



# DENR enjoins public to report human-induced forest fires in Region 8

Published April 26, 2020, 11:06 AM

By Marie Tonette Marticio

TACLOBAN City – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 8 (DENR-8) is urging the public to report any forest fire that could have been caused by careless individuals.

“The first line of defense against forest fire is to avoid starting a fire. If it cannot be avoided, make sure you watch over and control it,” Forester Allan Cebuano, Chief, Enforcement Division Chief of DENR 8 noted.

It was learned that some of the most recent incidents of forest fires in Eastern Visayas were caused by farming activities such as “kaingin (slash and burn farming)”, smoking of honeycombs to gather honey, cigarette butts, and other forms of activities that involve fire. These reportedly went out of control, and caused the widespread fire in the area.

Cebuano added that barangay officials must be informed immediately upon the detection of forest fires. The officials are tasked to report to the concerned disaster risk and reduction management council where a protocol is already in-place for the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), as well as other appropriate agencies to respond.

Cebuano also warned that unscrupulous individuals who will cause forest fires could be criminally charged under Presidential Decree 705 otherwise known as the “Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines” which provides penalties amounting to not less than P500 to not more than P20,000, and imprisonment of not less than six months or not more than two years. They may also be liable to the payment of eight times the regular forest charges due on the forest products destroyed in case of ‘Kaingin’ activity.

He likewise advised the public against burning their garbage as this practice not only violates Republic Act 9003 or the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act” but it also contributes to air pollution and may ignite forest fires.

“The local government units and households must cooperate to strictly follow segregation, collection, transportation, and proper disposal of solid wastes. To reduce our solid wastes, we put to heart and practice our recycling and composting methods,” Cebuano added.

**News5** 19 hrs · 🌐

Pinakawalan nitong Huwebes ang higit 90 olive ridley turtle hatchlings sa Sitio Dolongin, Brgy. Matiag, Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte. | 📷 DENR Zamboanga Peninsula



👍❤️😱 2.6K 45 Comments 106 Shares

Source:

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1972665982890146&id=163550757135020&fs=o&focus\\_composer=o](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1972665982890146&id=163550757135020&fs=o&focus_composer=o)

# Climate Change Commission revises tack in the wake of COVID-19

Published April 26, 2020, 1:04 PM

By *Elallyn de Vera-Ruiz*

As the country confronts the challenges of a “new normal,” the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said the government is now more bent on planning programs and activities that will protect the lives and livelihoods of Filipinos from the impact of climate change.

“We are grappling with an unprecedented crisis of enormous scale and impact. But this is also an extraordinary time when our work in government is most critical. Everything we do during and after this pandemic will ultimately define the country’s readiness and responsiveness to the challenges of the new normal,” said CCC Secretary Emmanuel De Guzman.

The CCC last April 21 conducted its annual orientation on expenditure tagging to aid national government agencies in identifying, designing, and tagging climate adaptation and mitigation programs, activities, and projects for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act.

Around 200 participants from various national government agencies, constitutional offices, and government-owned and -controlled corporations joined the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) orientation with topics ranging from climate change science, domestic and international responses to climate change, and governance.

Leading the orientation were De Guzman represented by CCC Assistant Secretary Romell Antonio Cuenca, Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh and Director Elenida Basug of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Assistant Secretary Rolando Toledo of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The CCET was issued as a joint policy of the DBM and CCC, through DBM-CCC joint memorandum circular 2015-01, which requires government instrumentalities to tag climate-related items in the budget using climate change typologies.

The CCC said tracking climate expenditure helps monitor the progress implementation of climate actions in the country.

“Since the enactment of the Climate Change Act of 2009, we have institutionalized the mainstreaming of climate science and risk information in the government’s plans, policies, and investments. In 2015, we enhanced our budget process to include CCET. Through this, we are able to identify the extent of adaptation and mitigation actions that the government could fund, and those that we could put on the table for climate finance,” De Guzman said.

This year’s focus audience are member agencies of the CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster, the Climate Change Advisory Board, and the technical working group of the Risk Resiliency Program (RRP).

The Risk Resiliency Program (RRP), under the Program Convergence Budgeting, is the framework program to assist the government in strengthening the resiliency of natural ecosystems and the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities to short- and long-term risks using a landscape management approach in selected major and principal river basins.

The convergence between CCET and RRP is highlighted in this year’s orientation to advance said shared results in the sector.

The RRP, aligned with Philippine Development Plan and the National Climate Change Action Plan, allows the cluster to focus the available fiscal space on the key priority programs on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) within and across the national government agencies. The DENR leads the program as the chair of the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/26/climate-change-commission-revises-tack-in-the-wake-of-covid-19/>

# Air pollution levels in Manila areas drop

posted April 26, 2020 at 11:10 pm

by [Willie Casas](#)

Air pollution levels in some areas in the City of Manila continue to drop after the government ordered a strict stay-at-home policy among its residents, according to a report from Manila City Hall.

Based on air quality monitoring performed under the Asia Blue Skies Program – a partnership among 3M, the City Government of Manila and Clean Air Asia – average PM2.5 levels at Freedom Park at the Manila City Hall from April 13 to 17 dropped by 42 percent compared to measurements during the regular work/school weekdays (Jan 21 to March 6) before the quarantine.

Meanwhile, air quality monitoring at Rizal Park, Ermita for the same period last week showed that average PM2.5 was 2 percent higher compared to pre-quarantine pollution levels.

Likewise, in Mendiola corner Concepcion Aguila Street, air quality monitoring showed that PM2.5 levels are higher by 9 percent compared to levels before the start of the lockdown.

The air quality monitoring data that is being collected, along with the emissions inventory and health mapping results, will be used to better understand the state of air quality in the city, according to city government officials.



## KAKAIBANG LEKSYON NI INANG KALIKASAN

April 26, 2020 @ 6:22 PM 13 hours ago  
Views: 96

Sigurado, marami ang nadismaya sa utos ni Pangulong Duterte na hanggang May 15 na ang lockdown o Enhanced Community Quarantine sa tatlong rehiyon at ilang probinsya. Eh talaga naman kasing ang hirap na ng sitwasyon. Walang trabaho, walang kita at hirap ang marami dahil kulang daw ang ayuda ng gobyerno.

Pero sa gitna ng kaliwa't kanang kahirapan, may mga nagpaalala sa akin na merong mahalagang araw na ginunita nitong April 22. 'Yan 'yung Earth Day at ika-50th anniversary na pala ng gawaing ito sa buong mundo.

Sa mga nabasa ko, sa kabilang banda, ang isang magandang epekto pala ng COVID 19 na pandemya ay sa kalikasan. Bumaba raw ang polusyon sa mga malalaking syudad sa India, China, Amerika at Europa. Luminis ang mga ilog at baybaying dagat, lalo na 'yung mga puntahan ng mga turista.

Dahil konti na ang lumalabas sa mga bahay sa mga mayayamang bansa, ang mga hayop sa mga tabing-gubat ay bumababa na sa mga kabayanan. Sa mga kakahuyan sa Africa at Australia, nagpapahinga naman sa mga highway ang mga leon at mga mababangis na hayop.

Paraan nga yata ni Inang Kalikasan na ipaintindi sa ating mga tao na kailangan nating magbago at alagaan siya. 'Pag hinayaan nating masira at madumihan ang kalikasan, tayo rin ang magdurusa.

Ito ang mahalagang leksyon. 'Pag sinira natin ang mga kagubatan, kakahuyan at mga ilog, mas bibilis ang pagbabago ng klima o climate change. Mas iinit ang mundo at magbabago ang mga asal at gawi ng mga hayop. Pwede ring mag-bago o mag-"mutate" ang kanilang buhay o "biology." At dito magsisimula ang mga bagong sakit at maaaring maging pandemya.

Nito lang mga nakaraang linggo, sa gitna ng lockdown ng COVID19, pinayagan ang ilang dayuhan na dumuong sa Homonhon Island at sa Semirara para mag-sakay ng mga carbon (coal) at nickel. Sa MacArthur, Leyte naman, pinayagan din na makapasok ang mga gamit ng mga dayuhang minero sa isang taniman ng palay para magmina ng blacksand. Ganon din sa Zambales.

At nagkasakitan pa sa Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya, dahil gustong pigilan ng mga katutubong Ifugao ang pagpasok ng diesel sa isang minahan na dapat ay sarado na.

Anyare na? May bulag yata sa pangakong kita ng mina.

Hindi ganitong mundo ang gusto kong ipamana sa aking mga anak.



## **BASURA NG SOUTH KOREA, KONTI NA LANG**

April 26, 2020 @ 6:42 PM 13 hours ago

Views: 90

Sa wakas ay nabawasan na rin ang mga basurang ipinuslit at itinambak ng South Korea sa planta ng Verde Soko sa Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Tagoloan, Misamis, Oriental noong Setyembre 2018.

Ang laki ng pasasalamat ni Misamis Oriental Mindoro Congresswoman Juliette T. Uy kay Customs Comm. Rey Guerrero at sa Department of Finance dahil kahit papaano ay nabawasan na rin ang basura na tinambak ng South Korea sa ating bansa.

Dahil sa pagpupursige ni Congw. Uy ay nabawasan na rin ang tone-toneladang basurang in-import na basura ng South Korea sa Pilipinas.

Matatandaang kinumpirma noon ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda na may nakapasok na shipment ng basura sa Pilipinas galing sa South Korea.

Sa unang imbestigasyon, bulto-bultong iba't ibang klase ng basura ang nasa isang bodega sa Cagayan de Oro, bukod pa sa natuklasang 51 container na naglalaman din ng basura.

Ayon pa sa DENR, wala raw import permit mula sa DENR ang shipment at malaki rin daw ang posibilidad na misdeclared ito dahil nakalusot ito sa Customs at iniimbestigahan na ito ng DENR.

Dagdag pa ng DENR, ang mga kargo ay idineklarang plastic synthetic plates pero ang totoo raw ay pinaghalong mga toxic at biohazardous waste pala gaya ng mga lumang baterya at medical waste gaya ng dextrose tubes at diaper.

Sa nakarating na ulat naman kay Finance Sec. Carlos Dominguez ni Comm. Guerrero, kung hindi raw inabutan ng COVID-19 crisis ang natitira pang 2,500 metriko toneladang basura ng Korea, dapat noon pa tapos ito.

Pero nangako naman ang Customs na ipagpapatuloy ang nakatak dang pagbabalik nito sa South Korea matapos lang ang Covid-19 crisis.

Kaya patuloy na nakikipag-ugnayan si Congw. Uy sa mga kinauukulan kaugnay sa iba pang natitirang basura ng South Korea upang sa ganu'n ay tuluyan nang maibalik ang basura sa South Korea.

I hope na tuluyan nang maibalik ang lahat ng basurang tinambak ng South Korea sa ating bansa dahil nakahihiya na malaman ng buong mundo na ginagawa lamang tayo ng South Korea ng tamabakan ng kanilang basura.

Tangna naman!

Anomang puna o reklamo, i-text sa 09189274764, 092666719269 o i-email sa juandesabog@yahoo.com o juandesabog48@gmail.com.

Source: <https://remate.ph/basura-ng-south-korea-konti-na-lang/>

# IATF to address leak of resolution on ECQ extension

By Azer Parrocha April 26, 2020, 7:17 pm



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque

**MANILA** – The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) will be addressing “management issues” in relation to the leak of the supposed IATF recommendation to extend the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) only in high-risk administrative regions, provinces, or areas across the country until May 15.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said he would leave it to the IATF to search for whoever is responsible for the leaking of photos of the supposed IATF resolution, which circulated online late Thursday, the night before President Rodrigo Duterte announced the fate of the ECQ.

“It’s a management issue na a-address-in ng (that will be addressed by the) IATF itself,” he said in an interview over DZBB.

He admitted that it would be “difficult” to determine who leaked the photos since the government officials present would also be accompanied by their respective staff members.

Roque also reminded government officials and workers of its duty to protect “confidential” information against leaks or premature disclosure.

The leaking of confidential information is also one reason why Duterte has decided to “centralize” the communication system of the government with himself taking the lead.

Last April 23, Roque said Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea authorized only him and Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire to speak on behalf of the government.

He, meanwhile, expressed relief that he was not among the suspects of leaking the document.

“Mabuti na lang po ako ay hindi suspect sa pag-leak na 'yan dahil wala po akong kopya ng PowerPoint presentation na 'yun (It’s good that I’m not a suspect in the leak because I don’t have a copy of the PowerPoint presentation),” he said.

Roque said that he does not ask for materials from the IATF unless they are given to him for announcement.

He also assured reporters that he would only make announcements once given the go signal by the IATF.

“Kaya mga kaibigan sa media, wala po kayong aasahan na leak sa akin dahil hangga’t maaari ayoko po hawakan ang mga impormasyon na ako rin naman po ang mag-a-anunsyo hangga’t hindi kinakailangang i-anunsyo (To my friends in the media, you can’t expect any leak from me because as much as possible I don’t want keeping documents/information which I am to be announcing later,” he said.

Although Duterte would usually approve of IATF recommendations, Roque reminded the public that the President also had the option to disapprove certain recommendations.

In a recorded public address aired Friday (April 24), Duterte extended anew the ECQ in Metro Manila and other select areas that are considered high risk for Covid-19 until May 15.

Roque confirmed that Duterte approved the IATF recommendation to extend ECQ in Metro Manila, Benguet, Pangasinan, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, Quezon, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Albay, and Catanduanes, Davao del Norte, and Davao City.

He said the proposed extension of ECQ in Antique, Iloilo, Cebu, and Cebu City are “subject to rechecking.”

The ECQ was initially enforced in the whole island of Luzon to arrest the spread of Covid-19 in the country.

Luzon-wide ECQ was supposed to end on April 12 but was extended until April 30.

In deciding on the extension, Duterte consulted medical experts, former health secretaries, and members of IATF-EID. **(PNA)**



'We cannot go back': General Community Quarantine is

TITLE: the 'new normal,' Malacañang says

PAGE 1/ 1/2

April 27, 2020

DATE



## 'We cannot go back': General Community Quarantine is the 'new normal,' Malacañang says

[Franco Luna](#) (Philstar.com) - April 26, 2020 - 1:53pm

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Sunday said that the general community quarantine hoisted over cities classified as low-risk areas will be the new normal for the time being until a vaccine for the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is developed.

President Duterte on Friday approved the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases' (IATF) recommendation to extend the enhanced community quarantine in high-risk areas, including Metro Manila, until at least May 15.

In an interview with DZMM on Sunday morning, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said that the Philippines cannot return to life as usual because of the overwhelming effects of the global pandemic.

"We are no longer back to normal as we know it po. The GCQ is already that, it is the new normal. For as long as there is still no vaccine, we cannot go back to normal as we know it," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Luzon is at the tailend of its fifth week of an enhanced community quarantine that is expected to go on until at least mid-May, while areas under general community quarantine are under a more relaxed set of guidelines, including:

- Some workers and industries are allowed to resume work
- The young (below 20) and the elderly (above 60) may not leave their homes
- Institutions of higher education may continue their classes
- Full operations are recommended for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food manufacturing and all supply chains, including ink, packaging and raw materials, supermarkets, hospitals, logistics, water, energy, internet, telecommunications and media
- Non-leisure stores may open partially
- Public transportation must ensure social distancing by operating at reduced capacity

"We are just giving a chance to local economies in places under the GCQ to somehow start again, but normal, as we know it, we won't be able to go back to that," Roque said.

'We cannot go back': General Community Quarantine is

TITLE: the 'new normal,' Malacañang says

PAGE 1/ 2/2

April 27, 2020

DATE

### 'More exemptions under GCQ'

Low-risk areas were placed by the IATF under a more relaxed general community quarantine, which Police Maj. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, commander of joint task force COVID-19 shield, said would free up more movement.

Philstar.com  
@PhilstarNews

The national government on Friday declared that areas which are considered moderate and low-risk in the spread of #COVID19 will be placed under general community quarantine, while areas that are high-risk will be under an extended ECQ.

Read story here: [philstar.com/headlines/2020...](https://philstar.com/headlines/2020...)

Enhanced Community Quarantine	General Community Quarantine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only private establishments providing essential necessities are allowed to operate</li><li>• Strict home quarantine for everyone</li><li>• Heightened presence of uniformed personnel</li><li>• Classes in all levels are suspended</li><li>• Mass gathering are prohibited</li><li>• Mass public transportation is suspended</li><li>• Restricted land, air, and sea travel</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workers in sectors I, II, and III are allowed to go to work in phases</li><li>• General public is allowed to go out to buy basic necessities except ages 0-20 years old and 60 years old and above</li><li>• LGUs are allowed to enforce curfew for non-workers</li><li>• Non-leisure stores in malls and shopping centers may partially open</li><li>• Restaurants may only operate for take-out and delivery services</li><li>• Higher education institutions may continue classes to finish the academic year</li><li>• Priority and essential construction projects may resume</li></ul>

130 2:54 PM - Apr 24, 2020

In a separate interview also with DZMM, Eleazar said that the initial community quarantine was "in essence the general community quarantine."

"Since Day One of ECQ, we based our enforcement so that only those authorized persons could go outside their homes. What I want to put emphasis on right now is that while it is true that generally the list we have for now, that's what we're going to use now," he said.

"For the GCQ, we'll release a new UPOR list. Aside from the list, we'll add others who are exempted. The GCQ is more relaxed than the ECQ. Right now, we're still waiting for directives from the IATF," he added.

# IATF to discuss guidelines on 'new normal' under quarantine system – Roque

Published April 26, 2020 5:53pm

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) is scheduled to discuss the guidelines of the general community quarantine (GCQ) scenario on Monday, April 27, 2020.

According to Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, Jr., members of the IATF-EID will fine-tune details of the GCQ on select areas, which will start on May 1, 2020.

"Siguro one step at a time. Itong darating na linggo ay i-highlight natin kung ano 'yung new normal under GCQ dahil lahat naman tayo eventually ay diyan papunta habang walang bakuna," he said in an interview on GMA Super Radyo dzBB on Sunday.

President Rodrigo Duterte last week extended the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila, including high-risk areas such as Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Albay, and Catanduanes until May 15.

Meanwhile, the areas considered to be moderate- and low-risk in the face of the COVID-19 crisis will be placed under GCQ starting May 1 -- Abra, Ilocos Norte La Union, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Marinduque, Camarines Sur, Capiz, Samar, Western Samar, Zamboanga Del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Maguindanao.

Also, the GCQ includes Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Sur, Apayao, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Kalinga, Ilocos Sur, Batanes, Quirino, Aurora, Palawan, Romblon, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon, Masbate, Guimaras, Bohol, Biliran, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Davao Occidental, Sarangani, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Basilan, Sulu. —**Jon Viktor Cabuenas/LBG, GMA News**

# Sen. Villar recommends opening up labor-intensive industries amid lockdown

By [Pilar Manuel, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Apr 26, 2020 3:37:50 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 26)** — Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Cynthia Villar recommends allowing labor-intensive sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and construction to ensure stable and food supply and provide displaced workers income amid the extended enhanced community quarantine.

Villar said that while the agriculture sector is in full swing, some allied industries have either limited or stopped operations, leading to lower food supply in the market and food manufacturing workers getting displaced.

People are getting hungry and this must be addressed immediately, said the senator, as “many are willing to risk their lives and get infected with coronavirus, just to provide food for their family.”

“With the extension of the ECQ for another half a month, we need to intensify food production as well as ensure the unimpeded flow of fresh produce and food products all over the country,” Villar said.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar said earlier that farmers, fishers, and other workers in food production play a vital role as “food security frontliners” in the country’s fight against the novel coronavirus.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shows agriculture workers comprise nearly 9.7 million or 22.7 percent of the total 42.65 million people employed as of January this year.

Workers in construction and other manufacturing sectors have also been affected by work stoppage due to the lockdown, Villar said.

“As we all know, workers in construction and manufacturing are daily wage earners who are compensated on a ‘no work, no pay’ basis. They have no source of income while on ECQ. While the government and companies may have extended financial assistance and relief goods, those will not be enough,” she said.

As of January, there were over 3.6 million manufacturing workers and over 4 million people working in construction. Both industries are under the industry sector, which is 18.8 percent or over 8 million of employed persons as of the first month of 2020, according to the PSA.

Villar added the imposition of enhanced community quarantine should also depend on industry types or sectors and not just on areas.

Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, and other high-risk provinces in Luzon remain under enhanced community quarantine until May 15 as the country fights the deadly coronavirus.

Based on 2018 national data, Metro Manila contributes the largest share of the country’s economy at 36 percent, followed by the Calabarzon region with 17 percent, and Central Luzon just north of Manila with a 10 percent share of the national output of goods and services.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/business/2020/4/26/villar-open-up-agriculture-manufacturing-construction-amid-lockdown.html>

# Malacanang says 'Iisang Dagat' video covered by free speech

Published April 26, 2020 5:00pm

By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

Malacanang on Sunday defended the release of "Iisang Dagat" video which screened the supposed assistance of China to the Philippines against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

According to Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, Jr., the video — which drew flak online — was covered by freedom of speech.

"Sa ating Saligang Batas naman, lahat tayo mayroong karapatan ng malayang pananalita. Ang isang video na kasama 'yung mga awitin, kabahagi 'yan ng karapatan ng malayang pananalita," he said in an interview on GMA Super Radyo dzBB.

"Ang sabi ng ating Korte Suprema, lahat ng karapatan sa ating bill of rights ay binibigay din natin sa mga dayuhan na naninirahan sa ating bayan," he elaborated.

The video featured a song written by Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian, which was performed by Chinese diplomat Xia Wenxin, Camarines Sur Vice Governor Imelda Papin, Filipino-Chinese singer Jhonvid Bangayan and Chinese actor Yubin.

Uploaded on the Chinatown TV Youtube page, [the video had 116,000 dislikes as of 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2020](#), while having only 1,400 likes. It also had 355,155 views.

To recall, the Philippines in 2016 scored a victory against China in a ruling by an international tribunal, invalidating Beijing's claims on the South China Sea.

Just last week, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodor "Teddy Boy" Locsin Jr. said the Philippines filed two diplomatic protests against China over violations of international law and Philippine sovereignty.

The protests called out China for pointing a radar gun at a Philippine Navy ship and declaring parts of Philippine territory as part of Hainan province. — **LA, GMA News**

## Caution, still

posted April 27, 2020 at 12:10 am

by [Charlie V. Manalo](#)

Having arrested the spread of the dreaded coronavirus in their respected areas, with some of them even registering zero infection since Day One of the pandemic, 57 provinces will have a relaxed or specifically, a general community quarantine starting the first day of May.

As such, selected business establishment will be allowed to resume operations as workers will be allowed to go out and work in phases.

For those which will be under the GCQ, malls will be allowed to operate but limited to non-leisure shops. Mandatory temperature check, mandatory wearing of masks, mandatory alcohol use will still be imposed.

Also, the number of people who will be allowed to go inside the malls will be strictly limited with only those aged 21 to 59, with identification cards or IDs and not looking sickly, to be admitted inside.

Priority and essential construction projects will likewise be allowed to resume, subject to minimum health standards, physical distancing, and barracks for workers.

Public transport modes will be allowed to operate at reduced capacity. Local government units will enforce curfew at night for non-workers.

As added precautionary measure, young people, senior citizens and others facing high health risks will still be not allowed to go out of their homes.

One of those provinces which will enjoy a relaxed quarantine will be Eastern Samar which had successfully avoided getting even a single constituent at the time the quarantine was put in place, infected. But even as of this early, Provincial Governor Ben Evardone has already made it clear they are not yet about to celebrate their "newfound freedom" when the clock strikes zero hour on May 1. In fact, he has even upped the ante, declaring the extension of President Rodrigo Duterte's order of GCQ until May 30, by 15 more days.

"We welcome this decision of President Duterte because it is for the best interest of everybody if we do not let our guard down in this fight against COVID-19," says Evardone.

While there is a noticeable improvement in the situation on COVID-19, the Eastern Samar governor says everyone, not only those in the newly-designated GCQ, have to make sure that there will be no resurgence of new infections, especially in Metro Manila.

Thus, on the part of Eastern Samar, Evardone says they will be extending their general community quarantine up to May 30 to enable them to prepare for the possible influx of their returning kababayans from Luzon after May 15.

"Since we cannot reject our kababayans from returning to our province, we will have to accommodate them but they will undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 in isolation areas in their respective municipalities," Evardone avers.

That, according to him, will ensure early detection, isolation and treatment of possible COVID-positive persons. At the same time, he assures that everyone who will be subjected to quarantine, isolation or treatment, will be properly monitored by provincial, municipal and barangay health personnel to see to it that health protocols are observed.

Actually, that's the right move and should be adopted by everyone else. We cannot simply relax once we achieve zero infection. For the last one who got infected on the last day an infection was reported, could have infected another person, and that newly-infected person, could go around, infecting some more people without knowing it as it would take up to 14 days before the symptoms could show up.

And that could result to a disastrous second wave. We pray not. And we hope all those concerned could follow the Evardone program.

\* \* \*

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to a small group of doctors, nurses, paramedics and dentists who, aside from extending their services as frontliners, banded together to produce needed personal protective equipment.

Led by Dr. Marilou Sembrano of the University of the Philippines College of Dentistry Batch 1985, Dr. Candida Patrice Reyes, UP College of Dentistry Batch 2000; and Dr. Mary Haines Monjardin, Manila Central University College of Dentistry Batch 2000, they engaged the services of Monjardin's tailoring shop for free to produce PPE which was distributed to no less than 70 hospitals in Metro Manila, both government and private.

According to Sembrano's post in her social media account, they were able to raise P532,233 from donations from their friends in the Philippines and the United States, which they used to procure materials which were sewn by Monjardin's staff. Monjardin, incidentally, is also a visual artist. The challenge, according to Sembrano, was on the effectiveness of the suit material and design, since the materials were locally sourced.

"It was not medical-grade—it just had to be water-repellant enough to provide some form of protection from aerosols. We were apprehensive as we submitted the suit for approval," according to Sembrano.

Their apprehension turned to joy when the suits gained approval from their colleagues.

"We are touched beyond words as we realize this small act of kindness can bring out so much happiness from the giver and the receiver. These past weeks will leave bittersweet memories for us. May your participation in this cause leave you with the fondest thoughts of hope, gratitude, and love," Sembrano wrote in her social media account.

Aside from the 2,155 coveralls and 300 isolation gowns, Sembrano's group also donated 20 gallons of alcohol and 105 boxes of examination gloves.

In behalf of the people being protected and taken care of by the frontliners, thank you Dr. Sembrano and your group.

# OFW Covid deaths hit 185; 4K seafarers at Manila Bay

By **Recto Mercene**

-April 27, 2020



*Royal Caribbean's Spectrum of the Seas cruise ship, Asia's largest, is seen at Manila Bay on Sunday, April 26, 2020. Nine cruise ships began arriving in Manila on April 22, with some 4,000 Filipino crew members onboard—among the thousands of cruise-ship employees affected when the Covid-induced lockdowns in dozens of countries left their vessels float at sea, unable to get berthing rights from governments fearing the contagion.*

THERE are now 44 countries where overseas Filipinos (OF) have been reported to have contracted Covid-19, with three new recoveries, and one new death, bringing the total number of OF deaths to 185.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said a total of 1,343 OF have been infected, of whom 827 are undergoing treatment, while 331 have recovered.

Meanwhile, the DFA reported the government had brought home more than 20,000 overseas Filipinos displaced amid the Covid pandemic, with hundreds more being repatriated daily.

At presstime, some 4,000 Filipino seafarers remained onboard eight big cruise ships anchored off Manila Bay.

The DFA maintained on Saturday that Filipino seafarers who returned to the Philippines aboard their ship after sailing for months or several weeks—and without contracting the coronavirus—should be allowed to disembark and go home to their respective provinces.

“Those seafarers aboard cruise ships that have been quarantined and have not been infected with Covid, either passenger or crew, that could be their 14-day quarantine at sea; so that when they arrive here, they can go to their respective provinces or homes,” DFA Undersecretary Brigido “Dodo” Dulay explained in Filipino.

“Apparently, it was the understanding at the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) that if the crew had undergone 14 days at sea on their way back and no cases of Covid were ever reported onboard, then they should be allowed off. There may have been confusion in implementation but they should sort it out,” he added.

Eight cruise ships with an estimated 4,000 OFW crew members arrived in Manila Bay last April 22.

“There are 8 Covid-19 free cruise ships in Manila Bay with Filipino crews,” Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. tweeted, adding, “we have vessels rotting in Manila Bay because of that distortion.”

The distortion Locsin was referring to seems to have been the resolution adopted by the IATF allowing the seamen to come ashore since they have already been quarantined at sea during their long voyages.



However, it appears that the resolution was not followed to the letter.

“We at IATF unanimously adopted the 3-point resolution addressing this situation—although a halfwit reduced it to one paragraph which explains why the BI [Bureau of Immigration] is confused,” he tweeted.

“I will bring up the distorted and truncated statement of the resolution adopted by the IATF unanimously regarding the Green Lane and the adoption of the sea voyages as compliance with the 14-day quarantine,” said the DFA chief on Friday.

Dulay said it had been agreed upon by IATF members that all overseas Filipinos, either land-based or sea-based, should undergo a 14-day quarantine. However, he added, the Department of Health (DOH), a member of the IATF, had laid out a protocol, agreeing that the seafarers’ 14-day quarantine aboard their ships is enough reason for exemption.

However, other land-based OFWs should be brought to a quarantine facility.

The first flotilla of eight cruise ships dropped anchor in succession off Manila Bay on April 22, followed by Asia’s largest cruise ship, *Spectrum of the Seas*, that arrived on April 23.

Two more cruise liners, P&O Australia and a Carnival ship, are steaming toward Manila Bay from Bali, Indonesia, and are expected to arrive here this coming week, according to recruitment consultant Manny Geslani.

The BusinessMirror asked Dana Sandoval, Bureau of Immigration spokesman, the exact number of seafarers aboard the nine ships. She said there is “ongoing inspection by the Bureau of Quarantine and the BI could not interfere while this is going on.”

Meanwhile, returning OFWs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport will undergo testing in a one-stop shop established at the premier airport starting April 23.

Midsayap IP youth continue traditional farming

TITLE: practices for COVID-19 survival

PAGE 1/ 1/3

April 27, 2020

DATE

# Midsayap IP youth continue traditional farming practices for COVID-19 survival

**Kenneth Mheil Mangaya-Ay, Choose Philippines**

Posted at Apr 26 2020 08:47 AM



*Photo from Midsayap Youth Development Council*

There are different harvest rites and rituals in every corner of the country. Historically, not only were they a way to give thanks, but there was also a lot of superstitions involved. A pleased god would shower the crops with rain and sunshine, guaranteeing a plentiful harvest.

In Barangay Milaya in the municipality of Midsayap, province of Cotabato, the new generation of youth leaders are continuing traditional farming practices for the survival of the Erumanen Menuvu called "suragad." The seeds to be planted called peruvini-an are placed in a pandi or white cloth that will serve as a mark called kelayag ivevasuk so that all the seeds will be blessed.

Pula, the leaves of patikan tree, will be placed in the four corners of the peruveniaio (the middle area of the land where the seeds will be planted) in preparation of the ritual that will happen early in the morning.



*Photo from Midsayap Youth Development Council*

The farmers, together with the Weluyan, or the one who will conduct the ritual, will go to the peruvini-an to do the penawagtawag, a ritual where Apo Kelayag Ivevasuk or God will be asked to bless the planted seeds for a bountiful harvest of ladies' fingers, peanut, bitter gourd, string beans, taro, lemon grass, sweet potato and banana among others. As part of the ritual, they will also offer a chicken to Apo called pagsumbali.

According to Marilou Taupan, IP youth representative, the long-standing tradition will help the IP community survive especially in times of crisis. The tribe has imparted to the youth the importance of respecting and following elders and working out for the rebirth of their culture. The IP youth leaders identified the area where farmers with the youth can conduct suragad.

## Midsayap IP youth continue traditional farming

TITLE: practices for COVID-19 survival

PAGE 1/ 1/3

April 27, 2020

DATE



*Photo from Midsayap Youth Development Council*

“Kaming mga kabataang IP naninindigan para sa aming kultura at naniniwala sa aming kakayahan na mapanatili ang nasimulan ng aming ninuno, mabuhay ang indigenous people tribe (We, the IP youth, stand firm for our culture and commit that this practice will survive. Long live the indigenous people tribe),” said Taupan.

Some of the plants already bear fruits that serve as sources of the community’s food amidst this pandemic problem. With this, the SK Federation of the Municipality of Midsayap commits to keep the tradition alive by including it in the federation’s priority projects.



*Photo from Midsayap Youth Development Council*

“Ako naga tuo na ang kalambuan sa bamwa mag sugod sa pag balikid sa kultura. Isip youth leader, committed sa pagpadayon sa practices sa atong mga ninuno labi na nga makatabang kini sa katawhan (I believe that the development of the town will begin in the revitalization of the culture. As one of the youth leaders in our town, I am committed to continuing the practices of our forefathers and most especially helping the people),” said Mark Ferven Avance, SKMF president.



*Photo from Midsayap Youth Development Council*

Modern society is becoming an amalgamation of cultures, but as we move forward, we can choose to celebrate our pasts and have them become a part of our culture future!

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/04/26/20/midsayap-ip-youth-continue-traditional-farming-practices-for-covid-19-survival?fbclid=IwAR2nMGaNoQOPBbKUwyO2A7YYpv5LQm\\_Rvoy2xT7gMy6IoDjy2UIRJR60z9k](https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/04/26/20/midsayap-ip-youth-continue-traditional-farming-practices-for-covid-19-survival?fbclid=IwAR2nMGaNoQOPBbKUwyO2A7YYpv5LQm_Rvoy2xT7gMy6IoDjy2UIRJR60z9k)

# Heherson Alvarez, environmental ‘frontliner’

By: [Nesreen Cadar Abdulrauf-Hadjirasid](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:05 AM April 26, 2020

I was born a year after the adoption of the 1987 Constitution, when the country was on a reset after the martial law period. My growing up years were also the years when the government and our democracy were being rebuilt, and the country was opening up to globalization.

In our sala in Marawi, I used to look at a vintage photo imprinted on wood hanging on the wall, showing my father, Alexander Mama-o, with then Sen. Heherson “Sonny” T. Alvarez. That picture came with us when we moved places to Cagayan de Oro and Butuan.

Alvarez and my father worked together in the Ninoy Aquino Movement (NAM), the biggest and most organized opposition movement in America that Alvarez cofounded while on exile during martial law. My father was an overseas Filipino worker then in Saudi, and he helped lead the NAM chapter in the Middle East. The Alvarez that remains in my memory, the freedom fighter and human rights champion, was suddenly and saddeningly recollected with the news that COVID-19 has claimed the longtime frontliner in public service, whose legacy I hope younger generations of Filipinos would come to know, appreciate, and remember.

Even before going “organic” and being environment-friendly became the in thing to do, and way before Al Gore showed his award-winning documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” that awakened much of the world to act on climate change, Alvarez was already leading the fight in this country for a sustainable planet.

As a seasoned legislator in the Senate and then in the House of Representatives, he stood out as Mr. Environment. He authored key environmental laws such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act No. 9003), which promotes ecological waste management and creates necessary institutions for its implementation; the Clean Air Act (RA 8749), setting standards for ambient air and emissions from all air pollution sources and strengthening the government structure for the law’s implementation and enforcement; and RA 7638, creating the Department of Energy that liberalized the energy sector.

He introduced unleaded gasoline into the country in 1994 by bringing together the three major oil players—Shell, Caltex, and Petron—to sign the Healthy Air Pact of 1993 with then President Fidel V. Ramos. This initiated the drastic removal of lead from gasoline.

Aside from environment advocacy, he pushed for social and economic reforms. He authored the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, the centerpiece program of the Aquino administration, which mandated the equitable distribution of land for landless farmers. He also led the enactment of the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act.

And perhaps with the prodding of his wife, Cecile Guidote Alvarez, the founder of the Philippine Educational Theater Association, he authored the law establishing the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. For me, Alvarez is the Dr. Jose Rizal of recent Philippine history—a visionary, well-rounded, and true patriot. May his tribe increase.

Last Wednesday was Earth Day. It was also Alvarez who authored the Senate resolution declaring April 22 as “Earth Day.” Let’s remember all his contributions to a free, resilient, clean, and sustainable Philippine nation, for these are rays of light that help lead us through whatever darkness and enemies, visible or invisible, may befall our land.

Rest in peace now, Sir Sonny. ‘Twas a good fight! Snappy salute!

\*\*\*

*Nesreen Cadar Abdulrauf-Hadjirasid is a Manila-based Maranao writer.*

Read more: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/129226/heherson-alvarez-environmental-frontliner#ixzz6KI2HU3K5>

# BFAR bans harvest of juvenile mangrove crabs, spiny lobsters

April 27, 2020 | 12:02 am



PHILSTAR

THE BUREAU of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said it has banned the harvest of juvenile mangrove crabs and spiny lobsters to prevent overfishing and implemented a registration system for fishermen harvesting these resources.

In two separate fisheries administrative orders, the BFAR sought to regulate the trade in the two species, and required members of this fishery, including growers and collectors, to be registered with and certified by their local governments.

“The catching of their juveniles and fry are intended for aquaculture seed stock that will be cultured for grow-out and harvested for food. Others, at the very minimum, are harvested for research purposes,” BFAR Information Officer Nazario C. Briguera said in an e-mail.

The transport of mangrove crabs and spiny lobsters is also subject to a transport permitting process.

The Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council is also required to maintain a registry of gatherers, consolidators, traders, and growers of mangrove crabs and spiny lobsters.

Mr. Briguera added that the guidelines are authorized by Section 104 of Republic Act 8550 as amended by RA 10654 or the Amended Fisheries Code.

Section 104 of the Amended Fisheries Code lays down penalties for the export of breeders, spawners, eggs, or fry.

“The guidelines were also to address the concerns of various stakeholders including our fisherfolk for the sustainable utilization of these high-value species (e.g. the observed drop in our lobster production in the past few years),” Mr. Briguera said.

The guidelines will be enforced by the BFAR’s Fisheries Law Enforcement Group at the regional and provincial level, as well as the individual local government units. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/bfar-bans-harvest-of-juvenile-mangrove-crabs-spiny-lobsters/>

# Pagasa: Brace for hotter days ahead

*Philippine Daily Inquirer* / 05:25 AM April 26, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Air temperature reached 34.2°C on Saturday afternoon, but the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said it was likely that temperatures would still climb higher during the dry season.

Saturday's heat index was recorded at a feverish 37°C at the Quezon City Science Garden, Pagasa weather forecaster Ana Clauren said.

While Saturday's air temperature and heat index were slightly lower than Wednesday's heat index, which soared to 42°C, Clauren said temperatures could still go higher as the dry season progresses.

According to Pagasa, heat indexes of 41 to 54°C are considered "dangerous" and could pose health risks such as heat cramps and heat exhaustion. Heatstroke is also probable with continued physical activity.

Pagasa defines heat index as the "human discomfort" index, more commonly known as "init factor." It is arrived at when relative humidity is factored in with the actual air temperature. Full exposure to sunshine can increase the heat index by up to 8 degrees Celsius, the weather bureau said.

The weather bureau explained that the more moisture there is in the air, the slower sweat evaporates, which causes the human body to feel warmer.

# Highest heat index in Occidental Mindoro recorded at 55 C — Pagasa

By [Nikki Delos Reyes](#)

April 26, 2020

SAN JOSE Occidental Mindoro reached its highest temperature of 55 degrees Celsius (C) heat index, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Saturday.



HEAT IS ON Residents of San Jose in Occidental Mindoro experience the hottest temperature recorded in the province at 55 degrees Celsius on Saturday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration. Pagasa advises people to take the necessary precautions against heat stroke. PHOTO BY NIKKI DELOS REYES

Pagasa recorded the highest heat index at 2 p.m. The town recorded a 50 C temperature on Friday.

Dagupan City in Pangasinan had 50 C; 47 C in Ambulong Tanuan City and Calapan City; and 46 C in Sanglely Point, Cavite City.

Pagasa classifies heat index between 32 C and 41 C as “extreme caution” and 41 C to 54 C as “dangerous” because it could lead to heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke with continuous activity. Over 54 C is considered “extreme danger” because heat stroke is imminent.

## Pagasa advises the public to:

1. Stay indoors as much as possible, if air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine;
2. Wear lightweight and light colored clothing. Light colors will reflect the sun’s energy;
3. Drink plenty of water regularly. The body needs water to keep cool;
4. Water is the safest liquid to drink during heat emergencies. Avoid drinking liquor because it dehydrates the body;
5. Eat small meals but eat more often. Avoid eating foods high in protein which can increase metabolic heat.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/04/26/news/latest-stories/highest-heat-index-in-occidental-mindoro-recorded-at-55-c-pagasa/719317/>

# Ilang lugar sa Benguet, inulan ng yelo

Abril 26, 2020 10:06pm GMT+08:00



Nasaksihan ng ilang residente ng Benguet ang “hailstorm” o pag-ulan ng yelo noong Huwebes.

Ayon sa isang ulat sa 24 Oras Weekend nitong Linggo, mukhang binalot ng snow ang lupa sa Barangay Bokod dahil sa bumagsak na hail.

Halos isang oras daw tumagal ang pag-ulan ng yelo, kuwento ni Arnel Guiniawan na kumuha ng mga litrato ng lupang naging kulay puti na.

Ang hailstorm ay dulot ng matinding thunderstorm sa isang lugar.

Bukod sa pag-ulan ng yelo ay maaari ring may kasamang malakas na hangin at kidlat ang mga hailstorm. —**Julia Mari Ornedo/LBG, GMA News**



 **ABS-CBN News** ✓  
12 hrs · 🌐

TINGNAN: Sa Pilipinas at hindi sa ibang bansa kinuhanan ang mga larawan na ito!

Dahil sa hailstorm noong Huwebes, Abril 23, 2020, nabalot ng yelo ang bahaging ito ng Mt. Purgatory, Bokod, Benguet. (Photo courtesy: Jerilyn Guiniawan) | via James Amante, ABS-CBN News



   26K

979 Comments 4.9K Shares

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10158268528325168/?app=fbl>

# ASEAN urges US to support creation of COVID-19 response fund

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 26, 2020 11:42:52 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 26)** - Southeast Asian foreign ministers urged the United States to support the creation of a regional fund to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the Special ASEAN-United States Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 on Thursday, foreign ministers in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), among them, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin Jr. and United States Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, discussed steps to strengthen collaboration on the region's COVID-19 response.

"ASEAN Member States encouraged the United States to support the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund to address COVID-19 and future public health emergencies," the joint statement released Sunday said.

Pompeo said the United States has so far released over \$35.3 million or roughly ₱1.79 billion in emergency health funding to help ASEAN amid the global health crisis.

"The United States reemphasized its commitment to providing international public health assistance and offered continued support for ASEAN Member States in need of additional assistance," the statement said.

The nations also discussed further cooperation towards post-pandemic recovery, to address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 by reinforcing trade and investment, cooperation in the digital economy, supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and innovation.

Members said that emergency measures designed to address COVID-19 should be targeted, proportionate, transparent, and temporary, and should not create unnecessary barriers to travel and trade or disruption to global supply chains.

"We emphasized our shared commitment to ensuring, to the maximum extent possible consistent with public health, the stable supply and the swift and continued flow of food, medicines, medical supplies and equipment and other essential goods and commodities as well as the normal flow of trade in other goods and services, and investment across borders to sustain among others, critical economic activities and ensure food security," the statement said.

Pompeo also introduced the US-ASEAN Health Futures initiative, which is intended to develop the health system capacity of ASEAN nations to better respond to COVID-19 and future health needs.

The US pledged continued support for exchange programs, which so far include the training of 2,400 ASEAN Member States' medical and health professionals.

"We welcome USAID and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue to play a significant role in the capacity building of ASEAN's health workers," the statement said.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/4/26/ASEAN-urges-US-to-support-COVID-19-response-fund.html?fbclid=IwAR2TADxRihxTXPxERqHgON88sUKW4n2ur0ALCVbEt8trJdkTptcAa12rkYY%3Ffbclid#.XqWvEIltywE.twitter>

# Sink or swim

Climate change documentary ‘Anote’s Ark’ chronicles Kiribati’s resistance from getting ‘swallowed by the sea’

By: [Rito P. Asilo](#) - Entertainment Editor

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 12:07 AM April 27, 2020



The iwonder docu, which premieres on April 30, examines the plight of the people of Kiribati.

There are a lot of Solomonic life-or-death choices the global community must make in these trying times, the most urgent of which involves the untold havoc wreaked by the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

But the Republic of Kiribati, the only country in the world situated in all four hemispheres, is waging a war that is just as deadly.

This sovereign state (population: 110,000), a former United Kingdom colony in the central Pacific Ocean consisting of 32 atolls and one raised coral island called Banaba, is in a race against time looking for ways to save its people and culture from the destructive reach of climate change.

The once hurricane-free zone is now falling victim to flash floods, increasingly violent typhoons and rising water levels as a result of shifting global weather patterns.

While it’s fighting not to get completely “swallowed by the sea,” two of its uninhabited atolls, Arorae and Tamana, have already been washed off by the ocean. And if scientific calculations are accurate, and nothing is done to reverse the rising sea levels—which rise at a rate of 3 millimeters annually—the whole country will be submerged underwater within the next century!

In Canadian filmmaker-photographer Matthieu Rytz’s 77-minute documentary “Anote’s Ark,” the aforesaid dilemma has taken shape as an advocacy. It carries with it an urgent plea for help that’s desperately being sought by former Kiribati President Anote Tong wherever he goes—whether in a meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican or during a climate-change conference with former US President Barack Obama.

Rytz’s probing film, which debuted at Sundance in 2018, will be streamed exclusively on the all-docu streaming app iwonder beginning April 30. (Go to [iwonder.com](#) for its free 30-day trial promo.)

Consistently compelling but occasionally meandering, the gorgeously photographed “Anote’s Ark” mulls the impending annihilation of a race and culture as it interweaves two poignant stories: While Anote mulls the grim country-less future of his grandchildren in a sobering reality check, his dilemma is nevertheless being played out on the world stage.

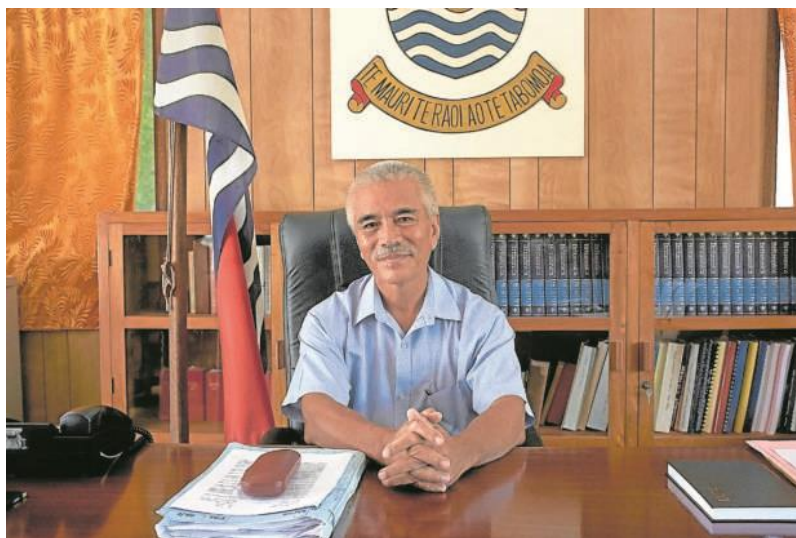


Will the country's colorful culture and traditions sink along with its low-lying atolls?

But Anote's tribulations are made even more intimate and personal by the struggles vividly experienced by his poverty-stricken people—among them Sermary Tiare. The 35-year-old mother of six is torn between staying in Kiribati while finding ways to make ends meet and moving to Auckland, New Zealand, for greener pastures, as she confronts the inevitable changes her country is going through.

Sermary has been given one of only 75 grants allotted by New Zealand's Citizenship Promo Program for Kiribati residents. As a result, she obtained a work permit to be a low-wage laborer picking kiwifruit and apples in the Hastings District, a food production region that produces fruits, vegetables and red wine.

But is Sermary willing to leave her husband and kids behind while she works in a foreign land, where she must wait for six months for her papers to get formalized? The fact that she's pregnant again doesn't make her situation any easier.



Former Kiribati President Anote Tong

As a proactive measure to address the problem, ex-president Anote, who finished his third term in 2016, has persuaded Kiribati legislature to release A\$9 million (approximately P290 million) for the purchase of a 20-square kilometer land on Vanua Levu, the second largest island of Fiji, as a fallback migration destination and a "safe haven" for his people—if and when the islands become uninhabitable!

But are the people of Kiribati willing to give up their rights as a people to live in a land governed by another sovereign nation?

Anote is considering another "high-tech" option: Broached by a technology firm in Japan, he's thinking of "commissioning" an underwater city on two floating islands in the Pacific Ocean that can support deep-sea living for 30,000 to 50,000 people each.

The tag price? 50 trillion yen (about P23.5 trillion) for a piece! Whoa.

You may find the sci-fi-sounding idea a little excessive and far-reaching, but time is running out, Anote says—and he's desperate.

Moreover, given how "testy" the weather patterns have been in the past couple of years, Kiribati could well be a microcosm of a planet in dire need of environmental "rebooting." Man's recklessness and negligence are fast catching up with him—and that's more "science fact" than science fiction.

"Climate change is neither a political nor an entirely economic issue," the former president stressed, as he justified the purchase of the land in Fiji. "The issue, especially for countries like ours, is survival! It is the greatest moral challenge for humanity." INQ

# Xiamen named most eco-friendly city



Published 4 hours ago  
on April 27, 2020 03:10 AM  
By [China Daily](#)



XIAMEN, East China's Fujian province, is recognized as a 'national ecological garden city' by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. CHINA DAILY

XIAMEN, China (China Daily) — The coastal city of Xiamen in East China's Fujian province was the only city in the province to be awarded the title of National Ecological Garden City, according to a news conference held on 22 April.

The National Ecological Garden City title is the highest honor in China given to cities who show excellence in ecofriendly development. It takes into account things, such as: comprehensive urban management, public service facilities, green spaces, natural environment, energy conservation and emissions reduction.

Since 2013, Xiamen has been issuing guidelines on becoming a national ecological garden city, and has carried out three major projects, including establishing an ecological pattern focusing on the coastal city's development and promoting large-scale afforestation to create a greener city, according to an official from the Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Landscapes and Forestry.

Over the past few years, Xiamen has designated 981 square kilometers as "ecological control area," accounting for 57.7 percent of Xiamen's total land area. A total of 10 ecological corridors have been built, and more than 10 ecological restoration projects were completed on various mountains in and around the city. A total of 453.49 hectares of nature were restored through the projects

Indonesian zoos struggle to feed animals during

TITLE: pandemic

PAGE 1/ 1/2

April 27, 2020

DATE

# Indonesian zoos struggle to feed animals during pandemic

[The Jakarta Post/Asia News Network](#) / 01:25 PM April 26, 2020



Animal keeper, Parman feeds Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) named Bona, 3 years and Hegar, 5 years at the Bandung Zoological Garden, Saturday, April 25, 2020. Arya Dipa/The Jakarta Post/Asia News Network

JAKARTA — Thousands of animals living in Indonesian zoos are facing the threat of famine as management struggles to afford animal feed as would-be visitors stay home to contain the spread of COVID-19. A survey conducted by the Indonesian Zoo Association (PKBS) this month showed that 92 percent of the association's members in Sumatra, Java, Bali, Lombok and Borneo – 55 zoos – had stocks to feed their animals only until mid-May.

The survey also showed that only three zoos would be able to provide food for one to three months, while only two had enough for more than three months.

The zoos within the association house more than 70,000 animals from 4,912 species endemic to Indonesia and those from other parts of the world. The captive animals include protected species such as the Sumatran tiger, the Bornean orangutan, the Sumatran elephant and the anoa (midget buffalo).

“Not all zoos receive money from the government. Some are privately owned and rely on the revenue from ticket sales,” PKBSI spokesperson Sulhan Syafi'i told The Jakarta Post on Friday.

The association's secretary-general Tony Sumampau said four zoos recently signed up to join the PKBSI so they could solicit the government's help. In order to register for PKBSI membership, zoos must have contingency plans for unexpected risk in the future.

“We do have a contingency plan—but only for one to two months. It has been already a month since zoos started seeing zero attendance as a result of COVID-19,” said Tony.

The association has written to President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo and related ministries and agencies, asking the government to pay more attention to the condition and welfare of zoos and other conservation centers during the outbreak.

In the meantime, members are sharing strategies with each other regarding animal feed management, including reducing the amount given to the animals and changing the composition of the feed.

Sulhan, who is also a member of the management of the Bandung Zoological Garden in West Java, said zoos could feed their animals for up to four months by using alternative foods.

Indonesian zoos struggle to feed animals during

April 27, 2020

TITLE: pandemic

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

“For example, we used to feed a leopard every two days with three to four kilograms of [beef and mutton]. For now, we’ve changed its diet to beef and chicken.”

This change has been implemented by zoos that house many carnivorous animals, such as Taman Safari Indonesia (TSI) in Bogor, West Java, which has 134 carnivores including Javan leopards, lions and cheetahs. The zoo has stopped importing meat to feed them.

“The tigers usually eat six days a week, but now we only feed them five days. It is possible that we will only feed them four days a week if conditions remain like this,” said Tony who is also the director of TSI.

The Environment and Forestry Ministry’s biodiversity conservation director, Indra Exploitasia, said zoos were required to feed animals according to the animal welfare protocols stipulated in a 2019 ministerial regulation on conservation centers.

“Some zoos have tried to adapt to the difficulties, such as by adjusting the frequency of feeding and changing food composition without diminishing nutrient value,” she said.

Indra said the ministry had sent letters to the coordinating economic minister, the finance minister and the home minister regarding tax relaxations for zoo management. “We’re preparing the legal basis to deliver government aid to zoos affected by COVID-19.”

However, she acknowledged the possibility of sacrificing zoos’ herbivores to feed carnivores with the ministry’s permission.

If authorities decided to take such measures, the zoo would have to ensure that the sacrificed animals were, among other criteria, not endemic or protected species and had the ability to breed quickly.

“This should only be the last resort,” Indra went on to say. “We don’t want that to happen. We hope the pandemic will be over soon.”



# Herd of dugongs sighted off the coast of Thai island

Agence France-Presse / 07:06 PM April 26, 2020



This aerial view photo shows dugongs sunning themselves beneath clear turquoise waters off the coast of southern Libong island.  
Image: Thailand's National Marine Park Operation Center via AFP

Mesmerizing aerial images showed a herd of more than 30 dugongs drifting serenely off the coast of a Thai island on Wednesday.

Thailand's tourism industry has taken a battering since the outbreak of the coronavirus, putting millions out of jobs after the pandemic paralyzed global travel.

But the slowdown in visitor foot traffic has brought a wildlife revival along shorelines and waterways, including reports this week of record numbers of leatherback turtle nests on the country's deserted beaches.

Drone images released by the National Marine Park Operation Center showed the dugongs sunning themselves beneath clear turquoise waters off the coast of southern Libong island.

The slow-moving sea creatures, closely related to the manatee, are classified as a vulnerable species.

Thailand has not always been a safe haven for wildlife, with plastic waste choking marine life and water pollution from boat traffic damaging habitats.

Last year, an orphaned baby dugong was found stranded on a beach in southern Thailand, winning hearts nationwide as conservationists fought to keep it alive.

It died months later from an infection worsened by bits of rubbish lining its stomach, reviving the public debate on Thailand's urgent need to tackle its plastic addiction. **RG**

Source: <https://technology.inquirer.net/98818/herd-of-dugongs-sighted-off-the-coast-of-thai-island#ixzz6KIW6u1VP>

# Dolphins reclaim Bosphorus as virus silences Istanbul

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 08:50 PM April 26, 2020



ISTANBUL, Turkey — A lull in boat traffic and a fishing ban in Istanbul forced by the coronavirus pandemic has proved good news for some of the city’s most-loved inhabitants — the dolphins that swim in the fish-rich waters of the Bosphorus Strait between Europe and Asia.

The Turkish city of 16 million has been under lockdown since Thursday as part of government measures to stem the spread of the coronavirus, following two successive weekends where it was also shut down.

The latest confinement period is due to expire on Sunday midnight.

The pandemic has claimed more than 2,700 lives in Turkey.

Spotting dolphins in the Bosphorus — a usually very busy narrow waterway connecting the Mediterranean to the Black Sea right through the heart of Istanbul — is often a source of joy for the city’s residents.

But the lockdown has meant fewer ships and more fish in the water, encouraging the mammals to come closer to shore and prompting more frequent sightings.

“A decrease in boat and human traffic across the Bosphorus has a big impact,” said Erol Orkcü, head of the amateur and sports fishing association in Istanbul.

“Terrestrial and aquatic living things can remain free without human beings. That enables dolphins to come closer to the shoreline,” he told AFP.

Before the pandemic, fishing was a daily ritual in Istanbul with hundreds lighting fires or bringing samovars for making tea as they prepared for long angling stints along the shore.

The sight of thousands of amateur fishers on the Galata Bridge and on the banks of the Bosphorus is one of the city’s iconic images. But they are now almost deserted.



Dolphins swim in the straits of the Bosphorus where sea traffic has nearly come to a halt on April 25, 2020, as the Turkish government announced a four-day curfew to prevent the spread of the epidemic COVID-19 caused by the novel coronavirus. – In the waters of the Bosphorus, dolphins are these days swimming near the shoreline in Turkey’s largest city Istanbul with lower local maritime traffic and a ban on fishing. The city of 16 million has been under lockdown since Thursday as part of government measures to stem the spread of the coronavirus — after two successive weekends. (Photo by Ozan KOSE / AFP)

### ‘Terror’ of fishing halted

Yoruk Isik, a dedicated ship spotter who snaps vessels passing through the Bosphorus, said he had photographed dolphins before the pandemic but now they were swimming much closer to the shore.

Dolphins “are coming closer to the edge of the water as the terror of uncontrolled anglers on the shoreline has temporarily stopped,” he told AFP.

“I call it terror because 90 percent of them are not aware of what they are doing and cause incredible environmental pollution,” he said.

At Sarayburnu, which separates the Golden Horn from the Sea of Marmara, a pod of dolphins was spotted swimming with an army of seagulls — to the joy of photographers.

The visibility of the dolphins is seen as an indicator of a healthy maritime ecosystem as the mammals are fighting for survival.

Turkish literary giant Yasar Kemal wrote about the devastation wrought on the country’s coastal ecosystems by the overhunting of dolphins for oil in his 1978 novel “The Sea-Crossed Fisherman”.

Since 1983, maritime mammal hunting has been prohibited in Turkey, and dolphins are protected by law.

/MUF

# Jellyfish spotted swimming in Venice's canals

Updated April 26, 2020, 12:49 PM

By *Gabriela Baron*

Animals around the globe are reclaiming spaces occupied by humans pre-lockdown.

In Venice, Italy, lack of boats and gondolas on the now clear canals has allowed its marine life to flourish.

A jellyfish was spotted swimming in Venice's canal. Biologist Andrea Mangoni filmed the jellyfish gliding near San Marco Square, floating underneath the water's surface.

"The exceptional calm of Venice canals due to the absence of boats, this sea jellyfish swam in the transparent water," Mangoni wrote on Instagram.

Reuters shared the video which showed the marine creature "glides through reflections on still Venetian canal."

Mangoni told Reuters that the low tide and low traffic due to Italy's ongoing travel restrictions made it possible to observe marine life right in the center of the normally boisterous city.

Air quality has also increased at the canals because of "fewer motorboats" according to the European Space Agency.

"The lockdown has led to a sharp decline in air pollution across Europe — particularly in Rome and the Po Valley in northern Italy," it said.

The Italy has been on lockdown since early March, having been among the first regions in Europe to have been impacted by COVID-19.

In March, a video showing dolphins swimming in the Venetian canals went viral. The footage, however, was soon debunked and proven fake.

# 2 million chickens will be 'depopulated' in Delaware and Maryland because of lack of employees at processing plants

By Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio, CNN

Published Apr 26, 2020 11:55:32 AM



**(CNN)** — Two million chickens on several farms in Delaware and Maryland will be "depopulated" due to a lack of employees at chicken processing plants, according to a statement from Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.

The reduced employee attendance at the company's plants is a result of "additional community cases of COVID-19, additional testing, and people practicing the 'stay home if you're sick' social distancing guidance from public health officials," the statement reads.

The chickens will be depopulated "using approved, humane methods" that are accepted by the American Veterinary Medical Association and all state and local guidelines, the company said.

CNN has reached out to the Delaware Department of Agriculture, but has not yet received a response.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture says it learned of the company's plans on April 9, and "continues to monitor for any developments."

"MDA is only involved in depopulations when it is done in response to animal health concerns," the department said in a statement. "This particular case was a private decision made by an individual business."

Delmarva says it made the "difficult but necessary" decision after exhausting "the study of other alternatives, including allowing another chicken company to transport and process the chickens, and taking a partially processed product to rendering facilities to utilize for other animal feed."

"If no action were taken, the birds would outgrow the capacity of the chicken house to hold them," the company said, adding that they are not closing any processing plants, and will continue to compensate the affected chicken growers.

# Pet adoptions skyrocketing

posted April 26, 2020 at 09:25 pm

by [AFP](#)

Animals shelters across the United States are emptying out thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, as people confined to their homes are adopting or fostering animals in droves.

“We’ve never seen anything like this,” said Kitty Block, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, which partners with some 400 shelters nationwide.

“The fostering and adoptions have just been through the roof,” she told AFP. “Every shelter is reporting out the same thing. It’s amazing to see how many lives have been saved.”

Block said as the COVID-19 outbreak took hold, shelters -- many of which were forced to close because of stay-at-home orders -- launched adoption appeals, and the response has been overwhelming.

Dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and even hens have found homes, as people all over the country look for pets to help them cope with confinement.

“We’ve always talked about having a dog, but it was never the right time until now,” said Jalene Hillery, a teacher who lives in San Diego, California, and who recently adopted Mason, an American pit bull, from the local shelter. She said the fact that she and her husband, as well as their two young sons, are home has allowed for a smooth adoption, given that they have time to care for the dog and help him adjust to his new home.

“We get to connect with him, train him, and that’s really been fun,” she told AFP.

Hillery said Mason has also proven a great companion for her boys, aged 9 and 11, who are missing their school friends and needed something to help ease anxiety.

“The dog is filling a need... and is able to provide comfort and love and play,” Hillery said. “He’s definitely filled the void in our home that we didn’t even know existed. AFP

“It’s almost like it’s too good to be true.”

‘Alleviate isolation and stress’

Shelters nationwide, from Wisconsin to North Carolina and Virginia to Colorado, are reporting that the number of people fostering animals has also skyrocketed.

Sherri Franklin, founder of the Muttville Senior Dog Rescue in San Francisco, said she has never seen such an outpouring of support from the community in the 25 years she has worked in animal rescue.

“When the shelter-in-place order came down (in March), we had 86 dogs in our care, and we moved them all to foster homes in 48 hours,” she said.

Franklin said adopting or fostering a pet during these unusual and stressful times is beneficial for both animals and humans.

“Adopting a dog during this time is an equal win for both the dog... but it’s even more so for the human that does need a reason to get up, and does need a connection in this world and does need something to alleviate isolation and stress,” she noted.

For Sarah Chan, 25, who lives in the San Diego area with her partner Morgan Miller, also 25, adopting Silvia was a no-brainer after they saw the cat’s picture on the local shelter’s Instagram account.

“She’s given us companionship and is a good distraction,” said Chan, who works for a semiconductor company. Lauren Amaral said she decided to foster two guinea pigs -- Ally and Emi -- as a way of helping her local shelter during these uncertain times and also for comfort.

“Having them just makes me happy. They bring me a lot of joy,” said Amaral, 20, who plans to get a nursing degree. “Whenever I pet them, I just feel a lot better ‘cause it is a stressful time, and these little pigs are just the sweetest girls in the world.”

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/322376>

# Lockdowns ease as global infections near 3 million

Agence France-Presse / 08:38 PM April 26, 2020



A man plays football with a kid in Valencia on April 26, 2020, amid a national lockdown to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 disease. — After six weeks stuck at home, Spain’s children were being allowed out today to run, play or go for a walk as the government eased one of the world’s toughest coronavirus lockdowns. Spain is one of the hardest-hit countries, with a death toll running more than 23,000 to put it behind only the United States and Italy despite stringent restrictions imposed from March 14, including keeping all children indoors. Today, with their scooters, tricycles, or in prams, the children accompanied by their parents came out onto largely deserted streets. (Photo by JOSE JORDAN / AFP)

**MADRID** — Spanish children were allowed outside on Sunday for the first time in six weeks as countries eased lockdown measures and reopen economies gutted by the coronavirus pandemic that has infected nearly three million people worldwide.

Governments from France to Italy and the United States are gearing up for a partial easing of severe restrictions that have kept more than half of humanity indoors for weeks on end.

Coronavirus cases around the world rose to 2.9 million and deaths have doubled since April 10 — hitting nearly 203,000 people on Sunday — with well over half of them in Europe, according to an AFP tally. The daily toll in Western countries appeared to be leveling off and even falling, but fears abound in many places of a second surge after restrictions on movement are lifted.

Governments are planning to slowly peel back lockdown measures in order to avoid a sudden rush back to normal life — and the risk of a resurgence amid warnings from the World Health Organization that recovered people might not be immune to reinfection.

Spanish families embraced new rules allowing children outside for the first time since March 14, with kids hopping on bicycles and scooters on the streets of Madrid — some wearing small masks and gloves. “They are super excited, very, very impatient. They were up at 6:30 am, saying ‘We are going out, We are going out!’,” Inmaculada Paredes told AFP, readying to take her seven- and four-year-old kids outdoors. Under the revised rules, children are allowed out once per day between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm, but cannot venture more than one kilometer (0.6 miles) from their homes.

The new rules were rolled out as the death toll in the hard-hit country dropped to 288 people on Sunday, the lowest since March 30.

With more than 23,000 fatalities, Spain has the third-highest death toll in the world after Italy’s 26,000 and more than 53,000 in the United States.

Other hard-hit countries across Europe are also starting to look toward a slow crawl back to normality.

Italy on Sunday said schools would reopen in September, while many businesses could resume work next week, and France was expected to unveil details of its de-confinement plan on Tuesday.

Belgium said schools and businesses will reopen from mid-May, while Germany started to reopen some shops earlier this week.

### Ramadan at home

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia on Sunday said it would partially lift its 24-hour curfew, allowing malls and retailers to open their doors during certain hours.

But the kingdom said it would maintain a round-the-clock lockdown in the Muslim holy city of Mecca. Worshippers in the country joined hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world who marked the second day of Ramadan at home, avoiding traditional, large family meals to break their day-time fasts under social distancing rules.

Rejecting the advice of top disease experts, the US state of Georgia allowed thousands of businesses to resume operations, from hairdressers to bowling alleys.

“How long are we supposed to imprison ourselves?” said 30-year-old Mackenzie Scharf, one of many in Georgia embracing the return to something resembling normalcy.

“This is much safer than going grocery shopping,” she told AFP on the beach at Tybee Island, where her five-year-old son flew a kite under a cloudless sky.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said he wants to resume business in the world’s biggest economy, even as medical advisors have cautioned against easing lockdown too soon or too fast.

The US leader faced a fresh volley of criticism after suggesting that coronavirus could be treated by shining ultraviolet light inside patients’ bodies, or with injections of household disinfectant.

He lashed out at the media on Twitter, accusing journalists of posing hostile questions, and suggested his daily coronavirus briefings were not worth his time.

“They get record ratings, & the American people get nothing but Fake News. Not worth the time & effort!” Trump wrote.

### Immunity warning

While newly reported cases appear to have plateaued at about 80,000 a day, the world remains in wait as companies and governments race to develop treatments and, eventually, a vaccine for the virus. Some governments are studying measures such as “immunity passports” as one way to get people back to work after weeks of shutdowns that have roiled the global economy.

“If I’ve already had corona then I’m not infectious,” said Berlin resident Lothar Kopp, hoping to test positive for antibodies as it could allow him to visit his elderly mother.

But the WHO warned that people who survive infection cannot be certain they will not be hit again by the respiratory disease, which first emerged in China late last year.

“There is currently no evidence that people who have recovered from #COVID19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection,” the UN health body said in a statement.

The White House’s top pandemic advisor Anthony Fauci said this week that the US will certainly have a coronavirus problem in the fall, which could be complicated by the return of seasonal flu towards the end of the year.

Meanwhile in Beijing, a new set of regulations were introduced to combat the pandemic, banning “uncivilized” behavior such as not covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

Virus numbers in China have dwindled as it begins to cautiously lift control measures, although fears remain over a potential resurgence and imported infections from abroad.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1265099/lockdowns-ease-as-global-infections-near-3-million#ixzz6Kl86E6h4>