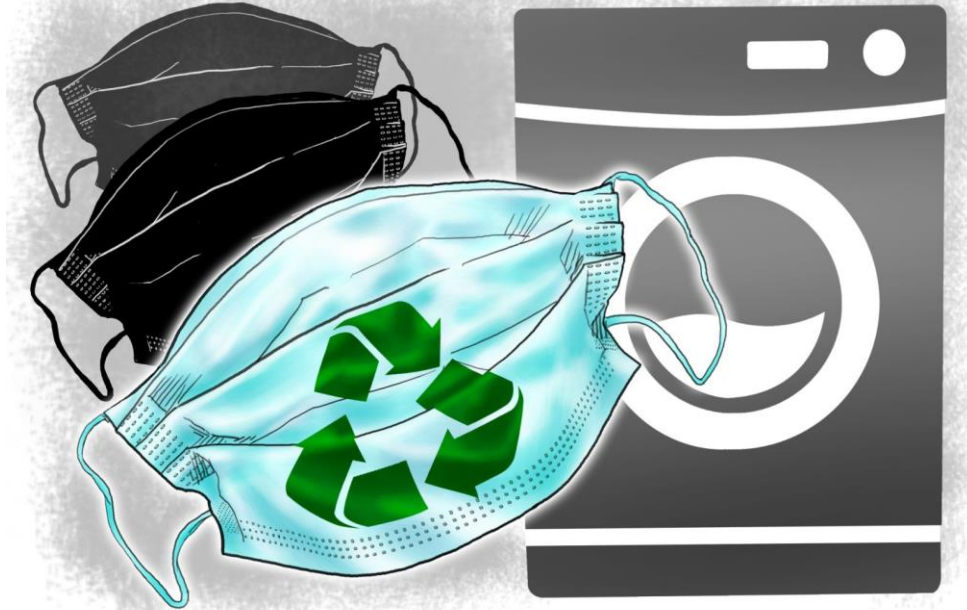
I will not have a column next week. I will devote my time to meditating and reflecting on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Just remember that without Good Friday, there will be no Easter Sunday.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/321023>

# Reusable masks for frontliners

Published 6 hours ago  
on April 4, 2020 12:30 AM  
By **TDI**



The shortage of surgical masks puts health care workers and other frontliners at risk of contracting the coronavirus disease, so both the public and the private sector are pouring in efforts to look for alternatives.

The Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) is seeking donations for textile to produce 500,000 repellent and reusable face masks for frontliners of government agencies based in the National Capital Region.

The masks are liquid-repellant, protecting the person wearing it from viruses that are transmitted through liquid droplets either from coughing and sneezing. DoST-PTRI claimed the masks can be washed for up to 50 times.

“We are using donated finished fabrics which will have to be deresinized. We have established a test protocol, and only after we have ascertained the results can the fabrics be sent to Saffron for deresination and then finishing,” PTRI Director Celia Elumba told the Philippine News Agency.

Elumba admitted it would take time for them to produce the masks due to lack of resources, such as materials, and the equipment for a full round of testing.

The agency will test the fabrics for their resiliency to liquid pathogens such as COVID-19.

“Masks will also be sent to the regions through DoST regional offices,” she added.

The PTRI teamed up with local retailer-manufacturer Power Fashion Inc., dyeing and finishing mill Saffron Philippines Inc., and the Reliance Producers Cooperative for the production of reusable masks.

Chemrez Technologies and Air21 also collaborated for this initiative.

Those who would like to donate fabrics may find the complete mechanics and contact details on the PTRI’s website.

A university in Zamboanga del Norte makes disinfection

April 4, 2020

TITLE: chamber from recycled materials

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# A university in Zamboanga del Norte makes disinfection chamber from recycled materials

The improvised disinfection chamber is already in use at the Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital

*Gulaberto Laput*

Published 8:21 PM, April 03, 2020

Updated 8:21 PM, April 03, 2020



DISINFECTION CHAMBER. This chamber is made from re-purposed materials. Photo by Gualberto Laput/Rappler

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, Philippines – Students from Jose Rizal Memorial State University in this province got creative to help solve the shortage of technology needed to fight the coronavirus spreading throughout the Philippines.

The university's Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) made a disinfection chamber out of recycled materials

"We are compelled to improvise because of the strict implementation of community quarantine," said Engineer Andrew Gallemit, head of Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU) FabLab. (READ: [Zambo Norte placed under province-wide community quarantine](#))

Gallemit told Rappler he used a diaphragm or fuel pumps from junked car engines, a mist hose used in greenhouse and microwave sensors, and micro-controllers which he sourced from his robotics class.

"The chamber frame is made of unused wood and plastic from the university," he said.

He explained how it works: "the body heat of a person in the chamber is detected by the microwave sensor, which is transmitted to the micro-controller that switches on the diaphragm or fuel pump and release the disinfectant mist for several seconds."

JRMSU's first automated disinfectant chamber was donated to the Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital in Dapitan last April 2, while the second still being made will be donated to the Zamboanga del Norte Medical Center located in nearby Dipolog City.

The Port of Dapitan and several other local government units have called JRMSU administration requesting for automated disinfection chambers.

A university in Zamboanga del Norte makes disinfection

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CHAMBERS. Hospital officials Photo by Gualberto Laput

“Other LGUs are making their own disinfection facility, but they are using pumps used in carwash, which are strong and would wet the person being disinfected,” Gallemit said.

Top university officials and a donor from Dipolog are also contributing money to buy materials as they foresee the mass manufacture of automated disinfection chambers.

“I also received a call from Chicago telling me that Dapitanons now living in Chicago are sending in money to the university for materials,” Gallemit said.

JRMSU has 5 campuses in the province, of which the main campus is located in Dapitan while the rest are in Dipolog City and the municipalities of Katipunan, Tampilisan and Siocon.

It has close to 19,000 students, who were sent home because of the novel coronavirus pandemic. – **Rappler.com**

Source: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/256933-zamboanga-del-norte-university-disinfection-chamber>



# WWF-Philippines goes digital for Earth Hour 2020

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 03 2020 09:44 PM



The Philippines joins this year's Earth Hour. *Handout photo*

Earth Hour celebrations continued this year on March 28 with activities through the various digital assets of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines amid the global COVID-19 outbreak.

WWF-Philippines commemorated Earth Hour 2020 completely online. Prior to the switch-off, an Instagram Livestream was hosted by WWF-Philippines National Ambassadors Marc Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez.

Entitled "Conservation Conversation," the two ambassadors talked about the environment, climate change, and volunteerism, as well as their own experiences working with WWF-Philippines. The show concluded at 8:30 p.m. to give way to the Earth Hour switch-off.

Afterwards, WWF-Philippines held a watch party consisting of video clips from Our Planet, a nature documentary series.

Pledges of support towards the movement were made by businesses and government agencies, including a message from President Rodrigo Duterte.

"One of the biggest challenges that the world is facing today is mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. As a developing country that is no stranger to destructive natural calamities, it is imperative to ensure that we are proactive and responsive in addressing the environmental challenges confronting us," Duterte said.

Vice President Leni Robredo also gave a pledge of support toward Earth Hour.

"The problems we face, and their effects, are urgent and real. Polar ice caps are melting, species are disappearing from the planet forever, and the weather continues to change because of human activity. But all is not lost, and if we come together now, a solution can be found," Robredo said.

As environmental issues grow in scale, the WWF network continues to expand the reach and impact of the Earth Hour movement.

"In the midst of this crisis we are all reminded that we are connected and we can only address this if we act as one. Earth Hour calls for our united and sustained response to care for our environment. We need to realize what is important," WWF-Philippines director Joel Palma said.

Earth Hour 2020 saw people from all across the globe raise their voice to invite action on pressing environmental issues in their countries.

Through digital events, digital participation was observed in 190 countries and territories, and #EarthHour2020 and its related hashtags made 3.1 billion impressions globally. Earth Hour 2020 also trended on Twitter and Google Search in 37 countries.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/04/03/20/wwf-philippines-goes-digital-for-earth-hour-2020>



# 'Rat-catching' challenge launched in Baguio public market

Published April 3, 2020, 9:27 PM

By Zaldy Comanda

**BAGUIO CITY** – Mayor Benjamin Magalong launched a “rat-catching challenge” on Wednesday at the Baguio City Public Market to address sanitation issues which, he emphasized, should be another key to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).



Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong (Photo from Benjie Magalong – Public Servant / Facebook /

File Photo / MANILA BULLETIN)

According to Magalong, a primary concern was the presence of rats at the wet market, especially at night, which he said has to be immediately addressed.

As such, Magalong has required vendors to install rat traps at strategic places to address the rodent infestation.

As a reward, Magalong has dangled P20,000 for the vendor who would be able to catch the most number of rats this April. P10,000 will go to the second placer.

At the launch on Wednesday alone, some 133 rats were caught, while on the second day, 186 rats captured.

The captured rats were turned over to the City Veterinary Office for proper disposal.

Market head Fernando Ragma, said the rodents appeared to have been coming from an open drainage canal.

His office, in coordination with Asst. City Veterinarian Silardo Bested, will lead the rat control program in the area.

“Vendors are very cooperative and it seems they are enjoying the competition. We also reminded vendors to exercise precautionary measures for their safety and health,” Ragma said.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/03/rat-catching-challenge-launched-in-baguio-public-market/>

# Do more for the planet: Start the 3Rs at home

**Now is the right time for reducing, reusing, and recycling**

Published April 3, 2020, 1:44 PM

By **Johannes L Chua**



Three weeks into the enhanced community quarantine, a lot of people now realize the importance of a cleaner environment and for a more sustainable planet.

There is also the realization that “survival” is not only about having a stable job, steady income, and hefty savings. Survival—in its rawest sense—means having a life skill that can put food on the table, make the house function efficiently, and ensure the wellbeing and security of every household member.

If there’s a form of “survival” that a lot of people have forgotten, it is the 3Rs—reducing, reusing, and recycling. The 3Rs, considered the cornerstone of environmentalism, is “thrown in the wind” in a capitalist market driven by consumption and more consumption. But in these interesting times when scarcity beckons on everyone’s doors, it is perhaps the right moment to start the 3Rs at home.

In her book, *An A-Z Guide for a Green Pinoy*, environment advocate **Annie P. Guerrero** wrote the importance of 3Rs especially in challenging times in history.

“Growing up in the years after the war, I was taught to recycle things. Curtains morphed into table cloths and aprons, clothes were handed down sister to sister or brother to brother, oil containers became sprinklers. We were simply and sensibly making the most of everything, since various resources were scarce after the war,” she said.

Now, as we endure a different kind of “war,” Guerrero’s words all the more makes sense. So how does one start the 3Rs at home? It is not too late though. This enhanced community quarantine will surely end, but may this moment become the start of your family’s sustainable journey for the planet.

Here are a few recommended steps culled from Guerrero’s book on how to implement the 3Rs at your home during this quarantine season:

## REDUCE

**Buy less stuff, even second-hand items.** Most of what we throw away could be useful to other people. During the enhanced community quarantine, check if you have any unused items which you can give out or donate to charities as soon as restrictions to go out is lifted.

**Refuse packaging if possible.** Every time we go shopping, we are offered over-packaged items. Even buying stuff or food during the quarantine, don’t forget to bring your own reusable shopping bag.



**Buy local and support the community producers.** The quarantine has allowed homeowners to assess what's essential and this has directed them to look for food and goods producers based in the community. There's no need to shop online for items coming from abroad, there are a lot of local producers that one can help in this challenging time.

**Purchase items in bulk.** If you have the funds, as much as possible, buy your food in bulk not only to save on costs but also to cut down on waste. A lot of villages, condos, and neighborhoods show the bayanihan spirit by pooling resources for everyone's benefit.

## REUSE

**Make eating at home a sustainable experience.** Use washable cloth napkins instead of paper, a stainless steel thermos instead of juice boxes or water plastic bottles, steel cutlery instead of plastic ones. Doing all this on a daily basis (not just during this quarantine) reduces deforestation and toxins, and your household incurs less wastage in the long run.

**Use sustainable food containers.** Store leftovers or other food items in containers instead of throwing them out. If there's one good thing that this quarantine has made each family realize is the importance of storing food for a long time.

**Repair or refurbish furniture.** Give furniture a new lease on life instead of just throwing them out mindlessly. There are a lot of ways to repurpose furniture with some carpentry hacks.

**Reuse papers and envelopes.** Each household receives mail from various utility providers. Don't just throw the envelope as the white space can be used for writing down notes or reminders.

## RECYCLE

**Get creative with your jars and bottles.** Finished with that mayonnaise jar or bottle of wine? Don't just throw them away. Jars can be turned into art craft projects for the kids, while wine bottles can become design elements or as part of lighting fixtures.

**Be practical with paper.** For non-essential documents, you can purchase and print on recycled papers. Don't forget to print on both sides of a paper. Don't throw them once you are finished as you can bring them to a neighborhood recycling center. A trivia: By recycling one ton of paper, you can save 17 trees, almost 7,000 gallons of water, and more than two cubic meters of landfill space.

**Crush that can.** You have brought a lot of softdrink and juice cans to drink at the start of quarantine season. Now, the empty cans are piling up. Start by rinsing the cans. Collect and crush these cans to reduce their size. After the quarantine, make sure to bring them to the nearest junk shop.

**Put plastic on a new light.** Plastic is part of life and sometimes, one can't avoid to have it. For example, for a plastic water bottle, you can recycle this to become an upcycled bottle craft. Or, if you want to start a green project, you can use the plastic water bottle in a variety of ways to make your garden more manageable. Add to that, if you don't have a low-flow toilet, you can add a plastic bottle (filled with water) so that your tank can offset excess water flow.

Source: <https://lifestyle.mb.com.ph/2020/04/03/do-more-for-the-planet-start-the-3rs-at-home/>

# Ecuador's largest waterfall vanishes

**AP** By [Associated Press](#)

April 3, 2020

**QUITO:** The largest waterfall in Ecuador has seemingly vanished after a sinkhole swallowed part of its water source.

San Rafael Waterfall on the Coca River was a prominent tourist attraction for the country and, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), drew tens of thousands of people every year. The water dropped 150 feet into a crater-like opening on the other side.



*San Rafael Waterfall on the Coca River. NASA PHOTO*

Now, the iconic waterfall is gone, replaced by three streams, NASA said. All tourism to the site has been closed and it no longer appears on the country's travel website.

Experts at the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) in Ecuador believe the event happened in early February upstream and diverted the current river pattern underground.

Shortly after, MoE technicians said they inspected the waterfall and reported "possible undermining of the river's path, prior to the fall of the waterfall." However, they could not determine an exact cause at the time.

There is some discrepancy over if it was a natural phenomenon, or caused by construction of a hydro plant on the river.

The Ministry of Tourism does not plan to reconstruct the falls, NASA said.

**AP**

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/04/03/news/world/ecuadors-largest-waterfall-vanishes/709105/>

# UN supports delay in climate talks



By [Xinhua](#)

April 3, 2020

**UNITED NATIONS:** Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed his support for the decision of Britain and the Bureau of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to delay the UN climate talks set to take place in Glasgow in November this year.

“As hundreds of thousands of people fall seriously ill and many die [of] Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019), the need to suppress the virus and safeguard lives is our foremost priority,” said the UN statement.

“The secretary-general said we must continue in our efforts to increase ambition and action on climate change especially as countries take measures to recover from this crisis,” it added.

“The science on climate has not changed, emissions are now at a record high and impacts are multiplying and will compound the socio-economic challenges that this crisis will intensify.”

The statement noted that the Covid-19 crisis reinforces the importance of science and evidence informing government policies and decision making.

“The science makes clear that human behavior is altering the earth system regulatory ability, having impact on lives and livelihoods, from our health to our global economy. This dramatic human crisis is also an example of how vulnerable countries, societies and economies are to existential threats,” it said.

*Xinhua*

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/04/03/news/world/un-supports-delay-in-climate-talks/709093/>

# Humankind's 'modern mentality' for taming nature

The 17 goals agreed by the global community to reduce poverty and create a sustainable planet are the responsibility of all people, wherever they are in the world, according to the United Nations.

The Sustainable Development Goals or SDG represent a boundary-pushing blueprint for the future of the Earth and it's anticipated they will be realized by 2030. UN News joined the International Labour Organization on a visit to Hawaii where many people are already living or studying aspects of the goals in their everyday work.

Ken Rubin is a professor of volcanology and geochemistry specializing in volcanoes and sea level change. Based in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Hawaii, he travels the world to observe active and dormant volcanoes, both on land and beneath the sea.

"In my work, I look at specifically at how volcanic eruptions impact populations. It doesn't have to be human populations; it could be marine communities that live in and around the submarine volcanoes."

"When I'm



HAWAII'S landscape is largely volcanic.

studying volcanoes on land, I focus mostly on understanding how frequently events happen and what hazards people face. Up until maybe a thousand years ago, humans were much more tuned into their environment and tended to stay away from the most dangerous places like volcanic areas, but it's our modern mentality that we can tame anything. So, we encroach much more closely on very dangerous environments," he added.

This whole area that we're standing in was inundated in the 1940s by a tsunami created by a big earthquake in Alaska. It's part of the reason why this coastline is now protected and there are no buildings. A tsunami event like that only happens every several decades; the last one was in 1964 and we haven't had a big one since.

"Living and working on an island, you understand quickly

that there's a lot of reliance on the nearshore environment as a resource for marine life and the protection of the coastlines. A healthy coral ecosystem, for example, helps to protect coastlines from events like tsunamis," Rubin said.

# Weather alert accuracy risk disruption

The United Nations weather experts warned on Wednesday that the coronavirus pandemic risks disrupting key forecasting services, including early warning alerts around the world.

Both the quantity and quality of weather observations and forecasts, as well as atmospheric and climate monitoring, are at stake, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva.

"We are concerned about the impact on the ability of our members to deliver their basic weather and climate services," said Lars Peter Riishojgaard, director of WMO's Earth System Branch. "And you may think, why would we care about this, we

have bigger things to worry about right now...But even in this situation, there could be situations where all of a sudden you could be critically reliant on weather forecasting if a hurricane, tornado, or some other adverse weather situation breaks out."

In a statement, WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas urged governments to support their national early warning and weather observing capacities despite the "severe challenges" caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

He explained that the devastating impacts of climate change haven't stopped since the new coronavirus emerged in December, and neither have the "growing" number of weather-related disasters.



A SATELLITE — as seen from space — tracks over Earth.

Without reliable weather data, the COVID-19 pandemic "poses an additional challenge and may exacerbate multi-hazard risks at a single-country level," the WMO chief maintained.

Many parts of the global weather monitoring system are automated, such as satellites and land-based observation points.



# The coronavirus pandemic is making Earth shake less

By Harmeet Kaur, CNN

Published Apr 3, 2020 9:05:45 AM



**(CNN)** — Once-crowded city streets are now empty. Highway traffic has slowed to a minimum. And fewer and fewer people can be found milling about outside.

Global containment measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus have seemingly made the world much quieter. Scientists are noticing it, too.

Around the world, seismologists are observing a lot less ambient seismic noise -- meaning, the vibrations generated by cars, trains, buses and people going about their daily lives. And in the absence of that noise, Earth's upper crust is moving just a little less.

Thomas Lecocq, a geologist and seismologist at the Royal Observatory in Belgium, first pointed out this phenomenon in Brussels.

Brussels is seeing about a 30% to 50% reduction in ambient seismic noise since mid-March, around the time the country started implementing school and business closures and other social distancing measures, according to Lecocq. That noise level is on par with what seismologists would see on Christmas Day, he said.

## Less noise means seismologists can detect smaller events

The reduction in noise has had a particularly interesting effect in Brussels: Lecocq and other seismologists are able to detect smaller earthquakes and other seismic events that certain seismic stations wouldn't have registered.

Take, for example, the seismic station in Brussels. In normal times, Lecocq said, it's "basically useless."

Seismic stations are typically set up outside urban areas, because the reduced human noise makes it easier to pick up on subtle vibrations in the ground. The one in Brussels, however, was built more than a century ago and the city has since expanded around it.

The daily hum of city life means that the station in Brussels wouldn't typically pick up on smaller seismic events. Seismologists would instead rely on a separate borehole station, which uses a pipe deep in the ground to monitor seismic activity.

"But for the moment, because of the city's quietness, it's almost as good as the one on the bottom," Lecocq said.

Seismologists in other cities are seeing similar effects in their own cities.

Paula Koelemeijer posted a graph on Twitter showing how noise in West London has been affected, with drops in the period after schools and social venues in the United Kingdom closed and again after a government lockdown was announced.

Celeste Labeledz, a PhD student at the California Institute of Technology, posted a graph showing an especially stark drop in Los Angeles.

Still, seismologists say the reduction in noise is a sobering reminder of a virus that has sickened more than one million people, killed tens of thousands and brought the normal rhythms of life to a halt.

## It shows people are heeding lockdown rules

Lecocq said the graphs charting human noise are evidence that people are listening to authorities' warnings to stay inside and minimize outside activity as much as possible.

"From the seismological point of view, we can motivate people to say, 'OK look, people. You feel like you're alone at home, but we can tell you that everyone is home. Everyone is doing the same. Everyone is respecting the rules,'" he said.

The data can also be used to identify where containment measures might not be as effective, said Raphael De Plaen, a postdoctoral researcher at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

"That could be used in the future by decision makers to figure out, 'OK, we're not doing things right. We need to work on that and make sure that people respect that because this is in the interest of everyone.'"

Source: [https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/4/3/coronavirus-pandemic-less-earthquakes-earth.html?fbclid=IwAR0ufWonHslSpz-oHS\\_Mkp6Hi8j-vP1J0QtTkdljliE8jL1779kpnCoSVORE](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/4/3/coronavirus-pandemic-less-earthquakes-earth.html?fbclid=IwAR0ufWonHslSpz-oHS_Mkp6Hi8j-vP1J0QtTkdljliE8jL1779kpnCoSVORE)