



**Some of the Highlights of the Interview of Usec Benny Antiporda on COVID-19 Pandemic:
ANC Special Coverage**

1. He tackled the air quality of Metro Manila and nearby province. The air quality of some areas ranges from good and fair ratings.
2. The vehicle owners should take initiative on repairing or doing maintenance on their vehicles
3. Plant Trees
4. Inform Authorities immediately if the exhaust system of a factory has a problem

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/abscbnNEWS/videos/633122120749523/?sfnsn=mo>

The time marker of Usec Benny Antiporda's interview - 1:23:00 to 1:29:10

Jun Factoran: Leadership and legacy in DENR

'His eyes lit up whenever we talked about his time in government when he felt there was nobility in serving the public,' writes Marites Vitug

Marites Dañguilan-Vitug

Published 7:16 PM, April 05, 2020

Updated 8:48 PM, April 05, 2020



LEADER. Former environment secretary Fulgencio 'Jun' Factoran Jr (center). Photo by Rick Rocamora

One of the best ways to remember Jun Factoran is to return to the immediate post-Marcos years, when he served as member of then-president Corazon Aquino's Cabinet. In our recent conversations, his eyes lit up whenever we talked about his time in government when he felt there was nobility in serving the public. He was proud of those years. (READ: [Jun Factoran, veteran lawyer and Rappler Board member, dies at 76](#))

The winds of democracy blew our country's way in 1986, after 14 years of authoritarian rule under Ferdinand Marcos – and Jun was helping shape history during this difficult time of transition. He was appointed secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), taking over an institution entrenched in corruption. Marcos used the DENR to lavish his cronies, particularly through licenses to log wide swaths of forests, resulting in massive deforestation.

In the 5 years that Jun led the DENR, he shifted priorities, taking away many logging licenses of timber concessionaires so that stewardship of the forests be transferred to communities who lived there. He made reforestation his centerpiece program. He reorganized and decentralized the DENR in what is remembered as the biggest shake-up in the department.

Jun opened the archives of the DENR to me when I wrote *Power from the Forest: The Politics of Logging* (published in 1993). He instructed his staff to provide me with all the documents I needed because he always believed in transparency, in the freedom of the press. What I experienced then was in stark contrast to the last years of martial law when, as a reporter, access to information was almost nonexistent.

Below are excerpts from *Power from the Forest* that I wrote:

In March 1987, the vacuum [at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources] was filled by Fulgencio Factoran, [President Corazon] Aquino's deputy executive secretary who was a human rights lawyer during the Marcos administration.

As deputy executive secretary, Factoran held office in Malacanang's Administration building, quite distant from the Guest House where Aquino held office. Despite his physical distance, Factoran had the confidence and trust of the two most important Guest House tenants, Aquino and Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo.

Factoran and Arroyo's friendship went back a long way, as human rights lawyers and street parliamentarians during the tumultuous and repressive years of Ferdinand Marcos. Before that, in the pre-martial law years, Factoran was staff assistant to Marcos's Executive Secretary Rafael Salas. Under Salas's tutelage, Factoran learned the ropes of government.

More than a decade later, Factoran returned to Malacañang to take on a more important job, helping the President run the country. When he was offered a Cabinet position, his first choice was to be Secretary of Transportation and Communications. President Aquino obliged. His appointment papers were ready but there was one hitch: Factoran owned a travel agency. It was a conflict-of-interest case and he was not willing to give up a source of revenue. He then withdrew from the Transportation post.

President Aquino, in a light mood one day, consulted her Executive Secretary on what Cabinet position Factoran wanted. Arroyo suggested the DENR and Factoran got it.

One of the first things Factoran did was to get basic, coherent and factual information on the state of the environment, particularly the forests. He needed statistics that reflected the reality, not bloated reforestation figures drummed up during the Marcos years.

Factoran wanted to know the extent of denudation of the country's forests. He got the US Central Intelligence Agency to lend him satellite data that would show available forest stocks. He also asked the Swedish and German governments to provide scientific expertise in surveying the forests.

What was likewise nettlesome was dealing with a 24,000-strong bureaucracy, many of whom were nourished by the values of the Marcos years...Factoran overhauled the organization...

"I tamed the bureaucracy," Factoran said...It was the biggest redeployment of officials and employees in the DENR's history.

Housecleaning followed, with some results. The largest number of cases filed and won against erring personnel was recorded during Factoran's time...It did send a signal that the new DENR leadership was serious in cleaning up the mess and there was to be little hanky-panky.

But there was a group Factoran had difficulty taming: the politicians. They would come to his office seeking favors...

Factoran tiptoed in highly sensitive political territory..."I was afraid of being saddled with unspecified charges that would lead to a critical mass of opinion that we're not doing anything, that we're corrupt..." admitted Factoran in a candid interview. He staked his name and his leadership at the DENR on reforestation, his centerpiece project.

Politics got in the way of work at the DENR as pressure came from various quarters. Said Factoran: "The political pressure I experienced was not from a higher-up asking me to do something against my will. President Cory never intervened. It was from the two houses of Congress."

'Conscious of history'

Factoran came at a time of awakened environmental awareness in the country, partly influenced by the environmental movement in the West. Along with the flowering of democracy after two decades of authoritarian rule, non-government organizations advocating environmental issues sprouted...

The political power of the logging industry was only too real...From a system whereby the rich and powerful had access to forests, the new DENR planted the seeds of change. It prepared the groundwork for the eventual takeover of forests by communities.

In retrospect, Factoran looked back and mused. He told a journalist, "Now, what have I done? ...We've even prepared for the next politician to come around. They can't just change things overnight...The next administration will have to reckon with these policies. No whimsical change is possible...What we've done is puny but it's five times, 10 times more than what has been done before...I'm very conscious of history. I feel that a few years from now, people will know and I don't want a blot on my record."

The DENR, under Factoran, took the tentative first steps needed to combat the country's deforestation. – **Rappler.com**

Source: <https://www.rappler.com/thought-leaders/257061-jun-factoran-leadership-legacy-denr>

Jun Factoran, veteran lawyer and Rappler Board member, dies at 76

A consistent supporter of human rights and press freedom, Jun Factoran joined the Rappler Board at the height of the attacks against the media company

Rappler.com

Published 6:20 PM, April 05, 2020

Updated 8:35 PM, April 05, 2020



VETERAN LAWYER. The late Fulgencio "Jun" Factoran. Photo courtesy of Rick Rocamora

MANILA, Philippines – Veteran lawyer, staunch anti-Marcos activist, and Rappler Board member [Fulgencio "Jun" Factoran Jr](#) died on Palm Sunday, April 5, of a lingering illness. He was 76.

Factoran's daughter Yazmin confirmed her father's death.

In his lifetime, Factoran fought for causes that allowed him to help a diverse set of Filipinos – human rights, environment, and press freedom.

He was a key member of the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity, and Nationalism Inc (Mabini) lawyers' group that opposed the Marcos dictatorship. Shortly after the EDSA People Power Revolution that ousted Ferdinand Marcos, Factoran was appointed deputy executive secretary of then-president Cory Aquino from 1986 to 1987. After that, he served as environment secretary from 1987 to 1992. (READ: [Jun Factoran: Leadership and legacy in DENR](#))

A consistent supporter of press freedom, Factoran served in the Board of *Newsbreak* magazine in 2004 and [joined the Rappler Board in 2018](#), at the height of the attacks against the company.

Factoran was managing partner of Factoran & Associates Law Offices. He had also held top posts in government-owned corporations like the National Electrification Administration and the Philippine National Oil Company, and served as chairman and director in various private firms.

A member of the Sigma Rho fraternity, he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Humanities (cum laude) and Bachelor of Laws degree (valedictorian) from the University of the Philippines, and his Master of Laws degree from the Harvard Law School.

Jun Factoran, veteran lawyer and Rappler Board

TITLE: member, dies at 76

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STAUNCH DEFENDER. Fulgencio 'Jun' Factoran Jr with employees and lawyer-son Bibit Factoran (right). Photo courtesy of Rick Rocamora

"He agreed to be a Board member at a time when it was deemed dangerous to be associated with Rappler. He was a man of courage, a true loss to the nation and to journalism," said Rappler CEO and executive editor Maria Ressa.

To former Newsbreak editor-in-chief and Rappler editor-at-large Marites Vitug, "one of the best ways to remember Jun Factoran is to return to the immediate post-Marcos years, when he served as member of then-president Corazon Aquino's Cabinet. In our recent conversations, his eyes lit up whenever we talked about his time in government when he felt there was nobility in serving the public." She added, "He was proud of those years."

Said Factoran's close friend and documentary photographer Rick Rocamora: "If there is a one example when we say in the Sigma Rho, that we are closer to our brother Sigma Rhoan than our own blood brothers, my relationship with Jun Factoran can be counted as one. We share the same concerns and advocacies in life, human rights, equality, and social justice. Today we lost a great man and a proud Sigma Rhoan."

Factoran was married to the late Kaye Mesina. He is survived by their 4 children Yazmin, Gertrude Anne, Fulgencio III, and Roberto Carlo, as well as in-laws and grandchildren. – **Rappler.com**

Source: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/257037-jun-factoran-dies>

Former DENR chief Fulgencio Factoran Jr. dies at 76

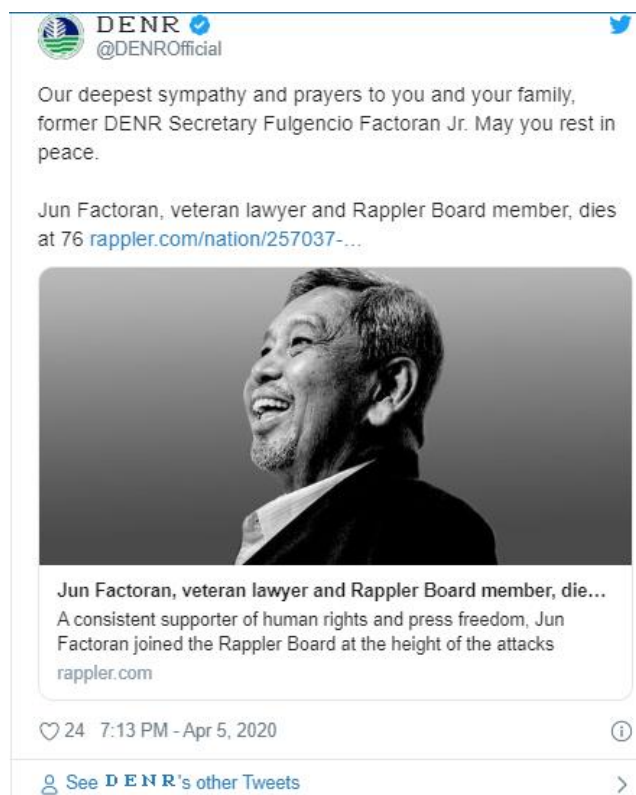
By: [Consuelo Marquez](#) - Reporter / [@CMarquezINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 10:23 PM April 05, 2020



Former DENR Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr. (Photo from his Facebook account)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Environment Secretary Fulgencio “Jun” Factoran Jr. died at the age of 76 on Palm Sunday, Rappler, where he was a board member, reported this on its website. In response, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) condoled with the family Factoran family on Twitter, saying: “Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family, former DENR Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr. May you rest in peace.”





Factoran, a veteran lawyer, served as the secretary of then DENR from 1987 to 1992 under then-President Corazon Aquino.

/atm

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1254308/former-denr-chief-fulgencio-factoran-jr-dies-at-76#ixzz6ImPqShmR>



Factoran, ex-DENR secretary, 76

[Michael Punongbayan](#), [Mayen Jaymalin](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 6, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Former environment secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr. passed away yesterday due to a lingering illness. He was 76.

His death was confirmed by his daughter Yazmin, according to a news report posted on Rappler.

Factoran was appointed by the late former president Corazon Aquino as deputy executive secretary from 1986 to 1987. He then served as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from 1987 to 1992.

A veteran lawyer, Factoran was part of a lawyers' group that opposed the dictatorship of the late Ferdinand Marcos, the Rappler report said.

It added that Factoran also served in the board of Newsbreak magazine in 2004 and joined the Rappler board in 2018, "at the height of the attacks against the company."

Factoran served as chairman of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), chairman of the National Electrification Administration, deputy executive secretary at the Philippine National Oil Co. and managing partner at Factoran & Associates Law Offices, among other top positions in various firms.

Friends and subordinates expressed their grief and sympathies for the bereaved family of the former Cabinet official.

"May the Lord receive Jun in His kingdom. Rest in peace, friend," former PCSO chair Margie Juico posted on her Facebook account, describing Factoran as a "true friend."

Meanwhile, after testing positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) more than a week ago, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen. Felimon Santos Jr. is now free of the viral disease.

The results of his latest test came out yesterday, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo announced in a statement.

Although Santos was tested positive for COVID-19 on March 27, he had not shown any symptoms ever since and in fact continued from his quarters the discharge of his duties and responsibilities as AFP chief, Arevalo said.

Ex-Environment Secretary Jun Factoran dies, 76

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 5, 2020 7:38:54 PM

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 5) — Former Environment Secretary and Rappler board of directors member Fulgencio “Jun” Factoran Jr. died Sunday of a “lingering illness,” the news website [confirmed](#).

Factoran served as Environment Secretary from 1987 to 1992 under then-President Corazon Aquino. Prior to this, he served as Aquino’s deputy executive secretary.

Rappler described Factoran as a “consistent supporter of press freedom,” having served on the board of Newsbreak magazine in 2004 and joining the Rappler board in 2018.

"He agreed to be a Board member at a time when it was deemed dangerous to be associated with Rappler. He was a man of courage, a true loss to the nation and to journalism," said Rappler CEO and executive editor Maria Ressa.

Factoran is survived by four children, Yazmin, Gertrude Anne, Fulgencio

Source: https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/4/5/Jun-Factoran-dies.html?fbclid=IwAR049ECrxBQrC1yj-3YakZUPJ8T9O8fSFvWK8vMbTpLp7_G7f1eBJtSftJg



Former DENR Secretary Jun Factoran dies, he was 76

Published April 5, 2020 10:07pm

Former Environment Secretary and veteran lawyer Fulgencio "Jun" Factoran Jr. passed away due to a "lingering illness" on Sunday, April 05, 2020.

In an article on Sunday, news website Rappler, where Factoran sat as a Board Member, reported Factoran's death. He was 76.

Factoran served as the deputy executive secretary under the leadership of former present Corazon Aquino from 1986 to 1987, before he was designated as the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) from 1987 to 1992.

"He agreed to be a Board member at a time when it was deemed dangerous to be associated with Rappler. He was a man of courage, a true loss to the nation and to journalism," Rappler chief executive officer and executive director Maria Ressa said in the article.

Factoran is survived by his four children with his late wife Kaye Mesina -- Yazmin, Gertrude Anne, Fulgencio III, and Roberto Carlo. —**Jon Viktor Cabuenas/LBG, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/732761/former-denr-secretary-jun-factoran-dies-he-was-76/story/?fbclid=IwAR2Q4t4hcFuwyHCXAYUBoDd5Zx1MjnvJi8wNyh_-fErsJK5L2rHqLP-Z_I

Former Environment Secretary Jun Factoran passes away

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 05 2020 09:54 PM

MANILA – Former Environment Secretary Fulgencio "[Jun](#)" [Factoran Jr.](#) and a board member of Rappler passed away on Palm Sunday, April 5, at the age of 76 after battling a lingering illness, the news website said.

Rappler editor-at-large Marites Vitug, a long-time friend of Factoran, also sent the news to ABS-CBN.

Factoran served as deputy executive secretary under President Corazon Aquino from 1986 to 1987. She then appointed him secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which he led from 1987 to 1992.

"In the 5 years that Jun led the DENR, he shifted priorities, taking away many logging licenses of timber concessionaires so that stewardship of the forests be transferred to communities who lived there. He made reforestation his centerpiece program," Vitug wrote about Factoran in a tribute published by Rappler.

Factoran gave Vitug access to documents and other information that she used for her award-winning book on the environment, "Power from the Forest: The Politics of Logging," published in 1993.

Before the fall of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986, Factoran was a human rights lawyer and co-founder of Mabini, or the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity, and Nationalism Inc.

He also served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Electrification Administration; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Philippines Charity Sweepstakes Office; Member, Board of Trustees of the Development Academy of the Philippines; and member of the Board of Trustees of the Government Service Insurance System from 1998 until 2004.

The veteran lawyer also established the Factoran and Associates Law Office.

"Factoran was married to the late Kaye Mesina. He is survived by their 4 children Yazmin, Gertrude Anne, Fulgencio III, and Roberto Carlo, as well as in-laws and grandchildren," Rappler said on its website.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/05/20/former-environment-secretary-jun-factoran-passes-away>

Navy remains active in patrolling Visayas waters, Ayungin Shoal

By **Rene Acosta**

-April 6, 2020

The Philippine Navy said it remains active in patrolling the country's maritime waters as it sent over the weekend two of its patrol boats to the Visayas to augment ongoing operations there amid the enhanced community operations in Luzon.

Navy public affairs office chief Lt. Commander Maria Christina A. Roxas said the deployment of Patrol Boats 356 and 358 was still part of the Navy's mission to secure the country's maritime waters.

The two patrol boats were sent for patrol missions in the Visayan waters aboard the strategic sealift vessel BRP *Bacolod*, which left its port in Cavite on Friday.

"Deployment plays a very crucial role in the Navy's effective conduct of maritime patrol operations, internal security operations and logistics support missions with the end view of better serving the Filipino people," Roxas said.

The sendoff ceremony was presided over by Capt. Alfonso F. Torres Jr., commander of the Philippine Fleet's Littoral Combat Force, who also witnessed the boats' lifting and loading operations onto the BRP *Bacolod*.

Meanwhile Commodore Renato P. David, commander of the Naval Forces West, cited a Navy contingent that has manned the BRP *Sierra Madre* for four months wherein they guarded the Ayungin Shoal in the Kalayaan Island Group.

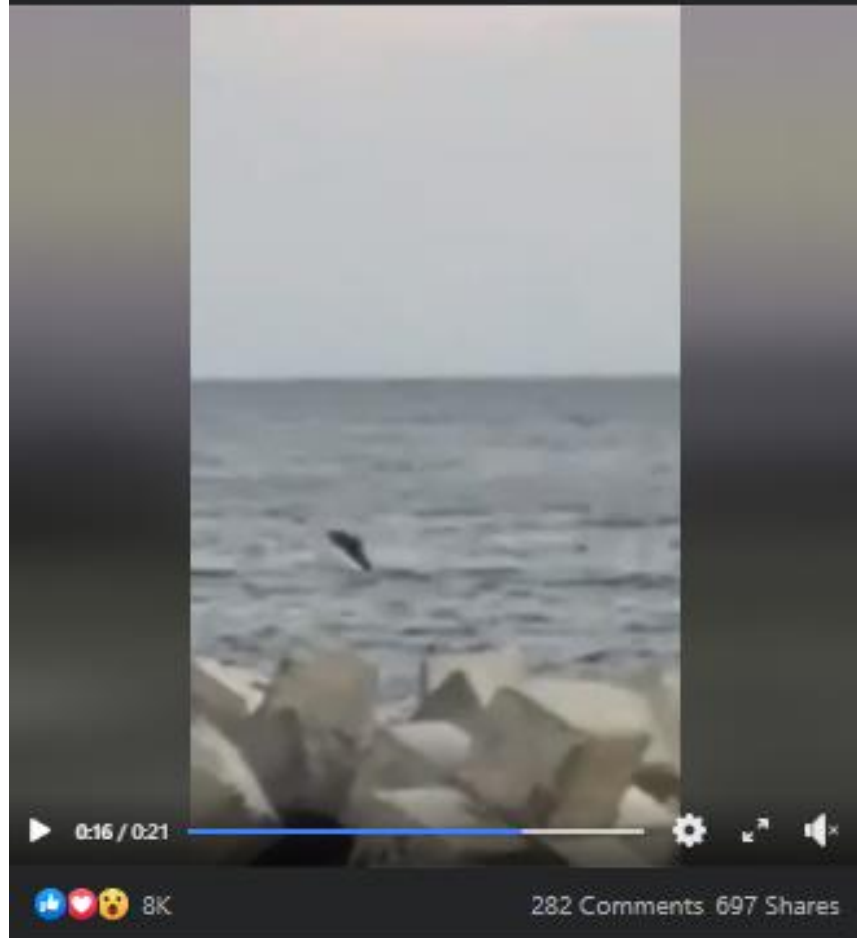
The Sierra Madre is a partly-sunken boat used by Filipino troops as an outpost in guarding the shoal, which has constantly seen the presence of Chinese military and paramilitary ships in its waters.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/04/06/navy-remains-active-in-patrolling-visayas-waters-ayungin-shoal/>

ABS-CBN News 9 hrs · 🌐

PANLOORIN: Namangha at naghiyawan sa tuwa ang mga residente na nakatira sa tabi ng coastal road sa Talomo, Davao City matapos masaksihan ang biglang pagtalon sa dagat ng isang dolphin.

Pansamantala raw nawala ang pangamba sa #COVID19 ng mga residente dahil sa kanilang pambihirang nakita. Sana raw ay manatili sa Davao gulf ang mga dolphin, na makakamit kung mapapangalagaan ang yamang dagat. (Video courtesy: Mitchie Pejano) | via Hernel Tocmo, ABS-CBN News



0:16 / 0:21

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Source: <https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10158181959395168/>

PRRD, 200 solons, Manila gov't officials donate salaries

April 6, 2020

TITLE: for COVID-19 fight

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PRRD, 200 solons, Manila gov't officials donate salaries for COVID-19 fight

Updated April 6, 2020, 12:59 AM

By Genalyn Kabling, Ben Rosario, Joseph Almer Pedrajas, and Jel Santos

President Duterte has decided to donate his one-month salary to the government's efforts combat to combat the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the country.

The President made the gesture after many Cabinet members offered to cut by 75 percent their monthly salaries from April to December this year, according to presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo.

Nearly 200 congressmen have also agreed to give up their next month's salary for the same purpose.

Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano said the House of Representatives is expected to raise P50 million by May, with the majority, if not all, 306 of its members expected to pitch in.

Top officials of the local government of Manila will also be donating their salaries for the month of April to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) to help the facility in its fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso said about P4.7 million, the combined worth of the salaries of the city mayor, vice mayor, councilors, and a couple of congressmen, will be turned over to the PGH this month.

The Manila public information office made the announcement Saturday night, saying it is the officials' "way of showing unity and compassion" to the country's health workers.

"In our own little way, we hope that this can strengthen the capacity of our frontliners, particularly those in the health sector, [in their battle against the disease]," Moreno said.

Moreno said among those who pledged to donate their salaries include Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna, House Minority Leader Rep. Benny Abante, Buhay Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza, and councilors Manny Lopez, Rolan Valeriano, and Yul Servo Nieto.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograles, spokesman of the COVID19 Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), said last Saturday that Cabinet members have agreed to give up their one-month salary to donate to the programs that will help government quell the COVID-19 pandemic. Cayetano said that aside from their own contributions, they will also solicit help from friends to raise another P50 million if the COVID-19 fight extends until June.

The amount raised by lawmakers will be allocated for supplies for frontliners who have risked their personal health in order to help those afflicted with COVID-19.

The House leader said congressmen have not only given up their salaries to donate to the anti-coronavirus cause. Many of them have used their personal money to help their constituents.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has transferred P420 million to PhilHealth to help shoulder the medical expenses of COVID-19 patients.

PhilHealth recently announced that it will shoulder the full cost of COVID-19 treatments until April 14, 2020, adding that it will issue new guidelines for COVID-19 packages based on accepted protocols.

PCSO General Manager Royina Marzan-Garma said its contribution will reinforce the capability of PhilHealth to respond to the pandemic.

"For COVID-19 patients and their families who battle with uncertainty, knowing that the cost of hospitalization is one less worry is a big relief," she said.



PRRD, 200 solons, Manila gov't officials donate salaries

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Garma said the money they are giving to help in the battle against COVID-19 comes from the generous PCSO gaming enthusiasts.

“To the PCSO gaming enthusiasts, this is your money. Every time a ticket is purchased, 30 percent of the amount automatically goes to the PCSO Charity Fund. That’s why even if you do not bag the jackpot prize or any of the prizes, you are still a winner by helping your fellow Filipinos through the various charity programs of PCSO,” she said.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/05/prrd-200-solons-manila-govt-officials-donate-salaries-for-covid-19-fight/>

Duterte donates a month of his salary for PH COVID-19 response

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 5, 2020 5:32:42 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 5)— President Rodrigo Duterte will be donating one month of his salary to help the government address the COVID-19 crisis, Malacañang said on Sunday.

This comes after most of Duterte's Cabinet members volunteered to take 75 percent [monthly pay cuts](#) to help boost the country's response against the infectious disease.

"Others have volunteered a salary deduction for the whole duration of the state of public health emergency in solidarity with our countrymen and to help in the government efforts to halt the spread of the coronavirus," Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a statement. "The President is likewise donating his one month salary for the cause."

Panelo added that the assistant secretaries of the Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson have also volunteered to donate at least 10 percent of their April income. They also pledged parts of their salaries in the succeeding months to support groups at the front line of the crisis.

Earlier, some 200 lawmakers from the House of Representatives agreed to donate their [full salaries](#) for the month of May, in an effort to raise an initial ₱50 million for the government's disease response.

The Philippines has so far reported [3,246 cases](#) of the infectious disease, with 152 deaths and 64 recoveries.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/4/5/Duterte-donates-one-month-salary-COVID-19-response.html?fbclid=IwAR3ZmQkt3pK15ACK2f0c4OQTioEW-E3UXpiGq37vV2UsQ1IR5A2Wcfq-ELk>

Rody, secs donating salaries for COVID-19 fight

Published 3 hours ago
on April 6, 2020 03:40 AM
By **Francis Wakefield**



Pres. Duterte is donating his one month salary to fight COVID-19. (RTVM)

President Rodrigo Duterte is donating his one month salary while Cabinet members have pledged to donate 75 percent of their monthly pay from April to December of this year to help in the government's fight against the deadly coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"Assistant Secretaries of the Offices of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and Presidential Spokesperson have likewise committed to donate at least 10 percent of their income directly to the Office of Civil Defense this month, and will continue providing financial and relief assistance from their salaries to groups who are at the frontline of this health crisis in the succeeding months," Chief presidential Legal Counsel and Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said during a press briefing on Sunday.

Panelo said the Office of the President is pleased to know that the two other branches of the government have their own program to battle COVID-19.

The Palace also acknowledged the support given by various heads of offices and agencies in their personal capacities for the same cause.

p: wjg

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/04/06/rody-secs-donating-salaries-for-covid-19-fight/>

VP Robredo supports lockdown extension; says aid, info on measures crucial

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 05 2020 10:03 AM | Updated as of Apr 05 2020 10:27 AM

MANILA - Vice President Leni Robredo said Sunday she will support an extension of the enhanced community quarantine to contain the coronavirus outbreak, but stressed the need for government to make the people understand such measure and to fast track assistance.

President Rodrigo Duterte had placed Luzon under lockdown from March 17, and the government's inter-agency task force managing the pandemic said it has set criteria on deciding for a possible extension.

Robredo said it was "crucial" for the public to understand the extension, if government decides to do so.

"Sang-ayon ako dahil yung nakikita nating projections, makakabuti para i-flatten yung curve kung hahabaan pa ito. Pero crucial para mag-cooperate ang mga tao, crucial na naiintindihan nila kung bakit kailangan gawin," she told ANC.

"Kung hindi nila naiintindihan bakit kailangan gawin, yung resistance nandyan... Information at pag-asikaso ng pangangailangan nila ay napakahalaga."

Robredo thinks the national government's social amelioration program should be coursed through local governments for faster distribution.

"Maglagay na lang ng maraming safety nets para naiwasan yung kinatatatutang korupsiyon. Para sa'kin, yung transparency and accountability measures, i-enhance pero dapat itiwala sa local government units kasi ang vital dito, may mga kababayan tayo na nangangailangan, na may kakainan sila araw-araw," she said.

Robredo, meantime, said it is important for authorities to enforce maximum tolerance following Duterte's earlier order to shoot troublemakers dead if policemen's lives were on the line.

"Okay na maging istrikto sa enforcement, pero kailangan humane pa rin ang treatment sa tao," she said.

As of Saturday, the Vice President's Office has raised P46.2 million in aid to health workers and other frontliners, Robredo said.

"Kami kung ano yung pangangailangan, dun kami papasok," she said.

"It was really just to fill in a gap. Ang fundraising for the PPEs (personal protective equipment), yun yung sigaw ng health workers. Wala kaming target pero yung expectations namin ilang beses nang nalampasan," she added, disclosing that some 42,000 sets of PPEs have already been distributed by her office.

Robredo's office was also among the first to provide free transportation to health workers following the Luzon lockdown, which is set to run until April 14.

The OVP has shared with the transportation department some good tips in the shuttle service for frontline staff, based on its experience, Robredo said.

The Philippines has recorded 3,094 coronavirus cases, as of Saturday, including 144 fatalities and 57 recoveries.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/05/20/coronavirus-philippines-covid19-updates-lockdown-measures-robredo-extension-aid-info-crucial>

Robredo backs proposed lockdown extension

By [Glee Jalea, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Apr 5, 2020 1:11:48 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 6) — Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo supported calls for an extended lockdown in the Luzon region, saying that this will help "flatten the curve" for COVID-19.

"Nakikita kasi natin yung projections, mas makakabuti para maflatten yung curve, kung mahabaan pa," Robredo said in her weekly radio show on Sunday.

[Translation: We see in the projections, it will help flatten the curve if there will be an extension.]

But for the Vice President, the lockdown will only be good if those who are severely affected, particularly the low income families, will be given immediate assistance.

"Pero sana kasabay ng pag-extend yung lahat ng pagtulong lalo na sa mga maliliit. Halimbawa, yung ipapamigay sa mahihirap na tulong sana maibigay na. Kasi lalong tumatagal lalong nagiging restless yung tao," Robredo said.

[Translation: I hope that together with the extension, the government will also be able to provide aid to the poor. Because the longer it takes, the more that the people will become restless.]

Consider the frontliners, too

She also advised that aside from the poor, frontline workers should also be given food, lodging, and transportation assistance in order for them to fully perform their duties as the country continues to grapple with the rising COVID-19 cases.

"Kung hahabaan, siguraduhin na hindi lang merong pagkain ang lahat pero 'yung mga pangangailangan nung pumapasok pa din maasikaso. Halimbawa yung mga frontliners dapat siguraduhin na hindi sila naglalakad ng napakahaba para merong mapuntahan sa trabaho," Robredo said.

[Translation: If they will extend, they should not just ensure that everyone has food, but the needs of those who still go to work as well. For example, they should ensure that our frontliners do not have to walk all the way to their place of work.]

Meanwhile, opposition lawmaker Edcel Lagman noted that the government should also use the extension to urgently conduct mass testing not only in Luzon, but all for rest of the country.

"The remaining days before the expiration of the lockdown in the National Capital Region and Luzon will not be sufficient to adequately conduct mass testing even for selected cases of persons under investigation and persons under monitoring," Lagman said, noting that mass testing will help segregate persons who are infected from those who are free from infection.

COVID-19 Response Chief Implementer Carlito Galvez told CNN Philippines that the remaining period is critical while the government has yet to finalize its decision.

"Yes, there is a possibility that it may be extended because the threshold has not been achieved. We will consider all salient factors when deciding on extending the quarantine," he said.

The Office of the Vice President has been providing [free shuttle service](#) for health workers since March 17 following the shutdown of mass transportation in Luzon, but noted that rides will still be available should the lockdown be extended.

It also opened at least five dormitories in some areas of Metro Manila to accommodate medical practitioners, security guards, and other frontliners who need lodging.

Robredo is also spearheading [efforts to provide reusable protective equipment for health workers and frontliners nationwide](#).

'A time for unity'

Meanwhile, the Vice President herself thanked Duterte for recognizing her COVID-19 initiatives, after an official of an anti-corruption body accused her of competing with the national government's response to the outbreak.

"Mabuti naman na iyong mensahe ng ating Pangulo, yung mensahe niya magkaisa. Kasi hindi ito panahon na naghahanap pa ng diperensya. Hindi ito panahon na ang pagtingin sa pagtulong ay kompetisyon. Panahon nga ito, kailangan naehance yung cooperation ng lahat," said Robredo, a known critic of the administration, especially of its bloody campaign against illegal drugs.

[Translation: It's good to know that the President is calling for unity of all. Because this is not the time to look for differences. This is not the time to view initiatives as competition. This is, in fact, a time to enhance the cooperation of all.]

President Rodrigo Duterte recently fired Presidential Anti-Corruption Commissioner Manuelito Luna for recommending an investigation of Robredo over her programs which supposedly "undermined" the administration's measures on the outbreak.

The Philippines has 3,094 total COVID-19 cases to date with 144 deaths and 57 recoveries.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/4/5/Robredo-supports-lockdown-extension-covid-19.html?fbclid=IwAR3FkBsghKP4SnSE8iNtnpCrGYT4sof3SA4xc-S2irNd3MpSzfxGFPfhdk>

Calibrated lockdown lifting 'most likely scenario,' says Makati Business Club

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 05 2020 10:40 AM | Updated as of Apr 05 2020 10:57 AM

MANILA -- A calibrated lifting of the Philippines' coronavirus lockdown is emerging as the 'most likely scenario,' the head of the Makati Business Club said Sunday.

There could be "some relaxation" for businesses that can ensure the safety of their workers and communities from COVID-19, said MBC President Edgar Chua.

"It will be very gradual," Chua told ANC. Manufacturing and businesses process outsourcing or BPOs could be allowed to open first, he said.

Any decision on the duration of the lockdown, scheduled to end on April 12, rests on health, economics and social order, he said.

It could take longer for malls and schools to reopen, compared to other businesses, Chua added.

The Philippines can look to the examples of South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore in managing their pandemic lockdowns, he said.

The Philippine government first placed the capital region on community quarantine beginning March 15, and then expanded the measure to the entire Luzon two days later, as the cases of COVID-19 also grew in the country.

As of Saturday, 3,094 cases have been recorded in the country, including 144 deaths and 57 recoveries.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/04/05/20/calibrated-lockdown-lifting-most-likely-scenario-says-makati-business-club>

Family of farmers in Pangasinan town donates harvest

By Hilda Austria April 4, 2020, 3:41 pm



BAYANIHAN SPIRIT. Residents of Barangay Binalay Malasiqui town in Pangasinan province pose for a picture before they pick eggplants and other veggies from the field of the Espinoza family on Friday (April 3, 2020). Joel Espinoza and his family gave away free eggplants and other vegetables amid the Covid-19 crisis. *(Photo by Osmundo Barboza's Facebook page)*

MALASIQUI, Pangasinan – A 31-year-old “buko” juice vendor and his family of farmers went viral on Facebook after responding to the “bayanihan call” amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) crisis by giving away eggplants and other vegetables to their community in Barangay Binalay here.

In a video call interview on Saturday, Joel Espinoza, popularly known as “Erning Kalabaw” on social media, said he and his family decided to donate their vegetable harvest, mostly eggplant, to their community since it has been on lockdown after a Covid-19 case has been confirmed.

“Napanuod namin yung video na inuudyukan mga mayayaman na tumulong sa mga nangangailangan ngayong krisis. Mahirap lang kami pero yung mga kabarangay namin wala nang maulam kaya kung ano yong sobra-sobra sa amin, pinamimigay na lang namin (We have seen a video of a man calling on rich people to help those in need during this crisis. We are poor like the others but some people in our barangay already lack food to eat. So whatever we have that is more than our need, we share with others),” he said.

Espinoza is a “buko” (coconut) juice vendor in Candon City, Ilocos Sur. He has a wife and one child and his family in Barangay Binalay consist of farmers, just like most of the village residents.

He noted that since the total lockdown in their community, they were unable to leave and there was no satellite market nearby to buy other goods besides what they have within the community.

Only buyers of their products are allowed to enter and leave the community.

“May mga relief goods pero kulang pa rin po. May mga wala nang maulam (There are relief goods but they are not enough. Some no longer have viand),” Espinoza said.

Residents of their community picked the eggplants and other veggies in the Espinozas’ one-and-a-half-hectare field.

“Kadalasan mahigit 200 kilos ang naha-harvest namin dito na talong every other day. At sa loob ng dalawang araw, napitasan na ng mga kabarangay namin ang kalahating ektarya (We usually harvest 200 kg. of eggplant every other day. In two days, people in our community were able to harvest most of the produce in a half-hectare of land),” he said.

Since his video went viral, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have sent donations that have been used to buy rice and distributed it to the community.

“May nagpadala po nung isang araw, mga OFWs na nasa Israel at ipinambili po namin ng apat na sakong bigas na naipamigay na rin namin sa aming mga kabarangay (The other day, OFWs in Israel sent donations and we bought four sacks of rice that we have already distributed),” Espinoza said.

He appealed to the public to donate to their community. He also thanked those who have already donated and the local government of Candon City for bringing them home before Pangasinan was placed under an extremely enhanced community quarantine.

Espinoza’s video drew one million views since it was uploaded on April 2 by his neighbor Osmundo Barboza, hoping to reach more people to help their community. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1098815>

Malampaya still operational amid workforce constraints



By [Jordeene B. Lagare](#)

April 5, 2020

THE Malampaya natural gas field in offshore Palawan province is still fully operating to ensure enough power supply in Luzon amid perils in workforce mobility due to the island-wide enhanced community quarantine, according to its operator Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX). In a statement on Friday, SPEX said the lockdown in Luzon and many other areas posed challenges to its employees' mobility, but added that it was working closely with the Department of Energy to enable critical personnel, as well as the needed materials and supplies to run the deep water gas-to-power project, to reach the offshore platform. SPEX also said stringent measures were in place to look after the health and well-being of its workforce, such as screening them and implementing specific Covid-19 protocols for hygiene and physical distancing measures offshore, as well as medical evacuation.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/04/05/business/sunday-business/malampaya-still-operational-amid-workforce-constraints/709886/>

Wash for wipe

Daily Tribune (Philippines), Philippines Apr 6, 2020 A6



In Naples, Florida, a woodcraft shop displays a giant replica of a toilet paper raised above two trees by pulleys with the name of the business, Who

Wood Wonder, painted on the paper roll. The sight shows the woodcarving skill that customers can expect from the proprietor, Donald Ryan. At the same time, it's a sign of the times.

When the coronavirus pandemic triggered panic buying among Americans and Britons in February, supermarket shelves were emptied in wave after wave of hoarding. Strangely, toilet paper was among the sold-out products.

Katharina Wittgens, a psychologist at customer behavior consultant Innovationbubble, explained the phenomenon. She said people got scared of losing the means to clean themselves.

For Americans, toilet hygiene is based on wiping their butts dry using toilet paper. The culture started with the invention of the perforated toilet paper roll by Albany, New York businessman Seth Wheeler in 1891. Another American, John Harvey Kellogg, introduced his version of

replica of a toilet paper raised above two trees by pulleys with the name of the business, Who

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For Americans, toilet hygiene is based on wiping their butts dry using toilet paper. The culture started with the invention of the perforated toilet paper roll by Albany, New York businessman Seth Wheeler in 1891. Another American, John Harvey Kellogg, introduced his version of the bidet in 1928, but the French idea did not get enough attention. The American Bidet Co. reintroduced the bidet in the United States in 1965, but the bulky and expensive contraption again failed to become mainstream.

The toilet paper hoarding, however, revived consumer interest on the bidet. In fact, Tushy, a bidet startup, sold 10 times more of the product last week than before as Americans left with empty toilet paper shelves in supermarkets had to find alternatives.

Switching to a wash culture is not only more hygienic but also sewer-friendly and environment-friendly. It can eliminate toilet paper and wet wipes clogging sewers and spare the oceans from more solid waste. But in case bidet hoarding causes a shortage of the device, Americans still have an option. They can try the Filipino version of a butt washer which comes in either the simple washing can model or the plastic dipper edition called the

WJG

Indonesia covers up to protect orangutans

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

April 6, 2020

JAKARTA: Poaching and habitat loss have decimated Indonesia's orangutan population, but now coronavirus has emerged as another potential deadly threat to the critically endangered species.

While there have been no confirmed cases of transmission from humans to the fuzzy-haired apes, they share 97 percent of our DNA.

And staff at a rehabilitation center in jungle-covered Borneo are not taking any chances.



Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, Indonesia: This handout photo taken on March 21, 2020 and released on April 2 by the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) shows a worker sweeping next to orangutans in cages at the Samboja Lestari forest school in Balikpapan in East Kalimantan, after they closed its doors to visitors in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. Poaching and habitat loss have decimated Indonesia's orangutan population, but now coronavirus has emerged as another potential deadly threat to the critically endangered species. AFP PHOTO / BORNEO ORANGUTAN SURVIVAL FOUNDATION

The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation has closed its doors to visitors and told staff to step up precautions to avoid passing on infection, including by wearing masks and protective gloves.

“There haven't been any confirmed cases of direct transmission, but it's caused other issues like a shortage of masks and disinfectant supplies for our orangutan caretakers,” said foundation veterinarian Agus Irwanto.

For the apes, however, there hasn't been much change in their daily jungle jaunts.

“While the humans at our rehabilitation centers work hard to adjust to these new measures, the orangutans are going about their usual business,” the foundation said.

Human-to-primate transmission fears are not limited to Indonesia.

France is taking precautions at its zoos, with caretakers keeping their distance from gorillas and chimpanzees.

Last month the forest-covered African nation of Gabon said it would stop allowing tourists to see its great apes over fears that humans could give them the virus.

The Ebola epidemic killed gorillas and chimpanzees as well as humans. **AFP**

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/04/06/news/world/indonesia-covers-up-to-protect-orangutans/710254/>

What does COP26 delay mean for climate action?

By [Simon Pollock](#)

April 4, 2020

The United Nations' recent decision to postpone this year's annual international climate change meeting raises questions: With so much attention focused on Covid-19, is it still possible to maintain the necessary momentum to drive global climate action?



British prime minister Boris Johnson with Sir David Attenborough at the launch of the UK hosting of the 26th COP. Image: [Andrew Parsons / No10 Downing Street, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

Can the world deal with more than one global emergency at a time? The United Nations' recent decision to [postpone](#) this year's annual international climate change meeting, COP26, because of the coronavirus raises questions. Is it still possible to maintain the necessary momentum to drive global climate action, with so much attention focused on Covid-19?

In announcing that COP26 is being delayed (made unfortunately on 1 April), UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa said the coronavirus is "the most urgent threat facing humanity today, but we cannot forget that climate change is the biggest threat facing humanity over the long term". But will humanity remember amid these concerted efforts to deal with the virus?

The move to delay this year's COP, or Conference of Parties, was not unexpected, pre-empted as it was by UN Secretary General António Guterres' indication in March that the virus, and the global recession it is likely to cause, is now the UN's [top priority](#). The big question now is whether we humans are capable of addressing the slow moving, but far more consequential effects, of climate change with the same sense of urgency as we are now addressing the coronavirus. The aftermath of this single virus will pale into insignificance when compared with the calamitous effects of untrammelled climate change.

Warnings about the warming planet have been increasing yearly. Last month, the UN's annual [State of the Global Climate](#) report study showed not only that rising greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase land and ocean temperatures and raise sea levels. The report, by the World Meteorological Organisation, also indicates the devastating social effects of climate change are already with us.

This includes the loss of 2,200 lives from flooding in South Asia; destructive cyclones in Mozambique ([Idai](#)), the Bahamas ([Dorian](#)) and Japan ([Hagibis](#)); and an unprecedented [bushfire season](#) in Australia. Meanwhile, the changing climate and extreme weather events are causing hunger to rise again after years of steady decline, while unusually heavy rains after drought led to the [worst locust outbreak](#) in the past 25 years in East Africa.

Concern over the pandemic, spreading through our global news and social media networks far quicker than the virus itself, makes us realise just how thin is the layer of technology protecting us from the vagaries of the natural environment.

Positives in the negative?

There are positive ways to look at how the coronavirus-climate change conundrum could play out. In her statement, Espinosa called for countries to use the virus crisis as an opportunity to build a post-virus economy that is “clean, green, healthy, just, safe and more resilient”. There are hopes that moves to stimulate the global economy after an anticipated global recession will [not miss the chance](#) to focus on building through green growth, especially utilising renewable energy. Philanthropist and Microsoft founder Bill Gates [is positive](#) that the central place of data-based science in combatting the coronavirus can be applied equally well to fighting climate change.

The economic downturn from the virus is reducing emissions and [clearing skies](#). But before celebrating, we need to look soberly at the real possibility that the inevitable upsurge in economic activity after the worst has passed could lead us to fall back into the same unsustainable growth patterns that brought on the climate emergency.

Emissions in China, from where Covid-19 first burst onto the global scene, dropped by an incredible 25 percent over four weeks. But there are concerns the government’s coming economic stimulus [could outweigh](#) short-term impacts on energy and emissions—as occurred in the country’s rebound after the global financial crisis and its domestic downturn in 2015.

How to encourage climate action?

A long-running debate among climate action practitioners revolves around how to motivate people to take action at the necessary scale.

Universal action is indispensable, as an effective climate response requires jettisoning former models of development revolving around fossil fuel power and narrow capitalistic thinking that does not account for environmental capital. Universal action ranges from people taking individually altruistic “act local” decisions, such as eating less meat, to the leaders of boardrooms and national assemblies putting common planetary goals before short-term economic and political gain.

Do we encourage people to take climate action with positive messaging or scare them with warnings about the terrible places inaction will take us? During an earlier career with the Australian government, I joined other communication bureaucrats in taking a misguided approach to massaging public opinion by promoting only the positives of climate action. A communication campaign supporting a [Clean Energy Australia](#) designed to win the public’s acceptance of one of the world’s first emissions trading schemes is now forgotten in the annals of failed public affairs, following the [decimation](#) of Australia’s climate policy making in 2014.

Our mistake was to focus entirely on the positives of climate action, while playing down the need for people to alter their current lifestyles and future plans. If we are serious about climate change, we need to appreciate that we need to change—all of us. And that means altering our sense of the normal. Climate change is a crisis.

What is normal?

The global spread of the coronavirus, and the increasingly strict measures governments are introducing to contain contagion, are making many reconsider their perceptions of what the normal world is.

The realisation that pre-virus assumptions about our daily life have been misplaced can be a shock. Everything will not always be as we expect, is a sentiment shared by many. Concern over the pandemic, spreading through our global news and social media networks far quicker than the virus itself, makes us realise just how thin is the layer of technology protecting us from the vagaries of the natural environment. And we are forced to realise just how dependant we have become on the infrastructure of our increasingly interconnected world, including air travel.

We now need to apply the same sense of global urgency applied to defending humans from the virus to saving the whole planet, along with its myriad inhabitants, from rising temperatures. This includes making sure that efforts to address climate change in developing nations are not subsumed in addressing virus-related health issues. Wherever possible, assistance to counter the effects of the virus and rebuild societies in its aftermath need to include elements that reduce emissions and enhance resilience to future climate change.

The rapid spread of the virus and the unprecedented speed of government-led actions to address it show more than ever we are now a global species, not isolated communities living in nation-state villages. We should learn from the onset of Covid-19 that it is possible to mobilise populations, even outside of warfare. Let's hope we can capture the same spirit of this global call to action against the coronavirus to ensure the normality left in its wake is not one ravaged by accelerating climate change.

One way might be for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change team organising the rescheduled COP26 meeting to reconsider the carbon footprint of such conferences and explore ways to reduce flight emissions.

Simon Pollock is a communications specialist with the UN-backed Green Climate Fund. He is based in South Korea.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/what-does-cop26-delay-mean-for-climate-action/>

Accidental mine explosion kills 11

posted April 06, 2020 at 12:05 am

by [AFP](#)

Eleven people were killed and four injured in an accidental explosion at a Colombian coal mine in Cucunuba, near Bogota, on Saturday, according to the local fire department.

The victims were miners who were working despite the health emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Most Colombians are quarantined by government order, but mining is among the activities exempted.

Captain Alvaro Farfan, head of the fire department of the department of Cundinamarca, told local media that the accident occurred in a legally operated coal mine, although he did not give details about the type of explosion.

On Friday, six other miners were killed in a similar incident at a coal mine in the municipality of San Cayetano in northeastern Colombia.

After the new accident, the state-run National Mining Agency announced the suspension of “the underground coal mining activity” in Cucunuba.

The agency confirmed the report of 11 dead and four injured.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/321089>