

Cimatu: COVID-19 and climate crisis can bring destruction and chaos to any nation

Published April 22, 2020, 4:16 PM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the urgency of the need for concerted and comprehensive actions in both the coronavirus pandemic and climate crisis is the same.



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu
(DENR / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

“With COVID-19, we are faced with immediate gripping fear of losing more lives; on the other hand, with climate change, we are faced with rising sea levels, saline intrusion into aquifers, droughts, floods, and the results will impact billions of people, as well as biodiversity,” DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said, in observance of the Earth Day on April 22.

This year’s celebration has “Climate Action” as its theme. He pointed out that with climate change, adaptation and mitigation responses are not as immediate because its impacts appear to be just merely creeping.

This Earth Day 2020, coming at a time when the COVID 19 pandemic is dominating global attention, is the perfect time for us to ponder the need for collective action,” he said.

“The damage from COVID 19 and climate change bring about destruction and chaos to any nation,” Cimatu said. COVID-19, a communicable disease, has infected around 2.5 million people worldwide and has killed more than 165,000 of them.

“No one knows how long this pandemic will persist, and how many more lives will be lost. Already, it has virtually paralyzed many nations, forcing them to impose lockdowns and quarantines, reducing economic and other activities to a trickle,” he said.

“In both COVID 19 and climate change, our survival is at stake. The urgency of the need for concerted and comprehensive action, without waiting for the problem to peak or to impact millions more of people, is the same,” he added.

Cimatu said human response may be less drastic in climate change mitigation and adaptation, as they generally require only lifestyle changes.

“But we must invest in and institute the necessary concerted reforms speedily and extensively before it becomes too late,” Cimatu said.

“This Earth Day 2020, let us look beyond COVID 19. With the help of the mass media, let us challenge all nations, including ours, to take decisive climate action. After all, this has long been overdue,” he said.

DENR chief on Earth Day: Like virus, climate change causes ruins, chaos

Published April 22, 2020 3:08pm

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu on Wednesday warned that, like the coronavirus disease 2019, climate change could cause destruction and chaos to countries.

In his message on Earth Day 2020, Cimatu highlighted the similarity of consequence in the ongoing virus pandemic and climate change to the world.

“In both COVID 19 and climate change, our survival is at stake,” Cimatu said.

“The urgency of the need for concerted and comprehensive action, without waiting for the problem to peak or to impact millions more people, is the same,” he added.

Cimatu said that, with COVID-19, the people are facing fear of losing more lives.

On the other hand, with climate change, the people are encountering rising sea levels, saline intrusion into aquifers, droughts, and floods, affecting billions of people, as well as biodiversity.

“However, with climate change, adaptation and mitigation responses are not as immediate because its impacts appear to be just merely creeping,” he said.

Cimatu noted that the lockdowns imposed in many countries due to the threat of coronavirus 2019 has resulted in clearer skies, more breathable air, cleaner seas, and more vibrant wildlife.

According to Cimatu, COVID-19 has infected around 2.5 million people worldwide, killing more than 165,000. “Already, it has virtually paralyzed many nations, forcing them to impose lockdowns and quarantines, reducing economic and other activities to a trickle,” Cimatu said.

“For climate change mitigation and adaptation, our responses may be less drastic, as they generally require only lifestyle changes. But we must invest in and institute the necessary concerted reforms speedily and extensively, before it becomes too late,” he said.

Campaigning Earth Day 2020’s theme Climate Action, Cimatu said that it is the perfect time “to ponder the need for collective action” while the COVID- 19 pandemic is dominating global attention.

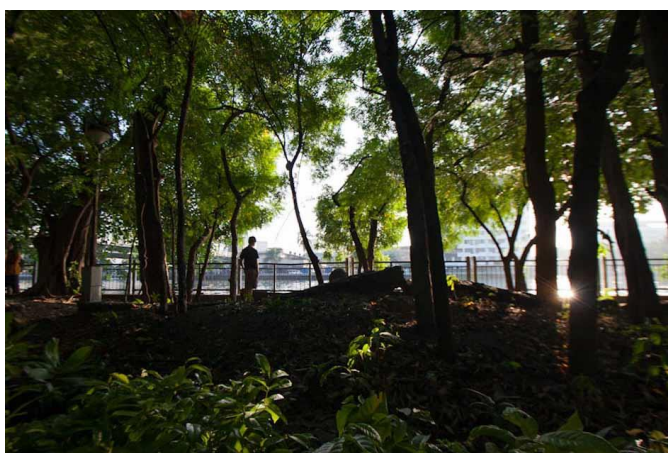
“This Earth Day 2020, let us look beyond COVID-19. With the help of the mass media, let us challenge all nations, including ours, to take decisive climate action. After all, this has long been overdue,” he added. —**Joviland Rita/LBG, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/735120/denr-chief-on-earth-day-like-virus-climate-change-cause-ruins-chaos/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1_VUIZ73Ph-oUJHYRDzTOOrZKM8upiRjPQnkJLjcehegORBYKwEfpXmPI

On Earth Day, Cimatú calls for 'decisive climate action' amid COVID-19 crisis

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 21 2020 10:34 PM



MANILA--On the eve of Earth Day 2020, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú called for "decisive climate action", saying the ongoing COVID-19 crisis "is the perfect time for us to ponder the need for collective action."

"The damage from COVID-19 and climate change bring about destruction and chaos to any nation," Cimatú said in a statement Tuesday.

"On the one hand, with COVID-19, we are faced with immediate gripping fear of losing more lives; on the other hand, with climate change, we are faced with rising sea levels, saline intrusion into aquifers, droughts, floods, and the results will impact billions of people, as well as biodiversity.

"However, with climate change, adaptation and mitigation responses are not as immediate because its impacts appear to be just merely creeping."

Cimatú said the lockdowns have led to "clearer skies, more breathable air, cleaner seas and more vibrant wildlife."

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated worldwide on April 22 to show support for environmental protection and advocacies.

This year's theme for Earth Day is climate action as it is "the most pressing topic" for the 50th anniversary of the event, according to the Earth Day Organization.

Earth Day: Address climate change or face another

TITLE: COVID-like crisis

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Earth Day: Address climate change or face another COVID-like crisis

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 23, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu yesterday called for “concerted action” from public and private sectors to address climate change, stressing that the country must not wait for perennial environmental problems to peak and endanger lives as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is doing.

“In both COVID 19 and climate change, our survival is at stake. The urgency of the need for concerted and comprehensive action, without waiting for the problem to peak or to impact millions more of people, is the same,” Cimatu said in a statement as the world celebrated Earth Day with the theme Climate Action.

Cimatu said the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic is a bitter reminder of how global problems like the climate change can “bring about destruction and chaos to any nation.”

COVID-19 has so far infected around 2.5 million people worldwide, claiming the lives of more than 165,000.

“On the one hand, with COVID-19, we are faced with immediate gripping fear of losing more lives; on the other hand, with climate change, we are faced with rising sea levels, saline intrusion into aquifers, droughts, floods and the results will impact billions of people, as well as biodiversity,” Cimatu said.

Cimatu said that unlike the uncertainties of how long COVID-19 will persist and how many more lives will be lost, climate change can be addressed through efficient mitigation and adaptation programs.

“For climate change mitigation and adaptation, our responses may be less drastic, as they generally require only lifestyle changes. But we must invest in and institute the necessary concerted reforms speedily and extensively, before it becomes too late,” Cimatú said.

“This Earth Day 2020, let us look beyond COVID-19. With the help of the mass media, let us challenge all nations, including ours, to take decisive climate action. After all, this has long been overdue,” he added.

In a separate statement, fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) stressed the importance of protecting the West Philippine Sea from China’s “opportunistic” reclamation activities.

“As the theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action, Pamalakaya asserted the significance of protecting the West Philippine Sea, especially its marine resources, as China’s cost to coral reefs due to its reclamation activities is estimated at P33 billion per year,” the group said.

Pamalakaya said around 40,000 acres of reefs were destroyed in the course of Chinese reclamation, “affecting not only marine life, but also the livelihood of Filipino fisherfolk.”

Pamalakaya specifically slammed China’s construction of research stations in Kagitingan (Fiery Cross) and Zamora (Subi) reefs, both part of the Spratly Islands in the West Philippine Sea.

China has also earned the ire of Vietnam after announcing that it would be setting up two administrative districts in the South China Sea – the Nansha District in Spratlys and Xisha District in Paracel Islands, where Vietnam has been upholding its sovereign claim.

Meanwhile, environmental group Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) urged Filipinos to continue safeguarding the environment from large-scale mining operations.

ATM pointed out that various environmental groups and scientists have linked the emergence of the COVID-19 virus to the destruction of forests and essential ecosystems.

“The continued destruction of forests has led to the rise of temperatures, which in turn causes wildlife to change their eating and behavioral patterns. These behavioral changes lead to mutations that contribute to the rise of new diseases such as COVID-19,” ATM said.

Bishop’s call

An official of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) called on the Filipino people to expand the COVID-19 narrative beyond health and economic crisis as the country joined the Earth Day celebration yesterday.

“We must look at environmental destruction as the root cause of the global pandemic. Humans take wildlife out of their natural habitats and exploit finite resources,” Fr. Edwin Gariguez, executive secretary of the National Secretariat for Social Action of the CBCP said.

“Human activities – destructive extraction, coal projects, large-scale logging, monocropping plantation, among others – destroy biodiversity as if we are not part of it,” he added.

Earth Day: Address climate change or face another

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As the country struggles to make it through the pandemic, Gariguez said COVID-19 does not only call for a deep social and structural conversion, but also for intimate ecological conversion and change in how people treat the environment.

'Celebrate at home'

In the City of San Fernando, DENR officials in Central Luzon have urged and challenged the public to celebrate Earth Day at home.

Don Guevarra, DENR information officer in the region, told The STAR the public can celebrate Earth Day without going outside their houses due to the pandemic by adopting environment-friendly practices at home.

"We can do these eco-friendly tasks at home like stopping the use of plastic, waste segregation and water and electricity conservation," Guevarra noted.

He added that the public can also practice eco-brick making, home gardening and composting which are environment friendly and can help ease the impact and boredom of staying at home with the implementation of the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine and make Earth Day celebration an everyday event. – **With Robertzon Ramirez, Ramon Efren Lazaro**

On Earth Day, Legarda calls for protection of environment amid 'climate crisis'

Updated April 22, 2020, 8:28 PM

By Charissa Luci-Atienza

As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day today (April 22), Deputy Speaker and lone district Antique Rep. Loren Legarda called on the public to join online climate action and raise awareness on environmental protection amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda
(Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN)

"As we mark the 50th year of celebrating Earth Day, let us utilize our digital resources and skills to take climate action and raise awareness on protecting the planet while keeping our families safe from the current pandemic. In this celebration, let us always remember that to protect nature is to protect ourselves and our only home, not only for the present but for the future generations," she said in a statement.

She said both public and private sectors should do their part to address the ongoing climate crisis.

"The phenomenon of climate change is so complex and overreaching in its impacts that we should now begin calling it the 'climate crisis'," Legarda, environmentalist and climate activist, said.

Legarda has been advocating for environmental protection and calling on communities to implement adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures to increase their resilience to climate change.

"We have seen many times the impact of natural hazards and the prevalence of disaster risk, exacerbated by climate change. They kill thousands of individuals, wipe out cities and communities, and undo years of development gains," she said.

During her stint in the Senate, Legarda pushed for enactment into law of pro-environment measures. These include Republic Act (RA) No. 9729 or the Climate Change Act of 2009 which created the Climate Change Commission; and RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act.

RA 9729 mainstreams climate change adaptation and mitigation in policies and programs, while RA 10121 promotes a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan that strengthens the capacity of the national government and promotes locally-led action together with stakeholders, to build the resilience of communities.

"The world cannot afford further delays, more so the vulnerable people who end up as climate refugees in their own communities, they who suffer again and again from tragedies brought about by a climate crisis not of their own doing.

"These vulnerable sectors include our indigenous peoples, farmers, fisherfolk, persons with disabilities, women, children and the elderly," Legarda said.

EMB-3 sets contingency for COVID waste, mass burial site

posted April 22, 2020 at 04:10 pm

by [Butch Gunio](#)

As the country prepares for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (CoViD-19) pandemic peak in best and worst-case scenario models reported by the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), the EMB Regional Office No. 3 (EMB-3) also braces itself for the onslaught of infectious wastes and dead bodies from the infected.

In a report provided by EMB-3 Regional Director Wilson L. Trajeco to the Manila Standard, his office has prepared two contingency plans for infectious waste disposal and simplified process for approval of mass burial sites.

In his contingency plan for infectious wastes, Trajeco reveals that the existing combined capacity of 4 TSDs with M501 certificates in the Region, in addition to Tarlac Provincial Hospital, which is allowed to conduct onsite treatment of its own wastes, is only 30.72 metric tons per day.

Based on incomplete data from the EMB Central Office, other M501 TSD facilities in the country have a combined capacity of only 21.87 metric tons per day, which brings the total industry capacity to a measly 52.59 metric tons per day or only 3.6 percent of infectious waste treatment capacity even with the best case scenario.

Trajeco thus proposes that the DENR should also tap other licensed TSD facilities that use thermal equipment but are not registered for M501 wastes.

Trajeco also recommends including cement plants like Holcim Philippines and Republic Cement, which use certain types of residual wastes as an alternative fuel in cement manufacturing processes, to be issued special M501 certificates to allow them to treat infectious wastes. This will then require a revisit of Department Administrative Order No. 2010-06 which provides guidelines for the use of alternative fuels and raw materials in cement kilns. The contingency plan cites an example of a cement company in the United States, Trioxy Inc., which uses health care wastes as a substitute fuel for its cement kilns.

Nevertheless, the combined capacity of all these TSD facilities will only be 202.80 metric tons per day (180.22 in Region 3 and 21.87 in other regions based on incomplete data). In the worst-case scenario, the industry will not be able to cope.

Using the World Health Organization average of 0.5 kgs of medical waste per patient, the forecasted peak of 2million infected, without intervention, by the month of May will generate at least 1million metric tons of waste.

According to the PIDS publication, however, even with intervention, if the current trend of failure to isolate at least 70 percent of those infected and delays in reporting symptomatic cases continue, the country will experience a peak of 8.5 million infected by August of this year.

Trajeco calls for the everyone's cooperation in helping to flatten the curve by observing all protocols of proper hygiene, wearing of masks and social distancing.

The EMB-3 also prepared a contingency plan for mass burial sites.

This plan came after some local government units (LGUs) sought the EMB-3's permission to host their own mass burial sites within their respective territories in view of the possible surge of CoViD-19 related deaths.

EMB-3 sets contingency for COVID waste, mass

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EMB-3 Regional Director Wilson L. Trajeco told the Standard that in the worst case scenario, there may not even be enough caskets to hold dead bodies, in view of the limited number of crematoria in the entire country and existing public cemetery spaces have already reached their saturation point.

Based on the data from the EMB-3, there are only around 70 licensed and operational crematoria in the country which are not enough in the event of a surge of Covid-related deaths.

Trajeco said that with this scenario, his office cannot do away with environmental parameters for mass burial sites, such as a simplified development plan, in anticipation of the coming rainy season, as the storm runoff could also be source of contagion.

However, the EMB clarifies that it will simplify the procedure in applying for environmental compliance certificates (ECC) and permits to operate through its online permitting system.

The contingency plan also covers the private sector industry and provides for a checklist for an initial environmental examination (IEE) with minimal requirements such as a business permit, proof of land ownership, a DOH clearance and the like.

Trajeco assures that once the requirements are complete, approval and issuance of the ECC should take no more than two days.

Trajeco said that it will issue a notice to all LGUs containing a checklist for an IEE and other legal requirements to facilitate the process of approval.

On February 3, the DOH issued Department Memorandum No. 2020-0067 which provides for guidelines on the disposal of remains from CoViD-19 related deaths, which gives preference to burial by cremation within 12 hours from the time of death.

Handling of the body includes placement in an airtight cadaver bag that is leak-proof and to be sealed with packaging tapes and bandages. In no way shall the bag be opened or unzipped prior to the burial, which means that hygienic preparations such as washing of the body, tidying the hair, trimming of the nails, shaving, and embalming will altogether be done away with.

Personnel handling the bodies are also required to wear single-use PPEs before during and after the handling of the dead body and to dispose of these items immediately according to protocol.

Water board assures sufficient Metro Manila supply

posted April 22, 2020 at 04:30 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The National Water Resources Board on Tuesday assured water consumers of Metro Manila of sufficient water supply at Angat Dam, Bulacan even after the lockdown due to the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic.

NWRB executive director Seville David said Angat Dam that supplies 97 percent of the metro's potable water has enough supply until May.

"With the current allocation of 46 cubic meters per second, there is sufficient supply until the end of the enhanced community quarantine and even until the month of May prior to the onset of the rainy season," he said.

Angat Dam's water level was recorded at 192.25 meters as of yesterday at 6 a.m. David said such level was within the normal operating level of 180 meters.

"We could so note that current level is more than eight meters higher than last year 2019 at the same time," he said.

MWSS concessionaires assured of normal raw water supply

By: [Ronnel W. Domingo](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:10 AM April 23, 2020

Normal allocation of raw water from Angat to the concessionaires of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) will be maintained until June to support the continuing fight against the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19), according to the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

The NWRB said in a statement that as of April 21, the water level at Angat was more than eight meters higher than the level of the dam on the same date last year.

“With Pagasa (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) rainfall projection indicating near normal rainfall condition until September, the water level in Angat dam is projected not to fall below the minimum operating level of 180 meters (above sea level, or masl) despite the full allocation to MWSS and the releases for irrigation in its wet cropping season come June,” the agency said.

Supply from Angat to MWSS has been raised to the normal flow of 46 cubic meters per second (cms) since the third week of March when NWRB decided to do so following several months at 42 cms.

Back then, Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. were still implementing rotational service interruptions during nonpeak consumption hours amid lingering effects of the supply crisis in 2019.

Despite that, and because of the implementation of the quarantine, the NWRB raised the allocation to normal.

Also for June, NWRB said it allocated 15 cms of water from Angat for the irrigation of farms in southern Bulacan.

NWRB said water in Angat dam was sustainable until the onset of rainy season in June.

Source: <https://business.inquirer.net/295430/mwss-concessionaires-assured-of-normal-raw-water-supply#ixzz6KO0xpbGh>

Waste materials shipped back to South Korea

By [Angela Celis](#)

-April 23, 2020



Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero. (Photo from Philippine Information Agency)

THE Philippine government has shipped back 2,676 metric tons (MT) of waste materials to South Korea, which had been stored at the premises of the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority in Misamis Oriental since 2018, the Department of Finance said on Wednesday.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero, in a report cited by the DOF in a statement, said the 2,676 MT was part of the 5,176.91 MT that South Korean government officials have committed to help ship back to their country after these were illegally exported to the Philippines in July 2018.

The waste materials consist of plastic synthetic flakes that were unlawfully imported by the Cebu-based Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp.

Guerrero said the garbage was shipped back in 151 40-footer containers.

The first batch of 51 containers was re-exported to Korea on Jan. 25, 2019, followed by another shipment of 50 containers on January 15 this year. The third batch consisting of 50 containers was shipped to Korea last March 21.

"The re-exportation took some time because the wastes have been exposed to natural elements of heat and rain, which made it difficult to re-bag and stuff inside the containers," Guerrero said, adding that 2,500 MT of wastes still need to be re-bagged.

The remaining wastes were originally scheduled to be repatriated to Korea by end of March, but the imposition of the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine set back the BOC timetable.

"Rest assured that the bureau will undertake all the necessary means, within the bounds of law, in order to expedite the re-exportation of these wastes," Guerrero said.

An order of forfeiture and order of re-exportation has been issued by the Port of Cagayan de Oro City against the waste materials from South Korea, which arrived in bulk and containerized shipments.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index/index.php/news_news/waste-materials-shipped-back-to-south-korea/

BOC re-exports waste materials to South Korea

posted April 22, 2020 at 08:00 pm

by [Julito G. Rada](#)

The Bureau of Customs returned to South Korea some 2,676 metric tons of waste materials that were stored at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority premises in Misamis Oriental since 2018.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero said in a report to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III the volume was part of the 5,176.91 MT that South Korean government officials committed to help ship back to their country after these were illegally exported to the Philippines in July 2018.

The waste materials consist of plastic synthetic flakes that were unlawfully imported by the Cebu-based Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp.

Guerrero said the garbage was shipped back in 151 forty-footer containers. The first batch of 51 containers was re-exported to Korea on Jan. 25, 2019. It followed by another shipment of 50 containers on Jan. 15 this year. A third batch consisting of 50 containers was shipped to Korea on March 21.

“The re-exportation took some time because the wastes have been exposed to natural elements of heat and rain, which made it difficult to re-bag and stuff inside the containers,” Guerrero told Dominguez.

Customs ships back half of South Korea trash

By **Bernadette D. Nicolas**

-April 22, 2020

The Philippines has so far returned to South Korea some 2,676 metric tons (MT) of wastes, which is almost half of the total garbage that was illegally exported to the Philippines in July 2018.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero said the 2,676 MT of waste materials were part of the 5,176.91 MT that the South Korean government officials have committed to help ship back in the country.

Guerrero said the garbage was shipped back in 151-forty-footer containers.

The waste materials, which were stored at the Phividec Industrial Authority premises in Misamis Oriental since 2018, consist of plastic synthetic flakes that were unlawfully imported by the Cebu-based Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp.

Philippines ships back 4th batch of garbage from S. Korea

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 22 2020 02:22 PM | Updated as of Apr 22 2020 03:21 PM

MANILA- The Philippines returned some 2,676 metric tons of trash to South Korea, the Bureau of Customs said in a report on Wednesday.

The garbage was stored at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority premises in Misamis Oriental since 2018, the BOC said.

The 151 containers of trash were part of the 5,000 tons of garbage that South Korea committed to help ship back to their country after these were illegally exported to the Philippines in July 2018, Customs Commissioner Leonardo Guerrero said.

The Philippines last year returned 51 containers of trash to South Korea, and another 50 containers in January.

The third batch, composed of 50 containers, was shipped to South Korea on March 21.

Some 2,500 tons of garbage still needs to be shipped back to South Korea, Guerrero said.

“Rest assured that the Bureau will undertake all the necessary means, within the bounds of law, in order to expedite the re-exportation of these wastes,” he said.



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14 hrs · 🌐

Ibinalik na ng Bureau of Customs ang 2,676 toneladang basura na iligal na dinala rito mula South Korea, ayon sa report ng Department of Finance.

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Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/News5Everywhere/photos/a.182218585268237/1967627923393952/?type=3&source=48>

These breathtaking photos of Boracay Island amid quarantine look almost unreal

Published April 22, 2020 4:38pm

Boracay Island is looking more and more like a paradise amid the enhanced community quarantine.

YouScooper Fritz Mendez, a bank employee who lives in the island, took photos of Bora last week.

His snaps featured the beautiful island showing the crystal clear water, blue skies, white sand, and palm trees looking almost unreal.

However, swimming and sunbathing are not allowed and there's a schedule for those who will visit the market and bank, according to Mendez.

He said there are still tourists in the island but the ferry service is available only for frontliners and essential workers.

Mendez also said social distancing is being observed, while wearing a mask and bringing the quarantine pass are required when going outside.

The enhanced community quarantine in Aklan [has been extended](#) by Governor Florencio Miraflores until April 30.

As of April 20, Aklan has recorded six confirmed cases of COVID-19, according to the Department of Health-Western Visayas. Five patients are still admitted at the hospital and one is in home quarantine.



Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/travel/735143/these-breathtaking-photos-of-boracay-island-amid-quarantine-look-almost-unreal/story/>

Extended NCR lockdown eyed

April 22, 2020 | Filed under: [Headlines, News](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)

By JEFFREY DAMICOG

An adviser of the inter-agency task force on COVID-19 yesterday called on the government to consider extending the community quarantine in Metro Manila which remains the country's epicenter of the dreaded coronavirus disease.

Dr. Tony Leachon made the suggestion as the as the government is set to end the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine on April 30.

"I would recommend extension in Metro Manila and National Capital Region, May 1 to 15, basically to increase the health care capacity, the testing centers, procure more test kits, improve the hospital facilities and see the figures go down," he said during an interview over CNN Philippines.

The doctor reminded that NCR remains the epicenter of the COVID-19 cases in the country.

"Eighty percent of the cases are in the National Capital Region," Leachon cited.

On the other hand, Leachon suggested a modified implementation of the ECQ over the entire Luzon.

"There can be a modified ECQ in Luzon and other areas because there are certain areas with increasing rates like Calabarzon and Pampanga and Bulacan," he noted.

The adviser warned if restrictions are lifted too soon there would be a resurgence of the COVID-19 cases.

"Any plans to extend the quarantine restriction should be carried out gradually in a phase manner to prevent resurgence of infection particularly during the rainy season in June," Leachon said.

The doctor cited that there is already a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in Singapore and Japan following the relaxation of boarder controls.



Congress to focus on COVID laws

[Paolo Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 23, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Congress will temporarily shelve pending bills and focus on legislation to help the country address the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis when lawmakers resume session on May 4, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said.

Zubiri, who recovered from a COVID-19 infection, said it was likely that the Senate and the House of Representatives will resume session as scheduled on May 4 amid reports that the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine will be extended or have a limited lifting of certain restrictions after April 30.

“We’re going to move them (pending bills) aside first and focus on COVID-19 measures,” Zubiri told The Chiefs aired on Cignal TV’s One News on Tuesday night.

He, however, said the Senate will still pass a resolution honoring the late senator Heherson Alvarez, who succumbed to COVID-19 on Monday. Traditional necrological services could not be held due to the situation.

Lawmakers from both chambers have started to propose various economic stimulus or rescue packages for the country and various industries.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III and Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano earlier agreed to resume session as scheduled despite the possibility of the quarantine being extended. President Duterte has been apprised of the matter.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the session would likely be brief and subsequent proceedings may be done via teleconference.

Hearings could also be limited, senators said.

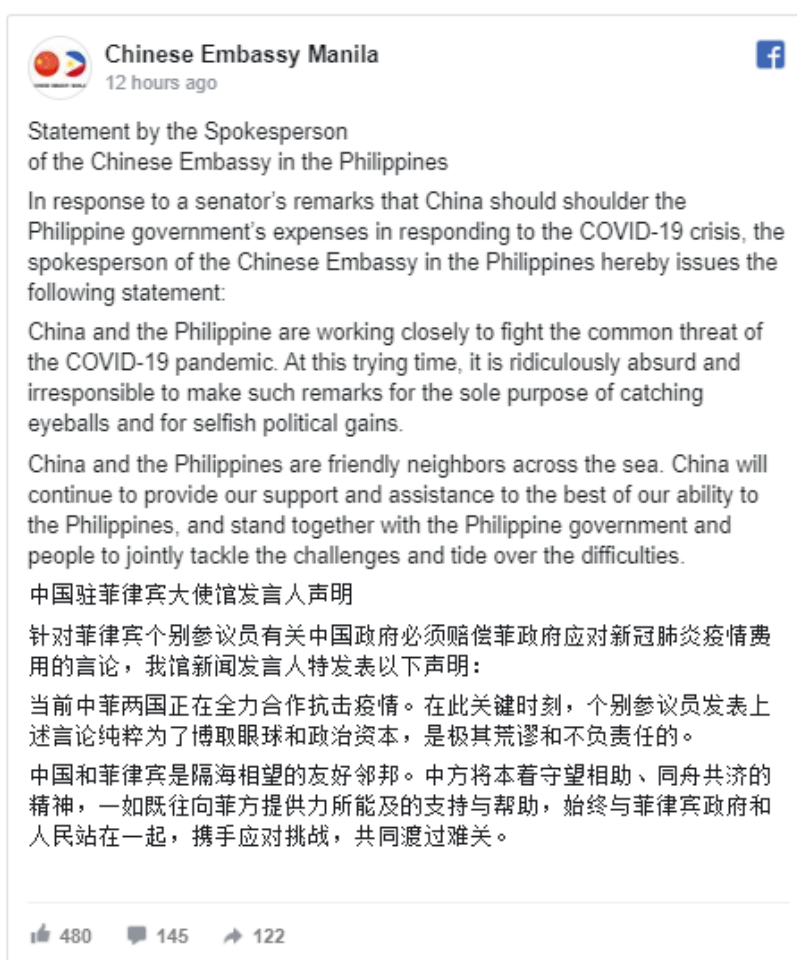
China hits senator's 'ridiculously absurd, irresponsible' remarks amid COVID-19 crisis

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:04 PM April 22, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The Chinese Embassy in Manila slammed as “ridiculously absurd” and “irresponsible” the remarks of a senator that China should pay up for the cost of the Philippines’ COVID-19 response as compensation for damaging the latter’s reef ecosystems.

“At this trying time, it is ridiculously absurd and irresponsible to make such remarks for the sole purpose of catching eyeballs and for selfish political gains,” the embassy said in a statement on Wednesday.



The embassy did not identify the senator it was referring to.

But it was Senator Risa Hontiveros who earlier said that Beijing should “[foot the bill](#)” for Manila’s COVID-19 response by paying more than P200 billion over the destruction of Philippine reefs in the West Philippine Sea.

“China and the Philippines are friendly neighbors across the sea,” the embassy continued.

Reports say that [the Asian powerhouse continues its reclamation activities](#) in contested areas in the South China Sea even as the world grapples with the crisis brought about by COVID-19, which first broke out in China’s Wuhan City, Hubei province, late last year.

Read more: <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/187068/china-hits-senators-ridiculously-absurd-irresponsible-remarks-amid-covid-19-crisis#ixzz6KOAc3QX>

Ilang tagahakot ng basura nanawagan ng ayuda sa gitna ng lockdown

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 22 2020 07:24 PM



Patuloy na nararamdaman ng publiko ang epekto ng kawalan ng public transportation sa panahon ng enhanced community quarantine. Ang isang ginang, regular na naglalakbay nang ilang kilometro sakay ng wheelchair para makapagpa-dialysis. Ang ilang tagahakot naman ng basura, madaling araw ay nag-aabang na para makiangkas sa truck papasok sa trabaho. **Nagpa-Patrol, Lyza Aquino. TV Patrol, Miyerkoles, 22 Abril 2020**



BARANGAY KAPITAN PINAPATAY SA SOCIAL AMELIORATION PROGRAM?

April 22, 2020 @ 3:44 PM 17 hours ago

Views: 82

MARAMING kontrobersya ukol sa Social Amelioration Program at tila humahantong ito sa pagpatay sa mga kapitan ng barangay.

At least, dalawa na ang naiulat na napatay na kapitan: sina Larry Rosales, ng Brgy. Sta. Ana, San Pablo, Laguna at Eranio Caleda ng Brgy. Casili Sur, Camalaniugan, Cagayan.

SI KAP. ROSALES

Naging malinaw ang kaso ni Kap. Rosales dahil maraming saksi at iba pang ebidensya ukol sa pagpatay sa kanya.

May video na, marami pang tao ang nakakita sa pangyayari dahil araw nang maganap ang krimen.

Ayon kay PLt. Col. Elmer Bao, hepe ng San Pablo Police, sa ulat nito kay Acting Laguna PNP Provincial Director PCol. Serafin Petalio II, may ilang motibo ang suspek na si Pablito Hernandez, 45, at inaanak sa kasal ni mismo ni Kap. Larry.

Kabilang sa mga motibo ang pagtanggap umano ni Kap. Larry na isyuhan ng quarantine pass si Hernandez at ang pagpapalista sa pulisya ng biktima sa suspek sa kampanya sa droga sa ilalim ng programang Tokhang.

May nagsasabi namang pinagseselosan ni Hernandez ukol sa kanyang asawa habang sinasabi naman ng iba na hindi naisali si Hernandez sa Social Amelioration Program.

Matinding itinanggi naman ng pamilya ni Kap. Larry na may kaugnayan sa SAP ang pagpatay.

Kung alin sa mga posibleng motibo ang tama, ang mahalaga sa pulisya ay nadakip nila ang suspek at sinampahan ng kaukulang kaso batay sa mga ebidensya nilang nakalap.

SI KAP. CALEDA

Madilim dahil alas-8:00 ng gabi nang pagbabarilin naman si Kap. Caleda sa checkpoint laban sa Corona Virus Disease sa kalsada sa barangay nila.

Nagkakabit umano si Kap. Caleda ng kawad ng kuryente sa checkpoint nang dumating ang suspek na si James Joaquin, isang job order employee ng pamahalaang bayan ng Camalaniugan, at basta na lang pinaulanan ng bala ng kalibre .45 ang una saka mabilis na sumibat.

Ngunit natunton ng pulisya sa pamumuno ni Camalaniugan Acting of Chief of Police Captain Arnel Acain si Hernandez sa compound nina Camalanugan Mayor Angelica Cabaddu dela Cruz at sinalakay ito dakong alas-2:00 ng madaling araw.

Lumalabas na nagulat sina Mayor Dela Cruz at ama nitong si ex-Mayor at ngayo'y Vice Mayor ng Camalaniugan Isidro Cabaddu sa pangyayari at agad na pinapasok ng huli ang mga pulis sa compoung para arestuhin ang suspek.

Tumakas si Hernandez ngunit nahuli rin.

Matapos maganap ang krimen, nagsilabasan ang paniniwalang baka konektado umano ang krimen sa hindi magandang palakad ni Kap. Caleda sa SAP at maaaring matulad ito sa pinagdudahang pamamalakad nito sa pamamahagi ng relief goods nang tumama sa Cagayan ang bagyong Ompong.

Mainit din umano ang pulitika sa kanyang barangay at ayaw pasakop sa kanya ang ilang mamamayan dahil dayo umano siya sa lugar at nagmula sa ibang bayan.

Kung anoman ang totoo, lalabas at lalabas din sa tamang panahon.

Subalit, gaya sa kaso ni Kap. Rosales, ang positibong pagkakilala sa suspek ang mahalaga sa kaso at hindi ang motibo.

UMAPOY ANG UPUAN NINA KAPITAN

Kahit sinong kapitan ng barangay ang kausapin mo, nag-aapoy ang kanilang upuan sa rami ng mga problema sa barangay ngayong may COVID-19.

Nariryan ang pagsisi sa kanila kung bakit hindi lahat ay nabibigyan ng SAP at sinasabing nagkakagutom-gutom ang mga tao dahil sa kanilang mga patakaran sa curfew, kwarantina at stay at home order na nagpatigil sa tao na maghanapbuhay.

Hindi maintindihan ng mga tao na hindi ang mga kapitan ang nagpapasya kundi mga taga-Social Welfare and Development ang nasusunod dito.

Kahit ipalista lahat nina kapitan ang kanilang mga nasasakupan para makinabang sa SAP, ang pinal na listahan ay nasa kamay ng SWD na nagpapadala pa ng mga tauhan sa mga barangay upang magtiyak kung karapat-dapat ang mga inirerekomenda ng mga kapitan na mga benepisyaryo.

Sumusunod naman ang SWD sa patakarang tanging ang nasa 16.5 milyong pamilya mula sa 22 milyong pamilya sa buong Pilipinas ang mabibigyan ng SAP.

Hindi na rin makasali sa SAP ang mga makikinabang sa mga bigay ng Labor Department at mga tsuper sa ilalim ng Pantawid Pasada sa mga tsuper ng pampublikong sasakyan gaya ng mga jeepney, taxi, UV express, bus at TNVS kung tawagin.

Nasa kamay na rin ng Department of Finance ang pamamahala sa benepisyong mga empleyadong may sahod na nasa P18,000-P100,000 kada buwan.

At tila hindi rin kasali ang mga PWD na may maayos na pamumuhay, single parent na maayos din ang kalagayan gaya ng mga titser at may pensyon na senior citizen.

Sa mga hindi nakauunawa, kasalanan lahat ng mga kapitan ang kagipitan dahil sa COVID-19 kaya naman mainit ang ulo ng mga tao sa mga kabiguan o kainutilan ng mga ito bilang mga opisyal ng bayan.

Kaya sila pinapatay?

KUMAPIT LANG, MATATAPOS DIN LAHAT

Ang masasabi lang natin sa mga kapitan, huwag nating hayaang ang tingin ng iba ay “kupitan” at hindi kapitan ang mga ito.

Ang ginawa ng ibang kapitan, lumikha sila ng barangay chat group sa internet o facebook at dito nagpapaliwanagan ang lahat.

Dito lumalabas ang mga balitaktakan at marami ang lumalabas na namumulitika o makukulit lang.

Meron tayong nagustuhan na punto ng isang kapitan sa chat group sa Sta. Maria, Bulacan, si Chairman Graciano Gravador ng Brgy. Guyong, na lahat ng naninigarilyo at nakakokonsumo ng isang kaha isang araw ay hindi mabibigyan ng bigas.

Bakit? Katwiran ni kapitan, P3,000 ang gastos sa isang buwan sa sigarilyo kung P100 ang isang kaha katumbas ito ng nasa 2 kaban ng bigas.

Kung ititigil umano ang paninigarilyo, hindi magkakaproblema sa bigas ang kahit mahirap na pamilya sa loob ng isang buwan.

Kung isang kaban lang ang konsumo ng pamilya sa isang buwan, may pambili pa siya ng ulam.

Dito maiiwasan ang mga patayan, bukod pa sa pagpupursige nina kapitan na tugunan ang mga indibiduwal na karaingan ng mga mamamayan.

Kapit lang, mga kap, sa patalim, este, sa katwiran at tamang paglilingkod at umasa kayo sa suporta mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kung hindi kayo magiging kupitan sa gitna ng krisis.

BARMM ministry puts UP ‘survival gardens’

By [Julmunir I. Jannaral, TMT](#)

April 22, 2020

COTABATO CITY: The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Menre-BARMM) has begun establishing “survival gardens” in forestlands across the region. BARMM’s Executive Secretary and concurrent Menre-BARMM Minister Abdulraof Macacua on Tuesday said this move was part of the Bangsamoro government’s long-term plan to ensure food security in the region during the coronavirus pandemic. Macacua released a memorandum order, dated April 6, directing its Menre workforce to establish food production areas in forestlands suitable for vegetables and short-term crops. “This is pursuant to provisions of Republic Act 11469 or ‘Bayanihan to Heal as One Act,’” he said. The Menre offices are identifying suitable planting areas in BARMM that are located close to forest-dependent communities and where access to water is easy.

Govt urged to add produce, gardening kits to Covid packs



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

April 23, 2020

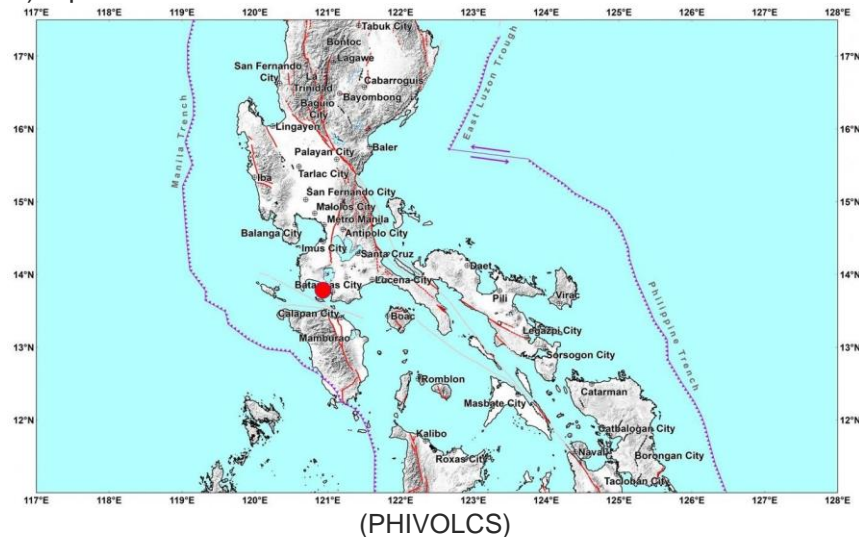
Rice Watch Action Network Inc. is urging the government to add fresh produce and urban gardening starter kits in the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) food packs it distributes to Filipino families nationwide. In a statement, the group said this would help ensure food security amid supply-chain problems caused by the enhanced community quarantine imposed by the government to stem the coronavirus' spread. "Like testing kits, protective personal equipment [and] hospital beds, we need to have a steady supply of healthy and nutritious food for the Filipino people to give them a fighting chance at beating Covid-19," Rice Watch Executive Director Hazel Tanchuling said. The group also recommended that the Department of Agriculture should make sure that farm input supplies and capital are available. Tanchuling said it was time for Filipinos to produce their own food as part of promoting self-reliance.

4.6-magnitude quake hits Mabini, Batangas

Published April 22, 2020, 12:35 PM

By MB Online

A 4.6-magnitude earthquake hit Mabini Batangas, Wednesday the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported.



The earthquake, which occurred at 11:19 a.m., was volcanic in origin and was traced 3 kilometres northwest of Mabini, Batangas.

The quake had a depth of 11 km, with the following registered intensities:

Intensity III- Bauan, Batangas

Intensity II- San Nicolas and Taal, Batangas

Intensity I- Agoncillo and Lemery Batangas.

Instrumental Intensity II was also felt in Calatagan, Batangas.

No aftershocks and damages are expected from the tremor.

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In this Oct. 18, 2018 photo, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. arrives at the Europa Building in Brussels, Belgium for the opening ceremony of the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit. Read more at [htln](#) this Oct. 18, 2018 photo, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. arrives at the Europa Building in Brussels, Belgium for the opening ceremony of the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit.

Presidential Photo, File

Locsin: Diplomatic protests sent to China over violations of int'l law, Philippine sovereignty

[Ratzel San Juan](#) (Philstar.com) - April 22, 2020 - 8:52pm

MANILA, Philippines — Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Wednesday evening said that two diplomatic protests have been filed today at the local Chinese embassy, namely "the pointing of a radar gun at a Philippine Navy ship in [Philippine] waters" and "declaring parts of Philippine territory as part of Hainan province."

The country's top diplomat did not expound on the details of either incident but said that both constitute "violations of international law and Philippine sovereignty."

"[W]e worked on this the whole day. And that is all that will be said on it because diplomatic notes are strictly confidential between the two states parties. Period," Locsin posted on social media Wednesday evening.

"I expect that no one else in the government will comment on it because they are not competent to do it. Only the president himself can reveal these notes of his alter ego the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and rule thereon."

China Global Television Network has reported that Beijing has established two districts to administer the Paracel and Spratlys under Sansha City in Hainan.

Over the global coronavirus pandemic, the Philippines has maintained strong ties with China — the 'ground zero' of the virus that causes COVID 19.

Last month, President Rodrigo Duterte said that he is open to accepting China's offer of help and highlighted their government's outbreak response.

"Ako ang tingin ko (In my opinion), maybe there will be a time if things deteriorate that I have to call on China to help," Duterte said in a March 12 address.

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"So to the Chinese government, to the people, especially to president Xi Jinping, thank you for the consoling words. And maybe I hope it would not reach to that point, but maybe we will need your help. Salamat po (Thank you)."

A day before the Philippines reported its first confirmed case of the novel coronavirus, Duterte also told reporters that he is not yet willing to ban flights between the country and China.

"Not yet at this time. As a matter of fact, there is no known transmission from human to human na galing (originating in) China...Mahirap 'yang ano — sabihin mo (That's difficult because) you suspend everything because they are not also suspending theirs and they continue to respect the freedom flights that we enjoy in their country," Duterte said in a January 29 interview.

China has maritime disputes in the resource-rich South China Sea with the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei. Over \$5 trillion in trade passes yearly through the waterway.

At the height of the global health crisis, China also reportedly began building new facilities on Philippine-claimed territories in the West Philippine Sea.

Meanwhile, Sen. Risa Hontiveros said that the rising power owes the Philippines billions in environmental damage and should start paying reparations that would help fund the local COVID-19 response.

"According to reports, China owes us at least P200B in reparations for its damage of reef ecosystems in the [West Philippine] Sea for more than 6 years now. China should stop its adventurism in the region, and pay reparations to the [Philippines] immediately," the senator posted Wednesday.

"Our government already has a huge budget deficit because of COVID-19. Thus, it should demand what is rightfully ours, and use this to strengthen our health system, to increase the aid given to low-middle-income families, and to help [Filipinos] recover post-COVID."



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The Chinese Embassy in the Philippines, however, responded indirectly to Hontiveros, saying that China does not need to shoulder the Philippine government's COVID-19-related expenses.

“China and the Philippine are working closely to fight the common threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this trying time, it is ridiculously absurd and irresponsible to make such remarks for the sole purpose of catching eyeballs and for selfish political gains,” the embassy posted Wednesday night.



“China and the Philippines are friendly neighbors across the sea. China will continue to provide our support and assistance to the best of our ability to the Philippines, and stand together with the Philippine government and people to jointly tackle the challenges and tide over the difficulties.”

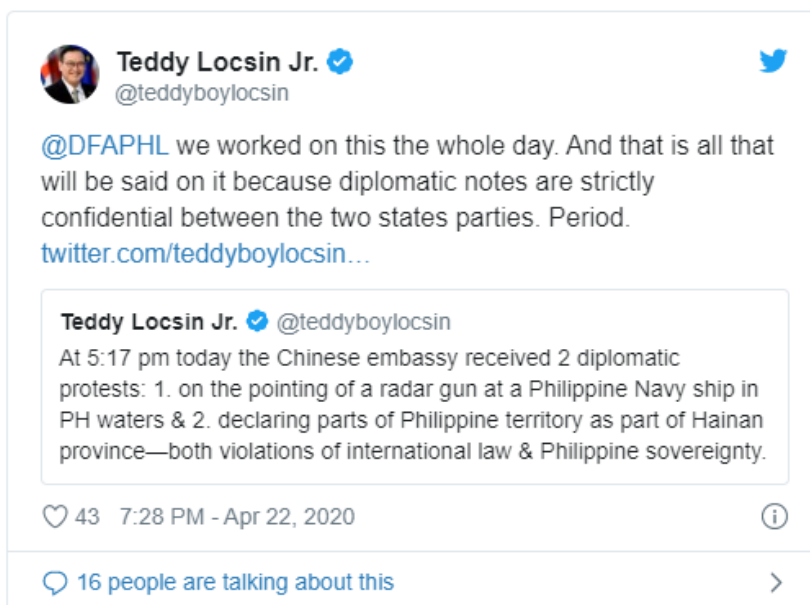
Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque last week said that as China's "[BFF](#)," the Philippines would hopefully be prioritized if the former develops a cure for the novel coronavirus.

PH files 2 diplomatic protests vs Chinese aggression in West Philippine Sea

By: [Frances Mangosing](#) - Reporter / [@FMangosingINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:26 PM April 22, 2020

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines has lodged two diplomatic protests against China’s aggression in the West Philippine Sea, accusing China of violating international law and Philippine sovereignty.



“At 5:17 p.m. today, the Chinese Embassy received two diplomatic protests: 1. on the pointing of a radar gun at a Philippine Navy ship in PH waters and 2. declaring parts of a Philippine territory as part of Hainan province,” Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said on Twitter on Wednesday (April 22).

A People’s Liberation Army Navy vessel pointed a radar gun at a Philippine Navy ship near the Philippine-occupied Rizal Reef in the Kalayaan Island Group on Feb. 17, according to sources. Further details are not available as of posting time.

Last week, China announced that it had established two administrative units in the South China Sea as part of its latest move to establish full control of the disputed waters.

Vietnam has filed a diplomatic protest to express rage against Chinese aggression in the area. The protest filed by the Philippines came as China has started using the coronavirus crisis for diplomacy by donating supplies and medical equipment.

“I expect that no one else in the government will comment on it because they are not competent to do it,” said Locsin’s tweet.

“Only the President himself can reveal these notes of his alter ego the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and rule thereon,” it said.

In another move to bully its way in the disputed waters, China has also named 80 geographical features in the Spratly Islands and Paracels.

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A Chinese government survey ship, Haiyang Dizhi 8 escorted by China Coast Guard vessels, have been tagging Malaysia's state oil company Petronas as it conducts exploratory drilling near Malaysian waters.

A Chinese maritime patrol aircraft was also spotted early this month on Kagitingan (Fiery Cross) Reef during a training exercise.

Vietnam also filed a protest early April after China rammed and sank a Vietnamese fishing boat near the Paracels.

The 2016 decision by the United Nations-backed arbitral tribunal in the Hague ruled that Beijing's claims have no basis and its South China Sea construction frenzy was illegal.

China in recent years had transformed reefs and islands into outposts fitted and equipped with harbors, airstrips, missile shelters, communications facilities which expanded its ability to monitor its and rivals' activities in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims to almost entirely own.

The United States has accused Beijing of taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to establish full military presence in the South China Sea and control sea lanes.

Source: <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/187071/ph-files-2-diplomatic-protests-vs-chinese-aggression-in-west-philippine-sea#ixzz6KO3MeHDi>

Philippines files 2 diplomatic protests vs China

[Pia Lee-Brago](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 23, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines yesterday filed two diplomatic protests against China for pointing a radar gun at a Philippine Navy ship and declaring a Philippine territory as part of Hainan province, violating international law and the country's sovereignty.

In a tweet, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said the protests were filed with the Chinese Embassy in Manila at 5 :17 p.m. yesterday.

China's Ministry of Civil Affairs announced on Saturday that the State Council had approved the establishment of the Paracel (Xisha) and Spratly (Nansha) in the South China Sea as districts under Sansha city.

The Paracel administration will be based on Woody Island, also known as Yongxing Island, while the Spratly administration will be placed in the Fiery Cross Reef, referred to as Yongshu Reef in Chinese.

The new districts will govern the Paracels and Macclesfield Bank as well as the Spratly Islands and their adjacent waters where there are multiple overlapping claims.

"@DFAPHLWe worked on this the whole day. And that is all that will be said on it because diplomatic notes are strictly confidential between the two states parties. Period," Locsin said.

"I expect that no one else in the government will comment on it because they are not competent to do it. Only the President himself can reveal these notes of his alter ego the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and rule thereon," he said.

Former foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario urged the government to protest China's establishment of two new districts that will govern the Paracel and Spratly as the world grapples with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Del Rosario said the announcement of the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs on April 18 about the establishment of Paracel and Spratly districts to be administered by China, the ramming and sinking of a Vietnamese fishing boat in South China Sea on April 3 and the establishment of two research stations in its artificial islands in Fiery Cross and Subi reefs show that "China has been relentless in exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/04/23/2009184/philippines-files-2-diplomatic-protests-vs-china>

Philippines files protests vs. China actions in West Philippine Sea

Published April 22, 2020 7:57pm

Updated April 22, 2020 8:06pm

By [MICHAELA DEL CALLAR](#)

The Philippines on Wednesday filed two diplomatic protests against China over supposed violations of international law and Philippine sovereignty in the West Philippine Sea, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro "Teddy" Locsin Jr.

In a tweet, Locsin said the protests were filed with the Chinese Embassy in Manila and concerned China's alleged harassment of a Philippine Navy ship and its unilateral establishment of two districts that cover Philippine territories in the West Philippine Sea.

"At 5:17 pm today the Chinese embassy received 2 diplomatic protests: 1. on the pointing of a radar gun at a Philippine Navy ship in PH waters & 2. declaring parts of Philippine territory as part of Hainan province—both violations of international law & Philippine sovereignty," he said.

The two new districts - one in the Paracels and one in the Spratlys, where several areas are claimed by the Philippines - will be under the authority of the local government in Sansha, a city in the southern island of Hainan.

The Philippines, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan are locked in decades-long territorial conflict in the South China Sea, where oil and gas deposits have been discovered in several areas.

China claims a huge swathe of the South China Sea as part of its territory, but the Permanent Court of Arbitration tribunal in The Hague invalidated this claim on July 12, 2016 following a case filed by the Philippines in 2013.

Beijing has ignored and belittled the ruling, maintaining it has "indisputable" and "historical" claim over nearly the entire waters even as it encroaches on the territories of its smaller neighbors like the Philippines.

China has also claimed and developed some features in parts of the South China Sea, called West Philippine Sea by Manila. **-MDM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/735175/manila-files-protests-vs-china-actions-in-west-philippine-sea/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3R8M2Fd99ZWiiMH2eycEce3E7nop8XMnGuaGrmdEFM0l2olQThwVdQFYI

Manila files diplomatic protests vs. Beijing for

TITLE: violations of PH sovereignty int'l law

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Manila files diplomatic protests vs Beijing for violations of PH sovereignty, int'l law

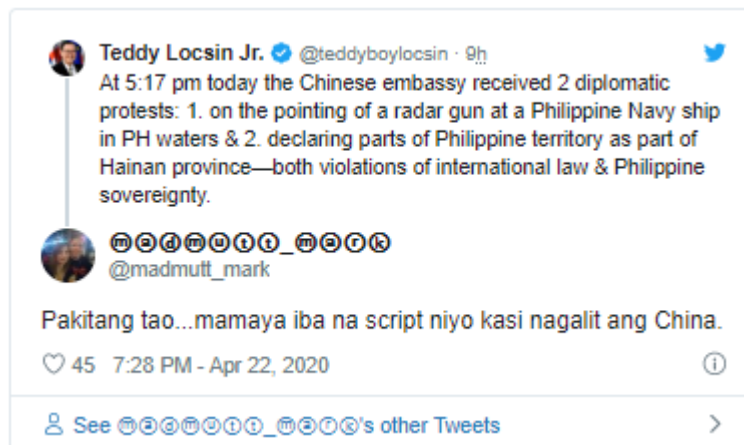
ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 22 2020 09:18 PM | Updated as of Apr 22 2020 11:37 PM



MANILA (UPDATE) - The Philippines filed diplomatic protests against China over 2 developments in the South China Sea that Manila assert as violations of the country's sovereignty and of international law, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Wednesday.

"At 5:17 pm today the Chinese embassy received 2 diplomatic protests: 1. on the pointing of a radar gun at a Philippine Navy ship in PH waters & 2. declaring parts of Philippine territory as part of Hainan province—both violations of international law & Philippine sovereignty," Locsin said on Twitter.



Locsin said the Department of Foreign Affairs worked on the protests “the whole day” and declined to discuss further details, saying “diplomatic notes are strictly confidential between the two states parties.”



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He added only the President can reveal the notes and “rule thereon.”

“I expect that no one else in the government will comment on it because they are not competent to do it. Only the President himself can reveal these notes of his alter ego the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and rule thereon,” Locsin said in another tweet.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Wednesday ordered the Philippine Navy to give him a detailed briefing on the radar gun incident.

"As announced by Secretary Locsin, the Department of Foreign Affairs filed a diplomatic protest, which was received by the Chinese embassy today, 22 April," he said in a statement.

China created 2 districts in the South China Sea, where, aside from Beijing and Manila, competing claims are also made by Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

China included a chain of islands belonging to the Philippines, a move that experts said should be protested in the international court.

The Philippines won an arbitration award in 2016 from the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, declaring China's sweeping claims over almost the entire South China Sea as having no legal basis.

Beijing continues to disregard the landmark ruling. -- **with a report from Willard Cheng, ABS-CBN News**

Cost of Philippines' COVID-19 response should be charged to China, says Hontiveros

Published April 22, 2020 10:43am

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

The Chinese government must shoulder the cost of the Philippines' coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response as a reparation for the damage it caused on the West Philippine Sea's reef ecosystem, Senator Risa Hontiveros said Wednesday.

"China has been damaging our ecosystems for over 6 years now, which means our losses could already amount to over 200 billion pesos. This money could be used to fund our health and economic plans as we transition to a new normal," Hontiveros said in a statement.

Citing data from the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute, the opposition senator said the destruction of reefs in the Scarborough Shoal and Spratly Islands is equivalent to at least P33.1 billion in losses annually.

"This money is past due and could go to government's efforts in fighting the pandemic," she added.

Moreover, Hontiveros alleged that China's reclamation operations and illegal fishing activities in the West Philippine Sea continue despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The government already has a huge budget deficit because of COVID-19. China's ongoing disregard for our own resources will worsen our economic standing. The government should demand what is rightfully ours and use this to help the Filipino people battle COVID-19," she said.

Further, she said P50 billion worth of unpaid taxes from Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO) industry must also be demanded by the government.

Hontiveros added that she is not in favor of the proposal to allow the [resumption of POGO operations](#) to bolster state funds.

"There are essential and non-essential industries under the Enhanced Community Quarantine. POGOs join a third category that we might call 'less than non-essential'," she said.

The POGO industry, which involves Chinese nationals in the country, has been entangled in various issues such as the "pastillas" bribery scheme at the Bureau of Immigration and alleged prostitution of women.

"Hindi na nga buo ang binabayad nilang tax, may korapsyon at sex trafficking pang pinapalaganap," Hontiveros said.

According to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III on Tuesday, the Philippine government has committed a [P1.49-trillion fund](#) to combat the COVID-19 crisis. --**KBK, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/735074/cost-of-philippines-covid-19-response-should-be-charged-to-china-says-hontiveros/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1n9vjthTdVY5LwDuIHxX7X2WeqORNnwzDtRvoi3a-G8u8EbCWijufIy4

For Earth Day, UN chief urges ‘green recovery’ in response to coronavirus

By **Reuters**

- April 22, 2020 - 10:59 AM

LONDON— U.N. chief **Antonio Guterres** urged governments to use their economic responses to the coronavirus pandemic to tackle the “even deeper emergency” of climate change, in a message for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

With global battle lines emerging between investors backing “green stimulus” measures and industry lobbyists aiming to weaken climate regulations, Guterres cautioned governments against bailing out heavily polluting industries.

“On this Earth Day, all eyes are on the COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest test the world has faced since the Second World War,” Guterres, a former Portuguese prime minister, said in a statement. “But there is another, even deeper emergency, the planet’s unfolding environmental crisis.”

A landmark in the emergence of the environmental movement when it first took place in 1970, Earth Day, which falls on Wednesday, has prompted calls from many companies, politicians, and economists for governments to pursue green recoveries.

So far, massive economic stimulus packages launched by the United States, China and European governments have focused mainly on staunching the damage to existing industries and staving off the threat of a global depression.

Nevertheless, in the past week, ministers from Germany, France and other EU members have signaled their support for subsequent interventions to align with climate goals, a theme taken up by climate campaign groups around the world.

In an early example of governments linking post-virus rescue packages to climate goals, Austrian environment minister Leonore Gewessler said last week that state aid for Austrian Airlines should support climate policy targets.

Conditions could include a significant reduction in short-haul flights, the use of eco-friendly jet fuel and adjustments to the flight tax, a ministry spokesman said.

Guterres, who has made climate change his signature issue since he took over as U.N. secretary-general in January, 2017, said governments should use their fiscal firepower to drive a shift from “the grey to green” economy.

“Where taxpayers’ money is used to rescue businesses, it needs to be tied to achieving green jobs and sustainable growth,” Guterres said.

“Public funds should be used to invest in the future, not the past, and flow to sustainable sectors and projects that help the environment and the climate.” —**Reporting by Matthew Green Editing by Alexandra Hudson**

On Earth Day, pope says nature will not forgive our trespasses

Published April 22, 2020, 9:24 PM

By Reuters

VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis made an impassioned plea for protection of the environment on Wednesday's 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day, saying the coronavirus pandemic had shown that some challenges had to be met with a global response.



(COVID-19), in Rome, Italy, April 19, 2020. (REUTERS/Remo Casilli/FILE PHOTO/MANILA BULLETIN)

Pope Francis greets members of the media after leading a Mass and the Regina Coeli prayer in Rome's Santo Spirito in Sassia church without public participation due to an outbreak of the coronavirus disease

Francis praised the environmental movement, saying it was necessary for young people to “take to the streets to teach us what is obvious, that is, that there will be no future for us if we destroy the environment that sustains us”. The pope, who wrote a major encyclical in 2015 on the defence of nature and the dangers of climate change, dedicated his general audience – broadcast from his library because of the coronavirus lockdown – to the theme. Recounting a Spanish proverb that God always forgives, man sometimes forgives but nature never forgives, Francis said: “If we have deteriorated the Earth, the response will be very ugly.”

A landmark in the emergence of the environmental movement when it first took place in 1970, this year's Earth Day has prompted calls from many, including U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, for governments to pursue “green recovery” in response to coronavirus

Both the pope and Guterres have made environmental protection and climate change signature themes of their offices.

“We see these natural tragedies, which are the Earth's response to our maltreatment,” Francis said. “I think that if I ask the Lord now what he thinks about this, I don't think he would say it is a very good thing. It is we who have ruined the work of God.”

Saying the Earth was not an endless deposit of resources to exploit, he said: “We have sinned against the Earth, against our neighbour and, in the end, against the creator.”

Last year, after a synod of bishops from the Amazon region, Francis said he was considering adding a definition of “ecological sins” in the Roman Catholic Church's Catechism, a compendium of teachings and rules. Francis, like Guterres, has likened the response to environmental dangers to that of the coronavirus.

“Only together, and looking after the most fragile (members of society) can we win global challenges,” the pope said.

So far, massive economic stimulus packages launched by the United States, China and European governments have focused mainly on staunching the damage to existing industries and staving off the threat of a global depression.

But ministers from Germany, France and other EU members have signalled their support for subsequent interventions to align with climate goals, a theme taken up by climate campaign groups around the world.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/22/on-earth-day-pope-says-nature-will-not-forgive-our-trespasses/>



A man and a child sit in a park near the Central Business District on a "blue sky day" in Beijing, during Earth Day as the spread of COVID-19 continues on Wednesday. This year's Earth Day marks its 50th year of demonstrating support for environmental action.

Air pollution falls by unprecedented levels in major

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TITLE: global cities during coronavirus lockdowns

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Air pollution falls by unprecedented levels in major global cities during coronavirus lockdowns

By Helen Regan, CNN

Published Apr 22, 2020 1:27:34 PM



Lockdowns restricting travel and industry imposed to halt the spread of coronavirus have resulted in unprecedented reductions in deadly air pollution around the world, new analysis shows. (FILE PHOTO)

(CNN) — Lockdowns restricting travel and industry imposed to halt the spread of coronavirus have resulted in unprecedented reductions in deadly air pollution around the world, new analysis shows.

Major cities that suffer from the world's worst air pollution have seen reductions of deadly particulate matter by up to 60% from the previous year, during a three-week lockdowns period.

Researchers from IQAir — a global air quality information and tech company — studied 10 major cities around the world which have relatively high numbers of coronavirus cases and Covid-19 lockdown measures.

The study compared levels of harmful microscopic particulate matter known as PM 2.5. The pollutant, which is smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, is considered particularly dangerous as it can lodge deep into the lungs and pass into other organs and the bloodstream, causing serious health risks.

Seven out of the 10 cities studied, including New Delhi, Seoul, Wuhan and Mumbai, saw significant improvements in air quality. Those with historically higher levels of PM2.5 pollution witnessed the most substantial drops in pollution.

Analysts chose the three-week timeframe to reflect either the period with the strictest lockdowns, or — during longer lockdown periods such as in Wuhan — to coincide with the peak number of daily reported coronavirus cases.

The report was released to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which this year is focused on climate action.

Air pollution is already a global public health crisis, as it kills seven million people each year, according to the World Health Organization. Reducing global heat-trapping emissions is the best way to clean up our skies and prevent avoidable pollution-related deaths, scientists say.

The report's authors say that while they do expect air pollution to rise again when economies restart after coronavirus, "out of these extraordinary circumstances, we can see how changes in our society's activities can have a momentous impact on our environment and the air we breathe," said IQAir's marketing specialist Kelsey Duska.

Cleaner air around the world

The Indian capital New Delhi — which frequently tops the world's most polluted city lists — saw a 60% reduction in PM2.5 levels from March 23 to April 13 from the same period in 2019.

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Both New Delhi and the country's commercial center Mumbai experienced their best March air quality on record in 2020.

During the initial three-week lockdown period, the number of hours rated as "unhealthy" in New Delhi dropped from 68% in 2019 to 17% in 2020.

On March 25, India placed its entire 1.3 billion population into lockdown, closing factories, markets, shops, places of worship and suspending most public transport services. The world's largest lockdown was then extended to May 3.

India is one of the world's most-polluted countries and an average resident is exposed to air pollution that exceeds the World Health Organization's target for annual PM2.5 exposure by more than 500%.

Meanwhile, the South Korean capital Seoul saw a 54% drop in PM2.5 levels from February 26 to March 18 from the previous year.

South Korea's air quality ranks among the worst of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, with some of the highest levels of particulate matter pollution. Last year in March, the government declared air pollution a "social disaster."

In February, South Korea had one of the largest coronavirus outbreaks outside mainland China but aggressive testing and contact tracing methods have brought cases there under control.

And the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the deadly virus was first identified, saw a 44% reduction in air pollution levels from February 26 to March 18 from the same period last year.

The city of 11 million people in central China's Hubei province was the first city to impose a complete shutdown after Chinese authorities struggled to contain the spread of the coronavirus — an unprecedented move at the time.

After 75 days those restrictions began to be lifted on April 8 — a milestone in China's fight against Covid-19 as the country reported nearly zero new local infections.

Over the course of Wuhan's 10-week lockdown, the city experienced its cleanest air quality on record for the months of February and March. The average concentration of PM2.5 plunged from 63.2 and 43.9 micrograms per cubic meter in February and March 2019 respectively, to 36.8 and 32.9 in the same months this year. The World Health Organization considers anything above 25 to be unsafe.

Elsewhere, other major cities experienced cleaner air. Los Angeles saw its longest stretch of clean air on record, over 18 days from March 7 to 28. PM2.5 concentration levels were down by 31% from the same time last year, and down 51% from the average of the previous four years.

And in Europe, London, Madrid and Rome all experienced reductions in their PM2.5 compared to 2019 during their lockdown periods.

Calls to pursue green deals

While suddenly closing all factories and banning cars from roads is not a sustainable solution tackle climate change, the IQAir researchers said there are ways to preserve healthier air conditions.

These include supporting green deals in government stimulus packages, shifting towards sustainable sources of energy for power generation, limiting individual's purchases to primarily essential goods, opting for cleaner modes of transportation — including walking and cycling — and encouraging a shared economy of goods, according to Duska.

"In our recovery from the pandemic, it's important that we strive to preserve the cleaner environment, which protects our health from another invisible killer, air pollution," she said.

"We hope that the urgency in tackling this global pandemic may be matched in addressing air pollution."

One of Australia's biggest cities is so quiet that

TITLE: kangaroos are jumping through the center

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One of Australia's biggest cities is so quiet that kangaroos are jumping through the center

By Jessie Yeung, Julia Hollingsworth and Anna Kam, CNN

Published Apr 20, 2020 10:45:14 PM



Police in Adelaide tweeted a video showing a kangaroo hopping through the city with the captions "Protective Security Officers tracked a suspect wearing a grey fur coat hopping through the heart of the Adelaide CBD this morning."

(CNN) -- Humans may be staying home during the coronavirus pandemic, but animals sure are coming out.

On Sunday, in the South Australian capital of Adelaide, a kangaroo was spotted bouncing through deserted streets in the center of the city.

For context, Adelaide isn't exactly a small town -- it's a coastal city of more than 1.2 million people.

The kangaroo was spotted by South Australia Police on CCTV. A spokesperson said the marsupial narrowly escaped a road accident, before heading to park land.

"It was quite unique," the spokesperson said, adding that it was likely the quiet of Adelaide's coronavirus lockdown that drew the kangaroo to the city center.

All Australians are required to stay at home except for essential reasons, like buying groceries or seeking medical care. Gatherings are limited to two people in public spaces, and all public outdoor areas, including playgrounds, are closed.

These scenes are playing out across the world, as coronavirus movement restrictions, business closures, remote working measures and stay-at-home orders keep people off the streets.

In the Thai province of Phuket, meanwhile, the number of turtle nests on some beaches has reached a 20-year high -- and Kanokwan Homcha-ai, supervisor of the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation, said Monday the increase is likely due to the lockdown measures implemented in March.

Phuket is Thailand's most popular island, and a major tourist attraction. Then it became a hotspot for the country's coronavirus outbreak, and was put under strict lockdown.

Now, the tourists are gone and streets are empty -- and so are the beaches and coastlines.

Homcha-ai said the coronavirus measures could have long-term positive effects for other species and the environment, since marine life have more time to regenerate undisturbed by human activities.

One of Australia's biggest cities is so quiet that

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And in Wales in late March, a herd of goats left their home in the Great Orme headland to roam around the northern coastal town of Llandudno.

The streets were quiet after new restrictions on social movement -- and the goats happily filled the empty spaces.

Videos and pictures shared online show the goats grazing on grass from church grounds, flower beds, and residential properties.

Docu 'Planet of the humans' asks – what if green

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Docu 'Planet of the Humans' asks — what if green energy cannot save the planet?

By [Reuters](#)

-April 23, 2020



FILE PHOTO: Director Michael Moore speaks during a rally by U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, U.S., February 1, 2020. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri/File Photo

LOS ANGELES – As environmentalists celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day this week, a new documentary poses a sobering question.

What if wind farms, solar panels and other green energy projects are not enough to save the planet and humanity simply cannot sustain life as we know it?

"Planet of the Humans," executive produced by Oscar-winning filmmaker Michael Moore and written and directed by Jeff Gibbs, asks hard questions about what it sees as the failure of well-meaning efforts to halt climate change.

"It seems like we have been losing the battle," Moore told Reuters. "We are in deep, deep trouble."

"Planet of the Humans," available on YouTube free of charge to the public, argues that the mainstream environmental movement has sold out to corporate interests and that solar and wind energy components and electric cars rely too heavily on deforestation and electricity generated from coal and natural gas to produce them.

"What we have been calling green, renewable energy and industrial civilization are one and the same thing – desperate measures not to save the planet but to save our way of life," Gibbs says in the film.

A better approach, Gibbs suggests, would be people having fewer children. "Infinite growth on a finite planet is suicide," he says.

The multi-year film project includes interviews with scientists, industrialists and environmental activists, visits to wind farms, solar installations and biomass plants, and an in-depth look at the companies that collaborate and invest in green energy initiatives.

Moore said that he, like many people, thought electric cars were a good idea, "but I didn't really think about where is the electricity coming from?"

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"I assumed solar panels would last for ever. I didn't know what went into the making of them," Moore added, referring to raw materials, including quartz, and the fossil fuels needed to manufacture the panels.

Moore and Gibbs acknowledge the film is bleak in parts but said they hope it will stimulate discussion. Both men will take part in a live Q&A on Wednesday at 10 p.m. ET on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

"The film doesn't have all the answers but it challenges us to think differently," Gibbs said.

Gibbs and Moore said the mass shutdowns and plummeting air travel that have been one impact from the coronavirus have shown how swiftly the planet could benefit from a change.

The economic standstill could cause carbon dioxide emissions to fall this year by the largest amount since World War Two, the chair of the Global Carbon Project said earlier this month.

"The fact that within days animals are coming back and the skies are blue tells us that we don't have to build a million square miles of solar panels or buy a zillion electric cars. If we just slow down and stop we can make a tremendous difference instantly," said Gibbs.

"I think this is a good chance, this 50th (Earth Day) anniversary, to think through who we are, what we've become as an environmental movement, and where we should be going next," he said.

Nanotechnology company provides disinfection for gadgets, other surfaces

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 22, 2020 9:05:06 AM

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines) — Some people argue that our mobile phones have become an extension of ourselves. We bring these devices with us everywhere and reach for them almost as a reflex.

But as we come in contact with our gadgets numerous times in a day, these can also be readily contaminated and become potential sources of infection such as COVID-19.

“We need to look at which things we carry around with us every day and which have huge population growth of bacteria and viruses,” said Kris Helgesen in an interview on CNN Philippines. Helgesen is the President and Chairman of Nanofixit Ventures, a company providing surface protection based on nanotechnology.

Helgesen cited [research](#) that found that our phones typically carry around 25,000 units of bacteria per square inch. According to another study, they are even dirtier than a regular toilet seat.

Helgesen said their company has developed products initially meant to protect gadget surfaces from scratch and breakage. However, they have also branched into alternative technologies to address sanitation issues, and have since produced disinfecting products not only for gadgets, but also for other items. These come in the form of surface protectors and wipes.

The company uses silver and titanium dioxide which are known to have antiviral and antibacterial properties, Helgesen said.

“When we break them down into nanoparticles, they become active and they start bonding with various kinds of surfaces,” he explained, referring to their surface protectors which he said “kills viruses that come in touch with it as long as the coat sticks.”

Helgesen said the disinfecting effect of their protectors can last from three to 30 days, depending on the kind of surface it bonds with or used on.

“The bonding effect is very different [depending] on the surface and the material it is being applied to. So when we say 30 days, we are referring to hard metal, stainless steel or glass surfaces,” he said.

Responding to the health crisis

According to Helgesen, the company started to take more time into research and development after the COVID-19 news broke out.

Now, the company is currently developing face masks and hand sanitizers infused with “materials with high antibacterial and antiviral properties.” Helgesen said their hand sanitizers are currently undergoing international testing and are expected to be ready for distribution next month.

The president said their company’s goal is to help people move towards a healthier and more sanitation-conscious lifestyle, in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 and other pathogens.

“This needs to be addressed. We need to take individual responsibility. This is how we can go back to our normal lives eventually,” he said.

Oil hits lowest this century as coronavirus crisis hammers demand

Alex Lawler, Reuters

Posted at Apr 22 2020 06:02 PM



FILE PHOTO: A pumpjack is shown outside the Midland-Odessa area in the Permian basin in Texas, US, July 17, 2018. *Liz Hampton, Reuters*

LONDON - Oil slumped to less than \$16 (P811) per barrel on Wednesday, hitting its lowest since 1999, with the market awash with excess supply as the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic continues to hammer demand for fuel.

A glut has been building since OPEC+, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, failed to renew output cuts last month. OPEC+ agreed new curbs this month, but government lockdowns to contain the pandemic have cut fuel demand more steeply.

Brent crude, which fell 24 percent in the previous session, touched \$15.98 (P810) a barrel, its lowest since June 1999. It was trading down \$1.83, or 9.5 percent, at \$17.50 (P887).

US West Texas Intermediate was down 15 cents, or 1.3 percent, at \$11.42 (P579).

"Be prepared for more surprises in this broken oil market," said Rystad Energy's head of oil markets, Bjornar Tonhaugen, adding that prices could sink to unprecedented levels because there will simply not be enough storage capacity unless there are further outputs cuts.

The falls follow 2 of the wildest days in the history of oil trading, with supply looking likely to outstrip demand for months to come.

The nearby US contract fell into negative territory for the first time ever on Monday and Brent's low on Wednesday takes the price back to a time when OPEC was also tackling a supply glut and business and consumers were concerned about the Millenium Bug affecting computers after the turn of the centry.

In the latest sign of excess supply, the American Petroleum Institute on Tuesday reported that US crude inventories rose by 13.2 million barrels, against analyst expectations for an increase of 13.1 million barrels.

The US government's official supply report is due later on Wednesday.

In an effort to shore up the market, OPEC+ this month agreed to reduce output by 9.7 million bpd. Other nations, including the United States, have also said they will pump less.

Producers are considering further steps. Saudi Arabia on Tuesday said that it was ready to take extra measures with other producers, though the next formal OPEC+ meeting is not until June.

In a development that raises doubt over a formal US supply cut, 2 of 3 Texas regulators on Tuesday delayed a vote to force producers to curtail output, predicting the move would land the state in a legal minefield.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/04/22/20/oil-hits-lowest-this-century-as-coronavirus-crisis-hammers-demand?fbclid=IwAR2NjMpttMnglq9whxbv3GtJEwcSTP38i07RDlxdt5qEBeYaqs9vFr17zw4>

Scientists name newly discovered snake after Salazar Slytherin

Published April 22, 2020 4:28pm

It seems like this team of scientists are big Harry Potter fans. They named the newly discovered species of the green pit vipers after Salazar Slytherin, one of the four founders of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Potterheads would know Slytherin as a snake whisperer of sorts; the emblem of his house is a snake, remember?



"The specific epithet is a noun in apposition for J.K. Rowling's fictional Hogwarts School Witchcraft and Wizardry's co-founder Salazar Slytherin. He was a Parsemouth that links him to serpents," [reads a portion of the study published the Zoosystematics and Evolution journal.](#)

Its scientific name is *Trimeresurus salazar* and its "suggested common name [is] Salazar's pit viper," it continued.

The new species "is described from the lowlands of western Arunachal Pradesh state of India."

In males, the new snake has "an orange to reddish stripe from the lower border of its eye to the posterior part of its head."

It's all very fascinating — apparently the pit vipers are super diverse and species are hard to distinguish, but we got caught up with the Potterhead scientists calling their new discovery Slytherin. How cool is that? — LA, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/735137/salazar-slytherin-is-the-name-scientists-gave-the-new-snake-they-discovered/story/>