

## DENR addressing human-primate strife on case-by-case basis—exec

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

April 30, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), is addressing human-macaque conflict on a case-by-case basis “with the most humane approach possible.”

This was the assurance by DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon in response to an appeal made by an animal-rights activist in response to government’s plan to allow capture of native monkeys on an island in Romblon Province for research and development purposes.

Responding to NE dim C. Byukmihci, emeritus professor of Veterinary Medicine at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Calderon said the position of the DENR is that the removal of macaques, or any wildlife, in conflict with humans is considered as the last resort after all other measures had been exhausted in consideration of the welfare of both humans and wildlife.

According to Calderon, the concurrent director of the BMB, other approaches to addressing human-macaque conflict are forest restoration, appropriate disposal of wastes, and the massive public awareness campaign on avoiding interaction with macaques.

“As we endeavor to achieve human-wildlife co-existence, rest assured that the future actions of this bureau on the sustainable use of wildlife resources shall be guided by the national wildlife conservation law and regulation and in accordance with the Multilateral Environment Agreements to which the Philippines is a party,” he said.

A leading animal-rights activist and expert on veterinary medicine, Byukmihci, who was speaking on behalf of the group Action for Primates, earlier appealed to the DENR to reject applications for a special permit to harvest native monkeys from the wild.

He also asked the DENR to scrap the plan of allowing the export of monkeys for research and development purposes in reaction to a BusinessMirror story, entitled “DENR official sees revival of native monkey farming amid global virus contagion.”

In the story published on April 2, Calderon bared the plan to allow the capture of long-tailed macaques (*macaca fascicularis spp. Philippensis*) on Banton Island Romblon, where the monkey population has grown alarmingly big as they reportedly start to cause trouble such as raiding small farms.

To address the problem, Calderon bared the plan to allow harvesting of monkeys as he is also eyeing the revival of monkey farms in the country, especially because of an expected demand for live specimens by research institutions outside the country to develop cures to deadly virus and diseases like the coronavirus disease, or Covid-19.

Native monkeys are aggressive and potential carriers of deadly viruses like Ebola, the DENR said.

According to Calderon, the population of macaques in a small island in Romblon is one challenging case of human-macaque conflict arising from introduced macaques which proliferated over time.

“The implementation of the Wildlife Act prohibiting the hunting of wildlife, absence of natural predators and the abundance of food from cultivated lands in the island apparently contributed to the substantial increase in their numbers where impact to crop production urged communities to appeal for more aggressive measures in addition to the avoidance measures already in place,” he said.

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“This is the context from which the idea of removal of macaque individuals in the island for captive-breeding purposes stemmed from [including translocation given an available suitable habitat],” Calderon explained further.

In a telephone interview, he also assured animal-rights groups that the DENR will not allow harmful means in capturing the native monkeys, while wild and monkey farm operators will be strictly monitored during captive-breeding operations.

“We monitor these farms and there is an agreement that only the offspring will be exported for research purposes,” he said.

He added that eventually, these monkeys are being released back into the wild after some time.

“We will not allow extreme cases where these monkeys are harmed. Remember, we are also into rescue of threatened wildlife,” he said.

As for fate of the progeny, or offspring, that are exported for scientific research, he said reports of torture, or maltreatment of animals, are “extreme cases” and there are international laws that provide adequate protection to live specimens like monkeys.

# 2 wildlife animals rescued in Region 12

By Edwin Fernandez April 30, 2020, 6:43 pm



**SAVED WILDLIFE.** The Yellow-headed Monitor Lizard and Everett's Scops Owl (inset) separately rescued earlier this week (right) in Koronadal City and Matalam, North Cotabato, respectively, by concerned citizens and turned over to environment officials for care. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 12 said the owl has been released in the wild on Wednesday night (April 29, 2020) while the monitor lizard would also be freed back to its natural habitat soon. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-12)*

**COTABATO CITY** – Two wildlife animals have been rescued in North Cotabato and Koronadal City, regional environment officials said Thursday.

Khadija Bayam-Benpolok, chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-12) public affairs office, said an Everett's Scops Owl and a Yellow-headed Monitor Lizard (*Varanus cumingi*) were separately rescued by concerned citizens.

Benpolok said Calil Bantuas, community environment and natural resources officer (CENRO) of Matalam, North Cotabato reported that the Everett's Scops Owl or Mindanao Lowland Scops Owl (*Otus everettii*) has been freed back to the wild on Wednesday night.

The owl was rescued by a concerned citizen in Sitio San Isidro, Barangay Malasila in Makilala, North Cotabato. Bantuas said that Migalbin Gingo found the owl trapped in his tent early morning on Tuesday and was posted on social media by Dennis Poquita to call the attention of the DENR.

Jestoni Almarez, forest technician and one of the members of the CENRO Matalam enforcement team, said the owl was healthy, with no signs of any injury, and fit to be released in the wild.

"The owl was released by the team around 7:00 p.m. at Barangay Santo Niño in Makilala town," Benpolok said.

In Barangay Morales, Koronadal City, environment officials have taken custody of a monitor lizard, locally known as "bayawak," after it was turned over by a local resident.

Dr. Rosalinda Cortez, chief of the DENR-12 conservation and development division, said that she received on Monday a phone call from Letecia Gabales, a resident of Purok Centro 1 in Barangay Morales regarding the rescued monitor lizard inside the residential compound of Bernardo Macaranas.

According to Macaranas, he spotted the lizard near the cages of his chicken and other farm animals.

Macaranas said that they decided to trap and rescue the lizard to avert any harm it may inflict on his poultry animals. Nide Dangle, DENR-12 science research specialist, said she went directly to the area for the proper turnover of the rescued monitor lizard.

Dangle also coordinated with Dr. Neil Velasco, resident veterinarian of the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center located in Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat for safekeeping.

Although the monitor lizard is fit for release, DENR-12 officials decided to keep the species under the protection of the rescue center and will be freed back to its natural habitat once the lockdown for coronavirus disease 2019 is lifted. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1101475>

# MGB-13, Caraga minerals industry unite in 'Bayanihan to Heal as One Act' implementation

Published on April 27, 2020

URIGAO CITY, Surigao del Norte, Apr. 27 (PIA) -- In light of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau-13 (MGB-13) and the Caraga minerals industry have collaborated to ensure that the objectives of Republic Act (RA) No. 11469, otherwise known as the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act," are achieved.

Various measures to promote quarantine, social distancing, sanitation, cleanliness, and provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) were undertaken to see to it that the health and welfare of MGB-13 employees are upheld.

Alternative working arrangements pursuant to the Civil Service Commission guidelines were also implemented in the Regional Office.

The skeletal workforce scheme was implemented from March 19 to April 8, 2020, at the time when Caraga Region was still under community quarantine. However, the enhanced community quarantine was declared on April 7, 2020, which resulted in the implementation of the 'Work from Home' scheme starting April 13, 2020.

During the 'Work from Home' period, a minimal number of employees will man the office in order to respond to immediate concerns and other necessary matters. Employees shall be on an on-call basis and required to report for work when needed.

The necessary Regional Special Order has been issued by Regional Director Glenn Marcelo C. Noble to implement these alternative working arrangements. Excluded in the alternative working arrangements are senior citizens and employees with medical concerns.

To safeguard the health and welfare of employees of Caraga mining projects and their stakeholders, the MGB-13 sent official communications to the Presidents/Resident Managers/General Managers of all mining companies regardless of status (exploration, operation, rehabilitation or suspension) to comply with RA No. 11469, Presidential Proclamation Nos. 922 (Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines) and 929 (Declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019) as well as the Orders/Resolutions issued by the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Disease and Local Government Units.

The MGB-13 collaborated with mining companies to provide assistance to their host and neighboring communities and other stakeholders as well as front liners in the hospitals, checkpoints, and other pertinent areas in compliance with the Memorandum dated March 27, 2020, of MGB Director Atty. Wilfredo G. Moncano.

The said memorandum authorizes the realignment of unutilized funds of the Social Development and Management Program to support affected impact and non-impact communities due to COVID-19.

More than 22,330 mining and non-mining community residents including front liners and 42,689 households benefited from the relief efforts and other means of support given by mining companies.

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Throughout the five Caraga provinces, the relief assistance came in various forms such as PPE (face masks and shields, disposable gowns and gloves and shoe covers), hygiene kits (isopropyl alcohol and hand sanitizer), medical supplies (thermal scanners, medicines, and vitamins), food supplies and packs, survival garden kits and even a heavy-duty truck.

For the first week of the SDMP realignment implementation covering the period of April 1-8, 2020, the total amount of P16,261,360.10 was utilized by Caraga mining companies in support of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act which was signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on March 24, 2020.

The following Caraga mining companies supported the endeavor to fight the COVID-19 pandemic are Adnama Mining Resources, Inc.; Agata Mining Ventures, Inc.; Cagdianao Mining Corporation; Carrascal Nickel Corporation; CTP Construction and Mining Corporation; Hinatuan Mining Corporation; Marcventures Mining and Development Corporation; Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corporation; Philsaga Mining Corporation; Platinum Group Metals Corporation; Sinosteel HY Philippines Mining Corporation; SR Metals Inc.; Taganito Mining Corporation; and Taganito HPAL Nickel Corporation. (MGB-13/PIA-Surigao del Norte)

# Mining firm joins efforts vs. COVID-19

posted April 30, 2020 at 11:10 pm

by [Ben Moses Ebreo](#)

Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya---FCF Minerals Corp. has joined the national and local government efforts in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the province.

Ian Moller, FCF Minerals Corp. manager for Sustainability, said they have tapped their unutilized funds for their Social Development and Management Programs in support of the national government's Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

"This is in response to the advice of the Mines and GeoSciences Bureau for mining companies to use our remaining funds from our SDMP to support the affected impact and non-impact communities due to the COVID-19," he said.

Moller said that with the MGB directive and coordination with the provincial, municipal and barangay local government units of Nueva Vizcaya, they were able to provide food packs, medicines and Personal Protective Equipment.

He added that the company initially donated 2,500 face masks and 25 gallons of alcohol to the provincial government, 20 pieces of Tyvek suits and goggles to the Municipal Health Office of Quezon town and 50 sacks of rice to the Quezon local government unit.

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Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau (MGB) Regional Director Efen Carido shares the initiatives of the mining contractors amid COVID-19 during Talakayan sa PIA on April 27. (Rodolfo Mendoza/PIA10)

## MGB-10, mining contractors/permit holders unite vs COVID-19

By Jan Albert K. Araña Published on April 29, 2020

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, April 29 (PIA) – The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)-10 together with various mining contractors/permit holders unite to combat the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) through its realigned Social Development and Management Program (SDMP).

In Talakayan sa PIA media forum, MGB-10 Regional Director Efen Carido said about 11 mining contractors/permit holders had donated for the frontliners of the various local government units (LGUs) as well as families/households in the region.

Among the donors are Holcim Resources and Development Corporation, Republic Cement Iligan, Inc., WHK Manufacturing and Trading Corp., Mindanao Rock, Epic Motors & General Merchandise, Gavelden, Inc., BAI Aggregates, Oro NQA Enterprises Corporation, Mr. Caesar R. Casiño, Animas Bros. Construction Corporation and Ricky Crushing Plant.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-10 shares initiatives to frontliners amid COVID-19. (Rodolfo Mendoza/PIA10)

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The donations given included food packs, Vitamin C, sack of rice, boxes of canned goods, disinfectants, packed lunch, face masks, bottles of mineral water, medicines and medical supplies which are distributed in various Local Government Unit within Region 10.

The mining companies/permit holders spent a total of P 756,761.91 out of the allocated P 2,348,651.28 of the realigned SDMP.

To date, 3,965 families/households and 12 MSU-IIT students received donations of relief goods, PPEs and disinfectants.

There will be a continuing distribution through the realigned SDMP where the EMB hopes to cater to more communities. (JAKA/PIA10)



DENR, PNP seize P1.9-M worth of illegal lumber in

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# DENR, PNP seize P1.9-M worth of illegal lumber in N. Samar

By Ailene N. Diaz Published on April 29, 2020

CATARMAN, Northern Samar, April 29 (PIA) -- The joint forces of the provincial offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Philippine National Police- Northern Samar make record when it seized over P 1.9 million worth of illegal lumber in Barangays Happy Valley and Balite both of San Isidro, Northern Samar on April 24-26, 2020.

The operation was conducted upon reports from a government asset coupled with the strong efforts of the agencies concerned to curve illegal activities particularly on the anti-timber poaching in the province.

"They should stop this illegal activity, specially the local people, they are victims used by capitalist, they are the ones earning more," said PENRO Angelito Villanueva.

"The DENR is taking all the efforts through the National Greening Program for employment opportunities in the community."

"My commitment as OIC PENRO is not to cease our operation to protect and preserve the natural forest in Northern Samar for the next generation to enjoy," PENRO Villanueva stressed.



And true to its allegiance, PNP pointed out, "We will continue to intensify the campaign against criminality and terrorism and urged the community to actively support the authorities by feeding information to ensure violators of laws are put behind bars," said PMaj Edwin Oloan, Jr., force commander of the 1st Northern Samar Provincial Mobile Force Company.

Efforts of the two teams resulted to the seizure of 8,605 board feet of assorted lumber and flitches and 78 pieces of boat keels equivalent to 30, 895.75 board feet totaling to 39,500.75 board feet with a market value of P1,975,037.50.

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Aided by drones and actual operation, the team was able to locate stockpiles of lumbers but no violators were arrested except a certain Maria Fe Omrog who claimed to own a stockpile in Brgy. Balite of the same town.

The DENR team was led by PENRO Angelito Villanueva, Catarman CENRO Paquito Dabuet in partnership with PNP Team led by PNP Provincial Director Col. Reynaldo Dela Cruz with the 1st Northern Samar Provincial Mobile Force Company Force Commander PMaj. Edwin Oloan, Jr. (Idl/ADiaz/PIA-Northern Samar)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-10 officer-in-charge, Assistant Regional Director Aldrich Resma, shares the agency's initiatives in response to COVID-19 during Talakayan sa PIA on April 27. (Rodolfo Mendoza/PIA10)

## DENR 10 donates lumber

By Jan Albert K. Araña Published on April 29, 2020

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, April 28 (PIA) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-10 had donated a total of 15,933.13 board feet of good lumber through its field offices in support of various local government units (LGUs) in fight against the threat of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

During Talakayan sa PIA, DENR-10 officer-in-charge, Assistant Regional Director Aldrich Resma said they have donated lumbers to help in constructing checkpoints, isolation units and other facilities needed by local government.

As the country faces the COVID-19 pandemic and while the LGUs are working tirelessly to help flatten the curve of the said threat, DENR-10 had shown its support by donating good lumbers to the LGUs of the three provinces of Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental and Bukidnon.

They have given a total of 4,234.67 bd.ft lumber in Bukidnon, 3,611.46 in Misamis Oriental and 8,089 bd.ft in Misamis Occidental; totalling to 15, 933.13 bd.ft was given as donations to the LGUs.



Talakayan sa PIA with DENR. (Rodolfo Mendoza/PIA10)

The said lumbers were used to construct the Bukidnon Inter Agency Task Force Multi Purpose shed for the frontliners under the initiative of Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-Bukidnon. In Misamis Oriental, the donated lumbers were used to construct Barangay Isolation Units (BIUs) for Persons Under Monitoring (PUMs) and Person Under Investigation (PUIs) and quarantine checkpoints and in Misamis Occidental, the lumbers were utilized for the construction of quarantine facilities and fabrication of isolations rooms for COVID-19 patients as requested by Aloran town and Oroquieta City.

With this, DENR 10 hopes that it can help flatten the curve of the pandemic in support of the Bayanihan To Heal as One Act. (JAKA/PIA10)



Vincent Philip Bautista of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA)-10 wears the eco-friendly face masks made by Salay Handmade Paper, Inc. commissioned by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). (Zener R. Dumaguing/PIA10)

## DENR-10 bats for eco-friendly face mask

By Jan Albert K. Araña Published on April 28, 2020

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, April 28 (PIA) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-10 partnered with Salay Handmade Paper Industries Inc., a social enterprise located in Salay, Misamis Oriental for the production of an eco-friendly face mask, otherwise known as 7XB Fiber Mask.

During the "Talakayan sa PIA," a virtual media forum held Monday, April 27, an initial of 1,000 7XB fiber masks were ordered by DENR-10 to be given to the frontliners.

This eco-friendly mask is produced by the Salay Handmade Paper Industries, made from sustainable materials of strong fiber and grass manufactured and converted into special filters.



Philippine Information Agency (PIA)-10 staff wear eco-friendly masks provided by DENR to frontliners. (Zener R. Dumaguing/PIA10)

The said eco-friendly mask was tested by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) prior its introduction to DENR 10.

Result of the test showed that the eco-friendly mask is seven times better than the normal cloth face mask when it comes to filtration and protection.

The mask is also washable by soaking it in water with soap. If this mask reaches its serviceable life limit, its decomposition is faster and friendlier since there were no plastics or harmful chemicals used in its fabrication.

DENR-10 promotes the use of the fiber face mask, as it provides better protection than the normal cloth face mask and helps the local producers as well. (JAKA/PIA10)



Janne Claudian Salvaña, COVID-19 focal person of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-10 shares the proactive initiatives of DENR to vulnerable sectors during the pandemic. (Rodolfo Mendoza/PIA10)

## DENR-10 supports frontliners fighting COVID-19

By Jan Albert K. Araña Published on April 28, 2020

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, April 28 (PIA) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its field offices in Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte and Camiguin had conducted various activities to show their support to the efforts being done by the frontliners in the implementation of the Republic Act No. 11469 or otherwise known as the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act for COVID 19 pandemic threat.

During the "Talakayan sa PIA" on Monday, April 27, the DENR-10 shared that its employees both plantilla and job order had joined forces in showing their support to the frontliners through a fund raising activity by donating their one day salary to be done through salary deduction.

The said act of voluntarism had gone a long way for the different provinces.

In Bukidnon, all personnel of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and four CENROs had raised a total of P377,666 as cash donations and was used to procure goods for the 1,000 household beneficiaries of People's Organizations of the four City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and two Protective Areas.

The food packs which consist of five kilos of rice, two cans of corned beef, two cans of beef loaf, ½ kilo brown sugar, one pack 25 nescafe, two packs noodles and one pack of pancit canton were distributed to the target beneficiaries.

Among who received the donations were 200 beneficiaries identified by the CENRO and 100 beneficiaries from the protected area coming from the People's Organizations under the Enhanced National Greening Program, Community Based Forest Management Program and Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-10 shares their initiatives amid COVID-19 pandemic during Talakayan sa PIA on April 27, 2020. (Rodolfo Mendoza/PIA10)

While in Misamis Oriental, the PENRO had donated P35,000.00 in coordination with the Office of Provincial Governor Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano to the Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC) as cash assistance to the said hospital.

The said office also had donated 15 relief packages to the Habal-habal drivers of Malasag Heights, Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City as their way of giving back to the services that they have rendered to the community and to PENRO-Misamis Oriental employees.

As the Habal-habal drivers continue to provide transportation they are also considered as the silent heroes in this crisis.

PENRO Misamis Oriental had not also forgotten to distribute 45 relief packages to the heroes that helped control the forest fire that occurred last April 9-11, the Forest Fire Fighter Volunteers at Mapawa Eco Park located at Malasag Heights, Cugman, Cagayan de Oro.

PENRO-Misamis Occidental had shown their support by distributing food packs and face masks to the frontliners in the checkpoints located in Oroquieta City, Lopez Jaena and Aloran towns.

They also distributed relief goods to the 75 families of senior citizens, 4Ps Beneficiaries, Barangay Patrol and Health Workers in barangays located at Oroquieta City. Aside from the 50 love packs (relief goods) given to 40 PENRO Misamis Occidental Job Orders, 4 dismissed employees and 6 garbage collectors.



DENR employees repack goods for donation. (DENR10)



On the other hand, PENRO-Lanao del Norte had distributed food packs and bottled water to the PNP/AFP that are manning the eight different municipalities (checkpoints) within the provinces of Lanao del Norte. Sixty packed meals and bottled water were also been given to the PNP, BFP, Coast Guards, DOH, Red Cross and Traffic Enforcers that are operating two checkpoints in Iligan City.

In Camiguin, DENR Employees Association – PENRO Camiguin handed over P50,000.00 cash to the Camiguin Provincial Treasurer's Office as their voluntary assistance in the fight against COVID-19. Aside from the cash assistance they also helped the Provincial Government of Camiguin in packing food packs and manning the checkpoints.

The Regional Office of DENR-10 with DENR Employees Association (DENREA) 10 had also donated 30 boxes of pizza for snack, 720 sachets of coffee, 300 bottled waters, 3,000 pieces of disposable paper cups and three gallons of liquid hand soap to the frontliners manning the check points in Opol, Misamis Oriental and Mambuaya, Cagayan de Oro City.

Aside from that, they also donated 200 pieces of face shields to Northern Mindanao Medical Center and JR Borja Memorial Hospital.

DENR-10's initiatives were fueled by its personnel's willingness to help ease the anxiety of the frontliners who tirelessly combat the COVID-19 threat to protect the people in the region. (JAKA/PIA10)

DOST, partners provide goods to Bantay – Basura

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# DOST, partners provide goods to Bantay – Basura volunteers

By Carlito C. Dar Published on April 30, 2020

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet, Apr. 30 (PIA) - - Volunteers for the management of garbage in this municipality got a boost from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) that spearheaded the donation of rice and face masks.

DOST Provincial Science and Technology Center head Sheila Marie Claver led the delivery of 25 sacks of 25 - kilogram rice and 200 face masks to the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office here last April 24 for re-packing and distribution to the 176 "Bantay – Basura" volunteers of the municipality.

Cecil Dionisio of PSTC – Benguet shared that they got the idea of providing relief assistance when a group from Quezon City gave them P10,500 incentive for responding to their request for assistance to purchase highland vegetables from Benguet.



DOST PSTC Benguet as they purchased vegetables from the municipality of Tublay, Benguet for a group from Quezon City. This started the initiative of donating of rice and face masks to the Bantay Basura volunteers of La Trinidad. (DOST photos)

Dionisio related that PSTC – Benguet coordinated with the local government of Tublay for the purchase of P1,250 packs of vegetables from local farmers this lockdown. The initiative also provided cash assistance to the volunteers that repacked the vegetables into individual pack of five kilos each.

With the P10,500 that the buyer gave as incentive, PSTC – Benguet planned to use it for the production of face masks but MENRO head Art Pedro suggested the provision of assistance to the Bantay Basura volunteers that receive minimal incentive, Dionisio said.

PSTC – Benguet with additional donations from DOST staff and some friends came up with P25,000 that they used to buy rice.

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The face masks were donated by DOST SETUP (Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program) cooperators Maribel Linggon of Mabel's Tailoring and Judith Alfonso of Twin Jade Mae Fashion.

Aside from the MENRO volunteers, the two SETUP coordinators are also helping PSTC – Benguet in the distribution of face masks to the different barangay frontliners in Baguio and Benguet.

DOST – CAR headed by Regional Director Dr. Nancy Bantog, along with the different PSTCs in the region and their partners such as SETUP coordinators have been working to find ways in helping the frontliners in the in the different communities of Cordillera in the fight against COVID – 19.  
(JDP/CCD-PIA CAR)

# On Labor Day, Bong Go recognizes role of workers in economy

[INQUIRER.net](http://INQUIRER.net) / 12:44 AM May 01, 2020



Sen. Bong Go. FILE PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go called on the national government and local government units to continue upholding the rights and promoting the welfare of Filipino workers as the country commemorates Labor Day on the first day of May.

“Sa kabila po ng dinaraanang pagsubok ng bansa dala ng COVID-19, binabati ko po ang ating mga manggagawa ng isang mapagpalayang Araw ng Paggawa,” Go said.

(Despite the challenges the country experiences brought about by COVID-19, I am wishing all our workers a liberating day of labor.)

“Kayo ang pundasyon ng ating patuloy na lumalagong ekonomiya. Bilang mambabatas, asahan ninyo na patuloy kong isusulong ang mga panukalang batas at susuportahan ang mga programa upang mas lalong maprotektahan ang inyong mga karapatan at mas mapabuti ang inyong kapakanan,” he added.

(You are the foundation of our continued flourishing economy. As a lawmaker, expect that I will continue to push for proposed bills and support programs that will further protect your rights and to improve your welfare.)

Go also assured workers that the government will always prioritize their rights and welfare amid the challenges posed by the ongoing public health crisis.

“Habang patuloy nating nilalaban ang sakit na COVID-19, ginagawa ng pamahalaan ang lahat ng makakaya para mabigyan ng tulong ang mga apektadong manggagawa.”

(As we continue to combat COVID-19, the government is doing everything to provide assistance to affected workers.)

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“Bilang suporta, naging panawagan ko din ang pagbibigay pa ng dagdag na tulong para sa mas nakararami, katulad ng mga apektadong manggagawa ng mga maliliit na negosyo o ang mga MSMEs, at iba pa,” he added.

(As a support, I also called for the additional assistance to many, like the affected workers of small businesses or the MSMEs.)

Earlier, Go appealed for the provision of support to workers and employees of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) affected by the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

Go said that most MSMEs were forced to temporarily, totally or partially close down due to the global health crisis and the extended enhanced community quarantine measures.

“Malaking parte ng bumubuhay sa ating ekonomiya ay ang mga MSMEs at ang kanilang mga workers. Tulungan natin silang buhayin ang kanilang negosyo at maiahon ang kanilang mga empleyado habang nasa panahon ng krisis ang buong bansa,” Go said.

(A big part of what fuels our economy is the MSMEs and its workers. Let’s help them propagate their business and uplift their employees while the country experiences crisis.)

Go’s appeal led to the granting of a subsidy program to provide assistance to MSMEs and their employees by the Department of Finance. About four million MSME employees benefitted from the program.

The Department of Labor and Employment also implemented its COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) for affected workers in the formal sector. CAMP provides qualified beneficiaries a one-time financial assistance of P5,000 and employment facilitation services.

Meanwhile, Go also shared his proposed Balik Probinsya program which, if successful, could benefit millions of Filipino workers nationwide who will no longer need to move to urban centers for better job opportunities.

“Sa tulong ng Balik Probinsya program, umaasa po ako na hindi na kakailanganin pa ng ating mga manggagawa mula sa probinsya na pumunta sa Maynila para lamang makahanap ng trabaho,” Go said.

(With the help of Balik Probinsya program, I am optimistic that our workers from the province no longer need to go to Manila to find jobs.)

“Ipinangangako ko po na ipaglalaban ko ang programang ito para makalikha pa tayo ng marami pang trabaho at mapabuti ang buhay ng manggagawang Pilipino. Muli, maligayang Araw ng Paggawa sa inyo. Mabuhay po kayo!” he added.

(I promise to fight for this program so we can generate more jobs and improve the lives of our Filipino workers. Again, happy Labor Day to you.)

Ending his message, Go remains optimistic that the country will overcome the challenges brought by COVID-19.

On Labor Day, Bong Go recognizes role of workers in

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“Naniniwala ako na malalampasan natin ang krisis na ito. At nanatiling matatag ang aking tiwala na kaisa ng pamahalaan at ng buong sambayanang Pilipino ang hanay ng ating mga manggagawa sa hangaring manumbalik ang sigla ng ating ekonomiya sa mas lalong madaling panahon,” he said.

(I believe we can overcome this crisis. And I am resolved that with the help of the government and the entire Filipino nation, our labor sector, my hopes are high to rejuvenate our economy as soon as possible.)

JPV

# Labor Day: Recovery program for workers to be unveiled

[Mayen Jaymalin](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 1, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — As the world marks Labor Day today, the Duterte administration announced it will launch a recovery plan for workers as the country grapples with the impact of the Luzon-wide quarantine set in place to check the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Industries have been disrupted and millions of workers displaced after President Duterte placed Metro Manila and much of the rest of Luzon under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) to prevent the virus from spreading.

The government has allotted P200 billion to provide emergency aid to workers and other sectors sidelined by the quarantine.

“We will unveil a recovery plan for our workers. It will be announced on May 1 (today),” presidential spokesman Harry Roque said at a press briefing yesterday.

Roque did not provide details, but he said the program would be implemented alongside other packages designed to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic.

Other programs designed to help workers during the quarantine period are the Tulong Panghanapbuhay for Displaced/Disadvantaged Workers, which provides emergency employment for displaced, underemployed and seasonal workers; and the Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong (AKAP) sa OFWs program, which aims to assist migrant workers.

Another initiative, the COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program, was discontinued to give way to a P51-billion wage subsidy program for employees of small businesses.

Roque also said workers’ groups are free to hold online protests to commemorate Labor Day as long as they observe social distancing.

“Under ECQ, physical gatherings are not allowed. They can protest online if they want but they should not violate ECQ because it poses threats to public health. But we allow workers to speak and express their grievances,” the Palace spokesman said.

Roque said the government is studying whether it can provide additional help to workers but admitted that the national budget is limited.

## A million jobs

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said a million jobs await displaced workers as well those returning to the provinces under Balik Probinsya Program.

“We are preparing a post-COVID recovery plan for the generation of fresh one million jobs in the provinces in the coming months,” Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said at a virtual press conference yesterday.

Bello said part of the program is to provide three-month wage subsidy that will allow small and medium enterprises (SMEs) affected by the pandemic to resume business and hire not only former employees but new ones as well.

“This much we can offer for our workers in the interim road to normal recovery,” Bello said.

Labor Day: recovery program for workers to be  
unveiled

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According to Bello, DOLE will be collaborating with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in hiring displaced workers for existing but stalled infrastructure projects in the provinces.

“We will request DPWH to increase manpower for at least 10 to 20 percent to accommodate those availing of Balik Probinsya program from Metro Manila,” Bello said.

Former labor chief and now DOLE consultant Marianito Roque said the department is encouraging the DPWH to hire additional manpower instead of using machineries for a period of three to four months.

Roque said DOLE is looking at P55 billion for the implementation of the program that would also allow hiring of nurses for implementation of occupational and safety measures.

“We have already submitted the proposal to the interagency task force and still awaiting funding approval, but the project can already start if we can convince contractors to hire additional manpower instead of using machineries so we can generate jobs in the provinces,” Roque noted.

He also said DOLE is closely coordinating with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to identify skills and alternative livelihood for displaced OFWs.

“We do not expect 100 percent accommodation for the displaced OFWs, especially those working in cruise ships. In the meantime they are here, at least we can provide them relief as part of the recovery plan,” Roque said.

DOLE also announced that workers who will opt to work today will have to wait longer to receive the mandated holiday pay. In an advisory, DOLE warned workers may not be able to receive holiday pay at all.

“In view of the existence of a national emergency arising from the COVID-19 situation, employers are allowed to defer payment of holiday pay on May 1, 2020 until such time that the present emergency situation has been abated and the normal operations of the establishment is in place,” DOLE said in an advisory.

DOLE said establishments that have totally closed or ceased operation during the ECQ period are exempted from the payment of the holiday pay.

The Associated Labor Unions (ALU) urged workers to organize themselves into unions and collectively bargain policies to better protect themselves.

“The ‘new normal’ post-lockdown economy is now forcing a vast number of people to rapidly shift to digital and electronic commerce to evade or work around the impact and recurrence of the deadly, wide-ranging and potent novel 2019 coronavirus disease pandemic and its duration to the economy, mobility and people’s lives. These radical transformations will elicit greater flexibilization and informalization of jobs and wages, resulting in a major effect on workers’ and their families’ pursuit for equality, safety and security and economic prosperity,” ALU vice president Gerard Seno warned yesterday.

About 1.6 billion informal workers or nearly half of the global workforce are likely to lose their source of livelihood due to the coronavirus disease pandemic, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Based on the ILO Monitor third edition: COVID-19 and the world of work, the drop in working hours in the second quarter of 2020 is expected to be significantly worse than previously estimated.



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“The continued sharp decline in working hours globally due to the COVID-19 outbreak means that 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy – that is nearly half of the global workforce – stand in immediate danger of having their livelihoods destroyed,” ILO reported.

“Even once containment measures are lifted, surviving enterprises and on-account workers will continue to face challenges, given the recovery is expected to be uncertain and slow,” ILO added.

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police (PNP) yesterday warned members of leftist groups to forego their plans to hold a rally today or face arrest.

PNP chief Gen. Archie Gamboa issued the warning after

receiving reports that militant groups are planning to stage public assemblies and mass action in commemoration of Labor Day.

“Much as we respect their right to peaceably assemble, out of the exigency of the health crisis situation, we beg to discourage them from pursuing these plans for their own safety and in the best interest of public health,” he said during a virtual press conference. **-Emmanuel Tupas, Cecille Suerte-Felipe,**

# Labor Day protests to go online; PNP warns of arrests if taken to streets

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 30, 2020 9:45:11 PM

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 30)** — Groups are taking their Labor Day protests online as the government continues to prohibit mass gatherings to prevent further spread of the coronavirus.

Kilusang Mayo Uno on Thursday said a "virtual rally for workers and people's solidarity" will be held via Zoom and Facebook Live Friday morning.

"*Kalusugan, Kabuhayan, Karapatan, Ipaglaban! Sugpuin ang COVID-19! Singilin si Duterte!* (Let us fight for Health, Livelihood, Rights! Fight COVID-19! Hold Duterte accountable)," the KMU said in its Facebook post.

It also called on protesters to make noise; wear red face masks, red shirts, and red armbands; and post streamers and placards to make their voices heard.

In a statement on Tuesday, KMU said its members are ready, along with other groups such as NAGKAISA, to hold noise barrages from their respective homes. They said that instead of mass arrests of quarantine violators, the government should expand coronavirus testing and give aid to displaced workers.

The Labor Department has said more than 2 million workers have lost their jobs due to the temporary closure of businesses and modified work arrangements to comply with the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine and lockdowns in other areas.

The Concerned Artists of the Philippines said its Lockdown Sessions will be live at 6 p.m. to express "solidarity with the most vulnerable sectors who need our support and consolation during these uncertain times."

Despite assurances from labor groups that they will not take to the streets, the Philippine National Police Chief General Archie Gamboa in a briefing said they have been made "aware of plans by militant cause-oriented groups to stage public assembly and mass action in several venues on May 1 in commemoration of Labor Day."

Gamboa stressed that mass gatherings are banned as the entire country is placed under general community quarantine starting Friday. Metro Manila and several provinces and cities are under a stricter enhanced community quarantine, marked with suspension of mass transportation, and closure of non-essential businesses, among others.

In all areas, mass gatherings are prohibited, except for essential work. Gamboa warned that protesters can be arrested for violating any of the quarantine rules.

"Arrests, detention, fines and other penalties for violating the state's ECQ rules are imposed to hold violators accountable," Gamboa said, as he discouraged public assemblies.

The PNP last week said it will be enforcing a [zero tolerance policy for quarantine violators](#). Joint Task Force COVID-19 Shield Commander PLt.Gen. Guillermo Eleazar said they will face immediate arrest, unlike in previous weeks when some were sent off with a warning.

The United Nations has raised concern over some countries' repressive measures to implement lockdowns, citing the Philippines' "highly militarized response" to contain the coronavirus spread.

Nationwide, the number of COVID-19 cases rose to 8,488 on Thursday, with 1,043 recoveries and 568 deaths.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/4/30/labor-day-protests-amid-covid-19-quarantine.html>

# Malacañang bares new guidelines for areas under GCQ

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos April 30, 2020, 5:13 pm



**GUIDELINES.** Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque holds virtual presser on Thursday (April 30, 2020). Roque said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases has approved new set of guidelines for areas under general community quarantine from May 1 to 15. (Screenshot)

**MANILA** – Malacañang on Thursday released a copy of the revised guidelines for areas that will be placed under general community quarantine (GCQ) from May 1 to 15.

The new set of guidelines for areas under GCQ was approved by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases on Wednesday, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said.

In a virtual presser aired on state-run PTV-4, Roque said Metro Manila; Central Luzon, except Aurora; Calabarzon; Pangasinan; Benguet; Iloilo province; Iloilo City; Bacolod City; Cebu province; Cebu City; and Davao City are under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) until May 15.

GCQ will be imposed in other places in the country that are not included in the list of areas under ECQ.

Roque said there must be minimum public health standards “at all times” in areas where GCQ would be enforced.

*“Ibig sabihin, social distancing, pagsusuot ng face mask, yung mandatory check of temperature, at paggamit po ng alcohol at iba pang sanitizers (Meaning, social distancing, use of face mask, mandatory check of temperature, and use of alcohol and other sanitizers [must be observed]),”* he said.

## Limited public movements

Roque said public movements are still limited to accessing essential goods and services and for work in the permitted industries during the implementation of GCQ.

Thus, movement for leisure purposes are not allowed, he stressed.

*“Yung mga biyahe para sa leisure, mga bakasyon, hindi pa rin po iyan pinapayagan (Travel for leisure activities or vacation is still prohibited),”* Roque said.

Roque said people aged 21 and below or 60 and above; people with immunodeficiency, comorbidities, or other health risks; and pregnant women who are in areas under GCQ must observe strict home quarantine, except “when indispensable under the circumstances for obtaining essential goods and services or for work in permitted industries and offices.”

Work gatherings, religious activities allowed

*“Yung mga essential work gatherings and religious activities, pupwede na pong magpatuloy (Essential work gatherings and religious activities may proceed),”* he said.

Roque said essential work gatherings and religious activities may continue as long as strict social distancing of at least two meters is observed.

He added that attendees are required to wear face mask, face shield, or other facial protective equipment during the event.

### **Public transportation**

Roque said road, rail, maritime, and aviation sectors of public transportation can operate at “a reduced capacity” during the implementation of GCQ.

He said the operations of mass public transport must be in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Transportation.

“In all public transports, a strict one-meter distance between passengers shall be observed and appropriate engineering controls [shall be] in place,” Roque said.

### **Work resumption**

Once GCQ is implemented on May 1, Roque said work in government offices may be at “full operational capacity,” Roque said.

*“Balik trabaho na po ang mga government offices, local and national. Kinakailangan, merong social distancing (Work in government offices -- local and national -- will resume. Social distancing must be observed). At saka kung pupwede po, magkaroon ng (There should also be) alternative work arrangements, as agencies may deem proper,”* he said.

Roque noted that limited operations in malls and shopping centers would still be allowed.

He, however, stressed that leisure establishments would remain closed.

Roque said the resumption of essential public and private construction projects would be allowed, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Public Works and Highways

He added that amusement, gaming and fitness establishments may not operate during ECQ period.

He likewise said hotels or similar firms cannot operate, except for those that are outside Luzon; have existing long-term bookings; and serve as basic lodging to repatriated Filipinos, healthcare workers, and other front-liners.

### **Physical classes still suspended**

Roque said physical classes are still suspended in areas that are placed under GCQ.

Classes have been suspended as early as March to stop the further spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) in the country.

Roque said higher education institutions (HEIs) may hold classes through flexible learning arrangements to finish the academic year 2019 to 2020.

He added that HEIs may operate at a limited capacity to receive students’ requirements, as well as to prepare credentials subject to the guidelines that may be issued by the Commission on Higher Education.

As of Thursday, the Philippines has 8,488 confirmed Covid-19 infections, with 568 deaths and 1,043 recoveries. **(PNA)**



## GCQ areas reopen today

[Alexis Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 1, 2020 - 12:00am

### Mass transport guidelines bared

MANILA, Philippines — After two extensions of the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon, some areas in the country will be placed starting today under a general community quarantine (GCQ) where certain businesses like those in the transport sector will be allowed back, though at a reduced capacity.

A one-meter distance between public transportation passengers, for example, would be strictly implemented in areas where the quarantine measures are relaxed, Malacañang said yesterday.

But the public transportation system remains suspended in high-risk areas or those that remain under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) until May 15.

The GCQ implementation will be governed by the guidelines released by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

“The road, rail, maritime and aviation sectors of public transportation shall operate at a reduced capacity in accordance with the guidelines issued by the DOTr (Department of Transportation). Provided that in all public transports, a strict one-meter distance between passengers shall be observed and appropriate engineering controls in place,” explained presidential spokesman Harry Roque at a press briefing.

Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade explained at a separate virtual briefing yesterday that the traveling public should brace for a new normal where social distancing is a must across all modes of transportation.

“The new normal will basically be predicated on health and safety. In the new normal, there will be social distancing. It will be permanent. You follow the one-meter rule. You follow social distancing not only while you’re onboard the vehicle, but more importantly while you wait and while you queue,” Tugade said.

“How long will that take? We have no idea. We are facing an enemy where there are so many unknowns. A lot will depend on how science experts and medical authorities will be able to address the unknowns that will be carried by COVID-19,” he added.

DOTr undersecretary for administrative service Artemio Tuazon said all drivers, conductors and commuters are required to wear face mask in order to board a public utility vehicle (PUV).

“No face mask, no boarding the PUVs,” he stressed.

The use of an automatic fare collection system is also encouraged to limit the amount of contact between the passengers and drivers. If this is not available, passengers are required to pay first before riding the vehicle.

A regular disinfecting of all PUVs will have to be conducted before and after every trip.

The allowable load capacity for buses, modern jeepneys and shuttle services is at 50 percent.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said additional precautionary measures, including thermal scanning for passengers and hand sanitation, would also be implemented for mass transportation, excluding jeepneys.

For now, jeepneys cannot resume operations because of difficulties in observing social distance. “If you look at the configuration of the jeepney, passengers face each other,” Año explained, adding that the DOTr would release guidelines on the operation of other public utility vehicles, including taxis.

Only two passengers will be allowed for taxis and TNVS and a maximum of two passengers per row for the UV Express. Motorcycles taxis are still not allowed.

Tricycles, on the other hand, will be subject to the consent of the local government unit but there should only be one passenger.

The country’s trains will also be allowed to operate at only one fourth of its capacity.

As for air and sea travel, Roque said airline and aircraft maintenance employees, including pilots and crews, and ship captains and crew can now work even in areas under ECQ subject to the guidelines to be issued by DOTr. “There should be social distancing of one meter. In the airplane, it won’t be just one seat apart because one meter will clearly be every two seats if I’m not mistaken,” Roque said.

Meanwhile, Sen. Sonny Angara has asked for exceptions – such as the implementation of special hours and priority services at establishments like groceries and drug stores – for senior citizens who have been stuck in their homes during the ECQ and could remain holed up for an extended period once the lockdown is lifted and the new normal kicks in.

Businesses should also allow online transactions using senior citizen cards for discounts to essential goods.

“Rules on online transactions for seniors should be relaxed. They should be allowed to use photo or screenshot of their senior ID. We want them to stay home, so we should find ways so they will not need to go out,” Angara said.

He revealed that he has received a lot of complaints from irate seniors after learning that the GCQ guidelines specified that those under 21 years old or are already 60 years old and above must stay home.

“Many seniors are living alone or separated from their families. So prohibiting them from going out of their homes to buy essential goods such as food and medicine will lead to a lot of problems on their part,” Angara pointed out.

“We understand that older adults have a higher risk of contracting severe diseases due to COVID-19 and we should ensure they are given the proper care and protection. But we should also address their basic needs during this critical period. Let us strike a balance between these two concerns,” he added.

Angara, whose father, the late former Senate President Edgardo Angara, was the author of the Republic Act 7432 or the Senior Citizen’s Act of 1992, emphasized the obligation of the state to care for its elderly. The landmark law granted benefits and privileges to senior citizens, which were expanded further with the passage RA 9994 in 2010, of which the younger Angara was among the authors.

Even under the ECQ or GCQ, Angara said the basic needs of seniors do not change and they will still have to procure essential items one way or another. – **With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Richmond Mercurio?**



## COVID-19 FRONTLINERS, NAGSU-SUICIDE NA

April 30, 2020 @ 2:27 PM 18 hours ago

Views: 82

Magkasunod na nag-suicide ang isang paramedic at isang doktor sa New York makaraang ma-stress sa nasasaksihang kamatayan at sobrang trabaho kaugnay ng Coronavirus Disease-19.

Unang kinitil ang sariling buhay ni John Mondello, 23, emergency medical technician, ng New York City Fire Department Emergency Medical Services.

Sumunod si Dr. Lorna Breen, 49, na pinuno ng emergency services ng NewYork-Presbyterian Allen Hospital.

Nakalulungkot man, ang tanong na nakaharap sa libo-libong frontliner laban sa Covid-19, eh, sino kaya ang susunod?

Sana naman, wala ka nang kukunin, Lord, sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatiwakal.

### MULA SA BABA HANGGANG ULO

Lumalabas na binaril ni Mondello ang kanyang ulo mula sa kanyang baba at natagpuan na lang ang kanyang bangkay sa gilid ng ilog na East River sa Astoria Queens.

Ginamit ni Mondello ang baril ng kanyang ama na dating kasapi ng New York Police Department.

Hindi doktor o nurse si Mondello kundi natapos siya sa kursong paramedic na ang isa sa mga pangunahing trabaho ay rumesponde sa mga tawag sa 911 kaugnay ng COVID-19 at nagkataong nasa ilalim siya ng Station 8 na isa sa mga pinaka-busy na istasyon sa New York.

Sa mga kuwento niya sa kanyang mga kasamahan, sobrang bigat ang kanyang nararamdaman sa dami ng mga namamatay na kanilang nirerespondehan nang hindi man lang nila naiabot sa ospital para magamot.

Kasama sa mabigat niyang dala-dala ang sobra-sobrang trabaho, sobra-sobrang puyat at pagod ngunit hindi man lang umano ito tinutumbasan ng pamahalaang New York ng umento gaya ng umento ng mga nasa ilalim ng gobyernong pederal o union.

Nagsimula umanong magtrabaho si Mondello nang ganito kahirap simula nang Enero at nang hindi na nito makayanan ang stress, doon na nito winakasan ang kanyang buhay.

Kasama ng kanyang mga kasamahan, nakatatanggap sila ng mula 4,000 hanggang 7,000 na tawag kada araw at mahigit 200 kada araw ang namamatay nang hindi na nakaaabot pa sa ospital.

Marami sa mga pasyente ang namamatay sa cardiac arrest ngunit pangunahing dahilan ang pagkapit ng COVID-19 sa mga ito.



## **NAGLASLAS NG PULSO AT IBA PA**

Nang matagpuan ang bangkay ni Dr. Breen, puno ito ng mga sugat sa katawan na sarili nitong kagagawan.

Bilang pinuno ng Emergency Room sa nasabing ospital, wala umanong kapantay ang nararamdamang kalungkutan si Breen tuwing may mga namamatay bago o makaraang mapasok sa kanilang ospital ang mga ito.

Habang walang humpay ang pakikipaglaban nila sa COVID-19, nahawa na rin umano ito ngunit naligtasan nito ang kamatayan.

Makaraan gumaling, bumalik siya sa trabaho ngunit makaraan ng halos dalawang linggo, sa anomang dahilan, pinauwi siya ng ospital para ganap siyang gumaling at magpahinga.

Hindi umano nakayanan ni Breen ang walang katapusang tunay na drama ng kamatayan sa kanyang ospital at lugar at natalo siya ng pangyayari.

Ngayon, magkasama na ang dalawa sa walang hanggang katahimikan at walang pagkabagabag sa pagkamatay ng mga tao sa kanilang harapan.

Ngunit itinuturing pa rin silang mga bayani sa giyera sa COVID-19 sa kabila ng paghusga at pagsentensya nila sa kanilang mga sarili sa gitna ng giyera.

Ang New York, habang sinusulat ito, ay may mahigit sa 200,000 kumpirmado sa Covid-19 habang aabot naman sa 18,000 ang patay.

Punom-puno ng bangkay ang kumpol-kumpol na refrigerated truck na nakasalamuha ng dalawa.

## **PINOY FRONTLINERS, KUMUSTA NAMAN?**

Sinasabi ng Department of Health na may mahigit nang 1,000 na medical professionals ang nahawaan ng Covid-19 at nagmula ang mga ito sa mga klinika, ospital (pribado at pampubliko) at non-government organizations.

Mahigit na ring dalawang dosena sa mga ito ang namamatay, karamihan ang doktor sa Metro Manila at may ilan sa Cavite, Bulacan, Cebu at iba pa.

Noong manawagan ang DOH ng volunteer doctors at mula na rin sa mga graduate ng medisina at iba pa gaya ng mga nurse, bulong ng ating Uzi, mahirap lumahok.

Bagama't marami ang rumesponde, naging balakid para sa para sa iba, lalo na noong una, ang kawalan o labis na kakulangan ng mga personal protective equipment na mga dahilan ng maagang pagkamatay ng mga doktor at nurse.

Hanggang ngayon nga, maraming doktor, nurse at iba pa sa mga pampublikong ospital, lalo na sa mga lalawigan ang puno ng pangamba dahil sa kakulangan ng PPE.

At masama pa, ngayon lang nila napagtatanto na ang mga Local Government Unit pala ang pangunahing dapat magbigay na ayuda sa mga ito at hindi ang pambansang pamahalaan ukol sa kanilang mga pangangailangan.

Kaya naman, gayun na lamang ang labis na kakulangan ng mga PPE at iba pang gamit sa giyera nila sa COVID-19.

## P500 AT P1M, 'DI BALE NA LANG

Kung meron lang sana umano ang mga ito, titiisin na lang umano nila ang P500 araw-araw na bigay sa kanila makapaglingkod lamang sila.

Natutuwa naman umano sila sa pangako ng pamahalalan na P1 milyon ang pupunta sa kanilang mga pamilya kung madidisgrasya sila.

Pero sino ang may gusto ng disgrasya patungo sa crematorium?

Ang magandang balita, sana, makarating agad mula sa China ang mga maayos na PPE na binili ng pamahalaang Duterte para sa lahat ng Pinoy Health Worker upang maidagdag sa mga gawang Pinoy at galing na rin sa iba pang mga bansa at World Health Organization.

## Recession seen after pandemic

“The bottom line in all these, they say, is to pay extra attention to spending and be very wary of taking unnecessary risks. In the midst of a significant economic downturn, experts believe that it is wise to implement a realistic budget, establish an emergency fund and generate additional sources of income.

Published 5 hours ago  
on May 1, 2020 12:30 AM  
By [Concept News Central](#)



As the nation celebrates Labor Day today in the midst of a crippling pandemic, it's probably a good time to talk about the post-COVID-19 situation which would definitely interest both businessmen and the working class.

In all probability, a deep recession or depression is expected to follow the ongoing health crisis as experts zero in on the economic aspect of the restricting activities done during community quarantines where entire sectors of the economy were shut down.

No less than the country's top monetary manager, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Benjamin Diokno, expects the local economy to enter a recession over the next six months before recovering in the fourth quarter.

Even Bill Gates, the world's richest man, believes that most developed countries will enter the second phase of the pandemic in the next two months. The economic cost that has been paid to reduce the infection, he said, is unprecedented. The drop in employment is faster than anything we have experienced.

Although many are of the opinion that the disease can be beaten, a slow economic recovery is seen in the next two years by some who are backing moves to open up the economy gradually.

Experts are of the belief that in a sluggish economy or an outright recession, it is best to watch spending and refrain from taking undue risks that could put financial goals in jeopardy. What happens to the economy during a recession can negatively impact one's finances and wealth.

However, by being prepared and taking a few simple steps to reduce risks, one can improve his chances of weathering the financial decline.

When the economy is in a recession, it is understandable that financial risks increase, including the risk of default, business failure and bankruptcy. Experts advise reducing exposure to such risks, i.e. avoiding becoming a co-signer on a loan, taking out an adjustable-rate mortgage and taking on new debt — all of which can increase financial risk during a recession.

If you're an employee, you have to do everything you can to safeguard your job either by performing your best or improving your productivity.

If you're a business owner, you might need to postpone spending on capital improvements and taking on new debt until the recovery has begun.

Either as an employee or as a business owner, considering adding debt to your financial equation could complicate things particularly if you are laid off or have your income cut for some reason. Taking on a new debt in a recessionary environment is risky and should be approached with caution. In a worst-case scenario, it could even contribute to bankruptcy. The advice is pay cash when able or wait on big new purchases.

Early on in a recession may not be the best time to make risky bets or investments. It is only when the economy starts to show signs of sustainable recovery that one could start thinking big when prices for capital purchases and labor costs for new hiring are low.

The bottom line in all these, they say, is to pay extra attention to spending and be very wary of taking unnecessary risks. In the midst of a significant economic downturn, experts believe that it is wise to implement a realistic budget, establish an emergency fund and generate additional sources of income.

As the government starts easing up on the restrictions, the guiding principle should be to allow activities that have a large benefit to the economy or human welfare but pose a small risk of infection.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately hurt poorer communities while the economic impact of the lockdowns has hit low-income communities and minorities the hardest.

Policymakers will have to make sure that as the country opens up, the recovery doesn't make inequality even worse than it already is.

## The new normal

posted May 01, 2020 at 12:25 am

As the world prepares to resume its normal grind, people across the globe will have to adapt to the new normal way of doing things.

The new normal will likely see people keeping their face masks, their first line of defense against COVID-19, even if the Enhanced Community Quarantine order is eased or lifted in some parts of the Philippines. They will consciously practice physical distancing as much as possible and avoid crowded places.



The labor force will probably experience a new protocol in work places, with frequent washing of hands part of the new routine, and security guards or an assigned personnel checking on their temperature before entering their building or office premises. For some of the working people and few executives, the work-from-home setup will continue, with their offices only manned by those who must interact with customers and the public.

Fast-food chains will be a different experience for most of the Filipino consumers. These establishments will likely cap the number of customers who can dine for a period of time. Many customers may opt to buy their dinner or lunch to go. Fine dining may also be limited in the post-ECQ period.

The mode of transportation could be tricky for the hundreds of thousands of commuters, especially in Metro Manila. Limiting the number of passengers in trains, jeepneys and buses will become a challenge for commuters and enforcers alike. Drivers of the country's mass transport system, especially buses and jeepneys, are notoriously known for their habit of cramming their vehicles before leaving for their destination.

The restrictions under the new normal regime, however, must not stop the working class from re-joining the labor force. House Majority Leader and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez cautioned against social upheaval as an offshoot of the lockdown, noting that the ECQ threw off millions of workers out of work and kept almost the whole population indoors, causing problems in basic survival.

The lawmaker warned of social unrest that could undermine the nation's ability to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Philippines, thus, will have to deal with a new social and economic environment and, at the same time, weigh the effects of new protocols against the interest of the working class.

# Earth Day and One Health

By: [Michael L. Tan](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:05 AM May 01, 2020

I like this pop quiz that appeared in CNN recently: Which of these could put you at increased risk during the COVID-19 pandemic? The choices were: (1) not washing your hands, (2) gathering in large groups, and (3) air pollution.

CNN said the correct answer was: all of the above.

I'm amazed at how we worry about so-called germ warfare and the stories that this virus was created by the Americans (according to some Chinese) or by the Chinese (according to some Americans).

As we fret over those conspiracy theories, we don't see how the rise of COVID-19 has been linked to environmental destruction. Even more disturbing, it seems that even as we battle COVID-19, we face a possible resurgence of earlier diseases and new diseases, especially from coronaviruses.

It almost seems like the COVID-19 virus conspired to have this pandemic raging on April 22, which was Earth Day. This would have been the 50th anniversary of an event that started small in the United States but has since spread throughout the world. Because of the pandemic, there were no large gatherings to commemorate Earth Day, and so less publicity on the theme of saving the environment to save us from coronaviruses.

It would have been good, too, to talk about the need for a "One Health" approach, linking human health to the health of the environment and of nonhuman animals.

We have to start recognizing how the virulence of diseases increases because of environmental changes. An example is malaria, a much older disease that used to be blamed on "bad air" (mal aire) but is actually caused by a Plasmodium (a one-celled organism, amoeba being another example) transmitted by the Anopheles mosquito. The disease and the mosquito have been around for centuries, but malaria, as a human disease, became a problem only with the rise of agriculture.

Agriculture needed irrigation, which meant accumulated water where the Anopheles mosquito could breed. Agriculture also meant deforestation, which was aggravated by other human activities: logging, road construction, changing the ecosystem's sunlight, temperature, and humidity, all changes that favored the Anopheles.

(Note, too, how dengue fever, also transmitted by mosquitoes, spreads more quickly in urban areas where we also have more stagnant water.)

Let's get back to our current problem with COVID-19.

Disease-causing viruses love crowds because it's our congested conditions that make it easier for them to spread. I worry about some of our barangays, with populations from 30,000 to 250,000, larger than some of the municipalities and even cities. The virus causing COVID-19 generally travels through infectious droplets from patients' coughing and sneezing up to about 6 feet, and I have seen urban poor homes whose length or width, as well as the distance between homes, is less than that.

At least one study has come out, too—the one I read came from Italy—finding that places with more air pollution also had higher infection rates. The study is not conclusive and comes only from one country, but I wouldn't be surprised if there was indeed a link, with COVID-19 mainly affecting the respiratory system.

The quarantine may be helping us battle COVID-19 not just because of physical distancing, but also because it has meant cleaner air. But who knows what will happen when we go back to the “new normal,” which might mean so much of the old “abnormal” in terms of environmental destruction.

Let's tackle coronaviruses, and diseases in general, with a more comprehensive One Health approach.

*mtan@inquirer.com.ph*



## Sinta vs. COVID-19 isinusulong ng women inventors

April 30, 2020 @ 5:55 PM 14 hours ago

Views: 3,479

Manila, Philippines – Itinutulak ng Women Inventors Association of the Philippines, Inc. (WIAPI) ang paggamit ng *Andrographis Paniculata* o Sinta bilang food supplement sa mga pasyente ng coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) sa bansa.

Sa liham na kanyang ipinadala kay Sec. Fortunato Dela Peña ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST) kamakailan, ipinahayag ni Dra. Edinelda O. Calvario ang pagsuporta ng kanilang grupo sa kampanya ng liderato ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na labanan ang global pandemic outbreak.

Ani Dra. Calvario, ang kasalukuyang President ng WIAPI, naniniwala ang Women Inventors na ang raw form ng *Andrographis Paniculata* o Sinta, kilala rin bilang “King of Bitters” ay matagal nang kilala na may medicinal benefits, at matatagpuan sa mga bansa sa Asya, particular sa India.

Ayon sa Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, ang active ingredient ng *andrographis* na *andrographolides* ay may potent anti-inflammatory at antimalarial properties.

Bukod dito, nagtataglay rin ito ng antimicrobial properties na makatutulong para labanan ang impeksyon mula sa mga virus, bacteria at fungi.

Ang *andrographis* ay mahusay na antioxidant laban sa sinasabing ‘free radical induced damage’ sa cells at DNA. Ito ay nagpapalakas sa immune system.

Nakahanda ang grupo ng Women Inventors na pondohan ang isinusulong na panukala bilang ayuda sa patuloy pa ring paglobo ng bilang ng mga pasyente ng COVID- 19 sa bansa na umabot na sa 8,212, batay sa ulat ng Department of Health (DOH) nitong Miyerkoles, April 29.

Binigyang-diin ni Dra. Calvario, kilala bilang ilang dekadang naturopathic doctor, na subok na ng marami ang kanyang Serpetina Tablet na nagmula sa Sinta o *Andrographis Paniculata* bilang pangontra sa iba’t ibang mabigat na karamdaman tulad ng inflammation hanggang cancer. Ang Serpetina tablet na aprobadong Food & Drug Administration ay isa sa mga food supplements na inirerekomenda ni Dra. Calvario sa kanyang programang Healing Galing sa Radyo5 at OnePH at Healing Galing sa TV sa TV5.

Matatandaan na ang Serpetina Herbal Topiceutical na isa pa rin sa mga imbensyon ni Dra. Calvario ay kinilala bilang 2nd Runner-Up sa Likha Award (Creative Research – Private Funded) sa ginanap na 2019 Regional Invention Contest and Exhibits (RICE) ng DOST. *Remate News Team*

Source: <https://remate.ph/sinta-vs-covid-19-isinusulong-ng-women-inventors/>



Pfizer sees vaccine by September; Remdesivir proves effective

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# Pfizer sees vaccine by September; Remdesivir proves effective

[Rainier Allan Ronda](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 1, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Pfizer Inc. has announced it could have a coronavirus vaccine ready by the fall, according to a report in The Daily Mail.

Pfizer chief executive officer Albert Bourla said on Tuesday a coronavirus vaccine for emergency use could be ready by the autumn and for broader roll out by the end of 2020.

It has already started testing the vaccine on humans in Germany with its partner firm BioNTech and hopes to begin testing in America soon.

The company has already started mass manufacturing doses while trials are underway and is aiming to have “hundreds of millions of doses ready for the end of the year.”

Developing vaccinations usually takes many months or years but researchers are hurtling towards human trials. They say the process has been made easier because the virus is not mutating and is similar to other viruses seen in the past.

As many as 100 potential COVID-19 candidate vaccines are now under development by biotech and research teams around the world, and at least five of these are in preliminary testing in people in what are known as Phase 1 clinical trials. Speaking to The Wall Street Journal, Bourla stated: “This is a crisis right now, and a solution is desperately needed by all.”

Meanwhile, the promise of an effective treatment against the coronavirus – an experimental drug that can speed the recovery of COVID-19 patients – raised hopes yesterday for faster progress in battling the pandemic and restoring wrecked economies and livelihoods.

The US government and others say they are working to make the medication available to patients as quickly as possible. News of the major medical advance lifted world markets, outshining gloomy data showing the US economy contracted nearly 5 percent in January-March in the worst downturn since the Great Recession.

Pfizer sees vaccine by September; Remdesivir proves effective

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California-based biotech company Gilead Sciences and the US government reported in a major study run by the US National Institutes of Health that the drug remdesivir shortened the time it takes for COVID-19 patients to recover by four days on average, from 15 days to 11.

The study, involving 1,063 coronavirus patients around the world, also showed a trend toward fewer deaths among those on the drug, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious-disease expert.

"What it has proven is that a drug can block this virus," he said. "This will be the standard of care."

With a vaccine perhaps a year or more away, experts say an effective treatment could have a profound effect on the outbreak. Stocks surged around the world on the news, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average gaining more than 530 points on Wednesday, or over 2 percent.

The virus has killed over 220,000 people worldwide, including more than 60,000 confirmed deaths in the US, and led to lockdowns and other restrictions that have closed factories and other businesses around the globe.

Confirmed infections globally have reached about 3.2 million, including 1 million in the US, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The true numbers of deaths and infections is likely much higher because of limited testing, differences in counting the dead and concealment by some governments.

The US said its gross domestic product, or output of goods and services, shrank at an annual rate of 4.8 percent in the January-March period, the sharpest quarterly drop since the global financial meltdown of more than a decade ago. That was before major shutdowns in many places.

And the worst is yet to come: The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the economy will shrink at a 40 percent annual rate in this quarter.

The latest figures on Americans applying for unemployment benefits came out yesterday, with economists estimating perhaps 1 in 6 workers, or nearly 30 million people, have lost their jobs over the past six weeks.

Mario Franco, who worked at a McDonald's at a rest stop along Interstate 95 in Darien, Connecticut, for 26 years, rising to night manager in charge of the kitchen staff, was laid off in late March. The 50-year-old said he has little savings and now relies on a food bank and union donations.

"They didn't give us any notice," he said through an interpreter. "They didn't tell us about it. Just suddenly the night shift ended and that was it. There was no more work."

The US unemployment rate for April is due late next week, and economists have said it could range as high as 20 percent – a level last seen during the Depression.

Worldwide, the International Labor Organization, the UN labor body, forecast the pandemic has left 1.6 billion people depending on day labor, gig jobs and other informal work in immediate danger of losing their livelihoods. That is nearly half the global workforce of 3.3 billion.

Pushing to reopen the country, President Donald Trump was allowing federal social distancing guidelines to expire yesterday and even saying he plans to travel to Arizona next week.

Trump has laid out plans for returning to pre-virus normalcy despite doctors' warnings that the country needs to embrace extended social distancing and mask wearing. The US virus death toll surpassed his forecast for 60,000 on Wednesday.

Authorities in some areas are opting for greater caution.

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A memo sent to California police chiefs says Gov. Gavin Newsom will order all beaches and state parks closed starting Friday to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Nevada's Gov. Steve Sisolak said he was extending his directive asking people to stay at home until May 15 but easing restrictions on some outdoor activities and some businesses starting Friday.

China reported that its factory activity weakened in April as outbreaks clobbered global consumer demand, hindering efforts to revive the world's second-largest economy. Surveys by a Chinese magazine and an official industry group showed activity slipped back after rebounding in March following the closure of much of China's economy to fight the virus.

In Europe, almost every measure of the economy is in free fall. Figures due to be released Thursday are expected to show a drop of about 4 percent in the first three months of the year in the eurozone. An even steeper hit is projected for this quarter, and unemployment is expected to rise to about 8 percent.

Many economists are skeptical the US economy will bounce back quickly later in the year, noting that the virus could flare up again or consumers and employees might be too worried to return to business as usual.

"The virus has done a lot of damage to the economy, and there is just so much uncertainty now," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the Philippines is preparing to participate in another clinical trial to find an effective vaccine against COVID-19.

Vergeire said the Department of Health (DOH) is undertaking the necessary preparation for the trial for Avigan, a vaccine for influenza.

"We have expressed interest to take participate and we are waiting if the Philippines will be among the countries to receive the first batch of clinical trial to be launched by Japan in collaboration with other countries," Vergeire said.

Vergeire said the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) is studying the protocol for the clinical trial.

The DOH, she said, is also doing the necessary preparations for the clinic trial while waiting for the arrival of vaccine from Japan.

### Coconut oil

Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato dela Peña said that another study by the University of the Philippines-PGH (UP-PGH) will start next week to check the efficacy of virgin coconut oil (VCO) on patients infected with the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Dela Peña, in the Laging Handa morning virtual press briefing, said that the UP-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH) team is just waiting for the approval of the ethics board of the UP-PGH for the start of clinical trials on COVID patients.

He earlier reported that the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is providing a P5-million grant to two separate studies to be conducted to check if VCO could cure COVID-19.

The UP-PGH study on VCO titled "Virgin Coconut Oil and Omega-3a Adjunctive Therapy for Hospitalized Patients with COVID 19," will be headed by Dr. Marissa Alejandria, the president of the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

The other study is to be conducted by the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute, the DOST-Calabarzon, in collaboration with the government of Santa Rosa, Laguna headed by Mayor Arlene Arcillas, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and Medical City South Luzon that would involve 90

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persons under investigation (PUIs) for COVID-19 infection who exhibit symptoms of the virus.

The DOST study was approved by the DOST-FNRI ethics board last week.

Dela Peña said he expects the UP-PGH ethics board to also issue an approval soon.

An ethics committee review is required for the conduct of such clinical trials, Dela Peña said.

“All researches that involve living subjects require ethics clearance. Even animal trials. More so for humans,” he said.

Dela Pena said that the DOST study had enrolled 90 COVID-19 PUIs for the clinical trials.

Aside from the two VCO studies, the DOST is also funding another research on VCO by Prof. Fabian Antonio Dayrit of the Ateneo de Manila University in partnership with the Duke University-National University of Singapore. – **Mayen Jaymalin**

## Muntinlupa, a national finalist in WWF One Planet City Challenge

posted April 30, 2020 at 07:05 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Muntinlupa City has been named as one of the country's finalists in the World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) this year.



The WWF-OPCC is a global competition that recognizes cities with effective climate change action plans. One to three cities per participating country are chosen as finalists.

Over 250 cities from 53 countries, including 13 from the Philippines, joined the 2020 WWF's One Planet City Challenge through the Global Covenant of Mayor's Unified Reporting System hosted by CDP and ICLEI. WWF announced that Muntinlupa City, along with Batangas City and Santa Rosa in Laguna, has been selected as national finalists from the Philippines this year.

Muntinlupa, Batangas City, and Santa Rosa bested other Philippine cities in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions contributing to the global target of keeping the global average temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The OPCC was launched in 2011 originally as the Earth Hour Challenge, a friendly competition wherein cities share best practices in climate mitigation and develop adaptation plans anchored in their crucial role towards building a sustainable and climate-safe future.

"In these trying times, being business-as-usual in the way we do things is no more sufficient to secure a safe and sustainable future. I would like to acknowledge the cities who participated in this initiative for pursuing innovative ways towards sustainable and healthy cities for the current and future generations," WWF-Philippines Executive Director Jose Angelito Palma said.

The country's finalists will be evaluated by the OPCC jury of experts, composed of urban sustainability experts from around the world, who will make the final selection of national winners and one global winner.

The three Philippine cities have also qualified to join the OPCC's We Love Cities campaign, which aims to bridge better communication between city officials and citizens they represent on climate and sustainability issues.

Other OPCC finalists this year are: Argentina: Buenos Aires, Chacabuco and San Martin de los Andes; Brazil: Belo Horizonte, Fortaleza and Rio de Janeiro; Canada: Vancouver; Chile: Peñalolén, Santiago and Valdivia; Colombia: Mantizales, Montería and Villavicencio; Côte d'Ivoire: Commune de Cocody; Ecuador: Municipio de Loja; Finland: Turku; France: Paris; Guatemala: Escuintla, Iztapa and San José; Iceland: Reykjavik; India: Kochi, Nagpur and Rajkot; Indonesia: Balikpapan, Banda Aceh and Jakarta; Malaysia: Melaka, Petaling Jaya and Seberang Perai; Mexico: Hermosillo, Mérida and Mexico City; New Zealand: Wellington City Council; Norway: Arendal and Baerum; Peru: Borja, Lima and Magdalena; Republic of Korea: Suwon City; South Africa: Cape Town, Durban and KwaDukuza; State of Palestine: Abasan Al-Kabira; Sweden: Helsingborg, Uppsala and Växjö; Thailand: Hat Siao, Khonkaen and Patong; Turkey: Bursa, Denizli and Izmir; UK: Greater London, Greater Manchester and Bournemouth-Christchurch-Poole; US: Cleveland, Los Angeles and Park City; and Vietnam: Dong Hoi City.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/322731>

## ‘Munti’ named as WWF award finalist

*posted* April 30, 2020 at 11:05 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Muntinlupa City has been named as one of the country’s finalists in the World Wide Fund for Nature’s One Planet City Challenge this year.

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Muntinlupa, Batangas City and Santa Rosa bested other Philippine cities in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions contributing to the global target of keeping the global average temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

# Heat index recorded at 38°C in Quezon City

Published April 30, 2020 7:37pm

The heat index, or the human-perceived temperature, soared to 38°C in Quezon City on Thursday noon, according to PAGASA.

PAGASA recorded a maximum temperature of 35.1°C at 12:45 p.m.

"Dalasan ang pag-inom ng tubig at bawasan ang physical activities sa tanghali at hapon para maiwasan ang heat stress," the weather agency advised.

*Nasa 38°C ang heat index o alinsangang naramdaman sa Science Garden, Quezon City kaninang 11:30 AM ngayong Huwebes, 30 Abril.*

*PAALALA: Dalasan ang pag-inom ng tubig at bawasan ang physical activities sa tanghali at hapon para maiwasan ang heat stress. Ingat po! [pic.twitter.com/BqkxYyIW0h](https://pic.twitter.com/BqkxYyIW0h)*

— PAGASA-DOST (@dost\_pagasa) [April 30, 2020](#)

Meanwhile, the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) may bring cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms over the Eastern Visayas, Caraga, and Davao region.

Residents were warned against possible flash floods or landslides due to severe thunderstorms.

Cloudy skies with isolated light rains may, meanwhile, prevail over Batanes and the Babuyan Islands due to the Northeasterly Surface Windflow.

Easterlies or localized thunderstorms may also bring partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers over Metro Manila and the rest of the country. —**Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News**

# PHL 'strongly protests' China's self-declared districts in Palawan's Kalayaan Island Group

By [Recto Mercene](#)

April 30, 2020



THE Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Thursday objected to Beijing's recent moves to give Chinese names to some features in the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG), a municipality of the Philippines's Palawan province.

The DFA said "it does not recognize the Chinese names" given to the features, adding: "The Philippine government strongly protests the establishment of the so-called districts of 'Nansha' and 'Xisha' under the supposed administrative jurisdiction of its self-declared 'Sansha City' announced on April 18, 2020, by the People's Republic of China."

Earlier this month, Beijing established the districts of Nansha (Spratly Islands) and Xisha (Paracel Islands), which would be under the administrative jurisdiction of its self-declared Sansha City.

Last week, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., filed two diplomatic protests against China, first on the issue of China's ships pointing a laser gun at Philippine Navy vessels and second, China's naming of Philippine features in the West Philippine Sea.

China's latest moves in the South China Sea is seen as taking advantage of a situation where the Philippines and the rest of the world are preoccupied with the deadly Covid-19, which first emerged from Wuhan City in December last year.

"The Philippines calls on China to adhere to international law, including the UNCLOS [UN Convention on the Law of the Sea], as well as to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, specifically Paragraph 5 thereof, under which parties undertake to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability," said the DFA's Thursday statement.

"The establishment and supposed extent of jurisdiction of 'Sansha City' of which the new two districts are part, violate Philippine territorial sovereignty over the Kalayaan Island Group and Bajo de Masinloc, and infringes on Philippine sovereign rights over the waters and continental shelf in the West Philippine Sea," added the DFA statement.

The DFA said the Philippine government has protested "since 2012 China's unlawful establishment of Sansha City and the extent of its administrative jurisdiction, which encompasses Philippine territory and maritime zones in the West Philippine Sea.



The Philippines also objects to and does not recognize the Chinese names given to some features in the Kalayaan Island Group.

According to the DFA, the International Tribunal in The Hague has comprehensively addressed China's excessive claims and illegal actions in the South China Sea.

The Philippines protested as well the illegal designation of Kagitingan Reef within the KIG as administrative center for the so-called "Nansha district".

"Kagitingan Reef is within the Kalayaan Island Group and is thus an integral part of Philippine territory."

# China's self-declared districts in South China Sea illegal, says DFA

Published April 30, 2020 4:52pm

By [MICHAELA DEL CALLAR](#)

The Philippines on Thursday said it "strongly protests" China's unilateral establishment of two administrative zones in the disputed South China Sea, calling it "illegal" and an infringement on Manila's sovereignty.

China announced on April 18 that its so-called districts of "Nansha" and "Xisha" will have authority over the Spratlys and the Paracels, respectively, under the authority of the local government in Sansha, a city in the southern island of Hainan.

Beijing also gave Chinese names to the features in the disputed waters - a move rejected by Manila.

"The Philippine government has protested since 2012 China's unlawful establishment of Sansha City and the extent of its administrative jurisdiction, which encompasses Philippine territory and maritime zones in the West Philippine Sea. It does not recognize Sansha, nor its constituent units, nor any subsequent acts emanating from them," the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement a week after filing a diplomatic protest on China's action.

"The Philippines protests as well the illegal designation of Kagitingan Reef within the KIG as administrative center for the so-called "Nansha district." Kagitingan Reef is within the Kalayaan Island Group and is thus an integral part of Philippine territory," it added.

Manila also said that it "objects to and does not recognize the Chinese names given to some features in the Kalayaan Island Group."

China, the Philippines, 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 in 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.

China's recent move to bring all its claimed territories under the control of two districts was a way of reinforcing their nine-dash line claim, which is considered excessive and a violation of international law.

China's self-declared districts in South China Sea

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Beijing's so-called nine-dash line is a U-shaped map that covers nearly 90 percent of the South China Sea.

"The establishment and supposed extent of jurisdiction of 'Sansha City' of which the new two districts are part, violate Philippine territorial sovereignty over the Kalayaan Island Group and Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), and infringes on Philippine sovereign rights over the waters and continental shelf in the West Philippine Sea," the DFA said.

Citing the arbitral decision, the DFA reminded Beijing that the tribunal has already "comprehensively addressed China's excessive claims and illegal actions in the South China Sea."

"The Philippines calls on China to adhere to international law, including the UNCLOS, as well as to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, specifically Paragraph 5 thereof, under which parties undertake to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability," the DFA said. — **RSJ, GMA News**

# Philippines 'strongly' protests China declaration of 2 new districts in South China Sea

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 30 2020 05:10 PM



MANILA – The Philippines said Thursday it was "strongly" protesting China's creation of 2 new districts in South China Sea, as it encompasses Philippine territory and maritime zones in the West Philippine Sea.

"The Philippine government strongly protests the establishment of the so-called districts of "Nansha" and "Xisha" under the supposed administrative jurisdiction of its self-declared "Sansha City" announced on 18 April 2020, by the People's Republic of China," the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a statement.

"It does not recognize Sansha, nor its constituent units, nor any subsequent acts emanating from them," DFA added.

The DFA said that the creation of Sansha City "violates Philippine territorial sovereignty over the Kalayaan Island Group and Bajo de Masinloc, and infringes on Philippine sovereign rights over the waters and continental shelf in the West Philippine Sea."

The Philippine government also objects and does not recognize the Chinese names given to some features in the Kalayaan Island Group. It also protests the illegal designation of Kagitingan Reef within the Kalayaan Island Group as administrative center of "Nansha" district.

The Philippine government earlier filed diplomatic protests against China on the issue, as well as over the pointing of a radar gun at a Philippine Navy ship in Philippine waters.

The DFA invoked the arbitral win of the Philippines under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), saying it "has comprehensively addressed China's excessive claims and illegal actions in the South China Sea."

"The Philippines calls on China to adhere to international law, including the UNCLOS, as well as to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, specifically Paragraph 5 thereof, under which parties undertake to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability," the DFA said.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea and has been ignoring a July 2016 ruling of a United Nations-backed arbitral tribunal invalidating its nine-dash line claim.

On April 23, the United States accused China of taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic by "exerting military pressure and coercing its neighbors" in the South China Sea.

In a statement, US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo urged other nations to make China accountable as he enumerated recent incidents of the Asian power's "provocative behavior."

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This includes the establishment of administrative districts in the South China Sea, the sinking of a Vietnamese fishing vessel, the establishment of “research stations” on Fiery Cross Reef and Subi Reef, deployment of maritime militia around the Spratly Islands and a flotilla to prevent other claimants from engaging in offshore hydrocarbon development.

Former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario has expressed support for the DFA’s move, accusing China of “exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic” in pursuing its illegal and expansive claims” in the South China Sea, “to the prejudice of Filipinos, the ASEAN states and the international community.

Del Rosario also urged Filipinos to remain vigilant “in the defense of our country’s territory and sovereign rights even as we confront a very grave threat as COVID-19.”

“As we struggle against a pandemic that poses a real threat to our lives, we must not also risk losing our national patrimony upheld by international law and meant for present and future generations of Filipinos,” del Rosario previously said.

– With a report from Willard Cheng, ABS-CBN News

## PROTEST | Philippines rejects China's moves to give Chinese names on features in disputed sea

April 30, 2020 , 07:50 PM

By Manny Mogato, News5 editor-at-large

(April 30, 2020) – The Philippines strongly objected China's recent move to declare two districts in the contested South China Sea as well as give Chinese names to dozens of half-submerged reefs, atolls and small islands.

Last week, Manila filed a diplomatic protest against Beijing after it created "Nansha" and "Xisha" districts in the South China Sea, which covers the Philippine-occupied territories in the Spratly, known as Kalayaan Island Group as well as the Scarborough shoal in Luzon.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) issued a statement on Thursday, re-asserting its territorial claims on the strategic waterway believed to have rich deposits of energy and mineral resources.

"The Philippines also objects to and does not recognize the Chinese names given to some features in the Kalayaan Island Group," the foreign affairs said in a statement.

"The establishment and supposed extent of jurisdiction of "Sansha City" of which the new two districts are part, violate Philippine territorial sovereignty over the Kalayaan Island Group and Bajo de Masinloc, and infringes on Philippine sovereign rights over the waters and continental shelf in the West Philippine Sea."

China claims almost the entire South China Sea where an estimated \$3 trillion worth of sea-borne goods pass every year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have conflicting claims in the sea.

The Philippines also called on China "to adhere to international law, including the UNCLOS, as well as to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, specifically Paragraph 5 thereof, under which parties undertake to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability."

The Philippine government has protested since 2012 China's unlawful establishment of Sansha City and the extent of its administrative jurisdiction, which encompasses Philippine territory and maritime zones in the West Philippine Sea.

"It does not recognize Sansha, nor its constituent units, nor any subsequent acts emanating from them," it added.

The Philippines also protested the illegal designation of Kagitingan Reef within the KIG as administrative center for the so-called "Nansha district".

Kagitingan Reef is within the Kalayaan Island Group and is thus an integral part of Philippine territory, the DFA said.

In July 2016, the Philippines won unanimous award issued by an international tribunal, constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in an arbitration case filed by the Philippines to complain China's excessive claims and illegal actions in the South China Sea.

China did not recognize the court's ruling and the administration of Rodrigo Duterte did not insist to invoke the ruling and force China to comply with the court's decision.

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/manila-rejects-china-move-to-give-chinese-names-on-islands-in-disputed-waters-after-protest?fbclid=IwAR2aKsOsBPBK7fclfoAsYwohoFSWJ67gS7hcAmAfsiJkgUAKzs3gULGqXxo>

# Less air pollution means thousands fewer die

Published April 30, 2020, 9:12 AM

By Agence France-Presse

European countries under coronavirus lockdown have seen 11,000 fewer deaths in April compared to the same period last year due to a sharp drop in fossil fuel pollution, according to research released Friday.



An unintended boon of shuttered factories along with empty roads and skies has been more breathable air (AFP/File / JACQUES DEMARTHON / MANILA BULLETIN)

Measures to halt the spread of coronavirus have slowed the region's economies to a crawl, with coal-generated power falling by nearly 40 percent, and oil consumption by a third.

Globally, oil use has declined by about the same amount, with drops in coal consumption varying by region. An unintended boon of shuttered factories and empty roads has been more breathable air.

Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and small particle pollution known as PM<sub>2.5</sub> — both toxic by-products burning coal, oil and gas — fell 37 and 10 percent, respectively, according to the findings.

"The impacts are the same or bigger in many other parts of the world," lead author Lauri Myllyvirta, senior analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), told AFP.

In China, for example, NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels declined by a 25 and 40 percent during the most stringent period of lockdown, with an even sharper fall in Hubei Province, where the global pandemic began.

"So we are looking at an even larger number of avoided deaths," Myllyvirta said.

Air pollution shortens lives worldwide by nearly three years on average, and causes 8.8 million premature deaths annually, according to a study last month.

The World Health Organization (WHO) calculates 4.2 million deaths, but has underestimated the impact on cardiovascular disease, recent research has shown.

Worst-hit is Asia, where average lifespan is cut 4.1 years in China, 3.9 years in India, and 3.8 years in Pakistan. In Europe, life expectancy is shortened by eight months.

"Our analysis highlights tremendous benefits for public health and quality of life that could be achieved by rapidly reducing fossil fuels in a sustained and sustainable way," Myllyvirta said.

## Pollution and COVID-19

The happenstance evidence that less air pollution saves lives should guide governments deciding on how to reboot their economies, noted Maria Neira, the WHO's director for Environmental and Social Determinants of Health.

"When we eventually take off our face masks, we want to keep breathing clean air," she said, commenting on the findings.



“If we truly care about the health of our communities, countries and global commons, we must find ways of powering the planet with out relying on fossil fuels.”

Compared to other causes of premature death, air pollution worldwide kills 19 times more people each year than malaria, nine times more than HIV/AIDS, and three times more than alcohol.

Another study comparing more than 3,000 US counties, meanwhile, found that PM 2.5 pollution is directly linked with higher COVID-19 death rates.

One extra micron per cubic metre corresponded to a 15 percent jump in COVID-19 mortality, researchers at the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health reported earlier this month.

The results “suggest that long-term exposure to air pollution increases vulnerability to experiencing the most severe Covid-19 outcomes,” they wrote.

PM 2.5 particles penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, causing cardiovascular respiratory problems.

In 2013, the WHO classified it as a cancer-causing agent.

In India’s Uttar Pradesh — home to 200 million — small particle pollution by itself slashes life expectancy by 8.5 years, while in China’s Hebei Province (population 74 million) the shortfall is nearly six years, according to the Air Quality Life Index, developed by researchers at the Energy Policy Institute of Chicago.

All but two percent of China’s cities exceeded WHO guidelines for PM2.5 levels, while 53 percent exceeded less stringent national safety limits.

The UN says PM2.5 density should not top 25 microgrammes per cubic metre (25 mcg/m<sup>3</sup>) of air in any 24-hour period. China has set the bar at 35 mcg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The new analysis from CREA matches weather conditions and changes in emissions to data on the damages to health linked to exposure to air pollution.



Coronavirus lockdown: Less air pollution means  
thousands fewer die

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DATE

# Coronavirus lockdown: Less air pollution means thousands fewer die

Agence France-Presse / 02:32 PM April 30, 2020



An unintended boon of shuttered factories along with empty roads and skies has been more breathable air. AFP PHOTO

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Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1267337/coronavirus-lockdown-less-air-pollution-means-thousands-fewer-die#ixzz6L5ActZ9Y>

# Lesser pollution means fewer deaths

Published 2 hours ago

on May 1, 2020 03:50 AM

By **Agence France-Presse**



Compared to other causes of premature death, air pollution worldwide kills 19 times more people each year than malaria (AFP Photo)

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Virus pushes Indonesia zoo animals to brink of  
starvation

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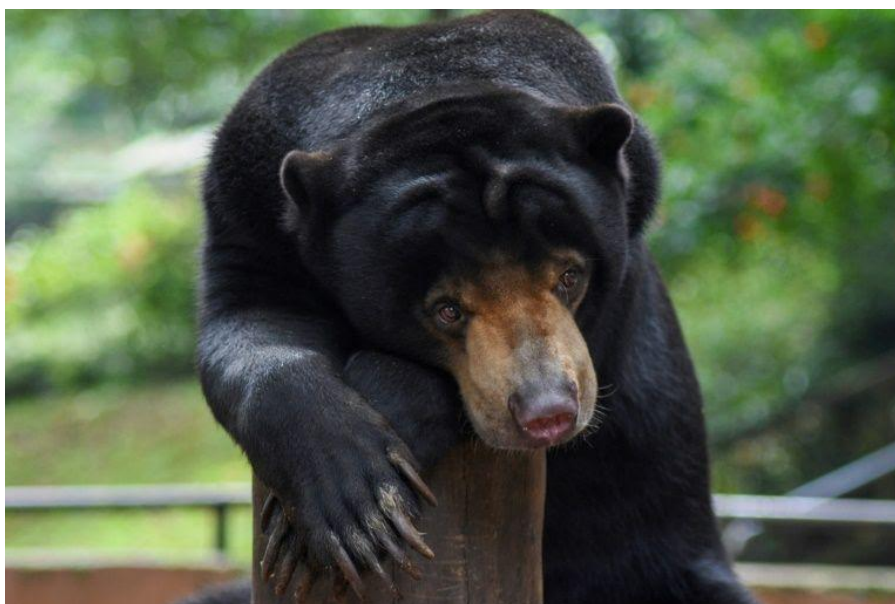
May 1, 2020  
DATE

# Virus pushes Indonesia zoo animals to brink of starvation

Published April 30, 2020, 5:06 PM

By *Agence France-Presse*

Thousands of animals, including endangered Sumatran tigers and Bornean orangutans, are facing starvation at Indonesia's zoos as the global pandemic pushes shuttered facilities toward collapse, officials say.



Some 60 cash-strapped animal parks — home to roughly 70,000 creatures — across the Southeast Asian archipelago have been closed since mid-March (AFP Photo/TIMUR MATAHARI / MANILA BULLETIN)

Some 60 cash-strapped animal parks — home to roughly 70,000 creatures — across the Southeast Asian archipelago have been closed since mid-March and most say they have only enough food until the middle of May.

“Most zoos relied on ticket sales so when they closed everything collapsed,” said Indonesian Zoo Association spokesman Sulhan Syafi’i.

“We’ve had to rely on creativity to survive,” he added.

This month, a German zoo director warned some animals might have to be sacrificed to feed others, and Indonesia’s zoo association acknowledged a similar “worst-case scenario”.

“If a few more months pass and we don’t get any aid from the government or other international organizations, then with a heavy heart we’ll have to feed herbivores...to the carnivores,” Syafi’i said.

Zoo keepers have taken up the task of collecting grass and plants to boost food stocks for giraffes and other herbivores.

Red-meat portions for tigers and other carnivores have been cut by supplementing their feed with poultry, he said.

And staff — already hit by slashed wages and working hours — have even dipped into their own personal chicken stocks.

“That’s enough to extend the lifeline,” Syafi’i said.

Still, it won’t replace revenue generated by 50 million annual visitors at Indonesia’s zoos, and some are eyeing drastic measures as they rely on public donations and appeal to the national government for emergency aid.

“We can put down wildlife that is not endemic” to Indonesia, Syafi’i said.



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“But for wildlife endemic to Indonesia, like Sumatran tigers, we must do whatever it takes to save them. It’s sad, but at this point we need to start thinking about priorities.”

In Thailand, some animal parks are relying on private donations to keep the creatures fed.

“Every private zoo is affected,” said Nantakorn Phatnamrob, owner of now-closed Chang Siam Park in Pattaya, where tourists used to ride elephants, snap selfies with tiger cubs, and see snapping crocodiles.

In neighboring Malaysia, the zoo association has appealed for funds to try and avoid drastic choices about which animals live or die.

“If the (shutdown) continues to June or July, there will be some problems,” said Kevin Lazarus, chairman of the Malaysian Association of Zoological parks and Aquaria.

“But we’re not at that point yet. We’re trying to mitigate...so we don’t come to that kind of scenario.”

# Virus pushes Indonesia zoo animals to brink of starvation

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Apr 30 2020 09:01 PM



This picture taken on April 25, 2020 shows a worker feeding leaves to a tapir at the zoo in Bandung, West Java. Indonesian officials said on April 30 that some 60 cash-strapped animal parks -- home to roughly 70,000 creatures -- across the Southeast Asian archipelago have been closed since mid-March and most say they have only enough food until the middle of May. *Timur Matahari, AFP*

BANDUNG, Indonesia - Thousands of animals, including endangered Sumatran tigers and Bornean orangutans, are facing starvation at Indonesia's zoos as the global pandemic pushes shuttered facilities toward collapse, officials say.

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# Thunberg donates \$100,000 to support children

Published 3 hours ago

on May 1, 2020 03:00 AM

By **Agence France-Presse**



SWEDISH climate activist Greta Thunberg donates a \$100,000 prize she won from a Danish foundation to the United Nations Children's Fund for use against the COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS, United States (AFP) — Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has donated a \$100,000 prize she won from a Danish foundation to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for use against the COVID-19 pandemic, the world body said Thursday.

"Like the climate crisis, the coronavirus pandemic is a child rights crisis," Thunberg, 17, was quoted as saying in the UNICEF statement.

"It will affect all children, now and in the long term, but vulnerable groups will be impacted the most," she added.

"I'm asking everyone to step up and join me in support of UNICEF's vital work to save children's lives, to protect health and continue education."

The Danish anti-poverty non-governmental organization, Human Act, will match the \$100,000 donation, the statement added.

UNICEF said the funds would give it a boost as it struggles to support children impacted by anti-virus lockdowns and school closures, particularly in the fields of "food shortages, strained health care systems, violence and lost education."

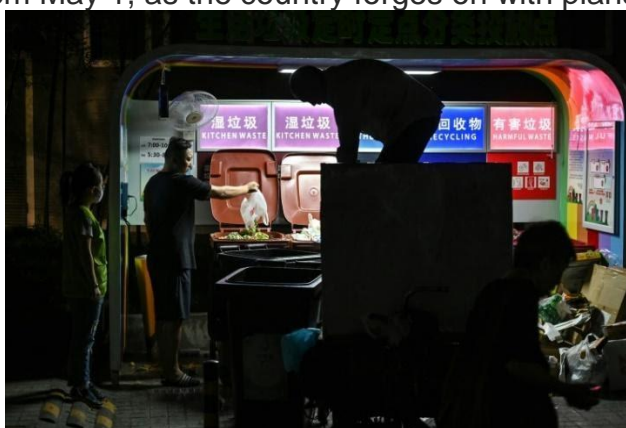
Thunberg said at the end of March that she had "likely" contracted the coronavirus, after experiencing several symptoms after a trip to central Europe.

# China's capital clamps down on single-use items to fight waste

Published April 30, 2020, 4:28 PM

By Agence France-Presse

China's capital is clamping down on single-use items such as plastic cutlery and toothbrushes in the food and hotel industries from May 1, as the country forges on with plans to cut waste.



Cities across China are rolling out waste management measures to curb the huge amounts of garbage produced in the country (AFP/File / HECTOR RETAMAL / MANILA BULLETIN)

Starting Friday, restaurants, delivery services and hotels in Beijing are not to supply such disposable items unless customers ask for them.

The restrictions in Beijing follow a government plan announced in January that aimed to slash disposable plastic utensils used by the takeaway food industry in China's major cities by 30 percent within five years.

Those who repeatedly violate the new rules in Beijing could face fines between 10,000 yuan and 50,000 yuan (\$1,400 to \$7,000).

China is trying to reduce the massive amount of domestic waste it produces with such measures. Its National Bureau of Statistics reported that China produced around 228 million tonnes of garbage in 2018.

Residential waste in Beijing alone amounted to some 10 million tonnes last year, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

The capital — home to 21 million people — will also roll out mandatory garbage sorting from Friday for both residences and commercial operations.

Other major Chinese cities, including the financial hub Shanghai, have already implemented waste-sorting policies.

In its waste-cutting push, the Chinese government also said in January that the production and sale of disposable polystyrene and plastic tableware will be banned by the end of the year.

National plans also aim to ban single-use straws in the food and beverage industry this year.

A family pet could relieve stress for parents of kids

May 1, 2020

TITLE: with autism - study

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# A family pet could relieve stress for parents of kids with autism — study

AFP Relaxnews / 06:00 PM April 30, 2020



Having a family pet could ease stress for families of children with autism, according to new research. Image: Istock.com/wundervisuals

New United States research has found that for families where a child has autism, a family pet could help relieve stress for both parents and kids.

Carried out by researchers at the University of Missouri, the new study looked at 764 families of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and surveyed them about the benefits and drawbacks of having a family dog or cat.

The findings, published in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, showed that although having an animal can bring extra responsibility, a family pet did not increase parents' stress levels, and both children and their parents reported strong bonds with their pet. In fact, parents with more pets (both a dog and a cat) reported more benefits than those who only had one dog or cat, and parents who perceived more benefits also reported less stress.

The survey responses also revealed that dog owners reported more benefits than cat owners, and parents with lower incomes reported bigger benefits of having an animal and stronger bonds between their children and the family pet.

As parents of children with autism often report higher levels of stress, on average, than parents of children without ASD, the findings suggest that a family pet could help ease feelings of being overwhelmed and offer a source of comfort for the whole family.

“Given that the characteristics of autism spectrum disorder are so broad, it can be difficult to identify interventions that are widely beneficial,” said author Gretchen Carlisle. “Some of the core challenges that children with autism face include anxiety and difficulty communicating. As pets can help increase social interaction and decrease anxiety, we found that they are not only helpful in providing comfort and support to children with autism, but to their parents as well.”

For parents who are thinking about getting a pet, Carlisle recommends including children in the decision and making sure the pet's personality and activity level is a good match with the child's.

“Some kids with autism have specific sensitivities, so a big, loud dog that is highly active might cause sensory overload for a particular child, while a quiet cat may be a better fit,” Carlisle said. **RGA**

Read more: <https://technology.inquirer.net/98956/a-family-pet-could-relieve-stress-for-parents-of-kids-with-autism-study#ixzz6L8QFLweq>