



DENR donates groceries to poor QC residents

posted May 12, 2020 at 10:40 pm

by Rio N. Araja

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/323573>

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has donated P300,000 worth of grocery items to low-income communities in Quezon City to support the government's efforts to provide assistance to those in need during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019) pandemic.

Undersecretary for Priority Programs and ACE president Jonas Leones said 300 relief goods were turned over by the agency to three Catholic parishes—Kristong Hari and Mabuting Pastol, both in Barangay Commonwealth, and Good Shepherd Cathedral in Barangay Fairview—for distribution to the first set of beneficiaries of "ComPassion Project."

The project is a three-phase COVID-19 community outreach initiative of the DENR Association of Career Executives (ACE) and the DENR Employees Union, in collaboration with the Career Executive Service Board.

"Since there are still families who have not received support from the government, the DENR under the leadership of Secretary Roy Cimatu decided to provide assistance to communities affected by the enhanced community quarantine due to COVID-19 pandemic, through our ComPassion Project," Leones said.

"We thank everyone in the DENR community for their contribution and support for this worthy cause. Together, we make sure that no one is left behind in the COVID-19 response," he added.



DENR namahagi ng relief goods sa mahihirap na pamilya sa QC

May 12, 2020 @ 5:51 PM

<https://remate.ph/denr-namahagi-ng-relief-goods-sa-mahihirap-na-pamilya-sa-qc/>

Manila, Philippines – Aabot sa P300,000 halaga ng grocery items ang ipinamahagi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mahihirap na komunidad sa Quezon City bilang tugon sa panawagan ng gobyerno na tumulong sa mga nangangailangan sa gitna ng Covid-19 pandemic.

Ayon sa DENR umabot sa 300 relief goods ang ipinagkaloob ng ahensiya sa tatlong Catholic parishes kabilang ang Kristong Hari at Mabuting Pastol sa Barangay Commonwealth at Good Shepherd Cathedral sa Barangay Fairview na ipamamahagi naman sa mga unang benipisyaryo ng “ComPassion Project.”

Ang proyektong ito ay inisyatibo ng DENR Association of Career Executives (ACE) at DENR Employees Union katuwang ang Career Executive Service (CES) Board.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Priority Programs at ACE president Jonas R. Leones, layunin ng unang bahagi ng proyektong ito na matulungan ang marginalized families sa Quezon City na hindi nakatanggap ng tulong mula sa national at local governments.

“Since there are still families who have not received support from the government, the DENR under the leadership of Secretary Roy A. Cimatu decided to provide assistance to communities affected by the enhanced community quarantine due to COVID-19 pandemic, through our ComPassion Project,” saad pa ni Leones.

“We thank everyone in the DENR community for their contribution and support for this worthy cause. Together, we make sure that no one is left behind in the COVID-19 response,” sabi pa ni Leones.

Bukod kay Leones, dumalo rin sa turn-over ceremony ng relief goods sina DENR Undersecretaries Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr at Benny D. Antiporda, Assistant Secretaries Joselin Marcus Fragada at Nonita Caguioa, DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force Executive Director Nilo Tamoria at CES Board Secretariat Executive Director Officer-in-Charge Hiro Masuda. Santi Celario



Rescued birds of prey placed under quarantine, to undergo rehab at DENR facility in QC

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

May 13, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/05/13/rescued-birds-of-prey-placed-under-quarantine-to-undergo-rehab-at-denr-facility-in-qc/>

The two juvenile birds of prey rescued by wildlife law enforcers last week in Barangay Sto. Tomas, Mabini, Batangas, will undergo rehabilitation at the Wildlife Rescue Center of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Quezon City.

“Right now, they are under quarantine and being observed. In two to three weeks, we will start deworming them,” says Glenn S. Maguad, officer in charge of the rescue center.

Maguad said the pair of Brahminy kites, not Philippine hawk-eagles as earlier reported, are about 6 to 7 months old. Brahminy kite, like the hawk-eagle, is an endangered species, but are comparatively smaller and sturdier.

They weigh only up to 700 grams upon maturity, while hawk-eagles can weigh up to 1.2 kilos.

“They are what we call lawin while hawk-eagles are what we call agila,” Maguad clarified.

The two rescued Brahminy kites were earlier thought to be hawk-eagles by their captors, but upon careful examination by DENR wildlife experts, confirmed they are Brahminy kites, or the common lawin. Nevertheless, Maguad said Brahminy kite are also on the endangered species list.

But there’s a catch in rehabilitating these rescued birds of prey. Because they were rescued while they were still a chick and unable to fly, they are already imprinted with their rescuers and have become domesticated, highly dependent on humans for their food, says Rogelio Demelletes, a wildlife law enforcer who facilitated their safe transfer to the DENR Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City.

The two were being fed with fresh chicken by their rescuers, including 22-year-old Christian Atienza who decided to turn them over to authorities.

“We learned that one time when they were ready to fly, the rescuer tried to set them free. But the two went back and never left the area,” he said.

But Maguad said he is confident that they can rehabilitate the two juvenile birds and train them to become hunters during rehabilitation.



Rescued birds of prey placed under quarantine, to undergo rehab at DENR facility in QC

“These are hardy species and they are survivors,” said Maguad. Unlike eagles that hunt live prey, Brahminy kites are opportunistic hunters and are sometimes scavenging, feeding on dead animals, or carcasses.

“In two to three weeks, we will start cleansing them. They will be dewormed and we will make sure they are free of parasites,” Maguad said.

He said the two juvenile birds are undernourished and need to be properly fed first and treated before joining other birds of prey at the park.

Maguad is confident that the two Brahminy kites will eventually learn to fend for themselves and be ready to be released back into the wild.

“Unlike other birds of prey, Brahminy kites easily adapt to their environment,” he said. The challenge, he said, is to make them wild, teaching them to avoid humans.

He said for them to learn to hunt on their own, the two will be put in a cage with other adult Brahminy kites.

“During rehabilitation, there will be less human interaction so that they will learn to fear humans and become wild,” he said.

According to Maguad, it will take the two birds more than a year before they are fully rehabilitated and ready to be released back into the wild.

“Once they are ready, we will release them back to where they were found because for sure, their nest is still there and the parents if they are still alive, will call for them,” he said.



P3.5 M lumber seized in N. Samar anti-illegal logging ops

By: Rachel Arnaiz - @inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Visayas / 09:14 AM May 12, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1273408/p3-5-m-lumber-seized-in-n-samar-anti-illegal-logging-ops>

CATARMAN, Northern Samar – A series of anti-illegal logging operations in the municipality of San Isidro resulted in the recovery of P3.5 million worth of lumber.

In a report released on Monday, May 11, the Northern Samar Provincial Mobile Force Company (NSPMFC) said they managed to identify one of the illegal loggers as Arnel Lucban Surio.

The operations were carried out in Barangay Happy Valley from May 4 to 9.

Surio was seen together with other unidentified individuals trying to conceal a stockpile of lumber and keelboats along the road in in the forested area of Barangay Happy Valley.

Surio and the other suspects, however, eluded arrest.

Surio is facing charges for violation of Section 77 of Presidential Decree 705 otherwise known as the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines.

Joint teams composed of operatives from the NSPMFC, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)-Catarman, the Regional Mobile Force Battalion 8 of the 803rd Maneuver Company and the Delta Company 43rd Infantry Battalion CAFGU Active Auxillary used drones during the operation.

Last April 24, government operatives also seized assorted lumber, flitches and keelboats with a market value of close to P2 million in Barangay Happy Valley.

Police Major Edwin Oloan of the FNPMFC said they will not stop the campaign against persons involved in crimes against the environment amid the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The confiscated lumbers were already in the custody of the CENRO Catarman.



More than P3.4-million worth of lumber seized in anti-poaching operations

Published May 12, 2020, 5:51 PM
By Marie Tonette Marticio
<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/12/more-than-p3-4-million-worth-of-lumber-seized-in-anti-poaching-operations/>

TACLOBAN City – More than P3.4 million in assorted sizes of lumbers and keelboats, all of dipterocarp species, were seized in a six-day anti-timber poaching operation in Barangay Happy Valley, San Isidro, Northern Samar recently.

The seizure of 69,672.56 board feet of lumber was the biggest haul of forest products seized in Northern Samar province, according to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources.

P/Maj. Edwin Oloan Jr., Force Commander of the First Northern Samar Provincial Mobile Force Company, said the surveillance was done through aerial droning, wherein they located several stockpiles of illegally cut lumbers and keelboats along the roadsides while the others were covered with coconut palms.

He added that no person was seen in the area except in KM-15 where Arnel Lucban Surio, together with his cohort, was seen while trying to conceal stockpile in an embankment but eventually scampered to the mountainous area upon recognizing the presence of the enforcement personnel.

Surio will face administrative and criminal cases for violation of Section 77 of Presidential Decree 705 that will be filed against him by PENRO Northern Samar, while the confiscated lumbers and keelboats are now in the custody of the Community Environmental and Natural Resources (CENRO) Catarman for safekeeping and proper disposition.



P3.4-M illegal logs seized in Northern Samar

By Gerico Sabalza May 12, 2020, 5:39 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1102581>



ILLEGAL. Illegally-cut logs recovered during anti-timber operations from May 4 to 9 in San Isidro, Northern Samar. A total of 69,672 board feet of illegal logs with a market value of PHP3.4 million were confiscated during the joint operations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Northern Samar Provincial Mobile Force Company (NSPMFC) in Happy Valley village, a statement said on Tuesday (May12, 2020). (Photo courtesy of 1st NSPMFC)

TACLOBAN CITY – Illegal logging activities in Northern Samar continues amid the health crisis as PHP3.4-million worth of unregistered freshly-cut lumbers were seized by authorities in a week-long operation.

Joint anti-timber operations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Northern Samar Provincial Mobile Force Company (NSPMFC) from May 4 to 9 resulted in the confiscation of approximately 69,672 board feet of illegally cut logs in Happy Valley village in San Isidro town.

These include assorted lumber and keelboats of hardwood tropical trees, said Maj. Edwin Oloan Jr., 1st NSPMFC commander, in a statement on Tuesday.

“The operations were carried out using a drone camera that showed stockpiles of illegal logs along roadsides and others were covered with coconut palms,” he added.

A certain Arnel Lucban Surio, together with other personalities were seen trying to conceal the stockpile, but eventually scampered to the mountainous area upon recognizing the presence of authorities, the police report said.

“Even in this time that our country is in the midst of coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, we will not stop to exercise our sworn duties and responsibilities to fight criminality and terrorism,” Oloan said.

Administrative and criminal charges will be fine against the suspects for violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

The DENR said this is the biggest volume of illegal forest products ever seized in the province.

The law enforcement team were also able to confiscate approximately 39,500 board feet of illegal lumbers with a market value of PHP1.97-million during operations in the same town from April 24 to 26. (PNA)



P1-million worth of illegally sawn lumber confiscated

Published May 12, 2020, 12:58 PM

By Restituto Cayubit

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/12/p1-million-worth-of-illegally-sawn-lumber-confiscated/>

PALO, Leyte – At least P1-million worth of illegally cut lumber was confiscated in Northern Samar, a report from Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) based in Camp Ruperto Kangleon, Campetic, this town, said here Monday.

PRO-8 Director Brig. Gen. Bernabe M. Balba said personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Northern Samar conducted the joint operation in seizing the illegally-cut lumber.

Balba reported that 20,000 board feet of assorted lumbers with an estimated market value of P1 million was confiscated in Barangay Happy Valley, San Isidro, Northern Samar on May 5.

“The confiscated lumbers were discovered by the authorities in the said place, hence, no suspect apprehended however, the authorities are now conducting investigation and possible arrest of the violator/violators. Further, confiscated lumbers are now in the custody of PENRO- Northern Samar and are due to scaling, documentation and proper disposition,” Balba said.



Mining companies donate P30M worth of rice for Palaweños

ByBMPlus

May 12, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/05/12/mining-companies-donate-p30m-worth-of-rice-for-palawenos/>

Mining companies – Rio Tuba Mining Corp. (RTN), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp., and Coral Bay Nickel Corp. (CBNC) – have stepped up to the plate and donated a combined amount of P30 Million to purchase sacks of rice intended for the Palaweños. This is in response to the call of Gov. Jose Ch. Alvarez for a joint public-private sector effort to address the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Palawan with its 1.3 million population was among the first provinces to close its borders on March 17 to adhere to the Enhance Community Quarantine (ECQ) directive of the national government. The closure is particularly hurting the tourism industry of the province which, according to reports, brought in an income of some 83 billion pesos (\$1.6 billion) in 2018 alone.

On March 20, Governor Alvarez declared Palawan under a state of calamity.

Earlier, RTN downloaded to the communities in Bataraza a total of P5.5 Million pesos from its realigned Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) funds, with an additional P560,000 from its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, for relief operations conducted in the mining communities during the ECQ.

The SDMP is a five-year budgeted plan for development programs in the mining communities, which the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has allowed to be realigned during this pandemic in order to assist the mining companies' host communities and neighboring barangays.

Aside from tourism, mining is another industry in Palawan that brings about economic progress to the communities.

Bataraza Municipal Treasurer, Romana Bermudez, was quoted in a news report saying that RTN and CBNC taxes have a huge impact on the economic growth of Bataraza, a first-class municipality in Southern Palawan where the two companies are based.

According to the municipal treasurer's record for 2019, RTN has paid P10 million in real property taxes and P33 million in business taxes while CBNC paid P31 million for real property tax and P86 million for business tax.

Gov. Alvarez personally accepted the RTN and CBNC donation and expressed his appreciation on behalf of the people of Palawan.

"This will help feed a lot of people in the province," he said.

RTN Resident Mine Manager, Eng. Cynthia E. Rosero and CBNC Community Relations Manager, Ernesto Llacuna presented the cheque to Gov. Alvarez.

Two endangered green sea turtles rescued by El Nido Coast Guard

May 12, 2020 Patricia Laririt

https://palawan-news.com/two-endangered-green-sea-turtles-rescued-by-el-nido-coast-guard/?fbclid=IwAR2XvvzCYc_EpN-j-x4Fj2TEY_-F4iFknC-JbP69R_GHV1eN3bicgEYLb6k



Photo courtesy of April Bernal.

EL NIDO, Palawan – Two captive green sea turtles found tied by a rope to a mangrove tree were rescued by members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in Barangay Sibaltan last May 8.

According to a spot release Tuesday, the two turtles were caught by an unnamed person who decided to leave them by the river bank among the mangroves.



Photo courtesy of April Bernal.

The PCG said they received a call from a certain Benedicto Cabiguen, a local resident who saw the turtles, prompting them to send a response team.

The turtles were initially brought to the barangay hall of Sibaltan for inspection by personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Palawan Council of Sustainable Development (PCSD) and were subsequently released back to sea.



UP Mindanao research on bats featured in news and science website

Published May 12, 2020, 2:23 PM
By Rizal Obanil
<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/12/up-mindanao-research-on-bats-featured-in-news-and-science-website/>



A research paper from the University of the Philippines Mindanao on bats and its possible link with the coronavirus was featured in an article posted on a website on medical and life sciences news. (PIXABAY / MANILA BULLETIN)

In the article written by Dr. Tomislav Mestrovic, MD, Ph. D., for www.news-medical.net, the research done by UP Mindanao on the subject matter was cited several times as reference material.

In his article, Dr. Mestrovic wrote that researchers had warned that “another novel human coronavirus outbreak originating from bats is imminent due to the

destruction of wildlife habitats.”

“There is increasing evidence for the role of bats – one of the most widely distributed and diverse animals – as hosts of emerging pathogens, especially viruses. In particular, the aforementioned emerging human coronaviruses have been linked to bat sources. Moreover, the whole-genome analysis revealed that SARS-CoV2 is 96 percent identical to a bat coronavirus,” he wrote.

Dr. Mestrovic suggested that “future coronavirus outbreaks may even be predicted on a geographical levell”, by studying specific species of bats.

“These were primary reasons why researchers from the University of the Philippines Mindanao, University of the Philippines Manila, and Animal Solutions Veterinary Hospital in Bolcan decided to expand the knowledge on the evolution, diversity, distribution, host specificity, and zoonotic transmission of bat coronaviruses,” he said.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic several scientific theories came out on how a virus commonly found only in animals was transmitted to a human being, setting off a chain of events that have led to the current conditions we now have worldwide.

There were scientists who believe that the virus that causes COVID-19 came from snakes that primarily eat bats in the wild.

There were others though who believe that the virus directly came from a certain species of bats.



NAGLUWAG NA VS COVID-19 PERO HUWAG MAGRELAKS

May 12, 2020 @ 5:50

<https://remate.ph/nagluwag-na-vs-covid-19-pero-huwag-magrelaks/>

Niluwagan na ng pamahalaang Duterte ang mga patakaran sa COVID-19.

Pero gaya ng paliwanag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, hindi tayo dapat magrelaks laban sa matinding sakit na ito.

Sapagkat hindi nangangahulugan ang pagluluwag ng kawalan na ng nasabing sakit.

Niluwagan ang mga patakaran upang makapaghanapbuhay na ang lahat, kung maaari.

Kung magpatuloy kasing manatili sa Enhanced Community Quarantine ang buong bansa o pinakamalaking bahagi ng bansa, mananatiling paralisado rin ang ating ekonomiya.

Hindi kaya ng pamahalaan at ng mga mamamayan na buhatin at iligtas ang isa't isa sa gutom, kahirapan at kawalan kung walang magaganap na produksyon at serbisyo na kailangan ng isa't isa para sa patuloy nilang pamumuhay at pag-angat.

MGA BAGONG PATAKARAN

Heto ang mga bagong patakaran ukol sa COVID-19.

Wala nang ECQ at General Community Quarantine sa mga lugar na ito.

Buong Region I, Region IV-B, Region V, Region VI, Region VIII, Region X, Region XII at BARMM.

Isinailalim naman sa buong GCQ ang mga rehiyong Region II, Region III, Region IV-A (bukod ang Laguna), CAR, Region VII (bukod ang Cebu City), Region IX, Region XI at Region XIII.

Tanging ang Laguna sa Region IV-A, National Capital Region at Cebu City ang isinailalim sa ECQ ngunit tinawag na itong Modified ECQ.

Ngunit mula Mayor 16 hanggang Mayo 31 lang ang kalagayang nabanggit.

Maaaring magkaroon pa rin ng pagbabago depende sa paghagupit o muling pagkakaroon ng COVID-19.

ANG MODIFIED ECQ

Ang tatlong lugar: Laguna, NCR at Cebu City ang may pinakamaraming kaso ng COVID-19 kaya hindi ito inalis sa kategoryang ECQ ngunit may kaunting pagluwag kaya tinawag ang patakaran na MECQ.

Dito sa MECQ, maaaring bara-barangay na lamang ang idedeklarang nasa ilalim ng puro na ECQ at hindi ang mga buong lungsod at bayan, depende sa pag-atake ng COVID-19.

Maaaring magbubukas na rin ang operasyon ng piling industriya, kasama na ang mga pagawaing bayan ng pamahalaan at malalaman ito bukas.

Ngunit dahil sa MECQ, mananatiling walang pagtakbo ng mga pampublikong sasakyan, walang maramihang pagtitipon sa simbahan, sports, eskwela, stay at home at iba pa.

Kung merong pagbubukas nang kaunti sa industriya, magkakaroon na rin ng kaunting pagbubukas ng mga opisina ng pamahalaan para tugunan ang pangangailangan ng mga taumbayang papasok ng trabaho.



NAGLUWAG NA VS COVID-19 PERO HUWAG MAGRELAKS

SA GCQ

Magkakaroon na ng pagtakbo ng mga pampublikong sasakyan upang tugunan ang pangangailangan ng mga papasok sa opisina ng gobyerno at ng mga pribadong kompanya.

Ngunit maaaring hanggang 50 porsyento lang ang laman ng mga pampasaherong sasakyan para sa social distancing.

Maaaring papayagan na ang hanggang 50-75 porsyentong pagbubukas ng lahat ng opisina ng pamahalaan at mga pribadong kompanya.

Ipinaubaya naman sa mga lokal na pamahalaan ang desisyon kung papayagan nilang magkaroon na ng mga misa at iba pang maramihang pagtitipon.

Ngunit paiiralin pa rin ang istriktong social distancing, paggamit ng face mask at iba pang mga hakbang na pangharang sa anomang pagbabalik o muling paglaganap ng COVID-19.

Ang bentahan at pag-inom ng alak sa pampublikong lugar at pagsusugal?

Bawal pa rin sa GCQ!

Magtanong na lang tayo sa ating mga lokal na pamahalaan kung ano-ano ang mga bawal at kung ano-ano ang hindi bawal sa GCQ at maging sa MECQ.

WALANG ECQ AT BCQ

Halos malaya na ang lahat at balik sa dati ang pamumuhay ng lahat ng mamamayan.

Pwede nang buong magbukas ang mga opisina ng pamahalaan at lahat ng mga opisina at negosyo sa pribadong sektor.

Ngunit mananatili ang istriktong pagpapatupad ng pagsusuot ng face mask at maaaring panatilihin pa ring sundin ang social distancing.

Sabi ng pamahalaan, sinusunod nito ang payo ng World Health Organization na huwag pabigla-bigla ang alinmang bansa sa pagluluwag para hindi manumbalik sa kamatayan at pagkakasakit ang mga mamamayan.

Kaya naman, kahit deklaradong may mga lugar nang walang ECQ at GCQ, may mga bawal pa rin at alamin na lang natin kina kapitan, meyor, at gobernador.

Binabati natin ang lahat ng nakikipagtulungan at nagtitiis na sumunod sa lahat ng mga patakaran sa ECQ at GCQ sa kalagitnaan ng giyers sa COVID-19.

Sila ang malaki ang naitulong upang magkaroon ng pagbabago ng ating bayan tungo sa MECQ at GCQ.

Ang mga nagmatigas at ayaw sumunod sa mga patakaran?

May mga nakulong, may nakademanda at iba pa.

Ang huling habilin?

Wala pang gamot laban sa COVID-19 kaya ang ang dapat pa rin nating gawin ay magkaisa at magtulungan laban dito.



Duterte: PH can't afford second, third wave of coronavirus infections

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:14 AM May 12, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1273409/duterte-ph-cant-afford-second-third-wave-of-coronavirus-infections>

MANILA, Philippines – President Rodrigo Duterte appealed to the public to comply with quarantine guidelines since the country cannot afford a second or third wave of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infections.

In a taped public address aired Tuesday morning, Duterte cautioned that easing restrictions of quarantine measures does not mean that the threat of COVID-19 is no longer present.

“Ganito ha, for those who will be allowed to go out and work and for those na hindi pa talaga puwede, remember, na itong pag, the easing up of the restrictions, hindi iyan [ibig] sabihin na wala na ang COVID,” Duterte said.

“Just because we allowed certain people, dahan dahan lang. Para walang... para hindi tayo madapa. Because we cannot afford a second or third wave na mangyari,” he added.

The President reminded the public of the “new normal” like wearing face masks in public places and observing physical distancing to curb the spread of the virus.

“So kindly, one is that do not go out of your house without a mask. That is a must, must-comply,” Duterte said.

“Then the social distancing, ito yung new life. Until such time na meron nang vaccine, merong mga medisina, that vaccine, sundin niyo yan, importante masyado,” he further reminded.

The President’s decision on whether to extend or relax the quarantine measures in several regions has yet to be announced.

Earlier, Malacañang said only [parts of Metro Manila](#) may remain under ECQ after May 15, depending on the severity of the contagion.

The Philippines has so far confirmed [11,086 COVID-19 cases](#) with 726 deaths and 1,999 recoveries.



Duterte warns: We are not out of the woods yet

posted May 13, 2020 at 01:10 am

by [Vito Barcelo and Maricel V. Cruz](#)

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/323593>



Social distancing must be accepted as the “new normal” until a vaccine that can stop the coronavirus pandemic becomes available, President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday.

COVID REPORT. *President Rodrigo Duterte updates the nation on the government's efforts in addressing the coronavirus disease pandemic in Malacañang on Monday, with his video airing on Tuesday morning. **Presidential Photo***

This developed as the Philippines logged 264 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, bringing the total number of cases in the country to 11,350.

The Department of Health said that of the new cases, 165 or 63 percent are from the National Capital Region, which will be under the modified enhanced community quarantine beginning May 16.

In a taped public address aired over state-run PTV-4, Duterte stressed the importance of flattening the curve or slowing down the rate of COVID-19 infections.

[READ: 'No going back to normal'](#)

“Social distancing. This is our new life until we have a vaccine. Just follow the protocol, it’s really important,” Duterte said.

He was expected to announce the fate of the enhanced and general community quarantines but left it out of his speech.

The DOH said 74 cases or 28 percent of the new cases are from Central Visayas or Region 7 and 25 cases or 9 percent are from other regions.

The Health bulletin also recorded 107 new recovered patients or a total of 2,106 recoveries. Meanwhile, there were 25 new COVID-related deaths of a total of 751 fatalities.

The DOH also recorded 67 additional health workers with COVID-19, with one new fatality.

[READ: Selective ECQ lifting eyed](#)

It was the first COVID-19 death of a health worker since over a week ago, bringing the total to 2,067 as of May 11, from 1,991 the day before.

Duterte made his statement even as Deputy Speaker Mujiv Hataman said that while the Philippines might not be “pandemic-proof,” it nonetheless could be “pandemic-capable.”

He said preparing for a long bout with COVID-19 should be done now by upgrading all government hospitals and other health-care facilities.

“All projections point to a rise in cases until the middle of the year, and experts say that a vaccine may be available after a year and a half,” said Hataman, who represents Basilan.



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CARTOON

Duterte warns: We are not out of the woods yet

“And until a vaccine has been found against COVID-19, we should strengthen the health frontlines by increasing their capabilities to treat patients with the virus in the future.”

Duterte also reminded the public to wear face masks to avoid being accosted by the police.

[READ: ECQ extension in NCR eyed](#)

“The police will tap your shoulder. You won’t be arrested, but it will be embarrassing if they tell you to step aside,” he said.

He also warned that the Philippines could not afford to have a second and third wave of COVID-19 infections.

“The easing of the restrictions doesn’t mean COVID no longer exists. We should do it slowly so we don’t trip. We cannot afford a second or third wave to happen,” he said.

Amid the reports of quarantine violations, Duterte said, the protocols laid out by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 were for the people’s safety and protection.

Quarantine violators would not only put themselves in danger but others as well.

Presidential Peace Adviser and National Policy Against COVID-19 chief implementer Carlito Galvez Jr. emphasized the importance of balancing health and economy in deciding the fate of the enhanced community quarantine and general community quarantine.

“In the absence of a vaccine, all we can do is prevent and contain it and mitigate its impact,” Galvez said.

“The government, however, cannot endure the ECQ for an extended period of time as its resources are very limited. Hence it has to balance between health and economy.”

On Monday, the World Health Organization said there were seven to eight "top" candidates for a vaccine to combat COVID-19, and the work on them was being accelerated.

"We have good candidates now," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

“The top ones are around seven to eight, but we have more than a hundred candidates.”



DOH warns vs rainy season diseases amid COVID-19 threat

Published May 12, 2020 10:09pm

https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/737950/doh-warns-vs-rainy-season-diseases-amid-covid-19-threat/story/?fbclid=IwAR0pXNi0jAgBgdCHUqtkrn5viR87RP8-186wrd_WFZ4J8H3RVMLw5iPbyIE

The Department of Health (DOH) has warned the public against a wave of diseases as the rainy season arrives amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

In a "24 Oras" report on Tuesday, DOH director Dr. Eric Tayag said that waterborne diseases may become more prevalent and create a "perfect storm."

"Ayaw natin magpatong-patong 'yung outbreak ng COVID-19 tapos may outbreak ng cholera o diarrhea tapos leptospirosis, influenza tapos tinabunan pa ng dengue," he said.

According to DOH, over 430,000 cases of dengue and 138,000 cases of influenza were recorded last year. Meanwhile, 479 people had leptospirosis.

Should citizens contract rainy season diseases, the country will have to brace for difficulties because most of the diseases share similar symptoms with COVID-19.

"Pag dumami ang influenza natin, hindi natin malalaman kung ito ay trangkaso o COVID-19 so 'yan ang mahirap na sitwasyon sa atin. Double whammy, mayroon na tayong COVID-19, mayroon na tayong flu," Tayag said.

DOH undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire assured the public, however, that should a patient show symptoms of COVID-19, they will be considered as carriers of the disease.

DOH also warned the public of possible of cross-contamination in hospitals because patients could acquire other patients' diseases.

"Ngayon onti lang ang bilang ng bata na nagkaka-COVID-19 so kung magsasabay 'yun, nasa ospital sila na tumatanggap ng COVID-19 tas dadami 'yung dengue baka magkaroon ng cross-contamination sa mga batang may dengue," Tayag said.

According to Vergeire, COVID-19 patients are safely isolated from the other patients in the hospital regardless of the season.

DOH told the public that practicing personal hygiene remains to be one of the best ways to protect oneself against the diseases.

Should you find yourself showing symptoms of COVID-19, practice self-isolation and contact your barangay.

For those who need to consult with a doctor amid the pandemic, the following numbers are available for teleconsultation:

Metro Manila:
(02) 8424-1724
(02) 7798 8000

Outside of Metro Manila:
1555
(02) 984-COVID
(02) 8942-6843



1 million Metro Manila residents expected to join ‘Balik Probinsya’ program

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:02 PM May 12, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1273507/1m-metro-manila-residents-seen-applying-for-balik-probinsya-program>

MANILA, Philippines — At least one million Metro Manila residents are expected to take part in the government’s Balik Probinsya program in the next six months, the National Housing Authority (NHA) said Tuesday.

During the Laging Handa briefing, NHA General Manager and Balik Probinsya Executive Director Jun Escalada said there are so far 5,000 individuals who have already signified interest in the program via its website.

“We started our online application last Friday. In a matter of four days, we’re able to get 5,000 enrollees already,” Escalada said.

“If this will be the figure, there will be exponential enrollees every now and then. Perhaps, we can hit a figure in the next 6 months, 1 million residents of Metro Manila who would like to enroll,” he added.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier institutionalized the [Balik Probinsya program](#) which seeks to decongest Metro Manila and promote more robust regional development.

“We will facilitate the returns of this mga kababayan natin from Metro Manila to the regional rural centers,” Escalado said.

Escalano said Leyte, Camarines Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Pangasinan, and Quirino are keen on supporting the program.

Those who want to enroll in the program via the program’s website [balikprobinsya.ph](#), Escalado said.



Food security pinasisiguro ni Go sa DA para sa mga magbabalik-probinsya

May 12, 2020 @ 5:44 PM

<https://remate.ph/food-security-pinasisiguro-ni-go-sa-da-para-sa-mga-magbabalik-probinsya/>

Manila, Philippines – Sa pananaw ng implementasyon ng Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program (BP2), binigyang diin ni Senador Bong Go ang pangangailangan na mamuhunan sa agriculture sector at isulong ang household food security sa kanayunan.

Tiyakin din na ang mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng BP2 beneficiaries ay mapapanatili sa oras na mailipat na ang mga ito sa kanilang bayan.

“This is an opportune time to decongest Metro Manila by creating opportunities outside this over populated metropolis, especially for our urban poor who wish to relocate to the countryside. There are still hundreds of hectares of agricultural lands and unlimited water resources that can be utilized for livelihood in the provinces. Agriculture and food security play a big role in regional development,” paliwanag ni Go.

“Let us provide the urban poor the needed opportunities to have a sustainable livelihood in the provinces if they decide to relocate since they are one of the most vulnerable sectors of our society amid this COVID-19 pandemic as well as in times of other calamities,” dagdag na pahayag nito.

At para mapagtagumpayan ang gawain na ito ay hinikayat ni Go ang agriculture department na paunlarin pa ang food security programs.

Sa pagkakataong ito aniya ay nakatuon sa household food security habang ang pamahalaan ay naghahanda para sa mas maraming filipino na pinili ang bumalik sa kanayunan bilang paraan na paluwagin ang Metro Manila at ipalaganap ang economic development sa buong bansa.

“Dahil sa COVID-19, nakita po natin kung gaano ka-vulnerable ang Metro Manila sa mga sakit dahil sa congestion dito. Isa sa mga nakita nating solusyon dito ang BP2. Ngunit para mas mahikayat natin ang mga Pilipino na bumalik sa kanilang probinsya, dapat nating masigurado ang food security sa bansa, lalo na sa ating mga probinsya,” aniya pa rin.

“Kaya naman hinikayat ko ang Department of Agriculture na patuloy na maglatag at mag-implementa ng mga programa para masiguro natin na may sapat na pagkain para sa mga Pilipino, lalo na sa mga BP2 beneficiaries, sa kanilang hapag kainan, may health crisis man o wala,” ang pahayag ni Go.

“More specifically, dapat mas pagtuunan ng pansin ng DA ang ‘household food security’ ng mga magbabalik-probinsya,” dagdag na pahayag ni Go.

Aniya, mayroong makabuluhang bilang ng pamilya ang nagpahayag ng intensyon na makakuha ng BP2 benefits.

At para pondohan ang iba’t ibang food security programs ng DA, sinabi ni Go na ang Department of Budget and Management ay maaaring ikunsidera na payagan ang DA na i- realign ang pondo ng agriculture department basta lamang pinapayagan ng batas, upang tiyakin na maraming pondo para ipatupad ang existing programs ng DA na suportado ang BP2.

Ang ilan aniya sa programa ng DA ay ‘giving of seeds and support for backyard poultry raising; contribution of various inputs, such as machineries, tools and equipment to agricultural workers; and the provision of low- or zero-interest credit and establishment of credit facilities, such as Sikat Saka



Food security pinasisiguro ni Go sa DA para sa mga magbabalik-probinsya

Program for rice and corn farmers, Survival and Recovery Loan for victims of calamities, and Production Loan Easy Access for crops, livestock, fisheries projects.'

Ang Agriculture department ay magbibigay naman ng libreng pagsasanay sa rice production, modern rice farming techniques, seed production at farm mechanization to farmers, at pagpapatupad ng Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita Marketing Program na nag-establisa ng direct link sa pagitan ng mga magsasaka/mangingisda at consuming public, tiyakin na ang mga magsasaka ay makakakuha ng 'best prices' para sa kanilang kalakal habamg nagbibigay ng abot-kaya, ligtas at nutritious produce sa mga Filipino consumers.

Samantala, sinabi ni Go na ang equally vital sa pagtiyak sa household food security sa bansa ay may close coordination at partnership sa pagitan ng local government units at agriculture department.

Kaya nga, hinikayat ni Go ang LGUs sa buong bansa na magpatupad ng sarili nilang programa na applicable sa kanilang lokalidad na ia- aligned sa food security plans at programs ng DA.

"Mahalaga rin po ang role ng LGUs sa food security ng bansa. Kaya dapat lamang po na magkaroon din sila ng sarili nilang mga programang pang-food security ayon po sa guidelines ng DA," ang pahayag ni Go.

Sa tulong ng mga programang ito, sinabi ni Go na maaaring makapagtanim ang mga filipino o gumawa ng backyard poultry farming, paghahanda para sa agri-preneurs para magsimula ng kanilang sariling food enterprises.

"We have seen how the pandemic broke the global supply chains of the food sector. Now is the time to ensure that we are food self-reliant and to reduce our dependence on global trade when it comes to food. Now, more than ever, we need to promote and support food security and agriculture in the country," diing pahayag ni Go.

Bilang tagasuporta ng BP2, sinabi ni Go na ang pagtiyak sa food security ay mahalaga sa ikatatagumpay nito, pagpapa-alala sa national agencies na ipatupad agad ang programa na mapapakinabangan ng lahat ng apektadong Filipino na nagnanais na bumalik sa kanilang bayan.

"Importante po na mabigyan ng sapat na suporta mula gobyerno ang mga magbabalik probinsya lalo na pagdating sa pagkain, pabahay, at kabuhayan. Kasama rin dito ang pagsigurado na handa ang health, education at local government institutions para sa mga pangangailangan ng komunidad," diing pahayag nito.

Kaalinsabay nito, irerekumenda rin ni Go sa Executive branch ang iba pang mahalagang hakbang na makasusuporta sa layunin na bigyan ng magandang buhay ang mga ito matapos ang COVID-19 crisis.

"Bilang proponent ng programang ito, patuloy akong makikipagtulungan sa Executive branch. Sila naman ang may mandatong mag-execute at mag-implementa nito," ani Go.

"Now is the time to act. Marami nang gustong umuwi. Pero walang pilitan po ito. Layunin po ng programang ito na mabigyan ng bagong pag-asa ang mga Pilipino na may hinaharap silang maayos na kinabukasan at tutulungan sila ng gobyerno kung sakaling gusto nilang bumalik sa kanilang mga probinsya," dagdag na pahayag ni Go. *Kris Jose*



NCR, Laguna, Cebu City to be under 'modified' ECQ until May 31

By Azer Parrocha May 12, 2020, 3:01 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1102606>

MANILA – Metro Manila, Laguna and Cebu City will be placed under a “modified” enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) from May 16 to 31.

This developed after President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday night approved the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 35 which recommends areas deemed still at high risk of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) infection to be placed under a less stringent ECQ.

In a virtual presser on Tuesday, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque explained that a modified ECQ (MECQ) is a community quarantine which will allow the operation of selected manufacturing and processing plants up to a maximum of 50 percent workforce.

Limited transporting services for essential goods and services will also be allowed under MECQ, he added. However, face-to-face classes in all schools will remain suspended.

"It is not ECQ as we know it. It is not GCQ (general community quarantine) as we know it. It's somewhere in between. It is a transition phase po at ini-envision natin na matapos ang one month, makakapunta na tayong lahat sa GCQ (we envision that after one month, we will all transition to GCQ)," Roque said.

The IATF resolution also declared a GCQ in eight areas with moderate risk of infection namely Cagayan Valley (Region 2); Central Luzon (Region 3); Calabarzon (Region 4-A); Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR); Central Visayas (Region 7) except Cebu City; Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9); Davao Region (Region 11); and Caraga (Region 13).

Eight areas with low risk of infection will no longer be under ECQ or GCQ. These are Ilocos (Region 1); Mimaropa (Region 4-B); Bicol (Region 5); Western Visayas (Region 6); Eastern Visayas (Region 8); Northern Mindanao (Region 10); Soccsksargen (Region 12); and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Barmm), the IATF resolution noted.

Minimum health standards must be observed in areas not under ECQ or GCQ.



NCR, Laguna, Cebu City to be under 'modified' ECQ until May 31

“Hanggang walang vaccine kinakailangan minimum health standards. Iyong mga minimum health standards – social distancing, good hygiene, temperature control, temperature checks at iba pang mga pini-prescribe po ngayon ng DOH (For as long as there is no vaccine, minimum health standards are needed. These are social distancing, good hygiene, temperature control, temperature checks and others prescribed by the Department of Health),” Roque said.

The IATF took into consideration the proposal of Metro Manila mayors to extend the ECQ for another 15 days, Roque said.

Provinces, highly urbanized cities (HUCs), and independent component cities (ICCs) characterized as low, moderate, and high-risk may appeal their classification to the IATF Screening and Validation Committee not later than May 13, he added.

The ECQ in Metro Manila; Central Luzon, except Aurora; Calabarzon; Benguet; Pangasinan; Iloilo province; Cebu province; Bacolod City; Davao City, Zamboanga City, and Albay province will end on May 15.

The GCQ, with relaxed quarantine measures, is currently being implemented in all low-risk and moderate-risk areas nationwide since May 1.

There are 11,086 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the country, with 726 deaths and 1,999 recoveries as of Monday (May 11).

Meantime, Roque said the IATF has also proposed a general concept of identifying zones with Covid-19 cases.

The “critical zone” refers to an area with more than 20 cases; a “containment zone” means that there are between 1-19 cases in the area; a “buffer zone” refers to an area with no cases but contiguous with localities with cases; and “outside of buffer zone” refers to areas outside of the buffer zones without confirmed cases.

On Monday night, Duterte held a meeting with Cabinet and IATF members to discuss the fate of the ECQ and GCQ.

In a taped public address aired on Tuesday, Duterte deferred the announcement of his decision and instead used his speech to warn the public against the Covid-19 threat.
(PNA)



'It's time to promote cycling culture in Philippines'

[Sheila Crisostomo](#)

) - May 13, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/05/13/2013651/its-time-promote-cycling-culture-philippines>



"If you bike, that means you have a healthy lifestyle. If you are not healthy, you will get tired with just one kilometer of run... The important thing here is you develop a cycling culture," he noted.

Michael Varcas, file

MANILA, Philippines — With the restrictions in transportation still in effect in most parts of the Philippines due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, a cycling enthusiast has pushed for the promotion of a "cycling culture" in the country.

In an interview with "The Chiefs" on One News Monday night, cyclist and former commissioner of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) Gregorio Larrazabal said it is now time to engage the public into cycling since the government has not totally lifted the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

"If you bike, that means you have a healthy lifestyle. If you are not healthy, you will get tired with just one kilometer of run... The important thing here is you develop a cycling culture," he noted.

However, Larrazabal underscored that it is vital for the government to put in place infrastructure like bike lanes on the roads to ensure the safety not only of bikers but other motorists as well.

He added that in enforcing bike lanes, the government should also advise the public on how it should be used to prevent road accidents.

"Now is the time to do that... If you take the MRT (Metro Rail Transit) you will wait for two hours but when you bike, it will only take you 30 minutes to get to your destination," he said.

Larrazabal added they have been talking with mayors across the country and they are open to the idea of promoting the use of bicycles.

"They see that as an option already. There's really no choice as you cannot use many vehicles now," he maintained.



PHL and US partner to support fisherfolk amid virus pandemic

By [BusinessMirror](#)

May 12, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/05/12/phl-and-us-partner-to-support-fisherfolk-amid-virus-pandemic/>



A lone seagull flies atop a pump boat as fishermen clean their vessel.

THE US government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has developed an online platform to enable Filipino fisherfolk to sell their produce to consumers amid the ongoing Covid-19 community quarantine.

Created as part of USAID’s Fish Right project, Fish Tiangge is an online marketplace that can

connect 6,000 fisherfolks with buyers from more than 300,000 households in three of the Philippines’s most important areas for marine biodiversity: South Negros and Visayan Sea in the Visayas region, and the Calamianes Group of Islands in Palawan.

First launched by Silliman University in Dumaguete City in early April, the publicly accessible platform enables buyers to purchase fish directly from sellers and dedicated pedicab drivers deliver orders. Silliman University monitors Fish Tiangge to ensure that no prohibited fish products are sold and that fish are sourced from fishermen registered in their localities.

“By connecting fishers and consumers online, the US government is helping to protect fisherfolk income and prevent a food crisis, while ensuring that conservation measures are not compromised in areas that are hard-hit by Covid-19,” US Ambassador Sung Kim said in a news statement. “We will continue to work with local partners to help Filipinos manage the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic while protecting the Philippines’s marine environment,” he added.

Fish Tiangge supports ongoing Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources efforts to connect fishermen with markets and consumers in an efficient, cost-effective manner. Thanks to USAID’s partnership with BFAR’s Kadiwa market system, these mobile fish markets are the start of a new, nationwide online supply chain of safe, legally sourced seafood.

“We want to help our fishers keep their markets open and viable in the face of mobility restrictions under the Covid-19 emergency,” Silliman University President Ben Malayang III said. “Enabling fisherfolk to secure their incomes in times of severe stresses is crucial to both their long-term well-being and their support for compliant, sustainable fisheries.”

USAID’s Fish Right program is a five-year partnership between the US and Philippine governments to address biodiversity threats, improve marine ecosystem governance, and increase fish biomass in South Negros, the Calamianes Island Group, and Visayan Sea. The increase in biomass will benefit more than 2 million people living in these fishing communities. The Fish Right program is being implemented by the University of Rhode Island, in partnership with local universities and nongovernment organizations.



CSC: Revised guidelines for alternative work arrangements apply retroactively

Published May 12, 2020 11:36am

By ANNA FELICIA BAJO, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/737834/csc-revised-guidelines-for-alternative-work-arrangements-apply-retroactively/story/>

The revised interim guidelines for alternative working arrangement in government agencies will have a retroactive effect from March 16, the Civil Service Commission said Tuesday.

Interviewed on Dabol B sa News TV, CSC commissioner Aileen Lizada said the alternative working arrangements would affect more or less 1.9 million government employees.

"The effectivity po nito is retroactive, March 16 hanggang kailan pong may state of national calamity unless otherwise lifted po ni Presidente," Lizada said.

The CSC's Resolution No. 2000540 lays down the framework and guidelines for the multiple alternative work arrangements. Under the resolution, the government agency added more work arrangements to the previous "four-day workweek" and the "shifting" methods.

These include work-from-home, skeletal workforce, and staggered working hours arrangements.

Lizada has said heads of government agencies may combine alternative working arrangements or adopt their own to cater to the needs of their respective offices.

She ensured that these arrangements would not have an adverse effect on the compensation of government employees.

"Wala po because 'yung ano ho, nagchange lang 'yung place of work but the deliverables would remain the same. Kaya ho kinakailangan 'yung head of agencies would require work plan," Lizada said.

In March, President Rodrigo Duterte suspended work in the executive branch of the government amid the threat of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).—AOL, GMA News



Work arrangements sa gov't offices, ikinakasa ng CSC para sa pagbabalik-trabaho

May 12, 2020 @ 5:37 PM

<https://remate.ph/work-arrangements-sa-govt-offices-ikinakasa-ng-csc-para-sa-pagbabalik-trabaho/>

Manila, Philippines – Inihanda na ng Civil Service Commission (CSC) ang mga panuntunang gagamitin sa mga tanggapan ng gobyerno sa pagbabalik trabaho ng mga empleyado nito, sa sandaling maibaba na sa general community quarantine ang mga lugar na ngayon ay nasa enhanced community quarantine.

Ayon kay CSC Commissioner Aileen Lizada na dahil hindi na babalik ang dating sistema na pumapasok sa mga opisina ang lahat ng kawani ng pamahalaan, kailangang magpatupad ng ibang paraan ng pagtatrabaho o alternative work arrangements.

Kabilang sa work arrangements na pwedeng gawin sa mga tanggapan ng gobyerno ay work from home, skeletal work force, four day compressed work week, o kumbinasyon ng mga ito at iba pang paraan.

Kaya naman may pangangailangan aniyang magpatupad ng mga panuntunan para rito.

Batay sa guidelines ay kinakailangan ding magtalaga ng safety and health officer sa mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan para siyang mag oversee kung nasusunod ang mga protocol, ano ang mga kulang sa mga pangangailangan ng mga kawani.

Ayon pa kay Lizada, bahagi ng panuntunan ay pagbibigay ng technical support ng mga employer sa kanilang mga empleyado.

Ang mga PPE ay kailangang sagot ng ahensiya, at dapat ding matiyak na sanitized ang lugar ng trabaho.

Ang mga high-risk employees naman ay dapat matiyak na naalagaan, kaya naman sila ay dapat mapabilang sa mga grupo ng empleyado na magwo-work from home.

Hindi naman dapat asahan ng kawani na naka-work from home na mayroon silang overtime pay at hazard pay dahil ito ay para lamang sa mga skeletal force na silang required na lumabas ng bahay at pumasok sa ibat ibang tanggapan ng pamahalaan.

Ang mga panuntunang ito ay magiging epektibo simula May 22 ngayong taon. *Kris Jose*



CSC to gov't agencies: Provide shuttle services for employees

By: Cathrine Gonzales - Reporter / @cgonzalesINQ

INQUIRER.net / 10:27 AM May 12, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1273448/csc-urges-govt-agencies-to-provide-shuttle-services-for-employees>

MANILA, Philippines – The Civil Service Commission (CSC) on Tuesday urged government agencies to provide adequate transportation services for its employees once office-based work is allowed by the government.

CSC Commissioner Aileen Lourdes Lizada said that such a move will help address or ease mass transportation problems once the enhanced community quarantine is lifted.

“Tayo po sa gobyerno, marami po tayong mga sasakyan. Wag na po tayo [makisabay], i-shuttle po natin ang mga empleyado natin, hatid-sundo po natin sila. ‘Wag na natin sila isama sa commuting public kasi madadagdagan pa eh, kulang na nga ‘yung ating capacity,” she said in an interview on Teleradyo.

(The government has many vehicles. Let us provide shuttle services for our employees and take them to and from work. Let us not let them join the commuting public because the capacity of our mass transportation is already limited.)

Lizada added that government agencies can also rent buses and other large vehicles to transport their employees if their offices do not have or lack vehicles.

She noted that this will also help operators of private transportation services whose jobs were adversely affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

In observing this move, she said that government employees will likewise be better protected due to minimal exposure to possible novel coronavirus carriers.

Physical distancing and wearing of face masks should also be observed when riding government-provided vehicles, said Lizada.



Hazard pay only for gov't employees working in offices: CSC

By Marita Moaje May 12, 2020, 5:36 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1102569>

Monday that hazard pay will only be given to government workers required to physically come to work amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Lizada said while government employees working from home are not entitled to hazard pay, she expressed assurance that the salary of all government workers will continue during the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) and the general community quarantine (GCQ) brought about by the health crisis.

“Nagpapasalamat tayo na nasa gobyerno tayo at this stage po kasi tuluy-tuloy iyong ating suweldo. Huwag na ho kayong umasa ng overtime pay sa bahay ninyo or hazard pay sa bahay ninyo kasi wala namang hazard sa inyong bahay, you’re in your home (Let us be thankful that we are in the government service at this time because our salaries will continue. Let us no longer ask for overtime or hazard pay as we are working in our own homes),” Lizada said in a Laging Handa Public Briefing aired over state-run PTV4.

Lizada said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) already issued its guidelines on compensations.

Lizada added that front-liners are entitled to risk allowance and hazard pay, while those working under skeletal workforce may not report for work on holidays, but if required by the head of the agency, compensatory time-off will be given to them.

Employees under job order (JO) and contract of service (COS) who are in the front-line services are also entitled to receive hazard pay and the special risk allowance.

Multiple work arrangements

The CSC issued its Memorandum Circular No. 10 (MC 10) on the interim guidelines for alternative work arrangements for government offices available during the ECQ and the GCQ due to the pandemic, promulgated on Friday (May 8), but will take effect retroactively on March 16, the date of President Rodrigo Duterte’s declaration placing the country under a state of calamity.

During the briefing, Lizada said multiple work arrangements are available to the head of agencies.

These are work from home, skeletal workforce, four-day compressed workweek, staggered working hours, and alternative work arrangements.

A combination of these arrangements may also be implemented, depending on the needs of the agency.

"The five alternative work arrangements, puwede ho nating i-combine. Ito ho iyong maganda dito kasi puwedeng i-combine para ho hindi mahirapan din iyong ating



Hazard pay only for gov't employees working in offices: CSC

transacting public at iyong government officials and employees po. We have a leeway whether it is ECQ, GCQ, MCQ you now have five alternative working arrangements (The five alternative work arrangements may be combined for the advantage of the public as well as the government officials and employees)," she said.

She said senior citizens and those with health risks such as immunodeficiency, comorbidities, and pregnant women should be placed under work-from-home arrangement.

Exceptions include those working in healthcare facilities, emergency services, law enforcement, and other essential services, but the four-day workweek schedule may be applicable under the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, series of 2020.

Occupational safety, health standards

Lizada said aside from the MC 10, a joint memorandum circular between the CSC, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Health (DOH) on the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Standards for the Public Sector was signed last May 4 and will take effect on May 22.

CSC-DOH-DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, s. 2020 aims to protect government workers from the dangers of injury, sickness, or death and to prevent loss or damage of properties through the adoption of safe and healthy working conditions.

Under the guidelines, government agencies will be required to establish their own occupational safety and health (OSH) program, create a safety and health committee, and appoint a safety health officer to oversee the overall implementation of the standards.

To further protect their employees during these times, agencies are required to sanitize their workplaces and provide personal protective equipment to their employees, for free.

Lizada said guidelines on the implementation of the JMC will soon be released.

"Maglalabas po ng guidelines ang mga different agencies, maglalabas ho ang CSC ng guidelines how to implement this, maglalabas din po ang DOH po para doon sa kung ano ang medical services. Mag-e-establish sila ng system kung anong medical services ang puwedeng ibigay sa mga empleyado at ang DOLE po ay magpo-provide ng relevant occupational safety and health standard for the government sector (Guidelines will be released by the different government agencies. CSC will release a guideline on the implementation, DOH will release their guidelines for those in medical services and establish a system on which medical services may be given to employees while the DOLE will provide for the relevant occupational and health safety standard for the government sector)," she added. (PNA)



IAEECC mandates 10% energy saving goal to all govt agencies

By Lenie Lectura

May 13, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/05/13/iaeccc-mandates-10-energy-saving-goal-to-all-govt-agencies/>

The Inter-Agency Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee (IAEECC) chaired by the Department of Energy (DOE) has directed all government agencies to implement energy conservation projects that will result in at least 10-percent cost savings.

This move, it said, is meant to curb the spread of Covid-19.

“In compliance with RA 11469, or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, the NBC [National Budget Circular] and the GEMP [Government Energy Management Program], all concerned government agencies are enjoined to implement energy conservation projects and measures to achieve at least 10-percent cost savings in the petroleum products, air, steam and electricity consumption that would result to the addition to government’s resources to contain the spread of Covid-19,” it said in an advisory posted at the DOE web site Tuesday.

The committee said the energy efficiency and conservation projects, programs and measures shall be reported by each government agency with target savings, motor vehicle inventory and other strategies consistent with the GEMP to the DOE copy furnished the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The advisory was signed by Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi last May 8 and issued to the DBM, Department of Finance, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Transportation, Department of Science and Technology, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Director General of National Economic and Development Authority.

Section 9 of the RA 11285, or the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Act, tasked the IAEECC to evaluate and approve government energy efficiency projects and to provide strategic direction in the implementation of the GEMP.

Section 43 of the EEC Act implementing rules and regulations stated that the GEMP shall cover all government agencies, including all departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, branches and instrumentalities or political subdivisions, GOCCs, including its subsidiaries or other self-governing board or commission of the government, LGUs, state universities, and colleges.



Wilt, drought, virus seen to slash PHL banana exports 40% in 2020

By [Jasper Y. Arcalas](#)

May 12, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/05/12/wilt-drought-virus-seen-to-slash-phl-banana-exports-40-in-2020/>

FILIPINO exporters expect banana shipments to drop by as much as 40 percent in terms of volume this year as output is drastically reduced by Fusarium wilt and climate change, with the aggravating impact of Covid-19 on trade.

Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) Executive Director Stephen A. Antig said the 40 percent reduction is a worst-case scenario, considering the extent of damage to plantations by Fusarium wilt or Panama disease, coupled by the drought experienced in Mindanao.

Antig estimates that 20 percent of the country's area planted to bananas have been damaged by Panama disease. As of March, he said, the disease has already affected about 30,000 hectares to 40,000 hectares of banana plantations in Mindanao.

Worse, Antig said the unfavorable weather conditions, particularly the drought in Mindanao, is adversely affecting local banana production.

He explained that the lack of rainfall—it should have started already, he noted—would impact small and medium growers without access to irrigation facilities.

“[The 40 percent reduction] is possible. And I hope it is already the worst-case scenario,” Antig told the BusinessMirror in a phone interview.

The country's banana shipments in 2019 reached a record-high 4.4 million metric tons (MMT), which was valued at nearly \$2 billion, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data showed.

Antig said a best-case scenario would be a 20 percent to 23 percent reduction in export volume, which he noted was “not bad,” given all factors affecting the industry today.

Nonetheless, Antig said they hope the Philippines could maintain its stature as the world's second-biggest producer of bananas despite the foreseen reduction in output.

He explained that other banana-exporting countries, particularly Ecuador and other Latin American nations, also face trade challenges due to Covid-19.

First-quarter figures

Philippine banana exports in the first quarter grew 10.71 percent to 1.18 MMT from 1.066 MMT, PSA data obtained and analyzed by the BusinessMirror showed.

PSA data also showed that value of total exports during the period grew 1.73 percent to \$489.154 million from \$480.805 million.



Wilt, drought, virus seen to slash PHL banana exports 40% in 2020

The Department of Agriculture (DA) claimed that the value of banana exports in the first quarter grew on the back of the “increase in buying prices” by Chinese importers.

However, preliminary PSA data showed that banana exports to China, the country’s top market, fell 22 percent to \$129.354 million as volume declined 20 percent to 312,008.608 MT.

Antig said banana exports in the first quarter managed to grow due to higher shipments to Japan and Middle East. Antig added that exports to China declined due to erratic prices in the spot market coupled by the temporary shutdown of the market due to Covid-19.

PSA data showed exports to Japan grew 27 percent to nearly 400,000 MT. In terms of value, banana shipments to Japan rose 25.3 percent to almost \$200 million. Japan overtook China as the top buyer of Philippine bananas during the quarter.

Total banana export volume to the Middle East during the three-month period grew 66 percent to 276,794.294 MT while value rose 26.8 percent to \$77.617 million, PSA data showed.

Economist Pablito M. Villegas said the increase in overall exports in the first quarter was “insignificant” considering that total shipments grew 80 percent during the January-to-March period of 2019 against the 2018 period.

“Expect full-year banana exports to decline due to drought and impact of Panama disease,” Villegas told the BusinessMirror.

Antig said Japan could become the country’s top export market this year if prices in China remain too volatile due to fierce competition with Ecuador.

Antig explained that spot market prices for bananas bound to China reach as high as P540 per box due to the logistics problem encountered by other fruit suppliers to China.

Antig added that spot market prices are now declining to as low as P200 per box as other export countries, like Ecuador, resume banana shipments to China.



Isabela town's 41.2 Celsius is PH's hottest temperature for 2020 – Pagasa

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:49 PM May 12, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1273728/isabela-towns-41-2-degrees-celsius-is-phs-hottest-temperature-for-2020>

MANILA, Philippines – The country's hottest temperature for 2020 was recorded in Echague town of Isabela at a smoldering 41.2 degrees Celsius, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Tuesday.

According to Pagasa, this 41.2 degrees Celsius obtained on Monday by the was air temperature and not heat index which takes into account the level of humidity in an area to form the apparent heat or the temperature that human beings feel.

After Echague, the next highest temperature recorded on Monday was at Tuguegarao City in Cagayan, at a feverish 39.7 degrees Celsius.

"Ang 41.2°C air temperature na naitala sa Echague, Isabela kahapon, 11 Mayo, ang pinakamataas na recorded temperature so far ngayong tag-init," Pagasa said in a Facebook post.

"PAALALA: Dalasan ang pag-inom ng tubig at bawasan ang physical activities sa tanghali/hapon para maiwasan ang heat stress. Ingat po!" they added.

Pagasa previously said that it expects the [hot weather](#) in Luzon including Metro Manila to continue over May or before the onset of the rainy season. However, the forecast track of [Tropical Depression "Ambo"](#), which is expected to intensify and traverse Metro Manila, is seen to bring some relief from the heat.



Heat index of 49°C in Dagupan, Sangley Point is day's hottest

Published May 12, 2020 5:45pm

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/737910/heat-index-of-49-deg-c-in-dagupan-sangley-point-is-day-s-hottest/story/>

PAGASA's synoptic stations at Dagupan City and Sangley Point in Cavite City recorded the highest heat index in the country on Tuesday afternoon at 49°C.

According to the weather bureau, the two cities are followed by Ambulong in Tanauan City with 48°C, and Masbate City and Science City of Muñoz with 45°C.

The weather agency warned anew that a heat index ranging from 41°C to 54°C may lead to heat cramps and exhaustion. Heat stroke is also possible amid continuous physical activity.

PAGASA reminded the public to drink water and refrain from physical activities in the afternoon to avoid heat stress.

Meanwhile, the heat index soared to 41°C at the Science Garden in Quezon City at 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

Moreover, the agency said Echague in Isabela on Monday recorded the highest temperature so far this dry season at 41.2°C.

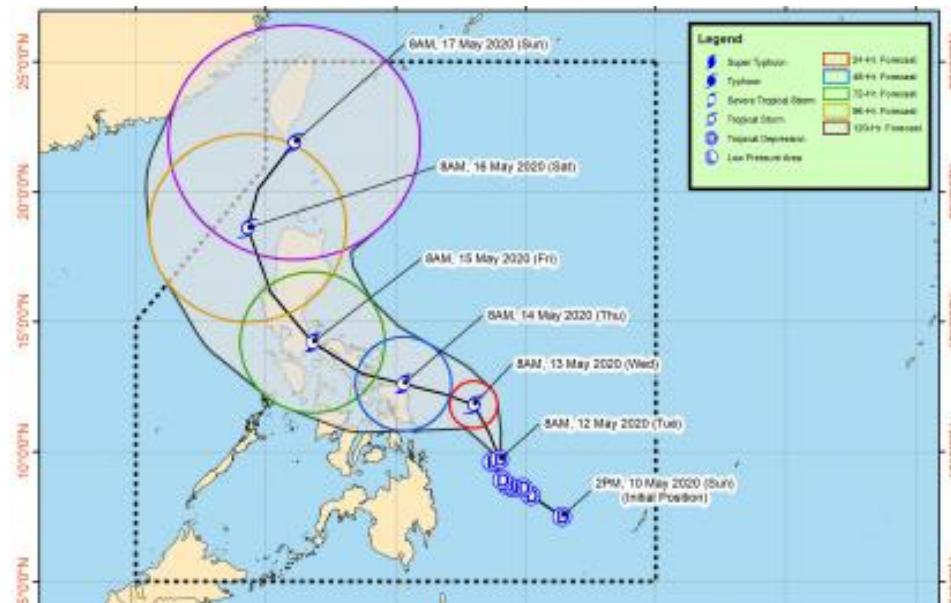
Tuguegarao City followed with 39.7°C, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro with 38.5°C, Camiling in Tarlac with 38.3°C, and Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac with 37.2°C. **-NB, GMA News**



'Ambo' to bring scattered rains over Mindanao, E. Visayas

By Ma. Cristina Arayata May 12, 2020, 7:00 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1102665>



(Image grabbed from PAGASA's Facebook page)

MANILA – Mindanao and Eastern Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to the trough of Tropical Depression "Ambo", the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Tuesday afternoon.

Ambo was last tracked 410 kilometers east of Surigao City, Surigao del Norte, slowly moving in the north northeast direction. It packs maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 70 kph.

Earlier, PAGASA weather specialist Ariel Rojas said Ambo may make landfall over Sorsogon on Thursday (May 14), and may also develop into a severe tropical storm on that day.

Meanwhile, Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers caused by localized thunderstorms.

Moderate to strong winds will blow over Southern Luzon, Eastern Visayas, and the eastern section of Mindanao. Coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough.

Elsewhere, winds will be light to moderate with slight to moderate seas, PAGASA said. (PNA)



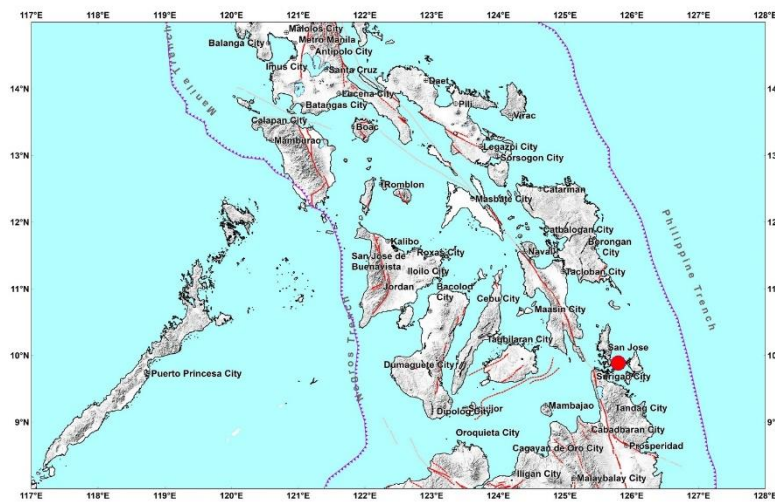
4.4-magnitude quake jolts Dinagat Islands

Updated May 13, 2020, 12:28 AM

By MB Online

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/13/4-4-magnitude-quake-jolts-dinagat-islands/>

A 4.4-magnitude earthquake jolted Dinagat Islands on Tuesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported.



(PHIVOLCS / MANILA BULLETIN)

The earthquake, which occurred at 11:58 p.m., was tectonic in origin and traced to 15 kilometers southeast of Cagdiano, Dinagat Islands.

The quake had a depth of 133 kilometers.

No aftershocks or damages are expected from the tremor.

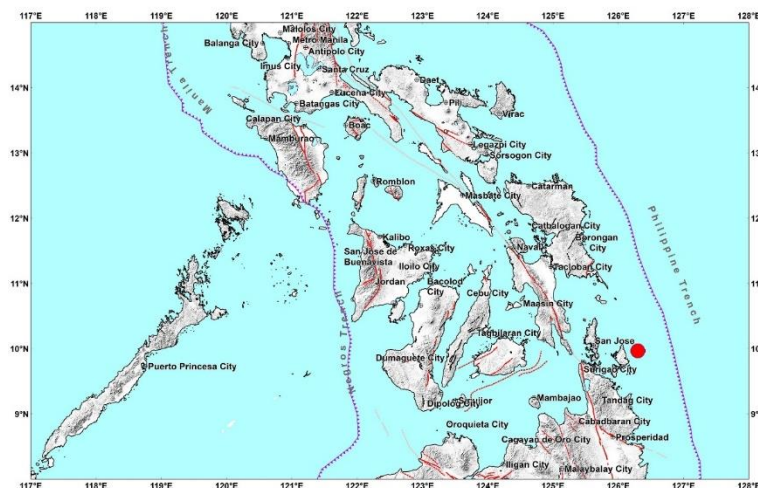
4.2-magnitude quake hits Surigao Del Norte

Published May 12, 2020, 11:37 PM

By MB Online

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/12/4-2-magnitude-quake-hits-surigao-del-norte/>

A 4.2-magnitude earthquake struck Surigao Del Norte on Tuesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported.



(PHIVOLCS / MANILA BULLETIN)

The earthquake, which occurred at 10:29 p.m., was tectonic in origin and traced to 23 kilometers northeast of San Isidro, Surigao Del Norte.

The quake had a depth of 11 kilometers.

No aftershocks or damages are expected from the tremor.

EDITORIAL - Disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura ngayong may pandemic

May 13, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2020/05/13/2013583/editorial-disiplina-sa-pagtatapon-ng-basura-ngayong-may-pandemic>



Nararapat ang madisiplinang pagtatapon ng basura lalo ngayong nananalasa ang COVID-19. Hindi puwede ang tapon lamang nang tapon sa kung saan-saan lalo na ang mga ginamit o sinuot na pamproteksiyon para hindi mahawahan ng virus. Ang mga ginamit na disposable single-use masks at iba pang protective equipment ay nararapat nakahiwalay sa ibang mga lalagyan at itatapon nang

maayos. Ang hindi maayos na pagdi-dispose ng mga ito ay maaaring maging dahilan nang pagkalat ng virus. Ang virus ay nagtatagal sa masks at iba pang protective equipment ng siyam na araw kaya posibleng dito magmula ang pagkalat ng sakit.

Sa kasalukuyan, kapansin-pansin ang mga nagkalat na single-use face masks sa kalsada ng Metro Manila. Maaaring itinapon ng mga walang disiplina o kaya'y nalaglag sa mga garbage truck. Hindi maayos ang pagkakalagay ng mga ito sa garbage bag kaya naglaglagan nang damputin ng mga basurero. Sandamukal na ginamit na face masks ang makikita sa mga kalsada na tinatangay-tangay pa ng hangin. Wala nang pakialam ang mga basurero kung malaglag man ang mga basura na puwedeng magdulot sa kanila ng sakit. Karamihan pa naman sa mga basurero ay walang face masks.

Nagbabala ang mga enviromentalists na ang hindi maayos na pagdi-dispose ng mga single-use face masks ay mako-contaminate ang kapaligiran at magkakaroon ng sakit ang mga tao. Ang mga itinapong face masks ay source ng infection.

Bukod sa pinanggagalingan ng sakit ang mga itinapong face masks, nilalason din nito ang tubig at banta sa buhay ng mga lamandagat gaya ng isda. Mapagkakamalan itong pagkain at babara sa kanilang bituka gaya nang nangyari sa mga balyenang sumasadsad sa dalampasigan at namamatay. Maraming balyena na ang namatay at nang buksan ang tiyan, nakita roon ang mga kinaing plastic bags, sako, sachet at iba pang basura.

Maraming mapeperwisyo kapag hindi nagkaroon ng disiplina sa pagtatapon ng ginamit na face masks at pinakamalala nga ang ay ang pagkalat ng sakit. Ngayong nasa modified ECQ ang Metro Manila, Laguna at Cebu City, dapat lalo pang paigtingin ang disiplina sa pagtatapon ng face masks at iba pang proteksyon na gamit para di-kumalat ang sakit.



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CARTOON

Flattening?

posted May 13, 2020 at 12:00 am

by [Lito Banayo](#)

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/323560>

"All these sins of omission and commission will need to be accounted for."

Even the medical professionals debate whether the curve is flattening in our coronavirus contagion. If we take the statistics being churned out by the Department of Health, there seems to be a lower number of cases being reported each day. Thus, the curve does not seem to be as steep as in the previous month.

And indeed, in the private hospitals in Metro Manila, the number of patients being treated for likely COVID-19 illness is tapering off. Yet even DOH insiders and government hospital staff are saying that the numbers could be deceiving, because there is yet a huge backlog of cases that are being tested only recently. Is the DOH "massaging" the numbers?

Now we are in a frenzy of mass testing, with LGUs focusing on the densely populated marginalized communities, using test kits mostly donated by the private sector, or bought with local funds. Imagine how much better if these had been done since February.

In any case, we are heartened by the assurance being given by the IATF, through deputy implementer Vince Dizon, that we are now ramping up the testing which for two months. since we found out about the viral contagion that started in Wuhan, our health officials had failed to do.

Everybody and his mother knew that there is a basic formula --- test, test, test. And trace or contact track. Before treatment is done. All these on a massive scale. But from late January till the middle of March, we were, in the lingo of the street smart, still "pa-petiks-petiks."

So is the curve flattening? Still in the realm of speculation. Believe whom you want to believe.

This column is being written before the IATF, through presidential spokesman Harry Roque, announces whether the ECQ will become a GCQ, and where specifically, signaling a gradual return to normalcy in the lives of every Filipino.

We watched the delayed telecast of the president at 8:00 in the morning yesterday, but he bade us to wait for the announcement from Roque-Duque. And since I had a lunch meeting, I decided to write this before their presser.

I took note of the President's stern reminder about wearing masks when going out of one's residence, ECQ or GCQ, in fact, until a vaccine is discovered against the virus.

Yet I recall that Secretary Duque and his undersecretaries used to tell the public that face masks are not necessary unless you feel symptoms of disease, such as coughing and fever, and they were saying this even as China had already declared lockdowns, and the contagion had begun to spread to other countries.



Adapting to a new normal: A culture of cycling

Published May 13, 2020, 12:20 AM

#ASKGOYO

By ATTY. GREGORIO LARRAZABAL

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/13/adapting-to-a-new-normal-a-culture-of-cycling/>

Last Monday, I had a very productive discussion With Arnold Clavio on DZBB / GMA News about bicycling as a viable means of transportation not only in NCR, but other provinces all over the Philippines as well. In Fact, there's so much headway now in cities outside Metro manila like Baguio and Iloilo City. But as mentioned several times, there has to be infra support — not only for getting to and from work, but also for facilities in workplaces like safe bicycle parking, lockers, showers, and other requirements to encourage employees to use their bicycle to work. This also includes financial incentives. Key here is education of what to do and not to do. It's a two-way street. BOTH cyclists and motorists have to adjust.

After the interview, I got in touch with MMDA Chairman Danny Lim. He was very receptive to the idea of pushing cycling as a viable means of transportation in Metro Manila.

In last week's column, I discussed some of the preliminaries before you start cycling to work. I dug up old files and found the second part of that series. This is specially for those who asked for more information about cycling to work:

What you need to know before you ride your bicycle to work

Before moving forward with your plans, remember: ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET & A MASK. No matter if cycling to the corner store, across the village, to the nearby restaurant, to your friend's house, across town, or across Metro Manila, never ride a bicycle without a helmet.

Now, having drilled into your planning that you need a helmet and MASK, we can move forward.

Last week, I talked about planning a route to bike to work. Ideally you should have at least two routes to give you options. Try to pass the roads you plotted (using a car) to see which are feasible to use. I suggest looking for a route with minimal vehicular traffic. Or, in the alternative, look for a route where vehicular traffic is slow. Thus focus on secondary roads, and try, as much as possible, to avoid main roads.

Having plotted a route, try riding it on a weekend. There'll be fewer people (and cars) on the road so it's easier for you, and less stressful because you're not rushing to get to work. Do it at a leisurely pace. Don't forget money for food on the way, a valid ID, and your mobile phone.

Always hydrate. Don't take big gulps of water (you'll end up wanting to pee after). Try sips of water, at no longer than 15-minute intervals. Dehydration is your enemy. If you drink only when you get thirsty, dehydration will have already started.

Managing your expectations

Will you enjoy your first bicycle ride? I hope so, but honestly, I don't think so. You'll get a thrill out of it, for sure, but chances are, you'll have to learn a few things during the first few times you bike to work. Many get



Adapting to a new normal: A culture of cycling

stressed because they're doing it for the first time and are usually nervous and don't really know what to expect.

From the little things like what apparel works best for you (Don't wear underwear under your cycling shorts. You'll thank me later for this advice. Put your underwear with your clothes in your backpack). Study the road you'll pass and be aware of potholes (so you can avoid them the next time). The first few rides will undoubtedly be a learning experience for you. Don't expect it to be a perfect experience. But hopefully it'll be a fun and healthy activity and should motivate you to do it again. With each time your cycle to work, you'll learn a thing or two, and soon, you'll have the knowledge and understanding on how to manage your bicycle commute to work.

Take notes of your thoughts shortly after your bicycle rides — what to avoid, etc. It'll help you plan out your next rides and how you can prepare and/or adjust better.

Setting goals

This is what many need to understand. You have to have a plan on what goals you want to achieve. Then you have to break down your goals into stages.

For example. If you plan to ride your bicycle to work 3X a week, you don't do that on the first week. That would be suicide. You have to do it in stages not only for health reasons (especially for those who do not regularly exercise), so your body can slowly build up the endurance. Another reason is for your body to get used to the pollution. Based on my personal experience, I tried to cycle to work one time. First week I did it three days (M-W-F). I got sick the week after. Not because of the physical strain on my body, but because I wasn't able to adjust to the pollution. You know, when you're in the intersection and the light is red, you're right in the middle of the motorcycles and jeepneys. When the light turns green, everyone tries to move forward the fastest. Naturally, when that happens, all those motorcycles rev and a lot of those fumes go straight to your face, and you breathe it all in. You have to make your body adjust to that. Or, as I said above, take note of it, and plan a way to avoid those fumes.

Ideally, you'll have:

Short-term goal – What you want to achieve in 1-3 months

Medium-term goal – What you want to achieve in six months

Long-term goal – What you see yourself doing in a year or longer

Remember.. using a bicycle to work is not like flicking a switch. It'll take time, a lot of hard work, and dedication. Not only from the individual himself/herself, but more importantly from the government and private business owners who employ these individuals who'll ride their bicycle to work.

In the culture of cycling as a means of transportation. It's not ME, but WE.



Now, it is modified

posted May 13, 2020 at 12:10 am

by [Tony Lopez](#)

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/323562>

"The strictest lockdown in Asia has produced the worst wrong results."

What is the difference between Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and modified ECQ? Nothing. Except that in MECQ, half of essential workers can go to work and will be provided a third of public transport for them to go to work.

Since household expenditure is 68 percent of the economy, the economy will remain dead because consumers still cannot go out to spend their ayuda or savings. And outlets for such spending are closed – restaurant, shops, and malls. The 68 percent is equivalent to P33.53 billion per day of spending or P2 trillion in 60 days.

On the other hand, the government is 11.6 percent of the economy. But it has run out of cash, so it won't be able to spend much. The 11.6 percent is equivalent to P5.7 billion per day or P343 billion for 60 days.

You have 68 plus 11.6: A good 80 percent (which produces P1.44 trillion of spending per year) of the economy is still crippled. This makes ECQ, whether modified or classic, senseless and utterly useless. For what? Just to save, at most, 500 lives.

Under ECQ, three-fourths of workers, easily 32 million, were sent on forced vacation for two months, most of them without pay. And 95 percent of consumers, that's 23 million households, were stopped from leaving their homes.

The government declared yesterday the National Capital Region or Metro Manila, will be under MECQ, effective May 16, when the current lockdown is supposed to end.

The beauty of modified ECQ for government is that it gives government an excuse to stop giving cash to half of those in need.

Another benefit for government is that it won't be accused of favoritism for allowing POGOs (programmed online gaming operations, which is computerized gambling with a huge ecosystem of one million Chinese players). With MECQ, the so-called business process outsourcing (BPOs) will also be allowed to resume operations because BPOs, being a huge dollar earner and taxpayer, is essential to the economy.

The government seems to treat ECQ like a basketball game. Or a detergent. The lockdown has been divided into quarters, usually of 15 days per quarter. On May 15, we are supposed to complete the first game. The home team, our government, lost, to the enemy team, the coronavirus which causes the disease COVID-19. The ECQ was supposed to defeat the enemy, preventing it from scoring points at will and causing devastation to the health and lives of people.

Like a detergent, the lockdown is packaged as "enhanced," "general," and "modified." They are all lockdowns. People and businesses are frozen into inaction.

But COVID-19 is winning the game. It just kept on scoring points, willy-nilly. According to Worldometer, as of May 12, 2020, the Philippines had 11,350 cases and 751 deaths.

When the lockdown began on March 17, we had only 187 cases and 14 deaths. That's an increase of 5,969 percent in cases and 5,264 percent in deaths, after 55 days of lockdown. The curve has not flattened at all.



Lockdown? Breakout!

May 12, 2020 | Filed under: [Medium Rare, Opinion](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)
<http://tempo.com.ph/2020/05/12/lockdown-breakout/>



Medium Rare

Jullie Y. Daza

JUST another day in the long and topsy-turvy history of ECQ. Another earthquake, this time in Occidental Mindoro, of moderate intensity, 5.4. Another seriously hot day, heat index at 43C felt in Metro Manila, much higher in the northern provinces. Another Sunday, May 10, except it was Mother's Day, but wait! A traffic jam in the middle of a lockdown, on a street of shuttered restaurants in Quezon City?

Heaven and earth conspired to turn it into a spectacular, breakout Mother's Day. A gridlock of Carmageddon and Apocalyptic proportions happening in the middle of the day, in the middle of an enhanced community quarantine when people were supposed to be locked in at home. But devoted children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law patiently (or not) could not be stopped from picking up their take-out meals with which to greet their Mama, Mommy, Nanay. From one intersection to the next, Tomas Morato St. was snarled in traffic. Where were the traffic police? Well, they didn't anticipate this sort of quarantine backsliding, could they? Restaurant owners, having waited in the empty wings for far too long and hungry to see their customers again, were more than happy to serve them without fully opening their doors.

What a celebration! What a sight! What a sign of things to come when ECQ in QC is downgraded to GCQ and then totally lifted! What a foreboding of the "new normal" turning abnormal because as a highly sociable people we cannot keep away from other people, from our fiesta culture of marking every occasion and non-occasion with food and merriment. Cars slowing down hoping to catch a parking slot. Cars occupying every inch on the road. Cars violating every rule of traffic, damn the torpedoes for love of Mother.

Liberated as everyone else will be come Freedom Day, I will with determination avoid the stampeding horde and keep myself at home. I won't join the millions rushing out of their cages for a taste of the outdoors. Friends, even before Mother's Day, worry that the need for "social distancing" has not taken root except as a trendy part of the lingua franca.

After the Mother's Day experience, what have we learned, if anything? Will we emerge stupider or stronger? Mother knows best. Ask her.



WHO sees ‘potentially positive data’ on COVID-19 treatments

Published May 12, 2020 8:10pm

Updated May 12, 2020 10:55pm

By EMMA FARGE, Reuters

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/737935/who-sees-potentially-positive-data-on-covid-19-treatments/story/>

GENEVA — The World Health Organization said on Tuesday that some treatments appear to be limiting the severity or length of the COVID-19 disease and that it was focusing on learning more about four or five of the most promising ones.

The Geneva-based WHO is leading a global initiative to develop safe and effective vaccines, tests and drugs to prevent, diagnose and treat COVID-19. The respiratory illness has infected 4.19 million people around the world, according to a Reuters tally.

"We do have some treatments that seem to be in very early studies limiting the severity or the length of the illness but we do not have anything that can kill or stop the virus," spokeswoman Margaret Harris told a briefing, referring to the body's so-called Solidarity Trial of drugs against the disease.

"We do have potentially positive data coming out but we need to see more data to be 100% confident that we can say this treatment over that one," she added, saying more research was needed and planned.

Harris did not name the treatments. Gilead Science Inc. says its antiviral drug remdesivir has helped improve outcomes for COVID-19 patients.

Clinical data released last month on remdesivir raised hopes it might be an effective treatment. Several studies looking at combinations of antiviral medicines have also suggested they may help patients fight off the virus.

Results of a trial in Hong Kong released this month showed a triple drug combination of antiviral medicines helped relieve symptoms in patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 infection and swiftly reduced the amount of virus in their bodies.

The trial, which involved 127 patients, compared those given the combination drug, made up of the HIV medicine lopinavir-ritonavir, the hepatitis drug ribavirin, and the multiple sclerosis treatment interferon beta, with a control group given just the HIV drug.

A malaria treatment championed by U.S. President Donald Trump as a "game changer" in the fight against the coronavirus again failed to show a benefit in patients hospitalised with COVID-19, a study this month found.



WHO sees 'potentially positive data' on COVID-19 treatments

While the study had certain limitations, doctors reported that the use of hydroxychloroquine neither lessened the need for patients requiring breathing assistance nor the risk of death.

In Geneva, the WHO official sounded a note of caution around expectations for a vaccine, saying coronaviruses in general are "very tricky viruses" that are "difficult to produce vaccines against."

More than 100 potential COVID-19 vaccines are being developed, including several in clinical trials. The WHO said in April a vaccine would take at least 12 months.

Harris said that the Americas were the current "center" of the pandemic, although she also noted rising cases in Africa. However, she said the continent had a "big advantage" over other countries with little experience of infectious disease outbreaks.

"They often have very good contact tracing infrastructure and a deep, deep, deep memory and understanding of why we take a new pathogen very, very seriously," she said, singling out South Africa for its effective testing and contact tracing.

Asked about the reasons for high case loads in the United States and Brazil, Harris said: "Around the world we have seen that the warnings we put out right from the start, very, very early on, were not seen as warnings about a very serious, lethal disease."

She restated that the WHO, which has come under criticism especially from the United States for its handling of the pandemic, would conduct an "after-action" review that would include a "free and frank" discussion on its performance.

US President Donald Trump is working to reopen the economy quickly against recommendations from health experts to move cautiously to avoid a resurgence of the virus that has so far killed more than 80,000 people in the United States, the highest death toll in the world. He said he acted early to prevent the spread of the disease.

Brazil has registered a total of 168,331 confirmed cases of the virus and 11,519 deaths, the most deadly outbreak in an emerging market nation. — **Reuters**



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT | Asia's pandemic stimulus may slow demise of coal

May 12, 2020 , 05:57 PM

By Joe Brock

<https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/asia-pandemic-stimulus-seen-to-slow-demise-of-coal-in-region?fbclid=IwAR1kAR5mR6owTF6ImVgpREG0nq1OACkapYosiT2KGhigZGkmiOK7Blalo0>

SINGAPORE (Reuters) – Coal power plant construction will push ahead in Asia despite falling electricity demand and environmental concerns as policymakers prioritise boosting economies crippled by the coronavirus pandemic, analysts say.

Fossil fuel demand will plummet this year as lockdowns sap electricity use, the International Energy Agency said in a report last month.

The European Union, International Monetary Fund and the United Nations have said that marks a once-in-a-generation opportunity to launch a 'green recovery', which includes Asia joining the global trend of ending support for coal power.

But there are already signs that China and other Asian giants like South Korea and Japan will steer recovery funds into struggling coal-focused state financiers, equipment suppliers and construction firms. That could create a short-term jolt at the cost of efficiency and environmental damage, analysts say.

"China and other governments may be tempted to invest in coal power to help their economies recover after the COVID-19 pandemic," said Matt Gray, co-head of power and utilities at Carbon Tracker, a climate think tank. "This risks locking in high-cost coal power that will undermine global climate targets."

China, which produces and consumes about half of the world's coal, has in recent weeks said it would allow more provinces to start building coal power plants starting in 2023. It also accelerated the construction of five plants and committed billions of dollars to cross-country electricity transmission lines.

China's coal imports in April surged 22% from a year earlier, as traders jumped on low prices to build stockpiles and prepare for a recovery in domestic demand.

Coal power infrastructure in Asia relies heavily on state-backed financing from China, South Korea and Japan.

Japan and South Korea are expected to continue to fund coal plants in developing countries like Vietnam and Indonesia to support state-backed industries hurt as domestic coal operations wind down to meet carbon-emission commitments, analysts said.

Many planned coal-fired plants are not economically viable and will burden governments with stranded assets and billions of dollars of debt, analysts said.

BAILOUTS

The global long-term outlook for coal power is gloomy. Governments, banks and energy companies – under public and investor pressure – are dropping the fossil fuel, which is seen as the greatest risk to the 2015 Paris agreement to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

That goal already looks out of reach, environmental experts say, partly because of new coal plants being built in Asia, the biggest energy-consuming region and largest growth market.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT | Asia's pandemic stimulus may slow demise of coal

About 500 gigawatts of coal power capacity is planned or under construction around the world, with an investment cost of \$638 billion, according to Global Energy Monitor, an NGO supporting fossil fuel phase-out. More than 80% of that is in Asia.

Even a handful of new plants will boost CO2 emissions and drive demand for coal mining in countries like Australia and Indonesia.

Two of Japan's biggest banks, Mizuho Financial Group and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc, announced plans last month to end coal financing, although the change does not apply to projects already announced.

The banks did not give specific details on each planned project, including the \$2 billion Vung Ang 2 coal-fired power station in Vietnam, which activists have warned will be disastrous for local communities and the environment.

South Korea's Democratic Party announced a Green New Deal after its landslide election victory last month, including investment in cleaner energy and an end to coal financing.

A month earlier, South Korea's Doosan Heavy Industries and Construction Co Ltd, a leading constructor of coal-fired power plants, had made a quieter announcement that two state policy banks would provide it with a \$2 billion bailout.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Doosan Heavy is slated to provide equipment for coal plants in South and Southeast Asia, where emissions standards are lower than in South Korea, including the \$3.5 billion Jawa 9 & 10 coal plants in Indonesia.

The Vung Ang 2 and Jawa 9 & 10 projects will proceed despite a bleak global investment climate and concerns of electricity over-capacity, two sources close to the projects said.

"Coal is potentially less affected than other energy sources in Southeast Asia as economic and social stability may be prioritised in uncertain times like this," said Shirley Zhang, principal Asia-Pacific coal analyst at Wood Mackenzie, an energy consultancy.

Meanwhile, there is bad news in the short term for renewable energy, even as analysts predict a transition to cleaner fuel across the world.

Wood Mackenzie estimates 150 gigawatts of wind and solar projects across Asia Pacific could be delayed or cancelled over the next five years as the downturn increases financing costs and draws focus toward more pressing economic priorities.

"I don't believe coal actually has any advantages over renewables," said Andrew Affleck, managing partner of Armstrong Asset Management, owner of a Southeast Asia clean energy fund. "But with renewables' financing constrained post-pandemic, Southeast Asian policymakers may ignore environmental impacts and buckle to the lure of Chinese build and finance coal power plants."

(Reporting by Joe Brock; additional reporting by David Stanway in Shanghai, Muyu Xu in Beijing, Aaron Sheldrick in Tokyo, Heekyong Yang and Jane Chung in Seoul and Matthew Green in London. Editing by Gerry Doyle)



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CARTOON

Virus hope in US as WHO hails global progress

posted May 13, 2020 at 12:50 am

by [AFP](#)

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/323591>

Washington—The United States logged a second consecutive day of fewer than 900 coronavirus deaths, as the World Health Organization (WHO) hailed global progress but warned of the need for "extreme vigilance" against a second wave.

In Europe, where infection rates and death tolls have significantly tailed off, millions of people have begun emerging from lockdown.

The French were able to venture outdoors without filling in a permit for the first time in nearly eight weeks on Monday, and some shops reopened their doors.

Spaniards revelled in being able to visit outdoor terraces and cafes after months under one of the world's toughest lockdowns, although virus hotspots such as Madrid and Barcelona remain under wraps.

Shopping strips were once again populated in Greece, while in other parts of Europe—from the Netherlands to Switzerland and Croatia—youngsters headed back to the classroom after weeks at home.

In Asia, normal life was also getting back on track with trains restarting in India later Tuesday.

Shanghai Disneyland reopened at the start of the week, and many workers returned to offices in Hong Kong.

The resurgence of activity came despite a scare on Monday when China and South Korea both reported a spike in new infections. But China had no new domestic cases on Tuesday and for the 27th consecutive day, there were no deaths.

Optimism was tempered by the increasingly dire economic situation, with Boeing's chief executive warning a major US airline would likely go under because of the pandemic, as jobs vanish and businesses go to the wall.

The virus has now killed more than 285,000 people, according to a tally compiled by AFP. The number of infections has surpassed 4.1 million.

Infection rates in many countries have started to slow, the WHO noted, with weeks of lockdown paying dividends.

"The good news is that there has been a great deal of success in slowing the virus and ultimately saving lives," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing.

But the global health body warned of a second wave of transmission, with emergencies chief Michael Ryan lamenting that some governments were choosing to "drive through this blind" by not ramping up capacity to test and trace.

Swathes of the US have opened up in recent days, despite warnings that the virus is not fully under control in the world's worst-hit country.

There was some qualified good news for Americans on Monday, with a tally showing 830 deaths in 24 hours—a second consecutive day of fewer than 900.



Virus hope in US as WHO hails global progress

Nevertheless, more than 80,000 people are known to have died from the disease since it hit America's shores.

The true human cost could be much higher.

In a study, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the number of dead in worst-hit New York could be around 30 percent more than the official toll.

White House fears

The virus appeared to have gained a foothold in the White House over the weekend, with a second confirmed case in the West Wing.

Staff there were told Monday they had to wear masks at work, and Trump said he might limit contact with his deputy after an aide to Vice President Mike Pence tested positive.

"We can talk on the phone," he said of Pence. "He tested negative, so we have to understand that, but he comes into contact with a lot of people."

Trump, who is desperately seeking to reboot the economy ahead of the November election, said the US was making "tremendous strides" in ramping up testing and the number of virus infections is "coming down very rapidly."

He said it was essential to get the country reopened.

"The people want our country open," the president said.

In California, which retains many of the restrictions dispensed with by other states, Tesla's outspoken boss Elon Musk said he would defy local rules and get his plant back in action.

"Tesla is restarting production today against Alameda County rules," Musk said in a tweet.

"I will be on the line with everyone else. If anyone is arrested, I ask that it only be me."

Tens of millions of people have lost their jobs around the world in shutdowns designed to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

Industry chiefs say the economic impact could be disastrous.

"It's most likely," Boeing CEO David Calhoun told a reporter when asked if a major US airline could go bust over the coming months.

"You know something will happen in September," Calhoun said. "Traffic levels will not be back to 100 percent, they won't even be back to 25."

'Very emotional'

The wide boulevards of the Champs-Elysees in Paris were once again back to life with shoppers waiting patiently to make purchases.

"It's very emotional, almost as if we were opening for the first time," said a smiling Raffa Olivier after setting up tables outside his ice-cream parlour for the first time in two months in the Spanish seaside town of Tarragona.

There was also light at the end of the tunnel for sports fans.

Italian football's Serie A clubs are set to return to team training from May 18, and Germany's Bundesliga will kick off on Saturday -- but without fans.

"It's a good feeling. We are now looking forward to being able to resume playing," said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

It is "an important and wonderful signal for the Bundesliga."

