

# DENR-NCR retrieves 'vulnerable' turtle species reported by a concerned citizen

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on May 28, 2020



**A Chinese softshell turtle (*Pelodiscus sinensis* (left photo) retrieved by personnel of the DENR-NCR's West Field Office (right photo)**

QUEZON CITY, May 28 (PIA) --The Department of Environment & Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) has retrieved a 'vulnerable' species of turtle after a concerned citizen reported finding them in San Juan City.

In a Facebook post, DENR-NCR said the concerned citizen sent a private message late Tuesday, May 26, thru their Facebook page about a turtle found inside the flood-control project in San Juan City.

The message was then relayed to their West Field Office who immediately dispatched a team the following day to retrieve the reptile, identified as a Chinese softshell turtle (*Pelodiscus sinensis*).

"The turtle is a species of softshell turtle endemic to China. It is categorized as "vulnerable" under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species as its numbers in its country of origin has been dwindling due to habitat loss and collection for food," DENR-NCR said.

"Outside of China, however, it is considered an invasive species, which causes harm to the natural resources of a local ecosystem and threatens human use of these resources," they added.

DENR-BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2013-02 identifies the Chinese softshell turtle as an Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

The turtle was brought to the DENR-BMB Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City for proper disposition. (DENR-NCR/PIA-NCR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1043098>



**Palawan Council for Sustainable Development**

10 hrs · 🌐

**1 PARES NG BABOY DAMO, ISINURRENDER SA PCSD AT DENR - PWRCC**

Isang pares ng Baboy Damo o Palawan Bearded Pig ang isinauli kanina bandang alas 11 ng umaga (May 28, 2020) ni G. Philip Elliot na residente ng Sitio Tagbariri, Bgy. Magsaysay, Aborlan, Palawan.

Ang babaeng baboy damo ay tumitimbang ng 45 kgs. samantalang ang lalakeng baboy damo naman ay may bigat na 64 kgs, at parehong 16 - 18 buwang gulang.

Ayon kay Ginoong Elliot, ang dalawang baboy damo ay nasa "juvenile" stage pa lamang nang ibenta sa kanya ng kanyang mga trabahante, 16 buwan na ang nakalilipas.

Ang pares na baboy damo ay ni-rescue ng DENR - Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center and Conservation (PWRCC) staff at ng PCSDS- Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (WTMU) sa naturang bayan.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang pares ng baboy damo ay nasa pangangalaga na ng PWRCC para sa rehabilitasyon nito.

Ang mga baboy damo o Palawan Bearded Pig (*Sus ahoenobarbus*) ay nasa katagorya na ng Endangered Species ayon sa PCSD Resolution No. 15-521 (2014 Updated List of Terrestrial and Marine Wildlife in Palawan and Their Categories Pursuant to Republic Act 9147, Otherwise Known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001).



👍👎😬 77

2 Comments 11 Shares

# Over 1,272 green turtle and hawksbill turtle species identified from photos shared in public across PH

Published May 28, 2020, 2:19 PM

By *Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz*

At least 1,272 species of green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) across the Philippines have been identified by experts by simply studying photographs shared by the public dubbed as “citizen scientists.”

Through the National Turtle Catalogue Project, the general public, which include divers and snorkelers, submit photographs of turtles to the professional scientists of the Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE).

It combines the turtle research by LAMAVE in Apo Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (Negros Oriental), Balicasag Island and Panglao (Bohol), and multiple sites in southern Cebu, alongside photographic submissions from scuba divers, freedivers, snorkelers, underwater photographers, and local community members across the country.

“This collaboration allows the simultaneous and efficient collection of large amounts of data from multiple research sites,” LAMAVE said in a statement.

“Photographs hold the key to identifying individual turtles, thanks to a non-invasive research technique called photo-identification. This technique uses the unique patterns on a turtle’s head to distinguish one individual from another without the need for capturing or handling or touching the animal,” it added.

Using this technique, LAMAVE researchers and citizen scientists have recorded 25,614 encounters with Green and Hawksbill Turtles, and identified 1,272 unique individuals across 40 research sites.

LAMAVE cited that by identifying individual marine turtles, scientists can determine the population, migration, and habitat patterns, allowing governments and communities to help design tourism policies and interaction guidelines to better protect and conserve these “endangered” species.

The project is also supported by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in collaboration with the Philippines’ Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), and Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines.

While diving and snorkelling activities have been put on hold at the moment, LAMAVE is encouraging those with photos of turtles that may have been luckily taken in the past to share them.

A film promoting citizen science has been launched as part of this year’s Month of the Ocean celebration. It was produced by LAMAVE in collaboration with the DENR-BMB, Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, Green Fins, and The Reef-World Foundation.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/28/over-1272-green-turtle-and-hawksbill-turtle-species-identified-from-photos-shared-in-public-across-ph/>



Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

12 hrs · 🌐

### ISANG SOUTHEAST ASIAN BOX TURTLE, IBINALIK SA KUSTODIYA NG PCSDS

Isang Southeast Asian Box Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis amboinensis*) ang boluntaryong ibinalik sa kustodiya ng Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), kahapon, Mayo 27, 2020.

Ayon kay Janrein A. Eleazar, natagpuan niya ang pagong nang siya ay kasalukuyang nagdadamo sa kanilang bahay-paupahan sa Magara, Roxas Palawan, noong araw ng linggo, ika-24 ng Mayo.

Ayon sa concerned citizen, isinuko niya ang pagong dahil alam niyang hindi tama at hindi biro ang mag alaga ng mga buhay-ilang, kung kaya't bumyahe ang binata mula Roxas Palawan hanggang Puerto Princesa upang boluntaryong ibalik ang Pagong sa pangangalaga ng PCSD.

"Gusto po kasi siya sana alagaan ng kapatid kong bata, pero alam ko pong hindi po biro ang mag-alaga ng ganitong mga wildlife," aniya.

Ito ay isang magandang ehemplo ng kabataan na dapat tularan at tumutugma sa katatapos lang na "World Turtles Day" celebration nitong nakaraang May 23.



👍❤️👏 176

5 Comments 41 Shares

# Illegal logging in ‘protected areas’ persists during ECQ

By [Jonathan L. Mavuga](#)

May 29, 2020

Amid the raging virus pandemic, illegal logging activities persist in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, even within so-called protected areas that are supposed to be spared from all forms of destructive human activities, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) revealed on Thursday.

Protected areas are areas set aside for conservation and home to threatened plant and animal wildlife.

DENR-Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Gilbert Gonzales, in a news statement, said the Rizal Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) has recently seized more than 350 board feet of lumber, 104 sacks of charcoal and 5 units of illegal logging equipment, estimated to be worth around P102,370.

The seized forest products and equipment were found within a protected area and were abandoned by the illegal loggers, apparently to evade arrest.

The seized items are currently in the custody of PENRO Rizal for safekeeping. There will be an Administrative Confiscation Proceeding headed by PENRO Rizal for appropriate storage and disposal of the seized items.

Gonzales has earlier called on DENR field personnel in the Calabarzon region to strictly monitor the protected areas in their jurisdiction especially during the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) period.

The regional office, through its Enforcement Division, has also regularly monitored field operations and responded to all complaints posted through social media.

According to Forester Oliver Viado, chief of Enforcement Division, DENR field personnel are on red alert during the ECQ.

“They have set up skeletal force and immediate mobilization of the respective quick response teams,” he said.

Anyone who will be caught cutting and transporting forest products without the necessary permits will be charged for violation of Section 77 of R.A. 7161, formerly Section 68, PD 705 (Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines), as amended. The use of unregistered chainsaws will also be charged for violation of R.A. 9175, known as the Chain Saw Act of 2002.



# DENR employee held for extortion

Published May 28, 2020, 1:26 PM

By *Marie Tonette Marticio*

**TACLOBAN City** – An employee of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) posing as a member of the New People's Army (NPA) was nabbed for allegedly extorting money from a farmers' group head.

The suspect, Mariano Donceras, 59, a resident of Brgy. 91, Abucay here, was entrapped by the Tacloban City Intelligence Unit Tracker Team.

Complainant Alex Aborita, 45, board chairman of Leyte Compact Farming Agriculture Cooperative and a former village chair of Brgy. Villaconzoilo, Jaro, Leyte, said he received a phone call from the suspect pretending to be a member of NPA and demanding revolutionary tax.

The suspect asked for P15,000 in exchange for Aborita's protection.

He threatened to harm the complainant's family if would not give in to his demand.

Capt. Winrich Laya Lim, head of the apprehending team, said they were able to recover the bogus money used in the entrapment operation.

Donceras was brought to Tacloban City Police Station 1 for proper disposition.



## DENR employee held for extortion

May 28, 2020 | Filed under: [Headlines, News](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)

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Duterte extends term of Boracay rehab task force until

May 29, 2020

TITLE: May 2021

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

# Duterte extends term of Boracay rehab task force until May 2021

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos [May 28, 2020, 6:19 pm](#)



World-renowned Boracay Island (File photo)

**MANILA** – Citing the need to complete the critical projects in Boracay Island, President Rodrigo Duterte has extended the term of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) until May 8, 2021.

Under Executive Order (EO) he signed on May 11, Duterte said despite the creation of the task force in 2018, several establishments in Boracay Island, a world-famous beach destination in the country, have yet to comply with the beach and road easement protocols.

“Upon further validation made by the Task Force last 31 March 2020, 33 percent of establishments in the Boracay Island are not yet compliant with the 25 meters plus five meters beach easement, and 27 percent of establishments have not complied with the road easement,” Duterte said in his EO.

Duterte noted that there are still 723 structures built on forestland blocks, 112 establishments on the beach easement, and 334 facilities on the road easement that need to be demolished.

Duterte saw the need to extend the Boracay IATF’s term until May 8, 2021, “unless extended or sooner terminated by the President.”

“There is a need to complete critical projects in Boracay Island, pursuant to the Boracay Action Plan,” the EO read.

Duterte on May 8, 2018 created the Boracay IATF through EO 53 to strictly implement the laws and local ordinances to ensure the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of Boracay Island.

Boracay was closed to tourists from April to September 2018 to pave the way for a massive rehabilitation of the island, which has long been plagued with environmental problems.

The Boracay IATF, whose term was supposed to end two years after its creation, has been tasked to ensure that policies on the island are consistent with relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

It has also been mandated to fully implement, in coordination with relevant government agencies and local government units, the policies, laws, rules and regulations, including the Boracay Action Plan.

The Boracay Action Plan provides for synchronized and strategic national and local interventions to ensure the island’s rehabilitation over the medium term and sustainable management over the long term.

The action plan intends to make Boracay a “globally-competitive and world-class tourism destination with a vibrant, productive, inclusive and climate-resilient economy.”



Duterte extends term of Boracay rehab task force until

May 29, 2020

TITLE: May 2021

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Duterte's latest EO, which was released by the Palace just on Thursday, takes effect immediately.

On Tuesday, Malacañang said Boracay may shift to a modified general community quarantine (MGCQ), considering the low cases of coronavirus disease 2019 in the island.

Under MGCQ, tourist destinations are allowed to operate for up to 50 percent of its full capacity. **(PNA)**

# Duterte extends term of Boracay rehab task force until May 2021

By [Catherine S. Valente, TMT](#)

May 28, 2020

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has extended the term of the inter-agency task force created to oversee the rehabilitation of top tourist destination Boracay island until May 8, 2021.

The President issued the directive through Executive Order (EO) 115, which he signed on May 11. In his order, Duterte directed the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force to ensure the completion of critical rehabilitation projects in the popular beach destination as well as implement its carrying capacity regulations.

The government task force, formed via Executive Order 53 in 2018 to clean up and rehabilitate Boracay, was supposed to be dissolved on May 8, 2020.

The latest executive order from the President amended EO 53 to extend the task force's mandate to facilitate rehabilitation and ensure the ecological sustainability of the island.

"The task force shall be deemed dissolved on 08 May 2021, unless extended or sooner terminated by the President," Duterte said in his order.

The task force was mandated to implement the Boracay Action Plan, which includes national and local interventions to ensure the island's rehabilitation over the medium term and sustainable management over the long term towards a world-class tourism destination with a productive, inclusive and climate-resilient economy.

However, Duterte said the task force found out that as of March 31 this year, 33 percent of establishments in Boracay are not yet compliant with the beach easement and 27 percent of establishments have not complied with the road easement.

He also said there were still 723 structures built on forestland blocks, 112 on the beach easement, and 334 on the road easement that need to be demolished.

"There is a need to complete critical projects in pursuant to the Boracay Action Plan such as but not limited to the water drainage system, demolition of remaining establishments situated in forest land and wetland areas, enforcement of beach and road easements, as well as the rehabilitation of the Boracay circumferential Road, and extend the life of the Task Force so it may ensure the implementation of carrying capacity regulations, and continue to carry out its mandate under EO No. 53," Duterte said.

The President said the task force must publish a final accomplishment report, including the implementation of Boracay Action Plan and the total budget use, within 30 days prior to its dissolution.

Based on a government study in 2018, the Boracay Island surpassed its carrying capacity by 109.95 hectares for residential structures, 194.90 hectares for businesses with lodging or accommodation services, and 16.95 hectares for other business establishments. The total population carrying capacity also exceeded by 15,836 persons per day.

Boracay was closed to tourists for half a year in 2018 as the government embarked on a six-month cleanup and rehabilitation of the island.

The temporary closure was ordered by the President who claimed the island has become a "cesspool." This year, Boracay was again closed off to tourists due to the coronavirus disease pandemic.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/05/28/news/latest-stories/duterte-extends-term-of-boracay-rehab-task-force-until-may-2021/727935/>

Duterte extends term of Boracay rehab task force until May 2021

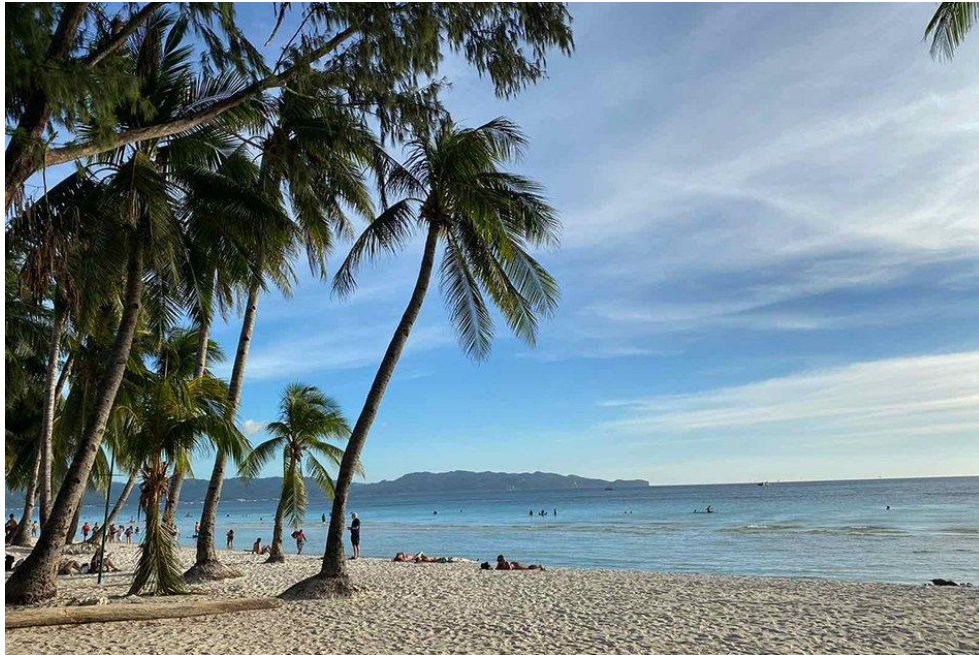
May 29, 2020 DATE

PAGE 1/ 1/2

# Duterte extends term of Boracay rehab task force until May 2021

Arianne Merez, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 28 2020 12:24 PM

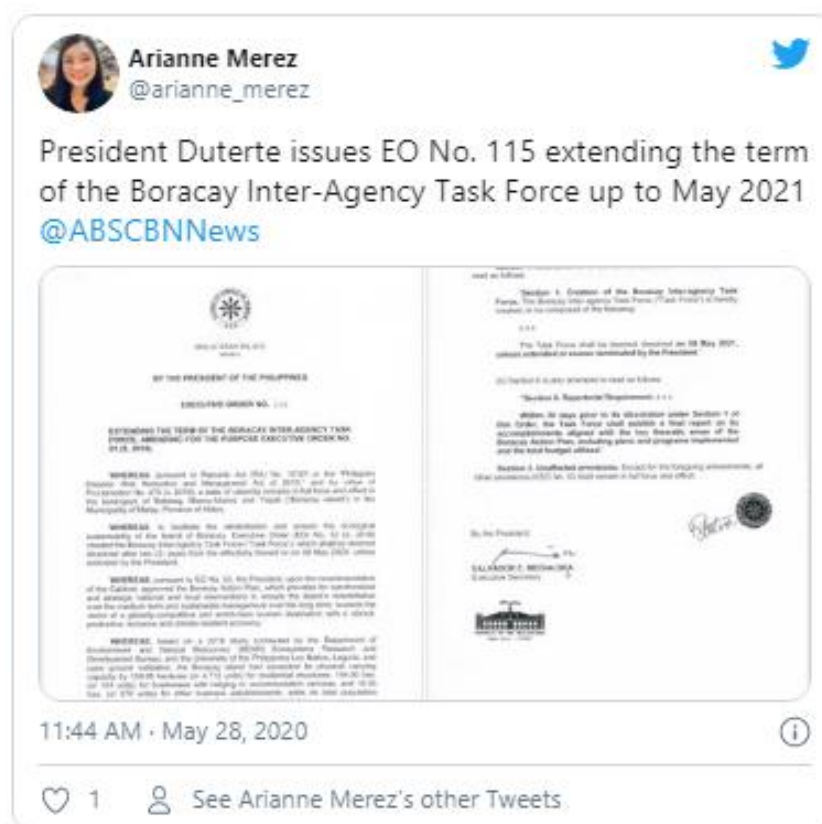


Tourist favorite Boracay island. Arianne Merez, ABS-CBN News/File

MANILA - President Rodrigo Duterte has extended the term of the inter-agency task force in charge of the rehabilitation of top tourist destination Boracay island until May 8, 2021, citing the need to complete projects in the area.

The task force was formed in 2018 and was ordered to “reverse” degradation on the island paradise.

In his latest executive order, Duterte said several establishments in Boracay island have yet to comply with beach and road easement protocols, prompting the extension of the task force's term.



Duterte extends term of Boracay rehab task force until

May 29, 2020

TITLE: May 2021

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

The President said there were still 723 structures built on forestland blocks, 112 on the beach easement, and 334 on the road easement that need to be demolished.

"There is a need to complete critical projects in Boracay island pursuant to the Boracay Action Plan..." Duterte said in Executive Order No. 115 signed on May 11.

Boracay was closed to tourists for half a year in 2018 as the government embarked on a 6-month cleanup and rehabilitation of the island.

The steady flow of tourists to the island, famous for its powdery white sand, has led to overcrowding and environmental degradation over the years.

This year, Boracay was again closed off to tourists due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## PRRD PINALAWIG ANG TERMINO INTER-AGENCY PARA SA REHABILITASYON NG BORACAY HANGGANG MAYO 2021

written by **Judith Estrada-Larino** May 28, 2020



Pinalawig ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang termino ng Inter-Agency body na nakatutok sa pagtiyak sa rehabilitasyon ng Boracay hanggang Mayo 8, 2021.

Sa kaniyang direktiba sa pamamagitan ng Executive Order 115 inatasan ng pangulo ang Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) na isapubliko ang final report nito hinggil sa accomplishment at kabuuang budget na nagamit nito sa loob ng isang buwan bago ang pagbuwag dito.

Trabaho ng task force na matiyak na ang mga polisiya sa Boracay ay naaayon sa mga kinauukulang batas, rules at regulations, review at pag-consolidate ng mga kasalukuyang master plans at pagbuo sa pakikipag ugnayan sa stakeholders ng action plan para sa isang sustainable tourism development.



## Duterte extends term of Boracay rehab body

[Alexis Romero](#) (Philstar.com) - May 27, 2020 - 5:30pm

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte has extended the term of the task force formed to oversee the rehabilitation of world-famous tourist destination Boracay island.

Executive Order No. 115 extended the life of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force until May 8, 2021 "unless extended or sooner terminated by the president."

"The task force shall be deemed dissolved on 08 May 2021, unless extended or sooner terminated by the President," the EO issued last May 11 read.

The order amended EO No. 53, which formed the task force in 2018 to facilitate the rehabilitation of Boracay and to ensure its ecological sustainability.

Before the creation of the task force, Duterte announced that he was ordering the six-month closure and rehabilitation of the island, which he had described as a "cesspool."

Under EO No. 53, the task force will be deemed dissolved after two years or on May 8, 2020 unless extended by the president.

Two years after the creation of the task force, some structures have yet to be cleared and several establishments are not yet compliant with road easement requirements. Duterte said as of the end of March, 33% of establishments on Boracay are not yet compliant with the '25 meters plus five meters' beach easement and 27% of establishments have not complied with the road easement, required under existing laws.

There are still 723 structures built on forestland blocks, 112 on the beach easement, and 334 on the road easement, the president added. A total of 111 structures on wetlands, 227 structures on the beach easement, and 896 on the road easement since the creation of the task force.

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

The extension of the task force's term would allow the government to finish projects like the improvement of the water drainage system, demolition of remaining establishments on forest land and wetland areas, enforcement of beach and road easements.

Duterte has also ordered the task force to publish a final report on its accomplishments, including plans and programs implemented and the total budget used.

### **Quarantine easing in tourism sites?**

In a related development, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said tourist destinations Boracay and Bohol may shift to the most lenient modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) in the coming days.

"We have options to encourage domestic tourism if possible. We are looking t what will happen in Bohol because we know that Bohol and Boracay are favorite destinations," Roque said at a press briefing on Tuesday.

"Now, they are under GCQ (general community quarantine). It is possible that they may be placed under MGCQ in the coming days, where 50% of tourism is allowed," he added.

Tourism is not yet allowed under GCQ. Once an area is placed under MGCQ, tourism sites may reopen but they can only fill up half of their capacities. The government has yet to identify areas to be placed under MGCQ.

# Duterte extends term of Boracay rehab task force

By [David Tristan Yumol, CNN Philippines](#)

Published May 28, 2020 5:30:57 AM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 28)** – President Rodrigo Duterte gave added boost to the rehabilitation of Boracay Island, one of the country's most popular tourist destinations, by extending the term of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force until May 8, 2021.

Duterte signed [Executive Order No. 115](#) last May 11, that will allow the inter-agency task force to complete critical projects in Boracay Island in pursuant of the Boracay Action Plan.

Specifically, the President ordered the improvement of water drainage system, demolition of remaining establishments in forest land and wetland areas, enforcement of beach and road easements, and rehabilitation of the Boracay Circumferential Road.

[In February 2018](#), Duterte called Boracay a cesspool due to worsening pollution and sewage conditions that overshadowed the pristine waters and fine white sand of the world-renowned tourist destination in Aklan province.

This prompted the President to issue [Executive Order No. 53](#), which created the task force and enforced the shutdown of the island from April 26 to October 25 that year.

EO No. 53 gave a two-year term for the inter-agency task force, which ended last May 8, and crafted the Boracay Action Plan.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force is composed of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Tourism, and Department of Interior and Local government as well as other agencies concerned in Boracay are also part of the task force.

The President reported in EO No. 115 that based on the task force's evaluation last March 31, around 33 percent of Boracay Island establishments are still not following the no-build zone standard of 25 meters plus five meters beach easement.

While 27 percent of the island's establishments are also not complying with the road easement required under existing laws.

The executive order also noted that since its inception in 2018, the Boracay inter-agency task force implemented the demolition of 111 structures on wetlands, 227 structures on the beach easement, and 896 structures on the road easement.



EO No. 115 also cited a 2018 study conducted by the DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau and the University of the Philippines Los Baños, which concluded that Boracay had exceeded its physical carrying capacity.

It exceeded by 109.95 hectares or 4,712 units for residential structures, 194.90 hectares or 154 units for businesses with lodging or accommodation services, and 16.95 hectares or 878 units for other business establishments.

Boracay's total population carrying capacity had also exceeded by 15,836 persons per day, according to the DENR and UPLB study.

Duterte instructed the Boracay inter-agency task force to have a full report of its accomplishments and budget used at the end of its term next year.

Last Tuesday, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Boracay is eligible to shift to a modified general community quarantine setup given the low presence of COVID-19 in the area and the need for more income among residents.

Under MGCQ, tourist spots are allowed to operate for up to 50 percent of its full capacity.

Duterte was supposed to visit Boracay [last March 12](#) for a tourism promotional tour by DOT, but got cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

# PRRD signs EO on Boracay rehab extension

May 29, 2020

President Rodrigo Duterte has signed Executive Order No. 111 extending the term of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force.

“Upon further validation made by the Task Force last 31 March 2020, thirty-three percent (33%) of establishments in Boracay Island are not yet compliant with the twenty five (25) meters plus five (5) meters beach easement, and twenty-seven percent (27%) of establishments have not complied with the road easement, required under existing laws;” part of the EO read.

“Despite the demolition of 111 structures on wetlands, 227 structures on the beach easement and 896 on the road easement since the inception of the Task Force in 2018, there are still 723 structures built on forestland blocks, 112 on the beach easement, and 334 on the road easement,” it added.

The term of the task force is set to end on May 8, 2021 unless terminated at an earlier time.

Part of the earlier programs of the Boracay IATF is to clean and improve the island, and to identify illegal businesses operating in the area.

# Seashells by the seashore: Sandamakmak na kabibe lumitaw sa dalampasigan ng Boracay

By: [Dennis Christian Hilanga](#) - 05/28/2020



Photo: Toti Arcibal Saluna/ Facebook

KUNG sa mga normal na araw ay sangkaterbang turista ang makikitang palakad-lakad sa pino at maputing buhangin ng Boracay Island, ngayon na mistulang nakabakasyon ang isla dahil walang turista ay sandamakmak na kabibe naman ang naglitawan sa dalampasigan nito.

Namangha ang netizens online sa mga larawang ipinost ni Toti Arcibal Saluna sa Facebook kung saan makikita ang nagkalat na shells sa beach front.

Base kay Haron Deo Vargas, marine biologist ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Community Environment and Natural Resources sa Boracay, ilan sa mga uri ng shells na kanyang na-identify ay scallops, oyster at clam.

Inaalam naman ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) kung ano ang eksaktong pagkakakilanlan ng iba pang kabibe na kanilang susuriin.

“Kakakuha lang po ng sample shells ng taga BFAR kahapon (May 26) po for identification probably down to species level or I don’t know pa,” sabi ni Vargas sa INQUIRER LIBRE.

Tinitiyak din ng mga eksperto kung may kinalaman ba ang pananahimik ng Boracay dahil sa kawalan ng turista kasunod ng lockdown sa buong bansa dulot ng coronavirus pandemic sa biglaang pagsulpot ng mga nilalang.

“Isang factor ‘yan na tinitingnan. Sa ngayon, more on speculations pa lang kung anong mga maaring cause po,” dagdag ni Vargas.

Ito umano ang unang beses na dumagsa ang ganoon karaming kabibe sa dalampasigan. At kasabay ng paglitaw ng marine species ay ang pag-usbong din ng sari-saring kuro-luro ng mga residente.

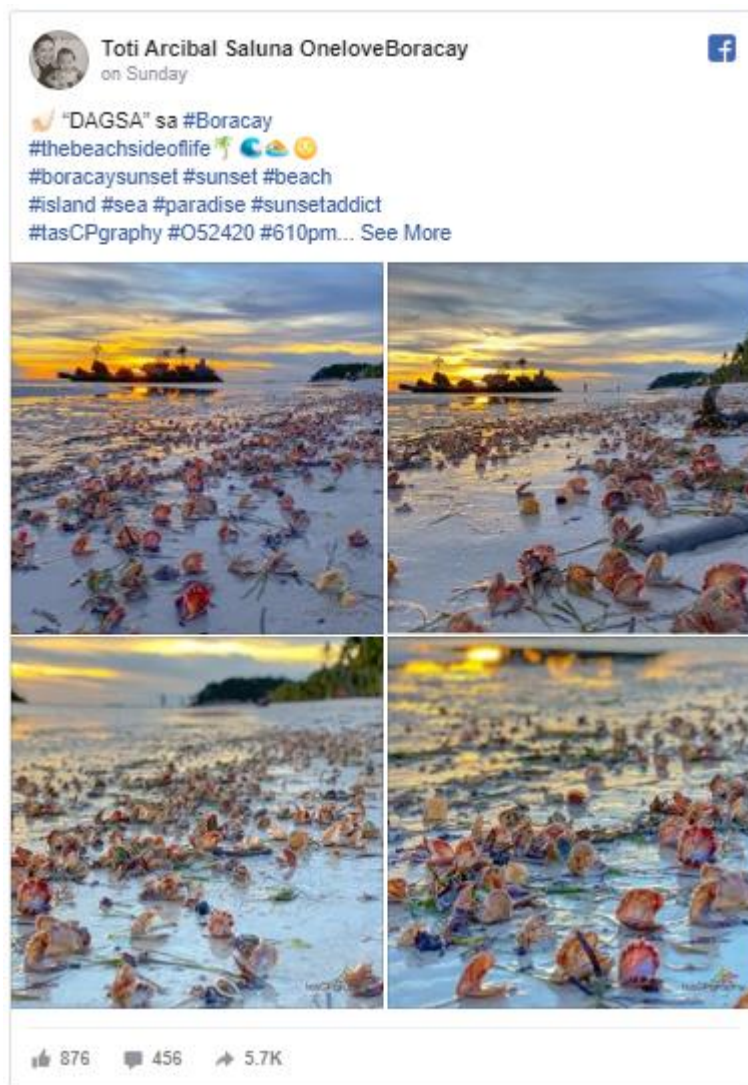
Seashells y the seasahore: Sandamakmak na kabibe

May 29, 2020

TITLE: lumitaw sa dalampasigan ng Boracay

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE



“First time daw po in history ng Boracay. May iba na-amazed, May iba naman nagsasabi na bad omen daw may delubyo daw na paparating,” sabi ni Vargas.

Maaari umano itong natural phenomenon o gawa ng tao. Ang mahalaga sa ngayon hangga’t ‘di pa tiyak ang tunay na dahilan ay maging mapagmasid, payo niya.

“It could be natural or human induced,” sabi ni Vargas. “As long as wala pa tayong result based on scientific study, hindi pa talaga natin alam. Basta dapat vigilant lang tayo palagi sa lahat ng nangyayari sa paligid natin.”

Sabi ni Vargas, ang Pilipinas ang “Center of the Center of Marine Biodiversity” sa planeta kaya naniniwala siyang isang patunay lang ang paglitaw ng mga kabibe na talagang napakayaman ng yamang dagat sa bansa.

“Maging dito po sa Boracay is napakadiverse nung mga sea shells natin na dapat talagang pangalagaan,” aniya.

Hiling din ng marine biologist ang pakikiisa ng bawat Pilipino para mapanatili ang ganda ng kalikasan.

“Sana po eh maging katuwang kayo ng ating pamahalaan na mas lalo pang pangalagaan ang ating mga yamang dagat dahil sa huli sila rin ang makakabenipisyo nito.”

Source: <https://libre.inquirer.net/21082/seashells-by-the-seashore-sandamakmak-na-kabibe-lumitaw-sa-dalampasigan-ng-boracay>



## 15 bangko bibigyan ng grado sa climate change

Last updated May 28, 2020

Susuriin ng Withdraw from Coal coalition ang 15 bangko sa bansa para bigyan ng grado ang kanilang ginagawa para makatulong sa climate change at environment.

Inilunsad ng WFC ang Coal Divestment Criteria and Scorecard, isang tool para matulungan ang mga bangko at kanilang mga stakeholders suriin ang kanilang mga pautang at agad makita ang mga panganib na maaring magagawa ng mga proyektong popondohan nila.

Tatlo ang criteriayang tinitignan sa scorecard para sa mga bangko: ang pautang sa coal projects, kung may plano itong pakawalan ang mga pautang sa coal projects at ang mga ginagawa nito para sa climate.

# Masbate gets food packs from mining firm

posted May 28, 2020 at 06:50 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Thousands of homes, specifically 21,329 families, in Masbate province and in Aroroy town, have received relief packs from the Phil. Gold Refining & Processing Corp. (PGPRC), which had earlier earmarked P16.8 million to support the anti-COVID19 efforts of the province and the municipality which hosts PGPRC's mining site.

The firm also turned over an ambulance unit to the Masbate Provincial Health Office through the Office of the Governor, and another unit is set to be delivered in the next few weeks.

PGPRC owns and operates the processing plant of the Masbate Gold Project located in the municipality of Aroroy, which has stimulated the local economies and has created jobs for people in Masbate, particularly in Aroroy.

PGPRC had already disbursed P12 million (from the P16.8 million), specifically for funding support directed at Aroroy's rural health units and including medical frontliners, which received weekly food packs, plus food relief pack 6,398 families in eight impact barangays, and 14,931 families from 33 neighboring barangays.

PGPRC president Dan Moore said that in the context of the "worldwide health and economic crisis that we are experiencing, we all have to do our part in working together to protect and provide not only for ourselves and our families but also for the community as a whole."

Since March 15, the gold firm has been working with Masbate Governor Antonio Kho, Aroroy Mayor Art Virtucio, and local line agencies to provide Aroroy's rural health unit quarantine tents with health amenities, gallons of rubbing alcohol, N95 masks, and food packs. Some 500 sacks of rice were donated to the provincial government for distribution to marginalized constituents in other municipalities.

In April, PGPRC and the municipal government of Aroroy distributed food packs for the eight impact barangays and 33 neighboring barangays. This effort covered rice subsidies of all of Aroroy's 41 barangays. PGPRC has sustained its continuing support programs, such as providing meals to the enforcement frontliners of Aroroy who man the check points and quarantine areas.

The donations came from PGPRC's realigned Social Development Program (SDMP) fund.

Aside from the the funds sourced from PGPRC's SDMP funds, the firm also donated five million pesos to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO).

He cited the provincial and municipal governments for providing these services, saying:

"It is good that the government is providing all these services and relief to the community; so we in the private sector, as well as private individuals, should take on the challenge and do our share to make sure the communities and their people around us stay afloat."

PGPRC is a wholly-owned firm by Vancouver-based B2 Gold Corporation, a 13-year old low cost, international senior gold producer, which has operations in Mali and Namibia and numerous exploration and development projects in various countries like Colombia, Burkina Faso, and the Philippines.

Recently, PGPRC was cited by the Department of Finance as one of the top 20 of the corporations who paid their income tax ahead of the deferred payment deadline. "This was meant to help the government sustain in its current efforts against coronavirus, and to bolster its economic recovery programs," Company officials said.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/324721>

# Patay na dugong natagpuan ng mga mangingisda sa Iloilo

Jennifer Garcia Hernandez, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 28 2020 05:38 PM



Hinihinalang may dalawang araw nang patay ang dugong bago makita ng mga mangingisda sa Anilao, Iloilo. *Larawan mula kay Kgd. Reysan Belgira*

ANILAO, ILOILO - Naaagnas na ang isang dugong nang matagpuan sa karagatang sakop ng bayan ng Anilao sa lalawigan ng Iloilo nitong Miyerkoles.

Pinaniniwalaang dalawang araw nang patay ang dugong nang makita ng mga mangingisda. Kanila itong dinala sa ilog sa Barangay Sta. Rita.

Tinatayang may haba itong 8 feet, at 41 centimeters naman ang lapad.

Hindi pa matukoy kung ano ang naging sanhi ng pagkamatay ng dugong.

Agad naman itong inilibing.

# Duterte eases community quarantine status

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos [May 28, 2020, 11:01 pm](#)



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

**MANILA** – President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday announced the relaxation of quarantine restrictions in the country despite the government’s continuing battle against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

In a public address, Duterte said General Community Quarantine (GCQ) will be imposed in Metro Manila, Davao City, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Pangasinan, and Albay starting June 1.

Duterte said the implementation of GCQ will remain in effect until the general situation has been reviewed.

“We are not happy to put you in this place but after review, maybe we can,” he said in his speech delivered late Thursday night.

Duterte’s decision was based on the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID).

“The rest of the country will be placed under the modified general community quarantine. That is very clear now,” he said.

Duterte said his official mouthpiece, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, would give updates on the possible changes in the latest classification of community quarantine in some places in the country.

“In other areas, it will be again on a piecemeal basis depending on the viability of the place to meet the challenges of Covid-19. From time to time, Secretary Roque will give us the places where there will be changes,” he said.

Metro Manila along with Laguna, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, and Zambales are presently under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) until May 31.

ECQ was earlier imposed in Cebu and Mandaue cities from May 16 to 31 since these are considered as high-risk areas for Covid-19 while the rest of the country were placed under GCQ until May 31.

Duterte said the government needs to continue the imposition of strict quarantine measures to ensure the Filipinos’ protection against Covid-19.

“The state has every right to control your movement if you pass on a contagion to the other population,” he said.

Duterte’s latest announcement was different from the supposed recommendations of the IATF-EID contained in the leaked resolution circulating on social media.



May 29, 2020

DATE

TITLE: Duterte eases community quarantine status

PAGE 1/ 2/2

Resolution 40, which was allegedly approved by the IATF-EID on Wednesday, recommended the implementation of MECQ in Cebu City.

The leaked resolution also stated that beginning June 1, GCQ would be imposed in Baguio City; Pangasinan; Cagayan Valley; Central Luzon; Metro Manila; Calabarzon; Albay; Iloilo City; Central Visayas, except Cebu City; Zamboanga City; and Davao City.

Duterte did not mention that Cebu City will be placed under MECQ. (PNA)

# Duterte places Metro Manila under GCQ effective June 1

By [Samuel P. Medenilla](#)

May 28, 2020



*In this March 30, 2020, photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures as he addresses the nation during a live broadcast in Malacanang, Manila, Philippines. (King Rodriguez, Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division via AP)*

PRESIDENT Duterte on Thursday night placed Metro Manila under a general community quarantine (GCQ) effective June 1, easing restrictions in a region that accounts for a hefty share of the national income, now slashed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Appearing at a late-night briefing after meeting the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), Duterte said other areas now under GCQ, from the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ), are: Davao City, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Pangasinan province and Albay.

The rest of the country will be under a modified GCQ, the most relaxed quarantine status.

Duterte had placed Luzon island under ECQ since March 17, heeding advice of health experts on the need to avert community transmission, which could bloat the number of infections beyond the capacity of the health system. One modeling presented to him by experts showed uncontrolled community transmission could quickly cause cases to spike to 70,000 in a few weeks.

As of Thursday (May 28), the Department of Health reported nationwide total cases at 15,588. As of 4 p. m. of May 28, the DOH also announced that 92 new recoveries and 17 new deaths have been reported. This brings the total number of recoveries to 3,598, and deaths to 921.

The IATF earlier recommended the transition of Metro Manila from modified ECQ to GCQ, mirroring a recommendation by all Metro Manila mayors.

# Metro Manila under GCQ starting 1 June

Published 8 hours ago  
on May 28, 2020 10:53 PM  
By **Francis Wakefield**



Pres. Duterte giving updates on the COVID-19 epidemic in Malacanang Thursday night, 28 May 2020. (PCOO)  
President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday night announced that Metro Manila will now be placed under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) starting Monday, 1 June.

In his address to the nation from the Malacañang Golf Clubhouse aired over government station PTV-4, Duterte also said Davao City, Regions 2, 3, 4A and the provinces of Pangasinan and Albay will remain under GCQ.

The rest of the country, on the other hand, will be placed under Modified General Community Quarantine or MGCQ, he said.

The President said the quarantine status may be modified depending on the general situation of the area upon review.

“In other areas, it will be again on a piecemeal basis depending on the viability of the place to meet the challenges of COVID. From time to time — from time to time Secretary Roque would give us the places where there will be changes,” he said.

Duterte was with several Cabinet secretaries comprising the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases namely Department of Education Secretary Leonor Briones, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Department of Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Ano and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who is in charge of handling the testing and transport of returning overseas Filipino workers.

*p: wjg*

# Metro Manila eases to GCQ on June 1

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 28, 2020 8:26:11 AM

Updated May 28, 2020 9:36:00 PM



FILE PHOTO

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 28)** — Metro Manila will transition to a more relaxed general community quarantine or GCQ from June 1, President Rodrigo Duterte said on Thursday.

Duterte approved the recommendation of the Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) to downgrade the quarantine restrictions over the country's capital region — which is now deemed as a "high-to-moderate-risk area."

"We are not happy to put you in this place, but after review, maybe we can," Duterte said in an address to the nation aired Thursday night.

This is also in line with the recommendation of all 17 mayors of the National Capital Region to shift from modified enhanced community quarantine to a more relaxed GCQ to allow more nonessential businesses to reopen in the hopes of restarting the economy and helping workers amid the COVID-19 crisis.

With more lax quarantine measures in place, barangays deemed to be "high risk" due to the alarming number of COVID-19 cases will be subject to "zoning," which will be implemented by the National Task Force on COVID-19.

Starting June 1, buses will be allowed to operate at 50 percent capacity in Metro Manila, but modern jeepneys are still not allowed to operate for three more weeks. Trains and buses plying train service routes will be allowed to run immediately, along with shuttles of private companies, transport network vehicle services such as GrabCar, taxis, tricycles, and point-to-point buses.

Residents in GCQ areas will be allowed to head out, except for those aged under 21, as well as those 60 and older, to limit infections. There is also some leeway to socialize in GCQ areas, but religious gatherings remain prohibited.

## The following areas will also be under GCQ for 15 days:

- Entire Region 2 (Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Santiago City)
- Entire Region 3 (Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac)
- Entire Region 4-A (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Lucena City)
- Albay
- Pangasinan
- Davao City

Meanwhile, the rest of the country will be placed under modified general community quarantine.

As of Thursday, the country reported 15,588 confirmed COVID-19. Recoveries have reached 3,598, while 921 have died of the disease.

Health Undersecretary Ma. Rosario Vergeire on Thursday said the doubling time of coronavirus cases in the country has slowed to seven days — a vast improvement from the 2-3 days before the start of ECQ in March.

# DepEd assures no face-to-face classes this year

Published 10 hours ago  
on May 28, 2020 08:37 PM  
By **Neil Alcober**



SEC. Leonor Briones' picture from her Facebook page

Education Secretary Leonor Briones on Thursday stated categorically that no face-to-face classes will be held this coming school year in view of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

She said that it is now being discussed at the Department of Education (DepEd) how education can continue in the face of President Rodrigo Duterte's position not to hold physical classes unless a vaccine against COVID-19 is developed.

Among the options being considered is the holding of online classes. However, Internet connectivity, something that is not within the reach of many students, presents a big stumbling block.

DepEd plans to open this school year in August, with Briones saying the health and safety of students and teachers are their most important concern in view of COVID-19.

Briones said there is no conflict between its plans for the coming school year and President Duterte's position on minimizing the exposure of students to the disease by not holding physical classes at the time being.

"The President doesn't want it, DepEd also doesn't want it – to endanger the children," Briones said. "I would like to emphasize. There is no conflict; there is no disagreement."

"There is no debate on the pronouncement of the President and that of the Department because they are exactly the same — we will not allow," she stressed.

The education secretary said "blended learning" may be employed in which flexible learning options are employed like asking parents to help students gain knowledge and skills while at home.

She added that DepEd will also respect the decision of some parents not to enroll their children until the COVID-19 problem is resolved.

# Ilang empleyado nag-aalangan magbalik-opisina kahit mag-GCQ sa Metro Manila

**Bruce Rodriguez, ABS-CBN News**

Posted at May 28 2020 04:11 PM | Updated as of May 28 2020 05:51 PM

MAYNILA — Sa gitna ng banta ng COVID-19, inaasahang marami pa rin ang mga manggagawa na "work from home" kahit matapos ang community quarantine sa bansa.

Nakatakdang magpasya si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kung papayagan na niya ang mas pinaluwag na quarantine sa Metro Manila, kung saan babalik na ang maraming industriya at ilang public transportation.

Ang call center agent na si Geraldine Vilbar, laking pasasalamat dahil nagawa niyang makapag-work from home kahit prepaid lang ang kaniyang internet connection sa bahay.

Sabi ni Vilbar, nag-aalangan siyang pumasok muli sa opisina lalo't may mga anak siya na maaaring mahawa sakaling tamaan siya ng virus.

"Sa cases natin ng COVID-19 ngayon na hindi bumababa, siyempre natatakot ako para sa mga anak ko siyempre, baka mamaya ako 'yung carrier nung virus," aniya.

Ang public relations professional na si David Lozada, hindi pa rin kampante na magbalik-trabaho sa opisina.

"Ako siguro magpapaalam ako na mag-work from home pa rin siguro nang isa o dalawang buwan, dahil din kasama ko 'yung nanay ko na may preexisting condition," aniya.

Hindi lang sina Lozada at Vilbar ang may ganoong sentimyento.

Sa survey na Philcare Community Quarantine Wellness Index nitong Mayo na may 800 respondents, lumabas na 6 sa bawat 10 Pilipinong manggagawa ang nag-aalinlangang bumalik sa kani-kanilang opisina.

Nasa 80 porsiyento sa mga tinanong nila ay natatakot makuha ang sakit at mahawahan ang mga mahal sa buhay.

"Offices can be more proactive in communicating with their employees... It's important for these companies to be front and center in assuring their employees that their safety and health will be guaranteed once they return to work," ani Dr. Fernando Paragas, lead researcher ng Philcare Community Quarantine Wellness Index.

Napakita rin ng survey na mas nagiging maingat na ang mga Pilipino para maiwasang makuha ang sakit.

Siyam sa bawat 10 indibidwal ang naniniwalang importante ang pagsuot ng face mask sa mga pampublikong lugar para hindi mahawa o makahawa ng COVID-19, batay sa survey.

Naniniwala rin silang importante ang paggamit ng alcohol, physical distancing, at paghugas ng kamay nang 20 segundo para maiwasan virus.

Pumalo na sa higit 15,000 ang kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, ayon sa huling tala ng Department of Health noong Miyerkoles.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/28/20/ilang-empleyado-nag-aalangan-magbalik-opisina-kahit-mag-gcq-sa-metro-manila>

PH records highest single-day COVID-19 surge with

May 29, 2020

TITLE: 539 new cases

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

# PH records highest single-day COVID-19 surge with 539 new cases

By [Kristel Limpot, CNN Philippines](#)

Published May 28, 2020 4:20:15 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 28)** — The country reported on Thursday its highest ever single-day increase in coronavirus cases, with 539 new infections and a nationwide tally that surged to 15,588.

The newly-recorded infections announced by the Department of Health broke the previous record high of 538 on March 31.

The agency added that 92 more have beaten the virus, while an additional 17 have lost their lives to COVID-19.

These latest figures bring recoveries to 3,598, and the death toll to 921.

The country now has 11,069 active cases of the viral illness, with Metro Manila logging the most number of new infections at 330 or over 60 percent.

Another 55 have been registered in Central Visayas, while 99 have been recorded in other regions nationwide. Meanwhile, returning overseas Filipino workers constitute 55 of the new cases.

The DOH also confirmed 15 more healthcare workers caught the disease, raising the tally to 2,452.

Fifteen more recovered for a total of 1,228, while no new fatalities were recorded since May 10. The death toll remains at 31.

## ‘Surge due to backlogs being processed’

In a Thursday press briefing, Health spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire attributed the surge in infections to an increased workforce that can validate COVID-19 cases.

*“Ang trend ng mga bilang ng kaso ay tumataas, ngunit dahil po ito sa patuloy na pagtaas ng mga kaso nating nava-validate sa ngayon dahil nakapag-hire na po tayo ng additional encoders,” she said.*

[Translation: The trend of COVID-19 cases is increasing, but this is due to the growing number of cases we are currently able to validate after having hired additional encoders.]

She also mentioned earlier that the spike recorded in recent days is [possibly just an "artificial rise"](#) due to more test results of OFWs coming in.

In an interview on CNN Philippines’ News Night, infectious disease expert Dr. Edsel Salvaña noted that the 55 newly recorded infections involving repatriates represented imported — and not community — transmission.



PH records highest single-day COVID-19 surge with

May 29, 2020

TITLE: 539 new cases

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

He echoed the DOH statement that the country should brace for a continued upward trend of cases in the next few days, as more backlog tests are processed.

Salvaña added that it is important to determine if the infections are clustering in localities. This should guide officials in carrying out localized lockdowns, while other areas with no coronavirus cases may “cautiously reopen.”

President Rodrigo Duterte is [expected to announce](#) his decision Thursday night on whether to ease or prolong the modified ECQ implemented in certain areas.

The COVID-19 inter-agency task force has earlier submitted to the chief executive a formal recommendation to place the capital region under a more relaxed general community quarantine, except for high-risk barangays.

All 17 Metro Manila mayors have also recommended the easing of quarantine restrictions to jumpstart the economy.

Globally, nearly 5.7 million have contracted coronavirus, with over 355,000 deaths and more than 2.3 million recoveries.

At least 100 countries have joined or expressed interest in participating in the World Health Organization’s ‘solidarity’ clinical trial, which aims to find an effective treatment for the viral disease.

# DOTr to install bike lanes along Edsa

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:15 PM May 28, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Bicycle lanes will soon be installed along Edsa, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) announced Thursday.

During a televised meeting with President Rodrigo Duterte, Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said they will also install bicycle lanes in several parts of the country “if it works.”

“Babaguhin po namin ang Edsa. Ultimately, magkakaroon po tayo ng tinatawag na bike lane na kung saan nakikipag-kapit bisig kami sa MMDA [Metropolitan Manila Development Authority] at the Department of Public Works [and Highways] para maumpisahan at buhayin ulit ang tinatawag na bicycle lane,” Tugade said.

(We will change Edsa. Ultimately, we will have bike lanes and we will coordinate with MMDA and DPWH to revive bicycle lanes.)

“Pag ito po ay na-prove sa aming eksperimento na kaya, gagawin po namin yung istrakturang permanent. Sabihin ko lang po na yung bicycle lane will not be limited to Edsa. It will be limited to parts of the country if it works,” Tugade added.

(If our experiment will be proven feasible, we will make the structure permanent. Bicycle lanes will also not be limited to Edsa but also to parts of the country if it works.)

Earlier, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases encourages the [use of bicycles](#) as the primary mode of transportation.

Año added that the local government units will be required to put up bicycle lanes in their respective jurisdictions.

JPV

DILG to order establishment of bike lanes as PH gears

May 29, 2020

TITLE: un for 'new normal'

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

# DILG to order establishment of bike lanes as PH gears up for 'new normal'

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 28, 2020 4:07:10 PM



(FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 28)**— The Interior Department on Thursday said it will order local government units to roll out bike lanes for residents in preparation for the country's "new normal" measures amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Speaking to CNN Philippines, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said the government is encouraging citizens to consider bicycles as the new primary mode of transportation— given its numerous advantages.

*"Yung bicycle, pino-promote natin na maging primary mode of transportation. Magu-utos ulit tayo sa lahat ng LGUs, mag-establish ng bike lanes sa lahat ng mga thoroughfares,"* Año said in an interview with The Source.

[Translation: We're promoting bicycle as our primary mode of transportation. We will also order our LGUs to establish bike lanes in all thoroughfares.]

"In this new normal, we want to encourage everyone to use bikes. *Very safe ang bikes, at tsaka, matipid pa. Hindi mo na kailangang bumili ng gasolina,*" he added.

[Translation: In this new normal, we want to encourage everyone to use bikes. Bikes are very safe, and one can save up by using this mode of transport. You won't need to buy gas.]

Interior Undersecretary Ricojudge Echiverri said that their department has issued show cause letters to LGUs who failed to clear their roads.

Echiverri said this in a House hearing on transportation Thursday, after a number of lawmakers raised the issue of clearing car lanes that are currently being used as parking lots, to make way for bicycles.

The Transportation Department has earlier eyed bikes as one [alternative mode of transport](#), saying transmission of the infectious disease can be better contained or prevented with the help of one-passenger vehicles.

Solons have drafted different House bills to be consolidated on creating a "protective" infrastructure for the biking community and the commuting public, who are now eyeing biking as a transport option.

According to the Metro Manila Development Authority, the safety of bikers is their priority, that's why they placed bike lanes within sidewalks on major roads.

"yong mga naka salang na bills (the pending bills), they cover the concerns of bikers and commuters. This includes integrating cycling as a viable and safe mode of transportation for the public," said Antonio Tinio

Tinio is a resource person during the House hearing and a long-time cyclist. He said he has high hopes for the bills discussed to be consolidated as soon as possible.

DILG to order establishment of bike lanes as PH gears

May 29, 2020

TITLE: un for 'new normal'

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Advocate groups have pushed for the establishment of bike lanes in major thoroughfares including EDSA, noting how more bikers and scooter riders are expected to hit the road during this time of crisis.

DOTr, for its part, said it is also working on designated bike lanes in main roads.

The MMDA meanwhile cautioned bikers to stay safe on the roads by always wearing protective gear and refraining from keeping at pace with bigger and private vehicles.



## **PANGANGANAK NG MAHIHIRAP PAHIRAPAN SA COVID-19**

May 28, 2020 @ 9:35 AM 20 hours ago

ISA sa mga hindi gaanong napapansin sa panahon ng pananalasa ng coronavirus disease-19 ang panganganak ng mga mahihirap na ina, lalo na ang malalayo sa mga ospital at walang panggastos.

Bukod pa ang takot ng mga ina na kung manganak sila sa ospital, baka mahawa umano sila ng mga nagkakasakit sa COVID-19.

Ang mahalagang tanong at isang malaking hamon: Paano ba natin tutugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mga nanganganak na inang mahihirap?

### **MANGANGANAK NANG CAESARIAN**

Ayon sa mga nagpupunta na malapit nang manganak sa pamamagitan ng caesarian operation sa Rogaciano Mercado Memorial Medical Center sa Sta. Maria, Bulacan, kinakailangan nilang magdala ng kahit dalawang bag ng dugo bago sila isalang sa operasyon.

Kung wala umano sila nito, kailangan nilang magdala ng apat katao para magdonasyon ng dugo.

Kung wala ka nito, pinadidiretso na umano ang mga misis sa Malolos Provincial Hospital na wala umanong problema sa suplay ng dugo.

Dahil sa hirap ng buhay dala ng COVID-19, mabigat para sa kanila ang pagbili ng dugo na nagkakahalaga ng P1,200-P1,500 bawat bag.

At kung pupunta naman sila sa Malolos, hindi ganoon kadali dahil gastos din na malaki ang pagkuha ng sasakyan papunta at pauwi ng dalawang beses, kung walang available na ambulansya ng barangay.

Ang upa ng van, dahil hindi madali ang umupa ng jeepney sanhi ng limitasyon ng prangkisa, ay nasa P3,000-P5,000 at dalawang beses itong bumiyaha mula sa pagdadala at pag-uwi nito mula sa ospital.

### **AWAY-MAG-ASAWA**

Nasasaksihan mismo ng Remate ang matinding awayan ng mga mag-aasawa dahil sa magastos na panganganak sa mga ospital, lalo nga ngayong may COVID-19 na nagpahinto sa hanapbuhay at pagkakitaan ng mga mamamayan.

Kawalan ng panggastos ang pangunahing dahilan ng awayan ng mga mister at misis, kahit pa normal ang panganganak ni misis.

May mga tumatakbo sa mga hilot at midwife para paanakin na lamang sila sa mga bahay-bahay.

At suwerte ang mga normal ang panganganak at nanganganak sa mga lying-in clinic na pag-aari ng gobyerno.

Ang problema ay kung may mga komplikasyon na dahilan para itakbo sa ospital ang mga misis na nanganganak sa mga bahay.

Wala na ring nakasisiguro na walang dalang COVID-19 ang hilot o kaya'y midwife mismo.

Kaya nga, sa mga ospital, sa mga pampublikong ospital lalo na, ang tinatakbuhan ng mga misis.

At kahit dito, may mga gastos pa rin dahil ang pamilya ng misis ang pinabibili ng mga cateter, heringilya, bulak, suwero, gamot at iba pa sa mga botikang may komisyon ang mga doktor kaya nagmamahal.

### **MAAWA KAYO, TULUNGAN N'YO KAMI**

Ito ang karaniwang sigaw o pakiusap ng mga mahihirap na pamilyang nanganganak sa panahon ng COVID-19.

Karaniwan namang wala ring maibibigay na tulong ang mga kapitbahay dahil sila man ay wala ring trabaho o pinagkakakitaan.

Kung umabot naman sa mga social media ang paghingi ng tulong, lumalabas na wala ring naitutulong ang maraming sumasali sa usapan.

Kung meron man, mga posibleng ospital na pwedeng puntahan na mura ang gastusin, kasama ang bilihing dugo, ngunit mahal naman ang pagbiyahe papunta at pauwi mula roon.

At halos pare-parehong umaasa ang higit na nakararami ngayon sa ayuda ng pamahalaan, mula sa mga barangay hanggang sa mga munisipyo, lungsod, lalawigan at pambansang pamahalaan.

Mabigat pakinggan ang pagmamakaawa ng mga misis na mahihirap na nanganganak ngayon, normal man o ceasarian.

Kaya naman, mga Bro, paano kaya makatutulong ang mga nakaririwasa, ang mga opisyal ng bayan na may obligasyong alagaan ang kanilang mga nasasakupan?

Sana, ituring ang problemang ito na isang napakahalagang usapin sa ating lipunan ngayon at bigyan ng pansin ng mga may pandinig at kakayahang magdala ng ayuda sa mga nangangailangang ina at baby.

# Hunger, economic downturn amid COVID-19

posted May 29, 2020 at 12:25 am

by [Ernesto M. Hilario](#)

The bad news just doesn't seem to stop coming.

The latest survey by the Social Weather Stations shows that the number of Filipino families who experienced hunger nearly doubled in the first quarter. This is a worrisome development after two-and-a-half months of lockdown in almost the entire country due to the coronavirus.

With lockdowns and travel restrictions implemented across the archipelago to stem the spread of the contagion, business and commerce have been halted, adversely affecting millions of workers, especially those from small- and medium-enterprises.

The poll results conducted among 4,010 working-age Filipinos showed that 16.7 percent, or around 4.2 million nationwide, experienced hunger due to lack of food to eat at least once in the past three months.

This figure is nearly double the 8.8 percent or around 2.1 million families reported in December 2019. This is also the highest hunger rate since the 22 percent or around 4.8 million families posted in September 2014.

Hunger among poor and disadvantaged Filipinos is part of a worldwide trend. In April, the United Nations' World Food Programme estimated said that the number of people facing hunger worldwide could double this year to 265 million due to the restrictions linked to the coronavirus pandemic.

The bad news does not end there.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) reported recently that the Philippine economy lost an estimated P1.1 trillion in the agriculture, industry and services sectors during the first 45 days of the COVID-19 lockdown.

The economic losses are equivalent to 5.6 percent of gross domestic product. These were most felt in the National Capital Region, the country's services hub, as well as in Calabarzon where industrial activity stopped when the lockdown was imposed in Luzon and other parts of the country since mid-March to contain the spread of the disease.

Neda estimates showed that during the 45-day lockdown, the country's agriculture sector incurred P94.3 million in losses; the industry sector, P537.7 billion; and services, P589.7 billion.

In Metro Manila, the country's political and business center, economic losses amounted to P589.3 billion, with the biggest chunk of foregone revenues coming from the services sector at P454.8 billion.

Calabarzon suffered the second-biggest output losses among the country's 17 regions, with P265.1 billion. Since it hosts sprawling economic zones whose operations were halted during the lockdown, industry losses in Calabarzon reached P244.5 billion, exceeding NCR's P134.4 billion.

Faced with such a dire situation, when can we expect the COVID-19 pandemic to end?

Promising cures for COVID-19

Everyone is eager to know when a possible vaccine or cure for COVID-19 will be available.

At this point, research laboratories in various countries are racing against time to come up with a vaccine that would provide immunity from the deadly infection.

One of the best prospects appears to be the vaccine trial being conducted by Moderna, a biotech company in the United States that has partnered with the National Institutes of Health. Early results indicate that participants from Moderna's vaccine trial developed antibodies against the virus.

If future studies go well, the company's vaccine could be available to the public as early as January, the company said.

This is only Phase 1 of their clinical trial, which typically studies a small number of people and focuses on whether a vaccine is safe and elicits an immune response.

Moderna, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is one of eight developers worldwide doing human clinical trials with a vaccine against the coronavirus, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Two others, Pfizer and Inovio, are also in the United States, one is at the University of Oxford in Britain, and four are in China.

The US Food and Drug Administration has cleared the company to begin Phase 2 trials, which typically involve several hundred of people, and Moderna plans to start large-scale clinical trials, known as Phase 3 trials, in July, which typically involve tens of thousands of people.

Meanwhile, a drug being tested by scientists at China's prestigious Peking University could shorten the recovery time for those infected and even offer short-term immunity from the virus, researchers said.

The drug being tested by the university's Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Genomics has been successful at the animal testing stage.

The drug uses neutralizing antibodies—produced by the human immune system to prevent the virus infecting cells—which the laboratory isolated from the blood of 60 recovered patients. The drug should be ready for use later this year after clinical trials in Australia and other countries. China already has five potential coronavirus vaccines at the human trial stage, a health official said last week.

But the promising initial results on vaccine or cure for the coronavirus is not likely to be available this year. In January, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the U.S. National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases, said it would take about 12 to 18 months to get a vaccine on the market.

What's clear at this point is that the world would still be at tenterhooks waiting for a COVID-19 at least for the rest of the year. Until then, it's best to adhere to what experts are saying about keeping safe from the dreaded disease.

[ernhil@yahoo.com](mailto:ernhil@yahoo.com)



EDITORIAL

# Such impunity

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:00 AM May 29, 2020

Tipped off about medical wastes clogging the drainage of a Makati building, police on Tuesday swooped down on another underground and unlicensed medical facility apparently being used to treat Chinese patients afflicted with COVID-19.

As in a similar raid on an underground hospital in Parañaque last month, police found treatment beds, syringes, machines, and equipment for coronavirus testing, and some Chinese nationals awaiting treatment. In both instances, the medical facilities had no business permit, and the Chinese doctors no license to practice medicine in the country.

Authorities also discovered a pharmacy inside the Parañaque establishment where unregistered medicines labeled in Chinese characters were found.

Some of the medicines were for sexually transmitted diseases, leading the police to surmise that the medication could possibly be part of a sex trafficking operation, with workers from nearby Philippine offshore gaming operators (Pogos) as main clients.

Soon after, two Chinese citizens were arrested in Cavite after a raid on a warehouse netted some P10 million worth of Chinese medicine not registered with the Food and Drug Administration.

Police said they were looking into the possibility that the warehouse supplied the medications found at the Parañaque underground hospital.

But the biggest police haul was last week's discovery of a secret Chinese clinic at the Fontana Leisure Park in Clark, Pampanga. The seven-bed clandestine facility was supposedly put up to exclusively treat Chinese workers suffering from COVID-19.

A Fontana official later issued a statement denying the company's involvement in the clinic. But the more salient disclosure in the letter was that the Chinese nationals operating the facility were "released on the same day of their arrest on May 19, with no charges filed against them."

Unbelievable. But first—if illegal Chinese clinics are being discovered one after the other, just how many more are operating clandestinely out there?

And if these facilities have proliferated to this degree, doesn't that indicate the presence of a large number of Chinese nationals in the country who are sick of the virus and, perhaps distrustful of availing themselves of treatment in a regular hospital where their case would be recorded, would rather check into an illegal clinic set up by their compatriots?

Who are these Chinese nationals, and which companies are they connected with that would warrant their presence in the country at this time?

A more troubling question involves Philippine health officials: Why has it been so easy to test the Chinese nationals found in the resort hospital—using the country's limited test kits and health workers—when the health department has been dragging its feet in testing the rest of us?

Until they were discovered, the unsanctioned medical facilities also meant that infected Chinese patients were not being reported to health authorities and, instead of being quarantined to contain the virus, could easily be spreading the disease.

In another recent incident at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), the Pogo firm Ekxinum, Inc. refused entry to the SBMA's inspection team, which had been sent to conduct inspections to check the company's compliance with quarantine protocols and to see if it had ceased operations as ordered by the government amid the pandemic.

Such impunity. Where do these foreign nationals get off brazenly flouting our laws?

The answer is in that revealing Fontana letter: The erring Chinese nationals were "released on the same day of their arrest on May 19, with no charges filed against them."

Contrast that stunning leniency with the high price ordinary Filipinos have to pay for the slightest misdemeanor. Fish vendor Joseph Jimeda, for instance, was arrested and detained for 12 days—two days more than the penalty for his offense—for "simple disobedience" to quarantine rules in Navotas.

These underground, dangerously unregulated hospitals and the brash Chinese nationals behind them are, however, only part of a bigger headache—the Pogo industry. On May 14, police raided an unregistered Pogo firm in Las Piñas; 265 Chinese workers were rounded up.

Add that criminal enterprise to the social ills that have come to be associated with the growth of the sector, from kidnapping and murder to prostitution and human trafficking.

The aboveboard Pogo companies, on the other hand? None of them can yet resume operations, according to Internal Revenue Deputy Commissioner and Pogo task force head Arnel S.D. Guballa, because "They are still in the process of complying with the requirements, including payments."

In other words, as of this time, not one of the 60 or so licensed Pogos (or any of their service providers, per the Bureau of Internal Revenue) has fully settled their tax obligations.

# Manila Zoo to receive 2,000 kg of chicken for its animals amid quarantine

Published May 28, 2020 6:44pm

Manila Zoo is set to receive 2,000 kilograms of chicken to help feed its animals amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

In a press release, Bounty Agro Ventures Inc. confirmed that they pledged the assistance to the beloved zoo. They will deliver 200 kilograms of chicken per week.

"When we heard that the animals inside the zoo were about to starve, we did not hesitate," said Bounty president Ronald Mascariñas.

"All of us grew up going to Manila Zoo and now is the time to give back to it," he added.

The zoo has been a frequent stop of field trips for students. It has been closed since last year for rehabilitation.

Manila's Public Recreation Bureau Director Pio Morabe thanked Bounty for the donation.

"Sana huwag po nating kalimutan ang ating mga zoo animals sa ganitong krisis dahil pati sila ay apektado rin," he said.

Zoos are not yet allowed to operate under the modified enhanced community quarantine.

Both [Malabon Zoo](#) and [Avilon Zoo](#) in Rizal have asked the public for support so that they can provide food for their animals. —MGP, GMA News

## Flag day

posted May 29, 2020 at 12:55 am

by [Norman Cruz](#)



Navy men unfurl the Philippine tricolor during a flag-raising ceremony in Imus, Cavite on May 28, 2020 as the nation celebrates Flag Day. The occasion also marks the Battle of Alapan that took place on May 28, 1898 led by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, who displayed the Filipino flag for the first time. Flag Day is celebrated from May 28 to June 12 each year and Filipinos are encouraged to display the flag in all government offices, schools, private homes and business establishments.



## Southwesterly windflow maaaring magpaulan sa Batanes, Babuyan Islands

May 28, 2020 @ 7:39 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Maaaring magdala ng bahagyang maulap hanggang sa maulap na kalangitan na may hiwalay na pag-ulan o pagkidlat ang southwesterly windflow sa Batanes at Babuyan Islands sa Biyernes, ayon sa PAGASA ngayong Huwebes.

Sa 24-hour forecast nito, nagbabala ang weather agency sa mga residente ng posibleng pagbaha o paggunaw ng lupa kapag tumindi ang thunderstorms.

Samantala, makakaapekto naman sa Palawan, Visayas at Mindanao ang easterlies o mainit na hangin mula sa Pacific Ocean.

Posible namang umiral ang easterlies at localized thunderstorms sa Metro Manila at sa nalalabing bahagi ng bansa na magdadala ng bahagyang maulap hanggang sa maulap na kalangitan na may hiwalay na pag-ulan o pagkidlat.

Nagbabala rin ang PAGASA na posibleng magkaroon ng baha o landslide. **RNT/MM**



Philippine Star

16 hrs · 🌐

**JUST IN:** (Updated 2:28PM) Magnitude 5.2 quake hits San Fernando, La Union at 1:17PM on Thursday, according to Phivolcs. Aftershocks are expected. #Lindol #EarthquakePH

Phivolcs initially reported the earthquake at magnitude 5.1 but it was later upgraded to 5.2. The list of reported and instrumental intensities was also updated.

**Reported Intensities:**

Intensity IV - San Fernando, Caba and Balaoan, La Union; Labrador and Bolinao, Pangasinan; Dagupan City

Intensity III - Urdaneta City and Villasis, Pangasinan; Baguio City; Quezon City; Marikina City; Obando, Bulacan

Intensity II - Cainta, Rizal; San Fernando, Pampanga; Valenzuela City; Navotas City; Pasay City; Paranaque City; City of Manila; City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

**Instrumental Intensities:**

Intensity III - Dagupan City

Intensity II - Vigan City; Baguio City; San Jose, Nueva Ecija

Intensity I - Cabanatuan City; Guagua, Pampanga; Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte; Palayan City; Baguio City; San Idelfonso, Bulacan; Baler, Aurora

**PHILIPPINE STAR**

**EARTHQUAKE ALERT**

**Expecting Aftershocks: YES**

**Reported Intensities:**  
Intensity IV - San Fernando, Caba and Balaoan, La Union; Labrador and Bolinao, Pangasinan; Dagupan City  
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Intensity I - Cabanatuan City; Guagua, Pampanga; Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte; Palayan City; Baguio City; San Idelfonso, Bulacan; Baler, Aurora

**EPICENTER**  
16.73°N, 120.20°E - 017 km N 45° W of San Fernando(Capital) (La Union)

**MAGNITUDE 5.2**  
28 May 2020 - 01:17:30 PM

👍👎👏 6.4K

596 Comments 6.5K Shares

# Magnitude 5.2 quake hits La Union

By Ma. Cristina Arayata and Hilda Austria **May 28, 2020, 3:44 pm**



*(Image grabbed from Phivolcs' Facebook page)*

**MANILA** – A magnitude 5.2 quake hit La Union on Thursday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

The tectonic quake struck 17 kilometers northwest of San Fernando at 1:17 p.m. It had a depth of 57 kilometers.

Intensity 4 was felt in San Fernando, Caba and Balaoan, La Union; Labrador and Bolinao, Pangasinan; and Dagupan City.

Intensity 3 was felt in Urdaneta City and Villasis, Pangasinan; Baguio City; Quezon City; Marikina City; and Obando, Bulacan, while intensity 2 was reported in Cainta, Rizal; San Fernando, Pampanga; Valenzuela City; Navotas City; Pasay City; Paranaque City; City of Manila; and San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

The following Intensities were also recorded:

Intensity 3 in Dagupan City, intensity II in Vigan City; Baguio City; San Jose, Nueva Ecija, and intensity 1 in Cabanatuan City; Guagua, Pampanga; Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte; Palayan City; Baguio City; San Idelfonso, Bulacan; and Baler, Aurora.

Phivolcs director Renato Solidum Jr. said the reported intensity is the traditional way of knowing the intensity based on reports by people who felt the earthquake.

Phivolcs deployed around 100 instruments or intensity meters to measure the ground acceleration.

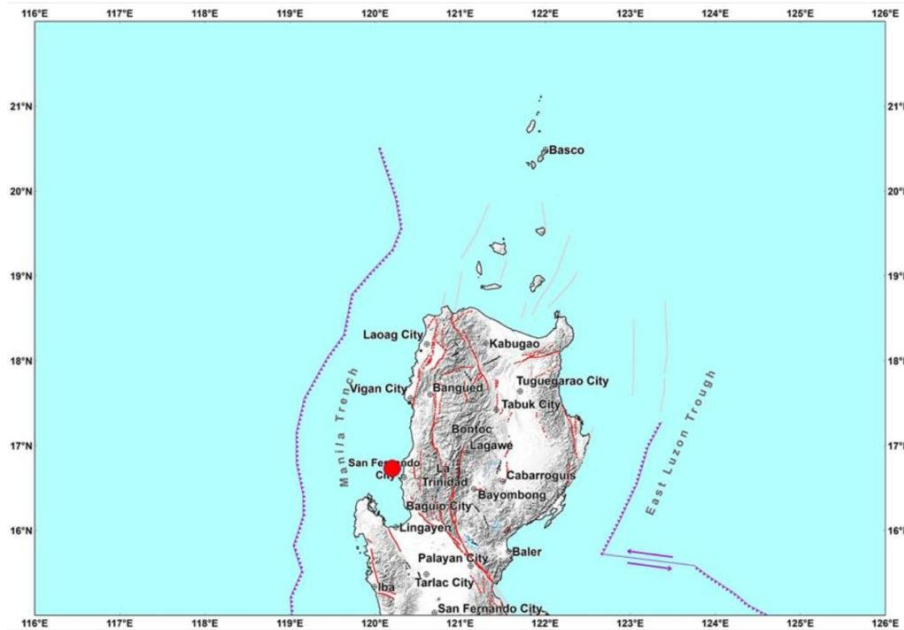
"Acceleration record is converted to intensities. What is being measured is called the instrumental intensity," Solidum said.

Meanwhile, Philvolcs said aftershocks are possible from the magnitude 5.2 quake. Damages are not expected, it added. **(PNA)**

# Lindol sa La Union iniakyat sa magnitude 5.2

## Balita

By Leifbilly Begas May 28, 2020



INIAKYAT ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology sa magnitude 5.2 ang lindol na yumanig sa La Union kanina.

Sa unang report na inilabas ng Phivolcs ang lindol ay may lakas na magnitude 5.1.

Ang epicenter ng lindol [ay 17](#) kilometro sa kanluran ng San Fernando. May lalim itong 57 kilometro.

Umabot sa Metro Manila ang pagyanig ng lindol.

Naramdaman ang:

Intensity IV – San Fernando, Caba and Balaoan, La Union; Labrador at Bolinao, Pangasinan; Dagupan City

Intensity III – Urduyayan City and Villasis, Pangasinan; Baguio City; Quezon City; Marikina City; Obando, Bulacan

Intensity II – Cainta, Rizal; San Fernando, Pampanga; Valenzuela City; Navotas City; Pasay City; Paranaque City; City of Manila; City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

Instrumental Intensities:

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Intensity I – Cabanatuan City; Guagua, Pampanga; Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte; Palayan City; Baguio City; San Ildefonso, Bulacan; Baler, Aurora



# 5.1 magnitude quake felt in Baguio

By Liza Agoot **May 28, 2020, 2:34 pm**



An aerial view of the Baguio city hall building (*PNA file photo*)

**BAGUIO CITY** – Employees at the city hall here felt the earthquake, whose epicenter was traced to San Fernando City, La Union, around 1:15 p.m. Thursday.

Aileen, an employee of the city government said she would have run out of her office on the 2nd floor of the city hall when she felt the 5.1 magnitude quake.

“I almost ran out of the office,” she said as her initial reaction.

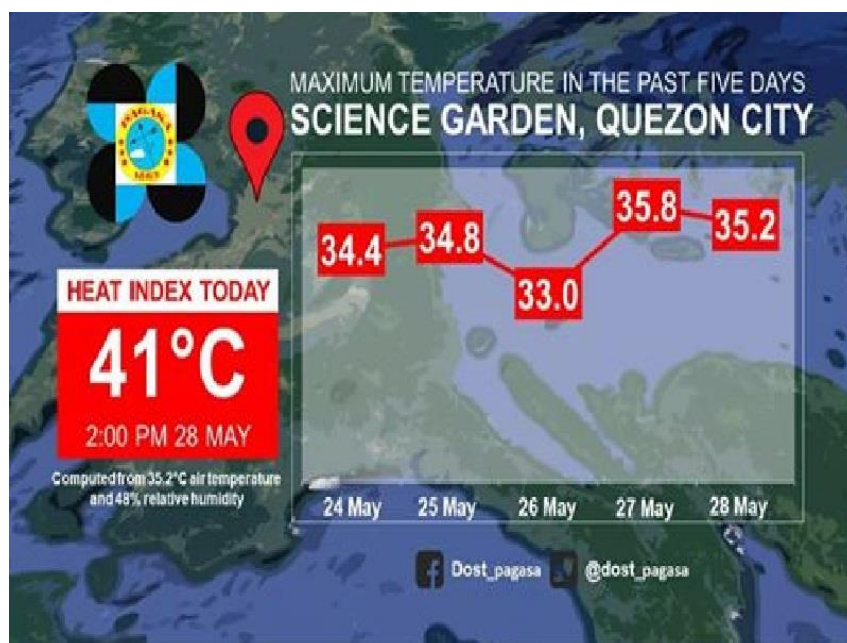
The other employees and clients all stood still waiting for the ground shaking to stop.

The quake was estimated by those at the city to have lasted for about three to five seconds.

The city disaster office has yet to determine if there were damages to infrastructure in the area. **(PNA)**

# Heat index sa Metro Manila, pumalo sa 41 degrees Celsius

By Mary Rose Cabrales May 28, 2020 - 06:02 PM



Mainit at maalinsangan panahon ang naranasan sa Metro Manila, araw ng Huwebes (May 28).

Ayon sa PAGASA, pumalo sa 41 degrees Celsius ang heat index sa bahagi ng Science Garden, Quezon bandang 2:00 ng hapon.

Umabot naman sa 35.2 degrees Celsius ang naitalang maximum temperature sa nasabing lugar.

Ayon sa weather bureau, mapanganib ang dulot kapag umabot sa 41 hanggang 54 degrees Celsius ang heat index dahil sa sobrang init, maaari itong magdulot ng heat cramps at heat exhaustion na posibleng mauwi sa heat stroke.

Payo ng PAGASA, dalasan ang pag-inom ng tubig at iwasan ang anumang physical activities tuwing tanghali at hapon.

# Heat index in Legazpi City hits 46°C

Published May 28, 2020 6:43pm  
By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

The heat index or human-perceived temperature hit 46°C in Legazpi City on Thursday, the highest for the day, according to PAGASA.

This was followed by the Science City of Muñoz with 45°C, Tuguegarao City with 44°C, and Calapan City, Maasin City, Sangley Point, and Cavite City which all recorded a heat index of 43°C.

PAGASA warned that heat cramps and heat exhaustion are possible. This 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 Huwebes, 28 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 THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2020		
LEGAZPI CITY	46°C	2:00 PM
SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ	45°C	2:00 PM
TUGUEGARAO CITY	44°C	2:00 PM
CALAPAN CITY	43°C	11:00 AM
MAASIN CITY	43°C	11:00 AM
SANGLEY POINT, CAVITE CITY	43°C	2:00 PM

5:57 PM · May 28, 2020

32 See PAGASA-DOST's other Tweets

**PAGASA-DOST** @dost\_pagasa

35.2°C ang naitalang pinakamataas na temperatura sa Science Garden, Quezon City kaninang 2:00 PM ngayong Huwebes, 28 Mayo. Nakalkula naman ang 41°C na heat index o alinsangan sa parehong oras.

Stay home, stay hydrated, and stay safe po!

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

HEAT INDEX TODAY  
41°C  
2:00 PM 28 MAY

34.4 34.8 33.0 35.8 35.2

24 May 25 May 26 May 27 May 28 May

5:54 PM · May 28, 2020

25 See PAGASA-DOST's other Tweets

Meanwhile, the Science Garden in Quezon City recorded a heat index of 41°C at 2 p.m.

A maximum temperature of 35.2°C was recorded at the same time.

—LDF, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/740236/heat-index-in-legazpi-city-hits-46-deg-c/story/?fbclid=IwAR05scohctuBjYPZK54FMS5XSv41svqgMKLFpD6CR2niExgHRpoGu14SYI8>

# Bali zoo's newborn baby giraffe named Corona

Published May 28, 2020, 6:05 PM

By *Agence France-Presse*

A Bali zoo has named a baby giraffe Corona in honour of her birth during the global pandemic.



The calf was born on April 9 to mother Sophie and father Matadi (AFP Photo/Handout/MANILA BULLETIN)

The calf was born on April 9 to mother Sophie and father Matadi, joining two other siblings at Bali Safari Park on the Indonesian holiday island.

A video released by the zoo showed the calf being born in a small enclosure.

“She was born during the COVID-19 pandemic so the environment minister... named her Corona,” said zoo spokesman Anak Agung Ngurah Alit Sujana.

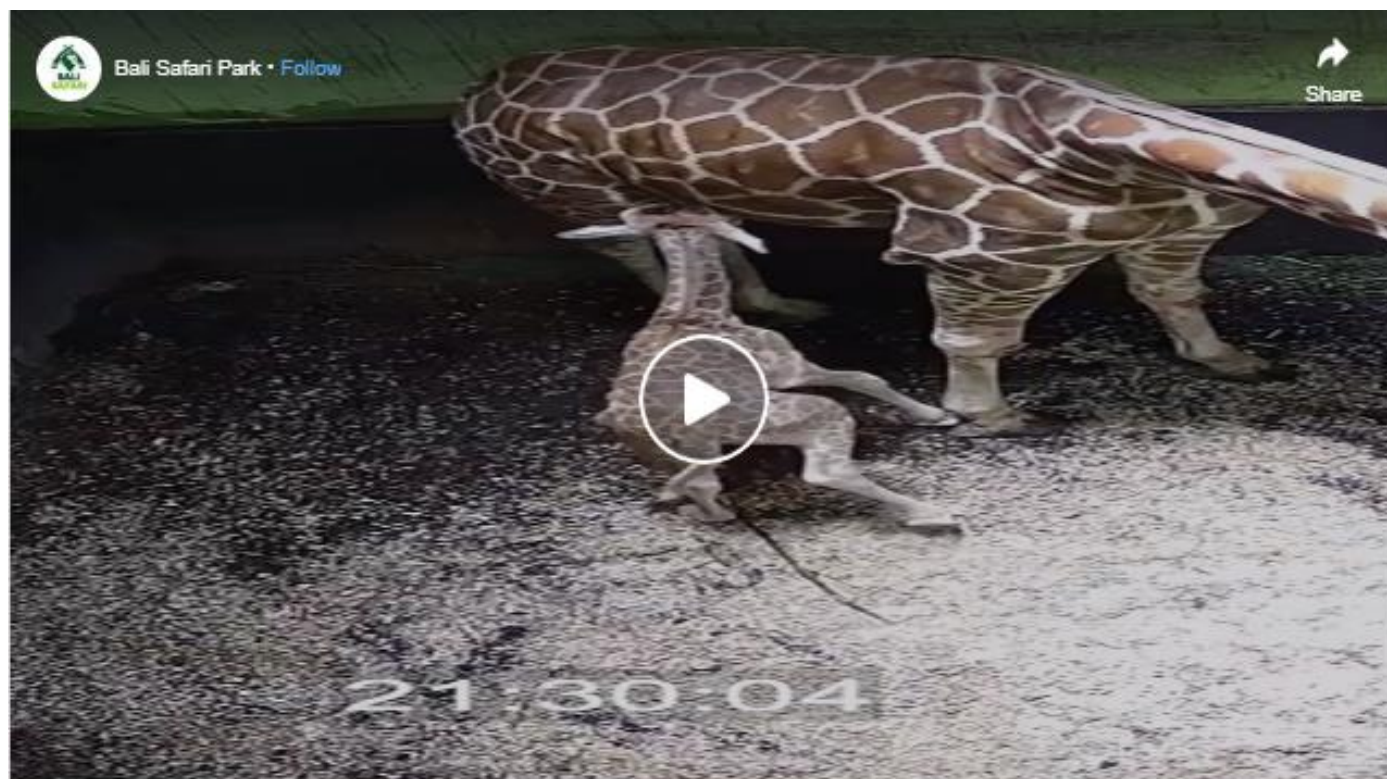
“Corona is healthy and is still breastfeeding. We’ll keep her under observation for three months.”

Bali Safari Park has been closed to visitors since late March as part of efforts to stem the spread of coronavirus infections.

# Bali zoo's newborn baby giraffe named Corona

Agence France-Presse

Posted at May 28 2020 07:56 PM



On 9 April 2020, a baby giraffe was born in @balisafari throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The mother giraffe has received lots of attention and care to ensure she gave birth to a healthy and happy female giraffe. Our Minister of Environment and Forestry, @siti.nurbayabakar named the baby giraffe 'Corona', to remind us that it was born and survive in this historical event of pandemic. You can meet Corona once we are open, meanwhile stay safe and healthy. Today we also would like to say Happy World Endangered Species Day!! Let's take care our animals.

#coronababy #babygiraffe #worldendangeredspeciesday #wonderfulindonesia #conservationpark

164 20 91

JAKARTA - A Bali zoo has named a baby giraffe Corona in honor of her birth during the global pandemic.

The calf was born on April 9 to mother Sophie and father Matadi, joining 2 other siblings at Bali Safari Park on the Indonesian holiday island.

A video released by the zoo showed the calf being born in a small enclosure.

"She was born during the COVID-19 pandemic so the environment minister... named her Corona," said zoo spokesman Anak Agung Ngurah Alit Sujana.

"Corona is healthy and is still breastfeeding. We'll keep her under observation for 3 months."

Bali Safari Park has been closed to visitors since late March as part of efforts to stem the spread of coronavirus infections.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/classified-odd/05/28/20/bali-zoos-newborn-baby-giraffe-named-corona>



# First baby koala born in Australian wildpark since bushfires

Share it!

Published May 28, 2020, 5:18 PM

By *Richa Noriega*

A wildlife park in Australia welcomed the arrival of its first baby koala since the tragic Australian bushfires. In a Facebook post on Wednesday, May 27, the Australian Reptile Park announced the birth of the baby koala named “Ash.”

“Keepers have decided to name her Ash! Ash is the first koala born at the park since the tragic Australian bushfires and is a sign of hope for the future of Australia’s native wildlife,” the post read.

In a separate Facebook post, the wildlife park announced its reopening on June 1 after Australia’s lockdown due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

According to a [report](#), 10,000 koalas (a third of the total koala population of New South Wales) are estimated to have died from the bushfires, as well as drought over the summer.

The unprecedented fires reportedly devastated over 2.5 million acres (1 million hectares) of Australia’s forests over the summer.

## Mining giant admits damaging aboriginal site

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

May 29, 2020

**DARWIN:** Anglo-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto has admitted damaging ancient Aboriginal rock shelters in the remote Pilbara region — blasting near the 46,000-year-old heritage site to expand an iron ore mine.

Traditional owners said the culturally significant cave in Juukan Gorge, Western Australia — one of the earliest known sites occupied by Aboriginals in Australia — had been destroyed in a “devastating blow” to the community.

Explosives were detonated near the site on Sunday in line with state government approvals granted seven years ago, Rio Tinto said in a statement.

“In 2013, ministerial consent was granted to allow Rio Tinto to conduct activity at the Brockman 4 mine that would impact Juukan 1 and Juukan 2 rock shelters,” the company’s spokesman said, adding the company had liaised with the Aboriginal community.

“Rio Tinto has worked constructively together with the PKKP people on a range of heritage matters under the agreement and has, where practicable, modified its operations to avoid heritage impacts and to protect places of cultural significance to the group,” Rio Tinto said.

Just one year after the blasting was approved, an archaeological dig at one of the shelters uncovered the oldest known example of bone tools in Australia — a sharpened kangaroo bone dating back 28,000 years — and a 4,000-year-old hair plait believed to have been worn as a belt.

DNA testing of the hair had shown a genetic link to the ancestors of indigenous people who still live in the area. The 2014 excavations also found one of the oldest examples of a grinding stone ever found in Australia.

“There are less than a handful of known Aboriginal sites in Australia that are as old as this one,” PuutuKuntiKurrama Land Committee Chairman John Ashburton said, describing the site as one of the earliest-occupied locations nationally.

“Our people are deeply troubled and saddened by the destruction of these rock shelters and are grieving the loss of connection to our ancestors, as well as our land,” he added.

The local Aboriginal Corp. said traditional owners had first learned Rio Tinto planned to blast the gorge near the rock shelters on May 15 after requesting access to the site.

Attempts to negotiate with the mining company to stop the blast failed, the corporation said, and it received advice that the charges could not safely be removed or left undetonated.

“We recognize that Rio Tinto has complied with its legal obligations, but we are gravely concerned at the inflexibility of the regulatory system,” Ashburton said.

“We are now working with Rio Tinto to safeguard the remaining rock shelters in the Juukan Gorge and ensure open communication between all stakeholders.” The Western Australia state government is currently reviewing the laws as part of a process that began in 2018. **AFP**

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/05/29/news/world/mining-giant-admits-damaging-aboriginal-site/727940/>