

DENR: Wildlife sightings sa Calabarzon, tumataas sa
gitna ng pandemya

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May 15, 2020
DATE



DENR: Wildlife sightings sa Calabarzon, tumataas sa gitna ng pandemya

May 14, 2020 @ 6:58 PM 13 hours ago

Views: 118

Manila, Philippines – Sa gitna ng ipinatutupad na community quarantine bunsod ng COVID-19 pandemic partikular sa Region 4A o Calabarzon area hiniling ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko na lubayan at huwag pakialaman ang mga wild animals matapos makatanggap ng ulat na nadagdagan ang bilang ng pagkakita ng mga ito sa naturang rehiyon.

“With the increased sightings of wild animals occurring in the Calabarzon region, it is important that we remind the public to leave them alone, unless they are sick, orphaned or injured as we have wildlife experts who can take care of them,” ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Ayon kay Cimatu, dumagdag ang bilang ng mga nakikitang wildlife sa naturang rehiyon simula nang ipatupad ang enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) sa buong Luzon upang mapigilan ang paglaganap ng COVID-19. Ang pinakahuli sa mga ito ay ang pagkakatagpo sa dalawang juvenile Brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*) na nakita sa Mabini, Batangas.

Aniya, ang limitadong galaw ng mga tao dahil sa ipinatutupad na ECQ ay nakatulong sa kalikasan at biodiversity na maibalik muli ang natural spaces.

“According to our wildlife experts, animals feel much more comfortable going around because there are lesser people in the streets and public spaces because of the continuing ECQ,” paliwanag pa ni Cimatu.

Noong Mayo 10 nagtungo sa Batangas ang isang grupo ng Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ng DENR upang tanggapin ang dalawang batang Brahminy kites matapos makatanggap ng tawag mula sa isang nangingalang Christian Atienza na pinagbigyan ng ibon galing sa kanyang kapitbahay na si Philip Ramos na nakatagpo dito malapit sa kanyang bahay sa Barangay Sto. Tomas.

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Ayon kay Ramos, tinangka umano niyang ibalik sa kagubatan ang mga ibon ngunit bumabalik ito sa kanyang bahay dahil upang ibigay niya ito kay Atienza na nagdesisyon naman na tumawag sa BMB dahil marami ang gustong kumuha ng naturang hayop sa kanya.

Agad namang dinala sa Wildlife Rescue Center sa Quezon City ang mga ibon kung saan mananatili ang mga ito hanggang handa na itong ibalik sa kagubatan.

Nagbigay din ng babala si Cimatú sa publiko na huwag panghimasukan ang mga wildlife dahil posible itong magkaroon ng sakit o pinsala at ang pag-alis sa mga hayop sa kagubatan ay maaaring magresulta sa kanilang kamatayan.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na kung ang hayop ay nangangailangan ng tulong, dapat ay mabigyan ito ng specialized care para gumaling at maibalik sa kagubatan. Dahil dito, mahalagang ipaalam kaagad sa BMB ang mga kaso ng mga natagpuang hayop na may sakit, nasugatan or naulila.

Aniya pa, may ipinatutupad na regulasyon sa pag-aalaga, pagbabiyaha at pagbebenta ng wild animals batay sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act of 2001. **Santi Celario**

ECQ helping save wildlife – DENR

May 14, 2020

By Joel dela Torre

People's Journal

WILDLIFE sightings are on the rise especially in Region IV-A or the CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) areas during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that the declaration of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the entire Luzon appears to have restrained human activities thus helping nature and biodiversity rediscover their natural spaces.

“According to our wildlife experts, animals feel much more comfortable going around because there are lesser people in the streets and public spaces because of the continuing ECQ,” he pointed out.

The DENR chief immediately reminded the public to just leave wild animals alone unless they are sick, orphaned or injured.

“We have wildlife experts who can take care of them,” he said.

Just last May 10, two juvenile species of Brahminy kite (*Haliastur Indus*) were spotted in Mabini, Batangas.

Responding to a report from a certain Christian Atienza, a team from the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in QC went all the way to Batangas and retrieved the young wild lives.

Two twin hatchlings were turned over by one Philip Ramos who found the animals near his house in Brgy. Sto. Tomas.

Ramos reportedly tried to release the juvenile raptors back into the wild but they kept returning to his house, prompting him to turn it over to Atienza, his neighbor.

Atienza later decided to call the BMB after some people started taking interest in the animals and threatening him in exchange for the raptors.

The raptors were brought to the Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City where they will stay until they are ready to be released back into the wild.

Cimatu warned that human interference with wildlife could result in disease or injury, and taking the animal out of the wild limits its chances of surviving.

Where an animal is in need of help, Cimatu said it requires specialized care to recover and return to the wild, that is why it is important to report cases of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife to the BMB.

Wildlife sightings in Calabarzon increase, public should 'leave them alone' — DENR

By [Danielle Nakpil, CNN Philippines](#)

Published May 13, 2020 8:24:25 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 13) — As humans stay indoors, wildlife starts to freely rediscover nature.

More reports of wildlife sightings have reached the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, especially in Region IV-A, or Calabarzon, amid the enhanced community quarantine that has kept most people indoors.

It looks like “restrained human activities resulting from the ECQ was helping nature and biodiversity rediscover their natural spaces,” according to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Cimatu has issued an appeal for people not to harm the animals and to just leave them be, unless they are injured, sick, or orphaned.

“With the increased sightings of wild animals occurring in the Calabarzon region, it is important that we remind the public to leave them alone, unless they are sick, orphaned or injured, as we have wildlife experts who can take care of them,” he added.

Recently, two juvenile species of Brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*) were spotted in Mabini, Batangas, according to DENR.

A team from the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau headed to Batangas on May 10 to retrieve the young Brahminy kites, after receiving a call from a concerned citizen.

The raptors were then brought to the Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City, which will be their temporary home, until they are ready to be released back into the wild.

Cimatu said that human interference with wildlife can result in injury or disease. On the other hand, taking them to the wild limits their chances of surviving.

The DENR chief added that specialized care by experts is required to help these animals recuperate. He encouraged people to report cases of sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife to the BMB.

Possession, transportation and importation of wild animals are regulated under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/5/13/Wildlife-sightings-Calabarzon-DENR-.html?fbclid=IwAR2eOO1p5c3efDz7HonVjoQ8oVXpbm5PnMAML6SjavmjPS14I8KOEhV31X0>



News5

6 hrs ·

Nailigtas ng mga otoridad ang isang saltwater crocodile na na-trap sa isang fish pond sa Sitio Monsod, Brgy. Melville, Balabac, Palawan.

Nang masigurong malusog at walang sugat, agad ding pinakawalan sa kanyang natural habitat ang buwayang may timbang na 180 kilograms.

📍: FB/Palawan Council for Sustainable Development



Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1996738760482868&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0

294,069 board ft. hot logs, lumbers seized in Q1 2020 in Caraga region

Published May 14, 2020, 3:45 PM

By *Mike Crismundo*

BUTUAN CITY —The regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) based in Caraga region reported on Thursday, May 14, the seizure of 294,060 board feet of illegally-cut forest products in the targeted 'hot spot' areas during the all-out anti-illegal logging drive in the first quarter of 2020.

In this period, the regional anti-illegal logging task force and various provincial and community environment and natural resources offices (PENROs, CENROs) task forces, 23 cases have already been filed in court against 40 individuals for violating the forestry laws otherwise known as the Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Of the total persons charged, 24 have already posted bail while 16 continue to remain in detention, said DENR 13 Regional Executive Director (RED) Atty. Felix S. Alicer, on Thursday.

He said the total value of the seized forest products that are temporarily brought to various depository areas in the region reached to more than P8.4 million.

The region's top DENR official disclosed that some timber poachers and illegal wood traders took advantage of the current health crisis. Most of these illegally-cut forest products were transported in closed vans and in single motorcycles locally known as habal-habal, mostly during night time," the top DENR 13 official said.

The official noted the dedication of field forestry officials and personnel performing in round the clock operations. "These officers and their personnel continued their watch to our timberlands while at the same time provided support to the unified efforts of local government units (LGUs) in the fight against Covid-19," he said.

The official noted the hard work of Bislig City CENRO Victor Sabornido, Bunawan CENRO Jerome Albia, Bayugan City CENRO Norman Asugan, and Specialist Greg Bayotas. RED Alicer also commended the efforts of provincial officers Joey Flavio Concha in Agusan del Sur, Rosendo Asunto in Agusan del Norte, Maritess Ocampo in Surigao del Norte, Achilles Anthony Ebron in Surigao del Sur, and Agapito Patubo in the Province of Dinagat Islands. He also expressed gratitude to the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the area for the support they provided during the series of anti-poaching operations.

"Our various anti-illegal logging task forces, specifically our PENROs and CENROs task forces are in an all-out campaign against timber poachers and traders despite this health crisis," stressed RED Alicer.

He said numerous anti-timber poaching operations were conducted the past few weeks and months, even community quarantine were imposed in different areas in the region to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease COVID-19. "My instruction is not to let up against illegal timber poachers and traders," stressed further the top DENR official in Caraga region.



P.4M iligal na kahoy nasabat

Last updated May 14, 2020

Nasabat ng operatiba ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Cagayan (PENRO-Cag) ang mahigit 7,000 board feet ng kontrabandong kahoy sa bayan ng Peñablanca, Cagayan noong Martes.

Ayon kay PENRO-Cag provincial director Atty. Ismael Manaligod, nagpapatrulya ang kanilang forest protection officer kasama ang mga kapulisan nang matunton nila ang mga common hardwood sa isang bakanteng lote sa Barangay Mangga sa naturang bayan.

Sinabi ni Manaligod, tinakpan ng tolda at nilagyan ng damo ang kahoy para hindi agad mapansin.

Aniya, umaabot sa halagang P300,000 hanggang P400,000 ang mga nasabat na kahoy.

Ayon sa opisyal, pahirapan ang signal sa lugar kaya walang nagpapaabot ng impormasyon sa kanilang hanay para ipagbigay alam ang illegal na gawain sa nasabing lugar.

Kaugnay nito, iniimbestigahan na ang may-ari ng lote kung saan natagpuan ang mga kahoy.

Naniniwala si Manaligod na patuloy ang ginagawang pagputol ng mga mamamayan ng kahoy dahil mabilis itong pagkakitaan. (Allan Bergonia)

NWRB hikes water allocation for NCR

May 14, 2020 | 8:15 pm



THE National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has increased the raw water allocation of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) starting May 14 until the end of the month.

In a text message, NWRB Executive Director Sevillo D. David, Jr. said that raw water allocation is now at 48 cubic meters per second (cms) against the previous 46 cms allocation.

Mr. David said that increase in water allocation is in response to the intense heat.

“The additional 2 CMS raw water allocation from Angat Dam is considered a special requirement due to the relatively high heat index in the month of May which results in higher water demand for consumers in Metro Manila and the adjacent provinces of Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite,” Mr. David said.

On Thursday morning, the water level of Angat Dam was at 187.75 meters, 0.24 meters lower than its Wednesday level, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

The dam’s minimum operating level is 180 meters, while its normal level is 212 meters.

Angat Dam’s water level may improve as Typhoon Ambo is expected to traverse Luzon.

Mr. David said there is a chance that Ambo will augment the water level of Angat Dam by around 30-50 millimeters over 24 hours. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/nwrh-hikes-water-allocation-for-ncr/>

NWRB boosts water supply for Metro Manila

By [Jordeene B. Lagare](#)

May 14, 2020

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has raised Metro Manila's raw water allocation from Angat Dam amid the pandemic and scorching heat.

NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr. said the allocation was raised to 48 cubic meters per second (cms) from 46 cms.

“The additional 2 CMS raw water allocation from Angat Dam shall be considered as a special requirement to sustain the steady supply of water in this time of Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic and due to relatively high heat index this month of May which results in higher water demand of consumers in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces of Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite,” he added.

The NWRB reiterated its appeal for the responsible use and conservation of water to secure water supply in the succeeding months and to allow the dam to recover to a more comfortable level by the end of the year.

NWRB raises MWSS water share as heat index rises

Published May 14, 2020 11:15am

By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) on Thursday raised the water allocation of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) until end-May, given the high demand in locked-down areas hit by a high heat index.

According to NWRB executive director Seville David, the MWSS allocation was increased to 48 cubic meters per second (CMS) effective May 14, 2020 to May 31.

"The additional 2 CMS raw water allocation from Angat Dam shall be considered as a special requirement to sustain the steady supply of water in this time of COVID-19 pandemic and due to relatively high heat index this month of May which results in higher demand of consumers in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, and Cavite," he said in a mobile message.

The heat index -- a measure of the temperature that a person feels in contrast to the actual air temperature -- has reached as high as [50°C in areas such as Cavite](#).

As of Thursday, the water elevation at the Angat Dam — which supplies 96% of Metro Manila's water needs — was recorded at 187.73 meters.

David in April said there is [enough water in Angat to supply Metro Manila](#) even with the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), which was then only set to last until April 30.

The [ECQ](#) placed over Metro Manila, along with several "high-risk areas," has since been extended several times to last until May 31.

"NWRB reiterates to our people to continue their practice of responsible use and conservation of water to further secure our needs in the succeeding months and for the Angat Dam to recover to a more comfortable level by the end of the year," said David. — **RSJ, GMA News**

Angat to deliver water to Metro at full blast until May 30

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

May 14, 2020



In Photo: Photo from the Wikimedia Commons shows the Angat Dam viewed from the San Lorenzo hilltop in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has raised the allocation of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) from 46 cubic meters per second (CMS) to 48 CMS starting Thursday, May 14, 2020, to boost the raw water supply for Metro Manila residents.

The 48 CMS water allocation will stay until May 30, 2020.

NWRB Executive Director Seville David told the BusinessMirror in an interview that the additional 2 CMS raw water allocation from Angat Dam shall be considered as a special requirement to sustain the steady supply of water in time of Covid-19 pandemic and due to relatively high heat index this month of May, which results in higher water demand of consumers in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces of Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite.

“Apparently, because of summer, the demand for water has increased. Upon the appeal of the MWSS, we decided to adjust the water allocation,” David said.

The 48 CMS is the full capacity of Angat. The last time the NWRB increased the water allocation for the MWSS was a day before President Duterte placed the entire country under a state of public health emergency and the entire Luzon under enhanced community quarantine last March.

David said with the dam operating at its full capacity—until May 30, 2020—the unannounced, or unexpected water service interruption, will be reduced, if not totally avoided.

This, however, would only last end of May only.

“Because of the intense heat, the demand for water increased so upon coordination with the MWSS to avoid unannounced water interruption, we have decided to increase the allocation. This is especially so because of the need for water to fight the Covid-19 pandemic,” he said.

David is confident that the current water level at Angat, which is 187 meters above sea level will suffice to ensure 24/7 water supply for Metro Manila. The normal operating level of Angat, he said, is 180 meters ASL.

He is confident that in between today and May 30, local thunderstorms and typhoon-induced rainfall such as Ambo will boost the current volume of water at Angat, and perhaps at Ipo Dam and La Mesa Dam.

Nevertheless, NWRB chief reiterates the need for water consumers to continue the practice of responsible use and conservation of water to further secure the water needs in the succeeding months and for the Angat Dam to recover to a more comfortable level by the end of the year.

Raw water allocation for Metro Manila households increased

Published May 14, 2020, 10:50 AM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has increased the raw water allocation for household use of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) starting today (May 14).



(MARK BALMORES / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

From 46 cubic meters per second, equivalent to almost 3,975 million liters per day, water allocation will now be 48 cubic meters per second or 4,147 million liters per day until the end of May, according to NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David Jr.

“The additional 2 cubic meters per second raw water allocation from Angat Dam shall be considered as a special requirement to sustain the steady supply of water in this time of COVID-19 pandemic,” David said.

He pointed out that the Board also considered in its decision the relatively high heat index this month that resulted in higher water demand of consumers in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces of Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite.

The NWRB, however, reiterated its call to the public to continue practicing responsible use and conservation of water to further secure the country’s needs in the succeeding months and for the Angat Dam to recover to a more comfortable level by the end of the year.

Based on the monitoring of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, the water level in Angat Dam had declined to 187.75 meters on Thursday from 187.99 meters last Wednesday.

Angat Dam’s normal high water level is 210 to 212 meters.

Typhoon “Ambo” is expected to traverse Luzon and may boost the dam’s water level.

Citing the PAGASA’s projection, David said that “there is a chance that it (Ambo) will contribute rainfall to the Angat Watershed of around 30-50 millimeters in 24 hours.”

Earlier, PAGASA said Angat’s water level may increase by 1 to 3 meters with the help of typhoon Ambo’s rains.

Supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila dinagdagan

Last updated May 14, 2020

Dinagdagan ng National Water Resources Board ng dalawang cubic meters per second ang allocation ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) para mapunan ang pangangailangan sa Metro Manila na concession area nito habang aligaga pa sa COVID-19.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ng MWSS na binigay ng NWRB ang karagdagang 2 CMS na hiningi nito noon pang March 12. Mula May 14 hanggang May 31 , ay 48 CMS na ang alokasyon sa concession area ng MWSS mula sa 46 CMS.

Ayon sa MWSS, nagkaroon ng malawakang service interruption sa service area nito dahil lumakas ang gamit sa tubig.

“The MWSS has strongly urged the NWRB that it needs its 2 CMS to meet the supply requirements of Metro Manila amidst the COVID19 pandemic,” sabi nito sa pahayag.

Nagsumamo umano ang MWSS sa NWRB na dagdagan ang alokasyon para makatulong laban COVID-19 pandemic. Dumagdag din sa problema ang init kaya lumalakas din ang gamit ng tubig ng maraming consumer.

Sa kabila ng mga hakbang na ginawa para makatipid sa tubig at dagdagan ang suplay mula sa Laguna Lake at mga deep well, dumagal din ang pagdaloy ng tubig mula sa Umiray River papuntang Angat dam.

Tiniyak ng MWSS na patuloy nitong titimbangin ang pangangailangan ng publiko at ang kakayanan ng Angat na magbigay ng malinis at sapat na tubig sa Metro Manila at sa service area nito. (Eileen Mencias)

Alokasyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila, mga kalapit na probinsiya dadagdagan

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 14 2020 02:06 PM

MAYNILA - Daragdagan ng National Water Resources Board ang alokasyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite ngayong mataas ang demand dala ng mainit na panahon at pananatili ng mga residente sa bahay dahil sa coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Sisimulan ito ng May 14 at magtatagal hanggang katapusan ng buwan, Mayo 31.

Ayon kay NWRB Director Sevilla David Jr. ito ay para matiyak ang sapat na suplay ng tubig sa harap ng COVID-19 pandemic at mainit na panahon na nagdulot ng pagtaas ng demand sa mga nasabing lugar.

Mula sa dating 46 cubic meters per second gagawin itong 48 CMS, aniya, na 2 cubic meters per second na dagdag.

Tiniyak naman ni David na bagama't patuloy na bumababa ang alokasyon ng tubig sa Angat Dam, hindi na ito bababa sa critical level.

Tiniyak din ni David na hindi makakaapekto ang dagdag-alokasyon sa suplay ng dam dahil papasok naman daw ang tag-ulan pagdating ng Hunyo.

Gayunman, muling nanawagan ang NWRB sa publiko na magtipid pa rin sa pagagamit ng tubig.

--Ulat ni **Raya Capulong**, ABS-CBN News

Water consumption rises as Metro Manila bakes in dry season heat

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 14 2020 08:42 PM | Updated as of May 14 2020 11:44 PM



Angat Dam. Gigie Cruz, ABS-CBN News file photo

MANILA - Residents of Metro Manila have been consuming more water this month as the heat index went above 40 degrees Centigrade in many areas.

Manila Water said demand increased by 7 percent in April from March, and climbed another 12 percent this month from April.

Maynilad said demand grew 3 to 5 percent in their concession area during the same period.

Because of the higher consumption, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), which controls water supply for residential, agricultural and other uses, raised its allocation for the two water concessionaires.

The NWRB said Manila Water and Maynilad can draw a combined 48 cubic meters per second (cms) of water from Angat Dam, up from 46 cms previously. This translates to an additional 160 million liters of water per day, NWRB said.

The regulator said it expects Angat's water level to remain stable despite the higher allocation to the water concessionaires.

"Yung 2 cms na karagdagan, based on our projection, ay di naman po siya makakaapekto nang malaki sa level ng Angat dam," said NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David.

(The additional 2 cms, based on our projection, will not greatly affect the level in Angat Dam.)

Maynilad said the extra supply means fewer to no water-service interruptions until June.

"Hindi na po namin inaasahan ng water interruption although para masiguro namin na kahit paano tuloy-tuloy pa rin yung pag-conserve ng water," said Maynilad Water Supply Operations Head Ronald Padua.

(We no longer expect any water interruption, although we will still ensure this by continuing to conserve water.)

Manila Water, on the other hand, said the added water allocation will help it with the expected surge in consumption in commercial and industrial areas when the modified enhanced community quarantine and general community quarantine goes into effect in its service areas.

Water consumption rises as Metro Manila bakes in dry
season heat

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“So, we need to prepare for an increase in the demand,” said Manila Water Corporate Strategic Affairs Head Jeric Sevilla.


Weather bureau PAGASA, meanwhile, said it expects typhoon Ambo, and another storm expected to enter the country this month, to bring rains that will raise the water level in Angat.

The water level in Angat stood at 187.75 meters today, which is far below its normal high water level of 210 meters but still above its 180-meter minimum operating level.

- Report from April Raffles, ABS-CBN News

PTV 5 hrs ·

NEWS | Residential water demand up during summer; NWRB hiked water allocation for concessionaires

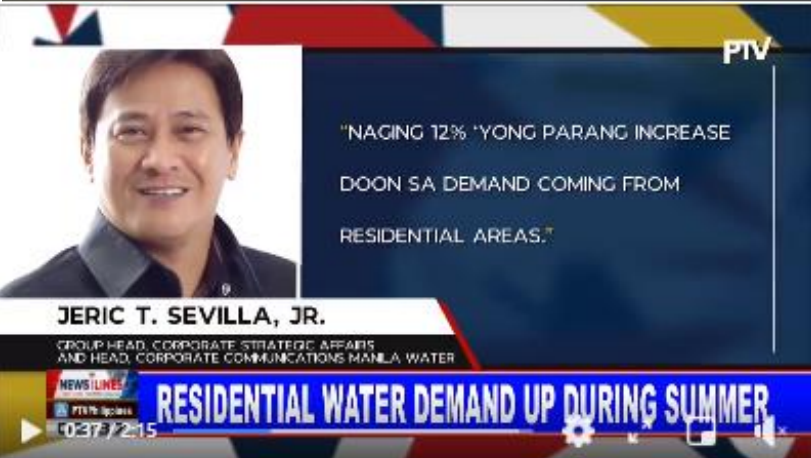


NEWS LINES
@ptvph
0:24 / 2:15

PTV

"NAGING 12% 'YONG PARANG INCREASE DOON SA DEMAND COMING FROM RESIDENTIAL AREAS."

JERIC T. SEVILLA, JR.
GROUP HEAD, CORPORATE STRATEGIC AFFAIRS AND HEAD, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS MANILA WATER




NEWS LINES
@ptvph
0:37 / 2:15

PTV

"TUMATAAS PO 'YONG DEMAND FOR WATER. WITH THIS ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION WE EXPECT NA MAGKAKARON NG SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT DOON SA WATER SERVICES."

DR. SEVILLO DAVID, JR.
NWRB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR




NEWS LINES
@nwrbcg
1:18 / 2:15

PTV

"ITO PONG MGA PAG-ULAN NA DARATING NA AMBO, MAARI PONG MAKATULONG PO 'YAN DYAN SA SUPLAY NG TUBIG."

JOEY FIGURACION
PAG-ASA WEATHER SPECIALIST



NEWS LINES
@ptvph
2:03 / 2:15

PTV 5 hrs

NEWS | Araullo high school quarantine facility opens; Manila LGU intensifies mass testing; Estero declogging start



ARAULLO HIGH SCHOOL QUARANTINE FACILITY

NEWS LINES PTV @ pntv 0:12 / 2:08

82 14 Comments 7 Shares



ESTERO DECLOGGING OPERATIONS START

NEWS LINES PTV @ pntv 0:34 / 2:08



DPS DECLOGGING OPERATIONS

1. ESTERO DE SAN LAZARO
2. ESTERO DE PANDACAN
3. ESTERO DE MAGDALENA
4. ESTERO DE BAMBANG

= 200 SACKS OF ASSORTED WASTE GARBAGE

SOURCE: DPS

NEWS LINES PTV @ pntv 1:40 / 2:08

ESTERO DECLOGGING OPERATIONS START



RAFFY OCAMPO

ESTERO RANGER HEAD, DPS

NEWS LINES PTV @ pntv 3:58 / 2:08

Swimming ban

posted May 14, 2020 at 09:15 pm

by [Norman Cruz](#)



Members of the PNP-Maritime Group and Coastguards patrol the Manila Bay in Baseco district of Manila to keep residents from swimming in the area amid the enhanced community quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Country under GCQ except Metro Manila, 2 others

[Christina Mendez](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 15, 2020 - 12:00am

Central Luzon provinces seek stricter quarantine

MANILA, Philippines — The country will be under less restrictive general community quarantine (GCQ) except for Metro Manila, Cebu City and Laguna beginning tomorrow, Malacañang made it clear yesterday, even as some provinces and at least one major city in Central Luzon have asked to be placed under stricter modified enhanced community quarantine or MECQ.

Malacañang, through spokesman Harry Roque Jr., made the clarification amid confusion over the quarantine status of many areas in the country after today's lifting of the Luzon-wide lockdown first enforced on March 17 to check the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

As announced by the Palace on Monday, only Metro Manila, Cebu City and Laguna will remain until May 31 under ECQ, although in a modified form.

Roque's clarification also came after the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) met on Wednesday to further discuss guidelines for the gradual easing of quarantine restrictions in most parts of the country.

He said the IATF amended its previous Resolution No. 35 to stipulate that highly urbanized cities and independent component cities classified as low risk areas will be under GCQ by tomorrow.

"You will now see that the entire Philippines is under the 'yellow' (category). All are now under general community quarantine, except Metro Manila, the province of Laguna and Cebu City which are under modified ECQ," he said.

The terms being used now are "for simplicity purposes" until IATF guidelines for following modified GCQ become available, Roque said.

He said the public is still strongly encouraged to follow quarantine and health regulations such as wearing of face masks, social distancing and avoiding mass gatherings.

The IATF has approved Resolution No. 36 containing guidelines for the implementation of MECQ.

It is also reviewing the request of Pampanga and Bulacan to be included in areas under MECQ.

Also under review is Laguna's request to be classified under GCQ instead of MECQ.

Bulacan and Pampanga are among five Central Luzon provinces and one city seeking to remain under stricter quarantine or MECQ beginning May 16 even if they have already been downgraded to GCQ. There are six provinces in Central Luzon. Only Tarlac and Olongapo City have not contested their GCQ status.

The regional IATF said local officials themselves have recommended having their jurisdictions placed under MECQ, citing "high number of COVID-19 tests pending, low percentage of tested cases and necessity of preparation and transition from ECQ to GCQ."

Central Luzon directors of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Health (DOH) signed the recommendation.

The RIATF noted a previous position that "the local chief executives are in better positions to assess the local situation in their respective areas of responsibility with regard to their LGU's capabilities and threat status."

'Physically close'

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court (SC) announced that courts in Metro Manila and other areas under MECQ will remain "physically closed" until May 31.

"All the courts in the areas under MECQ shall remain physically closed to all court users until 31 May 2020 and may be initially reached only through their respective hotline numbers, email addresses and/or Facebook accounts as posted on the website of the Supreme Court," Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta said.

"All inquiries on cases or transactions, including requests for documents and services, shall be coursed and acted upon only through the said numbers, addresses and accounts of the concerned court, or through the Judiciary Public Assistance Section of the Supreme Court in accordance with A.C. 28-2020. No walk-in requests shall be entertained in any of the offices of the courts in the said areas," he added. Official transactions are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday.

He said courts may still solemnize civil weddings, provided the number of witnesses and guests shall not exceed five persons.

As for the SC, it would continue to hold special sessions anytime deemed necessary, either in person or through videoconferencing.

With the easing of some quarantine restrictions, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) said it is elated by the IATF decision to allow the resumption of activities in the housing sector.

“This will greatly benefit the millions of Filipino workers who have temporarily lost their jobs and sources of income since the start of the ECQ,” Human Settlements Secretary Eduardo del Rosario said in a press statement.

The IATF has included the housing sector in the list of “priority public and private construction and infrastructure projects” that may proceed in areas under MECQ.

Del Rosario had earlier written a letter to the IATF recommending the resumption of construction works as well as buy-and-sell activities in the housing and real estate industry.

“This resumption of real estate activities is very timely and huge to revitalize the construction industry which is key in pump priming the national economy,” Del Rosario said.

Del Rosario pointed out that the real estate industry employs about four million Filipinos, or about five percent of the country’s total work force, while about 1.5 million individuals are engaged in buying and selling of real estate.

Real estate developers and those engaged in the house buy and sell activities had earlier expressed concern that further lockdown on their business will drain their corporate resources which can lead to “heightened unemployment due to massive downsizing.”

The government suspended construction and infrastructure projects upon the implementation of the ECQ in March to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **Ding Cervantes, Evelyn Macairan, Elizabeth Marcelo**

Gov't unveils COVID-19 recovery plan

May 15, 2020 | 12:33 am



Rickshaws block a street from outsiders to protect a neighborhood from the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Manila, March 24. – REUTERS

THE economic team on Thursday revealed its proposed recovery plan to help the economy bounce back from the ongoing coronavirus crisis, which includes liquidity support for businesses through banks and a significant reduction in corporate income tax (CIT).

Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said during the Sulong Pilipinas event on Thursday that the government will need an additional P130-P160 billion to finance the programs under the first part of the three-phased recovery plan dubbed as the “Bayanihan II.”

Mr. Dominguez said of the total funding, P50 billion will be used as additional capital for state-owned banks Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and another P20 billion for loans of the Philippine Guarantee Corp. (Philguarantee).

Mr. Dominguez said LANDBANK and DBP will act as a wholesale bank that will buy loans of microfinance institutions, cooperatives, rural and thrift banks to free up lending space so small firms will have access to credit.

“Part of the increase in capital to LANDBANK and DBP [is] that they form a joint venture that will be empowered to buy bonds, preferred shares or common shares in qualified companies that need...solvency support,” he added.

Without going into details, Mr. Dominguez said the remaining part of the proposed budget will be used to “hire people to do specific jobs,” such as contact tracing for which around 300,000-500,000 people can be hired.

“What we are proposing is a stimulus package with far larger effects that will increase our fiscal deficit by nine-tenths of one percent. I think it’s around P130 billion or P160 billion. If you put it in the right place, the actual value, the actual economic activity that that kind of investment can make is probably P800 billion or P1 trillion because of the multiplier effect that you can get by putting it as bank capital and as capital of Philguarantee,” he said.

According to a presentation made during the online forum, support to small and medium firms under Bayanihan II includes credit guarantees and the wage subsidy program, while large firms will receive “targeted equity support to match bank lending” with conditions that have yet to be announced.

In the same forum, Acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua said the second part of the proposed three-phased recovery plan includes a drastic CIT rate cut to 25% from the current 30% starting July.

The proposal will be under CREATE bill or the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act, a revised version of the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act (CITIRA) bill that is pending at the Senate.

Albay Rep. Jose Maria Clemente S. Salceda earlier said the proposal is to bring the CIT down to 25% this year from 30% currently, while the next administration will “have flexibility over the other 5%,” against the previous proposal under CITIRA of a yearly one percentage point reduction for 10 years.

Mr. Chua said the CREATE bill will also include an extension of the net operating loss carryover (NOLCO) to five years from three years, while losses for this year “can be credited to future tax payments.”

While there will be changes in the incentive scheme from those proposed under the CITIRA, he said a longer sunset period will be provided under the new proposal where existing incentives will not be changed in the next four to nine years.

To attract new investors, Mr. Dominguez said they are proposing a more flexible income tax system that will offer “tailor-fit” incentives.

He said they will prioritize companies in industries that hire a lot of workers, those that can help improve technology here and those with stable markets.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chua said the third phase of the recovery program will involve “reprioritization” of the 2021 and 2022 budget to include projects meant to improve the country’s health care system, agriculture sector and the entire food value chains, as well as infrastructure projects under the administration’s “Build, Build, Build” program.

“This will ensure that the recovery stage is adequately supported, should the Bayanihan II be insufficient, or if the recovery takes a longer time,” Mr. Chua’s presentation read.

MASSIVE LOSSES

Meanwhile, Mr. Chua said the results of the three surveys conducted by the government showed micro-, small- and medium-sized firms (MSMEs) suffered income losses worth P767 billion so far due to business disruptions during the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Luzon, with their income declining by 87% in March versus what they earned in February.

Of the more than 44,000 respondents in the survey conducted in early April, 66% reported zero sales while 33% said they had lower sales.

This translated to estimated job losses of about 2.24 million workers, or a 10% decline in March from the month prior, while about 75% or 33,041 firms have temporarily closed.

In the agriculture sector, National Economic and Development Authority’s survey showed an estimated P108 million in lost revenues, as 65% of the 6,863 respondents said they were able to sell their products while 35% were not able to sell. — **Beatrice M. Laforga**



Modified 'ECQ for MM, GCQ in many areas — Du30; jobs for 2.5 M pushed

Published May 14, 2020, 11:09 PM

PUNCHLINE

By **FRED M. LOBO**

President Duterte has placed Metro Manila and some high-risk areas under “modified enhanced community quarantine” (MECQ) but relaxed lockdown measures in many other provinces of the country.

Balancing of health and economic concerns underway to save Pinoys and the country from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) said Metro Manila, the municipality of Pateros, the province of Laguna, and Cebu City will be under MECQ until the end of the month.

Still “high risk” for coronavirus infection, they said.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said MECQ areas will be allowed limited movement for essential services and work, operation of selective manufacturing and processing plants of up to 50 percent workforce, and limited transportation services.

“Physical classes” in the nation’s schools will remain suspended, with only “online” given the green light, Roque stressed.

Likewise, he announced that government offices will resume partial operations in MECQ areas. Partial list of services, industries, and businesses that will be allowed in MECQ areas will be announced soon, he added.

MECQ protocols are more relaxed than ECQ measures that took effect since mid-March, he said.

Roque said other areas will be under general community quarantine (GCQ) where limited movement for services and work, operation for government offices and industries will be allowed up to a maximum of 75 percent workforce.

Limited transportation and flexible learning arrangement will also be allowed, he added.

But Roque stressed that minimum health standards such as physical distancing will still be enforced in all quarantine areas.

The wearing of masks is still a must,” the President added.

Meanwhile, Cabinet officials said the lockdown “greatly affected” the economy which contracted 0.2 percent in the first quarter of the year and rendered some 2.5 million workers jobless. Economic fund and job generation are now priorities, they said.

The government added it will continue with the distribution of cash assistance in ECQ areas to an additional five million families left out of the initial 18 million beneficiaries.

“Ayuda still coming,” Duterte assured.

COMMENTARY

We heal faster through collaboration

By: [Dindo Manhit](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:10 AM May 15, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerabilities and intricacies in the country's governance and health care system. Our battle against the novel coronavirus has become more challenging because of systemic and perennial problems such as the neglected health care facilities and workforce, a dependent labor force, and lack of financial resources.

But every crisis has its silver lining. Amid the challenges under an enhanced community quarantine due to the health crisis, we have witnessed the true spirit of "bayanihan." The enhanced and effective public-private cooperation in the Philippines is proving to be a formidable weapon in fighting this pandemic. The private sector has been instrumental in putting up more quarantine facilities in Metro Manila and other parts of the country, which has helped reduce community spread of the disease and decongest hospitals in Metro Manila.

In the past month, we have seen collective efforts from the public and private sectors to expand testing capacity despite limitations. As the World Health Organization has said, the backbone of the global response against COVID-19 is the escalation of testing, isolation, and contact tracing. Physical distancing measures and hand-washing alone will not extinguish the epidemic.

Our officials have recognized the importance of stepping up the country's testing and laboratory capacity to ensure that we locate, isolate, and treat COVID-19 carriers in order to protect our communities. At the end of April, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Infectious Diseases, the National Task Force Against COVID-19, and the Department of Health (DOH), with the support of the Asian Development Bank, convened the Task Force T3 (for Test, Trace and Treat). This public-private task force seeks to support the government's efforts to expand the RT-PCR testing for COVID-19 from the current level of approximately 4,500 per day to at least 30,000 tests per day by May 30.

Per the DOH, the government has invited hospital, clinic, and pharmaceutical groups like Unilab, Ayala Group's AC Health, Metro Pacific (MPIC) Hospital Group, as well as the Philippine National Red Cross and Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, to be the initial private sector members of Task Force T3.

Statistics show that as of May 6, only 0.12 percent of the population, or a total of 130,000 residents, has been tested. As of last week, our testing capacity has increased to 7,000 a day, with 23 laboratories. Task Force T3 is working to ramp up that capacity to test at least 1 percent of the population, or 1 million, in the next few months.

South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Germany have been successful in mobilizing the support of their private sector to increase testing capacity and add extra hospital beds, ventilators, and other medical equipment. In Taiwan and South Korea, public-private cooperation was evident in the increase in manufacturing volume of health products, providing widespread consumer access to and optimizing distribution of such essentials. South Korea and Taiwan made large purchase of face masks from local manufacturers, and partnered with private pharmacies and large private convenience store chains. Korean private companies have also worked with the health ministry and the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop real-time dashboards and mobile apps to further increase public awareness. In Germany, private laboratories have facilitated the testing of more than 50,000 people a day since the outbreak. The high level of testing has helped Germany reduce the spread of the virus and keep fatalities low.

Creative partnerships with the private sector have enabled various governments to scale up responses commensurate with their needs.

As we enter the “new normal,” we need to sustain government-business coordination to win the war against COVID-19. The challenge, therefore, is to strengthen the policy framework and conduciveness of the environment to expand and deepen dynamic public-private sector collaboration. By working together and enabling the private sector to flex its potential, we can heal faster.

Dindo Manhit is the founder and managing director of Stratbase Group.



DUMAAN SA LIGAL NA DAAN, ABS-CBN BABALIK-ERE NA

May 14, 2020 @ 6:35 PM 14 hours ago

Views: 133

NAGSESYON ang Kamara kahapon at binuo ang sarili bilang Committee of the Whole para talakayin at aprubahan ang panukala ni House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano na bigyan ang ABS-CBN ng provisional authority to operate.

Anim na buwan o hanggang Oktubre 31 ngayong taon ang taning na PA sa House Bill No. 6732.

Kaugnay nito, nagsesyon din ang Senado at nagsulong din ng katulad na layunin.

Parehong inaprubahan ng House at Senado sa second reading ang kani-kanilang panukala at kung matapos na maaprubahan ang mga ito sa third reading, malamang na daraan ito sa bicameral conference committee para plantsahin ang mga sigalot.

Ang pinal na bersyong nagkakaisa ng mga panukala ay ipadadala sa Malakanyang para sa approval ng Pangulo ng Pilipinas at kung sakaling aprub na ito, dito na magkakaroon ng awtoridad ang National Telecommunications Commission na maglabas ng permit at license to operate pabor sa ABS-CBN.

SAKALING MAY VETO

Sakaling i-veto ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang panukalang batas, tiyak na may sapat siyang dahilan para gawin ito.

At kung mangyari nga ito, naririyang naman pa rin ang sinasabing check and balance na kakapitan ng mga kongresman at senador.

Kailangan ng mga kongresman at senador ang 75 porsyento na boto ng kani-kanilang mga kasapi upang baligtarin ang veto ng Pangulo.

At kung magkaroon ng stalemate o tablang labanan sa pagitan ng Kongreso o Lehislatura at ng Palasyo o Ehekutibo, maaaring maitakbo ang kaso sa Supreme Court para ito na ang magbaba ng desisyon kung magkakaroon ng pansamantalang prangkisa o provisional authority ang ABS-CBN para muling makapag-broadcast.

SANTONG PASPASAN

Namatay ng kusa ang prangkisa ng ABS-CBN dahil sa taning mismo ng batas na lumikha sa kanya bilang juridical person kung tawagin.

Ayon sa Republic Act No. 7966 o An Act Granting the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation a Franchise to Construct, Install, Operate and Maintain Television and Radio Broadcasting Stations in the Philippines, and for Other Purposes na ginawa ng Kongreso noong Marso 30, 1995, hanggang 25 taon lang ang buhay nito.

At dumating nga ang Mayo 4, 2020 na taning ng buhay ng prangkisa.

Mayo 5, 2020 nang maglabas ang NTC ng cease and desist order to operate at para sa maraming legal expert, hindi na kinailangang kumilos pa ang nasabing komisyon dahil itinuring nang stop na talaga ang pag-eere ng network.

Ngunit kinulapulan ito ng mga batikos mula sa pro-ABS-CBN at bago at pagkatapos ang NTC action, pinaapoy nang husto ng mga pro-ABS-CBN ang isyu upang makapagpatuloy sila sa pag-eere kahit patay na ang kanilang prangkisa.

NO FRANCHISE, NO BROADCAST

Para sa atin, mga Bro, ang batas ukol sa pagtatayo ng mga radyo at telebisyon at katulad ng mga ito ang dapat na masunod.

‘Yun bang === Republic Act 7925 o ‘Public Telecommunications Policy Act’ na nagsasabing ‘No person shall commence or conduct the business of being a public telecommunications entity without first obtaining a franchise.’

Napakalinaw nito, mga Bro.

No franchise, no broadcast ang isinasaan nito at ito ang kinalalagyan ng ABS-CBN hanggang sa magkaroon muli ito ng karapatang umere sa pagkakaroon ng provisional authority o buong prangkisa na dumaan sa ligal na paraan at hindi sa presyuran o pamimilit sa pamahalaan na hayaan itong mag-broadcast nang iligal.

Totoo na nagkaroon ng magkahiwalay na resolusyon ang House at Senado para payagan ng NTC ang network ng magpatuloy sa pag-ere.

Pero kinontra ito ng mga legal expert sa pagsasabing ang resolusyon ay hindi batas na basta na lang sundin ng NTC.

Kinakailangan ng isang statute o batas, hindi resolusyon, para sa pagkakaroon ng provisional authority o pansamantalang prangkisa ang ABS-CBN bago muling umere.

At ito na nga ang sinunod ng mga kongresman at senador at umaksyon sila kahapon at umaasa silang sa darating na linggo, mapaplantsa na ang lahat.

HINDI PA TAPOS ANG LAHAT

Pero mismong si Speaker Cayetano ay nagsasabing hindi pa tapos ang lahat.

Kaya bibigyan nila umano ang ABS-CBN ng pagkakataon hanggang Oktubre 31, 2020 ang network upang magkaroon ang mga kongresman at senador ng buong panahon na imbestigahan ang mga akusasyon ng mga anti-ABS-CBN at depensa naman ng mga pro-ABS-CBN.

Ipinaalaala ng Speaker na maraming akusasyon laban sa network at binubuo ang mga ito ng mga paglabag sa mismong prangkisa nito, sa mga batas sa buwis, sa mga batas na pangmangagawa, sa mga batas pampulitika at sa mismong Konstitusyon.

Idaraan umano ang lahat sa pagdinig at makaraan nito, saka sila magdedesisyon kung muling bibigyan o hindi ng 25 taong bagong prangkisa ang ABS-CBN.

Inilinaw rin nito na hindi usapin ito ng paglabag sa kalayaan sa pamamahayag gaya ng ipinipilit mismo ng ABS-CBN ang mga kasangga nito na mga organisasyon at indibidual.

Sinusuportahan ito ng iba.

O 'di maghintay na lang tayo, mga Bro, sa mga susunod na kaganapan.

Iwasan na lang siguro ng mga taga-ABS-CBN ang pagmamalaki kung maaprubahan ang provisional authority nila at magpakumbaba sa harap ng lahat.



Tulong Kapatid aids Quezon City waste management teams

(The Philippine Star) - May 15, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Tulong Kapatid, the alliance of foundations and companies in the MVP Group, has turned over face shields, grocery packs, food and bottled water to various waste management providers in Quezon City.

Some 500 waste management enforcers received the donation of 300 face shields and 500 food bags from the alliance, composed of MVP Group's Metro Pacific Investments Foundation Inc. (MPIFI), One Meralco Foundation, PLDT-Smart Foundation, Maynilad and Alagang Kapatid Foundation of TV5.

Beneficiaries included garbage collectors, pickers, river waste management personnel and street sweepers who continue to serve despite the pandemic.

“The mandate for Tulong Kapatid to reach out to garbage collectors came from our chairman, Manuel V. Pangilinan, who said not to disregard these people who are being exposed daily not only to danger such as broken glass, smoke and chemical inhalation but also to the coronavirus,” said MPIFI president Melody del Rosario.

“They play a vital role in our society and neglecting them could pose enormous health and environmental issues,” she added.

One Meralco Foundation president Jeffrey Tarayao and Maynilad government relations head Anette de Ocampo also underscored the importance of sanitation teams, especially during the fight against the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

“These care packages represent our gratitude and our genuine concern for them and the wellbeing of their families in this most difficult time,” he said.

“The MVP Group makes sure no one is left behind. The solid waste management are our frontliners who continue to work despite the threat of COVID-19 and keeping them healthy makes us healthy too,” added de Ocampo.

Mayor Joy Belmonte expressed gratitude to Tulong Kapatid for the donation.

“Apart from the food items, these face shields would help protect our waste management operations and monitoring teams from the daily hazards of their duties. We require complete uniforms and impose penalties for non-compliance,” she said.

“These face shields would be used by our city government employees overseeing waste operations, especially those who cannot immediately comply with the task force directives of wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) as our new normal,” she added.

Belmonte earlier directed the city’s task force on solid waste management to mandate all city-contracted service providers to supply their waste collection personnel with the necessary PPE.

This is in anticipation of what will be the “new normal” and ensure that the risk from exposure to viral and microbial diseases can be minimized.

The city government also designated a special team of sanitation personnel to collect waste from homes under quarantine due to COVID-19.

The teams had undergone training and were provided hazmat suits to ensure their protection.

The city also designated special trucks to collect waste solely from quarantined persons and households. The special waste will be properly disposed of by the city’s sanitation office.

Cats take cue from sidewalk markers to practice proper 'social distancing' in QC

Published May 14, 2020 3:33pm

A group of cats chilling in a sidewalk in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City seemed to have no problem with social distancing. Photos shared by resident Coleen Joice Aquino showed three kitties perched comfortably within the small, circular markers painted on the sidewalk.



The circles are used to keep people at least one meter away from each as an attempt to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Aquino said the cats were a bunch of strays who kept coming back to the same spot, looking for food.

Netizens gushed over how "disciplined" the cats were being, unlike some humans who have been violating quarantine regulations.

Metro Manila remains under enhanced community quarantine aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19.

There have so far been 11,618 confirmed cases in the Philippines.

—Margaret Claire Layug/JCB, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/hashtag/content/738230/cats-take-cue-from-sidewalk-markers-to-practice-proper-social-distancing-in-qc/story/?fbclid=IwAR3kG6sPRjrhGUZ0yC3MABOcIEP9n-1QIDRZV9zeNutH1sdpo->

Avilon Zoo asks public to help provide its animals' needs during quarantine

Published May 14, 2020, 3:13 PM

By **Richa Noriega**

The Avilon Zoo in Rizal province asked the public for help to provide food and veterinary services for its animals during the quarantine period.

In a Facebook post last May 9, the zoo said it exerts its best effort to provide for the necessary needs of the animals under its care.



However, the zoo admitted the challenge to maintain good quality animal care and veterinary services for the animals.

“We must admit though that it is quite challenging to maintain good quality animal care and veterinary services in this extraordinary time. We need your support,” the zoo underscored.

The Avilon Zoo said those who want to help can simply purchase an admission ticket on their website.

The online admission tickets do not expire and can be used on any date as soon as the quarantine restrictions are lifted, it added.

“Avail as much as you can and help us continue to provide for our animals and the people taking care of them. We greatly appreciate your kind support!” the zoo said.

According to the zoo’s website, it is currently the largest zoological institution of the Philippines in terms of collection of live animals.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/14/avilon-zoo-asks-public-to-help-provide-its-animals-needs-during-quarantine/>

Avilon Zoo seeks help to keep caring for animals amid quarantine

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 14 2020 06:42 PM

MANILA -- Avilon Zoo in Rizal is asking for the public's help in caring for its animals amid the coronavirus-induced quarantine.

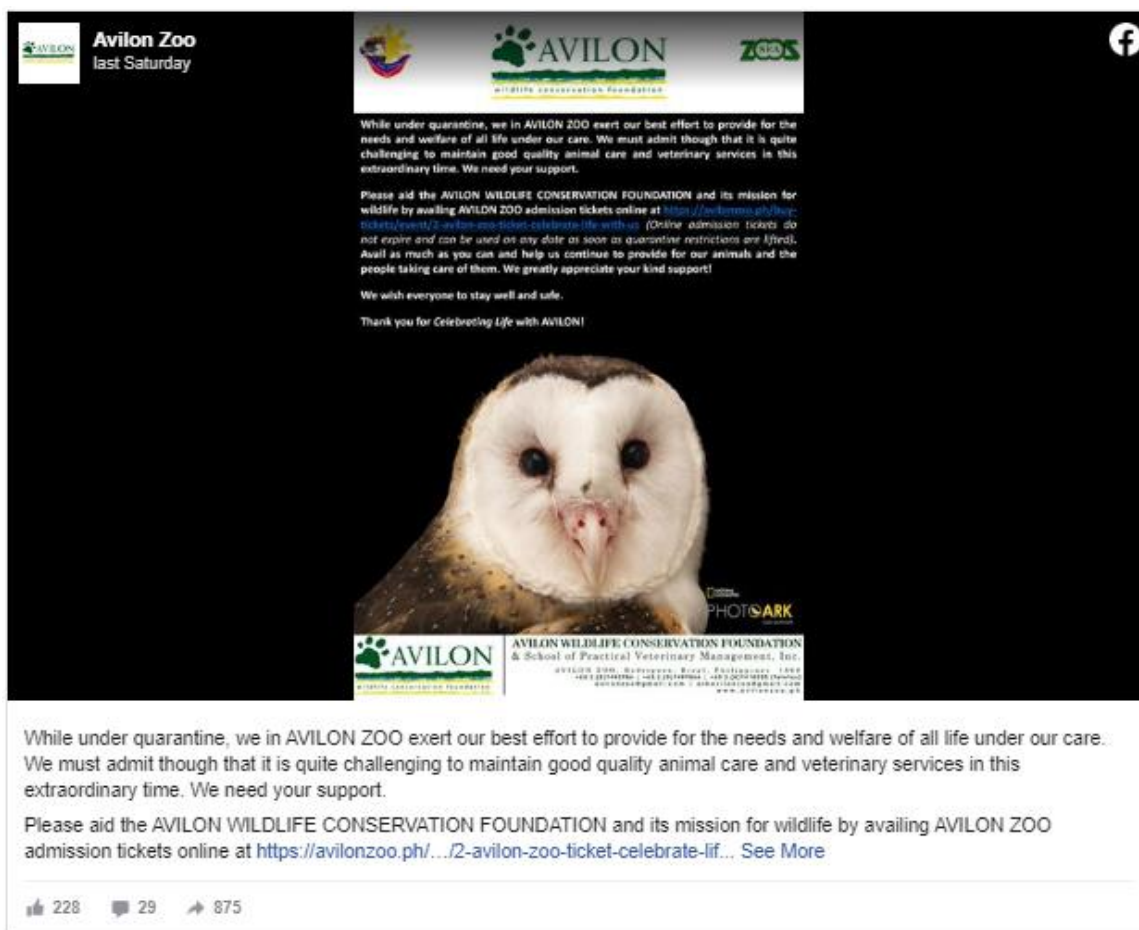
In a Facebook post, Avilon Zoo said it is offering non-expiring admission tickets to be able to "maintain good animal care and veterinary services in this extraordinary time."

"Online admission tickets do not expire and can be used on any date as soon as quarantine restrictions are lifted," it said, directing the public to the Avilon Zoo website.

"Avail as much as you can and help us continue to provide for our animals and the people taking care of them. We greatly appreciate your kind support!"

Located in Rodriguez, Rizal, Avilon Zoo is a 7.5-hectare facility that houses more than 3,000 specimens of exotic wildlife, according to its website. This includes more than 500 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, and invertebrates.

The property also has a diverse collection of Philippine native and endemic fauna.



Located in Rodriguez, Rizal, Avilon Zoo is a 7.5-hectare facility that houses more than 3,000 specimens of exotic wildlife, according to its website. This includes more than 500 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, and invertebrates.

The property also has a diverse collection of Philippine native and endemic fauna.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/05/14/20/avilon-zoo-seeks-help-to-keep-caring-for-animals-amid-quarantine?fbclid=IwAR1f4K21yBJYw0M04afzACSS12sJLu5TRs2NeTV3iO_NNsvmkKanJPrOB6U

Meralco vows to adjust next monthly bill

posted May 14, 2020 at 09:00 pm

by [Alena Mae S. Flores](#)

The Energy Regulatory Commission and power retailer Manila Electric Co. said the next electricity bill will be adjusted to reflect the difference between actual meter readings and the estimates made at the height of the Luzon-wide lockdown.

“Customers can rest assured that since the time meter reading resumed at the beginning of May, the true and actual readings already began to be reflected in the bills, with accuracy guaranteed,” Meralco spokesman Joe Zaldarriaga said.

He said the meter reading was put on hold in the past months to ensure the safety of Meralco employees, customers and meter readers amid the coronavirus pandemic that placed Metro Manila under the enhanced community quarantine.

Zaldarriaga said the bills of households with meters scheduled to be read from March 17 to April 30 were based on the customer’s average consumption in the previous three months. Meralco used the consumption of December, January and February as the basis of the computation.

Zaldarriaga said that as some power rates of consumers went up based on the estimated cumulative consumption compared to the actual reading, the difference was eventually posted in the May billing. “But rest assured, the difference between the estimated three-month average and the actual meter read [after ECQ is lifted] is definitely reflected on the customer’s next bill and corresponding charges will be adjusted. You are assured that when all adjustments are made, you pay for only what you consumed,” Zaldarriaga said.

Zaldarriaga asked for customers’ understanding as the bill estimation was prescribed by the Distribution Services and Open Access Rules issued by the ERC and urged consumers to contact the company if they have concerns with their meter reading.

ERC spokesman Floresinda Digal assured that bill adjustments would be made as soon as actual meter reading is possible. She said the ERC would review the computations of Meralco in the wake of consumer complaints.

“There are rules in place that allow us to validate the computations,” Digal said, adding that ERC’s Consumer Affairs Service are open to accepting complaints through email and its Facebook page.

Typhoon Ambo bringing violent winds, heavy rains

May 15, 2020

TITLE: over Northern Samar - Pagasa

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DATE

Typhoon Ambo bringing violent winds, heavy rains over Northern Samar – Pagasa

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:04 PM May 14, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The eyewall of Typhoon Ambo is bringing violent winds and heavy rains over Northern Samar, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

In the 8 p.m. weather update of the state weather bureau, Ambo was last monitored at the vicinity of Catarman, Northern Samar.

The typhoon also maintained its strength, Pagasa said, as it packed maximum sustained winds of 155 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 255 kph.

Ambo was also monitored moving west at 15 kph.

For Thursday night, Pagasa said that the typhoon is set to bring heavy to at times intense rains over Samar Provinces, Masbate, and Sorsogon, as well as moderate to at times heavy rains over Albay, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, and the rest of Eastern Visayas.

Bicol Region, Northern Samar, Quezon, Aurora, Marinduque, and Romblon, meanwhile, can expect moderate to heavy with at times intense rains on Friday.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 3, where winds of greater than 121 kph up to 170 kph may be expected in at least 18 hours, is still raised over the following areas:

Sorsogon

Albay

Masbate including Ticao and Burias Islands,

Catanduanes

Camarines Sur

Camarines Norte

southernmost portion of Quezon (Tagkawayan, Calauag, Lopez, Macalelon, General Luna, Catanauan, Buenavista, Guinayangan, Mulanay, San Narciso, San Andres, San Francisco)

Northern Samar,

the northern portion of Eastern Samar (Jipapad, Arteche, Maslog, Dolores, Oras, San Policarpo, Can-avid, Taft, Sulat, San Julian, Borongan City, Maydolong)

the northern portion of Samar (Calbayog City, Sta. Margarita, Gandara, Pagsanghan, San Jorge, Matuguinao, San Jose de Buan, Catbalogan, Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, Tarangnan, San Sebastian, Hinabangan)

Biliran

TCWS No. 2, which winds of greater than 61 kph and up to 120 kph may be expected in at least 24 hours hoisted over:

The rest of Quezon province

Romblon

Laguna

Batangas

Rizal

Typhoon Ambo bringing violent winds, heavy rains

May 15, 2020

TITLE: over Northern Samar - Pagasa

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The northernmost portion of Leyte (Calubian, San Isidro, Tabango, Leyte, Capoocan, Carigara, Barugo, San Miguel, Babatngon, Tunga, Alangalang, Sta. Fe, Palo, Tacloban City, Jaro) the rest of Samar

the rest of Eastern Samar

And these areas are under TCWS No. 1, where winds of 30 to 60 kph may be expected in at least 36 hours or intermittent rains may be expected within 36 hours:

Aurora

Nueva Ecija

Bulacan

Metro Manila

Cavite

Bataan

Pampanga

Isabela

Nueva Vizcaya

Quirino

Tarlac

Zambales

Oriental Mindoro

Pangasinan

Ifugao

Bengue

La Union

The rest of northern portion of Leyte (Villaba, Kananga, Matag-ob, Palompon, Ormoc, Merida, Isabel, Ormoc City, Albuenta, Pastrana, Dagami, Tanauan, Tabontabon, Tolosa, Barauen, Julita, Dulag)

the northeastern portion of Capiz (Pilar)

the northeastern portion of Iloilo (Carles, Balasan, Estancia, Batad)

Northern Cebu (Medelin, Daanbantayan, Madridejos, Bantayan, Santa Fe)

Ambo maintains strength as it moves over northern

May 15, 2020

TITLE: part of Samar: 11 area under Signal No. 3

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DATE

Ambo maintains strength as it moves over northern part of Samar; 11 areas under Signal No. 3

Published May 14, 2020 6:24pm

Updated May 14, 2020 9:09pm

Typhoon Ambo (international name Vongfong) is maintaining its strength as it moves over the northern portion of Samar province, PAGASA said Thursday.

In its 5 p.m. Severe Weather Bulletin, the weather agency said that the eyewall of Ambo will bring violent winds and heavy to intense rains over the western portion of Northern Samar.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) no. 3 remains raised over the following areas.

- Sorsogon
- Albay
- Masbate, including Ticao and Burias Islands
- Catanduanes
- Camarines Sur
- Camarines Norte
- The southernmost portion of Quezon (Tagkawayan, Calauag, Lopez, Macalelon, General Luna, Catanauan, Buenavista, Guinayangan, Mulanay, San Narciso, San Andres, San Francisco)
- Northern Samar
- The northern portion of Eastern Samar (Jipapad, Arteche, Maslog, Dolores, Oras, San Policarpo, Can-avid, Taft, Sulat, San Julian, Borongan City, Maydolong)
- The northern portion of Samar (Calbayog City, Sta. Margarita, Gandara, Pagsanghan, San Jorge, Matuguinao, San Jose de Buan, Catbalogan, Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, Tarangnan, San Sebastian, Hinabangan)
- Biliran

Meanwhile, TCWS no 2 is raised over:

- The rest of Quezon
- Romblon
- Laguna
- Batangas
- Rizal
- The northernmost portion of Leyte (Calubian, San Isidro, Tabango, Leyte, Capoocan, Carigara, Barugo, San Miguel, Babatngon, Tunga, Alangalang, Sta. Fe, Palo, Tacloban City, Jaro)
- The rest of Samar
- The rest of Eastern

The following are areas under TCWS no. 1:

- Aurora
- Nueva Ecija
- Bulacan
- Metro Manila
- Cavite
- Bataan
- Pampanga

Ambo maintains strength as it moves over northern

May 15, 2020

TITLE: part of Samar: 11 area under Signal No. 3

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- Isabela
- Nueva Vizcaya
- Quirino
- Tarlac
- Zambales
- Oriental Mindoro
- Pangasinan
- Ifugao
- Benguet
- La Union
- The rest of northern portion of Leyte (Villaba, Kananga, Matag-ob, Palompon, Ormoc, Merida, Isabel, Ormoc City, Albuenta, Pastrana, Dagami, Tanauan, Tabontabon, Tolosa, Barauen, Julita, Dulag)
- The northeastern portion of Capiz (Pilar)
- The northeastern portion of Iloilo (Carles, Balasan, Estancia, Batad)
- Northern Cebu (Medelin, Daanbantayan, Madrideojos, Bantayan, Santa Fe)

At 7 p.m. on Thursday, the eye of Ambo was located in the vicinity of Catarman, Northern Samar with maximum sustained winds of 155 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 255 kph.

The next severe weather bulletin will be issued at 11 p.m.

The typhoon [made landfall in San Policarpo in Eastern Samar at 12:15 p.m.](#)

According to GMA's resident meteorologist Nathaniel Cruz, the typhoon may make a second landfall, this time in Sorsogon, on Thursday night.

It may also make a third landfall in the province of Aurora on Friday, Cruz said.

Heavy rainfall outlook

On Thursday evening, Ambo may bring heavy to, at times, intense rains over the Samar Provinces, Masbate, and Sorsogon as well as moderate to, at times, heavy rains over Albay, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, and the rest of Eastern Visayas.

On Friday, the typhoon may bring moderate to heavy with, at times, intense rains over Bicol Region, Northern Samar, Quezon, Aurora, Marinduque, and Romblon.

PAGASA advised residents to take precautionary measures and coordinate with local disaster risk reduction and management offices.

"Flooding and rain-induced landslides may occur in highly to very highly susceptible areas during heavy or prolonged rainfall," the weather agency warned.

Meanwhile, a storm surge of 2.0 to 4.0 meters may be experienced over the coastal areas of Northern Samar, Samar (west coast), Sorsogon, Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Quezon, and Aurora within 24 hours.

The surge may cause potentially life-threatening coastal inundation along with large swells, according to PAGASA.

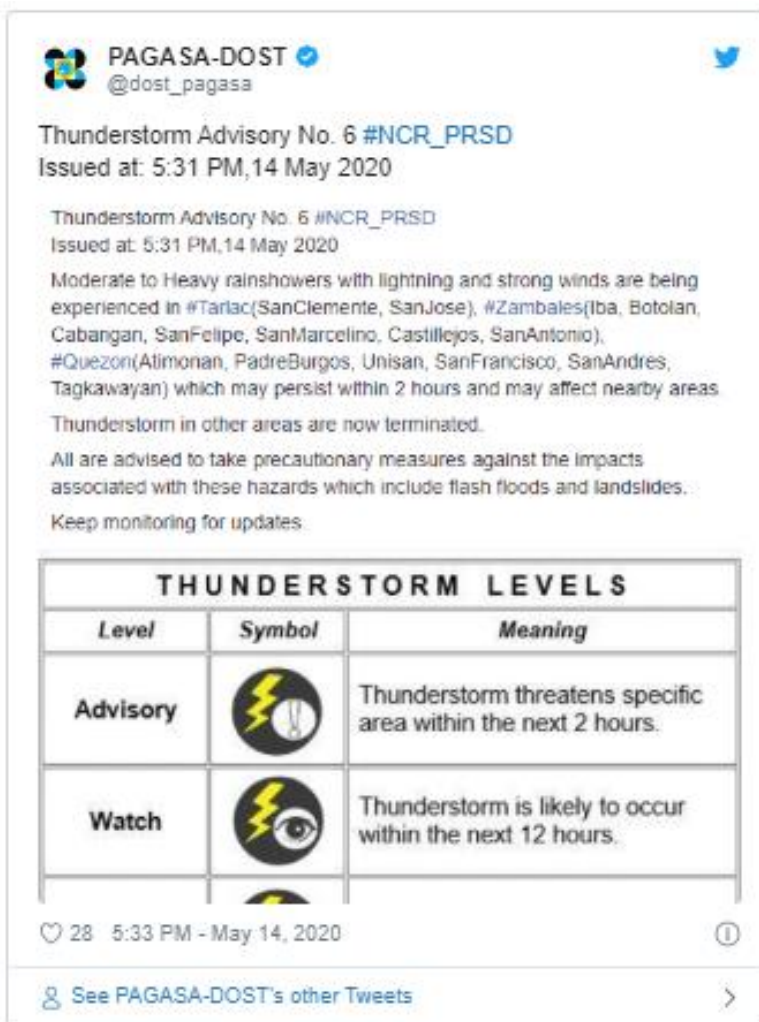
Ambo maintains strength as it moves over northern

TITLE: part of Samar: 11 area under Signal No. 3

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DATE



Thunderstorm warning

PAGASA on Thursday afternoon issued a thunderstorm warning over Tarlac, Zambales, and Quezon, which may persist within two hours and affect nearby areas.

According to the weather bureau, moderate to heavy rainshowers with lightning and strong winds are being experienced in San Clemente, San Jose, Iba, Botolan, Cabangan, San Felipe, San Marcelino, Castillejos, San Antonio, Atimonan, Padre Burgos, Unisan, San Francisco, San Andres, and TAGkawayan.

Thunderstorm warnings in other areas are terminated, PAGASA said. — **Joahna Lei Casilao/BM/MDM, GMA News**

Typhoon Ambo lashes Bicol

By [Franz Lewin Embudo](#)

May 14, 2020

Storm Signal No. 3 was raised in some parts of Bicol region and in portions of Samar provinces as “Ambo” (international name: Vongfong) further intensified, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Thursday.

Pagasa last spotted the typhoon 185 kilometers east-southeast of Catarman, Northern Samar or 110 kilometers east-northeast of Borongan City, Eastern Samar, moving west at 15 kilometers per hour (kph).



“Ambo” was packing maximum sustained winds of 155 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 190 kph.

Signal No. 3 was hoisted in Sorsogon, eastern section of Albay (Legazpi City, Manito, Daraga, Camalig, Jovellar, Santo Domingo, Bacacay, Rapu-Rapu), Ticao Island, Northern Samar, northern portion of Eastern Samar (Jipapad, Arteche, Maslog, Dolores, Oras, San Policarpio, Can-avid, Taft, Sulat, San Julian, Borongan City), and northern portion of Samar (Calbayog City, Sta. Margarita, Gandara, Pagsanghan, San Jorge, Matuguinao, San Jose de Buan).

Signal No. 2 was raised in the southeastern portion of Quezon (Tagkawayan, Guinayangan, Buenavista, San Narciso, Mulanay, San Andres, San Francisco), Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, the rest of Albay, Burias Island, northern portion of mainland Masbate (Aroroy, Baleno, Masbate City, Mobo, Uson, Dimasalang, Palanas, Cataingan, Pio V. Corpuz), Biliran, and the rest of Samar.

Meanwhile, the weather bureau placed under Signal No. 1 the southern portion of Aurora (Baler, San Luis, Dingalan), southern portion of Nueva Ecija (Bongabon, Gabaldon, General Tinio, Laur, San Leonardo, Peñaranda, Gapan City), Bulacan, Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, the rest of Quezon, Marinduque, eastern portion of Romblon (Banton, Corcuera, Calatrava, San Agustin, Romblon, Magdiwang, San Fernando, Cajidiocan), and northern portion of Leyte (Calubian, San Isidro, Tabango, Villaba, Leyte, Kananga, Capoocan, Carigara, Barugo, San Miguel, Babatngon, Tunga, Jaro, Alangalang, Sta. Fe, Tacloban City, Palo, Pastrana, Dagami, Tabontabon, Tanauan, Tolosa, Ormoc City, Matag-ob, Palompon, Merida, Isabel, Albuera, Burauen, Julita, Dulag).

Pagasa said Ambo will bring heavy to intense in Samar.

Moderate to heavy with at times intense rains will drench Sorsogon, Albay, Catanduanes, Masbate, and the rest of Eastern Visayas, it said.



Zamboanga del Sur nilindol

Last updated May 14, 2020

0 151

Share

Bahagyang umuga ang bayan ng Dumingag sa Zamboanga Del Sur nang tamaan ito ng magnitude 3.4 na lindol.

Sa nakalap na report sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), ganap na ika-11:54 ng umaga nitong Huwebes nang maitala ang pagyanig sa layong 1 kilometer southwest ng Dumingag.

Ayo sa Phivolcs at

May lalim na 4 kilometers ang lindol at tectonic ang origin.

Wala namang naitalang nasugatan o napinsalang mga ari-arian.

Wala ring inaasahang intensities o aftershocks.

Temperatura sa Isabela lumagpas na naman sa 40°C

By: [Leifbilly Begas](#) - 05/13/2020



MULING lumagpas sa 40 degrees Celsius ang temperatura sa Isabela kahapon.

Ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration naitala sa 40.2°C ang temperatura na naitala sa Echague.

Mas mababa ito sa 41.2°C na naitala noong Mayo 11, ang pinakamataas na temperaturang naitala sa bansa ngayong taon.

Naitala naman sa 39.8°C ang temperatura sa Tuguegarao City at 38.2°C naman sa Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac.

Sa Camiling, Tarlac ay 38.0°C ang naitala at sa Science City of Muñoz City sa Nueva Ecija ay 38.0°C.

Sa Science City naman sa Quezon City ay 34.8°C ang naitala.

Heat index at Science City of Munoz hits 48°C

Published May 14, 2020 10:35pm
By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

The day's highest heat index, the human-perceived temperature, was recorded at the Science City of Munoz in Nueva Ecija at 48°C, according to PAGASA.

Several areas in the country also sizzled during the day, including Ambulong, Tanauan City at 47°C; Aparri, Cagayan at 46°C; and Calapan City and Dagupan City at 45°C.

"Ang malaking bahagi ng Luzon ay makakaranas ng pagbugso ng hangin at pag-ulan simula ngayong gabi hanggang sa Linggo dulot ni Ambo," PAGASA said.

PAGASA-DOST @dost_pagasa

TINGNAN: Top 5 PAGASA Synoptic Stations na may pinakamataas na kalkuladong heat index ngayong Huwebes, 14 Mayo.

Ang malaking bahagi ng Luzon ay makakaranas ng pagbugso ng hangin at pag-ulan simula ngayong gabi hanggang sa Linggo dulot ni #AmboPH. Mag-ingat po tayong lahat!

PAGASA STATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST COMPUTED HEAT INDEX		
THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2020		
SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ	48°C	2:00 PM
AMBULONG, TANAUAN CITY	47°C	2:00 PM
APARRI, CAGAYAN	46°C	2:00 PM
CALAPAN CITY	45°C	2:00 PM
DAGUPAN CITY	45°C	11:00 AM

41 9:09 PM - May 14, 2020

See PAGASA-DOST's other Tweets

Meanwhile, Science Garden in Quezon City reported a heat index of 43°C at 2 p.m.

The maximum temperature, meanwhile, reached 34.5 at the same time.

"Magiging maupap at maupap ang panahon dito sa Metro Manila simula ngayong gabi. Mararamdaman naman ang pagbugso ng hangin dulot ni Ambo simula bukas ng hapon," the weather agency said.

PAGASA-DOST @dost_pagasa

Pumalo sa 43°C ang heat index na nakalkula sa Science Garden, Quezon City kaninang 2:00 PM ngayong Huwebes, 14 Mayo.

Magiging maulap at maulan ang panahon dito sa Metro Manila simula ngayong gabi. Mararamdaman naman ang pagbugso ng hangin dulot ni #AmboPH simula bukas ng hapon.



HEAT INDEX TODAY
43°C
2:00 PM 14 MAY

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE IN THE PAST FIVE DAYS
SCIENCE GARDEN, QUEZON CITY

Date	Maximum Temperature (°C)
10 May	35.6
11 May	35.8
12 May	36.2
13 May	34.8
14 May	34.5

55 8:08 PM - May 14, 2020

27 people are talking about this

—LDF, GMA-News

Healthy oceans: Keeping Asia and the Pacific afloat

By [Inter Press Service](#)

May 15, 2020

By Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

BANGKOK: Memories of idyllic beaches and sonorous waves may seem far away while we remain at home. Yet, we need not look far to appreciate the enduring history of the ocean in Asia and the Pacific. For generations, the region has thrived on our seas. Our namesake bears a nod to the Pacific Ocean, a body of water tethered to the well-being of billions in our region. The seas provide food, livelihood and a sense of identity, especially for coastal communities in the Pacific island states.

Sadly, escalating strains on the marine environment are threatening to drown progress and our way of life. In less than a century, climate change and unsustainable resource management have degraded ecosystems and diminished biodiversity. Levels of overfishing have exponentially increased, leaving fish stocks and food systems vulnerable. Marine plastic pollution coursing through the region's rivers have contributed to most of the debris flooding the ocean. While the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic has temporarily reduced emissions and pollution on the ocean, this should not be moment of reprieve. Rather, recovery efforts have the potential to rebuild a new reality, embedded in sustainability and resilience. It is time to take transformative action for the ocean, together.

Despite a seascape celebrated in our collective imaginations, research shows that our picture of the ocean is remarkably shallow. Insights from "Changing Sails: Accelerating Regional Actions for Sustainable Oceans in Asia and the Pacific," the theme study of this year's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap), reveal that without data, we are swimming in the dark. Data are available for only two out of 10 targets for Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water. Because of limitations in methodology and national statistical systems, information gaps have persisted at uneven levels across countries. Defeating Covid-19 has been a numbers game and we need similar commitment to data for the state of our shores.

While there is much we cannot see, images of plastic pollution have become commonplace.

Asia and the Pacific produces nearly half of global plastic by volume, of which it consumes 38 percent. Plastics represent a double burden for the ocean: their production generates carbon dioxide absorbed by the ocean, and as a final product enter the ocean as pollution. Beating this challenge will hinge upon effective national policies and rethinking production cycles.

Environmental decline is also affecting dwindling fish stocks. Our region's position as the world's largest producer of fish has come at the cost of overexploitation. The percentage of stocks fished at unsustainable levels has increased threefold from 10 percent in 1974 to 33 percent in 2015. Generating complete data on fish stocks, fighting illicit fishing activity and conserving marine areas must remain a priority.

Economic activity from shipping must also be sustainable. While the most connected shipping economies are in Asia, the small island developing states of the Pacific experience much lower levels of connectivity, leaving them relatively isolated from the global economy.

Closing the maritime connectivity gap must be placed at the center of regional transport cooperation efforts. We must also work with the shipping community to navigate toward green shipping. As an ocean-based industry, shipping directly affects the health of the marine ecosystem. Enforcing sustainable shipping policies is essential to mitigate maritime pollution.

The magnitude of our ocean and its challenges represent how extensive and collaborative our solutions must be. Transboundary ocean management and linking ocean data call for close cooperation among countries in the region. Harnessing ocean statistics through strong national statistical systems will serve as a compass guiding countries to monitor trends, devise timely responses and clear blind spots impeding action. Through the Ocean Accounts Partnership, Escap is working with countries to harmonize ocean data and provide a space for regular dialogue. Translating international agreements and standards into national action is also key. We must fully equip countries and all ocean custodians to localize global agreements into tangible results. Escap is working with member states to implement International Maritime Organization requirements on emissions reduction and environmental standards.

Keeping the oceans plastic-free will depend on policies that promote a circular economy approach. This strategy minimizes resource use and keeps them in use for as long as possible. This will require economic incentives and disincentives, coupled with fundamental lifestyle changes. Several countries in the region have introduced successful single use plastic bans. Escap's Closing the Loop project is reducing the environmental impact of cities in Southeast Asia by addressing plastic waste pollution and leakages into the marine environment.

Our oceans keep our health, the economy and our lives above the waves. In the post-Covid-19 era, we must use the critical years ahead to steer our collective fleets toward sustainable oceans. With our shared resources and commitment, I am confident we can sail in the right direction. IPS

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is the United Nations undersecretary-general and executive secretary of Escap.

WHO warns virus may be here to stay as toll nears

TITLE: 300,000

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May 15, 2020

DATE

WHO warns virus may be here to stay as toll nears 300,000

Published May 15, 2020, 1:03 AM

By Agence France-Presse

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) – The coronavirus may never go away and populations will have to learn to live with it just as they have HIV, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned, as the global death toll from the disease nears 300,000.

There were also gloomy forecasts from the US Federal Reserve, which said prolonged shutdowns to stem the spread of the virus could cause lasting economic damage in America.

Washington ratcheted up tensions over the pandemic by accusing China of trying to steal research into a vaccine, while US President Donald Trump upped the rhetoric, with a colorful phrase that could anger Beijing.

“We just made a great Trade Deal, the ink was barely dry, and the World was hit by the Plague from China. 100 Trade Deals wouldn’t make up the difference – and all those innocent lives lost!” Trump tweeted.

The United States logged more than 1,800 deaths on Wednesday, bringing the nation’s total to 84,059.

The president has increasingly looked to pin the blame on China, where the virus first emerged late last year.

Two US security agencies piled further pressure on Beijing Wednesday by saying Chinese hackers were attempting to steal intellectual property related to treatments.

“China’s efforts to target these sectors pose a significant threat to our nation’s response to COVID-19,” the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) said.

Neither agency offered evidence to support the allegation.

‘May never go away’

A vaccine could allow countries and economies to fully re-open from lockdowns and potentially earn millions of dollars for its creators.

But the WHO said the virus may never be wiped out entirely.

“This virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities and this virus may never go away,” said Michael Ryan, the global health body’s emergencies director in Geneva.

“HIV has not gone away – but we have come to terms with the virus.”

The prospect of the disease hanging around leaves governments across the world facing a delicate balancing act between suppressing the pathogen and getting economies up and running.

Trump has been pushing for a swift resumption of economic activity in the US, often against the advice of health officials, as he tries to jumpstart the world’s largest economy before a November election.

Top infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci has said re-opening too soon risks triggering uncontrollable outbreaks, but the president Wednesday dismissed that call for caution as “not acceptable.”

WHO warns virus may be here to stay as toll nears

TITLE: 300,000

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May 15, 2020

DATE

In an excerpt of an interview with Fox Business to air in full on Thursday, Trump said: "I totally disagree with him on schools."

The tensions between health and the economy were thrown into sharp relief Wednesday when Federal Reserve Chief Jay Powell warned of a potential "wave of bankruptcies" that could cause lasting harm to the world's largest economy.

Powell, who has launched a host of key programs to support credit markets and provide funds directly to companies, said there are limits to how far the Fed can go.

"We can make loans to solvent businesses," Powell said, but cautioned that "The passage of time is all that is needed for a liquidity problem to turn into a solvency problem."

Border controls

Reopening continued in earnest across Europe, with officials pushing ahead with plans to restore summer tourism even as fears persist of a second wave of infections.

Desperate to save millions of jobs, the European Union set out proposals for a phased restart of travel, with border controls to be eventually lifted, along with measures to minimize transmission. Some beaches re-opened in France on Wednesday – but only for swimming and fishing – and people in England were allowed to leave their homes more freely.

But in Latin America the virus continued to surge, with a 60 percent leap in infections in the Chilean capital of Santiago, prompting authorities to impose a total lockdown on the city.

In Argentina, officials were watching Buenos Aires warily after one of its poorest and most densely populated neighborhoods showed a spike in cases.

Sick spurned

Health experts have warned of potentially devastating consequences as the virus spreads through the developing world, where medical systems are underfunded and effective quarantine is often not possible.

In northern Nigeria, concerns that the virus is spreading have even seen hospitals shut their doors to the sick.

Civil servant Binta Mohammed said she had to watch her husband die from "diabetic complications." "The four private hospitals we took him to refused to admit him for fear he had the virus," she said.

But there were also bright spots in the battle. Mauritius declared temporary victory against the virus, saying it had "zero" patients and had not documented a single new case in 17 days.

The Indian Ocean island nation had initially surged ahead of other eastern African countries in terms of caseload, hitting a peak of 332 six weeks into its outbreak. Ten people died.

But following one of the strictest lockdowns in Africa, the country has turned the tide.

We have won the battle thanks to the cooperation of the public," said health minister Kailesh Jagutpal.

"But we have not yet won the war."

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/15/who-warns-virus-may-be-here-to-stay-as-toll-nears-300000/>

WHO: Health vs economy debate is a ‘false dichotomy’

Associated Press / 09:39 PM May 14, 2020

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — A World Health Organization (WHO) official said Thursday the debate between ensuring the health and reviving the economy is a “false dichotomy” and that countries must remain vigilant even as they move to lift restrictions.

The WHO Western Pacific director Takeshi Kasai said the reopening of the economy shouldn’t be rushed and must be done cautiously. He said the world must “create a new normal in which we don’t have to choose between health and livelihood.”

Kasai said countries must strengthen their health system and have measures in place for early detection, isolation and contact tracing, and ensure they are ready for the possibility of a large-scale community outbreak.

If a resurgence occurs, Kasai said governments must also be prepared to reinstate strict health measures as everybody remains at risk until a vaccine is developed.

Pandemic may push 130M people to extreme poverty

May 15, 2020 | 12:30 am



BW FILE PHOTO

THE coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is projected to remove four years of growth from the global economy — or almost \$8.5 trillion in total output — according to a new United Nations (UN) study.

A 3.2% reduction in global GDP is forecast this year, according to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects report released on Wednesday. The projections follow the IMF World Economic Outlook report in April, which anticipated a 3% decline this year.

On Tuesday, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said that the economic forecasts may be further downgraded next month based on weak data since the mid-April IMF report.

“The pandemic will likely cause an estimated 34.3 million people to fall below the extreme poverty line in 2020, with 56% of this increase occurring in African countries,” according to the UN report. “An additional 130 million people may join the ranks of people living in extreme poverty by 2030, dealing a huge blow to global efforts for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.”

The pandemic may accelerate digitalization and automation, which could eliminate many existing jobs, the study said. The net wage and employment effects could be negative, further aggravating income inequality.

“The lesson we learnt from the last crisis is that fiscal and monetary stimulus measures do not necessarily boost productive investments,” said Hamid Rashid, lead author of the report. He said governments must protect jobs and prevent a further rise in income inequality because the pandemic will disproportionately hurt those holding low-skilled, low-wage jobs, while leaving higher-skilled jobs less affected.

Global growth is expected to rebound by 3.4% in 2021, according to the UN study. — **Bloomberg**

Coronavirus vaccine possible in early 2021, says European agency

Published May 14, 2020 5:46pm

AMSTERDAM - A vaccine to counter the new coronavirus could be approved in about a year in an "optimistic" scenario, a agency which approves medicines for the European Union said on Thursday.

The European Medicines Agency, in communication with 33 developers, was doing all it could to speed up the approval process, the EMA's head of vaccines, Marco Cavaleri, said, but he was skeptical of claims any could be ready by September.

"For vaccines, since the development has to start from scratch ... we might look from an optimistic side in a year from now, so beginning of 2021," he told journalists.

He ruled out the possibility of skipping the third phase of a vaccine trial, which he said would be needed to be sure a vaccine was safe and effective.

The EMA is also looking at 115 different therapeutics, or treatments, for the coronavirus, which has killed nearly 300,000 deaths globally, according to World Health Organization data.

Cavaleri said some of those therapeutics could be approved in Europe as early as this summer, but he did not specify which. **-Reuters**

World leaders demand free coronavirus vaccine for all

Published May 14, 2020 10:27pm

World leaders past and present insisted on Thursday that any eventual COVID-19 vaccines and treatments should be made available to everyone, free of charge.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan were among more than 140 signatories of a letter saying any vaccine should not be patented while the science should be shared between nations.

The World Health Assembly, the policy-setting body of the UN's World Health Organization, holds its annual general meeting next week.

The signatories called on the WHA to rally behind the cause.

"Governments and international partners must unite around a global guarantee which ensures that, when a safe and effective vaccine is developed, it is produced rapidly at scale and made available for all people, in all countries, free of charge," the letter said.

"The same applies for all treatments, diagnostics, and other technologies for COVID-19."

The letter was signed by Senegalese President Macky Sall and Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo.

Former presidents and prime ministers among the signatories included Shaukat Aziz, Jan Peter Balkenende, Jose Manuel Barroso, Gordon Brown, Helen Clark, Felipe Gonzalez, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Aleksander Kwasniewski, Mary McAleese, Olusegun Obasanjo and Juan Manuel Santos.

The letter comes amid fury in France after pharmaceutical giant Sanofi said it would reserve first shipments of any COVID-19 vaccine for the United States.

The French multinational's chief executive Paul Hudson said the United States would get first dibs because its government was helping to fund the vaccine research.

His comments drew outrage Thursday from officials and health experts.

The letter ahead of the WHA said it was not the time to leave the task of resolving the pandemic to market forces or let the interests of wealthy companies and governments come before the need to save lives.

African Union Chairperson Ramaphosa said: "As the countries of Africa, we are resolute that the COVID-19 vaccine must be patent-free, rapidly made and distributed, and free for all.

"Nobody should be pushed to the back of the vaccine queue because of where they live or what they earn." **-Agence France-Presse**

Amazon could be next virus hot zone —scientist

Published May 14, 2020 9:11pm

By PAULA RAMON, Agence France-Presse

SAO PAULO Brazil — The next pandemic could come from the Amazon rainforest, warns Brazilian ecologist David Lapola, who says human encroachment on animals' habitats—a likely culprit in the coronavirus outbreak—is soaring there because of rampant deforestation.

Researchers say the urbanization of once-wild areas contributes to the emergence of zoonotic diseases—those that pass from animals to humans.

That includes the new coronavirus, which scientists believe originated in bats before passing to humans in China's rapidly urbanizing Hubei province, probably via a third species.

Lapola, 38, who studies how human activity will reshape the future ecosystems of tropical forests, says the same processes are in play in the Amazon.

"The Amazon is a huge reservoir of viruses," he told AFP in an interview.

"We'd better not try our luck."

The world's biggest rainforest is disappearing at an alarming rate.

Last year, in far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's first year in office, deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon surged 85 percent, to more than 10,000 square kilometers (3,900 square miles)—an area nearly the size of Lebanon.

The trend is continuing this year. From January to April, 1,202 square kilometers were wiped out, setting a new record for the first four months of the year, according to data based on satellite images from Brazil's National Space Research Institute (INPE).

That is bad news, not just for the planet but for human health, said Lapola, who holds a PhD in earth system modeling from the Max Planck Institutes in Germany and works at the University of Campinas in Brazil.

"When you create ecological disequilibrium... that's when a virus can jump" from animals to humans, he said.

HIV, Ebola, dengue

Similar patterns can be seen with HIV, Ebola and dengue fever—"all viruses that emerged or spread on a huge scale because of ecological imbalances," he said.

So far, most such outbreaks have been concentrated in South Asia and Africa, often linked to certain species of bats.

But the Amazon's immense biodiversity could make the region "the world's biggest coronavirus pool," he said—referring to coronaviruses in general, not the one behind the current pandemic.

"That's one more reason not to use the Amazon irrationally, like we're doing now," he said.

And one more reason to be alarmed by the surge in deforestation by illegal farmers, miners and loggers, he added.

Bolsonaro, a climate-change skeptic who wants to open protected indigenous lands to mining and agriculture, deployed the army to the Amazon this week to fight deforestation, in a rare protective move.

But Lapola said he would rather see the government reinforce the existing environmental agency, IBAMA, which has faced staffing and budget cuts under Bolsonaro.

"I hope under the next administration we'll pay more attention to protecting what may be the planet's greatest biological treasure," Lapola said.

"We need to reinvent the relationship between our society and the rainforest."

Otherwise, the world faces more outbreaks—"a very complex process that is difficult to predict," he said.

"We'd better just play it safe." — **AFP**