



DENR-9 frees Philippine tarsier in Zambo Norte

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. June 4, 2020, 7:54 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1104916>



BACK TO WILD. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 9 releases Wednesday (June 3, 2020) a Philippine tarsier into the wild at Jose Rizal Memorial Protected Landscape in Barangay Talisay, Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte. The tarsier was rescued in Barangay San Pedro, Polanco, in the same province. (Photo courtesy of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte)

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 9 (DENR-9) has released Wednesday a Philippine tarsier (*Tarsius Syrichta*) into the wild in the province of Zamboanga del Norte.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR-9 information officer, said Thursday that the Philippine tarsier was released at the Jose Rizal Memorial Protected Landscape, in Barangay Talisay, Dapitan City.

Tan said the tarsier was rescued by Cheenee Cagbabanua of Barangay San Pedro, Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte, who saw some children playing with the wildlife.

Known of Zamboanga del Norte folks as “basing”, the female tarsier measures 8.5 centimeters (cm) in length.

Tan said the release of tarsier Wednesday was the second for this year.

He said the first release, a mother-infant Philippine tarsier, was in April by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte.

In 2008, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Assessment classified the Philippine tarsier as near threatened species due to the significant decline of its population.



DENR-9 frees Philippine tarsier in Zambo Norte

One of the factors to its decline is the loss of its habitat due to deforestation.

Meanwhile, Tan said a rare and endangered Philippine eagle was recently released in the wild in Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte.

He said the eagle was rescued on April 16 by Nito Bigog and Romeo Dumencil, the barangay chairperson of Bulacan, Siocon, an adjacent town of Baliguian.

The DENR-9 reminded the public that possession of wildlife without a permit is punishable under Republic Act 9147 otherwise known as the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act." (PNA)



Rehabilitated Philippine eagle released

Published June 4, 2020, 3:09 PM

By Gabriela Baron

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/04/rehabilitated-philippine-eagle-released/>



The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) released a successfully rehabilitated Philippine eagle in a protected area. (Screencap from Philippine Eagle Foundation)

The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) rescued the eagle in Siocon Town, Zamboanga del Norte in April.

“It’s news like this that fills our hearts with hope for our national bird. What a great way to welcome Philippine Eagle Week,” PEF wrote on Facebook.

The eagle was released with a GPS/GSM transmitter.

“Big thanks to our conservation partner USAID (United States Agency for International Development) Protect Wildlife Project for supporting our eagle conservation efforts in Zamboanga Peninsula,” PEF added.

PEF is a non-profit organization in Davao City, Davao del Sur dedicated to saving the endangered Philippine eagle.



JUNE 5, 2020 5:00AM

https://www.facebook.com/792307834226387/posts/1808140162643144/



Philippine Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network

13 hrs · 🌐

Lion and tiger for sale during the pandemic. How about that. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

12:28



Shaina Izzbelle posted an item for sale. 2 hrs · 🌐

Oh ito pa isa mga beshywaps. Syempre pag may tigre, dapat may Leon din. 🐾🐾 African breed Lion po.

✔️ With complete papers 📄

Mag-2 months old palang po siya sa June 15. 🐾🐾

Willing to deliver po kami. 🐾

PM PM nalang mga bes. 🐾🐾



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Shaina Izzbelle



Shaina Izzbelle

Yesterday at 9:26 pm · 🌐

I got the eye of the TIGER, a fighter, dancing through the fire. I am the champion and you're gonna hear me ROOOOOOAAARRR, ROOOOOOAAARRR, ROOOOOOAAARRR.

Yes po! Opo! This adorable creature is FOR SALE. ✔️ WITH COMPLETE PAPERS.

PM IS THE KEY MGA BESHYWAPS 🐾🐾

Edit: 2 months old palang po siya dito sa picture na to. Ngayon, 3 months old na po siya. 🐾🐾 And yes, willing to deliver po kami. 🐾

Edit: Big discount po for sure buyers. 🐾🐾



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83

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7



Philippine Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network Where is the paper? Let's allow the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to determine if the owner is really allowed to sell the wildlife.

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6



JUNE 5, 2020 5:00AM

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Philippine Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network

18 hrs · 🌐



The Republic Act No. 9147 explicitly prohibits catching wildlife without permission from the #DENR

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ... See More



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2 hrs · 🌐



Good morning alimukon kau Jan
Now lng nhuli



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9 Shares



Review law on protected areas, Palawan execs urged

By: Jhesset O. Enano - Reporter / @JhessetEnanoINQ

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:20 AM June 05, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1286498/review-law-on-protected-areas-palawan-execs-urged>

An environmental law group has asked the provincial government of Palawan to suspend the implementation of an ordinance creating a new council that will oversee the management of protected areas in the province.

In a letter addressed to Palawan Gov. Jose Alvarez, Vice Gov. Dennis Socrates and members of the provincial board, the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (Elac) also sought the reconsideration of the rationale and purpose of Provincial Ordinance No. 2210, which was approved in February.

The ordinance provides for the creation of the Palawan Council for Protected Areas Management (PCPAM), which, among other objectives, will “empower the chief executive of the province of Palawan to effectively and efficiently manage the various protected areas in the province.”

Lawyer Grizelda Mayo-Anda, Elac executive director, said that while her group respected the interest of the provincial government in taking an active role in managing the province’s protected areas, any local law must be consistent with existing statutes and policies concerning these areas.

“While Provincial Ordinance 2210 anchors its legal basis on Section 16, Article 2 of the Constitution and Section 16 of (Republic Act No.) 7160 (Local Government Code), we submit that such basis is wanting when it comes to protected areas,” Mayo-Anda said in the letter sent on Wednesday.



Puerto Princesa Underground River. —ROBERT JAWORSKI ABAÑO
Special laws



Review law on protected areas, Palawan execs urged

The management of protected areas, said Elac, is already enshrined in special laws, such as the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) law, which amended a 1992 legislation on protected areas, and the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan (SEP).

Under ENIPAS law, a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), a multisectoral body which includes local governments, oversees the management and governance of a particular protected area.

The ordinance did not cite these laws in its legal basis.

Protected areas refer to identified portions of land and/or water “set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological diversity” and are protected against destructive human exploitation.

The ENIPAS law, signed by President Duterte in 2018, declared 94 protected areas as national parks, putting them under government protection and management. More than 100 areas were previously declared national parks through presidential proclamations.

However, not a single Palawan protected site, including the Puerto Princesa Underground River, El Nido Marine Reserve and Malampaya Sound, was included in the ENIPAS law.

In 2015, Alvarez argued that the SEP law was enough for the province to manage its protected areas.

Yet even with its exclusion, Palawan’s protected areas are not exempted from the framework provided under ENIPAS, said Mayo-Anda.

“There is an overlap as far as governance and institutional arrangements are concerned,” she told the Inquirer.

Carrying capacity

But Board Member Al Rama reiterated Thursday that the ordinance, which he authored, was in harmony with existing laws.

The ordinance, he said, merely organizes several environmental management boards under the new local council for “effective future management.”

“There is no overlap,” he said, noting that the Palawan Council for Protected Areas Management would ensure “coordination and collaboration between the protected areas.”



Review law on protected areas, Palawan execs urged

“Due to the heavy workload of the existing agencies, it seems like they haven’t given priority to the aspect that we want to happen in the ordinance,” he said.

One of the ordinance’s objectives is to “determine the carrying capacity of Palawan” so the provincial government can identify the “resources needed to support the population,” Rama said.

“For example, if we anticipate increase in our population, let’s say 5 million, we can quantify how many watersheds we need to protect,” he added.

Among the functions of the proposed council include determining of an “optimum area” to be maintained as protected area to sustain 5 million Palaweños until 2064, formulating policies and management strategies, and facilitating the provision of financial support for the council’s operation and the management of the protected areas.

The provincial government of Palawan would sit as chair of the council, while the regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would serve as vice chair.

Mayo-Anda, however, was unsure whether the provincial government was in the best position to care for these protected areas despite local officials’ “strong desire” to take the lead.

The DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) welcomed the ordinance.

“I don’t see any conflict,” said BMB director Ricardo Calderon, adding that the creation of the council might lead to the legislation of protected areas in the province. WITH A REPORT FROM ROMAR MIRANDA



Environmental emergency and climate justice resolutions clear House special panel

Published June 4, 2020, 4:08 PM

By Charissa Luci-Atienza

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/04/environmental-emergency-and-climate-justice-resolutions-clear-house-special-panel/>

The House Special Committee on Climate Change approved on Thursday, June 4, twin resolutions seeking to declare a climate and environmental emergency, and placing climate urgency at the center of all policy-decision making from a local to national level.

During a virtual meeting, the House panel, chaired by Bohol 1st district Rep. Edgar Chatto adopted House Resolution No. 724, authored by Deputy Speaker and Antique lone district Rep. Loren Legarda, and House Resolution No. 761, filed by Chatto.

It was Masbate 2nd district Rep. Elisa “Olga” Kho who moved for the adoption of the two resolutions. The motion was seconded by Negros Oriental 1st district Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong.

“There have been serious calls for climate justice and declaration of climate emergency. If the world and governments especially in industrialized nations took climate change mitigation and adaptation seriously with great dispatch and urgency as we have seen in our fight against COVID-19 then perhaps, humanity is in better state of well-being and virus-free. Ironically, COVID-19 is showing us that we can save Mother Earth if all peoples of the world, we change behaviors, if governments and nations across the globe would act on climate emergency seriously and decisively,” Chatto said in his opening speech.

He said in declaring a climate emergency, a government admits that global warming exists and that the measures taken up to this point are not enough to limit the changes brought by it. “The decision stresses the need for the government and administration to devise measures that try and stop human-caused global warming,” he said.

Under HR 761, local government units (LGUs) are encouraged to issue Climate Change declarations within their respective jurisdiction.

It also tasked the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to come up with a climate risk assessment of the country after collecting and consolidating data from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE), an advisory body of the CCC.



Environmental emergency and climate justice resolutions clear House special panel

Chatto's resolution also calls on major carbon emitters locally and abroad to take responsibility for climate change and to reinvest in renewable and sustainable energy. It also calls on the LGUs to adopt a "No to Coal" or "No to New Coal Policy" within their respective jurisdictions.

For her part, Legarda sought the mobilization of government agencies and instrumentalities and local government units (LGUs) toward the effective implementation of Environmental, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management laws.

She even called on Congress to determine the effective use of public funds in the implementation of the environmental, climate, and disaster risk reduction laws, which will redound to the benefit of the next generations.

"There is a growing consensus that the entire planet is under climate emergency and that failure to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and to build the adaptive capacities of communities to climate change would lead to unprecedented loss to human society, environment, and global economy," Legarda stressed.

HR 724 encourages the implementation of the CCC's National Climate Risk Management Framework (NCRMF) for national government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to produce baseline studies and conduct climate risk assessments that consider future climate impacts and scenarios.

Legarda's resolution also urges "the government and LGUs to urgently mobilize and effectively implement existing laws on environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management in the country."

Climate Change Commission Secretary Emmanuel De Guzman expressed "unequivocal" support to the two resolutions, which he said "call for emergency action to save our communities and economy from the clear and present danger of climate change."

"Your House Resolutions, your Honors, similarly demand a resolute emergency response—to reform our ways so that we may survive and thrive amid climate change," he said.

Representatives from the DENR, DA, civil society organizations, and pro-environmental groups such as Greenpeace rallied behind the immediate approval of the two House resolutions.

After the resolutions' approval, Chatto directed the Committee Secretariat to draft the committee report and consolidate HRs 724 and 761 for plenary consideration and passage.



Triple threat: biodiversity, climate, crisis

By: Kim Jensen - @inquirerdotnet

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:10 AM June 05, 2020

<https://opinion.inquirer.net/130468/triple-threat-biodiversity-climate-crisis>

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a wake-up call globally. It is a silent reminder that we are at a tipping point of two of the world's greatest yet invisible enemies—climate change and biodiversity loss.

These three global challenges are interlinked, through the destructive relationship between humanity and the natural world. Researchers are suggesting a link between humanity's destruction of biodiversity and the conditions conducive for new viruses and diseases such as COVID-19 that were once contained in the wild.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented crisis, it is not the first one to be tied back to human activities. It can be seen around the globe in different forms—from bushfires in Brazil, the United States, and Australia to locust infestations across East Africa and India.

To mobilize greater action toward the issue, this year's World Environment Day focuses on the theme of biodiversity, and the urgent need to protect it.

Climate action and biodiversity. Climate change is a major culprit of biodiversity loss. Rampant use of fossil fuels and increased energy consumption have led to greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet. Consequently, climate patterns are fluctuating, leading to biodiversity loss and disruption of natural habitats, leaving us exposed to biological disasters.

Businesses and industries are increasingly playing their part in transitioning to a green economy. Last month, more than 155 companies across 33 countries, including Grundfos, signed a statement urging governments to align their COVID-19 economic aid and recovery efforts with the latest climate science.

Such efforts need to extend to all sectors and levels to redirect our actions to mitigate climate change and safeguard ourselves against future biological disasters.

Sustainability in innovation. Reducing our carbon footprint is the foundation of climate action movements and key to building a sustainable future. The main contributor of carbon emissions is energy consumption. Nearly every process around us consumes energy—from HVAC systems in buildings to industrial processes such as water treatment. Within these systems, pumps are responsible for 10 percent of the global electricity consumption. However, with pumps often hidden from sight, few realize the environmental potential of replacing inefficient pumps.



Triple threat: biodiversity, climate, crisis

The digital era has equipped us with capabilities to drive significant efficiencies in our systems to combat climate change

and protect our natural environment. For instance, pump manufacturers are developing intelligent solutions that are more intuitive and interconnected, optimizing water and energy efficiency in pumps for a range of applications.

Similarly, it is critical that all players—from organizations to individuals—think innovatively and ensure that the systems and solutions they have in place are energy- and resource-efficient.

Building resilience. Reducing the impact of human activities on nature also plays a key role in maintaining our resilience during crises. For instance, water is a critical tool in our fight against COVID-19 for drinking and food production, as well as personal hygiene and medical care. However, with climate change leading to extreme weather events such as storms and droughts, water access in many areas of the world has been affected.

To ensure that we have these resources at our disposal, we need to be more conscientious in their usage. Industries can look at treating and reusing wastewater instead of taking in new water, which would help save water for the community. Such measures would also help preserve water for the survival of our biodiversity, preventing a domino effect and mitigating our susceptibility to future biological disasters.

Moving forward. We are at the tip of the iceberg, and if we do not reconsider our approach to the climate crisis, it will continue to have a knock-on effect on future epidemics and global crises. Addressing biodiversity loss, like so many other things, seems to have been shunted aside by the coronavirus outbreak. In fact, it is more important now than ever to keep it front and center.

Kim Jensen is group senior vice president and regional managing director of Grundfos Asia Pacific Region.



Pampanga's quarry income to augment fund vs. Covid-19

By Marna Dagumboy Del Rosario June 4, 2020, 6:23 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1104935>



QUARRY INCOME. The provincial government of Pampanga will use income sourced from quarrying in its fight against Covid-19. Governor Dennis Pineda said on Thursday, June 4, 2020 that the income from taxes and fees in quarrying will be put into the provincial government's general fund to help combat the dreaded disease.
(Contributed photo)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The provincial government here will use income sourced from quarrying in its fight against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

Governor Dennis Pineda said on Thursday the income from taxes and fees in quarrying will be put into the provincial government's general fund to help contain the dreaded disease.

“Capitol is earning income from our quarry collections. That income, which is put into our general fund, increases our funds for services, including our efforts to control the spread of coronavirus and give support to families who have lost their sources of income during this crisis,” Pineda said in a statement.

Quarry collections averaged PHP50 million per month, pegged at PHP404.14 million from July 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020; PHP57.120 million in February and PHP32.220 million up to March 16.

Estimated losses from the freeze in quarry hauling, amounted to PHP100 million since the quarantine against Covid-19 started on March 16.

However, the provincial government has collected PHP32.060 million in taxes and fees since the quarrying of Mt. Pinatubo's sand and stones was allowed to resume and the construction sector restarted from May 18 to 29.

“Next year, we expect to get minimal shares from national taxes due to the impact of Covid-19 on businesses and economy. Capitol's quarry income will help us through,” Pineda said. (PNA)



Eagle Cement continues to support 18,000 families in host communities

posted June 04, 2020 at 10:15 pm

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/325279>

As COVID-19 restrictions ease across the country, Eagle Cement Corporation said it will continue to serve the needs of vulnerable communities around its facilities as it provides immediate food relief for 18,000 families economically-displaced by the pandemic.

To date, the local cement manufacturer has distributed a total of 21,000 food packs consisting of rice and canned food for two weeks for a family of four in its host communities in Bulacan and Cebu.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our country, Eagle is committed to continue helping our partner communities where we operate, during the crisis and beyond. We were able to expand the reach of our relief operations and extend assistance to more people in need including local frontliners in Bulacan and to families in our community in Cebu,” said Eagle Cement Corp. chairman Ramon Ang.

With the support of its employees, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, local government units, and community leaders, the cement firm has been providing assistance to 34 barangays within the municipalities of San Ildefonso, Doña Remedios Trinidad, and San Rafael in Bulacan, as well as in two barangays in Malabuyoc, Cebu where Eagle’s fourth integrated production line is intended to be established.

Apart from vulnerable families, Eagle also extended help to frontline workers, including healthcare practitioners and ancillary employees of healthcare institutions like maintenance and administrative staff; public school employees; firefighters; military; police; and other disaster response officers. The beneficiaries now also include religious organizations, orphanages, and indigenous peoples.

“We will continue to provide support in whatever way we can moving forward to help our communities in Bulacan and Cebu navigate this crisis,” Ang said.

Meanwhile, the company continues to address the health and hygiene needs of the residents by providing free water supply and hygiene products such as bath soaps and hand sanitizers.

“The livelihood of many residents in our communities have been affected by this pandemic and they currently do not have the means to provide for their families. We hope that our relief operations are able to help them in addressing their crucial needs during this vulnerable time. No matter what crisis our fellow country may experience, Filipinos can rely on Eagle to support them,” Ang added.



DOH resumes anti-malaria drug trial for COVID

Mayen Jaymalin

June 5, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/05/2018806/doh-resumes-anti-malaria-drug-trial-covid>



“We will include again hydroxychloroquine in our treatment program (for the Solidarity Trial) because this is in accordance with the opinion of experts of the WHO,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said at a virtual press briefing yesterday.

pna.gov.ph

MANILA, Philippines — Despite safety concerns raised by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine as possible treatment for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Philippines is set to resume trials on the drug.

“We will include again hydroxychloroquine in our treatment program (for the Solidarity Trial) because this is in accordance with the opinion of experts of the WHO,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said at a virtual press briefing yesterday.

“We will adhere to them so we will continue using this investigational drug,” Vergeire added.

Due to safety concerns, the WHO temporarily halted the trial of hydroxychloroquine, but lifted the suspension after review of available data.

Following WHO’s decision, Vergeire said the DOH will again include hydroxychloroquine in the trial.

Vergeire reported that there are now 200 COVID patients in the country participating in the WHO-initiated solidarity trial to find a cure for COVID.

Four investigational drugs – remdesivir; antimalarial drug chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine; antiretroviral drugs used to treat HIV Lopinavir with Ritonavir; and Lopinavir with Ritonavir plus Interferon beta-1a-are included in the trial.



DOH resumes anti-malaria drug trial for COVID

“Out of 24 participating hospitals, 20 of them already have active recruitment of patients to be included in this trial. Overall, we already have a total of 220 patients enrolled,” Vergeire disclosed.

She said strict criteria caused the delay in the selection for the 500 slots for Filipino COVID patients participating in the solidarity trial.

“Since we are using investigational drugs, it has its own adverse reactions to patients. So we need to extensively talk to them and their relatives in order for us to get their informed consent, which is necessary for them to be enrolled,” Vergeire explained.

Among the stringent qualifications and criteria for solidarity trial participants are those not younger than 18 years with no pre-existing conditions.

“We have a list of criteria and not everyone who wants to join can join if they do not meet these criteria,” the health official pointed out.

Aside from the solidarity trial, DOH is also supporting the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)’s ongoing trial to test the efficacy of virgin coconut oil, tawa-tawa and lagundi as potential cure for COVID.

“Of course, we will support this so that we can determine if we can use this in our community,” Vergeire said, adding the DOH is ready to provide technical assistance to the DOST.

A Filipino-American with roots in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan helped develop the very promising drug remdesivir, one of the promising drugs now under clinical trials to treat COVID-19 patients. Delon Porcalla



Hydroxychloroquine ineffective at preventing COVID-19: trial

posted June 04, 2020 at 11:00 am by AFP

<https://manilastandard.net/news/top-stories/325219/hydroxychloroquine-ineffective-at-preventing-covid-19-trial.html>

Taking hydroxychloroquine shortly after being exposed to COVID-19 does not help prevent infection in a statistically meaningful way, scientists reported Wednesday following a clinical trial.



In this file photo taken on May 20, 2020 a bottle and pills of Hydroxychloroquine sit on a counter at Rock Canyon Pharmacy in Provo, Utah. The World Health Organization announced on June 3, 2020 that clinical trials of the drug hydroxychloroquine will resume as it searches for potential coronavirus treatments. On May 25, the WHO announced it had temporarily suspended the trials to conduct a safety review, which has now concluded there is "no reason" to change the way the trials are conducted. The UN health agency's decision came after a study published in The Lancet medical journal suggesting the drug could increase the risk of death among COVID-19 patients. AFP

The medicine has been touted by US President Donald Trump, who has said he used it as a prophylaxis against the novel coronavirus.

But an experiment involving 821 people across the United States and Canada showed it did not work significantly better than a placebo for this purpose.

The study was led by a team at the University of Minnesota, and their paper was published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Researchers enrolled adults who had come into contact with someone who had a confirmed case of COVID-19 for more than 10 minutes at a distance of six feet (about two meters) or less.

The majority of them—719—were deemed to have had "high-risk" exposure because they wore neither a face mask nor an eye shield at the time, while the rest were "moderate-risk" because they covered their face but did not have goggles.

All participants were randomly assigned to receive either hydroxychloroquine—which is certified for use against malaria, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus—or a placebo, within four days.



Hydroxychloroquine ineffective at preventing COVID-19: trial

The researchers then looked at how many patients went on to develop COVID-19 over the next two weeks, which was confirmed either by a laboratory test or by clinical signs.

They found that 49 of the 414 given the medicine got the disease caused by the coronavirus, compared to 58 of the 407 on the placebo.

This translates to 11.83 percent on the drug were infected, versus 14.25 percent on the placebo.

The absolute difference of about 2.4 percentage points in favor of the medicine was not considered statistically significant given the sample size, meaning it could have occurred because of chance.

Side effects were more common with hydroxychloroquine than with the placebo -- 40.1 percent versus 16.8 percent -- but no serious adverse reactions were reported.

"This randomized trial did not demonstrate a significant benefit of hydroxychloroquine as postexposure prophylaxis for COVID-19," wrote the authors.

The results of the study were eagerly awaited because it was a randomized controlled trial (RCT), a carefully designed experiment that is considered the gold standard for investigating clinical outcomes.

Several previous studies on the drug that have made headlines were "observational," meaning they looked back at what had already happened. As such, more variables are left to chance and it is generally harder to draw firm conclusions.

Nevertheless, Martin Landray, a professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Oxford, said more research was needed to know for sure whether hydroxychloroquine might have a moderately positive effect.

"The study is too small to be definitive," said Landray, who was not involved in the trial.

The results "makes it very unlikely that there is a large effect (e.g. a halving in the risk of infection) but cannot rule out a more modest difference (e.g. a reduction of one-quarter or one-third) which would still be very valuable," he added.



VIRGIN COCONUT OIL NG PINAS, HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE NG US VS COVID-19

June 4, 2020 @ 1:30 PM

<https://remate.ph/virgin-coconut-oil-ng-pinas-hydroxychloroquine-ng-us-vs-covid-19/>



Ilang linggo na ang nakararaan, ipinagmalaki ni American President Donald Trump na ang imbentong-Kano noong pang 1955 na Hydroxychloroquine na laban sa malaria, lupus at rayuma ay epektib din laban sa coronavirus disease-19.

Siyempre pa, biglang dumami ang nagbilihan hanggang sa magkaubusan ito sa merkado, gaya ng pagkaubos ng face mask, alkohol at hand sanitizer sa mahal kong Pinas dahil sa COVID-19.

Maraming bansa kasi, kasama ang Italia, ang nagkainteres na gumamit nito lalo't isa ito sa labis na sinalanta ng COVID-19 sa pagkakaroon na ng 279,856 kumpirmado at 39,728 patay simula noong buwan ng Marso 2020.

TINESTING NGUNIT KULANG

Maraming siyentista at doktor ang hindi basta kumagat sa pinagsasabi ni Trump ukol sa Hydroxychloroquine.

Ang ginawa mismo sa US, kumuha sila ng mahigit 800 katao at nag-testing.

Kumuha sila ng mahigit 400 sa nasabing 800 tao na posibleng mahawaan ng serious na COVID-19 dahil sa hindi paggamit ng face mask at google sa mata.

Anak ng tokwa, sa mahigit 400, 49 ang natuluyan.

Kaya sabi ng mga siyentista, waepek ang Hydroxychloroquine.

Kumbaga sa Pinas, ang Hydroxychloroquine ay tinimbang ngunit kulang!

NAKAMAMATAY

Pero ang isang nakatatakot, mga Bro, kapag uminom ka pala ng gamot na ito, mag-iiba ang bilis ng tibok ng iyong puso.

Maaaring sobra ang bilis nito o kaya'y sobrang bagal kaya ang iba na pinaiinom nito, natitigok.



VIRGIN COCONUT OIL NG PINAS, HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE NG US VS COVID-19

Kaya pinahinto muna ang paggamit ng Hydroxychloroquine sa mga may COVID-19.

Kung gagamitin man ito, dapat na kontrolado o todo-bantay ang mga doktor at dapat sa ospital isagawa ito.

Dahil kung may mangyari sa pasyente na pinagte-testing nito ay maasikaso kaagad.

Ibig sabihin, bawal na bawal na basta ka na lang bumili at lumagok ng Hydroxychloroquine kung sa palagay mo ay kinnapitan ka ng COVID-19.

Dahil sa halip na mabuhay ka, mamamatay ka pa sa cardiac arrest o sakit sa puso.

VIRGIN COCONUT OIL

Ngayon naman, inaprub na ng pamahalaang Duterte at tine-testing na ang Virgin Coconut Oil ng Philippine General Hospital sa mga pasyente sa isinasagawang clinical trial.

Kasama sa mga umaalalay ang mga taga-Department of Science and Technology na aktibo ngayon sa pagtulong sa pagdiskubre ng gamot o bakuna o bilang food supplement laban sa COVID-19.

At ang VCO nga ay tine-testing na, kasama ang mga bansang China, Taiwan at Singapore.

Meron kasing mga pag-aaral ilang taon ang nakararaan na may kontra virus na dala-dala ng VCO gaya ng lauric acid at monolaurin.

At ito nga ang sinusundan ng DOST bilang sangay ng pamahalaan na nagtutulak sa lahat ng mga imbentor na Pinoy na gumawa ng kaya nilang gawin kahit sa anong larangan at handa itong umayuda.

SANA MAGTAGUMPAY

Sana naman, magtagumpay sa VCO ang mga siyentista at doktor na Pinoy sa paggawarito na bakuna o mahusay na food supplement laban sa COVID-19.

Aba, kung mangyari ito, wala tayong magiging problema sa suplay ng VCO.

Kabilang tayo sa mga bansang may pinakamalalaking taniman ng niyog at supplier ng buong mundo ng coconut oil.

Pati nga ang sabaw ng niyog ay ginawa nang softdrink at nauna pa ang mga dayuhan na kumukuha ng sabaw ng niyog sa Pinas para gawing natural na softdrink.

Sayang nga lang at itinatapon lang sa mga palengke natin ang sabaw na niyog.



VIRGIN COCONUT OIL NG PINAS, HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE NG US VS COVID-19

Kung iisipin, kung iproseso lang ang mga sabaw ng niyog na ating itinatapon tuwing tayo'y bumibili at magpakayod ng niyog sa paggawa ng mga kakanin o ginataang ulam, sobra-sobra ang sabaw ng niyog para sa ating konsumo.

MGA GANID BANTAYAN

Perang malaki ang pagkakaroon ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Kaya naman, ang isa sa mga babantayan dapat ng DOST at iba pang mga awtoridad ang pag-angkin bilang pribado ng mga ganid sa bakuna.

May magtatangkang irehistro ito sa ibang bansa o kahit sa loob ng bansa upang sabihing sa kanila ang bakuna at diyana na magsisimula ang maraming problema.

Isang problema ang sobrang pagmamahal ng gamot na ito at maaaring magkaroon na rin ng pagmamahal ng niyog dahil aangkinin ng mga ganid ang mga taniman ng niyog sa iba't ibang paraan at bawal na ang mag-ani ng niyog ng kung sino-sino, kahit pa ang mga may-ari ng mga lupa at nagtanim ng niyog.

Sa ganitong pangyayari, wala ring silbi ang pagkakaroon natin ng sobrang kayamanan sa niyog dahil aangkinin lang ng iilang pamilya o kompanya ang lahat at magiging biktima pa tayo sa halip na maging malusog at makikinabang nang todo sa likas na yaman nating niyog at niyugan.



Corona paradox

With the rate of infection on the decline due to the enhanced community quarantine, the developers of both countries may have to look elsewhere to get a conclusive finding on the potency of the drugs.

June 4, 2020 12:40 AM

By Chito Lozada

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/04/corona-paradox/>

Nature appears to be playing some form of mischief with the current pandemic as most countries are now experiencing a flattening of the curve for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This in turn is making vaccine developers apprehensive about the conduct of tests that will ideally require a raging outbreak.

Experts are worried that those racing to develop a COVID-19 vaccine may be hampered by the good news that had turned into a dilemma.

The scientific quandary lies in the fact that vaccines, according to scientists, can only be studied in places where outbreaks are ongoing as the integrity of the formula rely on volunteers getting exposed to the virus to prove the vaccine actually works.

Without an outbreak, the pace of research slows to a crawl, according to one expert.

American pharmaceutical firms developing a cure said the improving situation may push back the timeline for the development of antidotes.

To have a vaccine by early 2021, “you’d have to do a trial where there were enough people in the placebo group who got sick,” American Dr. Paul Offit, who co-invented the rotavirus vaccine and sits on the Food and Drug Administration’s vaccine advisory committee, told ABC News.

He added the tests would have to be done “in a region or time when this virus is still causing disease.”

“I’ve been worried for months that the standard way of doing a trial will take well into next year to get a result because of this tamping down of the virus,” Dr. Arthur Caplan, director of the Division of Medical Ethics, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, added.

Oxford Biomedica and Moderna, the US entities which are in the advanced stage of research studies, are getting nervous about a lower natural infection rate, “so they won’t be able to interpret if the vaccine did anything, or if it’s safe.”

Researchers working on the Oxford vaccine said the next stage of studies only had a 50 percent chance of success, thanks to “the virus disappearing” in the United Kingdom.

Rinke Bos, principal scientist and immunologist for Johnson and Johnson, told ABC News it’s very difficult to set a timeline for vaccine development because “the trial has to be in a country where there is still a virus going around, so those are quite complicated discussions.”



Corona paradox

The ironic twist was also the same problem that faced vaccine development efforts in the past.

The Zika virus, which swept across Latin America in 2015, never had a vaccine since as researchers sprang into action, quickly launching research studies, the epidemic was brought under control and the studies were never completed.

Experts said such situations when developers lose their incentive leave humanity vulnerable to the next outbreak.

In the current pandemic, vaccine developers are considering new ways to keep research moving at a rapid pace to allow a vaccine to be ready by next year.

They are now looking at Brazil and India, where infections are currently on the rise.

The absence of a guaranteed cure will pose a problem for Filipinos since President Rodrigo Duterte said he will not allow the lifting of quarantine measures unless a vaccine is in government's hand.

He expressed his preference for schools to fully reopen when the threat from the pathogen has disappeared.

China and Japan are now testing possible antidotes to COVID-19 in the country but with the rate of infection on the decline due to the enhanced community quarantine, the developers of both countries may have to look elsewhere to get a conclusive finding on the potency of the drugs.

The worry of those who have invested heavily on vaccine development is that they might be overtaken by events and that the crisis may be heading towards resolving itself.



'Furious' Rody sets medics' compensation deadline

on June 5, 2020 12:05 AM

By Francis Wakefield

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/05/furious-rody-sets-medics-compensation-deadline/>



Fighting together This PPE-clad health worker spends his day assisting patients positive of COVID-19 for follow-up swab tests after they have spent a period of isolation inside the Rizal High School quarantine facility in Pasig City. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANALY LABOR FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribuneph_ana

President Rodrigo Duterte has given government agencies until next week to grant compensation to the families of medical personnel who died or became severely ill due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Palace announced Thursday.

The order came after lawmakers and medical groups slammed the Department of Health (DoH) over its supposed failure to grant the compensation to health care workers who contracted COVID-19 in the line of duty.

In a virtual press briefing in Davao City, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Chief Executive was angered and frustrated upon learning that COVID-afflicted health care workers have yet to receive their compensation as mandated by the Bayanihan to Heal as One Law or Republic Act 11469.

"The President gave concerned agencies until Tuesday to give compensation benefits to health workers who became severely ill due to COVID-19. He also gave until Friday to grant benefits to families of fallen health workers," Roque said.

"We are warning all authorities. Follow this because I've never seen him this angry," he added.



‘Furious’ Rody sets medics’ compensation deadline

Under the Bayanihan Law, families of medical personnel who died due to coronavirus should receive P1 million, while those who contracted severe infection and survived it shall receive P100,000.

About P100 million has been allotted for the government-mandated benefits for health care workers who contracted COVID-19, according to DoH.

DoH spokesman Maria Rosario Vergeire added that other funds from the DoH’s realigned programs would also be spent for workers’ compensation.

Thirty-two health workers have so far succumbed to COVID-19, while 79 medical frontliners are in severe and critical condition.

“As soon as the relatives are able to complete the submission of required documents, the process of granting compensation may start already,” Vergeire told reporters.

The DoH has earlier attributed to the delay to the “stringent” review of the joint administrative order — which lays out the procedure for the compensation grant — by the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department Budget and Management.

Senate Health Committee chairman Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go angrily addressed the three departments over the delay.

“You will just act on the joint issuance now that the problem has been exposed to the public. This should be done months ago!” Go said in a privilege speech.

“That means, papers should not be delayed and left on top of your desks. Two months have already passed yet you are still processing the guidelines,” he added.

Go also called the attention of the undersecretaries of the departments, saying they should help their chiefs as they cannot carry all the work in order to address the pandemic.



DOH, DBM, DOLE sinabon ni Go; matagal na pagbibigay ng benepisyo sa COVID-19 infected health workers, kinastigo

June 4, 2020 @ 4:11 PM

<https://remate.ph/doh-dbm-dole-sinabon-ni-go-matagal-na-pagbibigay-ng-benepisyo-sa-covid-19-infected-health-workers-kinastigo/>

Manila, Philippines – “Wala na ang programang ‘HOY GISING!’ pero HOY! GUMISING NAMAN KAYO!”

Ito ang panawagan ni Senador Bong Go sa mga kinauukulang ahensiya at departamento ng bansa dahil sa naantalang pagbibigay ng financial assistance sa health workers na tinamaan ng COVID-19.

Dismayado rin si Go sa salungat na pahayag ng Department of Budget and Management (DBM) at Department of Health ukol sa katuwiran kung bakit naantala ang pagbibigay ng financial assistance sa health workers, na ang iba ay namatay na habang ang iba naman ay nahawaan ng naturang sakit.

“Mr. President, I am also dismayed by the conflicting statements of the DBM and the Department of Health. Kailangan daw ng guidelines bago ilabas ang pera. Sabi naman ng DOH, hindi na kailangan,” ang bahagi ng privileged speech ni Go.

“Hoy DBM, DOH, at pati na rin DOLE! Mag-usap-usap naman kayo at mag-coordinate kayo sa isa’t isa. Marahil hindi po alam ng Pangulo, patay-patayan kayo. Ngayon na na-expose na sa publiko ang problema, mag-i-issue kayo ng joint issuance para i-implement ang isang bagay na noon pa ninyo dapat ginawa,” ang dagdag na pahayag ni Go.

“Kung kailan kayo pinuna, doon lang ninyo tatawagan ang mga pamilyang naulila ng frontliners na sinakripisyo ang kanilang buhay para sa bayan,” ayon kay Go.

Sinabi pa ni Go na hindi na bata ang mga opisyal ng mga nasabing departamento para sabihan pa kung ano ang dapat gawin o ano ang mga tama.

Kinalampag naman ni Go ang undersecretaries, assistant secretaries pababa sa directors ng tatlong nabanggit na departamento na dapat na aniyang tulungan ng mga ito ang kanilang mga kalihim.

Tila ipinamukha ni Go na hindi kaya ng mga kalihim ng mga naturang departamento ang mag-isa sa panahon ngayon.

“Gumising naman kayo. Nagtutulug-tulugan ba kayo? O nagpapatay-patayan kayo? O talagang patay na kayo?”

Kulang ang salapi para bayaran ang kabayanihan nila. Serbisyong maayos lang naman ang pwede nating maisukli sa mga nagtatrabaho para sa bayan. Kung ayaw niyong mag-trabaho, eh ‘di umalis na kayo. Ginagawa na nga ng Pangulo ang lahat, eh ang mga tao sa baba ayaw tumulong, ayaw gumalaw, umalis na kayo.,” diing pahayag ni Go.



DOH, DBM, DOLE sinabon ni Go; matagal na pagbibigay ng benepisyo sa COVID-19 infected health workers, kinastigo

Kapansin-pansin din sa privileged speech ni Go na dismayado siya sa burukrasya sa bansa.

“Ganito ba talaga ang burokrasya?! Namatayan na nga, pinapahirapan pa. Dapat nga ihatid ninyo na agad ang tsyeke sa pamilya, mismo sa bahay nila, iabot ninyo doon,” ayon kay Go.

Aniya pa, masasayang lang ang oras ng mga opisyal na ito sa pagsagot ng mga batikos, kung kaya’t sana’y gumalaw na lang sa lalong madaling panahon.

Ipinaalala pa ni Go na ang mga health worker aniya ay gumagawa ng pinakamahirap at pinaka-mapanganib na trabaho laban sa hindi nakikitang sakit na hanggang sa ngayon ay wala pa ring lunas.

“They have paid the ultimate price— their lives— so that the rest of their countrymen and women will continue to live,” ayon kay Go.

Huwag naman sana aniya na ang mga opiyal ng mga nabanggit na departamento ang mamatayan at pahirapan pa ang pagbigay ng tulong tulad ng ginagawa ng mga Pilipinong apektado.

“Ewan ko nalang kung hindi kayo mamatay sa sama ng loob,” ang pahayag ni Go.

Bilang chairman ng Senate Committee on Health at miyembro ng Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the implementation of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, ay tinatawagan niya ng pansin ang mga kinauukulang ahensiya ng pamahalaan na agad na remedyuhan at ipalabas ang tamang kompensasyon para sa health workers na namatay at nahawaan ng COVID-19, gaya ng nakasaad sa batas, sabay sabing “Maawa naman kayo.”

Matatandaang noong Marso 24, ay ipinasa ang Bayanihan to Heal as One Act na ang layunin ay bigyang kapangyarihan ang pamahalaan na tugunan ang COVID-19 crisis.

Ngayon ani Go ay ipinapasa naman nila ang Bayanihan to Recover As One Act o “Bayanihan 2 but there are still commitments in the previous law that, until now, have not been acted upon.”

Naisiwalat sa plenary deliberations noong Martes, na ang benepisyo para sa mga health worker ay hindi pa naibibigay.

Tinatayang 32 na, ani Go, ang namatay na health workers, ilang daan na ang nagkasakit, habang ilang libong pamilya ang apektado.

“Pahihirapan niyo pa dahil sa matagal na proseso ng pagbibigay ng serbisyo!”



DOH, DBM, DOLE sinabon ni Go; matagal na pagbibigay ng benepisyo sa COVID-19 infected health workers, kinastigo

“Bakit po nangyari ito?! Dumaan ang Abril, dumaan ang Mayo, ngayon Hunyo na. Hanggang ngayon, hindi pa naibibigay ang benepisyo na dapat matanggap ng ating health workers o ng kanilang mga pamilyang naulila,” anito.

Ang mga medical frontliner ani Go ay ang mga bayani sa laban na ito.

Ang mga ito aniya ang nagsasakripisyo at nagpapakamatay para iligtas ang buhay ng kapwa Pilipino, subalit simpleng benepisyo na nasa batas ay hindi man lang mabigyan ng tamang oras at atensyon ng mga opisyal para ayusin at maipamahagi sa kanila.

“As Chair of the Committee on Health and your former colleague in the Executive, I have always been supportive of our government agencies. I have also been firm in defending your budget. Nagkasama tayo noon at nagtiwala ako sa kakayahan ninyo.

Pero gaya ng sabi ko noon pa man: Kung may nakikita akong mali, magsasalita ako. Kapag tungkol sa serbisyo at trabaho para sa tao ang pinag-uusapan, magsasalita ako,” litaniya ni Go.

Samantala, malinaw naman aniya ang posisyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte laban sa red tape.

Sa katunayan aniya ay mariing sinabi nito na sa loob ng 48 hanggang 72 oras, ang lahat ng papeles ay dapat na naaksyunan na.

“Ibig sabihin: Huwag patagalin. Huwag patulugin sa lamesa. Ito, dalawang buwan na po pero wala pa rin?! Bakit matagal?! O sadya bang pinapatagal? Wala bang gumagalaw sa inyo?!”

“Ang Pangulo na rin po mismo ang nagsabi na dapat mabigyan ng karampatang suporta ang ating mga health workers at ang kanilang pamilya. Huwag nating hayaan na mabalewala ang sakripisyo nila dahil lang sa mabagal na bureaucracy,” ayon kay Go. Kris Jose



JUNE 4, 2020, 9:30PM

<https://www.facebook.com/751863652/posts/10158626129638653/?app=fbl>



Benny Antiporda

58 mins · 🌐



KNOWS HOW TO DO IT
MAYBE UNDERSTAND
ANG DOH, DBM AT DOLE
THE PRESIDENT NOW
COMMANDED, SO BEHAVE -
YOU ARE FINE!!!

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DOH, DBM, DOLE sinabon ni Go; matagal na pagbibigay ng benepisyo sa COVID-19 infected health workers, kinastigo...



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House okays P1.3-trillion 'ARISE' bill to boost recovery amid virus

By Jovee Marie de la Cruz

June 5, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/05/house-okays-p1-3-trillion-arise-bill-to-boost-recovery-amid-virus/>



Workers resume repair works on Elliptical Road at the Quezon Memorial Circle after months of suspension due to the coronavirus pandemic.

THE House of Representatives on Thursday approved the proposed P1.3-trillion Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy (ARISE) seen to propel economic growth amid the expected economic contraction this year.

Voting 216 affirmative and 7 negative, House Bill 6815 or the proposed ARISE was approved on third and final reading, and was to be transmitted to the Senate for its own deliberations.

The Senate passed its Bayanihan to Recover As One measure on second reading late Wednesday. The two chambers are rushing the measures responding to the Covid-19 pandemic before going on a scheduled seven-week recess from June 5 to July 27.

House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Joey Sarte Salceda, one of the principal authors of ARISE, said this stimulus package is expected to protect and assist up to 15.7 million workers, create 3 million short-term jobs, and 1.5 million infrastructure jobs over three years, and help up to 5.57 million micro, small and medium enterprises, both formal and nonformal.

The bill was also principally co-authored by House Committee on Economic Affairs chief Sharon Garin and Marikina Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo.



House okays P1.3-trillion 'ARISE' bill to boost recovery amid virus

"The GDP impact, based on our staff estimates, is immense: if implementation is rapid within the year, we may see our GDP grow slightly by 0.2 percent from the current expected decline by -2.8 percent in 2020. The specifics will evolve as we go through the legislative process, but the principles, by and large, will remain the same," he said.

Salceda, however, said the package of reforms will cost about 3.6 percent of GDP, or P688 billion in new spending on its first year.

"This would be roughly the same size as most of our neighbors, Indonesia [3.9 percent of GDP], Vietnam [3.5 percent] and Malaysia [2.9 percent of GDP, in three packages]; and would be about a third of that of Singapore [13 percent of GDP], Thailand [at least 9.6 percent of GDP]. As it is, we believe it to be a healthy balance between fiscal responsibility (our duty to the children of the future), and decisiveness in action (our duty to the children of today)," he said.

"Sometimes, this duty involves borrowing from those in the future so that those in the present may live," he added. "What the House of Representatives hopes to do is to borrow responsibly from the future, and get whatever is borrowed to achieve the highest socioeconomic returns it can obtain and save as many people as we can from falling into poverty and unemployment."

Under ARISE, funding for this economic stimulus comes from the Department of Finance through the Bureau of the Treasury, government financial institutions and government-owned corporations as well as bonds.

It grants the President power to realign within six months items that cannot be utilized due to Covid, such as travel and forced savings. The bill also extends the validity of the 2019 and 2020 General Appropriations Acts to 2021.

It also extends the power of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, particularly the provisions on testing, wage subsidies, DOLE's TUPAD, loan payment extension, assistance of DTI and DA, ease of credit rules, health protocols to mitigate transmission, reallocation and realignment of appropriations.

The measure will include:

- P10 billion for massive testing this year and another P10 billion next year. This will boost consumer and business confidence;
- P110-billion wage subsidy for two months. This payroll expense subsidy requires employee retention to qualify for subsidy. This will include self-employed, freelancers and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs);



House okays P1.3-trillion 'ARISE' bill to boost recovery amid virus

- P25 billion for cash for work of the Department of Labor and Employment this year. This helps 3 million beneficiaries at P10,000 each. Also, P5 billion in assistance will go to technical and vocational learners;
- P42 billion in educational subsidy;
- P50 billion for Small Business Corporation's existing loan programs for MSMEs this year and another P25 billion next year;
- P50-billion program for SME and agri-fishery this year under the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines' Interest-Free Loan Program;
- The loan guarantee program by the Philippine Guarantee Corporation (PGC) shall get P20 billion this year and another P20 billion in 2021. An amount of P20 billion is appropriated as additional paid-up capital of PGC;
- P10 billion to DTI as additional assistance to MSMEs this year. This seeks to help 1 million establishments;
- P58 billion to the Department of Tourism (DOT) as assistance to the tourism industry this year;
- P70 billion to the Department of Transportation (DOTr) as assistance to the transportation industry this year;
- P44 billion this year to the Board of Investments (BOI) for grants and technical assistance to business entities engaged in exporting or importing, and those manufacturing new products and services to meet the needs of the domestic market, in order to restore or identify new global market trends to increase competitive advantage;
- P15 billion for cash-for-work program in agriculture;
- P66 billion to Department of Agriculture to support the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program under EO 114 of 2020;
- P100 billion for the National Emergency Investment Vehicle (NIEV), to be created under the proposal to enable faster recovery of certain critically impacted businesses vital to the economy. Also, P25 billion is appropriated as equity of the national government in NIEV. An additional equity of P25 billion shall be appropriated in the 2021 General Appropriations Act.

Also, the proposed ARISE will include an enhanced Build, Build, Build program worth P650 billion in three years starting 2021; provided that 20 percent shall be appropriated and released in 2020, 40 percent in 2021, and 40 percent in 2022.



Unemployment jump to show lockdown toll on Philippines: economist

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 04 2020 09:51 AM | Updated as of Jun 04 2020 10:24 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/06/04/20/unemployment-jump-to-show-lockdown-toll-on-philippines-economy>



Commuters wait for a ride along Commonwealth Ave in Quezon City on June 2, 2020, the second day of general community quarantine in Metro Manila. Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News

MANILA -- Unemployment likely soared during the virus lockdown, an economist said Thursday on the eve of the official data release, as the Philippines started easing restrictions.

The jobless rate could hit 9 to 10 percent in the 3 months ended April, University of Asia and the Pacific economics professor Victor Abola said. Unemployment was at 5.3 percent in January.

"It's gonna be quite a big jump. It could be quite big," Abola told ANC's Market Edge. "We haven't had anything like that."

Inflation data for May is also due out Friday. The Bangko Sentral's think tank gave a 1.9 percent to 2.7 percent forecast range, compared to 2.2 percent in April.

Abola said inflation was unlikely to slow further as food and fuel prices spiked in May.

In crafting stimulus measures, President Rodrigo Duterte's economic managers appear to be careful not to take on too much debt to maintain the Philippines' credit ratings, Abola said.



Poverty incidence highest among farmers, fisherfolk, rural dwellers

By: Ben O. de Vera - Reporter / @bendevaraINQ

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:16 AM June 05, 2020

<https://business.inquirer.net/299108/poverty-incidence-highest-among-farmers-fisherfolk-rural-dwellers>

While nationwide poverty incidence fell to 16.6 percent in 2018 and was reflected across 11 basic sectors, Filipinos living and working in the countryside remained poorer compared with those in urban areas, a Philippine Statistics Authority report said.

Preliminary estimates of poverty incidence, or the proportion of poor Filipinos whose incomes are insufficient to meet their basic needs, showed the highest rates in 2018—albeit lower than 2015 figures—were among farmers (31.6 percent in 2018, down from 40.8 percent in 2015), fisherfolk (26.2 percent, down from 36.9 percent) and individuals residing in rural areas (24.5 percent, down from 34 percent).

The number of poor farmers in 2018 declined to 2.4 million from 3.7 million in 2015; fisherfolk, down to 453,200 from 287,100; and rural dwellers, down to 12.6 million from 18.1 million.

Among children, poverty incidence declined to 23.9 percent from 33.5 percent in 2016. Still, it was the fourth highest rate among the sectors.

As for self-employed and unpaid family workers, poverty incidence rate was 18 percent (against 26.2 percent in 2015), and among women, 16.6 percent (versus 23.9 percent previously).



84% of Pinoys say 'stay home' measures 'worth it'

[Janvic Mateo](#)

June 5, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/05/2018810/84-pinoys-say-stay-home-measures-worth-it>



The SWS mobile survey, conducted from May 4 to 10 with results released yesterday, showed that 84 percent of the 4,010 respondents agreed with the statement that the strict stay-at-home measures are worth it to protect people and limit the spread of coronavirus.

STAR/ File

MANILA, Philippines — Eight in every 10 Filipinos believe that the strict stay-at-home measures implemented in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic are worth it to protect the people and prevent the spread of COVID-19, according to a survey conducted by Social Weather Stations Inc. (SWS).

The SWS mobile survey, conducted from May 4 to 10 with results released yesterday, showed that 84 percent of the 4,010 respondents agreed with the statement that the strict stay-at-home measures are worth it to protect people and limit the spread of coronavirus.

On the other hand, 15 percent believe that strict stay-at-home measures due to COVID-19 are placing too many burdens on the people.

One percent volunteered that these measures are both worth it to protect people but at the same time has become a burden to others.

The survey was patterned after a poll conducted in the US that found 80 percent of Americans saying the strict shelter-in-place measures are worth it in order to protect people and limit the spread of coronavirus.

Strict quarantine measures were implemented since March, with the community quarantine guidelines slowly easing nationwide, particularly in Metro Manila, starting last Monday.



84% of Pinoys say 'stay home' measures 'worth it'

In the SWS survey, the number of respondents who said the stay-at-home measures was worth it was high across all areas, including those places under enhanced community quarantine (84 percent) and general community quarantine (83 percent).

It is highest among college graduates and those who reached college (88 percent), followed by high school graduates (83 percent), those who reached junior high school (77 percent) and non-elementary graduates (77 percent).

The survey, which had an error margin of +/- two percent for national scores, was conducted using mobile phone and computer-assisted telephone interviewing.



Religious gatherings allowed in MGCQ areas

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

June 5, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/05/news/national/religious-gatherings-allowed-in-mgcq-areas/729473/>

Religious gatherings are now allowed in modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) areas but only with half the number of worshippers.



FAITH MASK Catholic devotees observe physical distancing although not necessarily the wearing of face masks at the Sta. Rita Church in Baclaran, Parañaque City on May 17, 2020. PHOTO BY MIKE ALQUINTO

Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said on Thursday the decision to allow religious gatherings was reached by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) in a meeting on Wednesday.

Most of the country has been placed under MGCQ, except Metro Manila and several other areas where the risk of coronavirus infection is still considered high.

Roque stressed that minimum health standards, such as physical distancing and wearing of face masks, must be observed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease.

Church leaders had asked the government to loosen restrictions on religious assemblies, assuring that distancing protocols would be strictly followed.

Starting June 1, areas under general community quarantine (GCQ) transitioned to MGCQ with less stringent restrictions.

Those under modified enhanced community quarantine, or MECQ, including Metro Manila, have shifted into GCQ.

Under IATF-EID guidelines, the maximum number of people allowed in churches and other places of worship in GCQ areas is 10.

Aside from Metro Manila, Pangasinan, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Metro Manila, Central Visayas, Zamboanga City, Davao City and Mandaue City are under GCQ until June 15.



Religious gatherings allowed in MGCQ areas

Justice Secretary Menardo Gueverra, a member of the IATF-EID, relayed the 50-percent capacity rule to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) on Wednesday evening through Bishop Mylo Hubert Vergara of Pasig City.

Vergara represented the CBCP during the recent meetings between the government's policymaking body for its Covid-19 response and the religious sector.

Some bishops were not totally agreeable with drastically limiting the number of worshippers at religious gatherings.



Time to assess quarantine policy

June 5, 2020

https://malaya.com.ph/index/index.php/news_opinion/time-to-assess-quarantine-policy/

'This power trip is even more evident with the long, pretentious and high-sounding name the panel likes to call itself — Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) — not to mention the barrage of new abbreviations and acronyms this generals-heavy committee has foisted upon the citizens.'

WITH the way the government team fighting the pandemic issues guidelines limiting and/or easing the movement of people, we can sense that it really relishes the new-found power it has over mass behavior. And that they are not going to let it go easily for the holding of power over people gives one a unique high.

This power trip is even more evident with the long, pretentious and high-sounding name the panel likes to call itself — Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) — not to mention the barrage of new abbreviations and acronyms this generals-heavy committee has foisted upon the citizens.

After almost 3 months of strict lockdown, Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley, Calabarzon, Central Visayas, Pangasinan, Zamboanga City and Davao City have shifted to the general community quarantine (GCQ) from June 1 to June 15. The rest of the country has been placed under the more relaxed modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

But a reading of new guidelines released by the IATF shows that quarantine restrictions are not eased. Some rules, like those on persons younger than 21 and older than 60, are even made more stringent.

As announced by presidential spokesman Harry Roque, not every one will be allowed to leave their homes in areas under MGCQ based on the revised government rules. The new resolution of the IATF says the movement of all persons will be limited to accessing essential goods and services and for work in offices allowed to operate under MGCQ.

Persons below 21 years old, above 60 years, those with health risks, and pregnant women are also required "to remain in their residences at all times." Exception may be given to those going out for essential activities, according to Roque.

We note, however, that the panel has approved the holding of masses and other religious gatherings, among them work-related meetings and social functions, provided the venues are used at 50-percent seating capacity.

There are other glitches, though, such as when Police Lt. General Guillermo Eleazar said one needs a travel pass when crossing city boundaries inside Metro Manila, while DILG Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya says a travel pass is not needed within the National Capital Region.

We take this opportunity to remind the IATF that until now, senior citizens are barred from boarding the trains, even if their reason for going out is to claim pension payments.

There are many other problems in the government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but President Duterte would not want to change his people on board. So be it, but a simpler, unassuming name for the IATF is still in order.



Forbes names PH one of rising stars in post-quarantine travel

Kenneth Mheil Mangaya-Ay, Choose Philippines

Posted at Jun 04 2020 02:58 PM | Updated as of Jun 04 2020 03:17 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/06/04/20/forbes-names-ph-one-of-rising-stars-in-post-quarantine-travel>



Boracay. File photo

MANILA -- The quarantine season truly brought out the beauty of the country's natural resources. From highlands to marine life, everyone definitely enjoyed their "me time" While everyone's dreaming about teleporting to the breathtaking destinations in the Philippines, the long wait is about to end as tourist spots slowly opening its doors to everyone to be explored once again.

Adding to our anticipation to explore the Philippines is its inclusion as one of the COVID-19 era's Rising Stars in Travel by Forbes magazine.

Forbes highlights the 7,100 islands to choose from that has something to offer for even the most finicky of tourists. Metro Manila and Quezon City in Luzon were also highlighted as popular destinations for a deep immersion into mainstream Filipino culture. World-renowned Palawan and Boracay also made it to the list, as top destinations with powdery white sands, crystal blue waters, as well as other countless opportunities to spot some of the endemic plant and animal species of the Philippines.

More than the beautiful destinations in the Philippines, it's our brave and happy hearts, colorful culture, and stories behind our unique and infectious smiles that will make our country worth visiting and coming back to. Choose the Philippines!



Turismo, unti-unting bubuhayin; Resort owners sa Boracay at Bohol, pinaghahanda na

June 4, 2020 @ 4:46 PM

<https://remate.ph/turismo-unti-unting-bubuhayin-resort-owners-sa-boracay-at-bohol-pinaghahanda-na/>

Manila, Philippines – Pinaghahanda na ng Malakanyang ang mga resort owner sa Boracay at maging sa buong Region 6 dahil sa inaasahang pagbabalik operasyon nila makalipas ang susunod na dalawang linggo.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, kung hindi magbabago o tataas ang COVID-19 cases sa buong rehiyon sa loob ng dalawang linggo, tiyak na pahihintulitan na ang muling pagbubukas ng mga resort o tourist destinations doon.

Subalit, posibleng aniyang ang Boracay at ang mga pamosong tourist spots sa Bohol na nasa Region 7 ang mauunang magbalik-operasyon.

Sa ngayon aniya na nasa General Community Quarantine pa ang Boracay at Bohol at hindi pa naibababa sa modified GCQ, mananatiling ang mga residente lamang doon ang maaaring mag-swimming o magtampisaw sa dagat. Kris Jose



Tourism activities not allowed in Metro Manila, GCQ areas -official

Published June 4, 2020 12:51pm

By VIRGIL LOPEZ, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/741159/tourism-activities-not-allowed-in-metro-manila-gcq-areas-official/story/>

Tourism activities are still prohibited in Metro Manila and other areas under general community quarantine, a government official said Thursday.

Department of Tourism-National Capital Region Director Woodrow Maquiling Jr. said the government's quarantine guidelines only allow the partial resumption of tourism activities in areas under modified GCQ.

"Since GCQ pa tayo dito sa Metro Manila, hindi pa talaga allowed 'yun. We can't travel muna," he said in a televised briefing.

He also said Baguio City might reopen to tourists in September.

In anticipation of the "new normal" environment after the COVID-19 crisis, the DOT will be adopting several policies and programs to be applied to the country's tourism stakeholders.

These include the regular sanitation and disinfection of hotels, resorts and other accommodations, tourism transport services and other tourism-related establishments, and the provision of sanitation or disinfection devices to tourism workers.

Tourism establishments will also be regularly inspected that will involve relevant agencies on health and safety standards such as the Department of Health.

The DOT will also encourage the development of online systems that can facilitate tourism-related transactions digitally. --KBK, GMA News



EDITORIAL - Taking flight again

June 5, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/06/05/2018757/editorial-taking-flight-again>



After 11 weeks, domestic commercial flights will finally resume today as quarantine restrictions are eased across the country.

Flights out of the National Capital Region, epicenter of the coronavirus disease 2019 contagion in the country, will need prior approval from the local government unit at the destination. Many LGUs, especially those with low or zero cases of COVID-19, are wary of anyone coming from the NCR.

Reopening businesses and preventing the further contraction of the economy, however, entails the gradual revival of the movement of goods and people. Air transport is the fastest mode of transportation, and its reactivation is critical for economic recovery.

Airline companies have reassured the public that COVID health protocols will be strictly enforced on all flights. At both the points of boarding and disembarkation, LGUs will have to do their part in ensuring the protection of public health.

Returning overseas Filipino workers are of particular concern for LGUs outside Metro Manila. The OFWs are placed under mandatory 14-day quarantine upon their arrival in the Philippines. At the end of the period, they are issued COVID health clearances by the Department of Health. LGUs at destinations outside Metro Manila can ask for these clearances instead of subjecting the OFWs to further quarantine. Or else, if the LGUs have the resources and want to be reassured, they can subject the OFWs to additional rapid testing, at government expense.

Protecting both lives and livelihoods has been a difficult balancing act throughout the pandemic. Like the reopening of other economic activities, everyone is aware that the resumption of domestic commercial flights must be accompanied by stringent measures to prevent COVID convention. The measures must be observed by all stakeholders – the airlines, LGUs and passengers themselves.



Barangays can facilitate registration of 'Balik Probinsya' applicants: official

Ariane Merez, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 04 2020 12:14 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/04/20/barangays-can-facilitate-registration-of-balik-probinsya-applicants-official>



Children get their temperature checked and hands sanitized before boarding the bus bound for Leyte during the "Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pagasa" program ceremonial roll out held at the NHA compound in Quezon City, May 20, 2020. George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News

MANILA - Barangays in Metro Manila can facilitate applications for the government's "Balik Probinsya" program for those who cannot register online, an official said Thursday.

Printed forms for registration to the program are available in barangay halls in the National Capital Region, according to National Housing Authority General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr., who is also the executive director of the 'Balik Probinsya' program.

"May mga forms tayo na (there are forms) available at the barangay levels right now so they can enroll manually," Escalada said in a virtual press briefing.

Manual registration is expected to generate some 10,000 more applicants, he said. Some 79,000 people in Metro Manila have already signed up for the program online.

The program started last May 20 with some 100 Filipinos transported to Leyte.

A pet project of Sen. Christopher "Bong" Go, the Balik Probinsya program was adopted by President Rodrigo Duterte as a national program in the hopes that it would promote robust development in the countryside and decongest Metro Manila.

The program has been criticized for lack of coordination with local government units that would receive the returning individuals in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One beneficiary of the program had tested positive for COVID-19.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government had said LGUs should be given enough time, at least 3 days, to prepare for the arrivals of individuals in the provinces.



Nag-aplay sa BP2 program, halos 80K na: 100 uuwi sa Leyte sa Hunyo 11

June 4, 2020 @ 3:37 PM

<https://remate.ph/nag-aplay-sa-bp2-program-halos-80k-na-100-uuwi-sa-leyte-sa-hunyo-11/>

Manila, Philippines – Makababalik na ng kanilang probinsya ang nasa higit 100 indibidwal na nag-avail ng Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag Asa program.

Sa Laging Handa public briefing sinabi ni National Housing Authority General Manager at Balik Probinsya Executive Director Marcelino Escalada na ang mga ito ay uuwi sa Leyte sa darating na June 11,2020.

Ani Escalada na medyo natatagan ang kanilang pagpapauwi dahil kanilang sinisiguro na ang mga pababalikin sa probinsya ay hindi carrier ng virus.

Subalit, magkagayunman, sakali aniyang malusutan tulad nang nangyari sa 1st batch ng Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program kung saan 2 sa mga napauwi ang nagpositibo sa COVID-19, sinabi ni GM Escalada na may kakayahan o kapasidad naman ang mga kalahok na probinsya upang sila ay makapagsagawa ng test at mayruon din silang sariling quarantine facilities.

Sa kasalukuyan, umaabot na aniya sa kabuuang 79,000 ang mga nag-apply sa nasabing programa.

Ayon kay GM Escalada, may dalawang paraan para makapag-enroll sa BP2 program, una ay sa pamamagitan ng online sa balik probinsya.ph at sa kanilang FB page at pangalawa ay mano-manong pag-fill up ng form na maaaring makuha sa Barangay level o di naman kaya ay sa NHA headquarters. Kris Jose

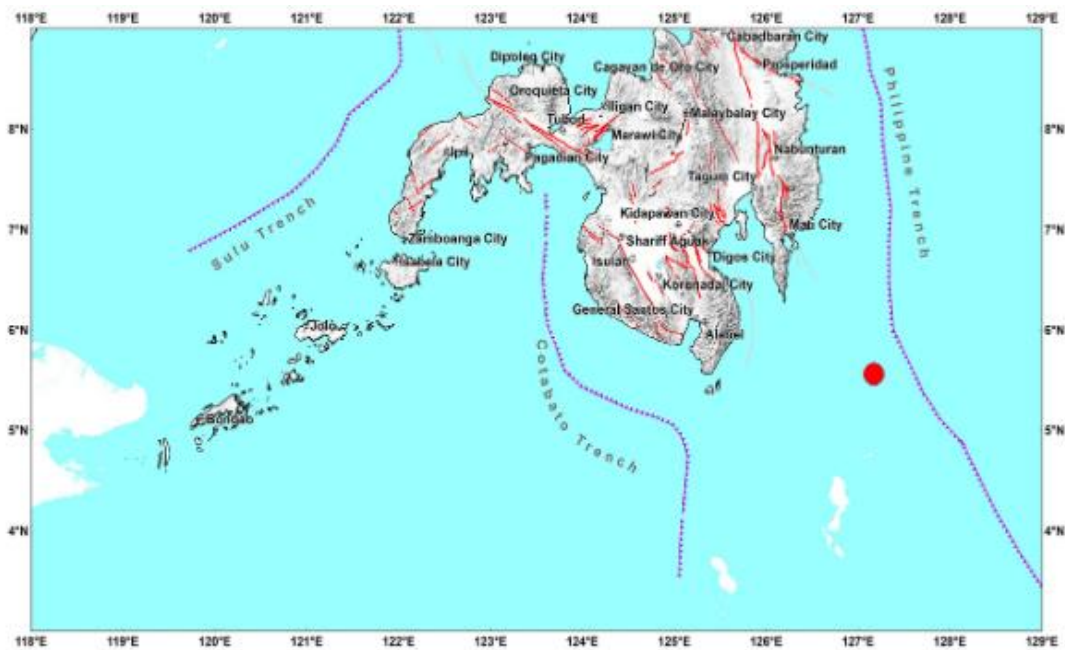


Magnitude 6.6 earthquake strikes Davao Oriental

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:34 PM June 04, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1286370/magnitude-6-6-earthquake-strikes-davao-oriental>



MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 6.6 earthquake struck Davao Oriental on Thursday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

The temblor hit 172 kilometers southeast of Governor Generoso at 4:50 p.m., June 4.

According to Phivolcs, the quake was of tectonic origin and had a 134-kilometer depth of focus.

Phivolcs also said the tremor was felt in other areas at various intensities:

Reported Intensity III – Kiamba, Sarangani

Reported Intensity II – General Santos City

Instrumental Intensity III – Kiamba & Malungon, Sarangani

Instrumental Intensity II – Alabel, Sarangani; Tupi, South Cotabato; General Santos City; Koronodal City

While no damage may be expected from the earthquake, Phivolcs cautioned residents that aftershocks are likely.



Heat index sa Butuan pumalo sa 52 degrees Celsius

Lorilly Charmane Awitan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 04 2020 09:22 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/04/20/heat-index-sa-butuan-pumalo-sa-52-degrees-celsius>

Nagtala ng heat index na 52 degrees Celsius ang Butuan City nitong Huwebes, ayon sa PAGASA.

Alas 2 ng hapon naitala ng PAGASA ang init sa Butuan, na nanguna sa may pinakamataas na naitalang heat index nitong Huwebes. Noong Mayo 6, umabot sa 53 degrees Celsius ang heat index din sa Butuan.

PAGASA STATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST COMPUTED HEAT INDEX		
THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2020		
BUTUAN CITY	52°C	2:00 PM
DAGUPAN CITY	47°C	2:00 PM
SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ	47°C	5:00 PM
SANGLEY POINT, CAVITE CITY	46°C	2:00 PM
AMBULONG, TANAUAN CITY	45°C	5:00 PM
CASIGURAN, AURORA	45°C	2:00 PM
DAVAO CITY	45°C	2:00 PM
NAIA, PASAY CITY	45°C	1:00 PM
ROXAS CITY	45°C	2:00 PM
TUGUEGARAO CITY	45°C	2:00 PM

Sumunod sa Butuan ang Dagupan City at Science City of Munoz na nagtala ng 47 degrees Celsius.

Nagtala din ng 46 degrees Celsius ang Sangley Point, Cavite habang 5 pang lugar ang nagtala ng 45 degrees Celsius.

Ayon sa PAGASA, magdudulot ng panganib ang 41-54 degrees Celsius na heat index. Posible ang heat cramps at heat exhaustion na maaaring mauwi sa heat stroke kapag tuluy-tuloy ang physical activity.



Air pollution linked to increased risk of multiple sclerosis

[AFP Relaxnews](#) / 10:17 PM June 04, 2020

<https://technology.inquirer.net/100380/air-pollution-linked-to-increased-risk-of-multiple-sclerosis>



Image: nadisja/IStock.com via AFP Relaxnews

New European research has found that living in urban areas and being exposed to air pollution could increase the risk of developing multiple sclerosis (MS).

Carried out by researchers in Italy, the new study looked at over 900 MS patients living in the northwestern Italian region of Lombardy.

The researchers assessed the participants' exposure to air pollution in winter, which is the season with the highest pollutant concentrations, and focused on two types of air pollutants known as particulate matter: PM10, which are particles of particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers or smaller, and PM2.5, which are particles smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter and 30 times smaller in diameter than a human hair.

The research, presented at the recent European Academy of Neurology (EAN) Virtual Congress, showed that the participants who lived in rural areas, with lower levels of particulate matter, appeared to have a lower risk of MS. In contrast, those who lived in more urbanized areas appeared to have a 29% increased risk of MS.

Commenting on the findings at the EAN Virtual Congress, lead researcher Prof. Roberto Bergamaschi explained, "It is well recognized that immune diseases such as MS are associated with multiple factors, both genetic and environmental. Some environmental factors, such as vitamin D levels and smoking habits, have been extensively studied, yet few studies have focused on air pollutants. We believe that air pollution interacts through several mechanisms in the development of MS and the results of this study strengthen that hypothesis."



Air pollution linked to increased risk of multiple sclerosis

The researchers also point out that in the Lombardy region, MS rates have risen 10-fold in the past 50 years, from 16 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 1974 to almost 170 cases per 100,000 people today. Although they add that MS patients are now living longer, which partly explains the increase in numbers, they add that exposure to risk factors, such as pollution, could also be at play.

Both PM10 and PM2.5 have already been linked to various health conditions, including heart and lung disease, kidney disease, cancer, respiratory issues, memory problems, and even hair loss.

MS can be diagnosed at any age, but it is often diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40 and is more frequent in women. Symptoms can change on a daily basis and include fatigue, walking difficulty, numbness, pain and muscle spasms. JB



India's cyclone response saves lives. Climate resilient infrastructure will save livelihoods

By [Helen Regan](#) and Swati Gupta, CNN

Updated 0728 GMT (1528 HKT) June 4, 2020

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/04/asia/cyclone-nisarga-mumbai-india-damage-intl-hnk/index.html>



(CNN)Mumbai avoided the worst of Cyclone Nisarga, which made landfall close to the Indian financial capital in western Maharashtra state on Wednesday, but caused minimal damage, officials said.

Cyclones in that part of India are [relatively rare](#) -- Mumbai, which is home to 18 million people, was last hit by a major storm in 1948.

Nevertheless, disaster response teams launched a large-scale operation in Maharashtra and Gujarat states ahead of landfall to evacuate more than 100,000 people -- including coronavirus patients -- from the coast and move them to temporary shelters and other facilities.

Teams were dispatched to go door-to-door urging people living in low-lying areas to seek shelter and educating those who didn't want to move.

Officials were concerned that storm surges would inundate the low-lying areas -- where many people live in flimsy or makeshift housing -- and that intense rainfall could lead to deadly flooding.

The response may have averted a bigger disaster as only one person is reported to have been killed in the storm, according to Anupam Srivastava, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) commandant in Maharashtra.

"Apart from tin roofs flying off and treefall there isn't much damage in the state and we expect to clear the roads by tomorrow," Srivastava said on Wednesday.

Images show disaster teams on the ground in Maharashtra and neighboring Gujarat clearing trees and other debris from roads after wind speeds of 130 kph (81 mph) hit the region.

A 40 km (24 mile) stretch from Raigad to Alibag towns received the brunt of the damage -- where winds stripped buildings of tin roofs and a small number of trees fell on houses.



Wayward whale takes city break in Montreal

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 05:56 PM June 04, 2020

<https://technology.inquirer.net/100362/wayward-whale-takes-city-break-in-montreal>



Since Saturday, the humpback has been seen exploring the waters off Montreal, hundreds of kilometers from the waters it usually calls home. Image: AFP/Reseau Quebecois d'Urgences Mammiferes Marins

A young humpback whale that swam up one of Canada's major rivers and has been exploring the waters off Montreal for a few days was likely led astray while on a hunting trip, authorities have said.

Since Saturday, the giant creature has been swimming in the St. Lawrence river against the backdrop of the Montreal skyline — hundreds of kilometers from the waters it usually calls home.

The humpback is likely to be the same creature as that seen a few days ago further downstream near Quebec City, said Marie-Eve Muller of the Quebec Marine Mammal Emergency Network (RQUMM).

Humpback whales live near both the Arctic and Antarctic, with adults growing up to 17 meters (55 feet) and weighing up to 40 tons.

Each pod spends the summer near the poles and travels to tropical areas in their respective hemispheres during the winter to breed.

The Montreal visitor, thought to be two or three years old, was likely led astray while chasing prey, or made a navigation error, Muller said.

It is possible that the whale could extend its stay in the city for several months, she added, although locks and rapids further upstream would likely prevent it from exploring any further west.

A team from RQUMM has been deployed to monitor the humpback to prevent any possible collisions with ships, she said, although there were no plans to redirect the whale yet, since it could survive for a short while in freshwater.

"For the moment, the whale is in good health... The best option is to let nature take its course," and hope that the animal decides to return to the open ocean itself, she added. **RGA**



WATCH: ‘World’s most endangered sea turtle’ found nesting on beach

[INQUIRER.net](https://www.inquirer.net) / 05:37 PM June 04, 2020

<https://technology.inquirer.net/100345/watch-worlds-most-endangered-sea-turtle-found-nesting-on-beach>



Image: screengrab from YouTube/MyEscambia

A nest of the endangered Kemp’s ridley sea turtle was spotted by beachgoers in Florida last Tuesday, June 2.

A female sea turtle crawled ashore to lay its eggs on the sand in Escambia County, ABC-affiliate WEAR-TV reported yesterday, June 3.

The county said the Kemp’s ridley turtle was the third turtle to nest on its beaches this season. Earlier this week, two Loggerhead sea turtles nests were also discovered in the area.

According to *National Geographic*, Kemp’s ridley sea turtle is “the world’s most endangered sea turtle.” This problem has been attributed to the over-harvesting of its eggs throughout the last century. The turtle usually grows up to 2 feet and weighs 45.36 kilos (100 pounds). It also has an average life span of 50 years.

“She dug a hole about 1.5 to 2 feet deep and when she got down in the hole she laid about 50 [to] 100 eggs,” sea turtle volunteer Brenda Sexton was quoted as saying. “She used her flippers to cover the eggs with sand so you can’t see them and then she headed back to the water.”

The county also caught the turtle on tape, as seen on its YouTube channel yesterday, June 3.

The report cited that the turtle might come back.

“Some of them come back up two or three times laying eggs and then they are exhausted and they go back home for two or three years,” Sexton added. “It’s kinda cool.” **Cha Lino/JB**



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Elephant in Kerala dies after suspected firecrackers hidden in fruit exploded in her mouth

By Swati Gupta and Nectar Gan, CNN

Published Jun 4, 2020 10:17:09 PM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/6/4/pregnant-elephant-death-india-firecrackers.html>



A dead elephant is retrieved from a river in the Palakkad district of Kerala.

(CNN) — The death of a pregnant wild elephant, suspected to have been fatally injured after eating fruit stuffed with firecrackers that exploded in her mouth, has stirred public outrage in India as authorities investigate the incident.

The [elephant](#) died on May 27 while standing in the middle of a river in the southern state of Kerala, four days after she was found injured, according to Ashique Ali, a local forest officer.

"The postmortem report says that there was an explosion in the mouth. We have not caught any of the culprits. We don't know yet what caused the explosion," Ali said, adding that the animal was found to be one-month pregnant.

Kerala's chief wildlife warden, Surendra Kumar, said the case is being investigated.

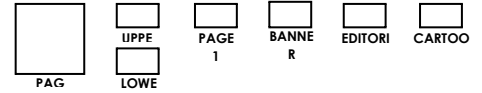
He said local villagers sometimes leave pineapples and other sweet fruits filled with firecrackers around their fields to ward off wild boars, which might have caused the explosion in the elephant's mouth.

"(The explosion) fractured the bones and caused a lot of damage to the mouth. The animal could not eat and became weak. And then died," he said.

The elephant was found injured on May 23, but she moved away when forest officers and a veterinarian tried to immobilize her for treatment, according to Ali.



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Elephant in Kerala dies after suspected firecrackers hidden in fruit exploded in her mouth

She was found again two days later, standing in the river. "In order to give treatment, it has to be immobilized but we could not use a tranquilizer while it is in the water because then the animal can drown," Ali said.

Two other elephants were brought to lead the injured animal out of the water, but she refused to move and remained there until she died, Ali added.

The elephant's death triggered outrage nationwide. India's environment minister Prakash Javadekar said Thursday that the central government had taken a "very serious note" of the incident.

"We will not leave any stone unturned to investigate properly and nab the culprit(s). This is not an Indian culture to feed fire crackers and kill," he said on [Twitter](#).

Conservationists estimate that India has some 27,000 [wild elephants](#), but their habitat is increasingly under pressure as human settlements encroach on nature reserves.