

# Injured juvenile eagle in Sultan Kudarat turned over to PEF

Published May 10, 2020, 2:30 AM

By Ivy Tejano

DAVAO CITY – A rescued Philippine Eagle from Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat was turned over on May 7, Thursday, to members of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 11 in Sta. Cruz town in Davao del Sur.



(Photos credits to Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF)/ MANILA BULLETIN)

The rescued eagle was turned over between the borders of Davao City and Digos City in compliance with the restrictions under the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

In the official Facebook page of the DENR-Davao, the agency, which fetched the eagle, was represented by two members of the Davao City Environment and Natural Resources (Cenro) as instructed by DENR- Davao Regional Executive Director Ruth Tawantawan and Provincial ENRO officer Pablito Ofrecia.

According to the report, the seemingly weak juvenile eagle was found by local Mastura Sugkan near a river in Barangay Kalongkulong in Palimbang town last April 17.

The following day, Sugkan reported recovering the eagle to the Palimbang Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (Menro), which eventually took custody of the juvenile eagle.

The eagle was given first aid intervention, and was under constant monitoring by a veterinarian while under the custody of the Palimbang-Menro.

But the caged raptor reportedly grew weaker, requiring its emergency transport to the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Barangay Malagos, Calinan District in Davao City, for more thorough medical care.

Injured juvenile eagle in Sultan Kudarat turned over to

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A coordination was then made between the DENR-11 and 12 and the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in Davao City through its Research and Conservation Director Dr. Jason Ibañez.

Davao Cenro members Gemma Fernandez and Bryan Limpao turned over the juvenile eagle to PEC-Davao in Calinan right after it was fetched from Sta. Cruz on May 7. The eagle was immediately assessed of its wounds, and treated.

Ibañez said though there was no reported injury, the eagle's physical examination result states that it has "very weak and sunken eyes, very dry mouth and ears" which suggest severe dehydration, adding that its overall body condition is also indicative of severe emaciation and malnutrition.

The veterinarian's prognosis on the eagle is not good. "[But] we still hope for the best. Fingers crossed," Ibañez said.

With the aim to save the Philippine Eagle and nurture it back to its good health, the DENR regions 11 and 12 and the PEF vowed to intensively take care of the rescued eagle and will closely monitor its progress.

# Sea turtle freed after being trapped in fish cage in Negros town

Published May 10, 2020, 12:52 AM

By *Glazyl Masculino*

BACOLOD CITY – A sea turtle was released back into the sea after it got trapped in a fish cage in Barangay Pasil, E.B. Magalona, Negros Occidental on Friday.



A fisherman checks on the sea turtle rescued after it was trapped in a fish cage at Barangay Pasil, E.B. Magalona, Negros Occidental Friday. (Photo courtesy of Emz Dajay / Cheng Yajad Ondrade via Jojo Vargas's Facebook/MANILA BULLETIN)

Environment Management Specialist II (EMS II) Jojo Vargas, said the turtle was unharmed when it was rescued by some fishermen.

The reptile was 2.5 feet long and 1.5 feet wide.

Vargas said the turtle was physically fit.

It was the biggest sea turtle trapped in their fish cage in the said village, he added.

He thanked the fisherfolks for their efforts in marine life conservation.

# Floating dead whale discovered in Surigao Sur town

By Alexander Lopez **May 9, 2020, 6:36 pm**



**DEAD WHALE.** Local fishermen in Barangay Baculin, Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur discovered Saturday morning (May 9) a floating dead whale. Authorities are still looking into the cause of the death of the sea mammal. *(Photo courtesy of SDSPPPO)*

**BUTUAN CITY** – Residents of a fishing village in Hinatuan town, Surigao del Sur, found a floating dead whale Saturday morning.

Surigao del Sur Provincial Police Office (SDSPPO) director Col. James Goforth said personnel of Hinatuan Municipal Police Office (HMPO) was alerted of the floating carcass discovered by fishermen at around 6:10 a.m. in Sitio Gacubay, Barangay Baculin.

HMPO report said the whale is estimated to be 17 meters long. No other details were provided by the local police as they wait for the proper authorities to arrive.

“The recovered dead whale is now under the custody of the Municipal Fisheries Office of Hinatuan town for proper disposition,” Goforth said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Caraga (DENR-13) regional executive director Felix Alicer said he has already instructed the provincial office in Surigao del Sur to look into the matter. **(PNA)**

# BFAR rescues Pygmy sperm whale, sea turtle in Ilocos

By: [Yolanda Sotelo](#) - Correspondent / [@yzsoteloINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 01:33 PM May 09, 2020



This female Pygmy sperm whale, which is 2.1 meters long, was stranded on Thursday in Sulvec, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur and was brought to the BFAR provincial fisheries office. (Photo from BFAR Provincial Fisheries Office in Ilocos Sur)

DAGUPAN CITY — A Pygmy sperm whale and a green sea turtle were rescued by personnel of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The female Pygmy sperm whale, which is 2.17 meters long, was stranded on Thursday in Sulvec, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, and was brought to the BFAR provincial Fisheries office there by Philippine Coast Guard personnel.

In this city, the BFAR research center served as a temporary shelter for the stranded female green sea turtle, which weighs 3 kilos and is 33 centimeters long.



Sea turtle. This stranded female green sea turtle, which weighs 3 kilos and is 33 centimeters long, has been rescued and brought to BFAR center in Dagupan City. (Photo from Facebook account of Westly Rosario, BFAR research center chief)

It was found on the beach off Rabon in San Fabian, Pangasinan, and was brought by municipal Fisheries officer Johnny Jaguillon to the BFAR center for rehabilitation.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1272266/bfar-rescues-pygmy-sperm-whale-sea-turtle-in-ilocos#ixzz6LzAMfVRc>



## EDITORIAL - Malulunod naman sa plastic na basura

(Pilipino Star Ngayon ) - May 10, 2020 - 12:00am

Bumababa na umano ang kaso ng COVID-19 ayon sa Department of Health (DOH). Magandang pangitain ito na malapit nang makabalik sa normal na pamumuhay ang mga Pilipino.

Kapag wala na ang COVID-19, balik uli sa da-ting problema ang bansa lalo na ngayong palapit na ang tag-ulan na ang dala ay perwisyong baha.

Maraming sakit din ang dulot ng baha gaya ng dengue at leptospirosis. At sana bago manalasa ang baha, matapos nang tuluyan ang pananalasa ng COVID-19 na sa kasalukuyan ay mahigit 10,000 na ang kaso sa bansa.

Kahapon, may namataang low pressure area (LPA) malapit sa Mindanao pero sabi ng PAGASA, hindi raw itong magiging bagyo. Sa unang linggo pa umano ng Hunyo inaasahan ang pag-ulan. Kaya, tiyak nang ang susunod na problema ng mga Pilipino lalo ang taga-Metro Manila ay ang baha at mga sakit na kasama nito.

Isang magandang pagkakataon para sa Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang paglilinis sa mga baradong drainage sa Metro Manila habang may community quarantine. Dahil wala pang mga sasakyan sa kalsada, nararapat samantalain ito ng DPWH at MMDA para magsagawa ng de-clogging sa mga imburnal.

Ang mga nakabarang basura ang dahilan kaya binabaha ang Metro Manila. Karamihan sa mga basurang nasa drainage ay plastic – groceries at shopping bags, sachet ng shampoo, coffee, catsup, cup ng noodles, botelya ng softdrinks at marami pang iba. Ang mga estero ay namumutiktik sa basurang plastic na isinusuka naman sa Manila Bay.

Ang Pilipinas ay ikatlo sa mga bansa sa Asia na maraming plastic na basura. Nangunguna ang China at pumapangalawa ang Indonesia. Katibayan na maraming basurang plastic sa karagatan ng Pilipinas ay ang mga nakukuha sa Manila Bay. Galing ang mga basurang ito sa mga estero. Itinapon ng mga informal settlers at iba pang walang disiplina.

Noong nakaraang taon, sinabi ni President Duterte na balak niyang ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastic. Sana, magkatotoo ang kanyang balak sapagkat ang problema sa plastic pollution ay lumulubha. Dapat, magkaroon nang mahigpit na batas ukol dito sapagkat darating ang panahon na hindi lamang sa baha malulunod ang mga Pilipino kundi pati na rin sa plastic na basura.

# Pagpapanagot sa mga nagpatupad ng water interruption kahit may lockdown pag-aaralan

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 09 2020 06:19 PM

MAYNILA - Pinag-aaralan na ng water regulatory body ng gobyerno kung mapapanagot ang mga concessionaire na nagsagawa ng water interruption kahit pa man may enhanced community quarantine sa ilang lugar sa bansa.

"I'm asking na pag-aaralan kung mayroon ngang violations and if a penalty is really required, so I leave it to the regulatory office to determine kung ano yung extent of any penalty or violation," ani Emmanuel Salamat, administrator ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Maaalalang nagkaroon ng emergency water interruption sa ilang lugar sa Kamaynilaan, partikular na ang mga sineserbisyuhan ng Maynilad.

Nag-anunsiyo sila ng water service interruption sa kanilang Facebook page simula Huwebes, kung saan ipinaliwanag nilang bumaba ang lebel ng tubig sa kanilang mga water reservoir.

"Dahil sa init ng panahon napalakas ang demand for water at this time. Bukod sa mainit ng panahon, mas marami ring nangangailangan ng tubig sa ngayon because of the need to sanitize," ani Jennifer Rufo, corporate communications chief ng Maynilad.

Noon na rin nilang itinuro sa mataas na demand ng tubig dala ng lockdown ang dahilan kung bakit bumaba ang suplay ng tubig.

Pinaghahandaan na rin ng MWSS at mga water concessionaire ang inaasahang pagtaas ng demand sa tubig, sakaling malipat sa general community quarantine ang Metro Manila.

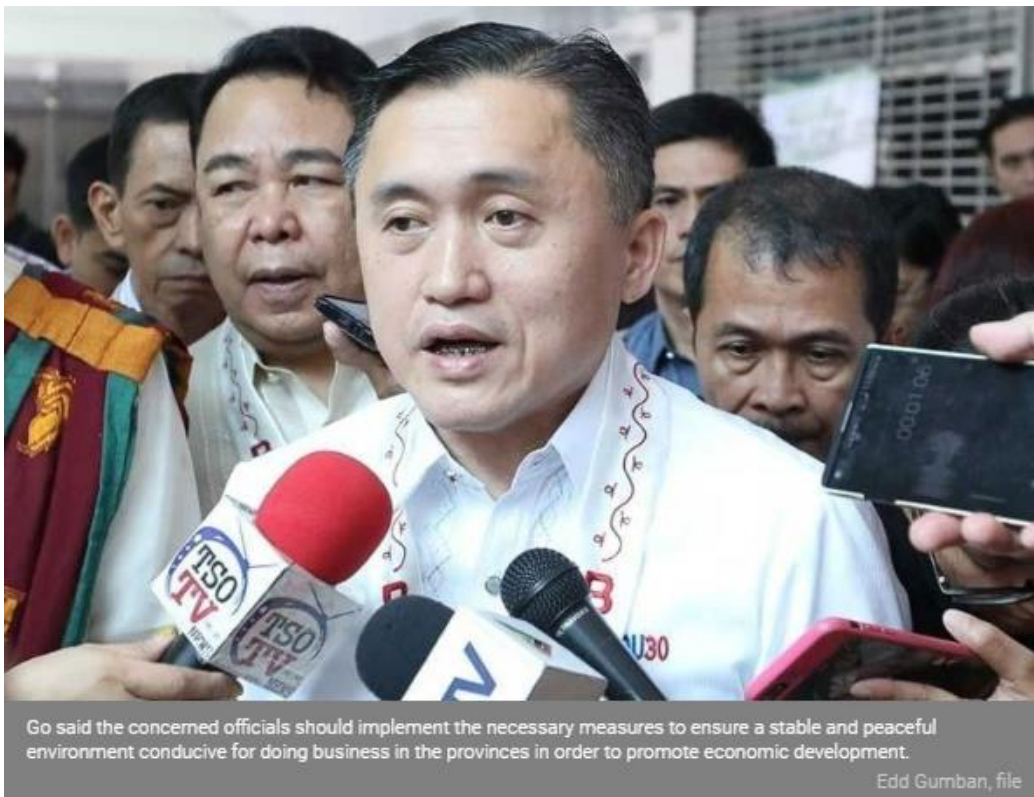
"So pagdating ng GCQ, yung normal na tinatawag natin so tataas na naman yung demand kasama na yung commercial so babalik yung 30 percent na yun sa commercial and industrial area," ani Salamat.

Kaya anila, asahan ang pagpalawig ng rotational water interruption sa GCQ para makontrol ang suplay at maiwasang tuluyang bumaba ang lebel ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam.

Tiniyak naman ng National Water Resources Board na sapat ang tubig sa nasabing dam kahit pa tumaas ang demand.

Nanawagan ang NWRB at MWSS na maging masinop sa paggamit ng suplay ng tubig para mapanatiling sapat ang suplay ngayong may banta ng coronavirus. -- **Ulat ni April Raffles, ABS-CBN News**





## Ensure peace, order to make 'Balik Probinsya' work

[Cecille Suerte Felipe](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 10, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Bong Go urged the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), local officials and law enforcers to maintain peace and order to ensure the success of the “Balik Probinsya” Program (BPP).

Go said the concerned officials should implement the necessary measures to ensure a stable and peaceful environment conducive for doing business in the provinces in order to promote economic development.

“Maintaining peace and order and providing security in communities lead to better quality of life, more economic opportunities and smoother business operations,” Go said.

The presence of criminal elements and lawlessness in some areas in the countryside is a major concern for businesses and families to relocate to these provinces.

“One of the requirements to have a healthy business environment is peace and order and proper implementation of laws. That’s why it is necessary to ensure proper implementation of laws in the provinces to make it more attractive for investors,” he said.

Citing his experience as long-time aide of President Duterte during their days in Davao City, Go stressed that genuine and sustainable progress could be achieved if peace and order concerns are addressed.

Go also echoed the sentiments of DILG Secretary Eduardo Año that a stable peace and order situation is crucial in the success of the proposed BPP.

Año mentioned in a statement that the government should promote peace and order in the provinces to entice investors under a post-community quarantine scenario.

He also encouraged local governments to start thinking of ways on how to prepare for Balik Probinsya.

In his previous pronouncements, Go has earnestly sought the implementation of BPP to decongest Metro Manila and bring economic prosperity to the countryside.

Last May 6, Duterte issued Executive Order 114 institutionalizing the Balik Probinsya, Balik Pag-asa Program and creating a council therefor.

“Congestion and overcrowding are among the factors in the spread of COVID-19 in Metro Manila. Experts claim more pandemics will be experienced in the future. Thus we need to be more proactive and to have long-lasting solutions to make us more prepared,” Go said.

Go emphasized that the need to develop the countryside should be consistent with the policy direction of President Duterte in order to create robust economic activities and wealth generation outside Metro Manila and other urban centers.

# Peace and order vital to 'Balik Probinsya' initiative

Published 12 hours ago  
on May 9, 2020 06:38 PM

By **Agence France-Presse**



As the Philippines prepares for the “new normal” amid the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the peace and order situation has been an integral part especially under the enhanced community quarantine imposed in some parts of the country.

In this light, Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go on Saturday emphasized that maintaining peace and order as well as enforcing the rule of law is important as various departments under the Executive branch prepare for the short-term and long-term implementation of the “Balik Probinsya” program.

In a statement, the senator said that the success of the program in the countryside lies on the peace and order situation and it is up to concerned government agencies to ensure it is done.

Go also urged the Department of the Interior and Local Government, local government units and law enforcers to implement necessary measures to ensure a stable and peaceful environment conducive for doing business in the provinces in order to promote economic development.

“Maintaining peace and order and providing security in communities lead to better quality of life, more economic opportunities and smoother business operations,” said Go, adding that the presence of criminal elements and lawlessness in some areas in the countryside is a major concern for businesses and families to relocate back to these provinces.

Citing his experience as long-time aide of President Rodrigo Duterte during their days in Davao City, Go stressed that genuine and sustainable progress can be achieved if peace and order concerns are addressed.

The senator also echoed the sentiments of DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año that a stable peace and order situation is crucial in the success of the proposed “Balik Probinsya” program.

To recall, Año mentioned that the government should promote peace and order in the provinces to entice investors under a post-community quarantine scenario as he encouraged LGUs to start thinking of ways on how to prepare for Balik Probinsya.

Previously, Go earnestly sought the implementation of a “Balik Probinsya” program to decongest Metro Manila and bring about economic prosperity in the countryside and on 6 May, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order 114 institutionalizing the Balik Probinsya, Balik Pag-asa Program and creating a council therefor.

He also emphasized that the need to develop the countryside should be consistent with the policy direction of Duterte in order to create robust economic activities and wealth generation outside Metro Manila or other urban centers.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/05/09/peace-and-order-vital-to-balik-probinsya-initiative/>

# Metro mayors lay down 3 recommendations to IATF on NCR lockdown

By: [Katrina Hallare](#) - Reporter / [@KHallareINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:02 PM May 09, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Instead of deciding whether or not the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila will be extended after May 15, the region's 17 mayors will recommend three scenarios to the government's COVID-19 task force on the fate of the isolation period.

This was announced by Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Jojo Garcia in an online press briefing Saturday, adding that the mayors "unanimously" voted for the recommendations during the Metro Manila Council (MMC) meeting held via teleconference.

The MMC, comprised of the Metro Manila mayors as well as other agencies, is the governing and policy-making body of the MMDA.

Garcia said that members of the MMC will present the following scenarios to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID):

Extension of the ECQ for two more weeks, from May 16-30.

ECQ will be lifted, and general community quarantine (GCQ) will be imposed in the entire Metro Manila

Modified GCQ, where LGUs are allowed to impose a lockdown on a specific barangay or zone if needed.

"There is no perfect solution we have to balance economic and health issues," Garcia said of the recommendations.

"Ipe-present [lang] namin because hindi naman MMC ang magde-decide for that eh (We're just presenting because the MMC won't decide for that)," Garcia said.

"Recommendatory lang kami. Ang maganda lang, maririnig yung boses ng nasa ground. Kasi ang mga mayors, sila talaga ang may kabisado dyan eh, kung ano yung nangyayari sa ground (We're just a recommendatory body, what's good about that is that the voices of those on the ground will be heard. The mayors know what's happening)," he added.

Garcia added that once the IATF makes the final decision on which scenario it will choose, the MMC will respect it.

"Wala pong naging unanimous decision only unanimous suggestions (There is no unanimous decision, only unanimous suggestions)," MMDA spokesperson Celine Pialago said of the recommendations.

Metro Manila is currently under ECQ until May 15 due to rising cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

To date, the Philippines has [10,610 COVID-19 cases](#), with 1,842 recoveries and 704 deaths.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1272348/unanimous-suggestions-metro-mayors-lay-down-3-recommendations-to-iatf-on-ncr-lockdown#ixzz6LzVqvLGs>

# Metro Manila mayors recommend 3 scenarios after May 15

**Published** May 9, 2020 7:02pm  
By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

The Metro Manila Council will recommend to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases three scenarios after the second extension of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) ends on May 15.

According to Ralph Obina's Saturday report on Super Radyo dzBB, MMDA General Manager Jojo Garcia said one of their three recommendations is the extension of the ECQ for up to two weeks, or until the end of May.

The second recommendation is for the government to move Metro Manila from ECQ to a general community quarantine (GCQ).

Meanwhile, the third option is a modified combination of an ECQ and a GCQ.

Garcia said areas with a high number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases will remain under ECQ, while areas with a low number of cases will be placed under GCQ.

The MMDA official assured that the metro mayors are ready to comply with the decision of the IATF.

The MMC is the governing board and policy-making body of the MMDA, and is composed of mayors of all the cities and municipalities in Metro Manila. **-MDM, GMA News**

# ECQ extension backed

Published 6 hours ago  
on May 10, 2020 12:07 AM  
By **Keith A. Calayag**



As government officials and Metro Manila mayors grappled with a decision on the fate of the ongoing lockdown in the National Capital Region (NCR), majority of residents in the densely-populated metropolis favor another extension of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) beyond its scheduled end on Friday.

According to lobbying firm PUBLiCUS Asia Inc., 73 percent of Metro Manila residents surveyed approve the ECQ extension, translating to only one out of four residents in the metro in disapproval of another extension.

The survey, conducted between 5 to 8 May 2020, consisted of 1,000 Metro Manila residents aged 18 to 70.

The survey comes as the Metro Manila Council (MMC), which is composed of the 17 mayors of the metro, met Saturday to discuss the possibility of extending the ECQ until 15 June 2020.

However, after a marathon meeting, the council decided not to give any recommendation to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) as there was no unanimous agreement made.

“It would be difficult for the government to pull the trigger on a second extension of the ECQ without the support of the general public due to political and public order considerations,” PUBLiCUS executive director Aureli Sinsuat said.

“Strong public support for extending the ECQ gives the government a free hand to make a decision based on data and evidence, not politics.”

The survey is the third run of the lobbying firm’s NCR COVID-19 Online Panel Survey, an independent non-commissioned tracking survey designed by PUBLiCUS its in-house strategic research arm VOX Opinion Research.

A late-April survey by PUBLiCUS and VOX on 1,000 Metro Manila residents aged 18 to 70 also showed that 68 percent approved the controlled return to work of some employees.

## Game plan

Sinsuat said then that the government “needs to prepare its game plan for getting non-essential businesses back up-and-running once the ECQ ends,” considering that Metro Manila accounts alone accounts for about 38 percent of the Philippine gross domestic product.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary and spokesman Jonathan Malaya, on a radio interview, said that they would respect the recommendation of Metro Manila mayors as they are part of the body that implements the ECQ.

MMC chairman Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez earlier announced that the NCR mayors' group will formalize its recommendation through a resolution during a virtual meeting on Saturday. It took them five hours to reach a consensus during the meeting also attended by representatives from the Department of Health (DoH) and Philippine National Police, according to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) general manager, Undersecretary Jojo Garcia.

Instead, the MMC, headed by Parañaque City mayor Edwin Olivarez, will present to the IATF three scenarios: ECQ but maximum of 15 more days, a general community quarantine (GCQ) "until whenever necessary" and enforcement of GCQ for NCR but local government units will be authorized to order lockdowns on barangays as need.

"There should be one policy for all of Metro Manila, whether ECQ, GCQ, or modified/mix of both). It should not vary per city or municipality," Garcia said.

"If the IATF goes for ECQ, the Metro Manila Council recommends only 2 weeks maximum after 15 May. If the IATF chooses GCQ, the MMC would be alright with it for as long as necessary, per the DoH's recommendation," he added.

The MMDA official stressed the government must be able to "strike a balance" between strengthening the economy and public health.

### **Duterte's call**

President Rodrigo Duterte will decide on Monday whether to downgrade or extend the ECQ in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said that while some Metro Manila cities might be placed under the GCQ, areas with many COVID-19 cases will likely remain under ECQ.

"Although there's no final decision, I can say that the decision will be granular as it will be surgical," Roque said. "So it's not true that the entire Metro Manila will be placed under GCQ or ECQ." Malaya said that while the MMC's resolution is simply recommendatory, the IATF will carefully study the mayors' recommendation.

"We have an example, which is Zamboanga, which was placed under general community quarantine," Malaya said. "But since the city government had requested for an enhanced community quarantine, the IATF listened to the recommendation."

"Albay also was downgraded, but their local government requested for an ECQ extension," he added.

The DILG spokesman added that in Metro Manila, it will depend on the data the IATF will receive through the technical working group on data analytics as they are studying the situation.

### **Final decision**

He stressed that depending on the data that will come out as the expiration of ECQ draws near, the DILG official said the IATF may have a final decision by 13 or 14 May on whether or not the stricter quarantine measure in Metro Manila will be extended.

"I am sure they will strongly consider the recommendations of the Metro Manila Council," he said.

The MMC, comprised of the NCR's 17 mayors, earlier said it is mulling recommending extending the ECQ in the region until 30 May.

This, Olivarez said, is to prevent another wave of COVID-19 infections in the country.

Olivarez pointed out that COVID-19 remains most prevalent in Metro Manila, with over 6,000 of the 10,000 cases in the entire country.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año previously stated the IATF-MEID is likely to just enforce the ECQ in areas which still has high incidences of COVID-19 infections after 15 May.

At present, the NCR, CALABARZON, Central Luzon (except Aurora), Pangasinan, Benguet, Baguio City, Iloilo province, Cebu province, Cebu City and Davao City are under extended ECQ while the rest of the country are under GCQ or the “new normal.”

**with Elmer Manuel @tribuneph1\_Imer,  
Kristina Maralit  
and Alvin Murcia  
@tribuneph1\_alvi**



IATF to strongly consider mayors' recommendation  
for ECQ extension in NCR - DILG

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# IATF to strongly consider mayors' recommendation for ECQ extension in NCR —DILG

Published May 9, 2020 10:15am

The recommendation for a possible 15-day extension of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the National Capital Region (NCR) will be strongly considered by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said Saturday.

Metro Manila Council (MMC) chairman Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez has announced that the [NCR mayors' group will formalize its recommendation](#) through a resolution during a virtual meeting on Saturday.

"Ginagalang natin ang rekomendasyon ng ating Metro Manila mayors kasi nga po katuwang natin sila sa pagpapatupad ng enhanced community quarantine," Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, spokesperson of IATF member DILG, said in an interview on Doblol B sa News TV.

While the MMC's resolution is simply recommendatory, Malaya said the IATF will carefully study the mayors' recommendation.

The DILG official said that like other local government units' recommendation, the national government through the IATF will give weight to the MMC's recommendation.

"For example po, sa Zamboanga, dati GCQ (general community quarantine) sila. Ngunit noong nag-request ang city government na gawing ECQ, nakinig naman po ang IATF. Ganun din sa Albay, dati dinowngrade na sila sa GCQ but they requested for an extension. Pinagbigyan naman po," Malaya said.

"Dito sa Metro Manila, depende 'yan sa datos na makakalap ng IATF through the technical working group on data analytics kasi pinag-aaralan po talaga ang sitwasyon," he added.

Depending on the data that will come out as the expiration of ECQ draws near, the DILG official said the IATF may have a final decision by May 13 or 14 on whether or not the stricter quarantine measure in Metro Manila will be extended.

"I am sure they will strongly consider the recommendations of the Metro Manila Council," he said.

Olivarez earlier said Metro Manila mayors favor a metro-wide extension since cities and municipalities in Metro Manila are "very interconnected," meaning residents usually live in one city and work in another one.

With this, Malaya said that if some cities in Metro Manila will be under GCQ while others remain under ECQ, it will be impossible for workers to travel to work from one city to another.

IATF to strongly consider mayors' recommendation

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“Speculative lang po ito dahil wala pa naman pong guidelines na nilalabas ang IATF. ‘Yun pong mga na-ECQ, hindi kayo puwedeng mag-operate so wala pong mga trabahador na pupunta sa inyo at 'di rin kayo puwede lumabas kahit ang inyong pinagtatrabahuhan ay GCQ na,” he said, adding that public transportation will be concentrated within an area under GCQ.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año earlier remarked that some areas in Metro Manila can be placed under GCQ for the sake of the country's economy.

"May mga lugar po talaga na puwede nang mag-GCQ dahil kinakailangan na rin naman nating buksan ang ekonomiya," Año said.

The ECQ was first declared on March 17 covering the entire Luzon, to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. It [has been extended in several areas, including Metro Manila, twice or until May 15](#). —**Ted Cordero/KG, GMA News**

# NCR mayors recommend 3 quarantine options after ECQ deadline expires on May 15

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 09 2020 06:59 PM | Updated as of May 09 2020 07:57 PM

MANILA (UPDATE)--A group representing all Metro Manila mayors on Saturday offered three quarantine options, as the current metro-wide lockdown is set to expire in a week.

According to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority general manager Jojo Garcia, one recommendation is to extend the current lockdown for a maximum 15 days after the May 15 deadline.

Another option is to implement the general community quarantine, which would allow some businesses to operate and some public transport to run.

A third recommendation is a form of GCQ, in which local government units can impose a lockdown on barangays that have a substantial number of COVID-19 cases.

The recommendations and scenarios will be presented to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, the group of government agencies focused on coronavirus response in the Philippines.

Garcia said his side will let the national government decide "what is the appropriate option for Metro Manila."

"We will respect the wisdom of the IATF to decide. We and the Metro Manila mayors shall follow and be ready," he said.

Experts earlier warned against a sudden shift from the enhanced community quarantine in Metro Manila, as it could lead to a spike in coronavirus cases in the capital region.

As of Saturday, the Philippines has logged 10,610 COVID-19 cases, of whom 704 have died and 1,842 others recovered.

**Of the total number of cases in the country, more than half were registered in Metro Manila.-- Report from Jeff Hernaez, ABS-CBN News**

# Metro Manila mayors lean toward recommending 15-day ECQ extension

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 8, 2020 7:56:56 AM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 8)** — Metro Manila mayors are most likely to extend for another 15 days the enhanced community quarantine in the National Capital Region as COVID-19 cases continue to rise, hinted the region's top policy-making body.

All mayors in Metro Manila will come up on Saturday with a unanimous recommendation on whether to extend or lift the enhanced community quarantine over the region after May 15.

"Pero ang consensus ng marami sa amin...we would like to extend for another 15 days sa ECQ para magtuloytuloy na po yung flattening of the curve and para matapos na yung mass testing na ginagawa," said Metro Manila Council chairperson and Parañaque Mayor Edwin Olivarez in an interview with CNN Philippines' News Night.

[Translation: The consensus of most of us...we would like to extend for another 15 days the ECQ so the flattening of the curve will continue and the mass testing will also be done.]

For his part, San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora said their local government is not yet comfortable to go under general community quarantine despite dropping number of COVID-19 cases in the city.

"But on a personal level, I would still rather have a little more extension of our ECQ in San Juan, even though our numbers of patients are dropping. I would still rather be careful and leave the ECQ if we have zero positive patients a day," he told CNN Philippines.

Earlier, Olivarez said the possibility of relaxing the lockdown rules in some Metro Manila cities while some cities remain under strict quarantine is not an option.

"Ang aming approach dito is we will do it as one, as National Capital Region. Kasi kung makikita mo ang cities ng Metro Manila is interconnected. Kung may ECQ at may GCQ, hindi rin po mase-serve ang purpose natin to control ang paglabas ng tao para maiwasan natin ang paglaki ng COVID [cases]," he told CNN Philippines.

[Translation: We will do it as one. The cities of Metro Manila are all interconnected. If some are on ECQ while some are on GCQ, the purpose of containing the spread of COVID-19 will be defeated.]

Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso agreed with Olivarez's sentiment.

"We must have one rule in Metro Manila, kasi intertwined ang aming mga community. Ibig sabihin, kapag palpak kami, papalpak din sila," he said.

[Translation: We must have one rule in Metro Manila because all the communities are intertwined. The failure of one city is the failure of all.]

Some Cabinet members have raised the idea of localized shift to GCQ as some Metro Manila cities are showing improved health responses compared to the others.

Among the factors the local chief executives will consider for their recommendation is the flattening of the COVID-19 curve in Metro Manila — the region which has the most number of cases. The mayor said they will also look into the capacity of local and national government to conduct mass testing.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and other health experts have said the COVID-19 curve started flattening 10 to 14 days ago, however on Thursday, the country set a [new record-high in single-day increase](#) in COVID-19 infections.

As for testing, the country's capacity is at 12,000, officials said. The DOH's target capacity is 30,000 tests per day by the end of May.

For Muntinlupa City, local health officials are recommending that quarantine status quo be maintained for more weeks as the city awaits at least 450 pending test results to paint a clear picture of the COVID-19 situation in their area. A local officer also said Muntinlupa resident have yet to be educated as to what GCQ entails.

"It's very hard to transition from ECQ to GCQ para mahanda ang mga tao natin. We want to ensure na before we [transition] to GCQ na-inform po lahat ng tao," Muntinlupa Public Information chief Tez Navarro said.

Meanwhile, the mayors of Manila and Marikina have raised the impact of another extended ECQ to the local economy.

Moreno said COVID-19's threat to lives and livelihood are intertwined and the government's next decision should put a premium on both.

"We cannot separate 'yung usaping buhay at usaping kabuhatan... Kaya kailangan lang balansehin natin kasi at the end of the day, for the government to function ay kailangang may pera ang gobyerno at ang pera ng gobyerno ay nangagaling sa buwis," he said.

[Translation: We cannot separate lives from livelihood. It's a balancing act because the government needs tax collections to function.]

Meanwhile, Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro believes the ECQ should be lifted gradually and selectively depending on the presence of community transmission. He said strict restrictions in the manufacturing and service industry businesses must be lifted come May 15.

"Naniniwala ako na kailangan na rin natin mag-lift ng quarantine sa ibang bahagi ng sektor," he said.

Moreno also questioned how social distancing can be properly enforced once jeepney drivers are allowed to ply the roads if the region shifts to GCQ. He said this will be challenging as the drivers would likely want to maximize trips by taking in more passengers because they have been deprived of work for almost two months.

"Kung ili-lift yung ECQ, so gagamit na sila ng mga pampublikong sasakyan, paano natin mapipigilan ang mga driver na huwag magpuno ng sasakyan, eh two months silang walang hanapbuhay. So they will take opportunity or chance na mapuno ang jeep, so paano natin sila idi-distansiya?" he asked.

Under the "new normal" in GCQ areas, passengers in mass transport are dramatically reduced. From the usual 22 passengers in a jeepney, only 10 people per trip will be allowed.

After their meeting, the Metro Manila Council — composed of 17 mayors in Metro Manila and MMDA officials — are expected to submit their recommendation to the Inter-Agency Task Force. The national government's COVID-19 task force will then issue their recommendation to President Rodrigo Duterte, who will have the final say on the fate of Metro Manila post-May 15.

Duterte's spokesman said the decision on the ECQ will be released before May 15 to allow LGUs and residents to transition.

Of the 10,463 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country, more than 6,000 were recorded in Metro Manila — making it the epicenter of the coronavirus disease in the Philippines.

The ECQ in Metro Manila and other high-risk areas was extended until May 15, while the rest of the country was placed under GCQ.

# Malay mayor airs Boracay, LGU situation over 'Laging Handa'

By Venus G. Villanueva Published on May 9, 2020

KALIBO, Aklan, May 9 (PIA6) -- Acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista of Malay, Aklan provided updates on the current situation pervading in the municipality including Boracay Island.

During the Laging Handa Public Briefing, May 8, anchored by Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar and co-anchored by USEC Rocky Ignacio, Bautista said that due to the putting of the province under Enhanced Community Quarantine due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, he said there were foreign and domestic tourists as well as workers who were stranded in the Island.

He said 1,128 stranded foreign tourists have gone home already to their countries through sweeper flights through the coordination of foreign embassies with the Department of Tourism (DOT).

Bautista said the role of the local government unit in the setup was only to approve the arrival and departure of the flights.

The mayor also said that stranded domestic tourists left the island the other day.

As to the remaining foreign tourists in the island, the mayor said it is difficult to determine if there are other stranded ones unless they make requests to be included in sweeper flights.

Bautista also revealed that the LGU provided food assistance to stranded workers in Boracay Island, who are not only from various Aklan towns but from neighboring provinces in Western Visayas, Romblon and Mindoro.

On the distribution of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) cash assistance, the mayor said Malay was allocated funds for 6,922 families and as of May 4, the LGU had already distributed assistance to 5,795 families.

He said that the remaining 1,127 received their assistance on May 7, the deadline set for the SAP distribution.

Meanwhile, the mayor revealed during the program that Boracay Island is not currently receiving tourists.

For now, the LGU is focusing on food production in the municipality by providing vegetable seeds to farmers.

"Some of them are already harvesting. We have a program wherein we buy their products which we will also distribute to residents," Bautista said. (JSC/VGV PIA6 Aklan)

# Duterte to decide Monday on post-May 15 scenario

Published 17 hours ago  
on May 9, 2020 01:40 PM  
By **Keith A. Calayag**



President Rodrigo Duterte and the IATF will meet anew on Monday to decide how the country moves forward after the 15 May lockdown. (PCOO)

President Rodrigo Duterte will decide Monday on the extension, lifting or relaxing of strict community quarantine measures against the coronavirus disease 2019.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said what areas will remain under enhanced community quarantine or downgraded to general community quarantine may be known by 11 May, or four days before the second lockdown extension expires.

“Sa Lunes po inaasahan natin na magkaron po ng approval ang ating presidente kung ano ang mangyayari sa atin ng May 16,” Roque said during Laging Handa public briefing on Saturday.

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) will present to the President its recommendations by Monday.

“Bagamat wala pang pinal na desisyon, sasabihin ko po na ang desisyon kung ano yung mga lugar na mananatili sa ECQ will be granular at it will also be surgical,” Roque said. “So hindi po totoo na lahat ng lugar sa Metro Manila ay magiging GCQ na at hindi naman totoo na ang buong Metro Manila ay mananatili sa ECQ.”

Metro Manila mayors are meeting today to likewise decide on their recommendations to the IATF.

# Dole out deadline stays — DILG

Published 6 hours ago  
on May 10, 2020 12:05 AM

By **Elmer N. Manuel @tribunephl\_Imer**



The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Saturday stressed that there will be no extension of the 10 May deadline for local government units (LGU) to distribute the cash subsidy under the government's Social Amelioration Program (SAP).

In a radio interview, DILG Undersecretary and spokesman Jonathan Malaya said that the decision is already final and the deadline will no longer be extended.

"That's what Secretary Eduardo Año ordered," Malaya said.

To recall, the DILG chief moved the deadline of the distribution of cash aid from 7 May to 10 May as he considered the challenges being encountered by areas with a large number of population, including the National Capital Region, Cavite, Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan, Cebu and Davao City.

But Año warned that LGU which would still fail to meet the deadline will receive show cause orders from the agency.

Malaya, meantime, disclosed that the cash aid distribution nationwide has reached 85.49 percent and cited CARAGA Region for the 100 percent payout rate, followed by the Bicol Region with 99.79 percent and Cordillera Administrative Region with 93.92 percent.

The Interior Undersecretary added that for Metro Manila, the payout rate stood at 75.62 percent as of 9 p.m., Friday and lauded the cities of Caloocan, Parañaque, Mandaluyong, Marikina and Pasig with the highest payout rates of 95.15 percent, 91.28 percent 88.48 percent, 86.64 percent and 85.56 percent, respectively.

Previously, the DILG chief said that he ordered the Philippine National Police (PNP) to exempt those individuals distributing and getting the cash aid from the curfew being implemented as part of the enhanced community quarantine.

"We are now working 24/7. In fact, I have given instruction to the PNP to exempt all citizens who are going to distribution points to be exempted from curfew because all our LGU are working all the time," Año added.

He said once the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) accepts the liquidation of the LGU on the first tranche, the agency will immediately hand the second tranche to the local officials.

"As long as the DSWD accepted their liquidation, validated the list, they will immediately release the money," Año said.

Around 18 million low-income families were targeted to receive monthly cash subsidies ranging from P5,000 to P8,000 for two months as mandated by the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (Republic Act 11469).

with Neil Alcober

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/05/10/dole-out-deadline-stays-dilg/>



# NAIA inbound flights scheduled

Published 6 hours ago  
on May 10, 2020 12:05 AM  
By [Anthony Ching](#)



Starting Monday, 11 May, all inbound international charter and commercial flights landing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) will have assigned days.

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) Operations Center had released a Notice to Airman (NOTAM) that all inbound international chartered flights will only be allowed to land at NAIA on Mondays and Thursdays, provided they secure a clearance from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and CAAP for slotting purposes.

Inbound international commercial flights will be allowed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays provided they secure approval from CAAP 48 hours before the scheduled departure from the airport of origin for the necessary slotting and rescheduling of flights in order to subscribe to the 400 passengers per day capacity of NAIA.

The enroute flights experiencing emergency, ferry flights/cargo flights, air ambulance and medical supplies flights, government/military flights, weather mitigation flights, maintenance flights and outbound ferry flights/cargo flights with passengers, as authorized are unrestricted and this is not covered by the NOTAM.

The restrictions, which will last a month, from 11 May to 10 June, is going to be implemented at NAIA only, while other international airports in the country have their separate restrictions.

The health, transportation, aviation and local government authorities are now assessing the readiness of different regions, cities and LGU for the resumption of regular commercial activities including the inbound and outbound commercial flights.

For its part, the Philippine Airlines (PAL) is preparing for the eventual resumption of regular commercial flights IN and OUT of the country.

It will be a slow but sure climb — a reality the Philippine aviation industry and the global aviation arena have to contend with.

On taking care of their fleet, PAL protects and preserves their aircraft while on the ground in line with maintenance protocols. Thorough inspections are carried out on all aircraft in line with the guidelines of Aircraft Engineering, Quality and Safety teams.

In cleaning and disinfecting their aircraft, PAL carries out intensified disinfection procedures on its aircraft. After every flight, trained personnel utilizes hi-grade eco-friendly disinfectants on all surfaces, in compliance with industry-recognized safety standards.

## DoTr clarification

Meanwhile, The Department of Transportation (DoTr) on Saturday clarified that it is just following guidelines of the government Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for not allowing highly vulnerable persons on mass transportation if the general community quarantine (GCQ) is enforced. In a statement, the Transport department said that they are looking out for the welfare of the passengers as the health and safety of the public is paramount in ensuring the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) will not spread further.

“The health and safety of our citizens is paramount, and public interest dictates that government exhausts all efforts to uphold this protective stance, especially for those who are most susceptible and vulnerable to COVID-19,” the agency said in a statement.

“It is for this very same reason which precipitated their inclusion in the guidelines for the resumption of mass transport under a GCQ setting,” it added.

The DoTr’s statement comes after reports on the alleged ban on those who are below 21 years old; 60 years old and above; pregnant; and those with immunodeficiency, comorbidities and other health risks in mass transport systems under the GCQ.

The Transport department stressed that it defers to the expert and careful recommendation of the IATF in the implementation of policy guidelines and measures intended to protect the people. “The DoTr remains fully emphatic and sensitive to public interest, and we assure everyone that we will exercise utmost discretion, empowerment and latitude in the determination of exceptions as may be warranted or necessary,” the statement said.

It also explained that exceptions under the guidelines are “when indispensable under the circumstances for obtaining essential goods and services, or for work in permitted industries and offices.”

“We also reiterate that even under or during normal situations, we have consistently championed, advocated and upheld the special needs of the highly vulnerable sector, in all of our mass transport facilities and services,” the DoTr said.

# Preparing for future pandemics

Published 6 hours ago  
on May 10, 2020 12:05 AM  
By **Kathleen A. Llemit**



It is the second week since the extension of the enhanced community quarantine in the National Capital Region took place but the country's COVID-19 statistics does not see any "flattening of the curve" soon. Talks about another extension, possibly until next month, is rife.

While people are confined in their houses, healthcare professionals are seeing the impact of the pandemic firsthand and its grave impact in the country's already embattled healthcare system.

Dr. Brian Cabral, *Daily Tribune's* health columnist, shares that the Philippines should now prepare for pandemics aside from natural calamities such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. "Similar to how we prepare for disasters like earthquakes and volcano eruptions, we need to be more prepared for any pandemic or similar healthcare disaster in the future. COVID-19 preparedness also includes financial planning. Despite losing revenue — from elective surgery and ambulatory care, for example, we need to plan for what comes next," he noted.

Aside from preparedness, he also highlights the importance of sound leadership that not only looks at the succession plan but as well as taking care of their physical and mental welfare so they may effectively lead their staff.

A sound leadership also takes into consideration the physical requirements of running a working operations. Dr. Cabral stresses the importance of facilities that can cater to the healthcare needs of majority of the people, especially in times of health crises.

"To prepare for another surge, building bed capacity and building space has become necessary nationwide. Our country has responded by building tent cities, and even re-appropriate coliseums and other public spaces to act as healthcare facilities," he adds.

## Pre-pandemic shortage

In the 2018 Philippine Health Systems Review of the Department of Health (DoH), there are a total of 101, 688 number of beds in the country. As per the DoH, there are three levels of hospitals: Level 1 provides the most basic services that need minor care and supervision. Level 2 is a notch higher with all the basic amenities as well as additional facilities like an intensive care unit and specialist doctors. Those who are in need of additional crucial services such as physical rehabilitation or dialysis may go to a Level 3. Of these, 32, 144 are from Level 1 hospitals; 30, 781 from Level 2 hospitals, and 38, 763 from Level 3 hospitals.

Prior to the pandemic, these were mere statistics but COVID-19 provided a graphic representation of the underlying areas of improvement in the healthcare system.

Reports of lack or shortage of personal protective equipment and ventilators are continuously stressed. Repurposing of events areas like coliseums and stadiums into either mega swabbing centers or quarantine areas are taking place in key cities in the metro and its environs in addition to the limited bed capacity. Overworked and distressed healthcare workers are seen on the rise as days go by.

These problems continue to persist and are seen as the most important takeaways that decision makers and policymakers will have to address post-COVID-19.

Learn more about Dr. Cabral's insights as he explains in the weekly Sunday column, Doctor Diaries, on page B14.

## Manila Water income up 4%

May 8, 2020 | 7:43 pm

EAST ZONE water concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. reported a 4% increase in its consolidated net income to P1.3 billion for the first quarter, despite lower contributions from its domestic subsidiaries.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange on Friday, Manila Water's concession earnings were at P1.63 billion during the first quarter of the year while its revenues rose by 9% to P5.5 billion.

The water company's costs and expenses declined by 30% to P1.3 billion, despite the 15% increase in direct costs due to the P534-million penalty imposed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for the water supply shortage last year.

The 15% increase in direct costs was driven by higher chemical costs with the operations in Manila Water's Cardona treatment plant as well as increased power costs for the energization of new deep wells.

Meanwhile, domestic operations under Manila Water Philippine Ventures recorded a net loss of P151 million for the first quarter.

The company attributed the loss to the lower contribution of Estate Water caused by its lower supervision fees.

"The decline was primarily the result of the change in accounting treatment for said fees, but also in part by the stoppage of projects due to the enhanced community quarantine," the statement said.

Manila Water Asia Pacific also reported a net loss of P193 million due to the additional expenses in relation to its investment in Cu Chi in Vietnam.

Manila Water said the recognition of additional expenses in the Vietnam project was partially offset by the increase in equity share in net income of associates, which stood at P219 million, 6% higher than last year.

Locally, the company has suspended meter reading activities in its service areas and deferred the due date of customer bills for 30 days.

The water concessionaire also implemented business contingency measures for continuous operations despite the enhanced community quarantine.

"As we face the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we should work even more closely with our partners and stakeholders so we can continue to provide reliable service. Only by working together can we find safer, more effective and innovative ways of serving our customers under this new normal," Manila Water President Jose Gregory D. Almendras said.

On Friday, shares in Manila Water rose by 8.55% to close at P12.70 each. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

# Manila Water profit up 4% in Q1

By [Jordeene B. Lagare](#)

May 9, 2020

Listed Manila Water Co. Inc. reported on Friday a consolidated net income of P1.3 billion in the first three months of 2020, a 4-percent increase from P1.2 billion in the same period a year ago.

In a disclosure, the Ayala-led water utility said revenues climbed by 9 percent to P5.5 billion from P5.1 billion.

Manila Water said it generated higher earnings in the quarter a year after a water supply shortage struck its concession area.

In 2020, the water levels in dams improved, which the East Zone concessionaire said was a product of the good coordination between the National Water Resources Board, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), and the National Irrigation Administration.

Core net income decreased by 12 percent year-on-year in the period due to lower contributions from its domestic subsidiaries.

Concession earnings stood at P1.63 billion. Excluding one-offs recognized in the previous year, core net income dropped by 7 percent to P1.65 billion.

Costs and expenses declined by 30 percent to P1.3 billion, driven largely by the P534-million penalty imposed by the MWSS over last year's supply crunch,

This decline is in spite of the 15-percent increase in direct costs, driven by higher chemical costs from the operations of the Cardona Treatment Plant in Laguna Lake and rising power costs from the energization of new deep wells.

Domestic operations under Manila Water Philippine Ventures Inc. (MWPV) posted a net loss of P151 million, primarily because of the lower net income contribution from Estate Water on account of the decrease in supervision fees.

The decline was primarily the result of the change in accounting treatment for the said fees, but also in part by the stoppage of projects due to the enhanced community quarantine.

Even as the improved performance of other core subsidiaries, including Laguna Water and Clark Water, partially offset the drop, additional expenses recognized for the subsidiary's various exposures during the period contributed to the net loss.

Excluding one-offs, MWPV's net income plunged by 78 percent to P38 million in the quarter.

Manila Water Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd. (MWAP), which houses Manila Water's international business operations, incurred a net loss of P193 million, which was mainly blamed on the the recognition of additional expenses in relation to MWAP's investment in Cu Chi in Vietnam, consistent with the group's governance and management practices.

This was partially offset by the increase in equity share in net income of associates, which stood at P219 million, up 6 percent from a year earlier.

The Vietnam investments drove the increase in equity share in net income in the period, as a result of the implementation of tariff increases and higher billed volume in the Thu Duc Water and Kenh Dong Water operations.

Manila Water shares gained P1 or 8.55 percent to close at P12.70 each on Friday.

## Metro Manila electricity bills to go down in May

May 8, 2020 | 7:30 pm



ELECTRICITY rates in Metro Manila are likely to go down this month, with typical households getting at least a P50 cut in their bills, Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said on Friday.

In a statement, the country's biggest power distributor said the overall electricity rate this month fell by P0.2483 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P8.7468 from P8.9951 in April.

Households consuming 300 kWh, 400 kWh, and 500 kWh can expect their bills to decrease by P74.49, P99.31, and P124.15, respectively, Meralco said.

The lower monthly rate was due to the force majeure claim it had invoked in its power supply agreements, after power demand fell by 30% during a Luzon-wide lockdown meant to contain the outbreak.

This brought down fixed charges for generation capacity that would have been charged by suppliers, Meralco said.

A force majeure is an uncontrollable event that makes it impossible for power plant operators to fulfill their obligations.

Its generation charge for this month went down by P0.2537/kWh to P4.3848/kWh from last month's P4.6385/kWh.

The listed firm noted that fixed costs in the April and May billing months had gone down to more than P1 billion due to its force majeure claim.

Charges from its power supply contracts, which make up 52% of its total power supply, were lowered by P0.2116/kWh.

Power costs from independent power producers, which provide 46% of Meralco's supply needs, fell by P0.6418/kWh on higher average plant dispatch, lower fuel prices and the stronger peso.

Charges from the wholesale electricity spot market, which adds less than 2% to Meralco's supply needs, rose by P1.8502/kWh, driven by the inclusion of line rentals related to its supply contracts.



There is still no movement in the charge for feed-in-tariff allowance as the Energy Regulatory Commission ordered another suspension of its collection this month, the power utility said.

Transmission costs rose by P0.0175/kWh as ancillary charges were increased, while taxes and other charges posted a net decrease of P0.0121/kWh.

Payments for generation charges go to power suppliers, while transmission charges are remitted to the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines. Taxes and other public policy charges such as universal charges and feed-in-tariff allowance go to the government.

Meralco's business centers have reopened since May 7 with strict safety measures and social distancing guidelines to be observed by customers.

Shares of Meralco fell by 1.56% to close at P252 each on Friday.

Meralco's controlling stakeholder, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls.

The Energy Regulatory Commission on Tuesday ordered distribution utilities to extend the grace period for bill payments in areas under lockdown.

Customers will pay their deferred bills, which were due from March 16 to May 15, along with their monthly bills, starting May 30. These may be paid in four installments in the next four billing periods from the lifting of the lockdown, it said. — **Adam J. Ang**



# Magnitude 5.4 quake hits Occidental Mindoro; Intensity IV felt in Metro Manila

Updated May 10, 2020, 5:35 AM

By Marjaleen Ramos

A 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck Mindoro early Sunday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported.

The earthquake, which occurred at 3:18 a.m., was tectonic in origin and was traced 20 kilometers northeast of Lubang, Occidental Mindoro.

The quake had a depth of 76 km, with the following registered intensities: Intensity IV – Makati City; City of Manila; Parañaque City; Intensity III – Malabon City; Mandaluyong City; Pasay City; Pateros; Quezon City; Taguig City; Tagaytay City, Cavite; Calapan City, and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro; Calatagan, and Lipa City, Batangas

PHIVOLCS said the quake was also felt under the following instrumental Intensities: Intensity IV – Calatagan, Batangas; Malolos City, and San Ildefonso, Bulacan; Navotas City; Intensity III – Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro; Talisay, Batangas; Bacoor City, and Tagaytay City, Cavite; Muntinlupa City; Guagua, Pampanga; Intensity II – Magalang, Pampanga; San Juan City; Intensity I – San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Palayan City, and San Jose City, Nueva Ecija; Gumaca, Quezon; Baler, Aurora

The quake was not expected to cause any damage to property. However, aftershocks are likely to happen.

M5.4 quake jolts Occidental Mindoro; tremor felt in

TITLE: Metro Manila

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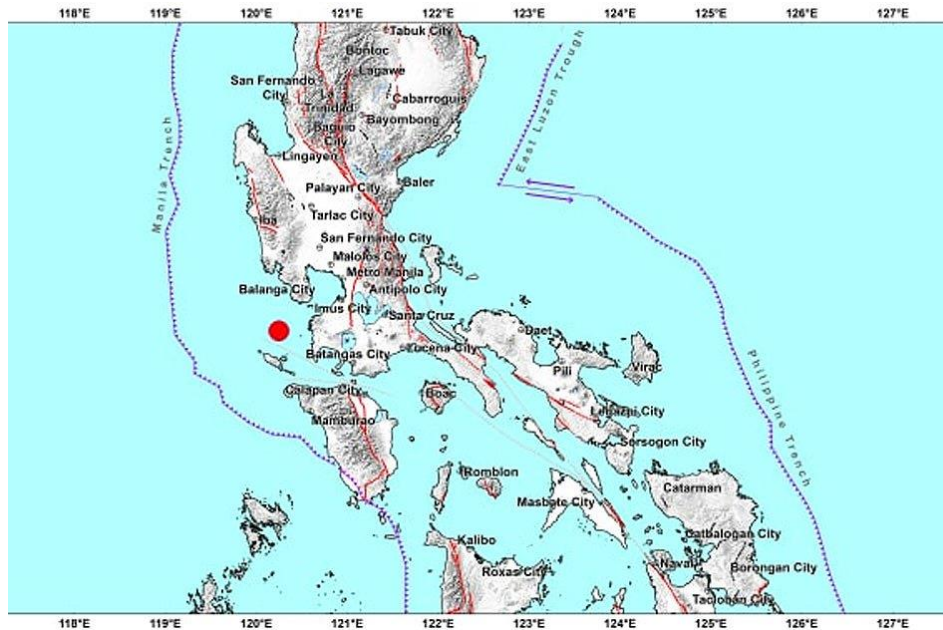
May 10, 2020

DATE

# M5.4 quake jolts Occidental Mindoro; tremor felt in Metro Manila

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 10 2020 03:38 AM | Updated as of May 10 2020 04:35 AM



**(2nd UPDATE)** A magnitude 5.4 undersea earthquake struck northeast of Lubang in Occidental Mindoro early Sunday morning, with the tremor felt as far away as Metro Manila and nearby provinces, state agency Phivolcs said.

The tectonic quake struck at 3:18 a.m. at a depth of 76 kilometers.

Phivolcs initially measured the quake at magnitude 5.5 before later downgrading it to magnitude 5.4.

The tremor was recorded in the following areas:

Reported Intensities:

- Intensity IV - Makati City; City of Manila; Paranaque City
- Intensity III - Malabon City; Mandaluyong City; Pasay City; Pateros; Quezon City; Taguig City; Tagaytay City, Cavite; Calapan City, and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro; Calatagan, and Lipa City, Batangas;

Instrumental Intensities:

- Intensity IV - Calatagan, Batangas; Malolos City, and San Ildefonso, Bulacan; Navotas City
- Intensity III - Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro; Talisay, Batangas; Bacoor City, and Tagaytay City, Cavite; Muntinlupa City; Guagua, Pampanga
- Intensity II - Magalang, Pampanga; San Juan City
- Intensity I - San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Palayan City, and San Jose City, Nueva Ecija; Gumaca, Quezon; Baler, Aurora

Aftershocks are expected but no damage is forecast, Phivolcs said.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS), in a separate advisory, said the earthquake measured magnitude 5.3.

A USGS map showed the quake's epicenter just off Batangas province.

M5.4 quake jolts Occidental Mindoro; tremor felt in

May 10, 2020

TITLE: Metro Manila

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE





## Occidental Mindoro sapul sa M-5.5 na lindol; pag-uga, ramdam sa Metro Manila

May 10, 2020 @ 3:44 AM 4 hours ago

*Manila, Philippines – Niyanig ng magnitude 5.5 na lindol ang Occidental Mindoro madaling araw ng Linggo, Mayo 10, ayon sa PHIVOLCS.*

*Naitala ang sentro ng lindol sa layong 31 kilometro hilagang-silangan ng bayan ng Lubang.*

*Tectonic ang sanhi ng lindol na may lalim na 85 kilometro na naramdaman bandang alas 3:18 ng madaling araw.*

*Naitala ang intensity III sa Quezon province at naramdaman din ang pagyanig sa ilang parte sa Metro Manila.*

*Ayon sa PHIVOLCS na walang inaasahang pagkasira mula sa lindol, ngunit magkakaroon ng mga aftershock. RNT*

PAGASA: Top heat index values for the year mostly  
recorded in May

PAGE 1/ 1/2

May 10, 2020  
DATE

# PAGASA: Top heat index values for the year mostly recorded in May

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 9, 2020 10:09:47 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 9)** — The month of May saw the country's heat index reach a lot of its highest values for the year so far, data from the country's weather state bureau revealed.

The heat index provides the "apparent" temperature felt by the human body, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration or PAGASA. High air temperature and relative humidity lead to a high index value.

The agency had listed top five heat index values for 2020 so far. Four values were registered in May, while the topmost value was recorded in April. They are as follows:

- San Jose City, Occidental Mindoro; 58 degrees Celsius; April 20
- Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte; 53 degrees Celsius; May 6
- Ambulong, Bangas, 51 degrees Celsius; May 6
- Sangley Point, Cavite, 51 degrees Celsius; May 6
- Dagupan City, Pangasinan, 51 degrees Celsius; May 5

PAGASA said heat index values between 41 and 54 degrees Celsius are likely to cause heat cramps and heat exhaustion, which might lead to a heat stroke with continued activity. Meanwhile, a heat index over 54 degrees means a heat stroke is imminent.

According to the Department of Health, signs of a heat stroke include warm, flushed skin, faintness, dizziness, weakness, headache, very high fever of 41 degrees Celsius, rapid heartbeat, convulsion, and unconsciousness.

Among the tips PAGASA has given for remaining comfortable during the hot weather are staying indoors as much as possible, wearing lightweight and light colored clothing, and avoiding physical activities at noon and in the afternoon, which is when temperatures are at their peak heat.

PAGASA: Top heat index values for the year mostly  
recorded in May

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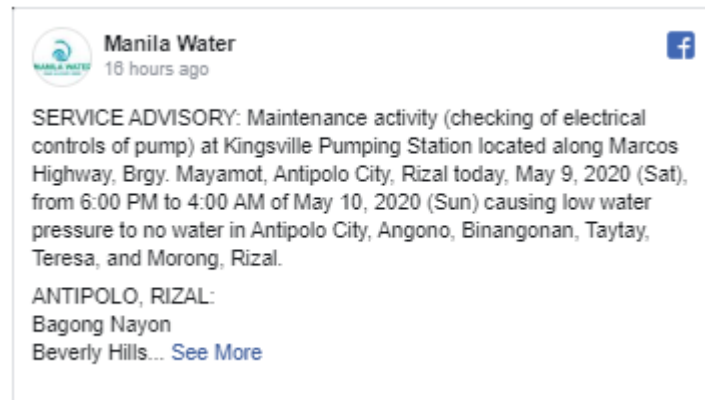
May 10, 2020  
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It is also important to drink plenty of water regularly, as the body needs it to keep cool, the agency added.

## Water interruptions

However, this might seem difficult to do consistently this month for some, with certain areas occasionally experiencing water supply interruptions this time around.

Manila Water announced on Facebook Saturday that some parts of Antipolo City and Rizal province will experience low pressure to no water because of maintenance activity.



On the same day, [Maynilad](#) posted advisories saying Las Piñas City, Parañaque City and the cities of Imus and Bacoor in Cavite might experience this also, with the emergency slowdown of the firm's Putatan Water Treatment Plant 2.

Manila Water serves the East Zone of the metro as well as select towns in Rizal province, while Maynilad caters to the West Zone of Metro Manila and certain cities and towns in Cavite.

The hot summer weather might last until the third or fourth week of May, according to PAGASA.

# Amazon deforestation surges

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

May 10, 2020

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** It has not gotten much attention with the world focused on coronavirus, but deforestation has surged in the Amazon rainforest this year, raising fears of a repeat of last year's record-breaking devastation — or worse.



Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon hit a new high in the first four months of the year, according to data released Friday by Brazil's National Space Research Institute, which uses satellite images to track the destruction.

A total of 1,202 square kilometers of forest — an area more than 20 times the size of Manhattan — was wiped out in the Brazilian Amazon from January to April, it found.

That was a 55-percent increase from the same period last year, and the highest figure for the first four months of the year since monthly records began in August 2015.

The numbers raise new questions about how well Brazil is protecting its share of the world's biggest rainforest under President Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right climate change skeptic who advocates opening protected lands to mining and farming.

“Unfortunately, it looks like what we can expect for this year are more record-breaking fires and deforestation,” Greenpeace campaigner Romulo Batista said in a statement.

Last year, in Bolsonaro's first year in office, deforestation soared 85 percent in the Brazilian Amazon, to 10,123 square kilometers of forest.

That loss — nearly the size of Lebanon — fueled worldwide alarm over the future of the rainforest, seen as vital to curbing climate change.

The destruction was driven by record wildfires that raged across the Amazon from May to October, in addition to illegal logging, mining and farming on protected lands. The trend so far in 2020 is all the more worrying given that the usual high season for deforestation only starts in late May.



“The beginning of the year is not the time where deforestation normally happens, because it’s raining, and it’s raining a lot,” said Erika Berenguer, an ecologist at Oxford and Lancaster Universities.

“In the past, when we see deforestation increase in the beginning of the year, it’s an indicator that when deforestation season starts... you’re going to see an increase, as well.”

Bolsonaro this week authorized the army to deploy to the Amazon to fight fires and deforestation from May 11. He also deployed the army last year, after facing scathing international criticism for downplaying the fires.

Environmentalists said a better plan would be to give more support to Brazil’s environmental protection programs.

Under Bolsonaro, environmental agency Ibama — Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources — has faced staffing and budget cuts. Last month, the government fired the agency’s top environmental enforcement officer, after he authorized a raid on illegal miners that was broadcast on television.

Another problem with the government’s military strategy, said Berenguer, is that it has focused exclusively on fires.

That ignores the fact that fires are often caused by illegal farmers and ranchers bulldozing trees and then burning them, she told Agence France-Presse.

Addressing only the fires “is like me taking paracetamol because I have a toothache: it’s going to reduce the pain, but if it’s a cavity, it’s not going to cure it,” she said.



This handout picture released by the Ouwehands Zoo on May 2, 2020 shows a female panda holding her cub in her mouth. One of the giant pandas loaned by China to The Netherlands has given birth in the animal park in Rhenen, a first for the country, the Ouwehands Zoo announced on May 2, 2020.

AFP/Ouwehands Zoo

## First giant panda born in Netherlands

(Agence France-Presse) - May 9, 2020 - 9:29am

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Wu Wen, a giant panda loaned to a Dutch zoo by China, has given birth in a first for the Netherlands, Ouwehands animal park announced Saturday.

Mating took place in January and the cub, which belongs to Beijing just like the mother and father Xing Ya, was born on May 1.

"The mother and her cub are staying in the maternity den and are doing well," the zoo in the central city of Rhenen said in a statement said.

"This cub was born and conceived naturally," said Ouwehands owner Marcel Boekhoorn.

"Male or female? The cub's gender will remain a surprise for the time being," he added.

"The keepers are leaving Wu Wen and her cub alone. When the cub leaves the maternity den after a few months, we will be able to see what the gender is.

"When that happens, the little giant panda will be named," Boekhoorn said. The cub will go to China after four years to join the breeding programme.

The mother and father were loaned to the Netherlands in 2017 for 15 years.

Giant pandas are found only in the wild in China where their habitat is shrinking.

However since 2016 they are no longer considered in danger of extinction but remain "vulnerable".

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/world/2020/05/09/2012854/first-giant-panda-born-netherlands>

# With attention on virus, Amazon deforestation surges

Published 19 hours ago  
on May 9, 2020 11:09 AM  
By **Agence France-Presse**



Brazilian farmer Helio Lombardo Do Santos walks through a burned area of the Amazon rainforest near Porto Velho, Rondonia state on August 26, 2019. (AFP)

It has not gotten much attention with the world focused on coronavirus, but deforestation has surged in the Amazon rainforest this year, raising fears of a repeat of last year's record-breaking devastation — or worse.

Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon hit a new high in the first four months of the year, according to data released Friday by Brazil's National Space Research Institute (INPE), which uses satellite images to track the destruction.

A total of 1,202 square kilometers of forest (464 square miles) — an area more than 20 times the size of Manhattan — was wiped out in the Brazilian Amazon from January to April, it found.

That was a 55 percent increase from the same period last year, and the highest figure for the first four months of the year since monthly records began in August 2015.

The numbers raise new questions about how well Brazil is protecting its share of the world's biggest rainforest under President Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right climate change skeptic who advocates opening protected lands to mining and farming.

"Unfortunately, it looks like what we can expect for this year are more record-breaking fires and deforestation," Greenpeace campaigner Romulo Batista said in a statement.

## 'Paracetamol for a toothache'

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Addressing only the fires “is like me taking paracetamol because I have a toothache: it’s going to reduce the pain, but if it’s a cavity, it’s not going to cure it,” she said.

### **Twin tragedies**

The coronavirus pandemic is only making things more complicated in the Amazon region.

Brazil, which holds more than 60 percent of the Amazon, is the epicenter of the pandemic in Latin America, with nearly 10,000 deaths so far.

The state of Amazonas, largely covered in forest, has been one of the hardest hit.

With only one intensive care unit, the state has been overwhelmed by the outbreak.

There are also fears of the potentially devastating effects the virus could have among indigenous communities, which are historically vulnerable to outside diseases.

With attention, resources and lives taken away by coronavirus, the fear is that officials, environmentalists and inhabitants could have less capacity to protect the forest.

The mayor of the state capital, Manaus, Arthur Virgilio, drew a link between the two tragedies this week in an appeal for help from world leaders.

“We need medical personnel, ventilators, protective equipment, anything that can save the lives of those who protect the forest,” he said.

It is unclear whether the pandemic will have an impact on deforestation, but the fact that they have surged in tandem in Brazil is cause for concern.

“There is a web of connected factors (driving deforestation), and in the context of coronavirus, things are even more worrying,” Greenpeace Brazil spokeswoman Carolina Marcal told AFP.

# Mangoes off the menu for lonely primates, as Kiev zoo struggles in lockdown

Published May 10, 2020, 12:25 AM

By Reuters

Mykhailo Pinchuk takes a short walk around his empty zoo, greeting some animals with a stroke and a morsel of food.

No visitors have been allowed since March, when the Ukrainian authorities imposed a national lockdown to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Pinchuk says the animals, born in captivity and used to the constant presence of people, are lonely. Some orang-utans even cry in their enclosures, he told Reuters.

“Even hooved animals ... rush to me when I am walking past their enclosures. They stretch their necks through the holes in the fence to see who is coming, and to ask you to come closer and give them some food,” he said.

“They don’t understand what is going on, as the situation has changed. They were fine with the previous situation, they enjoyed people’s company.”

The zoo in the village of Demydiv, some 40 km (25 miles) from Kiev, has almost run out of money and can barely cover the utility bills needed to maintain the proper conditions for its animals, he said. Zookeepers have had to adjust the animals’ diet. Dozens of big cats are being fed with chicken, rather than more expensive pork or beef, and apples have replaced mangoes and pineapples for the monkeys.

Pinchuk urged people to donate to support the zoo, which is home to 400 animals including a seal, a hippopotamus and giraffes. Out of 70 staff members, the zoo has kept only 20, on a minimum salary.

“People do not necessarily understand what it means to maintain the zoo. Sometimes people think it is just like keeping cats and dogs, with the only difference being that there are many animals in the zoo, otherwise it is all the same,” he said.

“But it is not like this. There are animals who eat more than 100 kilos of food daily. We spend 500,000 hryvnia (\$18,650) just on food per month.”

The government is set to lift some lockdown restrictions on Monday but Pinchuk is not sure whether the zoo, which is approaching its fifth anniversary, will be allowed to re-open.

# In-photos: Inter-species lockdown meet-up at Japan aquarium

(Agence France-Presse) - May 9, 2020 - 10:59am

TOKYO, Japan — A Japanese aquarium has come up with a wild idea to entertain the public during its temporary closure due to the coronavirus outbreak -- introducing sea animals to each other and sharing the results online.

A group of eight penguins at Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise near Tokyo regularly waddle around inside the aquarium and now they have a new stop -- a tank of seals they had never met before.

"They're not actively trying to get to know each other, but I'm sure they're interested in each other," aquarium spokesman Naoya Goto told AFP.

"They're both really cute, so we decided to let them see each other, film it and share it on social media," he said.

Museums, zoos and aquariums remain closed as a nationwide state of emergency is in place in Japan until the end of May.

Penguins at the aquarium stroll for up to 20 minutes regularly -- a routine in place even before the pandemic -- as they need more exercise, Goto said.

And they need to experience some variety from time to time so that they "do not get bored," he added.

"We want to increase the quality of life for these penguins."

Sea Paradise has also introduced an otter to a beluga, two of their most popular animals.

Aquarium keeper Nagomi Sato said she posts their videos, "hoping they will offer healing and relieve stress" for those stuck inside due to the virus.



Cape penguins walks past a keeper taking their video images at an aquarium of Hakkeijima Sea Paradise, which is closed amid the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, in Yokohama on May 8, 2020 as part of a theme park's project to deliver the state of animals through official website and SNS. AFP/Kazuhiro Nogi

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/world/2020/05/09/2012861/photos-inter-species-lockdown-meet-japan-aquarium>

## Inter-species lockdown meet-up at Japan aquarium

posted May 09, 2020 at 10:32 am

by [AFP](#)

Tokyo - A Japanese aquarium has come up with a wild idea to entertain the public during its temporary closure due to the coronavirus outbreak -- introducing sea animals to each other and sharing the results online.



*A cape penguin faces a seal in an aquarium at Hakkeijima Sea Paradise, which is closed amid the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, in Yokohama on May 8, 2020 as part of a theme park's project to deliver the state of animals through official website and SNS. (Photo by Kazuhiro NOGI / AFP)*

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*A small-clawed otter (R) faces a beluga whale in an aquarium at Hakkeijima Sea Paradise, which is closed amid the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, in Yokohama on May 8, 2020 as part of a theme park's project to deliver the state of animals through official website and SNS. (Photo by Kazuhiro NOGI / AFP)*

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