

Barn owl spotted, released in La Union

Published May 27, 2020, 2:18 PM

By *Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz*

A juvenile barn owl (*Tyto alba*) spotted in Bauang, La Union has been successfully released back into the wild, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



(MANILA BULLETIN)

The young owl was discovered by Gil Elope in his rice field at Barangay Nagrebcan last May 10. He brought the owl home and kept it until he decided the following day to call the hotline of the DENR Action Center based in Quezon City to report the incident.

After getting a call from Elope, the action center immediately notified the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in La Union, which then assigned wildlife enforcement officers to conduct the rescue operation.

The barn owl, measuring 18 centimeters and weighing 2 kilograms, has been found healthy and without injuries. This has prompted the PENRO to release the raptor in a forested area in Naguilian town the same day it was rescued.

Barn owls, which belong to the Tytonidae family, are widely found in different continents around the world and are known for eating rodents like mice in agricultural lands.

Despite the stable population status of barn owls in the Philippines, the DENR still gives importance to the wildlife species as they contribute to the ecological balance of nature by eradicating pests.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu has been urging the public to leave wild animals alone, unless they are sick, orphaned or injured, as reports of their sightings have increased during the coronavirus pandemic.

Cimatu said that possession, transportation and importation of wild animals are regulated under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Any sightings of injured, orphaned or sick wildlife may be reported to the DENR- Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) through its mobile numbers 0917 868 3367 and 0917 885 3367 or through the DENR Action Center and Hotline 8888.

According to the BMB, it is completely illegal to injure and kill all wildlife, except for scientific research and other permissible instances.

Up to 12 years of jail and/or a P1 million fine awaits violators for killing wildlife, while up to six years of jail and/or a P500,000 fine awaits violators for injuring wildlife.

The BMB also pointed out that without appropriate permits, it is illegal to collect, possess, buy, sell, import and export all wildlife, by-products and derivatives. Violators will be jailed up to four years and imposed fine of up to P300,000.

Meanwhile, illegally transporting wildlife is punishable by up to a year of jail and a fine of P100,000.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/27/barn-owl-spotted-released-in-la-union/>



Barn owl sa La Union, nailigtas ng DENR

May 27, 2020 @ 6:31 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – – Dahil sa pagtutulungan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Provincial and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) sa La Union nailigtas ang Barn Owl (Tyto alba) matapos makita ng magsasaka sa Bauang.

Ayon sa DENR noong Mayo 10 nang matagpuan ng nagngangalang Gil Elorpe sa kanyang sakahan sa Barangay Nagrebcan ang ibon bago sila magdesisyon na dalhin sa DENR Action Center sa Quezon City.

Matapos matanggap ang impormasyon kay Elorpe ay agad na ipinaalam ng action center sa PENRO sa San Fernando, La Union ang pangyayari at mabilis na nakipag-ugnayan sa wildlife enforcement officers (WESs) para sa rescue operation.

Nabatid sa ulat ang barn owl na may sukat na 18 centimeters at may bigat na 2 kilo ay walang nakitang pinsala base na rin sa inspeksiyon ng WEOs habang nagdesisyon naman ang La Union PENRO na pakawalan ang ibon sa Naguilalan kung saan ito nailigtas.

Samantala, kaugnay nito pinuri naman ni DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda ang PENRO ng La Union dahil sa kanilang trabaho kahit na umiiral ang general community quarantine sa probinsiya ay nagawa nila ng maayos ang kanilang ginawa kahit namayroong COVID-19 pandemic.

“The team’s speedy action is laudable,” sabi pa ni Antiporda. “The DENR, through its field offices, has proven once again its seriousness in fulfilling its mandate to protect and conserve wildlife species even with the pandemic crisis.”

Ang barn owls na kabilang sa Tytonidae family ay matatagpuan sa iba’t-ibang lugar sa mundo at kilala sa pagkain ng mga daga sa taniman.

Kahit na marami ang barn owls sa Pilipinas ay sinasabi ng DENR na ang lahi nito ay nakapagbibigay ng balanse sa ating kalikasan sa pamamagitan ng pagkain sa mga peste.

Kamakailan ay umapela ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa publiko na pabayaang mga wild animals sa pagiging malaya at kapag may nakita sa kanilang lugar na hayop ay ipagbigay alam agad sa tanggapan ng ahensiya.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang sinumang manghuhuli na nag-aalaga, nagbabiyahe at nag-iimporta ng wild animals ay maaaring makasuhan ng paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o mas kilala sa Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Aniya, ang anumang makikita o matatagpuan na wildlife ay ipagbigay-alam sa DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau o tumawag sa mobile number -0917 868 3367 at 0917 885 3367 o kaya naman ay makipag-ugnayan sa DENR Action Center and Hotline 8888. **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://remate.ph/barn-owl-sa-la-union-nailigtas-ng-denr/>

Rescued young barn owl freed

May 27, 2020

By Joel dela Torre

People's Journal



THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) immediately released a juvenile barn owl after it was rescued in Bauang town, La Union.

According to Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, officers of the La Union Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO) decided to let the owl back to the wild since it was found healthy and without injuries.

The young raptor was spotted by Gil Elope, a farmer, on May 10 at a rice field in Brgy. Nagrebcan. He momentarily kept it in his home.

The next day he contacted the DENR Action Center in Quezon City and reported his find.

Action center personnel immediately notified the PENRO of San Fernando, La Union which dispatched a team to Elope's residence.

The barn owl measuring 18 centimeters and weighing 2 kilograms was then released in a forested area in Naguilian town the same day it was rescued.

Antiporda commended the La Union PENRO for the prompt rescue operation despite the general community quarantine enforced in the province due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The team's speedy action is laudable... the DENR, through its field offices, has proven once again its seriousness in fulfilling its mandate to protect and conserve wildlife species even with the pandemic crisis," he said.

Barn owls, which belong to the Tytonidae family, are widely found in different continents around the world and are known for eating rodents like mice in agricultural lands.

Despite the stable population status of barn owls in the Philippines, the DENR still gives importance to the wildlife species as they contribute to the ecological balance of nature by eradicating pests.

Earlier this month, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu appealed to the public to leave wild animals alone, unless they are sick, orphaned or injured, as reports of their sightings have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/rescued-young-barn-owl-freed>

Citing unfinished business, task force for Boracay rehab welcomes term extension

By: [Nestor P. Burgos Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@nestorburgosINQ](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 06:53 PM May 21, 2020

ILOILO CITY—The term of the inter-agency task force in charge of rehabilitating Boracay Island has been extended by one more year, the task force announced in a statement on Thursday (May 21).

President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order No. 115 on May 11 extending the term of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to a third year on May 8, 2021, according to the BIATF statement.

The task force was created on May 8, 2018 for a two-year term to supervise and manage the rehabilitation of the island.

The President ordered the closure of the island-resort to tourists for six months from April 26 to Oct. 25, 2018 after he called the island a “cesspool.”

The President in his directive extended the BIATF’s term “so it may ensure the implementation of carrying capacity regulations, and continue to carry out its mandate under EO 53 (which created the BIATF).”

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who chairs the task force, welcomed the President’s directive saying this would ensure the continuity of rehabilitation efforts.

“We very much welcome this decision of the President knowing fully well that there is still much work to be done to complete the rehabilitation of Boracay,” Cimatu said in the BIATF statement. Cimatu said that as of March 31, “33 percent of Boracay establishments remained non-compliant with the 25+5-meter beach easement rule and another 27 percent have not complied with the 6-meter road easement as required by law.”

He said the 1,100 illegal structures built on forestlands and on beach and road easements have yet to be removed aside from the 1,234 structures that have been demolished.

Cimatu was quoted in the BIATF statement as saying that “the enhanced community quarantine measures to the COVID-19 pandemic stalled all rehabilitation works on the island and affected the target dates set by the task force.”

But several Boracay residents have pointed out that the rehabilitation targets were not reached even before the pandemic.

Residents, who asked not to be identified for fear of being singled out by government agencies, have complained that the rehabilitation has grounded to almost a halt since last year and this year before the quarantine measures.

“There was a sudden flurry of activities when President Duterte was scheduled to visit Boracay. But only during that time,” a business operator told the INQUIRER.

The President, along with Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, were supposed to visit Boracay on March 12 as part of efforts to boost tourism activities after the COVID-19 outbreak. But the visit was called off because of the pandemic.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1279006/citing-unfinished-business-task-force-for-boracay-rehab-welcomes-term-extension#ixzz6NcEXR2ji>

BORACAY TASK FORCE TERM EXTENDED BY ONE YEAR

Published On: May 21, 2020



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has extended the term of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) by one year to May 2021, a move Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said would ensure the continuity of rehabilitation works on the world-famous resort island.

Cimatu, who chairs the BIATF, said President Duterte signed on May 11 Executive Order (EO) 115 extending the term of the task force, which the Chief Executive created in 2018 to “reverse” environmental degradation on the island paradise.

The term of the task force was originally set to end on May 8, 2020, or two years after it was created under EO 53. But the President, in his new directive, said there was a need to extend its life to May 8, 2021 “so it may ensure the implementation of carrying capacity regulations, and continue to carry out its mandate under EO 53.”

“We very much welcome this decision of the President knowing fully well that there is still much work to be done to complete the rehabilitation of Boracay,” Cimatu said.

According to the environment chief, the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic stalled all rehabilitation works on the island and affected the target dates set by the task force.

As of last March 31, Cimatu said 33 percent of Boracay establishments remained non-compliant with the 25+5-meter beach easement rule and another 27 percent have not complied with the 6-meter road easement as required by law.

Cimatu said the task force also has yet to carry out the demolition of over 1,100 illegal structures built within forestlands and beach and road easements. This was on top of the 1,234 illegal structures situated on wetlands and beach and road easements that were already demolished by the task force, he said.

“As we transition from ECQ to general community quarantine to the new normal, we will gradually resume work following the guidelines set by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases,” Cimatu said, as he assured the BIATF will prioritize the health and safety of everyone in Boracay.

Aside from demolition works, Cimatu said among the other critical projects outlined in the Boracay Action Plan that need to be completed are the improvement of water drainage system and rehabilitation of the circumferential road.

In 2018, President Duterte formed the task force, with Cimatu as chair and Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat as vice chairs, just a few weeks after he ordered the closure of Boracay for six months to give way to a much-needed rehabilitation.

Source: https://www.boracayinformer.com/boracay-aklan-news/boracay-task-force-term-extended-by-one-year/?fbclid=IwAR380YPaQ5gdc_b1KEwP07cqBRqOzgTMJaUG9FoYzME0O5s8GcYF1qrbbew

Boracay, Bohol to shift to 'lenient' quarantine

[Alexis Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 28, 2020 - 12:00am

BORACAY, Philippines — Tourist destinations Boracay and Bohol may shift to a "lenient" modified general community quarantine (MGCQ), according to presidential spokesman Harry Roque.

"We have options to encourage domestic tourism if possible... We know that Bohol and Boracay are favorite destinations," Roque told a press briefing on Tuesday.

"They are now under GCQ. It is possible that they will be placed under MGCQ in the coming days, where 50 percent of tourism is allowed," he said.

Tourism is not yet allowed in areas under GCQ.

Tourist areas may reopen under MGCQ, but only on a 50 percent capacity.

Boracay task force

Meanwhile, President Duterte extended the term of office of the task force created to oversee the rehabilitation of Boracay.

In Executive Order 115 issued on May 11, the President said the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force would remain until May 8, 2021 unless extended again or terminated.

The President noted that two years after the creation of the task force, some structures on the island have yet to be cleared while several establishments have yet to comply with road easement requirements.

"There is a need to complete critical projects in Boracay island pursuant to the Boracay Action Plan," Duterte had said.

The extension of the term of the task force will allow the government to finish projects, such as the improvement of the water drainage system, demolition of remaining establishments on forest land and wetland areas as well as enforcement of beach and road easements on the island.

Duterte ordered the task force to publish a report on its accomplishments, including the total budget used.



PTV

Yesterday at 7:01 AM · 🌐



JUST IN: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) clarified that the hundreds of seashells scattered all over the beautiful white sand beach of Boracay are not caused by pollution, but merely by the combination of sudden change of weather condition and water temperature.

The DENR emphasized that despite this unusual site, Boracay waters is safe and clean.

Dead seashells were collected, while live scallops were brought back to the waters. (Photo courtesy: Toti Arcibal Saluna) | via Cleizl Pardilla



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Mga nagkalat na kabibe sa dalampasigan ng Boracay, hindi dahil sa polusyon ayon sa DENR



Dahil sa climate change sanhi ng nagkalat na sangkaterbang seashells sa dalampasigan ng Boracay

By [Bombo Radyo Kalibo](#)

-May 28, 2020 | 3:45 AM

(Update) KALIBO, Aklan — Nilinaw ngayon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ang sangkaterbang mga kabibe na nagkalat sa dalampasigan ng isla ng Boracay ay walang kinalaman sa polusyon.

Sanhi umano ito ng biglang pagbabago ng panahon at temperatura ng tubig.

Giit pa ng ahensiya na sa kabila nito, nananatiling ligtas at malinis ang baybayin ng Boracay.

Nauna dito, sinabi sa Bombo Radyo ni Haron Deo Vargas, isang marine biologist ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) ng Boracay na ito ang unang pagkakataon na may nakitang shells ng scallop na nagkalat sa baybayin, ngunit walang dapat na ikabahala ang mga mamamayan.

Nilinis na umano ng ilang residente ang mga kabibe para iwas-disgrasya sa mga naglalakad sa dalampasigan, ngunit ang buhay pa ay ibinalik sa dagat.

Nag-viral sa social media ang ipinost na litrato ng isang netizen ukol sa nagkalat na mga seashells, kung saan, mistulang nag-iba ang kulay nito dahil sa reflection ng sunset.

Illegally-cut lauan lumber, fitches seized on Agusan
del Sur river

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May 28, 2020
DATE

Illegally-cut lauan lumber, fitches seized on Agusan del Sur river

Published May 27, 2020, 9:47 AM

By Mike Crismundo

BUTUAN CITY – The anti-illegal logging task force of the Bayugan City Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) confiscated more than 4,000 board feet of rafted illegally-cut lauan lumber/fitches floating along a river in Agusan del Sur on Tuesday, May 26.



(Bayugan City CENRO via Mike U. Crismundo / MANILA BULLETIN)

A flash report to Agusan del Sur Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Joey F. Concha, Bayugan City CENRO Officer Norman A. Asugan said the agency's anti-illegal logging task was patrolling along Purok 8 in Barangay Sta. Fe, Esperanza town when concerned villagers reported sighting rafted illegally-cut lauan lumbar and fitches floating on Labao river, a tributary of the giant Agusan river.

Immediately, the task force proceeded in the reported area and found the abandoned forest products.

"The rafted illegally-cut lauan lumber/fitches were believed to be waiting for appropriate time to tow in a designated buyer but an informant reported us in accurate time and place," said Bayugan City Assistant CENR Officer DMO IV Forester Greg V. Bayotas spearheaded the agency's anti-illegal logging task force.

The Bayugan City CENRO task force immediately coordinated with the Esperanza Municipal Police Station (MPS) for a joint retrieval operation of the forest products.

"We will conduct final scaling to determine the exact volume and documentation of the seized forest products," Bayotas said.

The apprehended forest products are now under the protective custody of CENRO Esperanza Monitoring Station/Assistance Center for safekeeping under Team Leader Geovanni Go.

Meanwhile, Bislig City CENR Officer Victor B. Sabornido also reported on Wednesday they found abandoned 1,006.67 bd. ft. of assorted sizes of toog species of lumber in Barangay San Antonio, Bislig City.

Illegally-cut lauan lumber, fitches seized on Agusan

May 28, 2020

TITLE: del Sur river

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DATE

Last week, along with the local government unit, Army's 75th Infantry Battalion and Philippine National Police (PNP), the anti-illegal logging task force and Enforcement Team of CENRO Sabornido also retrieved 1,720 bd. ft. of fresh-sawn lauan lumber products during a search and retrieval operation at sitio Digso, Barangay Coletto, Bislig City.

The anti-illegal logging task force of Bunawan CENR Officer Jerome H. Albia also apprehended more than 4,745 bd. ft. of illegally-cut lauan fitches worth P118,625 during a search and retrieval operation in a remote Sitio Kosep, Barangay Bayugan 3 in Rosario, Agusan del Sur last May 15.

The operation was also backed up by the PNP personnel, army troops of the 75th Infantry Battalion (75TH IB) and the Municipal Environment Officer of Rosario town.

In a separate operation, the Bunawan CENRO enforcement team in Agusan del Sur also retrieved more than 2,298.9 bd. ft. of lauan and toog lumber in a remote village of San Isidro, Bunawan Brooks, Bunawan town last week.

Pangolin nasagip sa Palawan

Diana Lat, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 27 2020 06:59 PM | Updated as of May 27 2020 08:13 PM

RIZAL, Palawan - Nasagip ang isang pangolin sa bayan ng Rizal sa Palawan noong Lunes.

Ipinaalam ng mga residenteng sina Renita Genita at Amelito Masangcap sa Barangay Ransang, sa Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) na may napadpad na pangolin sa lugar.

"Malapit doon sa area nila, sa old site, sa Brgy. Ransang, Rizal, itong pangolin (natagpuan) at nakita nga nila ito na palakad-lakad doon sa tabing dagat," kuwento ni Forester Jovic Fabello tagapagsalita ng (PCSD).

Babaeng pangolin ang nasagip. May haba itong 23 pulgada at may lapad na 5 pulgada. May bigat itong isa't kalahating kilo.

Normal lang daw na minsan, napapadpad ang mga pangolin sa tabing dagat. Ngunit, mabuti na rin daw na ipina-rescue ang naturang hayop bago pa makuha ng mga poachers.

"Baka makita siya ng mga poachers or yung mga hindi pa nakakilala sa pangolin is mapagkamalan siyang alien, or ibang klaseng hayop. At puwede siyang masaktan o puwede siyang mahuli, at mapunta sa illegal wildlife trade," ani Fabello.

"Kaya importante na ma-rescue ng PCSD at ma-release natin ulit sa kanyang natural habitat para masiguro natin na safe siya."

Ang mga pangolin ay kasama sa mga critically endangered species o malapit nang maubos. Itinuturing ito na "World's Most Trafficked Mammal Species".

Upang ipalaganap ang pagprotekta sa mga naturang hayop, tinutukan ngayon ng PCSD ang pagkilala sa mga tumutulong para ma-rescue ang mga buhay-ilang sa pamamagitan nang pagpo-post nito sa kanilang Facebook page.

"First and foremost, talaga namang totoo na kami'y natutuwa dahil parte na namin sila sa pangangalaga ng mga pangolins at iba pang wildlife. At the same time, dapat nga kasing mai-raise natin ang awareness about wildlife," sabi ni Fabello.

Inaanyayahan naman ng PCSD ang mga tao na makipag-ugnayan sa kanila ukol sa mga makikitang iligal na gawain patungkol sa mga pangolin at iba pang buhay-ilang.

Ang PCSD hotlines ay 0935-1162336 at 0948-9372200.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/27/20/pangolin-nasagip-sa-palawan?fbclid=IwAR3WnC0jcGIVYfmCcw30vRVw1BN3GOP0bfMQkQot32h0FH5k6AQItiq3DrM>

Higanteng isda napadpad sa isang isla sa Northern Samar

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 27 2020 08:16 PM



Isang higanteng isda ang nadiskubre sa isang isla sa Northern Samar. *Kuha ni Nhalid Sy Guianan*

Napadpad ang isang higanteng isda sa isang isla sa Northern Samar nitong Miyerkoles ng umaga.

Ayon sa ilang residente nanghihina at may sugat sa ulo ang nasabing isda nang madiskubre ito sa Barangay Poblacion sa Biri Island.

Tinatayang aabot sa 6 feet ang haba ng isda.

Agad itong tinulungan ng mga residente para makabalik sa malalalim na bahagi ng dagat.

Inaalam na ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources kung anong uri ng isda ang napadpad at kung ano ang dahilan ng sugat nito.

-- Ulat ni **Ranulfo Docdocan**, ABS-CBN News

Urdaneta City received 6K more tons of garbage but less cash in 2019

By [Peter Tabingo](#)

-May 27, 2020

THE Urdaneta City Engineered Sanitary Landfill (UCESL) received 18,467 tons of garbage from other local government units in 2019, 6,550 tons more than the year before, but got a smaller share of the collections after the Sangguniang Panlungsod reduced rental rates paid by two private companies operating the facility.

Based on the audit report released May 26, 19 municipalities and one city dumped their trash in the city's landfill in 2019. They paid a total of P20.58 million but of the said amount P13.48 million went to private companies Rhodenes Enterprises and Urdaneta Waste Management (UWM).

In prior years, the city mayor was the one who entered into contracts with various LGUs who wanted to use the landfill. This changed when the Sangguniang Panlungsod passed SP Resolutions 338 and 339 series of 2016-19.

Those resolutions purportedly terminated the contracts of the other LGUs to dump their waste in the Urdaneta landfill as of April 18, 2018. The said move left Rhodenes and UWM in position to step in and get the LGU contracts

“The audit team, however, noted that LGUs with previous contracts with the City of Urdaneta are still dumping their waste at the UCESL through their contract with UWM and RE (Rhodenes). The city government of Urdaneta could have collected at least P20,582,525.92 instead of the P7,100,000 it collected from the lease of the UCESL,” auditors pointed out.

They also noted that originally Rhodenes was paying a monthly rental of P650,000 but the Sangguniang Panlungsod reduced this to just P350,000. On the other hand, the rent of UWM was increased from P100,000 to P350,000.

The audit team found that between May 2018 to June 30, 2019, UWM only paid P100,000 per month which meant unpaid rent totaling P3.5 million. Rhodenes was also found to have P300,000 in unpaid rent for the last month before the lease cost was reduced.

Blame was assigned to the Urdaneta City Treasurer's Office for not sending any demand for payment of the correct amount when the obligation becomes due.

Curiously, while the city's collections were dropping, the COA noted that the volume of garbage hauled and dumped in the Urdaneta City landfill reached 18,466.94 tons, higher by 35.47 percent of 6,550.41 tons compared to 2018.

The audit teams said the city's contracts with the private companies did not provide for a limitation of the volume of garbage that will be dumped.

“If unregulated, this sheer volume of garbage decreases the lifespan of the landfill and can create environmental concerns in the area,” the COA added.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index/index.php/news_news/urdaneta-city-received-6k-more-tons-of-garbage-but-less-cash-in-2019/

CHR lauds Ayala Corporation's decision to abandon coal investments by 2030

Published May 27, 2020, 12:01 PM

By **Czarina Nicole Ong Ki**

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has lauded Ayala Corporation for its decision to get rid of its investments in coal-fired powered investments by 2030 as a positive step forward in the world's fight against climate change.



Commission on Human Rights (MANILA BULLETIN)

“Magandang balita para sa ating kalikasan at sa bawat isa sa atin ang commitment ng Ayala Corporation na simulan na ang pag-transition sa low carbon emission at pagshi-shift sa mga renewable energy assets (The announcement of Ayala Corporation is good news for nature and for each and every one of us because this is the start of our transition to low carbon emission and it is a shift towards renewable energy assets),” the CHR said in a tweet.

The CHR added that every company has a corporate responsibility, and some of these responsibilities include human and environmental rights. With environmental rights, companies need to identify, avoid, and take responsibility for things that will negatively impact the climate.

Even in other countries, corporations are being called upon to change their policies in order to prevent the rise of carbon emission which only worsens climate change.

“Ang pagbabago ng klima ay isang malawakang krisis na nagbabanta sa buhay ng lahat, lalung-lalo na sa mga mahihirap na komunidad at bansa gaya ng Pilipinas (The ever-changing climate is a huge crisis that impacts everybody's lives, most especially the poor communities in countries such as the Philippines),” the CHR said.

Carbon emissions are basically the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂). While CO₂ is really present in the air, too much of it creates disrupted weather patterns and results in higher global temperature averages.

If people do not pay attention to their carbon footprint, wildlife and plants will be negatively impacted, plant growth will be reduced, and birds and mammals might be killed by asphyxiation.



Senate to extend Bayanihan Act for 3 months

[Paolo Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 28, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate will extend for another three months the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, which gave President Duterte special powers to address the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis, including realigning funds and imposing harsher penalties on certain criminal offenses.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III said the extension of the law would be done before Congress adjourns on June 3.

“No doubt, we’ll extend it. In what form and what amendments... will depend on our discussions later,” Sotto told reporters yesterday via video conference.

He said there would be discussions before the law is extended but did not discount the possibility that either the Senate or the House of Representatives would adopt either chamber’s final version to speed up passage.

The Bayanihan Act, which was passed in special session last March 23, granted Duterte authority for two months to realign funds to distribute emergency cash assistance to the poor and those who lost their jobs due to the pandemic and impose stiffer fines and penalties for hoarding, profiteering and other crimes, including those for local officials refusing to comply with emergency measures set by the national government.

Malacañang expressed support for a three-month extension of the Bayanihan Act.

“I think the three-month period is ideal,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque told ABS-CBN News Channel. – With Alexis Romero, Rainier Allan Ronda

“It’s not a preference, but I think it definitely is necessary to give us at least 90 days and we’ll see from there if at the end of 90 days, there’s a need for emergency powers, then it can be extended until December,” he added. ?

Second tranche of SAP

Meanwhile, with Malacañang giving the green light to distribution of the second tranche of the P5,000 to P8,000 social amelioration program (SAP) emergency cash subsidy, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has called on local government units (LGUs) to expedite the payout of the first tranche of the SAP and submit liquidation reports.

The DSWD said the liquidation reports of all LGUs have to be in before they can make validation to clear the way for transfer of the second tranche.

The liquidation report is vital in the process of validation as it includes the report of the disbursement (containing the photos of the recipients, SAP card forms and amount of cash received), checks issued and disbursements certified by LGU accountant and approved by the local chief executive and copy of official receipt for refund/return of unutilized SAP funds.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said the distribution of the second tranche of SAP must not be stymied by liquidation reports being awaited from LGUs.

“In ordinary times, this audit rule should be followed strictly. But in the midst of the pandemic, it should be relaxed, not waived, but only insofar as extending the deadline of submission and not making it a requisite for the release of the next tranche,” Recto said.

“Citizens running out of cash and hope are expecting this assistance, which has been promised them, and to allow red tape to abort its prompt delivery is unkind and unjust. Why should the people be penalized for a delay not of their own doing?” he said. **Alexis Romero, Rainier Allan Ronda**

Palace: 3-month Bayanihan Act extension 'ideal',
until December if necessary

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Palace: 3-month Bayanihan Act extension 'ideal', until December if necessary

[Alexis Romero](#) (Philstar.com) - May 27, 2020 - 9:40pm

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Wednesday expressed support for a three-month extension of the Bayanihan Act, which provided President Rodrigo Duterte additional powers to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Bayanihan Act was intended to boost the government's fight against the pandemic, which has so far infected more than 14,000 people in the Philippines. The law, which will expire on June 24, permits the president to realign budget items to support coronavirus response efforts, fast-track and streamline the accreditation of testing kits, and exempts him from the procurement law to fast-track the purchase of needed medical supplies.

The law also allows the government to liberalize the grant of incentives for the manufacture or importation of needed supplies or equipment and authorizes the president to "direct" the operation of private hospitals medical and health facilities, and passenger vessels and turn them into accommodation for health workers, quarantine areas, or aid distribution centers.

"I think the three-month period is ideal," presidential spokesman Harry Roque told ABS-CBN News Channel.

"It's not a preference but I think it definitely is necessary to give us at least 90 days and we'll see from there if at the end of 90 days, there's a need for emergency powers still, then it can be extended until December," he added.

Roque said the 90-day extension is not too far away from the suggestion of acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Chua that the law be extended until the end of the year.

Palace: 3-month Bayanihan Act extension 'ideal',
TITLE: until December if necessary

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"We're already in June...so July, August, September...and you have another three months until December... But the important thing is, if Congress gives us three months, 90 days, they will still be in session when the emergency power ceases because they are still in session in September and they can give the emergency powers anew if they wish to and if Malacañang would request," the Palace spokesman said.

Asked what specific provisions of the law should be extended, Roque said the Palace wants to amend its sunset clause so the emergency powers conferred on the president would be extended.

Roque said Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III had joked about extending Bayanihan Act until 2022 but admitted that it may be "unreasonable."

"The reason is we don't know when the vaccine will be developed. We don't know when the cure will be developed 'no. But I think...that's why he (Dominguez) said it in jest, he was laughing so I'm clarifying that I'm also laughing because of course, extraordinary power is something that is reserved for extraordinary circumstances," Roque said.

"But the problem here with COVID is, without the vaccine, we'll never go back to normal and it's still extraordinary. But I think given the scheme of separation of powers, I think it will be unreasonable really to expect until 2022," he added.

Final decision on GCQ in Metro Manila up to PRRD: Año

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan May 27, 2020, 1:07 pm



DILG Secretary Eduardo Año. (File photo)

MANILA – Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on Wednesday welcomed the recommendation of the Metro Manila Council (MMC) to place the metropolis under general community quarantine (GCQ) in June.

Año, however, said President Rodrigo R. Duterte has the final word on the matter.

"Maganda naman yung ginawa nila na yan pero syempre ang masusunod pa rin or magbibigay ng desisyon diyan ay ang Pangulo base sa recommendation ng IATF (They came up with a good decision but of course, it is the President who will decide based on the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases)," he said in a radio interview.

He said the IATF is set to meet on Wednesday to discuss the issue and the President is expected to decide on the fate of the community quarantine either on Thursday or Friday.

On Monday, Año said the government plans to implement a barangay-based lockdown after the lapse of the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) in Metro Manila on May 31.

He said villages with a high incidence of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) could be placed under lockdown while those with no cases could ease the restrictions on their residents' movement and open some business establishments.

Año further said the lockdown could be imposed on smaller units, such as subdivisions and neighborhoods.

Only random checkpoints will be in place under the GCQ to ease traffic congestion as more people are expected to return to work once some businesses reopen at a limited capacity.

In a meeting on Tuesday, all 17 mayors of Metro Manila unanimously approved the recommendation to place the area under GCQ on June 1.

Aside from Metro Manila, the provinces of Laguna, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, and Zambales are under MECQ while the rest of the country is under GCQ.

Only the cities of Cebu and Mandaue are under ECQ.

Metro Manila mayors have sought the shift to GCQ, a less stringent form of community quarantine, as they saw the need to reopen the economy for more industries to help their constituents cope with the Covid-19 crisis.

People living in areas under MECQ have to limit their movement to going to work and availing of essential services. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1104040>

Metro mayors '100-percent' ready for GCQ - MMDA

By Jimmyley E. Guzman Published on May 27, 2020



Metropolitan Manila Development Authority General Manager Jojo Garcia talks about Metro Manila's readiness in shifting to a more relaxed general community quarantine after May 31. (PIA NCR)

CALOOCAN CITY, May 27 (PIA) -- A ranking official of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Wednesday said the 17 mayors of Metro Manila are "100-percent ready" in case the region is placed under a general community quarantine (GCQ) after May 31.

Speaking before the Laging Handa public briefing hosted by the Presidential Communications and affiliate government media, MMDA General Manager Jojo Garcia said during a recent meeting with the Metro Manila Council, all 17 Metro Manila Mayors have also called for the transition of the National Capital Region (NCR) to GCQ more than two months of being under stricter quarantine measures due to COVID-19.

"First and foremost, the whole NCR mayors trust the wisdom of the IATF at kung ano po ang magiging desisyon nila, we will definitely follow and 100-percent ready po ang ating mga mayors," the official said, with the Inter-agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases scheduled to meet today to discuss the matter.

"Ito pong sa GCQ, napag-usapan na dapat talagang ang NCR, we will treat them as one. Hindi pwedeng ang isa ay ECQ at ang isa ay GCQ. Kailangan kung ano po yung isa, ganun po lahat kasi borderless po talaga ang Metro Manila," he added.

Garcia said, however, that the local executives have appealed to be provided some leeway on how they would manage COVID-19 cases in their areas of concern.

"Pangalawa po, bigyan ng authority ang ating mayors with the help of health experts na pwde silang mag-lockdown ng mga barangay or zone na if ever makita po nila na mataas ang cases ng COVID," he said.

"And then to free up the other barangays para nang sa ganun ay masimulan na ang ating ekonomiya doon," he added.

"Sabi nga ng mga mayors natin nung una, there is no such thing as a perfect decision here because you really need to balance the economy and the health," he further said, emphasizing that the shift to GCQ, if ever that would be the decision made by the IATF, will be a good start to jumpstart Metro Manila's economy.

Even if all modes of transportation will be operational at a limited capacity under the GCQ to cater to the influx of workers to NCR, Garcia has appealed to be provided more control over the operations of jeepneys and buses.

"Pagdating po sa PUVs [public utility vehicles], huwag na lang po muna sana yung buses and jeepneys kasi mahirap ikontrol yung physical distancing," he appealed.

"Alam naman po natin ang jeep at bus, stop-and-go po 'yan so mahirap i-monitor hangga't hindi pa natin nadidisciplina 'yung ating mga kababayan sa tamang pagsakay at pagbaba sa mga bus stops. Magkakaroon po [sana muna] ng mga markers 'yan para at least one meter apart sila," Garcia added.

To recall, Metro Manila has been placed under quarantine since March 15, and placed under an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) the following day until May 15. It then transitioned to MECQ on May 16. (PIA NCR)

NCR, iba pang high-risk areas dapat manatili sa MECQ – UP study

[Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - May 28, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Dapat manatili sa modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) ang National Capital Region (NCR) at iba pang high-risk areas na apektado ng COVID-19.

Ito ang rekomendasyon ng grupo ng mga researchers mula sa University of the Philippines dahil sa patuloy pa ring pagdami ng kaso ng COVID sa NCR na nananatiling nasa high-risk category.

“We recommend that the national government continue the MECQ in the NCR and consider the same in other high-risk areas. Reproduction number of NCR, which is oscillating at around 1.0 rather than showing a discernible decrease, is a sign that it might be premature to relax the MECQ to GCQ “ pahayag ni UP Diliman Political Science Department Assistant Professor Ranjit Rye.

Ang pag-aaral ay ginawa ng grupo ni Rye nang irekomenda ng mga opisyal ng LGUs sa NCR na magkaroon ng transition mula MECQ at gawing GCQ mula June 1.

Ani Rye, nalaman ng kanyang team na may 7,119 individuals nationwide ang nagpositibo sa COVID base sa report ng 36 testing centers na hindi pa kasama sa official count ng DOH.

Bukod dito, sinabi ni Rye na walang naging pagbabago sa linggu-linggong bilang ng mga bagong COVID-19 cases sa NCR sa unang 10 araw ng implementasyon ng MECQ mula May 16-25 at ang bagong bilang ng kaso ng COVID sa NCR ay mas mataas pa kung susumahin sa 5 kaso kada araw sa bawat milyong bilang ng populasyon.

Ang mga lunsod ng Makati, Las Piñas at Pasay ang may pinaka mataas na pagdami ng kaso kada linggo gayundin ang patuloy na pagtaas ng kaso sa Maynila, Taguig, Muntinlupa, Caloocan at Pateros.

Batay din sa pag-aaral ng UP researchers, nasa high-risk category din ang Davao City at Laguna.

COVID-19 transmission still high – UP experts

May 27, 2020 | Filed under: [Headlines, News](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)

By ELLALYN RUIZ

Experts from the University of the Philippines Diliman are urging the government to continue with the imposition of significant restrictions in Metro Manila and other high-risk areas for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as the rate of transmission remains “high.”

The number of COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila has hit 9,481, while the number of deaths has reached 651, based on the Department of Health (DoH) data as of May 26.

The cases in Metro Manila constitute almost 65 percent of the total number of coronavirus infection in the Philippines.

In a recent study by professors Guido David and Ranjit Singh Rye with research associate Ma. Patricia Agbulos, the team pointed out that Metro Manila and Cebu City have “very high” number of COVID-19 cases and “high” rate of transmission.

“The reproduction number of NCR (National Capital Region), which is oscillating at around 1.0 rather than showing a discernible decrease, is a sign that it might be premature to relax the MECQ (modified enhanced community quarantine) to GCQ (general community quarantine),” Rye said in an interview over GMA on Wednesday.

The current reproduction number means there is still a transmission of the disease.

Rye’s team earlier pointed out that mobility and proximity to other people are the main drivers of the pandemic.

“Considering that NCR is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, and in fact Manila, Pateros and Mandaluyong are top three among all cities and municipalities in the world, reducing mobility and proximity in NCR is a challenge,” the UP experts said.

It added that social distancing and cooperation from the public become very important now that Metro Manila is under MECQ.

Rye also noted that the latest data of the DoH has not yet included around 7,000 individuals who have tested positive based on reports by 36 testing centers nationwide.

HIGH-RISK AREAS

The UP experts also noted that the risk levels of the pandemic in Batangas, Davao City, and Zamboanga City remain significant, advising the government to closely monitor these areas in the coming weeks.

“We urge government to also monitor the situation in Zamboanga City, Batangas and Davao City as the risk levels of the pandemic in these areas are still significant,” they said.

Citing as an example the sudden increase in the number of cases in Cebu City, they told the government that: “we cannot afford to be complacent, even in areas where the pandemic appears to be contained, because it takes just one spreader to start a second wave of the pandemic.”

They urged the government to also closely monitor Samar and Oriental Mindoro, as a number of new cases appeared in those provinces recently.

“Even in areas under GCQ or those not under community quarantine, vigilance is still needed in order to ensure that any new cases are immediately detected and new outbreaks prevented. Our goal ultimately is not just to flatten the curve but to bend it downwards,” the team explained.

Shifting Metro Manila to GCQ early will increase
TITLE: COVID-19 cases, deaths – UST researchers

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Shifting Metro Manila to GCQ early will increase COVID-19 cases, deaths —UST researchers

Published May 27, 2020 4:35pm

The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Metro Manila will increase if it shifts to a general community quarantine on June 1, researchers from the University of Santo Tomas warned Wednesday.

Associate Professor Bernhard Egwolf and Dominican biologist Fr. Nicanor Austriaco cited an epidemiological model they created predicting the future behavior of the virus in the National Capital Region.

The researchers said that the early implementation of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila "was able to save thousands of lives," citing the gap between fatalities recorded in Metro Manila and New York City at 621 deaths and 16,232, respectively, as of May 21.

Metro Manila had implemented a lockdown a week earlier than New York City after both metropolitan areas recorded their first COVID-19 fatalities.

Despite this, the team said, the ECQ is "struggling to suppress the pandemic."

"At this rate, the model predicts that the total number of cases in Metro Manila will continue to increase gradually and will not plateau for many months, though the forecasted number of active cases will also be decreasing," Egwolf and Austriaco said.

Researchers from the University of the Philippines [have also urged that Metro Manila remain under the modified enhanced community quarantine \(MECQ\)](#) rather than move to the less strict GCQ.

"The reproduction number of NCR, which is oscillating at around 1.0 rather than showing a discernible decrease, is a sign that it might be premature to relax the MECQ to GCQ," said UP research team member Assistant Professor Ranjit Rye, noting that NCR remains a "high-risk" area.

A recent poll by the Social Weather Stations also found that [87% of Filipinos worried that an immediate family member may become infected with the potentially life-threatening virus.](#)

Private healthcare firm PhilCare, meanwhile, [found in its poll](#) that 82.5% of its survey's respondents are very worried about getting infected with COVID-19 even amid the ongoing quarantine measures, while 60% of the workforce are afraid to physically report back to work.

Shifting Metro Manila to GCQ early will increase

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Metro Manila's mayors, however, [have agreed to a transition to a GCQ.](#)

'Not inevitable'

The UST researchers stressed, however, that the increases are "not inevitable."

"They can be offset with a rigorous tracking, testing, and tracing program that seeks to limit community spread by breaking chains of viral transmission," they said.

"We acknowledge that national and local authorities have worked hard to increase the testing capacity in the Philippines in the past two months, and we commend them for their efforts," they added.

Citing the work of Harvard University scholars, the study that Metro Manila will need a testing capacity of 15,000 tests daily and 1,800 contact tracers.

Should the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) be maintained, the number of active cases will not fall below 1,000 cases until early September, the study said. — **Joahna Lei Casilao/BM, GMA News**

Poe backs new transport mode

posted May 27, 2020 at 11:00 pm

by [Willie Casas](#)

In a bid to overhaul the country's public transportation system for the eventual "new normal," a senator on Wednesday has endorsed to the Department of Transportation the proposal of the Move as One Coalition to invest greatly in improving public transport modes and promoting active transport modes such as cycling and walking.

"We thank Senator Grace Poe for supporting our advocacy to significantly improve urban mobility in the country by endorsing our proposal. We look forward to closely collaborating with Senator Poe and the DOTr to create a future where the mobility of people is prioritized over the mobility of private vehicles, and active transport modes are at the forefront," said Jedd Ugay, spokesperson of #MoveAsOne Coalition and Chief Mobility Officer of AltMobility PH.

Senator Grace Poe is chairperson of the Senate committee on public services.

Move as One, a broad coalition of 133 organizations and more than 10,000 individuals, has proposed a three-stage support package worth P110 billion to avoid massive potential losses in employment and mobility in the country resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Willie Casas

First, the coalition proposed to invest around P10 billion to construct active transport infrastructure such as wider sidewalks, dedicated bike lanes, urban shade trees, and safe, walkable streets.

"This will help establish up to 1,600 kilometers of walking and cycling infrastructure to allow the greater movement of people.

Furthermore, the fund gives the government the opportunity to procure up to 100,000 bikes and 5,000 bike racks for bicycle-sharing programs," Ugay explained.

The coalition noted that both the DOTr and the Interagency Task Force have recommended the use of "non-motorized transport" and personal mobility devices to maintain physical distancing and more efficiently use road space.

Meanwhile, the coalition called for the service contracting of public utility vehicles to prevent the expected income losses due to health and physical distancing measures.

"We propose to invest P30 billion to contract out thousands of PUVs nationwide. This will protect the jobs of our 2.7 million land transport workers in the country by providing them a stable source of income independent of the number of passengers they have," said Ernesto Cruz of the National Confederation of Transportworkers' Union - Sentro - International Transport Workers' Federation, a member of the #MoveAsOne Coalition.

Move as One added that this investment will also protect the jobs of 88 percent of households who do not have cars and depend on public transport to go to work, and ensure the safety of 20 million students all over the country who use public transport to go to school.

The third and final part of Move as One's support package is to invest P 70 billion over the next three years to build PUV stops, PUV-only lanes, depots, and terminals nationwide to incentivize people to choose active and public transport instead of private vehicles.

"We have faith that the government will see its crucial role in bringing better mobility to millions of Filipinos. The Move as One Coalition stands ready to support the government's efforts to prioritize commuters, pedestrians, and cyclists and to champion the welfare of the majority who do not own private motor vehicles," the Coalition said in a statement.

Poe urges DOTr: Fund biking, walking infrastructures for 'new normal'

Published May 27, 2020 10:17am

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

Biking and walking lanes must be funded by the Department of Transportation as alternative for commuters unable to get public rides under the "new normal" stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Grace Poe said Wednesday.

"Many of our citizens ride bicycles just to reach their places of work. Their perseverance must be met with the necessary safeguards," Poe, chair of the Senate Committee on Public Services, said in a statement.

"This is our chance to make our cities more bikeable and walkable, and thus more liveable," she pointed out.

Earlier this month, the [DOTr acknowledged that bikes](#) will play an important role in commuters' daily routine once the community quarantines have been lifted.

Sales of [bicycles also increased in the past weeks](#) as many workers in Metro Manila shifted to biking for transportation.

Last Sunday, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority set up a bike lane on EDSA for the dry run of the new traffic scheme amid the COVID-19 situation.

Mass transportation has been suspended in the capital region and other areas affected by COVID-19 to prevent further transmission of the virus. —LBG, GMA News

Still no buses, jeepneys under Metro Manila GCQ

Published 1 day ago
on May 27, 2020 08:41 AM
By [Alvin Murcia](#)



Physical distancing is harder to manage in public utility jeepneys. (Photo: MMDA Facebook)

Public utility buses and jeepneys will remain prohibited under the general community quarantine proposal, which the Metro Manila Council unanimously agreed to recommend to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) effective 1 June.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Jojo Garcia said all 17 NCR mayors agreed to end modified enhanced community quarantine on 31 May.

“We will wait for the decision of the IATF. Whatever decision that they will do, definitely we will follow and all mayors will be ready,” said Garcia in a virtual presser Tuesday night following a teleconference that also included other member-agencies of the MMC, presided by MMDA chair Danilo Lim.

The MMDA and MMC also agreed on the imposition of lockdowns when necessary and limited modes of transportation.

Local government units will be allowed to impose a lockdown on specific barangays if needed, particularly “problematic” areas with high number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

Mode of transportation will be limited to company-provided shuttle services, point-to-point vehicles, taxis, Transport Network Vehicle Services and tricycles.

Garcia said enforcement of social distancing protocols is easy to manage with allowed vehicles, unlike PUBs and jeepneys.

The MMDA also encourages the use of bicycles as alternative modes of transport.

Moreover, Garcia said the Land Transportation, Franchising and Regulatory Board is doing a rationalization of bus route in the metropolis.

“Rationalized routes will replace old ones. Routes will be shortened to allow faster turnaround of buses,” said Garcia, noting 61 bus routes are traversing EDSA.

In line with this, putting up of footbridges and loading and unloading stations on strategic areas along EDSA is under way.

“This is the right time to change the behavior of the commuters. We need to change everything,” he said.

The MMDA will also implement the modified number coding scheme

Vehicles carrying more than one passenger, depending on the guidelines of the IATF, are allowed to ply the streets and are exempted from the existing number coding scheme.

“This is for motorists to maximize the vehicle’s seating capacity,” said Garcia.

However, the MMDA will have to craft a resolution before its implementation.

Under GCQ, Garcia said restrictions and other safety protocols under the “new normal” such as physical distancing and wearing of face masks remain enforced.

Jeep, bus sa NCR di muna papayagang bumiyahe

By: [Djan Magbanua](#) - 05/27/2020

INIREKOMENDA ng Metro Manila Council na huwag munang paayagang makabiyaha ang mga bus at jeep sa Kamaynilaan sa ilalim ng General Community Quarantine.

Ayon kay Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Jojo Garcia, nirekomenda ito ng mga mayors matapos sang-ayunan nitong Martes ang pagsasailalim ng Metro Manila sa General Community Quarantine simula Hunyo 1.

Gayunman, ayaw pang payagan ang pagbiyahe ng mga bus at jeep habang hindi pa naaayos ang mga ruta sa ilalim ng sinasabing “new normal”.

May health concern din ang mga mayors lalo na sa mass transportation.

“May konting concerns lang ang ating mga mayors, number one sa mass transportation. Sabi nga natin baka pwede iwas muna tayo sa because of health issues sa bus and jeepney or modern jeep.

Meaning mahirap i-control lalong lalo na may inaayos ang DOTr (Department of Transportation), LTFRB (Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board), MMDA at DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) na yung bus natin binabago na yung mga ruta,” ani Garcia.

Nirerekomenda din ng mga mayors ang pag-gamit muna ng mga taxi at Transportation Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) na magdadala ng maximum na dalawang pasahero.

Aprubado din ang pagbabalik biyahe ng mga tricycles at pedicabs na may limitadong pasahero ngunit pinagbabawal sila sa mga national roads.

Nais din ng MMC na payagan ang mga shuttle services ng mga kumpanya at point-to-point buses. Nauna ng nirekomenda ng MMC sa Inter-Agency Task Force ang paglipat ng Metro Manila sa GCQ simula Hunyo 1.

Hydroxychloroquine use now limited

Published 8 hours ago
on May 28, 2020 12:40 AM
By **Gabbie Parlade**



Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire on Wednesday disclosed that the Department of Health (DoH) will continue medical trials for patients administered with the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine despite its possible adverse effects.

Vergeire, during a televised briefing, stated that directives from the World Health Organization (WHO) suspending allocations of the drug to new patients will not include those already in the trial phase of the medication.

She said that patients who will continue to receive the medication will be subjected to close monitoring by health physicians.

“The new recommendation is to stop the new allocation [of the drug] for new patients. But it also recommended that for those who are already undergoing the trial for hydroxychloroquine, they may continue, although close monitoring by their physicians is needed,” Vergeire added.

She said that not all patients may experience the possible side effects, but the medication will be halted if some symptoms rise.

In a study conducted by The Lancet, patients administered with the drug were found to have experienced “an increased frequency of ventricular arrhythmias and a decreased in-hospital survival” where similarly, no clinical benefits were found for COVID-19 patients.

Hydroxychloroquine is part of the class of drugs called antimalarials initially used to prevent malaria cases, and treat systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis.

The WHO solidarity trial is an effort joined by 100 countries all over the world, including the Philippines, in seeking a possible treatment against the coronavirus.

Some of the 24 hospitals in the Philippines involved in the trials were the Philippine General Hospital, Makati Medical Center and the Lung Center of the Philippines.

Among the possible medications studied will include Lopina or Ritonavir used for HIV treatment, the Remdesivir previously used for Ebola treatment and the Interferon beta 1-a used on Sclerosis patients.



SALA-SALABAT NA PROBLEMA KAYA KUNG MAGKAKAISA

May 27, 2020 @ 10:28 AM 22 hours ago

Views: 143

MARAMING krisis o problema ang kinahaharap ng ating bansa sanhi ng pananalasa ng Coronavirus Disease-19.

Nandiyan ang sibakan sa mga Overseas Filipino Worker at pagbagsak ng remittance o padala ng mga ito; labis na kawalan o kakulangan sa trabaho at pagkakitaan sa loob ng bansa; gutom at paghihirap ng milyon-milyong mamamayan; panghihina o pagbagsak ng mga negosyo; panghihina ng kaban ng bayan o pamahalaan at marami pang iba.

Malalaki at hindi basta makakayanan ng pambansang pamahalaan na balikatin ang mga ito kung hindi lalahok ang mga lokal na pamahalaan at mamamayan.

Kailangan talaga ang mahigpit na pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan ng lahat upang makaahon tayo sa mga krisis na hindi masusukat ang bigat.

Kung hindi tayo magtutulungan lahat, tiyak na magtatagal ang mga krisis na magkakarugtong o magkakakambal at walang mahihirapan kundi tayong lahat.

300,000 UUWING OFW

Mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang nagsasabing naglalaro sa 300,000 overseas Filipino worker na seaman o land based ang uuwi sa mahal kong Pinas mula sa mga araw na ito hanggang sa Disyembre 2020.

Kabilang sa mga dahilan ang pag-deport sa kanila ng mga dayuhang pamahalaan upang ang sarili nilang kababayan ang magkaroon ng trabaho at hindi ang mga dayuhan.

Marami ring pribadong kompanya ang nalugi kaya isa sa mga ginagawa ng mga ito ang pagsibak sa trabaho sa marami nilang manggagawang dayuhan gaya ng nagaganap sa industriya ng langis at konstruksyon sa Gitnang Silangan.

May mga ganap na bumagsak ang negosyo kaya nawalan ng pagkakitaan at sahod ang mga OFW at wala silang magawa kundi umuwi sa Pilipinas at nagsisiksikan na sila ngayon sa mga embahada, konsulado at iba pa.

Maaaring mauulit ang mass repatriation at gumamit ang pamahalaan ng mga barko at eroplano sa paglilikas sa mga wala na talagang paraan para makauwi sa sariling gastos.

Dagdag pa, ipagpalagay nang may limang miyembro ang pamilya ng bawat 300,000 OFW na napurdoy at naghihirap bunga ng COVID-19, aba, 1,500,000 katao ang mga ito na alalahanin din nating lahat.

PADALA NG OFW BAGSAK

Nitong nagdaang mga taon, umabot sa kabuuang \$30 bilyon ang padala ng milyon-milyong OFW na nakakalat sa buong mundo.

Kabilang sa mga paboritong destinasyon ng mga OFW ang Amerika, Europa, Gitnang Silangan o mga Arabong bansa at mga mauunlad na bansa sa Asya gaya ng South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand at iba pa.

Sadyang malupit ang COVID-19 kaya nalagay sa balag ng alanganin ang halos lahat ng OFW at hindi lang ang nasa 300,000 OFW at naunang 24,000 na pinababalik-probinsya sa mga araw na ito.

Halos lahat ng mahigit 12 milyong OFW ay hindi makapagpadala ng matino sa mga pamilya nila rito kaya kasama na ang milyon-milyong pamilya-OFW sa mga naghihirap sa kasalukuyan.

Bukod sa mga umuuwing OFW, umabot na sa 2,000 iba pa ang kinapitan mismo ng COVID-19 at daan na rin ang namatay sa mga ito, lalo na ang mga health worker na kinabibilangan ng mga doktor at nurse.

Sa pakikipanayam mismo ng ULTIMATUM sa maraming OFW, lalo na ang mga OFW na kinakailangang kumayod o magkaroon ng higit sa isa na trabaho upang may maipon at maipadala sa kanilang mga pamilya sa Pinas, kagipitan ang nararanasan nila.

Maging ang mga may matataas na sahod ay nahihirapan din dahil sa pagsikip ng hanapbuhay nila, lalo na sa mga pribadong sektor na nagsara o nagpaliit ng negosyo o operrasyon gaya ng mga kompanya sa electronics, langis, pabrika ng sasakyan at eroplano, barko, imprastraktura at iba pa.

KABAN NG BAYAN APEKTADO

Dahil sa bagsak na kalagayan ng mga OFW, bagsak din ang padala o remittance nila na nakaaapekto rin sa pananalapi ng ating pamahalaan.

Alam ba ninyong nasa P1.5 trilyon ang halaga ng OFW remittances at katumbas ito ng mahigit tatlo ng pambansang badyet na P4.1 trilyon para sa taong ito?

Kung tatanungin ninyo ang mga nakaaalam, malaking halaga ang 30 bilyong dolyar na remittance ng mga OFW dahil gamit at nakatutulong ito sa pamahalaan at mga negosyante sa transaksyong pananalapi nila sa ibang bansa gaya ng importasyon at eksportasyon, pangungutang at pagbabayad ng utang at iba pa.

Ngunit dahil malaki ang ibabawas ng padalang ito ngayong taon, apektado rin ang mga negosyante at pamahalaan sa paggamit ng dolyar sa kanilang transaksyon.

AYUDA NG MGA LGU

Isang masakit na katotohanan ang pag-itsapwera ng pamahalaan sa mga pamilya-OFW bilang benepisyaryo ng SAP.

Subalit napupunuan naman ito ng mga Local Government Unit mula lalawigan hanggang sa mga barangay na walang sawang naghahatid ng mga ayuda sa lahat ng mga pamilya.

Kitang-kita ito sa pagbahay-bahay ni Gapan, Nueva Ecija Mayor Emeng Pascual para mamigay ng isang kabang bigas, buhay na manok at araw-araw na pamimigay ng itlog sa bawat pamilya, mayaman o mahirap, sa kanyang bayan.

Si Atty. Mayor Tin Antonio ng Alcala, Cagayan ay namigay rin ng 20 kilong bigas sa mga hindi nahagip ng SAP at 4Ps habang si Dasmariñas City, Cavite Mayor ay namigay rin ng tig-P2,000 sa mga hindi rin nahagip ng SAP.

Sa Ilocos Sur, namigay si Gov. Ryan Singson ng tig-5 kilong hybrid na palay na sobra-sobrang patanim sa isang ektaryang palayan.

Hindi magkakasya ang ispasyong ito kung ilalahad natin lahat ang ginagawa ng mga katulad na LGU sa mula Batanes hanggang Jolo.

SA METRO MANILA

Ginawa namang patakaran ni Parañaque Mayor Edwin Olivarez ang No SAP No Problem para sa 40,000 taga-Parañaque na wala sa SAP sa pagsasabing mabibigyan agad ang mga ito ng P5,000 ayuda at hagip nito maging ang mga pamilya-OFW.

Naglaan naman ng tatlong bugso ng relief goods si Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte para sa daan-daang libong residente na mahihirap ng lungsod.

Bukod sa mga relief good, may pamamahagi rin ng cash assistance ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno ngunit pinakikialaman naman umano ng ilang korap na kapitan ng barangay.

Halos walang masabi rin ang mga mamamayan sa husay na umayuda sa kanilang mga nasasakupan sina Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, Malabon Mayor Antolin Oreta, Makati Mayor Abby Binay, Taguig Mayor Lino Cayetano, Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano, Mayor Rex Gatchalian ng Valenzuela, Pateros Mayor Miguel Ponce III, Muntinlupa Mayor Atty. Jaime Fresnedi, San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora, Caloocan Mayor Oca Malapitan, Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, Las Piñas Mayor Imelda Aguilar, Mandaluyong Mayor Carmelita Abalos at Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro.

Karugtong ng mahuhusay na lider ang mag-darling na San Jose del Monte Mayor Arthur Robes at Congresswoman Rida Robes na nagpanatili sa kanilang lungsod na COVID-19-free.

Sa kabuuan, habang may mangilan-ngilang pamahalaang bayan na hindi nakapamigay nang maayos na ayuda sa mga mamamayan, higit na nakararami ang gumagawa ng paraan na ikinatutuwa ng mga mamamayan.

ANG MGA BARANGAY

Nakatutuwa namang isipin na maging ang mga barangay ay may sariling mga first wave, second wave, third wave, fourth wave na ayuda batay sa sarili nilang diskarte.

Kaya naman, kung may nagsasabing naghihirap at nagugutom ngayon, ito'y bunga na talaga ng kawalan o kakulangan ng mapagkakitaan dahil sa pananalasa ng COVID-19 na nagbubunga ng mga lockdown, curfew, pagsasara ng mga pabrika at maging sa mga sakanan at pangisdaan.

OKS PA RIN KAHIT MAY COVID-19

Ayon sa mga nakatatanggap ng ayuda, mabuti na rin kaysa wala.

Subalit ang isa pang mahalaga, naisakatuparan ng pamahalaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga pangako nito na subsidy bagama't malaki pa rin ang kakulangan dahil nasa 18,000 milyon pa lang ang masasabing nahatiran na at ang iba pang milyong pamilya ay pinaghihintay para sa susunod na bigayan.

Ang totoo, mga Bro, marami ang namimigay ng iba pang mga ayuda gaya ng mga pribadong kompanya at pribadong indibidwal.

Kabilang naman sa mga hindi masusukat ang tulong sa mga mamamayan si Ramong Ang, ang bosing ng San Miguel Corporation, na bilyong piso na ang naipamamahagi hindi lang sa kanilang libo-libong empleyado kundi sa mga frontliner na doktor, nurse at iba pa.

At ang mga civic organization, gaya ng Lions Clubs International District 301-A2 sa ilalim ni Governor Wennie Bico at Lions Club International District 301 Councilor Chairman Michael So, halos hindi na rin makagulapay sa pagod sa katutulong sa mamamayan mula sa pagputok ng Bulkang Taal hanggang sa salot na COVID-19.

Naririyang din ang mga Rotarian at alumni associations gaya ng St. Stephen High School Alumni Association.

Hanggang sa mga araw na ito, hindi rin yata maubos-ubos ang relief goods na ipinamamahagi ng Federation of Filipino and Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. para sa lahat ng nangangailangan, kasama na ang nagigipit ding mga miyembro ng media.

Magkaisa at magtulungan lagi tayong lahat at mapangingibabawan din natin ang COVID-19 at mga krisis na nililikha nito.



EDITORIAL - Sana magtagumpay ang Balik Probinsiya

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - May 28, 2020 - 12:00am

Siksikan na ang mga tao sa Metro Manila at habang tumatagal, lalo pang dumarami. Walang tigil ang paghugos ng mga tao sa siyudad at iniwan ang lalawigan kung saan ay mas mayroon silang kinabukasan at maliit ang tsansang magutom. Pero dahil maraming nagkikislapang bituin at masaya ang Metro Manila, dito nila gustong manirahan, sa kabila na wala naman silang matitirahan at makukuhang trabaho. “Bahala na” ang baong salita nang marami nang lumuwas sa Maynila para makipagsapalaran. Dahil sa “bahala na” dumami ang mga tao sa Metro Manila at sa kasalukuyan, problema sila ng gobyerno.

Nakakalula ang dami ng tao sa Metro Manila at malinaw itong nakita sa pamamahagi ng ayuda at relief goods mula nang manalasa ang COVID-19. Naging sentro nang nakamamatay na virus ang Metro. Dito nagsimula ang unang kaso at kumalat na hanggang sa umabot sa mahigit 14,000. Nasa modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) ang Metro at matatapos sa Mayo 31.

Ang sobrang dami ng tao sa Metro Manila ang isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan kaya nilagdaan ni President Duterte noong nakaraang Mayo 6 ang Executive Order No. 114 na nagtatatag sa Balik Probinsiya Program. Sa pamamagitan ng programang ito, hinihikayat ang mga nasa Metro Manila na magbalik probinsiya sapagkat doon maraming oportunidad. Mas malaki ang pagkakataon na mapaulad ang sarili at kanilang pamilya.

Sa ilalim ng Balik Probinsiya, tutulungan ang mga tao na magkaroon ng sariling bahay at lupa na pagtataniman. Pagkakalooban din sila ng tulong pinansiyal o puhunan. Sinabi ni Balik Probinsiya Executive Director Jun Escalada, mayroon nang 5,000 tao ang may interest na magbalik sa probinsiya. Nagsimula na umano sila ng online application noong nakaraang Biyernes at 5,000 na ang nag-enroll. Ayon kay Escalada, puwedeng mag-enroll sa website balikprobinsiya.ph.

Maganda ang programang ito at sana’y magtagumpay. Hindi sana ito katulad ng ibang programa na inire-relocate lang ang mga tao sa probinsiya at pagkatapos ay iiwanan nang nakanganga. Dapat ding maging mapanuri sa mga mag-aaplay at baka ang hangad lang ay cash at kapag naubos na, susugod uli sa Maynila para maging iskuwater.

Nararapat na kakaiba at makatotohanan ang programang ito para wala nang babalik sa lungsod. Masyado nang masikip ang Metro Manila.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2020/05/28/2016958/editorial-sana-magtagumpay-ang-balik-probinsiya>

1918 and now

posted May 28, 2020 at 12:00 am

by [Florencio Fianza](#)

It is not widely known that the 1918 influenza pandemic killed between 70,000 to 85,000 Filipinos out of the estimated 1918 population of about 10 million. This translates to 6.8 to 9.2 deaths per 100,000 population. The latest COVID-19 death toll on the other hand was 886 as of Tuesday out of the current population of about 108 million.

Considering the severity of the 1918 pandemic, the measures employed by the colonial government then as we shall see were a lot less restrictive compared to what the current government is doing to control the spread of COVID-19. This is because the conditions now and then are vastly different. For one, medical science has advanced so much compared to what it was then. We now know a lot more about viruses compared to 1918. For the last three months, the IATF has basically taken over our lives telling us what we can and cannot do. The intention is to prevent the virus from further infecting more people and making the problem worse.

According to the research of Filipino academic Dr. Francis Gealogo, published by Ateneo Press, and to some of my online readings, in 1918, the government led by the Public Health Service was the agency that issued guidelines for the public to follow and took some actions that are still being done today like quarantines, inspections and disinfections. Although there is a dearth of readily available literature on the 1918 pandemic in the country, there are records that tell some interesting stories. There is even a Filipino academic who is an authority on the study of pandemics. The records show how the disease got to the country, how it spread together with how the government responded and the problems encountered during the attempt to control the spread of the disease.

The disease was initially detected in the port of Manila among the workers suggesting strongly that the disease was imported from abroad. The disease spread very quickly all over the country eventually coming in three waves. The first was from April to July 1918, then October to November and the third from February to March 1919.

The second wave killed the most number of people because as later studies would show, the initial strain mutated into a more virulent strain. This is a strong indication that we will likely have a second wave and perhaps a third. Unlike COVID-19 wherein the elderly and those with existing medical conditions are more vulnerable, the 1918 pandemic was more dangerous to younger people particularly children who were ten years old and those ages twenty nine to early thirties. Among women, those under 35 years of age accounted for 70 percent of all female deaths. Looking at all fatalities, 99 percent of all deaths were below 65 years of age.

Doctors also reported that many of those infected suffered from respiratory, cardiac and renal complications which some of those infected with COVID-19 are reported to be also exhibiting. To combat the disease, the government established quarantine facilities in many parts of the country like Mariveles, Cebu and Iloilo. Inspection stations were also established in all ports in the country there being no air travel at that time. The government also conducted lectures, treated those who were sick, distributed medicines, inspected tens of thousands of houses, issued medical bulletins, examined children, required general cleaning and disinfection of houses, schools, prisons and leper colonies. Because there was a war going on and the country being a colony of the United States then, there was mobilization to train men for the war in Europe. This resulted in a big spike in infections when a lot of men were brought to Manila from all parts of the country to train in a military facility called Camp Claudio, a facility that is not familiar to me. Maybe this was the old name of Fort Bonifacio. This resulted in the increase of infections that caused the death of several hundred people forcing authorities to designate the camp as some sort of a cantonment area together with the surrounding towns with a total of about 108,000 people. This was the closest thing to a lockdown as we understand it today.

During the pandemic, schools were not closed, there was no social distancing, economic activity went on as usual and travel was not restricted. There were no food aids nor social amelioration funds distributed. There were also serious problems faced by the Health Service like the lack of health workers due to retirements, resignations and death. In the middle of the pandemic, the American in charge of Public Health resigned, leaving a Filipino to take over the position. The mobilization effort which in the end did not push through because of the armistice on November 11, 1918, disrupted government efforts and contributed too many resignations of medical personnel. When it was all over, a report was written which is very sobering in its honesty because the report admitted government failure in not being able to control the disease.

It is perhaps something we will never see happen today ---- the Department of Health admitting to any failure. In this day and age, it is very rare to see government officials admitting mistakes much less see them resigning because of it to preserve one's honor. In the aftermath of the pandemic, the Philippine Health Service prepared a Sanitary Code which was intended as a primer for the public to follow but within a short time when the effects of the pandemic wore off, the public seem to have gone back to old practices. Maybe COVID-19 is different and can really change the world to something very different unless a vaccine can be develop very soon.

Animal welfare group sa Tarlac humihingi ng tulong

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 27 2020 12:21 PM



Nananawagan ng tulong ang Animal Kingdom Foundation upang mapangalagaan ang higit 100 asong nasagip nito mula sa pang-aabuso. *Animal Kingdom Foundation*

MAYNILA - Higit 100 aso at staff ng Animal Kingdom Foundation sa Capas, Tarlac ang nangangailangan ng tulong sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Halos 2 dekada na simula nang itayo ang grupo at higit 1,000 operasyon na ang kanilang nagawa upang pigilan ang dog meat trade at iba pang pang-aabuso sa mga hayop, ayon kay Heidi Marquez- Caguioa, program director ng AKF.

"Ang challenge po ngayon since may problema sa mga negosyo apektado rin po kami...nagdedepende po kami sa donasyon yung pasahod ng mga staff namin para maalagaan yung mga aso," aniya.

Giit ng grupo, hindi sila papayag na maisara lalo't laganap parin ang animal cruelty at dog meat trade sa bansa.

Humihingi sila ng ng tulong sa publiko na suportahan ang kanilang adbokasiya, hindi lang sa pagbibigay ng donasyon kundi pati narin sa pagiging responsableng pet owner.

--Ulat ni Noriel Padiernos, ABS-CBN News

Maynilad says June water billing to reflect meter reading

May 27, 2020 | 12:03 am



WEST zone water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. said the water bill that its customers will receive for the month of June would reflect the actual billing and consumption for the months of March up to June.

Customers will receive only one bill for the month of June, the water provider said in a statement, assuring its customers that they will not receive separate bills for the months of March to May.

In the water bill for June, water consumption will be adjusted to the actual water reading.

For a clearer explanation, Maynilad said the water bill for June will show the following:

- The customers' total actual water consumption from March to June, which was computed by subtracting the February meter reading to the actual current meter reading.
- The monthly water consumption breakdown per month, for the months of March to June. The readings, in cubic meters, have already been adjusted to actual consumption.
- The actual bill per month for the months of March to June based on the customers' monthly consumption that have already been adjusted to actual reading.
- The previous unpaid amount, or the sum of the billings for the months of March, April, and May that may have remained unpaid while the lockdown was in place. Any unpaid bills before the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine will also be added, including promissory notes that have already lapsed.
- The current charges or the billing for the month of June.
- The total amount due, which is the sum of the previous unpaid amount and the current charges. Any payments made during the enhanced community quarantine will be subtracted from the total.

Maynilad says June water billing to reflect meter

May 28, 2020

TITLE: reading

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– The payment due date which states the extended deadline of payment. Customers must be able to fully pay the total amount due indicated in their June statement of account by the set date.

Maynilad said actual billings for customers who stayed at home during the lockdown, or from the months of March to June, might be higher than usual due to increased consumption.

“Higher water billings may be due to people being at home most of the time, from the hot weather, unpaid water bills before the community quarantine started, and consumption during the months of March to June has been historically higher,” it said.

Actual billings from March to June will be lower for customers who left their homes or stopped operating their businesses during the lockdown, it added.

“It will be lower than their previous averaged monthly billings because the consumption will be lower than the regular consumption,” Maynilad said.

Meanwhile, the water provider said that lifeline customers, or those who consume 10 cubic meters per month or less, will be given until August 31 to settle their bills accumulated during the lockdown.

Payments can be made in small, manageable installments. Partial payments can be made through any of the water company’s accredited payment channels.

Non-lifeline customers will have until July 31 to fully pay their accumulated billings.

Those who will be unable to fully settle their billings within the extended grace periods will receive a “notice of disconnection” the following month.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific, the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc.

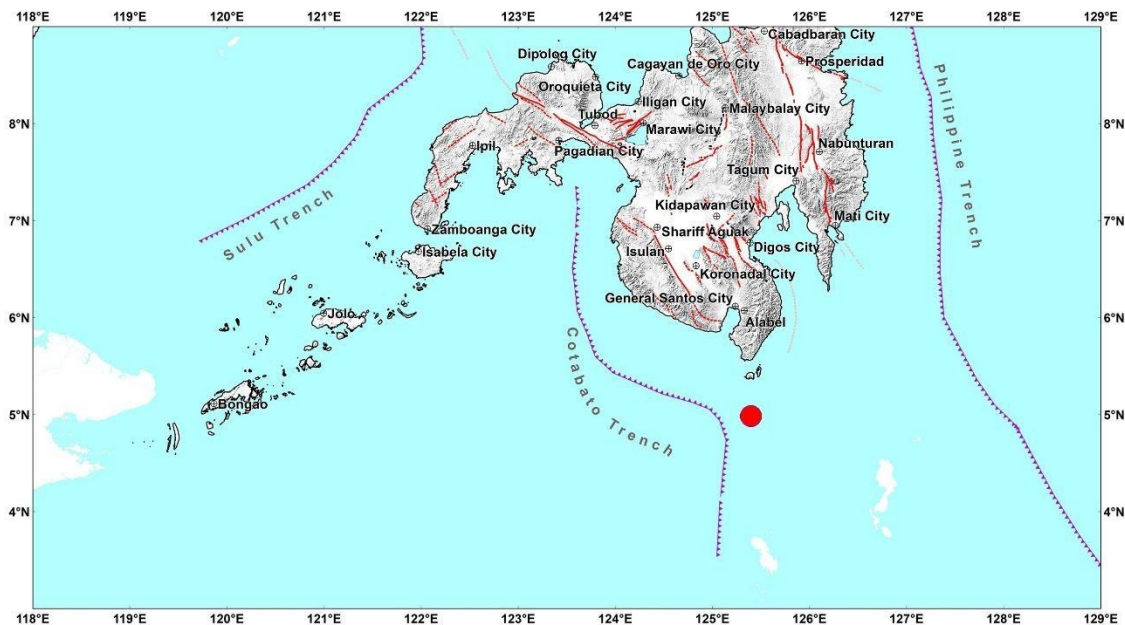
Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

4.8-magnitude quake hits Davao Occidental

Updated May 27, 2020, 4:21 PM

By MB Online

A 4.8-magnitude earthquake struck Davao Occidental on Wednesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported.



(PHIVOLCS / MANILA BULLETIN)

The earthquake, which occurred at 3:46 p.m., was tectonic in origin and traced to 51 kilometers southwest of Sarangani, Davao Occidental

The quake had a depth of 185 kilometers.

No aftershocks or damages are expected from the tremor.

Magnitude 4.8 earthquake jolts Davao Occidental

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 27 2020 04:31 PM



Photo courtesy of Phivolcs

A magnitude-4.8 earthquake jolted Davao Occidental Wednesday afternoon, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

The tremor happened at 3:46 p.m., its epicenter recorded 51 kilometers southwest of Sarangani town.

It was tectonic in origin and struck at a depth of 185 kilometers, according to Phivolcs.

The tremor is not expected to cause aftershocks. No damage has been reported so far.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/27/20/magnitude-48-earthquake-jolts-davao-occidental?fbclid=IwAR3br8hiHXGtxGru_i0J_RV-mio6-fHxirgxVfLnmdX-cLWvusrBn-BNhNo

Dagupan, Sangley Point record Wednesday's highest heat index at 48°C

Published May 27, 2020 9:41pm

PAGASA's synoptic stations in Dagupan City and in Sangley Point, Cavite City on Wednesday reported the day's highest heat index, or human-perceived temperature, at 48°C.

According to PAGASA, this is followed by the readings from the stations in Maasin City and Legazpi City, which both recorded a heat index of 47°C; and in the Science City of Muñoz and Roxas City with 45°C.

The heat index is the measure of the temperature that a person feels. It is computed by factoring in the humidity as well as the air temperature.

PAGASA warned that with a heat index of at least 41°C, cramps and heat exhaustion are possible, which in turn may lead to heat stroke amid continued physical activity.

PAGASA-DOST @dost_pagasa

TINGNAN: Top 6 PAGASA Synoptic Stations na may pinakamataas na kalkuladong heat index ngayong Miyerkules, 27 Mayo.

PANGANIB (41-54°C na heat index): Posible ang heat cramps at heat exhaustion na maaaring mauwi sa heat stroke kapag tuluy-tuloy ang physical activity.

PAGASA STATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST COMPUTED HEAT INDEX WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2020		
DAGUPAN CITY	48°C	2:00 PM
SANGLEY POINT, CAVITE CITY	48°C	2:00 PM
MAASIN CITY	47°C	2:00 PM
LEGAZPI CITY	47°C	2:00 PM
SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ	45°C	2:00 PM
ROXAS CITY	45°C	2:00 PM

33 7:39 PM - May 27, 2020

16 people are talking about this

Meanwhile, the Science Garden, Quezon City recorded a heat index of 40°C from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A maximum temperature was recorded at 35.8°C at 2 p.m. — **Joahna Lei Casilao/BM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/740083/dagupan-sangley-point-record-wednesday-s-highest-heat-index-at-48-deg-c/story/?fbclid=IwAR3UK1CBL-Y8psAJ9XW4J8pwT_rqTF-79vAv4x5bbX2MJITWEqoIJlfr-Y

PH, Vietnam agree to peaceful settlement of territorial
disputes with China

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May 28, 2020
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PH, Vietnam agree to peaceful settlement of territorial disputes with China

Published May 27, 2020, 8:14 PM

By **Genalyn Kabiling**

The Philippines and Vietnam have agreed to settle their respective territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea through peaceful means.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (TOTO LOZANO/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO)

President Duterte discussed the South China Sea conflict and the importance of keeping peace and stability in the region with Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc in a phone call Tuesday night (May 26).

“President Duterte and Prime Minister Phuc reiterated their commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea,” read a Malacañang press statement about the phone call requested by the Vietnamese leader.

The two leaders also recognized the roles of their countries in promoting security and stability in the South China Sea, according to the Palace.

“The Philippines and Viet Nam reaffirmed the shared commitment to pursue peace, security, and stability in the South China Sea,” it said.

The Philippines and Vietnam are among the nations locked in a years-long dispute with China in the resource-rich South China Sea.

Vietnam has taken a more vocal stance against China’s alleged intrusion into its waters. Recently, Vietnam protested China’s reported fishing ban in the disputed waters but Beijing insisted the area is part of its territory.

The Philippines, on other hand, has decided to pursue a bilateral dialogue with China to manage the territorial conflict while stepping up economic and security cooperation under the Duterte administration.

In the phone call with Duterte, the Prime Minister noted that the Philippines has “played well the role of Country Coordinator of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)-China relations.”

Duterte, for his part, has committed that the Philippines will continue to support the ASEAN endeavors, citing Vietnam’s chairmanship of the regional group.

“As Country Coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue, the Philippines is actively pushing for the conclusion of a binding, effective, and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea at the soonest possible time,” the Palace said.



PH, Vietnam agree to peaceful settlement of territorial
disputes with China

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China claims almost the entire South China Sea and has stepped up reclamation works in the area in recent years, drawing protests from other claimant nations. Four ASEAN member-nations namely the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam also have claims in the area.

The proposed set of rules governing the conduct of parties passing the disputed waterway is still being negotiated by the ASEAN and China.

Philippines, Vietnam reaffirm commitment to peace, security, stability in South China Sea

May 27, 2020

OPAFA-PCOO PR

MANILA (26 May 2020) – The Philippines and Vietnam reaffirmed the shared commitment to pursue peace, security and stability in the South China Sea.

In a telephone conversation Tuesday evening, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc emphasized the key roles played by both countries in promoting security and stability in the South China Sea.

President Duterte and Prime Minister Phuc reiterated their commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea.

Citing the Philippines as an important member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Prime Minister Phuc said the Philippines has “played well the role of Country Coordinator of ASEAN-China relations.”

Noting Vietnam’s chairmanship of ASEAN, President Duterte said the Philippines is “ready to support the endeavors of ASEAN.”

As Country Coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue, the Philippines is actively pushing for the conclusion of a binding, effective, and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea at the soonest possible time.

The Philippines and Vietnam elevated their bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership in 2015. The two sides committed to enhance cooperation in a wide of areas — political, economic, socio-cultural, and defense and security cooperation, including in the area of maritime security.

Source: https://ptvnews.ph/philippines-vietnam-reaffirm-commitment-to-peace-security-stability-in-south-china-sea/?fbclid=IwAR00mJ-rXGxWk9XgW0EbWGRWnD_EvU8BFMvp-UyMazHFisLgl94AXt7KHRM

PH, Vietnam reaffirm pledge to pursue peace in South China Sea

Davinci Maru, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 27 2020 08:42 PM | Updated as of May 27 2020 10:33 PM



MANILA (UPDATE) – The Philippines and Vietnam have reaffirmed their commitment to pursue peace and stability in South China Sea, where both sides have claims against China's assertions of sovereignty over nearly all of the disputed waters.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc spoke by phone Tuesday and reiterated their pledge to peacefully resolve conflicts in the disputed waters, the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) said in a statement.

Phúc said the Philippines had “played well the role of country coordinator of ASEAN-China relations.”

“As country coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue, the Philippines is actively pushing for the conclusion of a binding, effective, and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea at the soonest possible time,” the PCOO said.

Duterte, meanwhile, said the Philippines is “ready to support the endeavors of ASEAN.” Vietnam is the chair of ASEAN for 2020.

In the same call, initiated by the Vietnamese leader, Phúc assured Duterte of steady rice supply as the Philippines grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2015, both countries reaffirmed their bilateral ties and committed to enhance cooperation in different areas.

To commemorate 40 years of diplomatic relations, Duterte visited the communist state in September 2016.

He and Phúc vowed to maintain balance in the South China Sea and expand trade and investment.

In a joint statement, both leaders said they would achieve peaceful resolution in the disputed waters by respecting legal and diplomatic processes, and refraining from using force, “in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).”

China had repeatedly asserted its sovereignty in the South China Sea despite rival claims by Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

In recent years, China has stepped up its territorial claims in the major trade route by building artificial islands and a heavy military presence.

The South China Sea is home to large natural oil and gas reserves and some of the busiest freight waterways in the world.

China has also been ignoring a July 2016 ruling of a United Nations-backed arbitral tribunal invalidating its 9-dash line claim.

PH. Vietnam reaffirm pledge to pursue peace in South
China Sea

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In April, Vietnam lodged an official complaint with China and the UN saying Beijing illegally sank a fishing trawler near the Paracel Islands, killing 8 people on board.

In the same month, the Philippines also complained of China's creation of 2 new districts in South China Sea, as it encompasses Philippine territory and maritime zones in the West Philippine Sea.

The West Philippine Sea is the country's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea, which China claims in near entirety.

First baby koala born in Australian wildlife park since devastating New South Wales bushfires

By Jack Guy, CNN

Published May 27, 2020 10:07:31 PM



The park introduced Ash to the world in a Facebook video.

(CNN) -- A wildlife park in Australia is celebrating the arrival of its first baby koala since bushfires devastated the area.

The baby koala -- known as a joey -- was revealed in a Facebook video posted by the Australian Reptile Park near Sydney, New South Wales, on Tuesday.

"We have a very special announcement... Our very first koala of the season has popped out of Mums pouch to say hello!" reads the caption.

Keepers have named the baby Ash, and the park calls her "a sign of hope for the future of Australia's native wildlife."

The park is all set to reopen on Monday, following Australia's coronavirus lockdown measures, according to another Facebook video.

Keepers have posted a steady stream of videos during quarantine, attracting millions of viewers curious to get to know the animals.

While Ash brings a ray of sunshine to the park, the bushfires that ravaged Australia in the second half of 2019 and into 2020 wrought terrible damage on koala populations.

There is now a significant and immediate threat of extinction to koalas, according to a report published in March.

At least 5,000 koalas are estimated to have died, according to the report from the global conservation group International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

"Koalas are particularly vulnerable to bushfires as they are slow moving and live in eucalyptus trees that burn quickly and intensely," IFAW Wildlife Campaigner Josey Sharrad told CNN at the time.

"When fires sweep through their homes, they often don't have time to escape, particularly in intense crown fires that rage through the treetops where they live," she added.

However there was good news for koalas at the end of April, when several animals who were injured in bushfires were re-released into the wild.

The marsupials were being treated at the world's only all-koala hospital, located in the New South Wales town of Port Macquarie.

One of the most famous of the group is Anwen, a female whose photos went viral due to the severe nature of her burns -- they covered 90% of her body.

Source: https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/5/27/First-baby-koala-born-since-bushfires-.html?fbclid=IwAR20WoB1UReWkOn-gQnxCDL3ErcJ04WhKVM_zgGFU0KzpQGkkwA7omPHW7I

Beijing calls for intensified wild animals protection

By [Global Times](#)

May 28, 2020

BEIJING: China's National People's Congress (NPC) deputies have proposed an increase in penalties for the illegal trading and consumption of wildlife and an expansion of the scope of the law to strengthen the protection of wild animals.

Li Zongsheng, an NPC deputy and founder of Anxing Law Firm in Northeast China's Liaoning Province, told the Global Times that the wildlife protection law needs to be revised to cover more species. It was also necessary to educate the public about how to protect wildlife, he said.

Deputies suggested that reptiles, as well as non-endangered land and aquatic animals that have crucial ecological and scientific attributes, be included in the protection scope.

The coronavirus outbreak has triggered discussion about whether wild animals were the natural host of the coronavirus. Although the conclusion is not clear yet, experience from the severe acute respiratory syndrome and Ebola outbreaks showed the importance of protecting wild animals and preventing zoonotic infectious diseases through legal means, Li said.

The NPC Standing Committee adopted a decision to thoroughly ban illegal wildlife trade and eliminate the bad habit of eating wild animals on the basis of the wildlife protection law during a bimonthly session on February 24.

Citing ineffective law enforcement, the deputies also advised that the government should increase penalties for the trade and exploitation of wildlife, as the current penalties are vague.

Chen Jingying, another NPC deputy who is also vice president of the East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai, proposed that restaurants serving wild animals should have their business certificates revoked and their businesses blacklisted, and the individuals involved should be put on record.

As many online platforms have become illegal trade venues, Chen noted that the operators of these platforms should take supervisory responsibility and be punished along with the dealers.

NPC Deputy Zhu Lieyu, a lawyer from South China's Guangdong Province, specified in his proposal a penalty of up to 1,000 yuan (\$143) and 10 to 15 days of detention for eating wild animals.

Lawmakers also called for a mechanism to report any wildlife found to be injured or dead from unknown causes and for the regular publication of a list of animals that pose a high risk of infectious diseases by the forestry and agricultural authorities.

"The procuratorial organs should strengthen communication and coordination with the forestry departments and market supervision departments to form a joint force for wildlife protection," said Deputy Li Zongsheng.

WORLD

Swarms of desert locusts threaten India's summer crops

Associated Press May 27, 2020 - 05:09 PM

NEW DELHI — An invasion by swarms of desert locusts has devastated crops in India's heartland, threatening an already vulnerable region that is struggling with the economic cost of coronavirus lockdown.

The situation has been particularly grim in central India's Rajasthan, where millions of locusts have been attacking crops since April. The insects are now appearing in locations where they had not been previously sighted, nibbling their way across large swathes of farmlands in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat states, too.

Authorities estimate the insects have engulfed more than 50,000 hectares (123,5000 acres) of agricultural land in seven of India's heartland states. The sudden outbreak has prompted them to use vehicle-mounted sprayers, pesticides, and drones to stop the infestation.

"It is an alarming situation," said KL Gurjar, a top official of India's Locust Warning Organization. "But we are more worried about their breeding. If that happens, it could be devastating for our farmlands."

Gurjar said India has not seen locust swarms on this scale since 1993 and the numbers of the fast-breeding insects could grow immensely before drier weather curbs their spread. He said higher than normal temperatures this year have helped locusts spread more rapidly and if not controlled, they can badly hurt India's food supplies.

Exasperated farmers have been banging plates, whistling or throwing stones to try to drive the locusts away, and sometimes even lighting fires to smoke them out.

But many just watch in frustration.

"These insects are giving us sleepless nights. We are more worried about them than the virus," said Mandeep Singh, who spent hours Tuesday trying to chase away the locusts from his cotton farm in Punjab.

Worried farmers say that while rabi crops that were sown in winter were harvested in the spring, locusts can still damage the cotton crop and vegetables sown in April.

Experts have warned that authorities will have to stop locusts from breeding before the monsoon season starts to ensure that they do not end up devouring summer crops and aggravate an already burgeoning agrarian crisis that hit India after a countrywide lockdown that started in late March.

Locust attacks have already wreaked pastures and crops across swathes in Africa. In February this year, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations had warned about locusts attacks that could jeopardize farmlands across southwest Asia, including western India.

Experts have said the current swarm that has entered India originated in the Horn of Africa and had another round of breeding in neighboring Pakistan.

How to reduce plastic and other ocean pollution simultaneously

By [Liz Hollaway](#) and [Jenna Jambeck](#) and Ellie Moss and Brajesh Dubey

May 27, 2020

Tackling the causes ocean pollution can have compounding effects. These seven solutions detail how to reduce plastic waste and other ocean pollution.



Marine debris litters a beach on Laysan Island. Visible plastic waste near the surface of the ocean — the kind that makes up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and garners the most attention — makes up just 3 per cent of total plastic in the ocean. Image: [Susan White/USFWS](#), [CC BY 2.0](#)

Plastic has gone from the greatest invention of the modern era to one of the most challenging materials to manage. Each year, up to [13 million metric tons](#) of plastic enter the ocean, the equivalent of one garbage truck of waste every minute.

The world has responded with countless initiatives, campaigns and agreements to ban plastic straws and bags; [127](#) countries have introduced legislation to regulate plastic bags.

But here's the thing: Plastic bags and straws aren't the ocean's only pollution problem.

Visible plastic waste near the surface of the ocean — the kind that makes up the [Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#), and garners the most attention — makes up [just 3 per cent](#) of total plastic in the ocean. Plastic also sinks to the ocean floor, stays suspended in the water column, or gets deposited out of the ocean in remote places, making clean-up difficult.

The UN Environment Programme estimated the global damage to marine environments from plastic pollution to be a minimum of \$13 billion per year. And there are a whole host of non-plastic pollutants such as nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous that fuel harmful algal blooms, antibiotics, heavy metals, pesticides, oil and gas, and other debris. These pollutants enter the ocean directly, through rivers, stormwater or the wind.

Visible plastic waste near the surface of the ocean — the kind that makes up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and garners the most attention — makes up just 3 per cent of total plastic in the ocean.

These substances have been damaging the environment, human health and the economy long before plastics became so prevalent.

Protecting human and marine health and harnessing the full benefits of a sustainable ocean economy will require not only reducing plastic waste, but *all* ocean pollutants.

Gateway Interventions to Tackle All Ocean Pollutants

The sundry pollutants making their way into the ocean often [share common pathways](#) and root causes, such as a lack of access to sanitation and wastewater processing or inefficient use of natural resources. Tackling these root causes can have a compounding effect.

For example, improving wastewater management at scale in a city or region can reduce plastic entering the ocean while also reducing nutrient pollution, which in turn improves the health of fisheries and coral reefs. This means that there is an opportunity to capitalise on the attention being paid to plastics in order to tackle multiple ocean pollutants at once.

A [new Blue Paper](#) commissioned by the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy highlights seven solutions that can reduce plastic pollution while also curbing other types of ocean pollution:

- 1. Improve wastewater management** by developing and building sustainable wastewater infrastructure for the 3 billion people who lack access to controlled waste disposal facilities. Untreated wastewater contains a number of pollutants like pathogens, plastics and chemicals. It can pose a severe risk to human and environmental health through toxic exposure, vector-borne diseases and eutrophication.
- 2. Improve stormwater management** by implementing stormwater and storm drain filtration and river mouth trash collection. This can prevent wastes such as macroplastics (littered items), microplastics (tire dust), and chemicals on roadways from flowing into rivers, and eventually, the ocean. Regulating the use of nutrients and pesticides and shifting behaviors — for example, the cultural norm around having a manicured lawn, which can increase the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers — can also ensure that these pollutants do not enter the ocean through stormwater. For example, a toxic algal bloom caused by nutrient pollution in the western Lake Erie basin in [2011](#) disrupted water supplies for 400,000 people.
- 3. Adopt green chemistry practices and new materials.** This includes banning hard-to-manage substances like expanded polystyrene (commonly packaging material), limiting the use of chemicals of concern like phthalates, and supporting materials research. Developing new materials that maintain the desirable performance characteristics of plastics but not the problematic ones, such as true biodegradables, could prevent plastics from causing as much harm if they do enter the ocean.
- 4. Practice radical resource efficiency** through plastic use reduction. This includes imposing fees on single-use plastics, encouraging voluntary industry standards to reduce fossil-fuel-based plastics, and shifting cultural norms around waste generation, consumption and reuse. For example, introducing carrier bag charges in the UK reduced the number of plastic bags used there by [80 per cent](#), with 9 billion fewer plastic bags used since the legislation was introduced in 2015.
- 5. Recover and recycle** the materials we use in both formal and informal sectors by implementing extended producer responsibility laws, providing incentives for waste segregation and recycling, strengthening markets for recycled plastics and implementing “Fishing for Litter” programs. Only [9 per cent](#) of all plastic ever discarded since 1950 has been recycled, while another 12 per cent has been incinerated and the remaining 79 per cent accumulated in landfills or the natural environment.
- 6. Implement coastal zone improvements** by, for example, restricting open ocean aquaculture. Shifting to sustainable land-based aquaculture systems could reduce a number of pollutants associated with coastal aquaculture, such as plastic pollution from lost or discarded gear and untreated waste with high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous. Encouraging participation in Adopt-a-Beach programs and clean beach certifications such as Blue Flag and Project Aware can reduce litter on beaches and make people more aware of pollution.

7. Build local systems for safe food and water by establishing drinking water treatment systems where needed, and ensuring adequate drinking water standards. This solution can not only reduce pollutants entering the ocean from the reduction in single-use plastic bottles, but also help the [1 in 3](#) people worldwide who lack access to clean drinking water.

Less Pollution for a Better Ocean Economy

These tactics can't be done on a small scale or by a single entity. In order to be successful, it is essential that solutions include cross-sectoral public-private partnerships, innovative financing arrangements and capital from a range of sources.

For example, in Muncar, a small village in East Java, Indonesia, public-private partnership organisers built a waste management system and strategy to optimise waste collection and processing for both inorganic and organic wastes, change behaviors, set regulations, and build institutional capacity.

In December 2019, 47,500 people received waste collection services, mostly for the first time, from two facilities established by the project. These facilities employ 80 local people and have collected 3,000 tons of waste that would have otherwise potentially ended up in the ocean.

By taking bold, integrated actions that address pollution across sectors, we can help build a sustainable ocean economy that can expand economic opportunities and improve the health and prosperity of millions of people. But our road to recovery must include the development of a circular economy.

The notion that things can be thrown away is a myth. Plastic and other pollutants continue to pollute long after their shelf life is over. We need to "turn off the tap" and prevent pollution before it happens in the first place.

Liz Hollaway is project assistant for the Sustainable Ocean Initiative at World Resources Institute. Jenna Jambeck is Professor of Environmental Engineering at University of Georgia. This post is republished from the [WRI blog](#).