



May 30, 2020 @ 5:30 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/1784280078551960/posts/2561147047531922/>



**Philippine News**

6 hrs · 🌐



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources donated 25,000 face mask and 5,000 face shields to Office of Civil Defense.

DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda joined by Asec. Joselyn Fragada, Career Executive Service Board Dir. Hiro Masuda, CESB Public Information Chief Alvin Gatbonton, CESB Creative Specialist Catherine Tanyag today afternoon turned over the said donation to OCD Administrator Ricardo Jalad together with Dir. Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, Dir. Tecson Lim, and Dir. Harold Cabreros.

#BeatCOVID19  
#WeHealAsOne

(c) OCD



You and 2 others



## DENR in the Ilocos raises over P1.7M COVID-19 aid

By Caren Grace R. Cabanayan Published on May 29, 2020  
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1043199>

SAN FERNANDO City, May 29 (PIA) – A total of Php1,786,977 cash assistance, both in cash and in kind, was accumulated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office 1 (DENR-1) to aid those greatly affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Ilocos.

According to Mary Ann Escoto, DENR-1 chief administrative office, the fund was collected from cash donations voluntarily given by the agency’s officials and employees region-wide.

“Nagagalak po kaming ipaalam sa lahat na ang nalikom na pondo ay galing mismo sa mga empleyado namin, as we are advised by our regional director to give financial assistance for the COVID-19 affected areas,” Escoto said.

The breakdown was composed of personal protective equipment such as face shields and facemasks worth Php541,550, sanitation and hygiene kits amounting to Php66,720.00, lumbers for COVID-facilities worth Php99,50000, and Php1,041,187.00 of food items.

These were distributed to various hospitals and offices like the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center, Bacnotan District Hospital, Bethany Hospital, all in La Union; and other provincial and district offices in the region.

“Collection of cash donations are still on-going from their various field offices,” Escoto added.

Further, she reported that the Environment Management Bureau in the region monitored some 492.898 metric tons of transported healthcare waste from May 2 to May 17 while the amount of the health waste treated from May 2 to May 14 is 4.685 metric tons.

Meanwhile, since the ‘new normal’ requires the mandatory wearing of face masks or face shield at all times in all public places amid pandemic, the DENR appeals for everyone to dispose their PPEs and even other wastes properly.

“We look forward sa tinatawag nating 'new normal'. Ang mga dati kasi nating nakagawian ay hindi na maganda para sa ating kalikasan. We encourage everyone to perform their duties in order to protect the environment,” Renelita Santos, DENR-1 regional information officer, said.

Likewise, Santos announced that they will be using the online media platforms to celebrate the upcoming Environment Month this June.

Online contest and online learning materials will be launched. (JCR/JNPD/CGRC, PIA La Union)



## CARAGA mining firms allot P73.5-M for pandemic response

by Meanne Rosales

May 28, 2020

<https://angminero.com/caraga-mining-firms-allot-p73-5-m-for-pandemic-response>



Members of the Chamber of Mines of Caraga Region Incorporated (CMCRI) have spent a total of P73.567 million in their respective host mining communities and nearby areas to help the government cushion the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

***A total of 14 companies have contributed to help affected communities that are struggling due to the implemented quarantine measures, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).***

The CMRI-member companies have contributed the following to each province: Agusan Sur – P5.19M; Agusan Norte- P4.001M; Surigao Sur – P9.043M; Surigao Norte – P52.388M; Dinagat Islands – P2.945M, according to a report.

However, CMRI explained that the figures are yet to be validated by MGB-13.

In addition, CMRI is to spend some P105.903 million based on the realigned budgets as mandated by the MGB, which will also be used for COVID-19 response efforts.

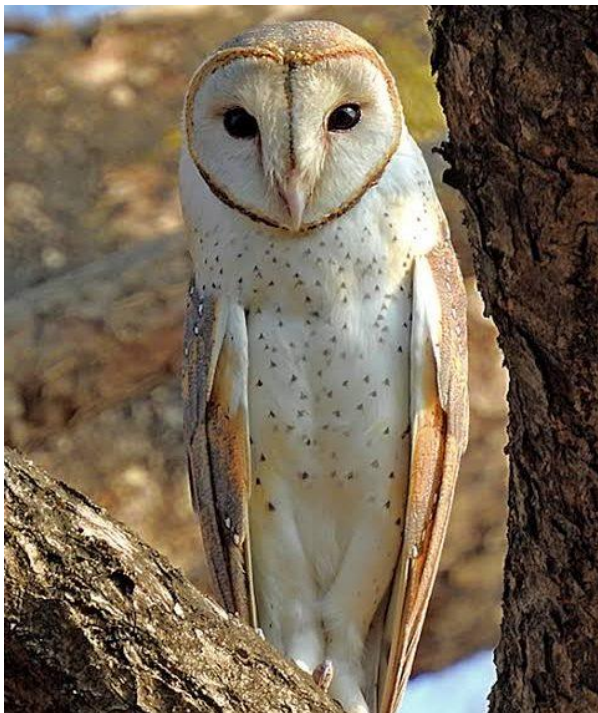


## Barn owl spotted back in the wild

by Meanne Rosales

May 29, 2020

<https://angminero.com/barn-owl-spotted-back-in-the-wild>



A young barn owl first spotted in Bauang, La Union has been successfully returned to the wild, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

Resident Gil Elope discovered the owl in his rice field at Barangay Nagrecban last May 10 and called authorities to report the incident, according to a report.

The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in La Union, conducted the rescue operation after receiving the call.

Barn owls in the Philippines have a stable population, however the DENR still gives

importance to this wildlife species as it contributes to the balance of the ecological system.

The DENR reiterated its warning on possession, transportation, and importation of wildlife animals.

Killing a wildlife is punishable by 12 years of jail time or by a fine of P1 million, while up to six years of jail and/or a P500,000 fine awaits violators for injuring wildlife.

Any sightings of injured, sick, or abandoned wildlife shall be reported to 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.



## Probe on for fatal shooting of DENR employee

Published May 29, 2020, 12:19 PM

By Marie Tonette Marticio

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/29/probe-on-for-fatal-shooting-of-denr-employee/>

TACLOBAN City – Authorities are still investigating the motive for the killing of an employee of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources Thursday, May 28, in Burauen, Leyte.

The victim, identified as Fernando Polenio, 52, an Environment Management Specialist II of DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Palo, Leyte was shot dead at around 11:40 p.m. inside the DENR Eco Lodge in Barangay Mahagnao, Burauen, Leyte, about 25 kilometers away from the town proper.

Reports reaching the Regional Police Headquarters disclosed that about 12 a.m., May 29, Joeban Paza, an employee of the local government of Burauen reported the shooting of Polenio to authorities.

The responding unit saw the victim's body lying on the ground drenched in his own blood.

According to the victim's co-worker, Jonel Gula, he heard a gunshot and saw the victim fall to the ground bleeding.

The gun burst was also heard by his co-worker Karl Vince Jaime who was in the other room.

The victim sustained a gunshot wound on the right part of his face, resulting in his instantaneous death, while the authorities were able to recover one plastic wad for a 12-gauge shotgun ammunition.



May 30, 2020 @ 6:30 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/647748672089071/posts/1310366569160608/>



AngMinero

12 hrs · 🌐



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) revealed that illegal logging activities are ongoing in Sierra Madre range, including identified protected areas that should be spared from all forms of destructive human activities.

The Rizal Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) earlier seized more than 350 board feet of lumber, 104 sacks of charcoal and five units of illegal logging equipment, approximately worth around P 102,370,000 according to DENR-Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Gilbert Gonzales.



**ILLEGAL LOGGING  
CONTINUES IN PROTECTED  
AREAS DURING ECQ**



👍🙄😱 You and 17 others

1 Comment 1 Share



## Abaca face mask pitong beses mas effective sa cloth mask

By: Djan Magbanua - 05/29/2020

[https://libre.inquirer.net/20960/abaca-face-mask-pitong-beses-mas-effective-sa-cloth-mask?fbclid=IwAR17IXbsB0bG1W-pmhk69RbVycqUTMO20ri8cAut3-AOmjYU1zvqu\\_kWHkl#ixzz6NpqKHcck](https://libre.inquirer.net/20960/abaca-face-mask-pitong-beses-mas-effective-sa-cloth-mask?fbclid=IwAR17IXbsB0bG1W-pmhk69RbVycqUTMO20ri8cAut3-AOmjYU1zvqu_kWHkl#ixzz6NpqKHcck)



***PITONG beses na mas epektibo ang filtration rate ng naimbentong abaca face mask kaysa ordinaryong cloth mask, ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources na siyang nagsusulong nito para gamitin ng mga frontliners.***

Tinatawag na 7XB Fiber Mask, ang gawang ito ng Salay Handmade Products Industries, Incorporated, ay mas mababa rin ang water absorption rate kaysa mga N95 mask, ayon sa test na isinagawa ng Department of Science and Technology.

Ang mga mask na ito ay washable sa pamamagitan ng pagbabad sa tubig na may sabon. Kapag naabot na nito ang serviceable life limit, eco-friendly rin ito dahil wala itong plastic o ano pang mapanganib na kemikal.

Dahil sa paglaganap ng coronavirus pandemic, tumaas ang demand para sa abaca na ginagamit hindi lamang sa mga face mask kundi pati sa mga personal protective equipment o PPE.

Ang Pilipinas ay mayroong 142,000 hektarya ng taniman ng puno na mukhang saging. Ang bawat hektarya ay nakalilikha ng 0.54 metriko tonelada ng abaca fiber.

Sa 81 probinsya ng bansa 51 ang mayroong abaca farm. Sa Catanduanes nanggagaling ang 35 porsyento ng pinakamalaking produksyon ng abaca ng bansa.



## Two Asian small-clawed otters spotted in Tawi-Tawi

Published May 29, 2020, 4:23 PM

By Richa Noriega

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/29/two-asian-small-clawed-otters-spotted-in-tawi-tawi/>

Two Asian small-clawed otters were spotted in Taganak Island, Tawi-Tawi, the first time that these species were seen in the island, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region IX.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, May 29, the DENR Region IX said it documented the two otters in the vicinity of Taganak Island, a part of the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary (TIWS) in Tawi-Tawi.

According to the report submitted by TIWS Protected Area Superintendent Minda Bairula, the otters were spotted on several occasions on May 15 to 22 at the seashore of Taganak.

Bairula said the incident was believed to be the first time that these otter species were recorded present within the marine protected area.

Meanwhile, in an interview with a local resident Adzmie Herera, he said that the otters are often seen in Pulau Berhala, an island in between Sandakan and Taganak. It is also his first time to see the otters on their island.

Regional Executive Director Crisanta Marlene P. Rodriguez said that since this is the first time that these otters were spotted in Taganak, DENR IX will be consulting with the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and request for technical assistance to better understand this new species and how they can be protected.

DENR IX said it is currently conducting an information campaign among the residents to make them understand the importance of not catching or harming these otters. It added that they coordinated with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Taganak Municipal PNP and the local government unit to help monitor and protect this unique wildlife.





May 30, 2020 @ 12:50 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10158402580160168/>



ABS-CBN News

8 hrs · 🌐



TINGNAN: 113 turtle hatchlings ang pinakawalan sa dagat sa Barangay Lun Masla, Malapatan, Sarangani Martes.

Nakita ng dalawang bantay dagat ang paglabas ng olive ridley sea turtle hatchlings sa dalampasigan ng Purok Compulsory kaya agad nila itong pinaalam sa mga kinauukulan.

Nagsagawa rin ng information and education campaign ang response team para ipaalam sa mga residente ang kahalagahan ng biodiversity at pagprotekta sa mga pawikan. (📷: Sarangani Bay Protective Seascape) | ulat ni Kent Abrigana, ABS-CBN News

See Translation



👍❤️😮 1.2K

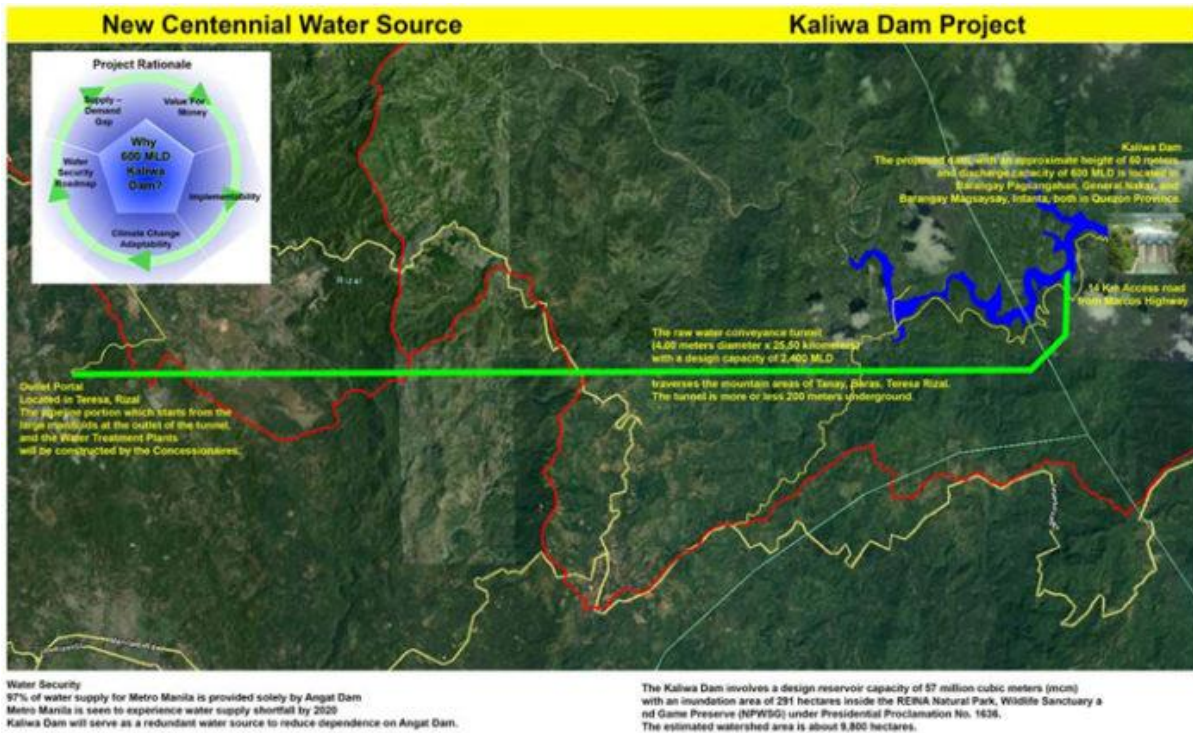
22 Comments 30 Shares

## All eyes on the Kaliwa Dam project: Will its benefits outweigh the costs?

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

May 28, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/05/28/all-eyes-on-the-kaliwa-dam-project-will-its-benefits-outweigh-the-costs/>



As the number of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases in the Philippines breached the 15,000-mark, with majority in the National Capital Region (NCR), the importance of water, its sufficient supply, safety level and accessibility has been emphasized during the pandemic.

However, the onset of the dry season, worsened by the effect of climate change, the Philippines is faced anew with the water supply shortage problem.

The estimated 12 million people in the NCR are cognizant of this problem.





## All eyes on the Kaliwa Dam project: Will its benefits outweigh the costs?

Just last year, the East Zone Concession in Metro Manila saw its worst water supply shortage in decades when water at the Angat Dam fell below the critical level and the supposedly reserved water at La Mesa Dam neared depletion.

Manila Water Co. Inc. has drawn water from La Mesa dam in the past to augment its limited supply or approved allocation of 2,400 million liters per day (MLD) coming from Angat. This is meant to cover for the increased demand associated with the extremely hot weather condition vis-a-vis Manila Water's expanding area of coverage. Over the years, there has also been an increasing number of people consuming water, which apparently has gone beyond its limited resources.

A long-term solution to Metro Manila's water woes touted by the Duterte administration: the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project, a flagship project under its "Build, Build, Build" (BBB) program.

### Preventive project

The Kaliwa Dam is just one of several projects being pursued by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) under its Water Security Plan for 2018-2023.

The project is expected to provide redundancy of water source and augment supply from Angat Dam, hence, preventing water shortage problems. It aims to ease the strain on the Angat-Ipo-La-Mesa water system and ensure water supply during the occurrence of El Niño.

The measure consists of the A-B-C projects and the Wawa Dam project of the consortium led by businessmen Enrique K. Razon and Oscar Violago pending the completion of the Kaliwa Dam.

Funded by the Chinese government through Official Development Assistance (ODA) from China, the P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam project will be implemented by the China Energy Engineering Corp. (CEEC).

The dam, 60 meters in height, will be built along the Kaliwa (left) River, within the jurisdiction of Barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar municipality, and Barangay Magsaysay, Infanta municipality, both in Quezon Province. It will be complemented by a 27.7-kilometer raw-water conveyance tunnel that will lead to water treatment facilities.

### Easing pressure

The proposed locations of the water treatment facilities are in Antipolo, which is 29 aerial kilometers southeast of Manila, and Theresa, Rizal which is 27 aerial kilometers southeast of Manila.



## All eyes on the Kaliwa Dam project: Will its benefits outweigh the costs?

Once completed, the project which has the capacity to provide 600 million liters per day of raw water although its capacity of 2,400 MLD per day can be maximized, hence, easing the pressure on the 60-year-old Angat dam, currently the source of 97 percent of raw water being supplied to Metro Manila and nearby towns of Cavite and Rizal.

The need for a new water source in light of the increasing population vis-a-vis the limited capacity of the Angat dam to store water and provide adequate supply to meet the ever-growing demand in Metro Manila is unquestionable.

The lingering question is: "Will the promised benefits of the Kaliwa Dam Project outweigh or justify the costs?"

### Overview of the project

The Kaliwa Dam Project is expected to be completed in five years.

Construction activities should have started last year and will be completed in 2024. But because of permit problems, the project is already delayed.

The area is within the Sierra Madre mountain range and has been identified as rich in biodiversity and high in endemism.

A good number of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles have been recorded in the area, along with several native trees that are critically-endangered or threatened with extinction.

The project size falls under the classification of a major dam infrastructure, categorized as an Environmentally- Critical Project (ECP) requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Documents reveal it is also located in an Environmentally Critical Area (ECA); the Kaliwa Dam watershed being partly covered by Proclamation 573 (1969) as the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve (KWFR).

At the same time, the project site is within the National Integrated Protected Area System (Nipas) having been proclaimed as National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary and Game Refuge Reservation by virtue of Proclamation 1636 in 1977. Moreover, a more recent proclamation is the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) awarded to the Dumagat-Remontado indigenous peoples; a part of their area lies inside the Kaliwa River watershed.



## All eyes on the Kaliwa Dam project: Will its benefits outweigh the costs?

### Prior compliance

According to MWSS Administrator Emmanuel B. Salamat, the CEEC is proceeding with a detailed engineering design of the project on a “design-build contractual” arrangement between the MWSS and the CEEC.

***So far, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the project last November 11, 2019. Subsequently, a “Notice to Proceed for the Detailed Design Phase” was issued to the CEEC on November 13, 2019.***

Prior to the lockdown in March, engineers and surveyors of CEEC were conducting topographic and geological surveys along the tunnel alignment and the dam site, Salamat said.

Meanwhile, the MWSS was conducting prior compliance for issuing “possession of site” for the project facilities, where the initial construction activities will begin, starting with the camp construction site facilities that will house engineers and other workers.

At the same time, the MWSS and its project partners said in early March they were currently coordinating with people in affected communities to ensure “smooth construction operations.”

### Lead to loss

The project’s positive and negative impacts to the social, cultural and economic activities of communities, including the potential environmental problems and how the proponents plan to prevent or address them were identified in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) submitted by the MWSS to the DENR-EMB.

According to the document, the pre-construction activities would alter the natural landscape and its aesthetic value. These activities would, ironically, lead to deteriorated water quality that would potentially lead to health and sanitation problems, the EIA report said.

As the project will require mobility and use heavy equipment and other motor vehicles to bring in construction materials, the project will lead to permanent loss and disturbance to existing vegetation in the project site.

During the pre-construction phase, there will be possible death, or disturbance, and displacement of wildlife species and destruction or damage to habitat.



# All eyes on the Kaliwa Dam project: Will its benefits outweigh the costs?

## Expected changes

Meanwhile, during the operation of the dam, the expected impact includes land submergence of some springs and caves in Barangay Daraitan, the starting point for a popular route for hikers. An operational dam is also expected to alter the migration pattern of aquatic organisms, more habitat loss and fragmentation, the EIA report noted.

The large-scale clearing of vegetation in the construction site will likely lead to altered movements and dispersal of wildlife, and proliferation of invasive alien species or the invasion of non-native and degraded habitat-associated species.

The EIA also identified water use conflict and the loss of food source and navigation access from Barangay Daraitan to Sitio Quebobosa as potential problems that would impact residents.

## Creating jobs

The proponents said it would implement mitigating measures to prevent disasters and minimize the impact on the environment from the project during the pre-construction and actual construction of the dam and the conveyance tunnel.

Salamat acknowledges that many, particularly indigenous peoples, live by the bounty of the Sierra Madre mountain range and would be affected by the project “as the land is the source of food and subsistence of the IP communities.” However, he said would-be affected communities would not be left behind.

“They plant crops, vegetables and fruit-bearing trees,” Salamat said. “Livelihood is through agroforestry, rice, and fishing.”

He explained that the MWSS has formulated an integrated community development plan that included watershed, indigenous peoples and social development plans.

Salamat said the affected communities would be relocated and receive compensation.

## Engaging the people

The claims and benefits, Salamat said, are the subjects of negotiations between the indigenous peoples in Rizal and Quezon and the MWSS.

According to him, two memoranda of agreements (MOAs) were expected finalized by the end of March. Meanwhile, the indigenous people’s communities are also crafting their respective community resource development plans.

Salamat pointed out the upside of the project includes the generation of jobs and livelihood for the communities during the pre-construction and operation phases of the project. Of course, he said, it would achieve the ultimate goal of having a sustainable source of water for Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite and Bulacan.



## Palace defends GCQ move, cites need to boost economy

posted May 30, 2020 at 01:10 am

by Vito Barcelo and Darwin G Amojelar, Rio N. Araja

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/324869>

Malacañang on Friday defended its decision to place Metro Manila under a general community quarantine (GCQ), which will ease quarantine restrictions by June 1, despite the continued rise in COVID-19 cases.



GCQ-READY. Preparing for the eventual shift to general community quarantine on June 1, the MMDA has erected concrete barriers that assign the leftmost lane to the exclusive use of bus units, a move that has led to monstrous traffic jams as of 4 p.m. on May 29, 2020.

READ: Cases surge; GCQ in MM

“We need to jumpstart the economy... the government cannot let its citizens stay out of work for too long,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque said after President Rodrigo Duterte approved the shift to a GCQ Thursday night.

Roque also said the government can no longer provide financial assistance to the people, saying there are not enough funds to provide such support for a longer period.

“You know, we are also balancing the need of our people to work,” Roque said.

Roque also said that the country’s case doubling time and critical care capacity have increased considerably during the months of strict community quarantine.

The shift comes as COVID-19 cases continue to rise, but the Health Department attributed the sudden surge in new cases to its increased capacity to validate more cases.

Under the GCQ, almost all sectors will be allowed to operate on a limited capacity after more than two months of lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



## Palace defends GCQ move, cites need to boost economy

### Public transportation

The Transportation Department announced the resumption of limited public transportation, including air and sea travel after Malacanang said Metro Manila and other provinces would fall under a GCQ by June 1.



Also gearing up for the more relaxed GCQ include train commuters (represented by Army reservists and railway employees) who take part in a simulation of physical distancing.

“The approach of DOTr is partial, gradual and calculated, and more importantly by phases,” Transport Secretary Arthur Tugade said.

Tugade said the agency is concentrated on international flights in and out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, but once the transition to a GCQ begins, international gateways will expand to include Clark, Cebu and Davao.

Tugade said the government is building testing laboratories in Clark and Cebu.

He also said additional international gateways such as Zamboanga, Iloilo, Bacolod and Bohol will be added in the next two weeks.

“This is one way of decongesting what is happening right now in NAIA 1,2,3 and 4,” Tugade said.

Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific and Air Asia welcomed the opportunity to resume regular commercial operations under GCQ status starting June 1.

“PAL is closely coordinating with local and national government authorities on the necessary implementing rules and arrangements to finalize our routes and flight schedules. We intend to start with limited flights on selected routes,” PAL said.

AirAsia also plans to gradually resume domestic operations by June.





## Palace defends GCQ move, cites need to boost economy

“We are currently checking with aviation authorities and respective LGUs for their own guidelines regarding the opening of local airports, as some may still be closed in June,” the budget airline said.

300 P2P buses

Tugade also said the agency is ready to put into operation train and rail services by June 1.

“Don’t expect 100 percent operation. As I said, we have to balance our mandate to provide transportation with our responsibility to help [limit] the spread of the virus,” he said.

Tugade said the average capacity at LRT and MRT will be 10 percent to 12 percent while the Philippine National Railways will be at 20 percent to 30 percent capacity.

The agency will also deploy 300 to 500 buses along MRT stations to support the operations of the rail system.

Tugade said taxis, TNVS and P2P buses will be deployed using cashless transactions to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The operation of public utility jeepneys and buses are still prohibited.



## Faster validation may cause increase in tally of cases — DoH

May 29, 2020 09:04 PM

By Gabbie Parlade

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/05/29/faster-validation-may-cause-increase-in-tally-of-cases-doh/>

The Department of Health on Friday said it is now ramping up its validation efforts where it will be adopting a fully automated platform of reporting cases with both new and validated cases.

“Starting now we are going divide the numbers in order to show how many are fresh or newly validated in a day as we separate those that were delayed in validation,” said Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire in a briefing.

She said that through a shift in using the COVIDKAYA application, cases will be faster validated and easily input into the system shortening the usual length of the process and this is one of the reasons along with more disease surveillance officers operating which has caused an increase in the new cases reported from the past few days.

Vergeire clarified that out of the 539 cases reported yesterday, only 109 were fresh cases or those that were reported in the past three days.

“Fresh cases are those with results that have been recently released by the laboratory in the past three days,” said Vergeire. “The balance of about 400 were late cases or those results that have been released a week ago but were only submitted and validated by the epidemiology bureau of DOH yesterday.”

She said that it was also similiar to the 17 newly reported deaths yesterday.

“Some of them have already died last March or April,” said Vergeire, adding that the highest number of new fatalities recorded was last 31 March where 30 were reported, adding that the actual number of deaths have been decreasing in the past few days.

Public Health Epidemiologist Dr. Troy Gepte, on the other hand, said cases will be more accurately reported if the onset of symptoms will also be determined which he said also hampers the process.

“These data are not easily obtained because an individual cannot often remember when they first had the symptoms,” said Gepte, noting that because of the length of process in validation, it is often where the lag time occurs.

However, DoH Epidemiologist Dr. Thea De Guzman emphasized that without the validation done by the Epidemiology Bureau, some cases reported may be doubled.



---

## Faster validation may cause increase in tally of cases — DoH

Vergeire earlier attributed these factors to the similarity in the name or the absence of essential information in some patients which she said is manually verified.

With this, De Guzman cited the need to shift to an automated system as currently adopted by the DoH.

She also said that aside from accuracy in the release of cases detecting its possible contacts is also essential aside from practicing minimum health standards.

“Detecting cases is one of the first steps in finding COVID-19, if you don’t detect the cases you will never start isolating them,” she said.

Moreso, Gepte suggested using a more granular scale of detecting cases which connects even up to the barangay to give a larger picture of clusters of cases and areas with less.



## Edsa ‘transformation’ for buses, bikes under way

By: Julie M. Aurelio, Krixia Subingsubing, Miguel R. Camus - @inquirerdotnet

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:00 AM May 30, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1283339/edsa-transformation-for-buses-bikes-under-way>

No jeepneys when Metro Manila starts to spring back to life on Monday after 80 days of strict quarantine?

That does not seem to be a major problem for the Department of Transportation (DOTr), whose plans to move people from home to workplaces include significant changes on Edsa, the country’s busiest highway.

But don’t have high hopes, either, according to Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade.

“We have to balance our mandate to provide transportation with our responsibility to help in (preventing) the spread of the virus,” Tugade said late on Thursday night after President Rodrigo Duterte announced he had approved placing the metropolis of 12 million under general community quarantine (GCQ) on starting June 1.

“On the first day that we transition and it’s put into effect, we can already put into operation our train and rails,” he said. “Each seat, alley, queue line has been marked. It’s all ready. We are ready for this Monday.”

Tugade said, however, that the four rail lines that crisscross the national capital would run with much-reduced loads.

The MRT 3, LRT 1 and LRT 2 will carry only 12 percent of their passenger capacities, while the Philippine National Railways will operate at 35 percent.

**GREAT EDSA EXPECTATIONS** An illustration released on Friday by the Department of Transportation shows how the country’s busiest highway will be redesigned especially to make it more “biker-friendly,” as most public transportation systems resume operations at a limited capacity in Metro Manila next week.

### Bike lanes

But in the case of Edsa, there will be 300 to 500 buses that will carry half the number of their regular passengers to “augment” MRT-3’s reduced load. And there will be bike lanes on the Metro Manila’s main artery, too, he said.

Transportation network vehicle services like Grab will be also allowed to resume operations under GCQ.

Come June 22, “modern” jeepneys, city buses and UV Expresses vehicles will be allowed but at 50 percent capacity.

Tugade said his office was working on “transforming Edsa’s landscape [by] starting bicycle lanes.”

“If this experiment proves viable, we would make the structure permanent,” Tugade said, adding that it could be applied to other parts of the country.



## Edsa ‘transformation’ for buses, bikes under way

Illustrations released by the DOTr on Friday showed that the dedicated bus lane on Edsa would be moved from the outermost to the innermost lane, alongside the MRT-3 line.

The former bus lane would become the new cycling lane, leaving the center of the road to private cars and other vehicles.

### More bus stops

The design for the dedicated bus lane, which would also be used by point-to-point buses, will drastically transform the road, according to Transportation Assistant Secretary Goddes Libiran.

She said the transformation of Edsa would entail the construction of 11 bus stops beside the MRT-3 line—Monumento, Roosevelt, Quezon Avenue, Cubao, Main Avenue, Megamall, Greenfield, Guadalupe, Ayala Avenue, Taft Avenue, plus one at SM Mall of Asia—during the first phase (June 1-21) of the two-phase project.

During the second phase, from June 22, 15 other bus stops will be added—Gen. Malvar, Balintawak, Kainging, SM North, North Avenue, Ormoc, Kamuning, Ermin Garcia, Santolan, Connecticut, Ortigas, Boni Avenue, Gil Puyat Avenue, Magallanes and one at the World Trade Center.

Commuters will use a pedestrian lane at each stop to cross to the other side of Edsa and vice versa, Libiran said.

### Group lauds plan

The plan to make Edsa a more cycling- and walking-friendly highway to handle the surge of commuters when the metropolis moves into GCQ raised hopes among cycling advocates that there would be a more permanent and lasting commitment by the authorities to promote sustainable transportation.

In a statement, the commuter group Manila Moves thanked the DOTr, saying “many commuters would benefit from these plans, including pedestrians and cyclists, as we prepare to enter the GCQ phase.”

The bicycle advocate, Cycling Matters, proposed planting more trees along potential cycling corridors outside Edsa to make them more conducive for bikers.

Tugade said the DOTr would implement cashless transactions and “digitalized” operations in taxis, buses and “modernized” jeepneys as part of the “new normal” to prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2, which causes the severe respiratory disease COVID-19.



## Edsa ‘transformation’ for buses, bikes under way

### Outrage

Reacting to the plans, traditional jeepney drivers and operators were outraged by what they described as a doubly discriminatory policy against those that failed to “modernize.”

There are around 180,000 registered jeepneys across the country, 75,000 of them in Metro Manila. Less than 3 percent had shifted to Euro-4 compliant vehicles under the government’s public utility vehicle modernization program.

Militant transport group Piston on Friday said its members would hold a noise barrage on Monday “to express our indignation against this ban and for the government to heed our calls to return to work.”

“What our drivers need right now is to be able to go out on the road again to survive, especially as most of us failed to receive aid from the government,” Piston leader George San Mateo said. “This is also important so that our workers can reach their workplaces and return home safely.”

He said the ban on old jeepneys must be rescinded. “We need to revitalize our economy and not to pit our jeepney drivers against those who were able to afford to modernize,” he added.

### Airline, ferry operations

The shift to GCQ will also allow ferries and airlines to restart operations next month.

Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific and Air Asia Philippines are eager to resume regular services.

Chelsea Logistics and Infrastructure Holdings Corp., which also owns a stake in 2GO Group Inc., will resume passenger ferry services next month.

The air carriers said they were finalizing flight details in consultation with local and national government authorities.

It is expected, however, that the airlines will operate fewer flights until demand fully recovers.

The air carriers’ safety measures will include minimal contact between passengers and airline staff, increased use of online and digital check-in and boarding and intensified cleaning and disinfection of all aircraft and facilities. Face masks and temperature checks will also be required.

Chelsea President and CEO Chryss Alfonsus V. Damuy told the Inquirer they will implement physical distancing onboard their vessels.

They hope to operate their regular routes mainly in Luzon and Visayas but this will depend on the outcome of talks with local governments.



# Metro barangay can impose lockdown

May 30, 2020 02:22 AM

By Francis Wakefield

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/05/30/metro-barangay-can-impose-lockdown/>

The entrance to a locked down barangay in Baclaran, Paranaque is barricaded and guarded by police on 22 May 2020. (Photo by Al Padilla)

Barangays in Metro Manila can still impose lockdowns under a general community quarantine (GCQ) setting if there are still high cases of COVID-19, Malacañang said on Friday.

However, the enforcement of lockdowns should be done in coordination with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF-EID), said Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque.

“Hindi po ibig sabihin na palibhasa GCQ na, walang lugar na mai-ECQ pa. Ang mga alkalde ay may kapangyarihan na magbitiw ng GCQ sa ilang mga barangay o di naman kaya ay zona ng barangay pero ito po ay dapat gawin in coordination with the local IATF,” Roque said during a radio interview.

“Mayroon pa pong mga curfew, hindi pa rin po iyan tinatangal. At ang mga curfews naman po ay sa pamamagitan naman po ng mga lokal na ordinansa,” he added.

Roque also said that motorists and workers/employees going to work should expect passing through checkpoints as part of the protocols being implemented by the police, military and LGU on city roads/streets.

“Well, asahan natin iyong mga inter-city, inter-province, medyo mahigpit pa rin iyan dahil susunod ang kapulisan sa requirement ng lokal na pamahalaan, kaya kailangan po pag-ingatan pa din natin. Uulitin ko po, tanungin po ninyo kung ano ang requirements nang wala po kayong maging aberya,” Roque said.

When asked if persons still need to present a medical certificate if they will go home from province to province, he said LGU may still ask for certain requirements.

“Well, iyan nga po ang sinasabi ko bagama’t puwede na kayong magbiyahe, mayroon pa ring mga requirements sa mga local government units. Karamihan ay nagri-require pa rin ng health certificate at hindi naman natin matatangal sa kanila iyon dahil ayaw nila at karamihan ay nagri-require pa rin ng quarantine,” Roque said.

“So handa lang po tayo. Ulitin ko po, hindi ko masasagot kung ano iyong specific requirements ng bawat LGU. Tumawag na lang po kayo at tanungin ninyo kung ano ang requirement para handa kayo,” he added.

## Wearing of face mask

In the same interview, Roque said that people who will go out to work on Monday are still required to wear face mask and practice social distancing and proper hygiene to avoid getting infected by the virus.



## Metro barangay can impose lockdown

“Opo, lahat, lahat tayo ay naka-mask kahit nasaan tayo. Hindi na po pupuwedeng walang mask kahit saan pumunta,” he said.

Roque said to help commuters get to their respective destinations or work places, about 1,000 buses will now be allowed to ply the roads.

The LRT and MRT will also now be operational by 20 percent.. Taxi, TNVS (Grab) and tricycles will also be allowed to operate.

“Well, magiging sapat po iyan. Kung gumawa ng paraan ang mga employers na 50-50, kasi nga po mayroon po tayong hanggang 1,000 bus; mayroon tayong 20% ng LRT at MRT; mayroon tayong mga Grab at mayroon din tayong mga taxis at saka mga tricycle na isa lang ang sakay,” Roque said.

“Ang wala po talaga pa ay jeepney kasi ang jeepney ay harapan so medyo later pa po iyan. Pero kung talagang susundin po ng mga employers na hangga’t maaari 50-50, sapat naman po ang transportasyon,” he added.

### Children, seniors stay home

Roque said under GCQ, children and senior citizens should still remain in their homes.

“Iyong mga bata po at saka mga seniors, manatili pa rin po sa mga tahanan kung hindi po absolutely necessary o kung hindi naman para sa trabaho po ‘no. Tapos bawal pa rin po ang mga pagala-gala para sa gala-gala lamang ano. So hindi po pupuwede iyong mga leisure travel. .

“Tapos mayroon pa rin pong mga industriya at mga negosyo na sarado, iyong mga matatao po, iyong mga amusement, entertainment at leisure industry, ang turismo hindi pa rin po allowed.”

“So unti-unti bumalik po tayo sa normal. Pero ini-encourage pa rin po natin ang lahat ng mga employers na kung pupuwede magkaroon pa rin sila ng structure na 50-50 lang ang papasok – 50% work from home, 50% work in situs. Gayahin po natin iyong circular ng Civil Service Commission, kung saan 50% pa lang din po ang pinapatrabaho sa situs pero iyong iba work from home,” he added.

President Rodrigo Duterte announced during a televised address on Thursday night that the National Capital Region and Davao City will be placed under GCQ starting 1 June. Duterte also said Regions 2, 3, 4A and the provinces of Pangasinan and Albay will remain under GCQ.

The rest of the country will be placed under Modified General Community Quarantine or MGCQ, he said from the Malacañang Golf Clubhouse in Malacañang Park, Manila and aired over government station PTV-4,

In a text message, Roque said that Mandaue City is also placed under GCQ while Cebu City has made an appeal and wants to be under GCQ.

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





## EDITORIAL - Proceed with caution

May 30, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/05/30/2017491/editorial-proceed-caution>

After 11 weeks of enhanced community quarantine, restrictions will finally be eased as the National Capital Region shifts to a general community quarantine on June 1. A key component of the shift from ECQ to GCQ in the NCR, epicenter of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic in the country, is the return of public transportation.

Alongside the start of the GCQ on Monday is the beginning of enrollment in public schools for the 2020-2021 academic year. While only remote enrollment will be allowed for two weeks, many teachers are expected to report for work in their schools to handle the task.

Under the GCQ, train services will resume operations together with point-to-point buses, taxis, transport network service vehicles, shuttles and bicycles. The operation of tricycles will be at the discretion of local government units. This first phase of the transport plan will be in place until June 21. Regular buses, modern jeepneys and UV Express will be allowed only during the second phase from June 22 to 30.

President Duterte, who announced the transition to GCQ for Metro Manila, said he wanted the country to move toward the new normal. The economy is contracting and millions of Filipinos are falling into poverty as a result of quarantine measures adopted to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



PAG



LIPPE

LOWE



PAGE

1



BANNER

R



EDITOR



CARTOON

## EDITORIAL - Proceed with caution

The delicate balancing act between lives and livelihoods will continue for a long time, until a cure or vaccine for the coronavirus becomes widely available worldwide. The easing of quarantine restrictions to restart faltering economies should leave no room for complacency. Easing into GCQ should not mean easing of public health protocols that have been in place since mid-March, including physical distancing, wearing of face masks in public, and installation of sanitation facilities for regular handwashing and dispensing alcohol.

The GCQ should also be complemented by additional efforts to expand the country's capabilities for COVID testing, contact tracing, isolation and treatment. Even as the easing of restrictions is supported by those who stress the importance of preserving economic health, there is general agreement that the capabilities for dealing with the pandemic remain inadequate.

Even with the easing of quarantine measures, the public must be constantly reminded that the virus is still out there, waiting for new hosts to debilitate and even kill.



# BAWAL ANG MAGKASAKIT SA TAG-ULAN; SI COVID UMAALIGID

May 29, 2020 @ 11:49

<https://remate.ph/bawal-ang-magkasakit-sa-tag-ulan-si-covid-umaaligid/>



KUNG magkakatotoo ang weather forecast o pagtaya sa panahon ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, araw-araw na ang pagbuhos ng ulan sa maraming bahagi ng mahal kong Pinas mula hapon hanggang gabi.

Sa umaga lang maganda ang panahon, maliban lang sa darating na Huwebes o Hunyo 4, 2020.

Ginawa ang pagtaya ng panahon mula kahapon, Mayo 28 hanggang Hunyo 8, 2020 o 12-araw.

Kung tutuloy-tuloy ba ang ganitong kalagayan ng panahon, masasabi bang malapit na ang tag-ulan?

Nasa PAGASA, mga Bro, ang kasagutan dito.

## PANAHOON NG PAGKAKASAKIT

Ang tiyak, sa pagbabago ng panahon mula sa matinding tag-init patungo sa tag-ulan, may mga magkakasakit ng sipon, ubo, lagnat at iba pang katulad nito.

Dito natin naalaala na maaaring madaling lumipat ang coronavirus disease-19 mula sa isang tao patungo sa iba dahil sa mga pag-ubo, pagbahing, pagsasalita at iba pa.

Kung makahahawa ang may COVID-19 sa kanyang pakikipagkwentuhan lang sa iba, aba, lalong makahahawa ang may sipon na umuubo at nagbabahing dahil malayuan ang talsik ng droplets o patak ng laway o uhog.

Sa pag-aaral sa layo ng nililipad ng droplet na roon sumasakay ang virus ng COVID-19, umaabot ito sa 13 piye.

Maaaring aabot mismo sa katawan ng tao o bagay sa paligid o suot natin ang virus.

## 7 ARAW BUHAY ANG VIRUS

Alam ba ninyong aabot sa pitong araw ang buhay ng virus ng COVID-19?

Pero depende talaga, halimbawa, sa init o lamig ng panahon at mga kinakapitan ng virus.



## **BAWAL ANG MAGKASAKIT SA TAG-ULAN; SI COVID UMAALIGID**

Sa lamig na 21.67 degrees Celsius o 71 degrees Fahrenheit na medyo malamig-lamig gaya sa Disyembre hanggang Pebrero, 3 oras na buhay ang virus sa papel at tissue paper.

Sa kahoy at tela naman, nabubuhay ang virus ng 2 araw.

Sa salamin o papel na salapi, 4 araw ang buhay nito.

Pero sa bakal, plastic at face mask, anak ng tokwa, 7 araw nabubuhay ang virus.

### **KAPAG KUMAPIT SI COVID**

Kapag umabot o naipahid natin sa ating mga mata, bunganga at ilong ang droplet o patak na may COVID-19, maghanda-handa na tayo.

Ang mga parteng ito ng ating katawan ang pintuan at bintana na pasukan ng virus.

Kung mahina ang immune system o resistensya natin, lalabas at lalabas ang mga palatandaan o sintomas ng sakit gaya ng ubo, bahing, lagnat, sipon, pamamalat ng boses, kawalan ng panlasa sa pagkain, pagsusuka, pagtatae at hirap sa paghinga sa loob ng 14-araw hanggang ika-21 araw.

Ang kasunod nito?

Alam na dis!

Una, tumawag ka kina kapitan sa barangay o sa alam mong health station na malapit sa iyo.

Ikalawa, depende sa patakaran ng mga Local Government Unit na nakasasakop sa iyo, maaaring payuhan kang magpa-COVID test o mag-home quarantine muna.

Ikatlo, kung medyo masama ang iyong lagay, sa ospital ka na itatakbo.

At pagkatapos nito, ililista ka ng Department of Health na “recovered” o “death.”

### **BAWAL MAGKASAKIT**

Nangangahulugan ng pagdating ng tag-ulan na dapat tayong mag-ingat sa mga sakit na dulot nito, lalo na ang pagkakaroon ng sipon, ubo, bahing at lagnat na karaniwang may kasamang plema at laway na ating iniubong, binabahing, pinupunas ng panyo at tissue paper na maaari nating basta na lang ibinabasura o kasama sa mga face mask na ating sinusuot.

Lalo na kung iisipin nating umaaligid si COVID-19 napakabilis sumakay at manalakay sa maysakit.



## **BAWAL ANG MAGKASAKIT SA TAG-ULAN; SI COVID UMAALIGID**

Makatutulong nang malaki para sa ating resistensya sa tag-ulan at taglamig ang palagiang pag-inom o pagkaing may vitamin c gaya ng kalamansi, bayabas at iba pang may asim na mga prutas at gulay.

May mga lahi sa mahal kong Pinas na sili at luya ang panlaban nila sa taglamig, sipon at ubo kaya ito ang paborito nilang sangkap sa kanilang mga pagkain.

Kung may pambili naman, maaaring bumili sa mga parmasya o kaya ay mamasyal sa mga barangay health station dahil namamahagi ang mga ito ng vitamin c nang libre.

Maaaring maghanda rin tayo ng aspirin na panlaban sa mga pagbara ng ating mga ugat na palatandaan ng pagkakaroon natin ng COVID-19, kung totoo ang sinasabi ng iba na baktirya at hindi virus ang dala ng sakit na ito.

Nasa sa atin na ang mga diskarte upang maging malusog tayo sa tag-ulan ngunit kakambal dapat ito ng lubusan nating pag-iingat sa mga pagbuhos ng ulan at pagdating ng mga baha.

Bawal ang magkasakit kahit kailan, lalo ngayong may COVID-19.



# COVID-19 and the climate challenge

By: Nadim Farajalla, Olivia Macharis - @inquirerdotnet

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:01 AM May 30, 2020

<https://opinion.inquirer.net/130276/covid-19-and-the-climate-challenge>

Beirut—The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the fragility of the world order. Governments have sought to limit the spread of the virus through lockdowns and travel restrictions, which have stalled economies and created a global recession.

Poorer countries, lacking the resources and resilience to mitigate the pandemic, will be hit hardest. Like climate change, COVID-19 will exacerbate global inequalities.

## ADVERTISEMENT

That parallel offers valuable lessons. As with shifting weather patterns and loss of intact ecosystems and biodiversity, COVID-19 is a threat multiplier. Just as policymakers address the short-term effects of greenhouse gases and fossil fuels, governments have scrambled to address the immediate health and economic consequences of the virus, while overlooking broader security risks.

And yet, as with climate change, ignoring the sociopolitical dimensions of the crisis leads to increased instability, extremism, migration, and outbreaks of new or recurring epidemics.

The spread of COVID-19 will affect sections of society most vulnerable to climate change. Disadvantaged populations face higher health risks because of a lack of access to adequate water, sanitation, and health facilities.

The poor, homeless, or displaced often lack the ability to self-isolate in the absence of suitable homes, job security, or a social safety net. In the United States, for instance, death rates have been disproportionately high among African-Americans, a reflection of longstanding structural inequalities.

The effect of COVID-19 on food security also is similar to that of climate change.

Disenfranchised communities suffer more from the consequences of disruptions to supply chains and a tightening of international trade.

The livelihoods of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishermen are adversely affected as well, while small and medium-size enterprises may be forced into bankruptcy or closure, driving low-income and middle-class citizens into poverty.

The ominous consequences don't stop there. As with climate change, the pandemic's destruction of livelihoods will reduce the opportunity costs of resorting to violence or may even create economic incentives to join armed groups, heightening the risk of conflict. The potential for violence is especially high in fragile political systems, within communities that have a history of conflict, and among the politically marginalized.

Governments' inadequate or irresponsible handling of the COVID-19 crisis, of which Brazil and Nicaragua offer textbook examples, will strain relations with citizens and lead to increased public concern and dissatisfaction. It would not be surprising for tensions to culminate in civil unrest on a broader level, given the number of countries where food and water shortages,



PAG



LUPPE  
LOWE



PAGE  
1



BANNER  
R



EDITOR



CARTOON

## COVID-19 and the climate challenge

triggered by the state's failure to adapt to climate-related setbacks, have fueled social upheaval.

There is also a serious risk that official mismanagement of the public-health crisis will marginalize populations even more and increase tensions along geographical, ethnic, or sectarian lines.

Likewise, people nursing grievances against their governments may exploit the pandemic to undermine the state's authority. In the Lake Chad region, devastating droughts and a lack of government relief led to increased radicalization and recruitment efforts by Boko Haram and other jihadist militias.

The same chain of events contributed to the rise of the Islamic State in northern Iraq and Syria.

And, as with climate change, political elites aiming to mobilize support or conceal shortcomings can manipulate the crisis by scapegoating, which may cause more severe forms of violence. In Algeria, the government has exploited the health crisis to suppress the opposition, while nationalist politicians in the United States and Europe have blamed migrants and foreigners for the spread of the virus, fueling stigmatization, discrimination, and racist attacks.

Indeed, many have noted the risk that the crisis may provoke a profound backlash against refugees. With camps for internally displaced persons particularly susceptible to outbreaks of contagious diseases, new inflows of people fleeing conflict or the effects of climate change may face stiffer resistance from authorities and local communities.

At the Greek-Turkish border, security forces fired live ammunition and tear gas at refugees, demonstrating the lengths to which national governments will go to repel asylum seekers and migrants.

The COVID-19 pandemic has confronted the world with a test that it seems to be failing. Cooperation and inclusive approaches to addressing the multifaceted consequences of the crisis have been lacking. Policymakers cannot focus only on containing the pandemic, but must also invest in the future.

That includes pursuing rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes to limit global warming and strengthen our collective response to the threats it poses.

The world may now be more receptive to such reforms. We have no choice. While we may be able to manage the COVID-19 pandemic with social distancing, new antiviral drugs, and eventually, one hopes, a vaccine, climate change represents an even larger existential threat, because its effects have no defined treatment or lifespan.

There may be a reset button for the post-pandemic global economy, but there is none for the planet on which it depends. Project Syndicate



## COP26 climate talks pushed back to November 2021

Marlowe Hood (Agence France-Presse) - May 29, 2020 - 1:52pm

<https://www.philstar.com/world/2020/05/29/2017369/cop26-climate-talks-pushed-back-november-2021>

PARIS, France — Critical UN climate negotiations at which nations were expected to ramp up plans to combat global warming have been pushed back a full year to November 2021, British politician Alok Sharma, president of the talks, announced on Twitter Thursday.

"Pleased to have agreed a new date for @COP26," wrote Sharma, Britain's Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

### Related Stories

'Something we can't postpone': Filipinos urged to demand urgent action vs climate crisis

"COP26 will now take place between 1 and 12 November 2021."

Britain proposed the new dates for the Glasgow conference—which had already been suspended—in a letter to the UN climate forum, citing health concerns amid the coronavirus pandemic, and the need for more time to prepare the 30,000-strong meet.

The revised schedule was vetted and approved Thursday night.

Possible drawbacks of the delay were laid out in a briefing note, obtained by AFP, prepared ahead of the deliberations.

"A broadly shared concern relates to the potential loss of momentum in the UNFCCC process," the note said, using the acronym for the UN climate body.

One 2020 deadline in the original schedule was the submission of revised—and hopefully more ambitious—"nationally determined contributions," each country's plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Current national pledges submitted in annex to the 2015 Paris Agreement would allow the planet's surface to warm at least three degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, far above the ceiling of "well below" 2C—and 1.5C if feasible—agreed to in the landmark treaty.

The UN's climate science advisory panel, the IPCC, has made it clear that time is not on our side, especially if global warming is to be capped at the safer level of 1.5C.

CO2 pouring into the atmosphere must be halved by 2030, and reach "net zero" by mid-century, if that more ambitious goal is to be met, the IPCC concluded.

Economic fallout from the pandemic is projected to reduce global CO2 emissions this year by 4 to 7 percent, but will have scant impact on global warming's long-term trajectory, according to a recent study in Nature Climate Change.





---

## COP26 climate talks pushed back to November 2021

Climate not on hold

Most observers endorsed the postponement, but cautioned against inaction.

"Shifting the date of COP26 is understandable, but there can be no let-up in tackling the climate crisis," said Andrew Steer, president and CEO of the World Resources Institute in Washington DC.

Trillion-dollar recovery packages across Europe, North America and East Asia offer a "once-in-a-generation moment to rebuild societies to be more sustainable, equitable, resilient and healthy," he said in a statement.

Global warming continues to gather pace, other experts pointed out.

"The coronavirus pandemic has not placed the climate crisis on hold, as the continuing spate of extreme weather across the world makes clear," said Alden Meyer, director of strategy and policy for the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington DC.

Last week, south Asia's first super cyclone in two decades ravaged eastern India, including Kolkata, while northern India was hit by searing heatwaves and locust swarms linked to climate change.

Scientists in the United States, meanwhile, warned of a more severe-than-usual Atlantic hurricane season.

Other important environmental conferences have also been pushed back.

The critical COP15 UN conference on biodiversity, originally slated for October this year, will almost certainly "not happen before May," a source involved in its organisation told AFP.

A quadrennial meeting in Marseille of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which manages the Red List of endangered species, was postponed from June to January 2021.



## Globe taps stakeholders to decarbonize PHL's economy

By BusinessMirror

May 29, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/05/29/globe-taps-stakeholders-to-decarbonize-phls-economy/>

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable to climate hazards in the world. While mounting risks have signaled a sense of urgency for all corporate players to actively build operational resilience, it also provides an immense opportunity for companies to tap into new ways of doing things for a sustainable future.

Globe Telecom Inc. recognizes this opportunity, and the company is facilitating individual customers and industries in the use of digitization and connectivity to reduce carbon footprint.

“It has been said that this is the last generation that can actually help save the planet. Companies should make a very visible move toward environmental conservation. Not only companies but also this generation of employees should be the ones to initiate all this and make that important move for the future generations.” Ernest L. Cu, Globe president and CEO.

Globe's environmental stewardship is governed by its Environmental Sustainability Policy which defines the contours of the company's environmental sustainability agenda.

Globe designs various initiatives to actualize the vision set in the policy and has so far achieved carbon neutrality for its select corporate offices.

It has deployed 6,948 Green Network Solutions—such as fuel cells systems, direct current hybrid generators, free cooling system and lithium-ion batteries; planted 627,226 seedlings since 2010 and encourages customers to join via donations to key partners; saved 655 tons of paper from 40.9 million customers who availed of paperless billing.

It has also recycled over 343,000 kilograms of electronic waste mainly composed of broken mobile phones, computers, and other gadgets from its operations, employees, partners and customers and diverted over 10 percent waste from landfills.

Globe's approach to waste management focuses on waste minimization at source, effective waste segregation and safe disposal of waste. It banned single-use plastics within its headquarters and embarked on an employee education campaign called Wassup, or “Wag Sa Single Use Plastic,” aimed at educating employees on the impacts of plastics to the environment.



## Globe taps stakeholders to decarbonize PHL's economy

Likewise, to decarbonize its operations and enhance clean energy procurement, the company shifted to buying power directly from power plants producing renewable energy in 2019, as well as engaged partners for potential implementation of renewable energy solutions like solar panels and fuel cells within its operations.

Globe also encourages employees to limit the use of motorized vehicles for business commuting through the introduction of telecommuting, flexible work arrangement and carpooling.

Meanwhile, Globe is dedicated to contributing to the preservation of the invaluable biodiversity of the Philippines through awareness building and social innovation and spearheaded a program focusing on marine biodiversity conservation.

All these initiatives are results of the company's climate strategy that assessed various facets of its operations that are dedicated toward making meaningful contributions to anchor the Philippines's vision to decarbonize the economy by 70 percent by 2030.



# Urban resiliency: Key to sustainability in 21st century Philippines

Hans T. Sy

May 30, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/05/30/2017413/urban-resiliency-key-sustainability-21st-century-philippines>

Filipinos have direct experiences with the devastating effects of climate change.

According to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the Philippines ranks fourth among countries worldwide most affected by extreme weather events over a 19-year period, from 1998 to 2017. In terms of disaster risk, the Philippines also ranked high globally – placing third among all other countries, according to the World Risk Report in 2018. Given the archipelagic nature of our country, at least 60 percent of our total land area is exposed to multiple hazards, and as much as 74 percent of our total population – now a little over 100 million – is susceptible to these adverse impacts.

With 25 percent of the people living in Metro Manila, the need to build resilient cities cannot rest on the government alone. The private sector has to do its share in building critical infrastructure to help communities thrive above the effects of climate change.

This became very apparent to me when I saw one of our malls in Pangasinan go under the flood along with the whole town during Typhoon Pepeng (international name: Parma). I realized that resilience is important to our stakeholders – our employees, tenants, customers, suppliers and communities surrounding our malls. I was determined to help our stakeholders bounce back better and stronger.

In the Philippines, the private sector contributes a majority of capital investment on facilities for safety and security, transportation, communication and other services like power and water. As such, private-private public partnership plays a vital role in ensuring the sustainability of cities by ensuring their resiliency against disasters and climate threats.

The private sector can share the role in adopting responsible and sustainable business practices. In particular, businesses should take a closer look at integrating disaster risk reduction into its business models and processes.

In SM, we need a holistic approach to disaster resilience.

First, we integrated disaster risk reduction in our malls, allotting 10 percent of our capital expenditure to disaster resilient features in the design and construction. We employ disaster risk management methods such as risk assessments, early warning systems, business continuity management systems and continuous efforts for capacity building.

With each event, we have had to assess the impact of climate change against what we prepared for such as during Typhoon Ondoy (international name: Ketsana) and other typhoons, where the higher design elevation of the Mall of Asia complex proved able to withstand the large waves and storm surges. For our future developments, we are using peak disaster events based on data reaching back 100 years or more and providing for buffers even beyond that.



## Urban resiliency: Key to sustainability in 21st century Philippines

In our malls and property developments such as offices, not easily apparent features such as energy efficiency, waste management and even traffic control measures create substantial positive impact in the overall environmental sustainability and safety of our operations. This in turn contributes to the collective sustainability of the communities we are located in.

Secondly, we had to develop the resilience of our stakeholders especially our tenants. In order to help our tenants and locators preserve data integrity that is vital to their business operations, we have built the first SM Resilience Center in SM Clark, Pampanga as a centralized data and digital information hub and repository. We currently provide free data storage of five gigabytes for around 1,600 SMEs from all around the country that serves as a vital backup during disaster recovery and business continuity. As a result, SMEs can access digitized copies of their contracts, permits, policies and other important documents to help them bounce-back better after a business disruption.

Our malls have also evolved to serve as the modern-day version of the town plaza where residents of our communities gather and converge. Recognizing that our malls are resilient structures that can offer refuge in times of calamities, SM pioneered community services such as free parking and basic shelter during extraordinary natural disasters.

Thirdly, an important approach toward urban resiliency is multi-sectoral cooperation and collaboration. I have taken an active role in UNISDR's ARISE, a private sector alliance that promotes collaboration towards disaster risk reduction. In support of our commitment to UN ARISE, we engaged with the public sector, in partnership with other colleagues in the business community.

Among the partners we work with are the National Resilience Council, APEC Emergency Preparedness Capacity Building Center, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and Global Education and Training Institute, Department of Trade and Industry, and many others. These partnerships not just directly address immediate disaster risk reduction needs but also provide longer-term capacity building and technical assistance to community stakeholders and beneficiaries.

ACHIEVING TRUE RESILIENCE is a COMBINED EFFORT of the government, the private sector and civil society. We in the private sector should do our part in adopting responsible and sustainable business practices to help fortify our urban centers – integrating disaster risk reduction into business models and processes, and making investments that not only translate to financial return but shared value that safeguards the lives and interests of all our stakeholders.

Hans Sy is the chairman of the Executive Committee of SM Prime Holding, Inc. His involvement with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) was first, as a member, the only Filipino, of its Private Sector Advisory Group, and currently, as an international board member of UNISDR "ARISE" – Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, a platform for businesses to share knowledge and strategies toward investing particularly in disaster resilience and management.



## Climate change forces Sami reindeer herders to adapt

Updated May 29, 2020, 6:01 PM

By Agence France-Presse

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/29/climate-change-forces-sami-reindeer-herders-to-adapt/>

Once, the lynx, wolverines and eagles that preyed on their animals were the main concern for reindeer herders as they moved them to find food in the winter.



Reindeer herders in Sweden's indigenous Sami community say they are having to adapt to fluctuating weather temperatures (AFP / Jonathan NACKSTRAND / MANILA BULLETIN)

But now Margret Fjellstrom and Daniel Viklund, a married couple from Sweden's indigenous Sami community with hundreds of tawny reindeer, worry about a new threat.

Shifting weather patterns in northern Sweden are forcing them to go further afield to find grazing for their hungry reindeer, pushing up costs and taking more time.

Dressed warmly in jackets and ski pants against the minus 17-degree-Celsius (1.4 Fahrenheit) temperatures, the couple watched on a February morning as their animals pawed through deep snow for the lichen they eat.

Reindeer herders are forced to go further afield to find grazing, pushing up costs and taking more time

It's their main food source in winter on the hillsides near Sweden's Baltic Sea coast.

Back when snowfall like this was a regular occurrence, Fjellstrom's herder parents would follow the same migration routes year in, year out, stopping at tried-and-tested spots for food.

But that isn't the case now.



---

## Climate change forces Sami reindeer herders to adapt

“It can rain in January, it can snow in May, there’s no logic to it any more,” Fjellstrom, 39, said, sitting with Viklund by their snowmobiles.

Between 1991 and 2019, parts of northern and eastern Sweden saw a rise in average temperature of nearly two degrees C compared to the 1860-1900 period, Sweden’s meteorological institute said in a report.

For several days in early January, temperatures in the north climbed about 10 degrees C more than normal, the institute said.

And on January 2, three weather stations in central Sweden reported their highest temperatures for the month since 1971.

Unseasonably high temperatures cause the snow to thaw and freeze again when the cold returns, building up thicker layers of ice that prevent the reindeer from digging down through the snow to the lichen.



## Covid-19 leads to chronic water crisis

By Agence France-Presse

May 30, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/05/30/news/world/covid-19-leads-to-chronic-water-crisis/728064/>

NAVAJO: Amanda Larson pulls up at a water station a few miles from her home in the Navajo Nation, and her three children get to work filling up large bottles lying on the bed of her pickup truck.

The 66 gallons will be used by her family for drinking, washing clothes and bathing — before the next trip out in two or three days to repeat the back-breaking task.

“It’s embarrassing. It’s degrading. It’s heartbreaking for my kids because they can’t jump into a shower like everybody else and just wash,” the 35-year-old preschool teacher tells Agence France Presse (AFP) after returning to her prefabricated home in Thoreau, which lies in the southeast corner of this sovereign territory, the United States’ largest Native American reservation.



IN GRAVE DANGER Members of the Larson family, who have no running water in their home, collect water from a distribution point in the Navajo Nation town of Thoreau. Nearly 2 million residents of the region, where native Americans are located, have no safe water access as workers in the distilling plants were forced to take long leaves caused by the pandemic. AFP PHOTO

“This is how we get ready for school, this is how my husband and I are getting ready for work, in these two totes,” she says, pointing to large plastic containers placed inside the bathtub.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Washing your hands is easy and it’s one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs,” advice it has relentlessly emphasized over the course of the coronavirus pandemic.





## Covid-19 leads to chronic water crisis

That's just not possible for an estimated 30 to 40 percent of the nation's 178,000 residents, who do not have access to running water or sanitation.

This is seen as a major reason behind the surge in coronavirus cases within the territory, with nearly 5,000 confirmed infections and 160 deaths — one of the highest per capita fatality rates in the country. "Water is life," say the Navajo, who prefer to call themselves "Dine" and their land "Dinetah."

The global death toll from the virus mounted to more than 357,000. More than 5.7 million have been confirmed infected since the virus emerged in China late last year.

These three words are spray painted on walls throughout a geographically diverse territory that stretches 27,400 square miles (about the size of Scotland) across Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, a land of arid deserts with striking sandstone formations that give way to high plateaus and alpine forests.

It's a sentiment also reflected in place names: Sweetwater, Many Farms Lake, Willow Spring. But these names often no longer reflect reality.

Rising temperatures and declining rainfall led to a decrease in the area's surface water by an estimated 98 percent over the 20th century, according to a report by water nonprofit DigDeep.

Chronic neglect by the government is another aspect to this story, says George McGraw, who founded DigDeep in 2012 to help communities in Sub-Saharan Africa, but who has since shifted his focus to America.

Starting in the mid-19th century, the US began heavily investing in water and sanitation systems — but an estimated 2 million of America's 330 million people remain unconnected to this day.

"There are these gigantic swaths of the country, mostly black, brown, indigenous and rural, that were bypassed when it came to the major federal infrastructural investment that was made to service the rest of the country," he told AFP.

Native Americans are the hardest hit group: 58 out of every 1,000 households lack complete plumbing, compared to three out of every 1,000 among whites.

The Navajo signed a treaty with the US government in 1868, four years after they were forced from their homeland in a mass deportation called the Long Walk of the Navajo.

In exchange for giving up their resistance to the colonizers, as well as vast tracts of land, they were promised basic necessities such as education and healthcare in perpetuity.

A 1908 Supreme Court judgement emphasized that the creation of reservations also included an implicit right to water sufficient to fulfill the territories' purpose — but left open the thorny question of how much that was, an ambiguity that has prevented enforcement.

By contrast, southwestern states built hundreds of dams in the following decades, creating plentiful supply for their residents, often at the expense of Indian reservations.



# WHO launches global information access portal for COVID-19

By Amanda Watts, CNN

Published May 30, 2020 3:38:50 AM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/5/30/WHO-launches-covid-portal.html>

(CNN) - The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global portal Friday to share COVID-19 information around therapeutics and vaccines.

The COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) “will provide a one-stop shop for scientific knowledge, data and intellectual property to be shared equitably by the global community,” WHO said in a statement.

The pool, first proposed in March by Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado, “will ensure the latest and best science benefits all of humanity — vaccines, tests, diagnostics, treatments and other key tools in the coronavirus response — must be made universally available as global public goods,” he said.

“Science is moving with incredible speed. Almost every day there is more news about research into vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics,” WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a Friday briefing.

Tedros said C-TAP has five priorities: Public disclosure of gene sequencing research, public disclosure of all clinical trial results, encouraging governments and research funders to have equitable distribution of trial data, licensing therapeutics and vaccines to both large and small producers and promoting open technology that increases supply capacity.

WHO is encouraging companies that develop an effective therapeutic to “contribute the patent to the medicines patent pool, which would then sublicense the pattern to generic manufacturers.”

“Science is giving us solutions, but to make the solutions work for everyone - we need solidarity,” Tedros said.



## Where do infectious diseases emerge?

By The Manila Times

May 30, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/05/30/business/green-business/where-do-infectious-diseases-emerge/728188/>

Did you know that wildlife also experience stress? Bushmeat hunting for consumption pushes several terrestrial or land-based mammal species to the brink of extinction while agitating hunted animals.

Hunting is common in developing countries across Southeast Asia, South America and Africa. Traditional medicine, pet trade and ornamental use of animal body parts were also some of the reasons wildlife and other biodiversity are hunted and collected. Live trade for the pet industry and ornamental use of wild animals primarily occur in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia.

Bushmeat is a vital source of food and income in rural areas in Southeast Asia for over 40,000 years. Increasing human population and the continuous destruction and degradation of forests and other habitats have contributed to wildlife hunting to unsustainable levels. The demand for bushmeat increases the risk of transmission of zoonotic diseases from animals to humans through direct contact.

What is zoonosis?

Zoonosis is the transmission of disease from animals to humans. It follows a simple equation: wildlife interaction + increasing demand + habitat conversion = zoonotic diseases.

This risk from handling wildlife has long been acknowledged. This awareness has to lead to the development of standard practices in handling wildlife. Wildlife professionals like biologists and fieldwork technicians are expected to follow personal protective measures, such as the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling wildlife to reduce the chances of zoonosis.

Unfortunately, the use of PPE is not observed in the informal bushmeat trading sector across Asia and Southeast Asia. Markets wherein bushmeat is sold usually do not have guidelines on how to prevent zoonosis.

Moratelli and Calisher in 2015 successfully isolated, among other viruses, the severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus (SARS-CoV) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) from bats.

SARS-CoV is associated with the bushmeat industry across a wide range of host animals. The pathway of transmission of the virus involves bats as primary host followed by transmission to intermediate amplifying hosts, such as palm civets that could transfer it to humans. MERS-CoV, on the other hand, is genetically related to SARS-CoV and also originates from bats, but differs in the intermediate host being camels as a potential source of virus for humans.



## Where do infectious diseases emerge?

### Zoonosis in PH

Demand for bushmeat in the Philippines makes it challenging to limit potential zoonotic transmission of viruses from bat-animal human interactions. In Southern Luzon, civet cats and flying foxes that are sold for P150 per individual (price in 2012). These wildlife are known origins of zoonotic diseases, especially bats. Over 200 viruses have been detected or isolated from bats including coronaviruses by Philippine scientists in just a hot-off-the press scientific journal.

While the threat to public health in the Philippines posed by viruses from bats is currently unknown, research on the subject continues to draw interest. Recent studies suggest that BtCov or Bat coronaviruses has a widespread distribution and diversity in the Philippines.

The most recent BtCoV detected in the Philippines was discovered in Mindanao in 2020 by Nikki Tampon and her team from the University of the Philippines and Nakamura Laboratory in Japan. Their group isolated from a local bat species called Long-tongued nectar bat (*Macroglossus minimus*).

Tampon and her group heavily emphasized the conservation of natural habitats as a means of limiting potential zoonotic transmission by reducing bat-animal human interactions. Their recommendations could not have come at a better time as we face the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 that has infected over 15,000 people and caused more than 900 deaths (as of May 27, 2020) in the Philippines.

### Takeaways

It is important to remember that bats are not the culprit in this volatile situation. Humans are. People keep on encroaching wildlife habitats as with the plight of Lolong, the largest crocodile in captivity.

Do not harm bats in any way. They are pollinators of fruits that we need to improve our health. Bats keep insects at bay such as mosquitos and the like. Also, do not eat or patronize bushmeat in any form.

Finally, keep wildlife in the wild. And together, we will all live in harmony. J. Kahlil Panopio



## Statement of the Civil Service Commission on resumption of work in government offices in GCQ areas

By CSC Published on May 29, 2020

<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1043289>

QUEZON CITY, May 29 -- The Civil Service Commission (CSC) calls on government agencies to undertake the necessary preparations for the reopening of government offices in areas transitioning from Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) to General Community Quarantine (GCQ) such as the National Capital Region.

While the government's efficiency and responsiveness remains inviolable in the middle of this COVID-19 pandemic, this must be balanced with the need to protect the safety and health of the public sector workforce. In this light, the CSC urges heads of agencies to implement precautionary measures prior to resumption of normal operations, such as disinfection and decontamination activities, conduct of health status check among employees, and modification of workplace layout to ensure observance of physical distancing requirements.

Agencies are also mandated to enforce health standard protocol at all times such as wearing of face masks, taking of body temperature, and setting up of sanitation stations, for the protection of both government workers and the citizens transacting inside government offices.

Moreover, support mechanisms, such as health/psychosocial interventions, provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) to employees, and reasonable transportation facilities and housing quarters, should be made available to government workers.

Agencies may adopt alternative working arrangements (AWA) as prescribed under CSC Memorandum Circular No. 10, s. 2020. These are work-from-home arrangement, skeleton workforce, four-day or compressed workweek, and staggered working hours. An agency may also adopt work arrangements consisting of a combination of these, or other work arrangements appropriate and applicable to the agency considering the prevailing community quarantine in the area where it is located and the nature of work performed by its employees.

Truly, these are difficult and critical times. Now more than ever, we, in government, need to reassess the ways we have been doing business, setting goals and targets, managing our people, and evaluating our work performance. We need to move forward with a fresh perspective, knowing that business-as-usual may no longer cut it and that innovation has now become a crucial ingredient not only to meet organizational objectives but also to keep our employees safe, healthy, happy, and committed. To our leaders, managers, and HR officers/practitioners in the public sector, we strongly urge you to work with the CSC in establishing a "better normal" for the bureaucracy.(CSC)



# CSC to govt. agencies: Don't make full workforce report on June 1

By CNN Philippines Staff

Published May 29, 2020 5:26:39 PM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/5/29/csc-discourages-full-workforce-govt-agencies-june-1.html?>

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 29) — The Civil Service Commission is discouraging government agencies from requiring all their employees to report for work starting June 1.

"Wag niyo pong ipa-100% ang mga empleyado sa darating na June 1," Civil Service Commissioner Aileen Lizada advised government agencies in a Laging Handa virtual press briefing on Friday.

[Translation: Do not require 100% attendance from your employees this coming June 1.]

Metro Manila, along with Regions II, III, IV-A, Albay, Pangasinan, and Davao City, will be placed under general community quarantine from June 1 to 15. Government offices have been previously allowed to open in areas under GCQ.

The commissioner reiterated the five alternative working arrangements the commission has provided for state agencies, namely work-from-home, skeleton workforce, compressed workweek, staggered working hours, and other alternative arrangements.

"Ang ginagawa lang ho ng CSC is we are giving the heads of agencies a leeway, an elbow room so that kami, tayo na nasa gobyerno, we will still be able to serve without compromising ang health po ng mga kawani ng gobyerno," she explained.

[Translation: What the CSC is doing is we are giving the heads of agencies leeway, an elbow room so that we government workers will still be able to serve without compromising our health.]

Lizada also asked department heads to require senior citizens, pregnant women and those with comorbidities to work from home.

Heads of agencies must also ensure their workplaces, facilities and vehicles to be used as shuttles for employees are sanitized, she added.

The commissioner also reminded them to strictly implement the wearing of face masks, regular hand washing, provision of sanitation stations and personal protective equipment to their workers, and other health measures indicated in the joint memorandum circular of the CSC and Departments of Health (DOH) and Labor and Employment (DOLE).



## Mt. Apo, other Asian spots featured in new Discovery Channel travel show

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 29 2020 04:46 PM

[https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/05/29/20/mt-apo-other-asian-spots-featured-in-new-discovery-channel-travel-show?fbclid=IwAR2WYhmY7UcHRJly9zkP6CrZ5\\_OSHCX3RRDujPejSUwWWYVAIkcRcYkvnA4](https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/05/29/20/mt-apo-other-asian-spots-featured-in-new-discovery-channel-travel-show?fbclid=IwAR2WYhmY7UcHRJly9zkP6CrZ5_OSHCX3RRDujPejSUwWWYVAIkcRcYkvnA4)



Ryan Pyle is the host of "Expedition Asia." Handout

MANILA -- Canadian adventurer Ryan Pyle hopes that his new travel show will help fuel people's wanderlust amid quarantines imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pyle is the host of "Expedition Asia," a 10-episode series that will premiere on Discovery Channel (SD Channel 39 and HD 180 for Skycable subscribers, and SD Channel 28 for Skydirect subscribers) at 9:50 p.m. on June 2.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News, Pyle said he considers his visit to Mt. Apo in Mindanao as one of the highlights of the show as he was wowed by the Philippines' highest mountain.

"Our Philippine episode was actually the first episode we filmed for the whole series, all 10 episodes," he said. "So it was a great way to kind of start our momentum for just trying to get 10 expeditions done in 10 months, which was an incredibly challenging schedule."

"I had no idea that the Philippines had a 3,000-meter mountain," he added. "The Philippines is mainly marketed as a beach and holiday destination, at least that's the kind of media that I've seen over the last decade or so while I was living in China for 16 years... But when I found out that you can climb a mountain and there's a 3,000-plus meter mountain in Mindanao near Davao, I was super excited. I was like, wow!"

Pyle went on to heap praise on the Filipino brand of hospitality: "The people are just so warm and welcoming and hospitable. And the people that we climbed the mountain with, Albert and his team, were wonderful. So we just had, you know, the greatest experience."



## Mt. Apo, other Asian spots featured in new Discovery Channel travel show

Aside from the Philippines, "Expedition Asia" will also feature China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Taiwan, and Thailand.

Pyle hopes that his show will "brighten perspectives" amid a bleak future painted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I hope that this show fuels people's wanderlust and gets people excited to travel around in Asia again when it's possible. I think that this is the show that people need now," he said.

"I really wish that the pandemic had never happened, and I'd still be working... But the fact that everyone's home right now and now they get to watch a show like 'Expedition Asia,' I feel it's going to show people why we love traveling, and hopefully get people really excited about what's possible."



Ryan Pyle films an episode in the Philippines. Handout

Get to know Pyle more through these excerpts from his interview with ABS-CBN News:

Q: When did your love for travel start? What was the one trip or experience that changed everything for you?

A: "In 2001, I graduated from the University of Toronto and I had the opportunity to travel to China. That was really my first trip to Asia and my first trip right after university. I think I did a three-month trip all around China backpacking and travelling around on public transportation. That journey really changed my life and made me want to become a storyteller, want to be someone who travelled often. I met lots of new people, experienced lots of new things, and then that journey got me into writing and photography. From there, I moved now into television. So that initial trip to China in 2001 was really really special for me and my development."





## Mt. Apo, other Asian spots featured in new Discovery Channel travel show

Q: How, in your opinion, can travel affect a person's life? Why do you think a person should travel at least once? What's the most important lesson you've learned in your travels?

A: "I think travelling allows people to grow and gives them a greater sense of who they are and also how they fit in the world. Travelling is really important and I think people should travel much more than just once. I think when you travel, you learn how other people live, and I also think you also learn a lot about yourself. I think these two things are really important for us to be just better human beings because, obviously, if we go through life and we only understand our way of life, or the things that are familiar to us, then we're missing out. And also, we don't understand the way other people live, and then maybe that will cause some misjudgments. This is how things like racism pop up, and I think this kind of stuff is terrible. I hope we can all travel a lot more and have a greater understanding for the way other people live, and hopefully make us all a nicer planet."

"I think you should go to countries that you don't know or understand. I mean, yeah, you can go and have a beach holiday, that's fine. But, you know, I think you should try to engage in learning things when you travel. I think it can be much more rewarding. That's how I use my television shows. I go to countries I don't understand or I want to learn more about, or I've seen something once and I want to know more. I have a very curious mind. My mind is always interested in new things, so that's how I see it. Everyone sees it differently. A lot of people hate traveling, they find it very stressful. They find going to the airport and being in an airplane and traveling and landing in a country where they don't speak the language -- they find that all very stressful. I love it. New challenges, new opportunities, new problem solving skills, these are all things that keep me interested in waking up every day."

Q: What have you been doing lately given the lockdown and other travel restrictions in place?

A: "I was filming another television series in Ethiopia in East Africa when the world kind of all closed its borders. I was able to get out of Ethiopia and I ended up here in Istanbul because my home in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, had closed their borders and I was not able to go home. So, I'm here in Istanbul. I've been here for eight weeks. I was staying in a hotel but now I've rented an apartment 'cause I feel like I'm gonna be here a while longer until the world starts to open up again. It's very sad not to travel but, obviously, it's not safe to travel at the moment so I understand."



## Mt. Apo, other Asian spots featured in new Discovery Channel travel show

"What have I been doing to stay busy? Well, I started this Instagram live series called 'The COVID Calls,' and I do them every day. Sometimes one, sometimes two. I talk with my friends, I talk with academics, I talk with other creative people in film and television. I just chat with my friends, and I do that once or twice a day for an hour on Instagram Live. That's just a way of keeping me busy. Then I put those interviews on my YouTube channel. I've also just launched a podcast, which can be found on Apple Podcast and Spotify... I'm a content creator. I love talking to my audience, and I love trying to do as much as I can, learn as much as I can. While I can't travel, I've just been using social media to do that and to keep people entertained."

Q: What do you think is the future of travel given the pandemic?

"This is actually really scary because no one really knows what's going on or how long it's gonna last. But I think the one thing that's very clear is I think that travel's going to get a lot more expensive. Because I don't think we're all going to be able to sit next to each other on airplanes. We're all going to need more space, and I think when people need more space, everything gets more expensive. I'm very fearful that air tickets will increase significantly. I'm very fearful that hotels will increase significantly because they might have less guests. With all these prices increasing, it's just going to put travel out of many people's reach 'cause they just won't be able to afford it."

"Yeah, I think that this is going to affect the way we travel, this is going to affect the way we live. I don't know how it's going to be, but I don't think it's going to be as free and fun as 2019 was. I'm trying to stay positive and I'm staying busy, but the future is going to be different and I don't see it being a 'better' different. Maybe the earth will be much cleaner and the environment will be more protected if we're less busy, and that could be the one great thing that comes out of this. Just better appreciation and less environmental destruction."

Q: Can you invite your viewers in the Philippines to watch your show?

"For all my friends in the Philippines and everyone, tune in to 'Expedition Asia' with me, your host, Ryan Pyle. We'll get to see some of the best overland treks that Asia offers. I miss all my friends in the Philippines and I hope everyone is safe and healthy during these challenging times."



## NCIP forms task force to assist stranded IPs amid Metro Manila quarantine

Published May 29, 2020 1:29pm

By JAMIL SANTOS, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/740336/ncip-forms-task-force-to-assist-stranded-ips-amid-metro-manila-quarantine/story/>

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) has formed a task force to assist indigenous peoples (IP) who were stranded in Metro Manila following the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine.

At the Laging Handa public briefing on Friday, NCIP-Central Mindanao Commissioner Jennifer Pia Sibug-Las said they have given aid to IP workers affected by the "no work, no pay" policy through the "Oplan Bayanihan for Stranded IPs."

Sibug-Las said they have identified 3,121 stranded IPs in Metro Manila.

"However, dahil po sa mga challenges, like we have to personally go to their respective na kung saan sila, nahihirapan din po kami dahil iisa-isahin namin 'yung kung saan sila nakatira," she said.

Sibug-Las said the NCIP has so far served 937 IPs and yet to assist the remaining 2,184 IPs.

"The number of stranded IPs 'yung reported sa amin are growing every day," she said.

Commissioner Gaspar Cayat said the NCIP has sought assistance from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Department of Transportation (DOTr) and other government agencies to send the indigenous peoples back to their provinces.

Cayat meanwhile cited intelligence reports that "communist-terrorist" groups continue to recruit IPs, saying 80% of the New People's Army are from this sector.

Cayat also cited incidents in the Cordillera Region and in some parts of the Visayas and Mindanao where IPs did not accept their Social Amelioration Program due to their belief that they do not need assistance if they have the ability to provide for themselves and help other IPs.

"Kaya minsan 'pag sabi nila, 'Karamihan ng mga indigenous peoples nahihirapan eh bakit ayaw pa nilang tanggapin?' Meron po kasi kaming paniniwala, halimbawa ang local term na 'Inayan,' na hindi mo basta tanggapin kung alam mo na kaya mong kumain, kaya mong tulungan ang iyong mga kasamahan na indigenous peoples kaya po merong ganoon na istorya," Cayat said.

Cayat said the NCIP has also helped indigenous peoples sell their farm harvests. --KBK, GMA News



## B2P Program mabibigo kung walang libreng pamamahagi ng lupa at tunay na rural development- KMP

May 29, 2020 @ 5:52 PM

<https://remate.ph/b2p-program-mabibigo-kung-walang-libreng-pamamahagi-ng-lupa-at-tunay-na-rural-development-kmp/>

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ng Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) na mabibigo umano ang Balik Probinsya Bagong Pag-asa Program (BP2) ng national government upang mapaluwag ang nagsisiksikan residente sa Metro Manila kung walang libreng pamamahagi ng lupa at tunay na development sa kanayunan.

Ayon sa KMP na dapat umanong magkaroon ng political will ang pamahalaan upang magtagumpay programa ng Balik Probinsya program at dapat umanong nakabatay ito sa libreng pamamahagi ng lupa sa mga magsasaka upang mapalakas ang agriculture at rural development sa kanayunan.

“This is not the case for Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa. We do not see any glimmer of hope in this new program,” ayon kay Danilo Ramos, chaiperson of KMP.

Ayon sa programa sinabi ng KMP na ang pamahalaan ay dapat suportahan ang transportasyon, kabuhayan, pabahay at edukasyon na siyang pangangailangan ng informal settlers na dapat maging bahagi ng Balik Probinsya program.

Sinabi pa ng KMP na hindi rin binanggit sa programa ang komprehensibong socio-economic plan para sa pangmatagalang resettlement ng urban poor sa mga lalawigan.

“Pagbalik sa probinsya, walang trabaho, walang lupa na masasaka para sa mga maralita, apektado pa ng militarisasyon. Kasing hirap na kalagayan ang dadatnan ng mga maralitang tagalunsod sa Balik Probinsya Program, ayon pa kay Ramos. Santi Celario



# Gas firms back LPG bill

By Jordeene B. Lagare

May 30, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/05/30/business/business-top/gas-firms-back-lpg-bill/728205/>

AN association of petroleum companies is urging Congress to pass a bill regulating the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) industry in the country.

In a statement on Thursday, the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (IPPCA) said it was strongly supporting Senate Bill 1188, or the “LPG Act,” which seeks to establish a national energy policy and regulatory framework for the LPG sector.

“The bill is principally geared to ensure the health, safety and security of LPG users, and address rampant industry malpractices, [such as] illegal refilling, which endangers consumers due to nonconforming safety standards, and shortchanging by underfilling the cylinders,” IPPCA President Fernando Martinez said.

“Appropriate penalties are enumerated with each prohibited act, which can discourage these rampant illegal practices,” he added.

According to Martinez, fires and explosions may continue unless existing laws on the LPG industry are overhauled.

“While March every year has been officially declared as Fire Prevention Month, [fires] caused by various sources, [including LPG-related fires and explosions], continue to happen and victimize thousands of Filipino households,” he said.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, who leads the Senate energy committee, said his sponsored bill intends to institute reforms in the industry; address concerns in health, safety, security and the environment; and ensure that consumer welfare remains paramount.

Under the measure, the Department of Energy (DoE) will be tasked to regulate, supervise and monitor LPG industry participants. It would also sharpen the department’s capacity to implement and ensure compliance with the quality and safety standards prescribed in the Philippine National Standards.

LPG players would be required to secure a license to operate for a specific activity before they begin commercial operations. The DoE will have the sole authority to issue such licenses, which will be valid for three years.

Violators will be fined between P5,000 and P10 million, depending on the offense.

Penalties also include the suspension of the license, permanent disqualification from engaging in any activity as an industry participant, impounding of LPG products and imprisonment, depending on the violation.

“The association similarly offered its help [to disseminate information] once the bill is enacted to help consumers minimized fire and explosions attributable to LPG use,” Martinez said.