



Leader News Philippines

June 5 at 7:11 AM · 🌐

DENR nagbigay ng PPE sa Office of Civil Defense

Bilang suporta sa gobyerno sa paglaban nito sa nakamamatay na new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) ay nagbigay ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng personal protective equipment tulad ng face masks at face shields sa Office of Civil Defense (OCD) na nagkakahalagang P500,000.

Ang donasyon ng DENR na 25,000 piraso ng face masks at 500 face shields ay gagamitin ng mga tauhan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines at Philippine National Police na siyang nagsasagawa ng COVID-19 checkpoint sa buong bansa.

"We are certain that the OCD has the capability to distribute these, and of course, in accordance with the order of our President to support OCD in helping our fellow countrymen," sabi pa ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda na siyang nangasiwa sa pag-turn-over ng mga PPE noong Mayo 29 kasama si Assistant Secretary Joselin Marcus E. Fragada sa Camp Aguinaldo sa Quezon City.

Noong Marso 31 nang lagdaan ni President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang Administrative Order 27 series of 2020 na nagtatalaga sa OCD bilang bahagi ng Department of National Defense na "implementing arm" ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council at mangangasiwa sa mga donasyon sa national government at Department of Health na may kaugnayan sa COVID-19 pandemic.

Ang turnover ng mga medical supplies sa OCD ay pinangunahan nina USecs Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., Jonas R. Leones, Antiporda at ASec Fragada, ito ay ang ikatlong bahagi ng ComPassion Project na inisyatibo ng DENR officials at employees sa pakikipagtulungan ng Career Executive Service Board na pinamumunuan ni OIC-Executive Director Hiro Masuda na layuning matulungan ang mga nangangailangang komunidad.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda, hangad ng naturang proyekto na matulungan ang national government sa pagsugpo nito sa COVID-19 na kung saan ay inilagay na sa General Community Quarantine ang Metro Manila at ilan pang probinsiya simula noong Hunyo 1.

Aniya, nagtulong-tulong upang makalikom ng P500,000 para sa ikatlong bahagi ng ComPassion Project ang DENR community kabilang na dito ang mga opisyal, simpleng empleyado at maging ang mga persons with disability.

"Taong gobyerno nagtutulong-tulong. Taong maykapansanan tumutulong sa walang kapansanan. Doon sa mga nangangailangan, nakahanda po palagi ang DENR sa pamumuno ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu," dagdag pa ni Antiporda.

Ang unang bahagi ng ComPassion Project ay sinimulan sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng relief goods sa mga nangangailangang komunidad habang ang ikalawang bahagi naman ay inilaan sa mga medical frontliners sa Quezon City na nabiyayaan ng PPE at food packs, ang naturang lungsod ang nakapagtala ng pinakamaraming kaso ng COVID-19 sa Metro Manila.

Ang ComPassion Project ay nakapaglaan ng P1 milyon sa pamamagitan ng voluntary contribution at DENR executives at employees.

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NATION

MisOr forest a tarsier sanctuary?

The DENR will validate the area if indeed is a natural habitat of tarsiers so that it can be declared a protected area.

Published 4 hours ago on June 7, 2020 02:15 AM

By [Perseus Echeminada](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is validating reports that a forest in the town of Salay, Misamis Oriental is actually a natural habitat of the tarsier, an endangered animal specie commonly found in the island of Bohol.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told the Daily Tribune that two residents were able to capture and surrender a fully grown tarsier from the area to the Salay's local environment office.

The rare creature was released back to its habitat in the forest on the same day.

"The DENR will validate the area if indeed is a natural habitat of tarsier so that it can be declared a protected area," Antiporda said.

Considered the second smallest mammal in the world, the tarsier can mostly be found in the Bohol island which became a popular tourist destination as a sanctuary of the nocturnal creature.

Some residents in the hinterlands of Northern Mindanao have reported sighting of tarsiers in the area and it was only on Wednesday last week that the elusive creature was captured in Misamis Oriental.

It was, however, not known if the creature is an endemic specie or introduced in the area from the Bohol province by wildlife collectors.

Aside from the tarsier, Northern Mindanao's forest ranges are also known as sanctuaries of the Philippine Eagle.

Apayao's Mount Sicapoo, haven of mountain forest mice

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

June 7, 2020



Graphical illustrations of forest mice—Luzon shrew, Cordillera forest mouse, Cordillera striped earth-mouse, Cordillera rhynchomys and Kalinga shrew-mouse. Velizar Simeonovs ki/Field Museum of Natural History

It is not just about the birds, the bees, the flowers and the trees. Mount Sicapoo, the highest peak in Apayao province in the Cordillera Administrative Region, is also about bats and wild pigs, deers and the environment-friendly mountain forest mice.

In a province which boasts of rich biological diversity, Mount Sicapoo is home to a diverse species of mountain forest mice that provide tremendous benefits to people and the environment.

The mountain is in Kabugao and Calanasan, Apayao province, although a portion is in Ilocos Norte, which is the more famous trail to its peak.



The peak of Mount Sicapoo (back) as viewed from Kilang Pass in Calanasan, Apayao province.

Mammals of Mount Sicapoo

A report on surveys of the mammals of Mount Sicapoo suggested that the mountain is home to mammal species that live only high on the mountain and might be genetically isolated from their nearest relatives further south of the province.

The report was written by Lawrence R. Heaney, Anna L. Petrosky of the Field Museum of Natural History based in Chicago, Illinois, and Eric A. Rickart of the Natural History Museum of Utah, Salt Lake City.

Started in February last year, the study aimed to conduct comprehensive surveys of the fauna and flora of Apayao.

The result of the study boosts the bid of Apayao province to earn the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Biosphere Reserve title.

The study was the first published scientific account of the mammals of Apayao.

It was a collaborative project of the Philippine Eagle Foundation, the Apayao province, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Apayao State College.

Responding to a BusinessMirror interview via e-mail on May 18, Heaney, who has conducted extensive studies on the mammals of Luzon, said a manuscript on the study on the mammals of Mount Sicapoo has been submitted to a peer-reviewed scientific journal and expressed hope to see it published by the end of the year.

Mountain forest mice

During the almost three week the surveys were conducted, the group camped out in the woods near the peak of the mountain where they collected live specimen in three different sampling areas and elevations.

Small and large mammals, bats and bird species were gathered by the team.

Among those recorded were various species of, but closely related to, forest mice that are native to Luzon, four of which live on high elevation areas in the Central Cordillera.

The species were the Luzon shrew, Cordillera forest mouse, small Luzon forest mouse, the least Luzon forest mouse, the large Luzon forest rat, the silver earth-mouse, the Cordillera striped earth-mouse, the common Philippine forest rat, the Kalinga shrew-mouse and the Cordillera rhynchomys.

They were all basically mice that can be found in Luzon.

The report described the different species's way of life, basically their hunting or feeding habits and diet.

Heaney, asked about their diet, said the small mammals, which were the focus of the report, feed on a wide range of foods.

“Some eat mostly tender young grass and some seeds; some eat only earthworms; one eats mostly crickets, small frogs and earthworms; one eats insects and any other small animals,” he said.

Completing the food chain

The mountain forest mice complete the food chain in Apayao ensuring ecological balance as they feed on worms, insects, and later on become prey to other animals themselves—some to snakes, lizards or birds of prey.

For one, the giant cloud rat, which eats bamboo shoots and tender leaves and bark, in turn, are eaten by the Philippine eagle.

The giant cloud rat, the largest of the species the group studied, weighed up to about 2.7 kilograms.

“The small species of mice are eaten by owls and by the small civets that live in the area, which in turn are also eaten by the eagles,” he said.

Healthy population, tremendous benefits

There's a thriving population of mountain forest mice on Mount Sicapoo, Heaney said, largely because the natural forest is not disturbed by human activity.

He said the healthy population of the mice on the mountain has tremendous benefits to both the environment and people of Apayao.

“First, the forest of which they are a crucial part of provides the watershed for the people of Apayao and nearby provinces. Rainfall is highest up high on the mountain; when the forest is in good condition, the rainfall is absorbed into the ground and slowly released during the dry season, providing water for home use, agriculture, and industry. Second, the mice and other native small mammals provide the food base for Philippine eagles and other birds that are forming the basis for the ecotourism industry that is developing in Apayao,” he said.

Source of pride, no adverse impact

Moreover, Heaney said the presence of the unique species is the source of national pride adding that “very few other countries have such unusual and interesting animals.”

Finally, he said the native mice prevent the non-native pest rats that live around people from moving into the forest; that helps to prevent the pest rats from becoming even more common.

He added that the native mammals that live in the forest very rarely cause any adverse impacts to people.

“They avoid people actively, and are not known to carry any diseases to people. The damage that is done to agricultural crops and to stored food, and the diseases carried to people are not [caused by] native animals,” he said.

Pest rats, he said, are unable to survive in the forest.

“The non-native rats, the ones that people see, live only with people and the places where people are active,” he said.

Ecologically 'very healthy'

Heaney said they observed that Mount Sicapoo is “ecologically very healthy and teeming with native trees,” including some that have survived generations and had lived over a hundred years.

“The natural forest is in very good condition and appears to be very stable. Many of the trees high on the mountain, though they are short and twisted, are probably more than 100 years old,” he noted.

One important factor linked to the forest's health is the protection provided by the people

“This ecological stability is the result of protection of the forest and watershed by the people of Apayao. When a natural forest is allowed to maintain itself—when it is simply left alone—it is able to maintain its natural functions and require very little active management,” he said.

Unique forest, better state

According to Jayson Ibañez, director for Research and Conservation of the Philippine Eagle Foundation, being the highest point in Apayao, Mount Sicapoo is unique as it consists mostly of mid-to-high elevation (montane to mossy) forests.

“The surrounding forest across Apayao, on the other hand, is mostly lowland dipterocarp forests. There are dipterocarp forests in Apayao which is not as pristine as the unique montane and mossy forests of Sicapoo, but there are also spots where dipterocarps are pristine, and primary,” he said, citing Marag Valley in Pudtol, Apayao, in an e-mail interview with the BusinessMirror on May 20.

However, he said, comparing the montane and mossy forests of Mount Sicapoo to Mount Pulag of Benguet, also in Cordillera, where farms have caused much deforestation and degradation even up to the peak, Mount Sicapoo is in a better state.

Local conservation area

Ibañez underscored the benefits of Apayao's Lapat, a natural resource traditional management practice of indigenous people in the province, wherein an area is declared a sacred ground and becomes “off-limits” to disruptive human activities

“And since the entry into the Lapat areas is prohibited, they become accidental wildlife sanctuaries where animals reproduce and replenish any deer or wild pig mortalities due to hunting,” he said.

The DENR supports local conservation areas, such as the Lapat system.

DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon, concurrent director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau, said more importantly, the department respects the way of life, including the cultural practices of indigenous peoples in protecting and conserving the environment and natural resources.

“We recognize local conservation areas like the Muyong of Ifugao, and Lapat in Apayao. These are traditional conservation practices and we have partnerships with Indigenous People's in these areas,” Calderon told the BusinessMirror in an interview late last month.

In Apayao, he said the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources, in a way, can be attributed to such practices by local folks.

Sustainable food source

Ibañez said maintaining the current pristine state of Apayao's forest and watersheds ensure the survival not only of animal wildlife but also of the people dependent on nature's bounty for food and water.

Apayao's Mount Sicapoo, haven of mountain forest

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“Habitat is an important factor. Because there are adequate and quality food sources, shelter and breeding places and wildlife could thrive. Because people do not also overkill them, [animal] populations thrive,” he said.

“In places where deer and wild pig have been lost, its this evil tandem of habitat loss and overhunting which drive species to extirpation [extinction in some places]. Of the two, overhunting is even more disastrous because the population can be lost [even] when good habitats are available,” he added.

For Apayao, he believes its healthy forest also ensures the survival of the indigenous Isnag culture into the future.

“If you look at it closely, a forest ecosystem is the foundation of the knowledge systems and practices of the Isnag, as well as almost all Philippine indigenous peoples in the uplands. Healthy forests, therefore, allow the flourishing of cultural diversity,” he explained.

Image Credits: [Jayson Ibañez](#).



News5

15 hrs · 🌐

Isang Philippine hawk eagle at dalawang batang Philippine scops owls ang itinurn-over sa DENR kahapon. | 📷 DENR Cagayan Valley



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EMB-7: Better air quality in Metro Cebu during ECQ

By Patricia Candaza Published on June 6, 2020



BETTER AIR QUALITY. EMB-7 Regional Director Lormelyn Claudio discussing the impact of ECQ on the air quality in Metro Cebu during the "Straight from the Source" interview conducted by Philippine Information Agency 7. Claudio said two months of ECQ saw a drastic drop in the levels of harmful emissions that come from vehicles in the metro. (PIA7)

CEBU CITY, June 5 (PIA) -- Air quality in Metro Cebu improved during the two months of lockdown in Metro Cebu as a result of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) which led to fewer vehicles plying the streets of Cebu City, Lapulapu City, and Mandaue City.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-7) recorded drastic reductions in the levels of the following emissions: particle matter (PM) emission (96.63 percent); volatile organic compound (VOC) emission (96.71 percent); sulfur oxide (SO_x) emission (67.01 percent); nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emission (91.31%); carbon monoxide (CO) emission (96.87 percent).

These emissions come from stationary sources and mobile sources.

Stationary sources refer to buildings, facilities, and structures that emit or may emit air pollutants.

Industries operating at full capacity during the ECQ like food manufacturing and power generation plants fall under this type of emission source.

Mobile sources, on the other hand, include air pollution emitted by vehicles.

According to EMB-7 Regional Director Lormelyn Claudio, mobile sources are the biggest contributors to air pollution.

She said that during the implementation of the ECQ, only about 5 to 10 percent of the vehicles were out on the streets of Metro Cebu which led to the big drop of emission levels.

With the entire Cebu now downgraded to general community quarantine (GCQ), more vehicles are expected to go out while more establishments will reopen.

During the "Straight from the Source" interview with Philippine Information Agency-7, Claudio said the Airshed Governing Board is proposing for a four-day compressed workweek to be adopted by local government units and national government agencies to leave one day for the environment where people do not have to go out of their homes and use their vehicles.

"We should settle for a four-day compressed work week, which means from Monday to Thursday lang sana yung may trabaho tayo so that we leave Friday as an environment or air quality day," said Claudio.

The EMB-7 chief said this is one way to possibly sustain the improved air quality amid the transition to general community quarantine in Metro Cebu. (poc/PIA7)

Program for Manila Bay rehabilitation launched online

Published June 6, 2020, 4:20 PM

By *Dhel Nazario*

A program for the Manila Bay rehabilitation was launched online on Friday. It is dubbed as the Integrated Mapping, Monitoring, Modelling, and Management System for Manila Bay and Linked Environments (IM4ManilaBay) Program, and was introduced along with its component projects to concerned stakeholders and the general public.



MMDA clean-up crew starts dredging mud and garbage build up under the Manila Yacht club as the Manila bay rehabilitation program starts Jan. 27, 2019. (ALI VICOY / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

The IM4ManilaBay Program was made possible through the University of the Philippines Diliman College of Engineering, the Training Center for Applied Geodesy and Photogrammetry (UP TCAGP), and the Institute of Civil Engineering (UP ICE).

The IM4ManilaBay Program is a two-year research undertaking led by Dr. Ariel C. Blanco, with funding support from the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD).

“The program aims to characterize Manila Bay and its watershed and linked environments to provide information for policy formulation/reviews, rehabilitation/treatment, and management through water quality monitoring and mapping, hydrodynamic and hydrologic modelling, and dredge materials and solid waste management,” the agency said.

The Program was initially proposed in response to a call for a collaborative effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay, as echoed during the Battle for Manila Bay campaign launched in January 2019.

Prior to the launching of the campaign, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DEDNR) recorded extremely high fecal coliform levels from different water quality monitoring stations.

But most recent data shows that coliform levels have “drastically decreased” just a year after rehab efforts.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu reported in January 2020 that fecal coliform count at the Padre Faura outfall is now at 920,000 most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml) from last year’s record of 7.21 million mpn/100ml. From pre-rehabilitation record of 35 million mpn/100ml at the Raja

Soliman/Remedios drainage outfall, coliform level went down to 11 million mpn/100ml. Fecal coliform levels give a general indication of the water condition in Manila Bay — the higher the count, the higher the water contamination is.

PCIEERD said that IM4ManilaBay Program is correspondingly instrumental and contributory to President Rodrigo Duterte’s Administrative Order No. 16 Series of 2019, “Expediting the Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystem of the Manila Bay and Creating the Manila Bay Task Force,” and the 2008 Supreme Court Mandamus ordering various government agencies to “clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation.”

Based on the mentioned data, however, there is still a long way to go to reach the standard fecal coliform level of 100 mpn/100ml for its supposed Class SB classification. This shows that the rehabilitation of Manila Bay goes beyond clean up drives, and sustainable solutions backed up by scientific data must be established and institutionalized.

Projects

Four component projects have been ongoing since the first quarter of 2020.

IWASTO (Integrated Waste Analysis, Survey and Technological Options) led by Dr. Maria Antonia N. Tanchuling. The project aims to describe and assess the solid waste management (SWM) activities in communities that are part of the Manila Bay watershed. It also intends to set up appropriate waste utilization technologies to process biodegradable and plastic wastes in selected communities. SWM information, such as waste characteristics and available facilities, will also be systemized and made available to the general public.

MapABLE (Development of Integrated Mapping, Monitoring, and Analytical Network System for Manila Bay and Linked Environments) led by Dr. Ariel C. Blanco. The project aims to develop and deploy an integrated system for mapping and monitoring the water quality of Manila Bay and linked systems, including major tributary rivers, using geospatial technologies and citizen science.

CharTeD DreaM (Management of Dredged Material: Characterization, Treatment, and Disposal) is led by Engr. Reynaldo L. Esguerra. The project aims to provide technology for the management and utilization of dredged materials collected from Tullahan-Tinajeros River System. The dredged materials will undergo characterization, pre-treatment, chemical treatment, and immobilization studies. Design of pilot treatment facility will be developed for the utilization of treated dredged materials into concrete aggregates.

E-SMART (Eco-system Modeling and Material Transport Analysis for the Rehabilitation of Manila Bay) led by Dr. Eugene C. Herrera. The project aims to streamline solution interventions for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay through hydrodynamic and material transport analysis of the integrated Manila Bay-Pasig River-Laguna Lake and surrounding watersheds system using numerical modeling.

Project MapABLE is being implemented by UP TCAGP; Projects IWASTO and e-SMART by UP ICE; and Project CharTeD DreaM by DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI).

8 nabbed for quarrying

Published 1 day ago on June 6, 2020 04:30 AM

By [Alvin Murcia](#)



The National Bureau of Investigation Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) recently arrested eight persons for illegal quarrying activities in Tarlac City.

Eric Distor, NBI Officer-In-Charge, identified the suspects as Rene Santiago, Joseph Acuna, Norman Ibasco, Jeovy Mojello, Raul Laxamana, Ernesto Torres, Reynaldo Balajadia, and Ryan Santos.

Their arrest came following an operation against a quarry operation and processing of minerals in Barangay Telabanca, Concepcion, Tarlac.

An informant said it operated without the necessary permit from the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board of the Province of Tarlac and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources — Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region III (DENR-MGB Region III).

A surveillance operation was conducted at the quarry area and the vibro plant. Operatives observed several trucks coming in and out of the site.

The trucks were observed to have been loaded with minerals.

The NBI also noticed equipment being used in the extraction, disposition and processing of minerals.

Piles of sand and mineral products (vibro sand) were also present in the quarry site, which clearly manifested a mining operation.

The Office of the Governor clarified that it has not issued quarry permits in Brgy. Telabanca, Concepcion, Tarlac.

In another certification, the MGB-Region III said only two mining tenements (Industrial Sand and Gravel Permit) were issued in the province of Tarlac.

On 2 June 2020, NBI-EnCD operatives, together with personnel from the DENR-MGB Region III, conducted the sting against J2KAT Vibro Sand Trading.

Agents apprehended Santiago as well as the three vibro plant operators and one vibro electrician identified as Acuna, Ibasco, Posada, Mojello and Laxamana.

The site/plant manager and owner of the lot were identified as Torres and Balajadia. They were also arrested.

Recovered from Ernesto was a booklet of delivery receipts for J2KAT Vibro Sand Trading.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/06/8-nabbed-for-quarrying/>



NEWS 5 News5 ✓
11 hrs · 🌐

Nanawagan ang chairwoman ng Senate committee on environment and natural resources na mas higitan ang pagpapatupad ng mga batas kaugnay sa kalikasan para protektahan ang mga hayop. Naniniwala kasi ang mga eksperto na konektado ang pagkasira ng kalikasan sa pagsulpot ng maraming sakit tulad ng Ebola, swine fever, at avian flu.

“
The fact that they are called protected areas should already warn people about their importance. They are the natural habitats of wildlife, which should not be damaged or destroyed, but protected instead, **not only for the animals' sake but for our sake as well.**
”

SEN. CYNTHIA VILLAR
JUNE 6, 2020

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Greenpeace hopes Congress can pass bills to address climate crisis

Published June 6, 2020, 4:29 PM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

Environmental organization Greenpeace Philippines is hoping that the Congress can urgently create and pass bills, particularly aiding government actions to address the climate crisis and its impacts on Filipino communities, following the approval on first hearing of two resolutions seeking to declare a national climate emergency.

During the Committee Meeting on Climate Change on June 4, Thursday, Greenpeace expressed its support to resolutions filed by Reps. Loren Legarda and Edgar Chatto, which both seek to declare climate emergency and ensure enhanced and coherent climate actions in the executive and legislative agenda of the government. The group specifically lauded Chatto's call for major carbon producers and emitters, both locally and abroad, to take responsibility for the climate emergency and to shift all investments to renewable energy instead.

Greenpeace campaigner Virginia Benosa-Llorin said that beyond the House resolutions, curbing the climate crisis must be integrated into government-recovery plans to equip the country for looming emergencies arising from the ongoing climate crisis even beyond the pandemic.

In a position paper submitted to the Philippine Congress, Greenpeace pointed out that lawmakers must pass bills that will hold fossil fuel companies accountable for their roles in driving climate change and inflicting harm on the Filipino people; demand other countries, particularly industrialized nations, to enhance their emissions reduction to meet the Paris Agreement's aim of limiting global temperature rise within 1.5°C; institute and fast-track a 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 roadmap that is locally-oriented and has clear incremental timelines; and phase out coal-fired power plants while imposing a moratorium on new coal and fossil fuel investments.

“We believe it is only right that the Philippine government issues a formal declaration of climate emergency. While the COVID-19 crisis has been compared to a sprint, the climate crisis is a marathon: its impacts are deeper and more far-reaching; and it is a crisis that we have faced for decades and which future generations of Filipinos will face for several more decades to come,” the paper read.

It also recommended lawmakers to mandate fossil fuel companies to submit plans to minimize dangerous contributions to the climate crisis in anticipation of the conclusion of the Commission on Human Rights landmark investigation on the responsibility of 47 fossil fuel companies in human rights harms linked to the climate crisis.



ORAS PARA SA KALIKASAN

June 6, 2020 @ 10:01 PM 9 hours ago

Pinaalala sa akin ng panganay ko na Araw ng Kalikasan kahapon, June 5, 2020.

World Environment Day o WED.

Ginawa ito ng United Nations o UN para mabigyan ng pansin ang mga isyu at solusyon para sa mas maganda, maayos at mabuting kalagayan ng kalikasan.

Buong mundo ang selebrasyon, pero siyempre, kakaiba ang halaga ng araw na ito para sa ating mga Filipino.

Pagpapaka-environmental expert kuno, muna ako.

Ngayong panahon ng COVID19, lumaki pa ang kahalagahan ng pag-aalaga sa kalikasan.

Medyo kumplikado, pero merong kaugnayan ang kalikasan sa pandemya ngayon.

Sa pagkalbo ng mga bundok at pag-ubos sa mga gubat, bumibilis ang pagbabago ng klima.

Sabayan mo pa ng pagtaas ng polusyon sa hangin at pagdumi sa mga ilog at dagat natin, at tuloy-tuloy ang pag-init ng mundo.

Dahil dito, nag-iiba ang katawan at kilos ng mga insekto at hayop sa mga gubat.

At ang mga pagbabagong ito ang siyang naglalabas ng mga bagong sakit at ng pandemya tulad ng COVID19.

Kailangan nating makinig sa mga paalala ni Inang Kalikasan.

Ang tema ng World Environment Day ay “Time for Nature”.

Ika nga, eh, bigyan naman natin ng oras o panahon ang kalikasan.

Tayong mga magulang, ‘di ba alam natin na dapat bigyan ng oras ang mga anak natin.

Oras para sa sarili natin, ganundin ang kalikasan.

‘Pag hindi natin binigyan ng oras para maintindihan kung ano ang kailangan niya, baka mas malala pa sa COVID-19 ang mga pwedeng mangyaring disaster na susunod.

Kaya sana, makatulong sa DENR ang mga simpleng paalala na ito.

Baka naman pwedeng bawasan ang mga minahan, kaingin, pagpuputol ng mga puno na sumisira sa mga gubat natin.

Dapat mas maayos na ipatupad ang Clean Air Act at Clean Water Act.

At sana, mas maayos na pagbabantay sa mga protected areas natin.

Sa DOE naman, baka pwede nang bawasan ang mga coal-fired power plant natin at pabilisin na ang mga solar power at wind power.

May murang kuryente na, malinis pa!

Sa MMDA naman, siguro ituloy na ang pag-ayos ng mga kalsada para mas marami at mas ligtas ang paggamit ng bisikleta.

Lahat ng ito, sigurado ako, kailangan lang ng oras para sa kalikasan.

Hurt endangered Nicobar pigeon rescued in Palawan

Published June 6, 2020, 2:56 PM

By *Gabriela Baron*

A critically endangered Nicobar pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*) was found hurt in Bataraza, Palawan recently, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) reported.



(Photo courtesy of Palawan Council for Sustainable Development)

The Nicobar pigeon, known for its local name “Siete Colores,” was rescued in Ursula Island, Bataraza with a deep wound on its right wing and swelling left foot on June 3.

PCSD said the bird was believed to have originated from the Ursula Island Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary (UIGRBS).

Franklin Aquino, UIGRBS superintendent, turned over the pigeon to PCSD for proper treatment and medical attention.

The Nicobar pigeon is the only living member of the genus *Caloenas* and may be the closest living relative of the extinct dodo.

Butanding, napadpad sa baybayin ng Agusan del Norte

By [Bombo Radyo Butuan](#)

-June 6, 2020 | 8:47 PM

BUTUAN CITY – Tuluyan nang naibalik sa laot ng mga tauhan ng Municipal Fishery Office sa bayan ng Buenavista, Agusan del Norte ang napadpad na butanding o whale shark kanina.

Sa eksklusibong panayam ng *Bombo Radyo Butuan*, inihayag ni Elmer Maboloc, administrador ng nasabing munisipyo, tumimbang ang butanding ng 300 kilos at may habang 16 talampakan na nanghina na dahil sa sobrang babaw ng kanyang kinalalagyan sa border ng Barangay Manapa at Matabao.

Daling nagsumbong sa munisipyo ang iilan sa mga residente sa naturang dapit na nakakita nito kung kaya't kaagad naman nilang nirespondehan.

Posible umanong hindi napansin ng butanding na nasa mababaw na bahagi na siya ng baybayin nang ito'y kumakain ng maliliit na isda lalo na't fishing season ngayon sa nasabing bayan.

Ex-brgy chairman, hinuli ng mga pulis dahil sa illegal logging sa CdeO

By [Bombo Radyo CdeO](#)

-June 6, 2020 | 9:16 PM

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Inaresto ng mga pulis ang dating barangay kapitan sa Pagalungan sa lungsod ng Cagayan de Oro dahil umano sa kaso nitong illegal logging.

Kinilala ang suspek na si Crisostomo Villarín, 73-anyos na residente sa naturang lugar.

Sinabi ni Lumbia Police Station commander PCpt. Valentines Baja na nangyaring ang kaso noon pang taong 1992 kaya't hindi na inakala ng suspek na may lalabas pa na warrant of arrest laban sa kanya.

Ayon kay Baja, kasamang nahuli ang driver ng dating opisyal na si Aniano Latada, 70, nakatira sa Brgy Tagpangi sa kaparehong siyudad.

Palace welcomes UN rights group observations

Published 6 hours ago on June 7, 2020 12:05 AM

By **Elmer N. Manuel** @tribunephil_lmer



Malacañang on Saturday welcomed the acknowledgment by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) that the Philippines in recent years has advanced human rights through measures such as universal health care, universal access to tertiary education and the provision of support for mental health.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Duterte administration is gratified that the OHCHR has noted its efforts in improving the administration of justice, the provision of treatment and rehabilitation for drug users, and the millions spent for social and economic development programs under initiatives for sustainable peace in conflict-ridden areas.

“By the OHCHR’s own reckoning, the legal, constitutional and institutional framework in the Philippines contains human rights safeguards, as well as checks and balances,” he said.

Roque, however, dismissed claims of alleged violations and abuses in the Philippines, saying they were premised on faulty conclusions.

In a statement, Roque stressed that there is no truth behind allegations that the Duterte administration is clamping down legitimate dissent and was responsible for the supposed widespread killings of drug suspects.

Roque noted that while the Philippine government notes the recommendations made by the OHCHR, it cannot commit to their full implementation given the faulty conclusions on which they were premised.

“Among them the alleged violations of the right to life, the supposedly arbitrary deprivation of liberty of those involved in drug cases, the alleged violations of the right to health, and the implication that Filipino civic space is being destroyed by the focus given to public order and national security. We firmly reject these conclusions,” he said.

Roque pointed out that the government continues to ensure the exercise of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. However, he explained, it is also the government’s duty to enforce the acknowledged and clear limits of these rights: public order, public safety and security and public health.

“In the midst of a crippling pandemic, it is the Philippine government’s responsibility to ensure that its citizens are not exposed to the virus, misled by misinformation spread under the guise of free speech, or harmed by criminals taking advantage of a precarious situation,” he said.

The Duterte administration, Roque noted, maintains that the rule of law is upheld and any offenses committed by law-enforcement or otherwise will be dealt with in accordance with due process.

“Our courts stand ready to receive and rule on any complaints and their autonomy is respected by the Duterte Administration. Our commitment to the campaign against illegal drugs is buoyed not just by its gains with respect to drug users rehabilitated and drug peddlers stopped, but by the public’s continued support for the President, who won his office on the issue of illegal drugs,” he explained.

The OHCHR’s conclusions regarding the supposed crackdown on critical advocates, according to the Palace mouthpiece, is belied by its own findings that the “Philippines has a long-standing, robust tradition of human rights advocacy and civil society activism, with 60,000 registered non-governmental organizations.”

The Philippine government, according to Roque, notes the recommendations made by the OHCHR, but cannot commit to their full implementation given the faulty conclusions on which they were premised, among them the alleged violations of the right to life, the supposedly arbitrary deprivation of liberty of those involved in drug cases, the alleged violations of the right to health, and the implication that Filipino civic space is being destroyed by the focus given to public order and national security.

“We firmly reject these conclusions,” Roque emphasized. “That being said, the government will continue to respect its international legal obligations, including human rights.”

Bayanihan law effective until June 25: Palace

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos June 6, 2020, 6:30 pm



MANILA – The expiration of the Republic Act (RA) 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act is on June 25, Malacañang said on Saturday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said a provision of RA 11469 clearly states that the law will end on June 25.

“We maintain that the effectivity of the Bayanihan act is governed by sunset clause of the law. It is effective until June 25, 2020,” Roque said.

Section 9 of RA 11569 provides that the Bayanihan Act takes effect immediately “upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette” and is in full force and effect “only for three months unless extended by Congress.”

RA 11469 was inked by President Rodrigo Duterte on March 24 but was only published in newspapers on March 25 or a day after it was signed into law.

Roque’s statement came after some have claimed that the effectivity of the law ceased on June 5.

The Bayanihan law gives Duterte temporary special powers to address the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Malacañang earlier sought the extension of Duterte’s emergency powers to allow his administration to further boost its fight against the Covid-19 crisis.

The Senate on Wednesday approved on second reading Senate Bill (SB) 1546, which extends Duterte’s special powers until Sept. 30, 2020, to give him the authority to continue his government’s programs aimed at addressing the pandemic.

Senators, however, failed to pass the measure on third and final reading when the first regular session of the 18th Congress ended on Thursday.

The lack of certification of urgency from Duterte prohibited the Senate from passing SB 1546 immediately on third and final reading.

With the certification of urgency, lawmakers need now wait for the three-day period between the second and third readings before a bill gets passed.

In the House of Representatives, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez filed House Bill 6811, a similar measure that seeks the extension of Duterte's special powers for another three months.

The House of Representatives committee of the whole on Wednesday approved the substitute bill extending Duterte's emergency powers.

Lawmakers will open their second regular session on July 26, but Malacañang has expressed confidence that they will hold a special session during their mandatory recess to discuss the bill extending the temporary special powers granted to Duterte amid the Covid-19 pandemic. *(PNA)*

Duterte emergency powers intact despite Congress
on break

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June 07, 2020
DATE



President Rodrigo Duterte holds a meeting with his Cabinet to discuss updates on the novel coronavirus disease at the Presidential Security Group Compound at Malacañang Park on March 24, 2020. Presidential photo/Toto Lozano

Duterte emergency powers intact despite Congress on break

[Prinz Magtulis](#) (Philstar.com) - June 6, 2020 - 6:22pm

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte’s emergency powers to address the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic remain in effect, a position Malacañang has taken despite a constitutional provision that stipulates such powers stop existing as soon as Congress ends its session.

As far as Republic 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act is concerned, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque told **Philstar.com** on Saturday the government “adheres to the view that the sunset clause prevails.”

Roque was pertaining to Section 9 of the law which stated that the measure “shall be in full force and effect only for three months, unless extended by Congress.” Since the law was enacted on March 24, but was not published until the day after, Roque said the law is “effective until June 25.”

The sunset provision of RA 11469, however, appears to run counter to Article VI, Section 23 of the Constitution that stipulated that “in times of war or other national emergency,” legislators may grant the president powers which “shall cease upon the next adjournment of Congress.” Lawmakers concluded their first regular session last Friday.

Lawyer Antonio La Viña, former dean of the Ateneo School of Government, believes at least the law’s “criminal provisions which are strictly interpreted” should no longer be in effect. He did not elaborate.

La Viña was pertaining to RA 11469’s penalty provisions, including a controversial stipulation that charges and jails individuals or groups “perpetrating or spreading false information regarding COVID-19.” The provision has been used by the police during the early days of the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon to run after social media users critical of the government’s pandemic response.

Duterte emergency powers intact despite Congress

June 07, 2020

TITLE: on break

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DATE

Critics said the provision had been abused by authorities to stifle freedom of expression and to run after people critical of the Duterte administration. The Department of Justice, which oversees the National Bureau of Investigation, has denied such claims.

Sought for his position on whether the Bayanihan Act remains in effect, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra indicated that the constitutional provision laying out the expiration of the emergency powers “is capable of being interpreted in more than one way.”

“Generally speaking, when a constitutional or statutory provision is capable of being interpreted in more than one way, It is the interpretation that logically breathes life to the intent of the law and serves it purpose that should prevail,” Guevarra said in a text message.

Budget powers

That the Palace believes Duterte still wields his emergency powers is crucial on other matters. For one, RA 11469 allows the Executive department to move budget funds from one agency or one program to another on its own, without the need for Congress approval. The powers were requested as legal cover as the government tries to search for funding for its COVID-19 response.

As of May 29, nearly P354 billion in funds were shifted to finance programs meant to counter the pandemic’s impact. Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado said in a text message his department would continue on reallocating budgets until the law is expired.

On top of budgetary powers, Duterte is also allowed under the Bayanihan Act to “direct the operation” of private hospitals and medical facilities, as well as other establishments, needed to assist on the government’s handling of the pandemic. That said, this provision, opposed by businesses, has so far not been enforced.

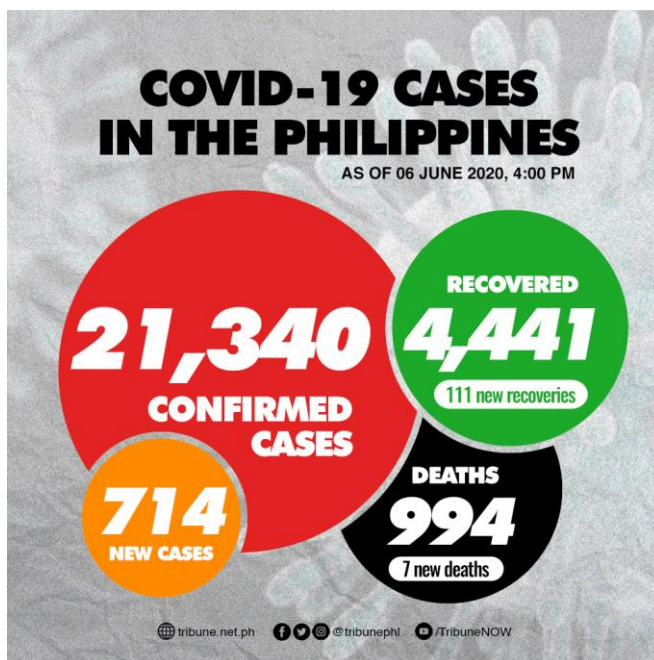
The government had requested Congress, through another bill, to extend Duterte’s additional powers by another three months or until September 2019. The bill, however, failed to pass before lawmakers went on a break that will run until July 26. It remains unclear whether Duterte will call Congress to a special session to pass the measure.

COVID-19 cases in PHL breach 21K mark

The Health department said that of the the total newly reported infections, there are 350 “fresh” or newly validated cases and 364 late cases.

Published 13 hours ago on June 6, 2020 04:41 PM

By [Gabbie Parlade](#)



The Department of Health (DoH) reported on Saturday 714 confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the country, bringing the total number of infections to 21,340.

The Health department said that of the the total newly reported infections, there are 350 “fresh” or newly validated cases and 364 late cases.

The number of recoveries, on the other hand, now stands at 4,441 following 111 recuperations reported while the death toll is now at 994 after seven fatalities were recorded.

Among the fresh cases, 104 are from Metro Manila, 171 are from Region VII or Central Visayas, and 75 are from other areas, while in the late cases, 140 are from Metro Manila while 224 are from other areas.

The DoH bulletin also showed a notable increase in the number of cases coming from the National Capital Region (NCR) with others reported in different areas.

Also in its 15,309 active cases, a majority were found to be mild and asymptomatic cases.

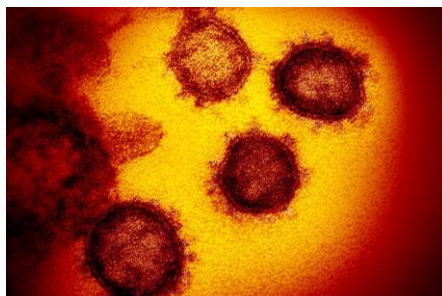
Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that the late cases will be decreasing in the next few days as the DoH finishes its complete line list of cases to be validated from other laboratories.

She also said after all late cases have been validated, the reporting of cases will return to its old format where only the fresh cases will be included.

Philippines' coronavirus infections jump to 21,340; deaths near 1,000

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 06 2020 04:15 PM | Updated as of Jun 06 2020 06:39 PM



MANILA (UPDATE) - The Philippines on Saturday saw a sizable spike in its tally of coronavirus infections with 714 new cases, showing no signs yet of abating following a months-long lockdown.

The new cases pushed the nationwide tally 21,340, of whom 15,309 are considered active. A majority of the patients are exhibiting mild symptoms.

In its latest bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) reported 350 “fresh cases,” or those validated within the past 3 days, the highest single day increase since the ministry adopted a new system of reporting.

Some 104 fresh cases came from Metro Manila, which remains the epicenter of COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

Central Visayas, which has the second highest number of coronavirus infections, had 171 fresh cases. The remaining 75 others came from other regions.

Meanwhile, of the 364 “late cases,” or test results validated 4 days ago or earlier, 140 were from Metro Manila while the 224 came from other regions.

The rate of fatalities in the country has also slowed down in recent days. The health department logged 7 additional deaths, raising its tally to 994 since the outbreak began in January.

From May 31 to June 6, the country recorded an average of 6.3 daily deaths. Nearly half of those who succumbed to COVID-19 had underlying conditions such as hypertension and diabetes.

"DOH explains that the observed steady decrease in the number of recorded deaths per day is an indicator that the country's health system is successfully coping with the pandemic," the agency said in a statement.

"This decline shows that different hospitals and facilities are now able to manage cases more effectively, thereby preventing more patients from progressing to severe disease and expiring."

Meanwhile, the number of people who have survived the illness increased by 111, with total recoveries now at 4,441. The average hospital length of stay for recovered patients is at 11 days.

Based on DOH data as of June 5, the top 10 cities with the most number of COVID-19 cases are Quezon City with 2,420; Cebu City (2,269); Manila (1,261); Makati (715); Parañaque (666); Caloocan (655); Mandaluyong (641); Pasig (587); Taguig (471); and Pasay (427).

Since surfacing in Wuhan City in Hubei province, China last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has infected 6.7 million people and claimed 395,000 lives.

Experts around the world are working at breakneck speed to develop a vaccine for the respiratory illness, caused by the novel coronavirus named SARS-CoV-2. – **With a report from ABS-CBN Data Analytics Team**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/06/20/philippines-coronavirus-infections-jump-to-21340-deaths-near-1000?fbclid=IwAR1ZxeelssyifWCb8mOtz5phxWk-fYwhzYkwi9HQupMR6AI--NFxmm8neN0https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2025214414301969&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0

Modified number coding takes effect Monday

Published 3 hours ago on June 7, 2020 03:00 AM

By **Alvin Murcia**



The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) announced it shall be implementing a modified number coding scheme on Monday, 8 June.

The scheme exempts vehicles driven by health workers and those with two or more passengers, including the driver, provided that social distancing and the wearing of face masks is observed.

The modification is in line with MMDA Regulation 2020-001, Series of 2020, agreed upon by Metro Manila mayors on 26 May, which specified these conditions.

The MMDA is the implementing agency of the policies decided by the Metro Manila Council, composed of mayors of the 17 local government units in the National Capital Region.

The MMDA only implements regulations approved by the body.

The agency advised the motoring public to disregard all previous pronouncements with conditions and exemptions other than those provided for in this regulation.

Drilon urges gov't to mitigate unemployment impact

The senator expressed alarm over the possible economic and social consequences of the increasing unemployment.

Published 13 hours ago on June 6, 2020 05:28 PM

By **TDT**



Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon on Saturday urged the national government to act swiftly to mitigate the impact of unemployment on 7.3 million jobless Filipinos and their families, including thousands of returning overseas Filipino workers (OFW) who lost their jobs as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

“The government should roll out livelihood programs and augment funding for programs that provide temporary jobs and loans to people who’ve lost jobs and their sources of income to the pandemic, including our modern day heroes – thousands of them returned to the country with meager savings and no means of income,” Drilon said.

The senator also expressed alarm over the possible economic and social consequences of the increasing unemployment, if not acted upon immediately and also called on the Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III and OWWA Administration Hans Leo Cacdac “to actively fund and provide benefits to returning OFW.”

Drilon said the OWWA should use its over P20B in assets to help OFWs and stop relying on the national budget in consideration of the increasing budget deficit, adding that the said funds could and should be used to help OFWs by providing them adequate financial, livelihood and other assistance.

He reprimanded the OWWA for its insufficient and dismal assistance to OFW.

“The OWWA Fund was specifically created for the purpose of providing social and welfare services to OFW. Secretary Bello and Administrator Cacdac should stop thinking of OWWA’s return on investment, but the OFWs’ welfare,” said Drilon.

The minority leader earlier filed Senate Resolution No.417 which calls for an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the adequateness and sufficiency of the OWWA assistance to OFW affected by the pandemic.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has gravely affected Filipino workers abroad, with about 250,000 OFW requesting assistance from DOLE and around 80,000 repatriated OFW without prospects of re-employment,” Drilon said.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/06/drilon-urges-govt-to-mitigate-unemployment-impact/>

'Build' program spurs massive employment

Published 18 hours ago on June 6, 2020 12:19 PM

By **Maria Romero**



By the end of 2020, the Build Build Build Program is expected to generate 6.57 million jobs. (DPWH Facebook)

The Duterte administration's ambitious "Build, Build, Build" program is seen generating a total of 1.5 million jobs by year-end.

Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar said the continuous yearly increase in infrastructure budget has led to the "massive employment generation across the country."

"This massive BBB program is aimed to not only build roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure to spur economic development but also to provide a local livelihood to the Filipino people," Villar said.

Data from the DPWH showed that the project has produced 911,034 jobs in 2016; 1,196,555 in 2017; 1,714,905 in 2018; and 1,226,023 in 2019.

Despite a slowdown this year due to coronavirus pandemic, Villar said an estimated 1,525,342 jobs will be generated from the 2020 budget, bringing the program's total employment generation to 6.57 million in just four years.

Construction workers employed under the program are paid based on the minimum wage for each region.

However, Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) Labor Force Survey showed that unemployment rate in April ballooned to 17.7 percent, the highest recorded since the 8.4-percent rate in 2005 as virus lockdown forced the closure of thousands of businesses.

The PSA said the unemployment rate was equivalent to an estimated 7.3 million jobless people, higher than the 2.3 million in the same month last year.

The DPWH earlier issued Department Order 35, mandating that only those aged 21 to 59 years old should be allowed to work. They should be provided "welfare facilities and amenities, such as employees' quarters for board and lodging" as they will have to stay in their quarters for the duration of the project.

During deployment, daily monitoring of the pre- and post-work health conditions of the workers should be undertaken by the concessionaires, contractors, suppliers, and subcontractors.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/06/build-program-spurs-massive-employment/>



"Some businesses are resilient, remain extremely relevant and are in fact booming despite the prevailing global health crisis," Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said.

Miguel de Guzman, file

'Philippine economy will soon bounce back'

[Christina Mendez](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 7, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Despite the high rate of unemployment recorded last April due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said he remains optimistic that the country will bounce back very soon.

In a speech delivered online Friday for the first segment of the Pre-Employment Preparation Webinar series conducted by the Far Eastern University Career and Placement Office, Nograles expressed belief that new career opportunities would emerge even if lockdowns had adversely affected many industries.

"Some businesses are resilient, remain extremely relevant and are in fact booming despite the prevailing global health crisis," Nograles said.

"We all need to be persistent and creative. Know what and where to look for employment in these challenging times. No one is immune from the fallout brought by COVID-19. Everyone in both the public and private sectors is affected, and our government is doing its best to provide social and economic safety nets," Nograles, co-chair of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), said.

He said many of the promising enterprises are in health and medical sectors, online retail and deliveries, as well as various online services.

"There are a lot of uncertainties especially for our youth, but there are many big prospects. It is expected that there are apprehensions. Let's remain optimistic and think there are many opportunities out there," Nograles said.

As people are taking measures to avoid physical contact with others, Nograles said business could be challenging especially to the service sector, but promising to sectors like logistics, medicine and health care, and even online retail.

"Now is the best time for you, graduating students and new graduates, to prepare and to re-think your 'game plan' on how to adapt with the demands of the 'new normal' due to the COVID pandemic," he told the students.

Nograles added new job applicants must be able to properly utilize and take advantage of new Web-based technologies in finding employment.

Government expects increased demand for professionals highly skilled in information technology, health care, education, logistics and personal assistance services.

Sectors like transport, which have manual labor requirements, could suffer slowdown.

Nograles also said young graduates should practice volunteerism while searching for regular employment. He said this would be a good opportunity to develop individual skills and to expand their network which could help them secure employment and other livelihood opportunities in the future.

Nograles shared the view that until a COVID-19 vaccine is found, social distancing and other hygiene protocols laid down by the IAFAT would be strictly enforced regardless of the level of quarantine currently in effect.

At present, the IATF is fully performing its mandate of setting policies that can help citizens cope with the challenges posed by the contagion.

The task force is pushing for an expedited delivery of social services to the most vulnerable groups in the population through the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) ID cards linked to digital payment systems.

Through PhilSys, government will have a more reliable registry of vulnerable persons from all data bases.

This can facilitate automatic and universal release of aid during national emergencies without the need for applications.

Nograles explained that even the education sector needs to adapt to the new normal through the institutionalization of so-called blended or online learning, flexible learning options such as open high schools, alternative delivery modes and satellites for off-grid areas.

“We’re keeping up with the everyday challenges of COVID-19 and we’re slowly easing in systems that would benefit every Filipino – young and old, student, worker, homemaker, entrepreneurs. Let’s all be positive and supportive. We’re all in this fight together,” he said.

Meanwhile, Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar is urging the youth and community leaders to take the lead in demonstrating the new normal as the country braces for the start of a “new era” after the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Leading forward is a paradigm, a standard of conduct in thought and action against the horrific coronavirus and whatever else that threatens or may threaten our lives. It is a model in health and livelihood activities,” Andanar said at a virtual town hall meeting on Friday.

Andanar said there is much to expect from the youth because of their big potentials to forge “genuine leadership and services.”

“You are the molders of the nation’s dreams. You are the mirrors that reflect honor, dignity and comfortable life for every Filipino which the President has constantly spoken of and strives to achieve,” he said.

Albay Balik-Probinsya Program continues

Czar Dancel, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 05 2020 11:29 PM



A woman is sprayed with disinfectant before riding a bus at the Baclaran church en route to her home province Albay on Friday. Some 600 individuals stranded in Manila because of the lockdown were given free rides back to Albay in the Balik-Probinsya Program through the efforts of the Office of the Vice-President, the Redemptorist community, and the Albay provincial government.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/06/05/20/albay-balik-probinsya-program-continues?fbclid=IwAR3sx9gfvOd850OVFJ3V9Tp8WkFLq0qBM9-mu_CxfkgHvA_te40nXS2R_s

Turning disasters into opportunities

By: [Ron Jay P. Dangcalan](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:02 AM June 07, 2020

Disasters have a negative connotation as they entail loss, death, disruption, and havoc. We associate them with pictures of destruction and desolation, of houses buried deep during a landslide, or terrified people shaken by an earthquake. Many people think of disasters as “acts of God” or something beyond our control.

That is where the problem lies. If people do not have any control over disasters, government leaders and we ourselves can run away from responsibility. Most importantly, it takes away any possibility of improvement and learning from a catastrophe.

A different perspective. Some consensus in the scientific community points to disasters as anthropogenic. They are man-made. Disasters happen when hazards interface with vulnerable human activities and lack of capacity to withstand shocks in the system. Typhoons are not necessarily disasters when they occur in the middle of the Pacific Ocean without leading to any human or economic losses. They only become a disaster when a poorly planned and managed drainage system gets inundated with floodwaters and cause loss of livelihood, injury, or death to people. Hence, there is no such thing as a natural disaster.

This line of thinking is important, because it means that individuals and their governments have, within their power, the capacity to prevent or reduce disaster risks. Such perspective means that there can be opportunities following a disaster.

History provides ample cases. The Federal Emergency Management Agency was created following the catastrophes of the 1970s in the United States. The concept of Build Back Better emerged following the devastation caused by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. In the Philippines, Typhoon “Ondoy” provided a strong push in the enactment of Republic Act No. 10121 or the country’s disaster risk reduction and management law.

Building back better. COVID-19 challenges many of our assumptions about disasters. The country is frequently hit by typhoons that last for a few days. This pandemic is different as it wreaks havoc for months. While typhoons call for significant policy shifts after a disaster, this lengthy pandemic requires major policy changes to happen during a disaster. Leaders with reactive and short-term approaches anchored mostly on doles are caught unprepared by a pandemic that requires decisive and well-thought-out policy decisions. To attribute failures in managing this crisis to nature or the divine becomes even more irrelevant.

While our country has strengthened its response mechanisms to hydrometeorological and geological disasters, there has been less attention paid to pandemics. This explains why both the public and private sectors have had a difficult time grappling with COVID-19.

Much of the lessons from COVID-19 will emerge in the future, as leaders contemplate its implications and more scientific studies emerge. However, there are several lessons that can be gleaned now. First, the country’s laws and policies should have mechanisms to mitigate and manage pandemics. The health system plays a very important role in the national strategy to fight pandemics and deserves support in funding, organizational reforms, and human resources. Second, contingency plans in the private sector should prepare not just for short-term disruptions but also for the long term to prevent the loss of livelihood of millions of people. Third, disaster education is crucial not just in making people more prepared, but also for them to demand better leadership during disasters. These lessons are crucial for the Philippines to build back better systems and turn the COVID-19 pandemic into an opportunity.

* * *

Ron Jay P. Dangcalan is an assistant professor at the Department of Social Development Services, College of Human Ecology, UPLB, and a specialist at the Interdisciplinary Studies Center for Water.

Source: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/130542/turning-disasters-into-opportunities>

Phl among rising stars in travel

Published 6 hours ago on June 7, 2020 12:05 AM

By **Elmer N. Manuel** @tribunephil_imer



Despite reeling from the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Philippines still landed on the prestigious Forbes' list of "Rising Stars in Travel" — one of seven countries cited to have potential to become major tourist destinations.

In the online site of Forbes, it said that even with the pandemic, countries are still preparing for a "boom in international visitors" after it has subsided and that this could be an opportunity for other nations to "establish themselves as a prominent regional force for tourism."

It added that the "highly underrated countries" in the list have all the ingredients to achieve this — "pristine natural beauty, historic ruins and fascinating cultural experiences."

"With roughly 7,500 islands to choose from, this massive archipelago has something to offer for even the most finicky of tourists," travel writer Jared Ranahan said of the Philippines.

Ranahan also recommended that those seeking sandy shores should head to Visayas, "where island destinations like Palawan and Boracay offer some of the nation's finest white sand beaches, as well as countless opportunities to spot some of the endemic plant and animal species of the Philippines."

Ethiopia, Iran, Myanmar, Georgia, Slovenia and Tunisia are listed in the article as well.

The Department of Tourism (DoT) had welcomed the international recognition, saying that it is please that the country is still being recognized for its natural beauty.

"We are pleased to have received this bit of good news, especially after our industry had been hit hard by the global health pandemic," said DoT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat in a statement.

"International recognition, especially by a well-respected publication like Forbes, in this post-COVID-19 world will go a long way in helping the Philippine tourism industry get back on its feet," she added.

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



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!

This article was originally published on the [Choose Philippines website](#).

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/06/04/20/forbes-names-ph-one-of-rising-stars-in-post-quarantine-travel?fbclid=IwAR1MfBVB1hJUWJsOa-TocCY5nDEanSbD8jcg0iqQtIquvroqbFvdvPTBg8>



Pinas, pasok sa 'Rising Stars in Travel' ng Forbes

June 6, 2020 @ 10:43 AM 21 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Swak ang Pilipinas sa listahan ng Forbes na “Rising Stars in Travel.”

Isa ang Pinas sa pitong bansa na may potensyal na maging major tourist destinations.

Ayon sa ulat, paghahandaan na ng ilang bansa ang “boom in international visitors” sa oras na tuluyang maglaho ang pandemic.

“The ‘highly underrated countries’ in the list have all the ingredients to achieve this,” saad sa artikulo.

“Pristine natural beauty, historic ruins, and fascinating cultural experiences.”

“With roughly 7,500 islands to choose from, this massive archipelago has something to offer for even the most finicky of tourists,” pahayag naman ng travel writer na si Jared Ranahan ng Pilipinas.
Philippines.

Pasok din sa listahan ang Ethiopia, Iran, Myanmar, Georgia, Slovenia, ay Tunisia.

Welcome naman sa Department of Tourism ang naturang international recognition.

“We are pleased to have received this bit of good news, especially after our industry had been hit hard by the global health pandemic,” saad ni DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat sa pahayag.

“International recognition, especially by a well-respected publication like Forbes, in this post-COVID-19 world will go a long way in helping the Philippine tourism industry get back on its feet,” dagdag pa nito. **RNT/FGDC**

Di pangkaraniwang 'golden bangus,' makikita sa
isang fishpond sa Dagupan

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June 07, 2020
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'Di pangkaraniwang 'golden bangus,' makikita sa isang fishpond sa Dagupan

Hunyo 5, 2020 11:04pm GMT+08:00

Makalipas ang walong taon, ngayon lang uli nagkaroon ng balita tungkol sa pambihirang "golden bangus" na makikita sa isang palaisdaan sa Dagupan City, Pangasinan.



Sa ulat ni Kim Guevarra sa RGMA-Balitang Amianan, sinabing ang bangus na may matinkad na dilaw ang kaliskis ay pag-aari ng pamilya Rommel Felomino.

Ayon kay Rommel, nakita na lang nila ang golden bangus matapos silang maglagay ng fingerlings sa palaisdaan noong nakaraang taon.

"Nung nag-rent kami ng fishpond last year naglagay kami ng fingerlings po. Nung nagpapakain po kami bigla na lang pong lumitaw 'yan [golden bangus], inalagaan namin hanggang sa lumaki," pahayag ni Rommel sa GMA News Online.

Mula noon, nagsisilbi na umanong lucky charm sa palaisdaan nila ang kakaibang isda.

Para maalagaan umano nang husto, mapag-aralan at maparami, ibibigay nina Rommel ang golden bangus sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)

"Pag lumaki naman iyon hindi naman namin pakikinabangan kung hindi naman mangingitlog dito sa fishpond. Parang lucky charm lang po namin," sabi niya.

"Iti-turnover namin sa [BFAR] para ma-experiment para mapadami yung bangus na golden,"dagdag niya.

Taong 2012 nang ibigay din sa BFAR ng isang pangingisda [sa Binmaley, Pangasinan ang nakita niyang golden bangus.](#)



Di pangkaraniwang 'golden bangus,' makikita sa
TITLE: isang fishpond sa Dagupan

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Pero namatay ang pambihirang bangus kinalaunan.

"Very rare 'yan [golden bangus], bihirang lumabas," sabi ni Dr. Westly Rosario, hepe ng BFAR-NIFTDC.

"Isa sa pinakamadaling ma-stress na isda ay bangus. During that time talagang very excited lahat," kuwento ng opisyal.

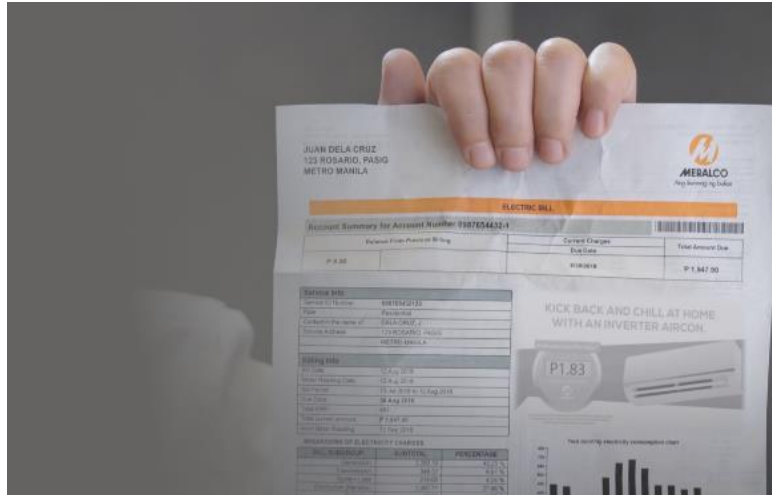
Para hindi ma-stress ang bagong golden bangus na ipagkakatiwala sa BFAR, sinabi ni Rosario na magkakaroon ito ng distansiya mula sa mga tao na nais makita ang kakaibang isda.

Dati nang ipinaliwanag ng BFAR na posibleng nagkaroon ng abnormality sa pigmentation ng isda kaya nagkulay ginto ang kaliskis nito.--**FRJ, GMA News**

DOE orders issuance of 'actual' power billings

Published 17 hours ago on June 6, 2020 01:26 PM

By **Maria Romero**



The Department of Energy is pushing for the issuance of new electricity bills based on “actual meter readings” after it received a surge of “bill shock” complaints from consumers.

DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi last week met with Manila Electric Company (Meralco) officials to discuss the implementation of his proposal to issue a new power bill to consumers.

Cusi said the new bill should be based on “actual readings” and the previous bills based on estimated consumption should be disregarded.

Meralco, the country’s biggest electricity distribution utility, should “be transparent and put consumer welfare first at all times,” Cusi said.

Cusi likewise said Meralco should issue advisories explaining the sudden surge of May and June billings through letters, social media posts, and print media notices to ensure that consumers can avail of installment arrangements.

Meralco was previously questioned over alleged “bill shock” and payment of P47 “convenience fee” that customers encountered during the quarantine period.

Company officials said the convenience fee, which has since been waived and will be refunded, was for online payment conduit PayMaya, which is operated by sister company Smart Communications.

‘Transitional’ bill ng Maynilad matatanggap ngayong Hunyo

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- June 7, 2020 - 12:00am



Ang lahat ng bill payments na ginawa sa panahon ng ECQ ay ibabawas sa Total Amount Due sa darating na June bill.
The STAR/ File

MANILA, Philippines — Dahil balik na ang actual meter reading ng Maynilad noong June 1, tatanggap na ang mga customer nito ng “transitional” water bill ngayong Hunyo sa nakonsumo ng ECQ months mula Marso hanggang Mayo 2020 gayundin ang current actual billing at consumption para sa June 2020.

Ang total actual consumption ay na-compute sa pagbawas sa customer’s February 2020 meter reading mula sa actual meter reading ngayong Hunyo.

Ang lahat ng bill payments na ginawa sa panahon ng ECQ ay ibabawas sa Total Amount Due sa darating na June bill.

May palugit naman sa pagbabayad ng water bill ang mga lifeline customers. Ang mga nakakonsumo ng 10 cubic meters kada buwan ay may hanggang August 31, habang ang mga nakagamit ng mahigit 10 cubic meters per month ay hanggang July 31.

Magnitude 5 quake jolts Occidental Mindoro — Phivolcs

By [Franz Lewin Embudo](#)

June 5, 2020

THE Philippine Institute Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded a magnitude 5 earthquake in Occidental Mindoro on Friday night.

Phivolcs said the epicenter of the tremor was spotted at 27 kilometers northeast of Calintaan town at 9:37 p.m.

The tectonic earthquake had a depth of 3 kms from the surface.

No intensity was recorded.

Phivolcs said it was expecting damage and aftershocks were possible. WITH NIKKI
DELOS REYES

Pangolins given top-level protection

Published 3 hours ago on June 7, 2020 02:30 AM

By **China Daily**



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IN past decades, the pangolin species' population has witnessed a sharp decline due to habitat destruction, rampant poaching and smuggling. / CHINA DAILY

BEIJING, China (China Daily) — The Chinese government recently raised the protection level of Chinese pangolins to the top level, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration announced on Friday.

The species, which used to be at the second level under state protection, is now listed among the top-protected animals.

According to a national wildlife survey conducted by forestry authorities in the 1990s, there were some 60,000 Chinese pangolins in 11 provinces, including Yunnan, Hunan, Guangdong, Sichuan and Zhejiang provinces.

In past decades, the species' population has witnessed a sharp decline due to habitat destruction, rampant poaching and smuggling.

In 2017, the International Union for Conservation of Nature placed Chinese pangolins on the Red List of Endangered Species, as a team of experts believed the population had dropped by 90 percent over the previous decade.

India vows probe after pregnant elephant killed with explosives-filled fruit

Published June 6, 2020 3:52pm

India pledged to investigate Thursday the death of a pregnant elephant that ate explosives-filled fruit, as cricket and Bollywood stars joined a chorus of outrage over the incident.

The elephant died in agony last week in the southern state of Kerala, the latest casualty in a growing conflict in South Asia between large animals and humans as ever more forest is lost to urban expansion.

Footage of the animal standing in a river for hours with its badly injured mouth and trunk in the water as it slowly weakened went viral, triggering horror and even calls for the culprits to be executed.

India's cricket captain Virat Kohli said on social media he was "appalled" while Bollywood megastar Akshay Kumar tweeted that the incident was "heartbreaking, inhumane and unacceptable."

"Maybe animals are less wild and humans less human," Kumar said, calling for "strict action" against the culprits.

Even Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of Tata, one of India's biggest conglomerates, chimed in, calling the killing "no different than acts of meditated murder against other humans... Justice needs to prevail."

India's environment and forest minister Prakash Javadekar promised action.

"Central Government has taken a very serious note of the killing of an elephant in Mallapuram, #Kerala," Javadekar said on Twitter.

"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," the minister added.

The killing of the animal, which police were still investigating, was however likely not driven by callousness and cruelty.

Poor villagers in India, Sri Lanka and elsewhere often use firecracker or explosive-filled pineapples - which act like pressure-activated landmines -- to protect their fields and homes from wild animals.

A similar incident was reported last month in a nearby district in Kerala where a female elephant was found with serious mouth injuries.

About 2,361 people were killed in attacks by elephants between 2014 and 2019, according to data recorded by the Indian government.

In the same period about 510 elephants died, including 333 from electrocution and around another 100 from poaching and poisoning, the figures stated. **-Agence France-Presse**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/741477/india-vows-probe-after-pregnant-elephant-killed-with-explosives-filled-fruit/story/>

India, nangakong iimbestigahan ang pagkamatay ng elepante dahil sa paputok

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 06 2020 10:15 PM

Nangako ang India noong Huwebes na iimbestigahan nito ang pagkamatay ng buntis na elepante matapos makakain ng prutas na may paputok, na tahasang kinondena ng publiko pati na rin ng mga cricket at Bollywood stars.

Namatay ang elepante noong isang linggo sa southern state ng Kerala. Ipinapakita ng insidente ang lumalaking problema sa Timog Asya dahil sa kawalan ng tirahan ng mga hayop gawa ng deforestation at urbanisasyon ng mga tao.

Sa isang viral video, makikita na nakatayo nang ilang oras ang nanghihinang elepante sa ilog, na sugatan ang bibig at trunk, dahilan para ipanawagan ng publiko ang pagkadakip sa maysala para maparusahan o ipapatay.

Sa social media idinaan ng cricket captain ng India na si Virat Kohli ang pagkadismaya nito sa nangyari, habang nag-tweet naman si Bollywood megastar Akshay Kumar na "heartbreaking, inhumane" at "unacceptable" and insidente.

Nangako naman ang environment at forest minister ng India na aksyunan nito ang pagkamatay ng hayop.

Maaaring hindi sadya ang insidente, na iniimbestigahan pa rin hanggang ngayon ng pulisya.

Ginagawa ng mahihirap na residente sa India, Sri Lanka, at iba pang bansa, ang paglalagay ng paputok sa loob ng prutas, na nagsisilbing pressure-activated landmines, para protektahan ang mga bahay nito at pananim laban sa mababangis na hayop.

May insidente rin ang naitala sa kalapit na distrito sa Kerala, kung saan namataan ang isang babaeng elepante na sugatan din ang bibig.

Halos 2,361 na ang mga namamatay na tao dahil sa pag-atake ng mga elepante sa India, sa pagitan ng taong 2014 at 2019 ayon sa datos na nakalap mula sa Indian government.

Sa mga nasabing taon, nasa 510 na elepante naman ang namatay, kung saan 333 ang na-electrocute at 100 ang hinuli o nalason, ayon pa sa datos. --**Isinalin mula sa ulat ng Agence France-Presse**



18K tonelada ng diesel, natapon; State of emergency, idineklara sa Siberia

June 6, 2020 @ 12:00 PM 20 hours ago

Russia – Nagdeklara na si Russian President Vladimir Putin ng state of emergency sa Siberia makaraang matapon ang langis mula sa isang power plant storage facility sa ilog na patungo sa Arctic Ocean

Iniutos na ni Putin na agad agapan ang naganap na spill.

Samantala, sinabi ni Alexei Knizhnikov ng World Wildlife Fund's Russia operation na pumalo na sa 13 milyong dolyar ang napinsala sa mga isda at iba pang resources.

Wala namang naiulat na aksidente kasunod ng naturang fuel spill. RNT/FGDC

There is still time to save the oceans, says Jacques
Cousteau's grandson

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There is still time to save the oceans, says Jacques Cousteau's grandson

posted June 06, 2020 at 12:15 pm
by [Administrator](#)

It's not too late to save the oceans from destruction, says the grandson of famed French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau.



Police Environmental Protection Division officers take part in a beach clean-up effort to remove waste and garbage on the United Nations' World Environment Day at Mount Lavinia on the outskirts of Colombo on June 5, 2020. (Photo by LAKRUWAN WANNIARACHCHI / AFP)

AFP sat down with Philippe Cousteau, an environmentalist and oceanographer in his own right, on the eve of World Oceans Day, held on June 8.

The means to saving the oceans are known, he said, and keeping them from destruction is a simple question of political will.

QUESTION: What is the state of the oceans today compared to what your grandfather Jacques Cousteau experienced?

ANSWER: "One can go back and look at footage from the (film) "Silent World" that he did in the 1950s, diving off the coast of southern France, and you see reefs and abundant fish.

"I've been diving in those same places. And to see the decline in the health in the Mediterranean, I mean much of the Mediterranean today is essentially dead.

"It's shocking in a lifetime. What you saw after WWII was an enormous industrial explosion and population growth around the world that began to really impact these ecosystems.

"The Caribbean has more or less declined, the Florida Keys is a dead zone, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia... I was there just two years ago and I had tears in my eyes.

"The decline is perhaps summed up best in this one statistic: In my lifetime -- I've just turned 40 -- the biodiversity on this planet has declined 50 percent."

QUESTION: Why is it so important to protect the oceans?

ANSWER: "Some people might not care about some animal or fish or something somewhere but what people fail, I think, to recognize enough is that we live in an interconnected system.

"The oceans are under appreciated because they are less visible than on the surface. You know the old saying: Out of sight, out of mind.

"People talk about the rainforests of the Amazon. And they are magnificent and should be protected with every effort that we can create. But the majority of oxygen on Earth doesn't come from rain forests. It comes from the ocean -- from plankton in the ocean.

"We think of rainforests, these diverse, incredibly biodiverse ecosystems and they are, but more diverse than a rain forest is a coral reef. And more than 50 percent of the world's coral reefs disappeared.

There is still time to save the oceans, says Jacques

June 07, 2020

TITLE: Cousteau's grandson

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"We may lose virtually all the coral reefs on Earth by the end of the century and those coral reefs that are only one percent of the ocean surface support a vast majority of the kinds of food and seafood, that not only feeds over a billion people on Earth, but also employs tens if not hundreds of millions of people."

QUESTION: Is it not too late to change things and what can we do?

ANSWER: "The good news is that we have tools at our disposal, and we know that they work. One of the growing initiatives that is building consensus around the world, is the importance of establishing areas on Earth that are protected.

"There's only about five percent of the oceans that are actually protected. There's a movement growing to protect 30 percent of the oceans by 2030.

"We know that it would cost roughly around \$225 billion to protect 30 percent of the ocean.... Some people say 'Oh we can't afford that nonsense,' but it's real.

"We know that it would cost roughly around \$225 billion to protect 30 percent of the ocean. \$225 billion. That's a fraction of what the global economy has invested to fight the coronavirus. So the money exists... Now we just need the political will... to make it happen...

"The benefit of that investment is estimated to be between \$500 and \$900 billion... protecting 30 percent of the oceans would result in a 600 percent increase in biomass of seafood.

"That's more jobs, more opportunity for people to feed their families, cheaper and more economic income. So again, protecting the oceans is good for everybody.

"The good news is that what tends to be better for the oceans is better for us, whether we're on the coast or not... the things that we buy and the things that we eat, driving electric cars, when we use public transportation, how we use energy -- that can be better for our health and the oceans as well.

"And that's really powerful -- and I think that's important to remember."

Wear masks in public, says WHO in new coronavirus advice

posted June 06, 2020 at 11:35 am

by [AFP and Robin MILLARD](#)

The World Health Organization Friday changed its advice on face masks amid the coronavirus pandemic, saying they should be worn in places where the virus is widespread and physical distancing is difficult.



Disguised as a character of "Alice in Wonderland" and wearing a face mask against the spread of the novel coronavirus, a Venezuelan migrant performs in a street of Bogota, on June 5, 2020. (Photo by Juan BARRETO / AFP)

The use of masks has been a hot topic ever since the pandemic first emerged in China in December. "In light of evolving evidence, WHO advises that governments should encourage the general public to wear masks where there is widespread transmission and physical distancing is difficult," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

In areas with community-level virus transmission, "we advise that people aged 60 years or over, or those with underlying conditions, should wear a medical mask in situations where physical distancing is not possible", he added.

But the UN health agency stressed that facemasks alone "will not protect you from COVID-19" -- and people suffering with the virus should not be out in public if they can avoid it.

The WHO maintained its recommendation that people who are sick with COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and if it is absolutely necessary for them or their contacts to leave home, they should wear a medical mask.

As before, those caring for an infected person at home should wear a medical mask when in the same room; and health workers should wear medical masks plus protective equipment when dealing with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.

But in an update affecting healthcare workers, the WHO now recommends that in areas with widespread virus transmission, all people working in clinical sections of a health facility should wear medical masks -- not just those dealing with patients with COVID-19.

- Three-layer facemask -

The WHO also issued new guidance on the composition of non-medical fabric masks for the general public, advising that they should consist of at least three layers of different material.

The inner layer should be made of a water-absorbent material such as cotton, the middle layer -- which acts as a filter -- from a material like non-woven polypropylene, while the outer layer should be a water-resistant material such as polyester.

The WHO's emergencies director Michael Ryan stressed that putting on a fabric mask is primarily about preventing the wearer from possibly infecting others, rather than self-protection.

"It's an altruistic act," he said.

Wear masks in public, says WHO in new coronavirus
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And Tedros stressed that masks were only one part of an effective strategy to suppress the virus -- and should not lure people into a false sense of security.

He said they were not a replacement for physical distancing and hand hygiene.

"Find, isolate, test and care for every case, and to trace and quarantine every contact. That is what we know works. That is every country's best defence against COVID-19."

The novel coronavirus has infected at least 6.7 million people and killed more than 390,000 since the outbreak first emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

Address coronavirus impact on minorities, OHCHR urged

Published 1 day ago
on June 6, 2020 03:00 AM
By **TDT**



Urgent action is needed to address “the major disproportionate impact” of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minorities, including people of African descent, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said.

The disease is exposing alarming inequalities in some countries. Disparities similar to those fuelling current protests for greater racial justice in multiple cities — as well as online, through “Blackout Tuesday” — across the United States, Michelle Bachelet said.

“The appalling impact of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minorities is much discussed, but what is less clear is how much is being done to address it” said Bachelet.

“Urgent steps need to be taken by States, such as prioritizing health monitoring and testing, increasing access to health care, and providing targeted information for these communities.”

The UN rights chief provided examples of the pandemic’s impact on various communities in several countries in the Americas and Europe.

In Brazil’s São Paulo state, people of color are 62 percent more likely to die from COVID-19 than their white counterparts. Higher mortality rates have also been reported in the Seine Saint-Denis department in France, home to many minorities.