



## COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT NG DMCI, IPASASARA

June 8, 2020 @ 11:12 AM 21 hours ago

Nagpapasalamat ang mga kakabayan ko sa Masbate kay DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda matapos sabihin nito kay City Mayor Rowena Tuason na ikinasa na ang isang malalimang imbestigasyon laban sa Coal-Fired Power Plant ng DMCI sa utos naman ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu.

Sa isang panayam kay Boss Benny sa PTV4 program ni PCOO Sec. Martin Andanar kamakailan, isiniwalat ni Mayor Tuason ang ilan sa mga residenteng nakatira sa labas ng plantang nagkaroon ng sakit sa baga na animo'y may COVID-19 sanhi ng maitim na usok na ibinubuga nito.

Ipinakita rin sa video ng alkalde ang pinsala nito sa karagatan ng Multi Awarded Buntod Reef Marine Sanctuary na may isang kilometro lamang ang layo mula sa planta makaraang magkaroon ng oil spill dito sa kasagsagan ng ECQ.

Dinarayo ng mga turista ang lugar na ito dahil sa iba't ibang uri ng yamang dagat na posibleng mangamatay kung patuloy ang operasyon ng plantang inirereklamo rin ang napakalakas na ingay ng makinang para bang may lalapag na eroplanong C130.

Ipinangangalandakan kasi ng DMCI na tanging ito ang solusyon sa nangyayaring brownout ngayon sa pobre kong lalawigan na alam nating lahat na ibinaon na sa lupa ng ibang bansa ang paggamit ng mapanira sa kalusugan at kalikasan ng enerhiya ng Coal.

Bagama't daraan sa tamang proseso ang pagpapatigil sa operasyon nito, naniniwala ang mga kakabayan ko na posibleng ipasara ito dahil sa mga violation matapos ang imbestigasyon ng DENR.

Saludo po kaming mga Bicolano sa inyo Boss Benny at Sec. Martin.

### DAYUHANG WORKERS SA FILMINERA, WALANG WORKING PERMITS

Nadiskubre nating walang kaukulang working permits ang ilang dayuhang nagtatrabaho sa open pit mining ng Filminera, na front ng V2 Gold Company na pag-aari naman ng Canadian investors.

Ito'y matapos ibunyag sa atin ng ilang matataas na opisyal na iligal na tinanggal ng Kublai Khan Security matapos ang bagyong Ambo noong nakaraang buwan.

Ang ahensyang ito ang nagbabantay ng naturang minahan sa Aroroy, Masbate na ibinulgar ng mga opisyal na nagsisilbing escort ng mga dayuhang tourist visa lang umano ang bitbit pagpasok sa kompanya.

Pakisilip nga nito, BI Commissioner Jaime Morente!

Hindi lang 'yan, hawak ngayon ng mga dinismis na opisyal ang malalaking ebidensyang magpapatunay ng sandamakmak na violations ng Filminera sa pagmimina nito. Abangan.

# DENR enjoins nation to unite for environment

By Rey Anthony H. Chiu Published on June 8, 2020

CORTES, Bohol, June 8 (PIA) -- On the 32nd year when the country commemorates Philippine Environment Month, environment officials enjoin the nation to join in the collective effort to address urgent environmental concerns.

In his message to people across Central Visayas, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Executive Director Paquito D. Melicor Jr., echoed the agency's goals in this year's celebration which has the theme "Protect nature, Sustain Our Future."



**TAKING ON THE RESPONSIBILITY.** DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Melicor accepts the responsibility in leading the environment department in the region even as he has called on everyone to help protect, conserve, and sustain pro-environment efforts during this year's Philippine Environment Month. (PIA Bohol/DENR)

DENR issued a call for action for everyone to safeguard the future by making sure that nature is protected, conserved and preserved now, not by the generally mass action of tree planting, trooping to beaches for coastal clean-ups, and large community mobilizations.

By action, the DENR means those small things that "one can initiate to produce good impact on the environment."

And in times of the coronavirus pandemic "as we slowly adjust to the new normal, let us rethink our ways and initiate positive changes that will help improve our way of life and our environment," the DENR regional chief said.

Melicor said that while stay-at-home orders continue to be in place, limited activities have reduced road traffic resulting to improved air quality levels due to lesser air pollutants.

He urged everyone to make this "healing Mother Earth" an opportunity to bounce back and work together on how to sustain and reduce environmental degradation.

DENR said with current restrictions for mass gathering, initiatives need not be big and fancy.

"We have found that biking and walking as an alternative to transportation in the absence of buses and jeepneys in time of COVID -19 as among the small things," said Melicor.

They suggested planting a tree, raising awareness about eco-friendly lifestyle choices, organizing a community-wide bike to work, collecting recyclables in the community and taking them to the recycling center, organizing a carpool, recycling books, donating recycled goods, use of energy efficient light bulbs at home, school and community centers, creating compost in your backyard are just some of the things we can do to help protect nature and sustain our future.

And even with the COVID-19 restrictions, DENR has also put up a few pro-environment activities which they hope to implement with the least number of people mobilized.

Those activities include televised couch discussions, video blogging contests, online spoken poetry contests, environment talks, webinar, backyard planting, and gardening promotion on arbor day and environment hour initiatives like switching off non-essential lights and appliances for an hour and several energy conservation and climate change mitigation activities.

"We are confident that in close collaboration with our partners, NGOs, academe, religious organizations, local government units, civic organizations, youth groups and the general public, we will give a positive impact to protect nature and sustain our future," Melicor said. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)

# DENR marks Env't Month 2020 with online contests

By Rachele Nessia Published on June 8, 2020



CEBU CITY, June 8 (PIA) -- This year the Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR-7) will be using the digital platform in raising environmental awareness during the observation of Environment Month amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

DENR-7 is organizing social media contests such as "ENVLOG", a video blogging contest about the environment, Tutok2win DENR edition, and Sangka sa Balak or battle of spoken poetry online.

Cash prizes await winners from Central Visayas.

They will also be hosting a webinar on the importance of minerals on June 17.

This year's celebration carries the theme: "Protect Nature, Sustain Our Future #WeHealNature4OurFuture" which is a call to action for the public to safeguard the future by ensuring that nature is protected, conserved, and preserved.

DENR-7 Regional Director Paquito Melicor, during the "Straight from the Source" interview conducted by Philippine Information Agency-7, urged everyone to initiate positive changes that will help improve the environment.

Among the suggested eco-friendly activities include biking and walking as a new alternative way of transportation, planting trees, promoting eco-friendly lifestyle choices, collecting recyclables in the community and taking them to a recycling center, organizing a carpooling campaign, recycling books, donating recycled goods, using energy-efficient light bulbs at home or at school or in community centers, and creating compost in the backyard.

In line with the Environment Month celebration, DENR-7 is promoting backyard planting to mark Arbor Day on June 25.

The public is also invited to switch off their lights and electrical appliances for one hour on June 27 in observance of Environment Hour 2020. (poc/PIA7)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1044158>



**SPREADING GOOD ENVIRONMENT PRACTICES.** For this year's Environment Month, the DENR in Central Visayas launches its first Environment Video Blogging 2020 (EnVlog2020), a region-wide video blogging competition where participants can help share good environmental practices and win cash prizes, said PENRO Information Officer Venisse Shalome Molina. (PIA Bohol)

## DENR invites netizens to send entries to 'Envlog2020'

By Rey Anthony H. Chiu Published on June 8, 2020

CORTES, Bohol June 8 (PIA) -- This year, on the 32nd year that the country celebrates the Philippine Environment month, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is casting the challenge to netizens in Central Visayas whose creative expressions are focused towards video blogging.

With the stringent measures implemented to curb the spread of coronavirus disease and with most of the youth glued to their gadgets, DENR sees this as a perfect opportunity to test the generation's technological curiosity in telling their stories of environment protection and conservation rendered on video format and to be shared on social media platforms.

This is the first-ever Environmental Video Blogging 2020, or "Envlog2020," a video blogging competition that is open to all interested Filipino netizens, said Venisse Shalome Molina, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Information Officer, during the recent Kapihan sa PIA.

Video entries in the form of a video blog or vlog, should only be between three to five minutes long, in English or local dialect, she added.

As the country marks the Environment Month in times when the government prohibits mass mobilizations for the environment like the past environment month celebrations, this year's vlogs should feature their best practices at home which show how they can contribute to environmental protection and conservation, said Molina.

Topics can be on curbing air pollution, water conservation, marine and coastal environment preservation and conservation like solid waste management, recycling, climate change mitigation by using energy-efficient systems, eco-friendly lifestyle and many more as the possibilities are endless, she said.

But even if one has good content and a neat storyline, cinematography and storytelling as well as a good narrative for a storyline still count.

One does not need fancy camera equipment, just a decent android camera, brilliant cut to cut editing and smart adaptation, DENR said.

These video segments must deal with this year's theme of "Protect Nature. Sustain our Future #WeHealNature4OurFuture," said Molina.

As the envlog would be a retelling of a people's culture as well as be counted as a broadcast material, DENR is strict on the policy banning the use of foul words.

The finished video blogging entries must be uploaded on Facebook accounts with the DENR Central Visayas official FB page tagged and must bear the official entry hashtags: #DENR7Envlog2020 and #PEM2020.

To qualify for the contest, participants should like the DENR Central Visayas Facebook page, Molina emphasized.

Deadline for uploading is on June 19, 2020, but judging would also consider the number of shares, likes and comments, so an early upload would be an advantage.

Entries would be judged according to originality and content (30 percent), entertainment quality (20 percent), clarity of expression (25 percent), visual and virtual presentation (15 percent), and audience impact which is (10 percent).

DENR said they made the criteria easy to be sure they get the most number of entries featuring good stories that people can see and possibly share to motivate. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)



**NO MORE MONOCULTURES.** As the recent studies have shown information about the effect of invasive mahogany in this patch of pristine forest lands, DENR is now banning the use of invasive alien species in forest lands. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)

## Gov't bans mahogany, g'melina in replanting forests

By Rey Anthony H. Chiu Published on June 8, 2020



**LESSONS LEARNED.** There will be no more exotic tree species to be used for replanting forest lands as this can potentially harm the forests, revealed CENRO Tagbilaran Forester Ariel Rica. For people who would wish to plant these to harvest for lumber, they can still plant these exotic species but only in small numbers in alienable and disposable lands. (PIA Bohol)

CORTES, Bohol, June 8 (PIA) -- Bohol is not going to fall into that same mistake of planting invasive alien species (IAS) in its forestlands.

This was assured by Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) Forester Ariel Rica during the recent Kapihan sa PIA commemorating the 32nd Philippine Environment Month in June.

Asked about the comments that environmentalists hurl at the Man-made Forest in Bohol, Rica explained that when the reforestation was started, there were no studies yet about monocultures and how they can affect the biodiversity of a place.

Besides, many claimed that the reforestation was planned to cover the bald patches of forests left after people who evacuated the war stripped the forests to create patches for crops to sustain them as the war raged.

Man-made forest is largely a mahogany forest, an exotic tree species that is fast growing and yet kills the plants near it, to take for its own all the nutrients in the soil so it can grow fast.



Incidentally, mahogany trees do not bear fruit, and its flowers do not attract as much insects, so when one can have a forest full of them, these tracts of land do not invite birds and insects, making it an artificial forest.

Rica said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) does not allow tree planting projects in all forested lands using IAS.

However, since many people also intend to grow lumber for home and community use and mahogany and even gmelina are quick choices, the government allows this as long as these are in small patches and private agricultural lands.

Rica announced that for people who intend to plant trees, especially during the Environment Month, CENRO has endemic tree seedlings, but these are for small requests and not for large-scale planting.

Besides, he said the DENR has not put up the usual community mobilizations in reforestation and other environment conservation projects due to the regulations against the spread of the coronavirus disease.

Even then, Rica echoed the call of DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Melicor enjoining the public to help safeguard the future by making sure that nature is protected, conserved, and preserved.

And when community mobilizations are still banned, environment authorities call for people to initiate their own environment-friendly practices wherever they are. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)

# Lalaking dawit umano sa illegal wildlife trade arestado sa entrapment

Zyann Ambrosio, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 08 2020 08:14 PM | Updated as of Jun 08 2020 08:15 PM



MAYNILA — Arestado sa entrapment operation ng Sampaloc police at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang isang nagpakilalang dog breeder dahil kasama umano sa patagong inaalok niya ang ilang hayop na endangered species.

Pinasok ng mga tauhan ng Sampaloc police at DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau enforcement team ang bahay ng dog breeder na si Jonjon Lim sa Sta. Mesa noong Sabado ng hapon.

Naka-display doon ang iba't ibang klaseng aso na kanyang binebenta sa mga kliyente.

Pero inakyat din ng mga pulis ang ikalawang palapag dahil doon umano tinatago ang mga endangered species na ibon.

Nakumpirma nila ito nang agad makita ang mga white breasted eagle, isang changeable hawk eagle, at dalawang Brahminy kite na mula naman sa pamilya ng raptors.

Ite-turnover sa DENR wildlife park ang mga hayop.

Ayon sa pulisya, may kasabwat umano si Lim na taga-Nueva Ecija.

Napag-alaman din ng pulisya na dati na rin palang naaresto si Lim dahil sa pagbebenta ng mga agila.

Paglabag sa Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act ang isinampang kaso laban kay Lim.

# Grass owl found dead in Davao City

Published June 8, 2020, 4:17 PM

By Ivy Tejano

**DAVAO CITY** – A grass owl was found dead on Saturday, June 6, in a residential area in Davao City.



(DENR DAVAO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Residents of the house, who refused to be identified, reported their discovery of the dead bird to authorities. Not a single person saw what happened to the owl.

In its official Facebook page, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 11 (DENR-11) said that the bird was turned over to them with broken wings.

Based on the assessment of the DENR-Davao, the owl was believed to have been entangled in a kite's string. It succumbed to serious wounds, causing it to fall in the residential area.

"Although kite flying is an unwinding and fun activity, this poses threat to our wildlife," the DENR-Davao said.

The department urged the public to be responsible and sensitive to their surroundings, including to the various animal species.

"Another wildlife was down due to human activities. Let us all please be better stewards of environment," the department of environment said.

It also said that any act that injures or kills the wildlife is a violation to Republic Act 9147 or The Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

DENR-Davao said that the person involved in the injury, exploitation and death of a wildlife will be held accountable.



## PAGDINIG SA WATER CASES, SUSPENDIDO PA RIN

June 8, 2020 @ 11:15 AM 21 hours ago

Naglabas ng 'Pabatid' si Atty. Elenito Bagalihog, chief ng Water Rights Division, National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na ang lahat ng pagdinig na naka-schedule mula March 13, 2020 hanggang April 12, 2020 ay suspendido bilang pagtalima sa kautusan ng Office of the President na nagsuspende sa trabaho sa buong Executive Department kaugnay sa itinaas na Code Red Sub-Level 2 on the coronavirus disease 2019.

Nagpatuloy ito mula April 12, 2020 hanggang May 31, 2020 matapos na ituloy ang Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) at isailalim sa Modified ECQ ang Metro Manila.

Nagpapatuloy pa rin ito hanggang sa kasalukuyan dahil bagama't nasa General Community Quarantine (GCQ) ang Kamaynilaan, limitado pa rin ang mga kawaning pinapapasok at ang public transportation.

Nananatiling skeletal workforce sa tanggapan ng NWRB hanggang sa maging normal ang sitwasyon.

Mag-aabiso ang NWRB sa muling pagpapatuloy ng mga pagdinig.

Naglabas kasi ng paglilinaw ang Civil Service Commission na bagama't balik trabaho na ang mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan, kailangan pa ring iobserba ang 50% skeletal workforce, mananatili ang work-from-home habang hindi pa nawawala ang anomang quarantine classification sa National Capital Region.

Matapos ang GCQ, inaasahan na kasunod na isasailalim ang Metro Manila sa Modified GCQ na mas maluwag na ang transportasyon, trabaho at mobilidad ng mga tao.

Pero ngayon pa lamang ay naghahanda na ang NWRB sa tinatawag na 'New Normal' phase kung saan naroroon ang social distancing, pag-oberba sa personal hygiene at paglilimita sa mga mahahabang pagpupulong at pagtitipon.

# As lockdowns ease, Metro Manila pollution levels rise anew: report

Kristine Sabillo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 08 2020 05:33 PM | Updated as of Jun 08 2020 06:01 PM



Motorists and bikers navigate along Commonwealth Ave around 6AM on June 1, 2020, the start of the general community quarantine in Metro Manila. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — As the government relaxed quarantine rules initially set to curb the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), pollution in the capital region has "rebound," a report claimed Monday.

"Pollution levels in Metro Manila have been steadily increasing since the beginning of May, as industries restart and cities that have major connecting highways reportedly began seeing more vehicles on the road," according to the [Special Report on Managing Air Quality Beyond COVID-19](#) by Greenpeace and Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

While nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which can cause various health diseases, "drastically diminished in the first two weeks" of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the National Capital Region, except Caloocan, in March, the region's air quality has slid back, the report released last week said.

"Although the metro's overall air quality remained much improved compared to previous years, the air quality gains are now sliding back in all these cities. This change is expected as the country remains heavily reliant on highly polluting fossil fuel energy sources across all sectors," the report said.

For the first two weeks of May, nitrogen dioxide, which is produced through road traffic and fossil fuel combustion, increased by almost 50 percent compared to the last two weeks of April. Significant increases in NO<sub>2</sub> levels were observed in Marikina, San Juan, and Makati "where levels more than doubled in comparison to the last week of April."

When Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) started during the latter half of May, Makati and Pasig's NO<sub>2</sub> levels jumped by around 75 percent from the previous week.

Unlike NO<sub>2</sub>, the report said that PM2.5, which can cause serious health problems such as lung cancer, "did not dramatically rebound with the MECQ."

"One possible explanation for this is that transportation activities within cities remain limited, even with the increase of vehicles and traffic on major roads and highways," the report said.

Caloocan's pollution levels remained high despite the quarantine while Pasig City had the "most sustained improvements" for both pollutants.



**Weekly Average of Satellite NO2**  
% change from pre-lockdown levels

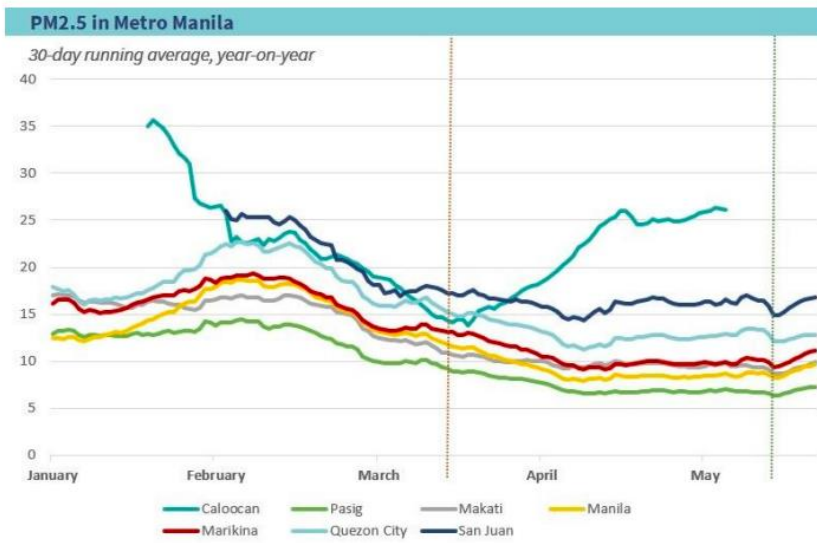


Figure 6: PM2.5 in most cities in Metro Manila saw a reduction in PM2.5 during ECQ and MECQ. Only Caloocan saw rising concentrations. (SOURCE: IQAir)

As lockdown ease, Metro Manila pollution levels rise

June 09, 2020

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“With the metropolis shifting to looser restrictions on travel and other activities under the general community quarantine (GCQ) starting June 1, a return to smog and pollution levels prior to the ECQ may not be far behind,” Greenpeace said in a statement.

The group pointed out that exposure to pollutants affects a person’s immune system and increases vulnerability to illnesses like COVID-19. It also has negative effects on food and water systems, and the climate.

“The ECQ gave Filipino citizens a glimpse of what cities can be like with healthy, clean air,” said Greenpeace campaigner Rhea Jane Pescador-Mallari.

“Moving forward, if the government is willing to use the opportunities and lessons learned from the pandemic and amplify it through policies and infrastructure, active mobility and micro mobility, as well as invest in efficient and safe mass public transport, then a return to the massive pollution levels before COVID-19 can be avoided.”

CREA analyst Isabella Suarez meanwhile said that instead of a “new normal,” the Philippines should pursue a “better normal” that includes ensuring good air quality.

The group also recommended flexible remote work arrangements, which includes staggered work shifts, and people-centric urban design. They also called for the rebuilding of trust in mass transit.

“Rather than banning the mass transport systems, providing clear guidance for safety and implementing sanitation measures like cleaning regimes; issuing PPEs to drivers and staff; mandating face coverings for passengers; and increasing trips to account for limiting the number of passengers per ride could safely allow the rail transit system, buses and public utility vehicles to run and lessen private vehicles on the road in the short term,” the groups said.

They also called for the promotion of low-cost and carbon-neutral options such as electric-powered jeepneys and bikes, apart from the implementation of stricter standards for industrial air pollution and vehicle emissions.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/08/20/pollution-levels-in-metro-manila-after-community-quarantine?fbclid=IwAR2vaRSbZvIMyg8oIoE7-00hKJKovoFzF6TPJIY5tbBCRC0NEL2q2nmU2Y4>

# Palace: Reclassification of lockdowns likely but Metro Manila needs to be examined closer

By: [Darryl John Esguerra](#) - Reporter / [@DJEsguerraINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:27 PM June 08, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday hinted at the possibility of reclassifying community quarantines in different parts of the Philippines once again but insisted that Metro Manila, the epicenter of the COVID-19 crisis in the country, will have to be examined closer.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases is set to come up with a proposal to President Duterte this week whether to extend, lift or modify different lockdown measures enforced throughout the country.

Roque said that it is a “safe conclusion” that the government will reclassify which areas will be under what type of community quarantine as he presented a graph showing a decline in COVID 19 cases by date of onset of the illness.

“I would say that it is a safe conclusion na magkakaroon na naman po ng reclassification except iba po talaga ang Metro Manila,” Roque said in a televised press briefing in Malacañang.

(I would say that it is a safe conclusion that there will be a reclassification of lockdown measures except for Metro Manila.)

“I think Metro Manila will have to be examined closer kung mag MGCQ (modified community quarantine) siya next week [if it will shift into MGCQ next week]. I cannot conclude because the data of Metro Manila is different,” he added.

Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Pangasinan, Albay, Western Visayas, Cebu City, Mandaue City, and Davao City are currently under general community quarantine (GCQ) until June 15.

Meanwhile, the rest of the country is under MGCQ, the lowest form of community quarantine enforced by the government.

There are currently [21,895 confirmed COVID-19 cases](#) in the country, including 4,530 recoveries and 1,003 deaths.

Nearly 55 percent or 12,000 of the cases nationwide were recorded in Metro Manila, which transitioned into GCQ this month, allowing more sectors to resume operations and allowing public transportation on a limited capacity.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1288007/palace-reclassification-of-lockdowns-likely-but-metro-manila-needs-to-be-examined-closer>



# Malacañang hints ‘blended’ 2020 SONA for Duterte

By: [Darryl John Esguerra](#) - Reporter / [@DJEsguerraINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:44 PM June 08, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — As the COVID-19 pandemic persists, President Rodrigo Duterte may deliver his fifth State of the Nation Address (SONA) next month using alternative ways.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said plans for Duterte’s second to the last SONA are ongoing but he said that a “blended” way of addressing the nation is a possibility. This is a reference to the government’s “blended” learning alternatives for the upcoming school year.

“That is being discussed. I think kung mayroon tayong blended learning (If we have blended learning), we will also have a blended SONA,” Roque said in a televised Palace press briefing. The President is mandated under the Constitution to deliver his SONA before a joint session of Congress every fourth Monday of July to report on the status of the country and the government’s agenda in the years to come.

Earlier, Senate President Vicente Sotto III said Duterte may [deliver his SONA in Maalcañang](#) instead of the traditional venue in Batasang Pambansa.

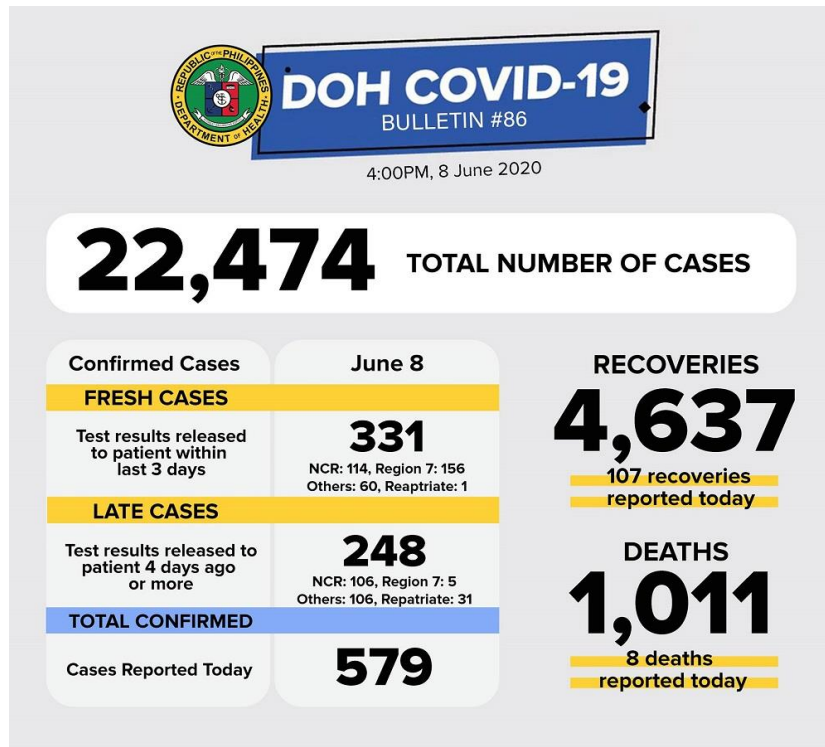
“It’s up to the senators and congressmen where they want to listen,” he added.

Nonetheless, the Senate leader said that discussions are still underway on how this year’s SONA would be conducted amid the COVID-19 pandemic that necessitates physical distancing and other health protocols.

# Phl virus cases surge to 22,474

Published 9 hours ago on June 9, 2020 12:21 AM

By **MJ Blancaflor**



f OfficialDOHgov @DOHgovph doh.gov.ph (02) 894-COVID / 1555

More than 22,000 individuals in the Philippines have been infected with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as the Department of Health (DoH) logged 579 additional cases on Monday.

In its latest bulletin, the DOH reported 331 “fresh” and 248 “late” cases—raising the nationwide total to 22,474.

The fresh cases were composed 154 cases from Metro Manila, 156 from Central Visayas, and 60 from other regions, according to the DoH data.

Meanwhile, the 248 late cases were composed of 106 cases from Metro Manila, five from Central Visayas, and 106 from other regions.

The DoH also reported that the number of recoveries increased to 4,637 after the agency saw 107 additional survivors while the death toll rose to 1,011 after eight more patients died.

So far, there are 54 testing centers nationwide that are accredited to administer real-time polymerase chain reaction tests, including GeneXpert laboratories.

Among these facilities are the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, San Lazaro Hospital, UP National Institutes of Health, Lung Center of the Philippines, Detoxicare and Makati Medical Center.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Philippines ranked third among all Western Pacific countries with the highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases as of 8 June, next to China and Singapore.

More than 6.3 million individuals worldwide have been reported by the WHO, six months after the first case was reported in China.

p: wjg

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/09/phl-virus-cases-surge-to-22474/>

# DOH reiterates warning against misting, spraying disinfectant after doctor's death

Kristine Sabillo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 08 2020 07:12 PM



Fire volunteers take part at the city wide misting operation in Tondo, Manila on March 29, 2020. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — The Department of Health on Monday reminded the public anew that there is still no evidence that misting can help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This, after a doctor-policeman passed away after inhaling a disinfectant during decontamination efforts at a quarantine facility where he was assigned in Pasig.

Police Captain Casey Gutierrez, 31, died last May 30 at the Lung Center of the Philippines, 5 days after the incident. The PNP said it will investigate the matter, especially since 2 other doctors were still recovering after inhaling the same disinfectant.

PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Bernard Banac said they inhaled toxic chemicals, which could be due to mislabeling or misuse.

“The Department of Health is saddened by this unfortunate incident and strongly reiterates Memorandum 2020-0157, which strongly urges the public to avoid spraying and misting for COVID-19 at this time,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said during a televised briefing.

The said memorandum was issued in April as various institutions started using misting booths to decontaminate people before they entered buildings.

It details guidelines on cleaning and disinfection.

“There is insufficient evidence to support large-scale misting, fogging or spraying both indoors and outdoors as an effective disinfection or decontamination strategy in non-health settings that kills the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19,” Vergeire said.

The health official warned in the past that spraying or misting can “cause pathogens to be dispersed further during spraying.”

It can also result in skin irritation or the inhalation of chemicals, as well as environmental pollution.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/o6/o8/20/doh-reiterates-warning-against-misting-spraying-disinfectant-after-doctors->

# Toxic disinfectant that killed PNP doctor came from OCD

Published June 8, 2020, 1:35 PM

By **Aaron Recuenco**

The Philippine National Police (PNP) pointed to the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) as the source of the toxic chemicals being used as a decontamination solution in the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) facilities in Pasig City where a police doctor died and four other cops were hospitalized.



PNP chief Gen. Archie Gamboa  
(NCRPO PIO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Because of this, PNP chief Gen. Archie Gamboa has requested the National Bureau of Investigation to include the OCD in the probe with regard to the death of Police Capt. Casey Gutierrez, adding that it was the family of Gutierrez that sought the assistance of the NBI.

"Everything in both PICC (Philippine International Convention Center) and Ultra (PhilSports Arena in Pasig) are managed by the OCD. So it's OCD which will put in their service providers," said Gamboa.

"So, it is the OCD which has the power to procure and to determine the service provider that they want," he added. Aside from the chemicals, Gamboa said that the Personal Protective Equipment being used by the police also came from the OCD.

Gutierrez and the four other cops who were hospitalized were presumed to be wearing the PPEs when the decontamination solution was sprayed on them.

On March 24, Gutierrez complained of difficulty in breathing after allegedly inhaling toxic chemicals from the decontamination solution being sprayed on personnel manning the PhilSports Arena. He died on May 30.

Gutierrez's two companions were also hospitalized. On June 1, the Manila Bulletin learned that two more cops were hospitalized after being sprayed with a decontamination solution at PhilSports Arena.

Gamboa said he had already ordered the investigation on the incident, with experts from the Department of Health taking the lead.

Part of the investigation is to improve the protocol, especially in preparing the decontamination solution, to prevent a repeat of the incident.

Gamboa said they have already changed the formula in the preparation of the decontamination solution. He said they also used organic chemicals.

"On the part of the investigation, I hope NBI, if they will acquire jurisdiction over the case, I hope they will include everything from the service provider, from OCD to the PNP primarily to find out who is responsible, and second, to improve our system," said Gamboa.

"Hopefully, the investigation will still result in improvement of protocols and procedures in these quarantine areas. Our primary consideration here is the welfare of our personnel," he added.

## Quiapo Church stops misting

June 8, 2020 | Filed under: [Headlines, News](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)

The Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene or Quiapo Church in Manila has decided to stop using their misting tent to disinfect churchgoers.

Quiapo Church Parochial Vicar Fr. Danichi Hui said they stopped using the misting tent Monday amid concerns regarding its possible harmful effect to the faithful.

“We have stopped using our misting tent because of that,” said Hui in an interview.

“We will replace it with UV (ultra violet) tunnel instead,” he added.

The environmental health group EcoWaste Coalition on Sunday urged the administration of Quiapo Church not to spray or mist Black Nazarene devotees with chemical disinfectant saying its continued use may do more harm than good.

The group said health scientists have clearly said that spraying the external part of the body does not kill the virus inside the body and may worsen the clinical condition of the individual infected with the coronavirus. EcoWaste cited the guidance document published by the World Health Organization (WHO) stating that “spraying individuals with disinfectants (such as in a tunnel, cabinet, or chamber) is not recommended under any circumstances.”

It said WHO warned that “spraying individuals with chlorine and other toxic chemicals could result in eye and skin irritation, bronchospasm due to inhalation, and gastrointestinal effects such as nausea and vomiting.”

The Department of Health also does not recommend spraying or misting.

Aside from the UV, Hui said they will continue to implement other safety protocols such as hand disinfection, foot bath, and body temperature check.

He said they also conduct regular disinfection of the church once the faithful leave.

To note, Quiapo Church resumed the public celebration of masses on June 5 but with limited number of people only.

The Inter-Agency Task Force-Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) earlier allowed religious gatherings but it limited the attendees to a maximum of five people in the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) areas, and 10 in the General Community Quarantine (GCQ) areas.

Metro Manila is under GCQ. **(Leslie Ann Aquino)**

Solon defend anti-terror bill, environmentalists lodge

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## Solons defend anti-terror bill, environmentalists lodge petition

By [BusinessMirror](#)

June 8, 2020

LAWMAKERS defended the decision to approve the bill amending the 2007 Human Security Act, as warnings against its big potential for abuse—including protests from environmental activists—mounted over the weekend.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III said there would be no need for government to impose martial law to contain terrorism once the anti-terror bill is signed into law.

Sotto stressed that rights advocates were asked to provide inputs safeguarding human rights when the Senate bill was being crafted between 2018 and February this year, the passage on third reading by the chamber.

He said the bill's definition of what is "terrorism" follows the UN definition. He reiterated that Minority Leader Franklin M. Drilon, a former Justice secretary and civil libertarian, was also asked to put his inputs in the Senate version.

Sotto added that "warrantless arrests," which critics keep raising, have long been allowed in the country.

The bill's main advocate in the Senate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, clarified that the upper chamber had considered and passed the measure in February, way before there was official recognition of the Covid pandemic. He was responding to criticism that the government should not have prioritized the measure, when the clamor is for more bills to help Covid-impacted sectors and businesses to recover.

The House of Representatives rushed passage of the amendatory anti-terrorism bill before adjourning last week, sparking accusations it was railroaded.

### 'Terrorism knows no time'

Lacson, in noting the bill's much earlier time line in the Senate, said at the weekend, in a mix of English and Filipino: "First of all, this has nothing to do with the pandemic. The terrorist knows no timing, no border. When they're ready anytime when we least expect it, that's when they attack.

"What if, [we don't pass this and] a major terrorist act happens? Or it happens at the next opportune moment for them? Or next month? Next week? At least, when the President signs this and it's published in the *Official Gazette*, at least we are armed with the law."

Lacson pointed out that the UN Security Council had issued an alert to member-states, including the Philippines to "strengthen the legal backbone of countries to effectively counter international terrorism."

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Terrorism “has mutated,” noted Lacson, a former National Police chief. “This isn’t simple explosions or killings. There are so many ways by which terrorists can hit people. And so many have died, been maimed, and so much infrastructure destroyed,” he added, citing the Marawi experience used as “haven” by terrorists. “We’ve experienced Marawi. We’re trying to avoid making the Philippines a safe haven for terrorists because we are the weakest.”

Lacson lamented that Republic Act 9732, also known as the Human Security Act (HSA) of 2007, was “severely underutilized if not a dead-letter law as we call it.”

Since the HSA was enacted into law, only one accused terrorist was convicted, so far, he said, and the judge who convicted that person was among their resource persons, Judge Felix Reyes, president of the PSA (Philippine Judges Association).

Lacson said the judge related his difficulty to convict under the new law. “First of all, police are scared to file under HSA because they might eventually have to pay the fine of P500,000 a day if the suspect is acquitted.”

Lacson said a report submitted to the Senate by prison authorities showed 735 suspected terrorists tagged as high-risk prisoners are still undergoing trial. “But not one of the 735 [involved cases] filed for violation *sa* HSA. They are instead facing murder, kidnapping, illegal possession of firearms. The problem with that is that government loses the chance to mount a program of de-radicalization. Instead of de-radicalizing the detainees, they are the ones who can recruit inside prisons because they are just facing common crimes.”

## Call to junk ‘Terror Bill’

Meanwhile, more environmental groups are joining the call to junk the Anti-Terrorism Bill via online petition.

The petition has been signed by more than 2,600 environmental defenders representing 177 environmental groups.

It can now be signed and delivered by netizens from the safety of their homes directly to the e-mail addresses of their district or party-list representative through the online platform of climate activist group 350.org Pilipinas at <https://350.org/junkterrorbill>, said Chuck Baclagon, coordinator of 350.org Pilipinas.

“We invite our fellow concerned citizens to make themselves heard by their very own district or party-list representatives. Demand our legislators to withdraw their support for this ‘Terror Bill’ that endangers the lives of environmental defenders protecting our forests, seas, and climate,” Baclagon said in a news release.

Environmental groups have documented at least 172 environmental defenders who suffered human-rights abuses such as red-tagging, illegal arrests, and the denial of humanitarian release from jail during the first two months of the Covid-19 lockdown.

More attacks are feared if the law pushes through alongside what they deem dangerous economic policies railroaded under the guise of Covid-19 recovery.

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“Duterte seeks economic stimulus from ‘Build, Build, Build’ infrastructure like the Kaliwa Dam and the Manila Bay Aerotropolis, to the business as usual of mines like Oceanagold in Nueva Vizcaya and Techiron in Homonhon. The Terror Bill will institutionalize the human-rights abuses already affecting defenders opposed to these projects,” Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE), one of the initiators of the petition, said.

A number of lawmakers, such as Albay Representative Joey Salceda, have begun withdrawing their support for the bill after widespread online and on-the-ground public protests by activists, academe, legal luminaries, and celebrities.

Opponents of the policy have noted that if at least 20 legislators withdrew their affirmative votes for the Terror Bill, the law will lose its simple majority of possible votes.

***Butch Fernandez, Jonathan L. Mayuga, Samuel P. Medenilla***





## **KAMATAYAN SA MGA NAGPAPAKALAT NG DROGA**

June 8, 2020 @ 11:35 AM 20 hours ago

ANG lalakas ng loob talaga ng mga sangkot sa droga.

Akalain ba nating kahit napakarami ang mga checkpoint ng mga sundalo, pulis, local government unit, kasama sina kapitan, kagawad at mga tanod laban sa coronavirus disease-19 at criminal elements, meron pa ring gumagawa, nag-i-import, nagbibiyahe at nagbebenta ng mga shabu at iba pang mga droga.

Matatagpuan sa mga expressway, sa mga national, provincial, city, municipal at barangay road at maging sa mga subdibisyon, lalo na kasagsagan ng enhanced community quarantine.

Pero sugod nang sugod pa rin ang mga sangkot sa droga at may mga kaso pa nga na ginagamit ang pagtulong sa mga frontliner sa COVID-19 upang madaling makalusot sa mga checkpoint.

Pero, kuwidaw sila sapagkat naging alerto ang mga awtoridad mula sa Philippine National Police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency at ang mga mamamayan na katukulong nila sa pag-eespiya.

### **808 KILO SA BULACAN**

Ilang araw lang ang nakalilipad, natagpuan ang isang bahay na ginawang warehouse at gawaan ng shabu sa Reley St., Brgy. Lias, Marilao, Bulacan.

808 kilong shabu na nagkakahalaga ng P5.1 bilyon ang nakumpiska sa mga ito.

Biningwit ang mga suspek na sina Yuwen Cai, isang Chinese national at mga Filipinong sina Angela Miole Tulio at Ma. Lyn Miole Tulio sa P1 milyong buy-bust money.

Nahuli ang mga ito ng mga tauhan nina PDEA Director General Wilkins Villanueva at Philippine National Police chief General Archie Gamboa.

Lumalabas na imported ang mga karto-karton ng shabu na may mga markang Japanese bagama't may maliit na gawaan din ng shabu ngunit ilang kilo lang ang magagawa rito sa loob ng isang linggo.

Malaki, isang international syndicate umano ang may hawak ng nasabing shabu at pinaniniwalaang konektado pa ito sa isang malaking bulto na nasamsam din ng mga awtoridad sa Biñan, Laguna nitong nakaraang Disyembre.

Ngayon ay tinatrabaho na nang husto ang mga karugtong na shabu at taong sangkot sa malakihang shabu production, importation at sale.

Sana magtagumpay nang walang korapsyon at iskalawag ang mga awtoridad laban sa sindikatong sangkot dito.

## **LUMABAN KAYA NATEPOK**

Hindi lumaban ang mga suspek sa Marilao, Bulacan nang lusubin sila ng mga awtoridad kaya hindi humantong sa patayan ang giyerang ito sa droga.

Pero nitong nagdaang araw lamang sa Diosdado Macapagal Avenue na sakop ng Parañaque City, lumaban ang mga suspek sa mga awtoridad.

Napatay malapit sa isang mall sa lugar sina Jin Long Cai at Danny Apiga sa labanan at nasamsaman ang mga ito ng dalawang kalibre .45, 36 kilo ng shabu na nagkakahalaga ng P244.8 milyon at isang kotseng Kia Sedan na pinagkargahan ng nasabing shabu.

Nakuha rin sa mga suspek ang P2 milyong buy-bust money.

Pinagsamang puwersa ng PNP-Drug Enforcement Group at PDEA ang nagsagawa ng entrapment operation sa pamumuno ni PNP-DEG director Brig. Gen. Romeo Caramat Jr.

Ayon kay Gen. Caramat, konektado ang grupo ni Jin Long Cai, isang Chinese national, sa grupo ni Yuwen Cai na nasamsaman ng P5.1B shabu sa Marilao, Bulacan.

Klarong gumagana ang intelligence-based na mga operasyon ng anti-drug forces ng pamahalaang Duterte at sana walang makasingit na iskalawag sa mga ito na dahilan ng mga palpak na operasyon.

Sana rin, matukoy ang mga bansang pinagmulan ng mga imported na shabu, kung saan pinararaan para makapasok ang mga ito sa mahal kong Pinas, kung sino-sino ang mga malalaking Pinoy na koneksyon ng mga dayuhang druglord at iba pa.

## **UNHRC HAYAANG MAGNANGAWA**

Sa gitna ng pandemya ng COVID-19, isinisingit ng United Nations Human Rights Commission ang magngangawa na halos walang habas daw ang mga pagpatay sa mga sangkot sa droga.

Binabalewala umano ng pamahalaang Duterte ang karapatang pantao ng mga sangkot sa droga.

Pero sabi ng ating Uzi, pawang akusasyon lang ang lahat at wala pang napapatunayan, kahit pa sa bilang ng mga namatay na klarong pinalolobo ng mga taga-human rights kuno sa mahigit 20,000 katao.

Hinahamon ang mga taga-Human Rights, lokal at dayuhan, na maglabas ang mga ito ng indibidwal na rekord sa mga napapatay pero wala silang maisumite at pawang ngawa-ngawa lang ang karamihan.

Sa kabilang banda, ang mga inaakusahan naman nilang pulis at militar na may mga ebidensyang nang-abuso sa tungkulin ay nahaharap sa mga demanda at meron ngang nakakulong sa mga ito.

Wala rin sa listahan ng mga human rights fighter kuno ang mahigit 100 pulis at militar na napapatay sa giyera sa droga bilang patunay ng pakikipaglaban sa mga awtoridad ng mga sangkot sa droga.

Ang dalawang kaso sa Bulacan at Parañaque City ay patunay na tanging ang mga lumalaban lang ang napapatay o nakapapatay sa mga pwersa ng gobyerno sa mga engkwentro.

Walang masasabing impunity o walang habas na pagpatay.

Ang sinasabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pagpatay ng mga awtoridad ay binabakuran at ipinatutupad ng prinsipyong “kung lumaban ang suspek at delikado ang buhay ng mga awtoridad, doon na magkakaroon ng engkwentro o hindi maiiwasang patayan.”

At anong masama kung mamatay ang mga nagpapakalat ng droga na pumapatay ng kanilang mga kaaway sa negosyo at mga awtoridad at pumapatay ng libo-libong mamamayan kada taon sa anyo ng mga nagkakasakit sa droga, suicide, rape na may pagpatay at iba pa?

Paano naman ang human rights ng nasa 3 milyong adik na ginawang pagkakitaan ng mga politiko, police scalawag, druglord at tulak at human rights ng mga mamamayang biktima ng krimen ng mga adik at iba pang nabanggit na sangkot sa droga?

## **MAY HALONG PULITIKA**

Ang isang masamang sangkap sa mga kilos ng mga taga-human rights ay pamumulitika.

Marami sa mga ito ang gustong manumbalik sa pwesto sa gobyerno dahil nawala sila nang umupo sa Makanyang si Pangulong Digong.

May ilan nga sa kanila ang nakukulong, kasama ang isang mataas na opisyal ng pamahalaan na oposisionista, dahil sa pagkakasangkot sa droga habang nasa poder, ayon sa imbestigasyon mismo ng Kongreso sa mga live coverage ng media.

Sa panahon ng mga namumulitikang ito naganap ang pamamayagpag ng droga at sila pa ang may lakas ng loob na siraan ang gobyernong Duterte at ipakulong mismo si Pangulong Digong.

Isa pa, isang malaking tanong sa UNHRC at mga kakosa nila: Bakit bungal, pipi, pilay at bulag ang mga ito sa tinatayang 200,000 nang patay sa giyera sa droga sa Mexico na ang Amerika, kasama ang pamahalaan at mga lider ng Mexico, ang pangunahing sangkot?

Pero rito sa mahal kong Pinas, todo ang pakikialam nila at sila pa ang nagbibida-bidahan!

# A challenge to the IATF

[SHOOTING STRAIGHT](#) - [Bobit S. Avila](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 9, 2020 - 12:00am

If there is anything very wrong with some of the ideas emanating from the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) especially now that they made that major shift from Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to the current General Community Quarantine (GCQ) is that, rather than make things easier for our people to resume their work, they have literally thrown into everyone's path the crazy government bureaucracy. Why in heaven's name are they doing this to the Filipino people? I dare say that IATF should make things easier for our people!

I have a complaint from my son, a Philippine Airlines (PAL) 2nd officer who was in his home in Cordova during our three-month lockdown. Now that PAL asked them to return to work, which he did last Tuesday, he flew to Manila and his job was to fly PAL's 777-300 ER to Los Angeles, then to Barbados to fetch stranded OFWs there, then flew to Vancouver then to Clark Airbase in what PAL calls an historic flight, after all PAL doesn't fly that route. Now my son's problem is that he is not allowed to return home to Cordova, Mactan because he is considered Manila-based. But we have no house in Manila. Now the Pasay City Health Office wants to swab him, even if PAL already swabbed him... and the Barangay wants him to apply a permit simply because he stays in Pasay with a friend. So will someone from the IATF give him a certificate that shows he lives in Cordova, Mactan?

In another issue, for GCQ areas, the IATF has issued a return to work notice, which is much welcomed by our people who have lost their jobs for the last three months. However, the IATF never considered that the majority of these workers need public transportation... and unfortunately there is none available. But as you very well know Filipinos are a resilient lot. Many of them have their own family motorcycles. Then comes the ruling that no back ridings allowed even with wives as there is no social distancing in back riding.

Perhaps it is high time for the IATF to understand that husband and wife do not need social distancing. I don't even wear masks in my home including my wife, so why in heaven's name can't my wife back ride in our motorcycle? Doing so would never infect us as we go our way. So we would like to know what kind of logic do the people in IATF have? It is high time for Pres. Rodrigo Duterte to realize and totally understand that if GCQ means that he wants the Philippine economy to return, then he must make concessions for the workers like allowing them to back ride in their husband's motorcycles as this doesn't really mean that they are spreading the coronavirus.

I have been talking on the phone with many friends who have small businesses and basically their complaints are the same one that I'm writing today. So I dare challenge the IATF to make it easier for workers to return to work and help restart our economy because the nation needs to put our economy back in order. More importantly please don't slap the government's bureaucracy on our tired workers!

Last Friday, eight protesters were arrested during a rally at the University of the Philippines (UP-Lahug) in Cebu City against the controversial Anti-Terrorism Bill. However the Police Regional Office (PRO)-7 was quick to say that the arrest was not stifling the protesters' freedom of expression but that the rallyists were arrested because they violated the rule against mass gatherings during the General Community Quarantine (GCQ) and because they did not have a permit to rally.

PRO-7 Director Albert Ignatius Ferro told the media, “They are basically endangering the people of Cebu because we are in a pandemic situation... we are not against the expression of mass protest if only on normal situation.” That may be a proper excuse for stopping the protest rally of the UP students. But in truth, for many decades now it is only the students from UP who openly declare their support for the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the New People’s Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front (NDF).

What is abhorrent is that too many parents do not realize that their children end up joining first with the NDF and eventually end up as NPA recruits and often get themselves killed in their area of operation. This is why I checked with the social media and a good majority supports the Anti-Terror Law, which most Cebuano lawmakers also support. Now ask yourselves who are the folks who are really afraid of the Anti-Terror Law? For almost 50 years, many Filipino people have been killed by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) or NPA, including those within the NPA who end up in a pogrom like what happened in Inopacan, Leyte. This is why we need this bill! So what are you afraid of in the Anti-Terror Bill?

\* \* \*

Email: [vsbobita@gmail.com](mailto:vsbobita@gmail.com)

Hirit na pagbabalik sa operational permit ng PECO,  
kinontra

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## Hirit na pagbabalik sa operational permit ng PECO, kinontra

June 8, 2020 @ 2:55 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Hinarang ng distribution utility na More Electric and Power Corp (More Power) sa Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) ang apela ng Panay Electric Company (PECO) na maibalik ang kanilang Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) na una nang kinansela at pinawalang bisa ng komisyon.

Sa inihang komento ng More Power sa inihang supplemental motion ng PECO sa ERC, giniit nito na wala nang dahilan para ibalik ang operational permit ng PECO dahil napaso na rin ang kanilang legislative franchise gayundin ay kanselado na ang kanilang business permit mula sa Iloilo City government.

“Iloilo City Government has revoked PECO’s business permit, making PECO’s activities related to the operation of the distribution system highly illegal. PECO likewise does not have a franchise and is no longer a legitimate CPCN holder” saad sa mosyon ng More Power.

Binatikos din ng More Power ang umano’y dilatory tactics ng PECO na nagsampa ng expropriation case at mga legal cases sa iba’t ibang korte sa bansa dahil kung bakit napipigilan ang full takeover ng More Power na siya na ngayong legal na Distribution Utility sa Iloilo City na may prangkisa at permit to operate.

Sa ngayon ay nakabinbin sa ERC ang motion for reconsideration ng PECO sa naging pagkansela ng kanilang CPCN.

Iginiit ng More Power na kung ibabalik sa PECO ang kanilang CPCN ay babalik din umano ang muling bulok na pamamahala sa power distribution system sa Iloilo City.

Ayon kay More Power Spokesperson Jonathan Cabrera na sa huling taon ng pamamahala ng PECO bago tuluyang makansela ang kanilang prangkisa ay lalo nitong napabayaang ang kanilang mga distribution facilities kung saan wala na umanong nagawang mga maintenance work at rehabilitation dahil na rin sa tumutok na ang kompanya sa pagsasampa ng iba’t ibang mga kaso sa korte.

“During that one-year period PECO ran the distribution to the ground with little or no rehabilitation or maintenance. Many parts of the aging system were overheating and bursting into flames on a regular basis. PECO’s failure to do preventive maintenance left the distribution system “rotting and a ticking time bomb.” ayon pa sa More Power.

Hirit na pagbabalik sa operational permit ng PECO,

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Ayon kay Cabrera ang mga negatibong isyu na ipinupukol sa More Power ay galing lamang din sa kampo ng PECO, kung titignan umano ang kanilang technical readiness ay mapapatunayan na handa ang kompanya para i-takeover ang buong distribution system sa Iloilo City at nakatitiyak na makapagbibigay ng maayos na serbisyo sa mga consumers nito.

Tinukoy pa nito ang report ng technical inspection team mismo ng ERC na nagsasabi na kanilang naberipika ang full readiness at capability ng More Power pagdating sa development, operation at maintenance ng distribution system.

Matatandaan na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte noong Pebrero 2019 ang Republic Act 11212 na nagbibigay ng legislative franchise sa More Power na maging solong magsesebisyo ng kuryente sa Iloilo City habang noong Setyembre 2019 ay tuluyang kinansela at hindi na ni-renew ng Kongreso ang prangkisa ng PECO. **Gail Mendoza**

# Megamouth shark released back into the wild off Agusan Norte

By Alexander Lopez June 8, 2020, 2:18 pm



**TRAPPED SHARK.** Fishermen and personnel from the town of Buenavista, Agusan del Norte release a megamouth shark that was entangled and trapped in a fisherman's net on Saturday (June 6) in Barangay Tinago. The shark has a length of 20 feet and an estimated weight of more than 500 kilos. (Photo courtesy of BFAR-13)

**BUTUAN CITY** – A fisherman's net has accidentally entangled and trapped a megamouth shark (*Megachasma pelagios*) Saturday morning in the town of Buenavista, Agusan del Norte.

Andres Sarsaba, head of the Tourism Office and the executive assistant of the mayor of Buenavista town told Philippine News Agency Sunday (June 7) that the fisherman, identified as Alexander Bohol, slowly dragged the entangled megamouth shark towards the shoreline of Barangay Tinago, Buenavista where other fishermen extended help in freeing the shark from the net.

Sarsaba said the local government unit of Buenavista, upon the order of Mayor Norbert B. Pagaspas, immediately sent personnel in Barangay Tinago to help the fishermen deal with the megamouth shark.

He added that the megamouth shark has a length of 20 feet and an estimated weight of more than 500 kilos.

"After freeing from the net, the fishermen helped the shark released in the deeper portion of the sea but it came back to the shore," Sarsaba said.

He added that the fishermen again guided the megamouth shark back to the deep portion of the sea where it was finally released.

"This is not the first time that our fishermen here encounter megamouth sharks. We received reports of the frequent sightings of megamouth sharks in our seawater," Sarsaba said.

In a post in their Facebook account Saturday afternoon, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Caraga Region (BFAR-13) also reported the release of said megamouth shark in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte.

The BFAR-13 said that there are around 200 species of the sharks swimming in the Philippine waters while only 25 species are protected.

"Sharks and their relatives (rays and chimaera) are particularly vulnerable to threats from targeted fishing, overfishing, bycatch, pollution, habitat degradation, unregulated tourism and climate change. These threats place almost a quarter of the world's total chondrichthyan — a diverse group of cartilaginous fishes that includes the sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras — species at risk of extinction," the BFAR-13 said. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1105234>



# IN PHOTOS: How the COVID-19 pandemic affected Anilao, Batangas

Text and photos by Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News

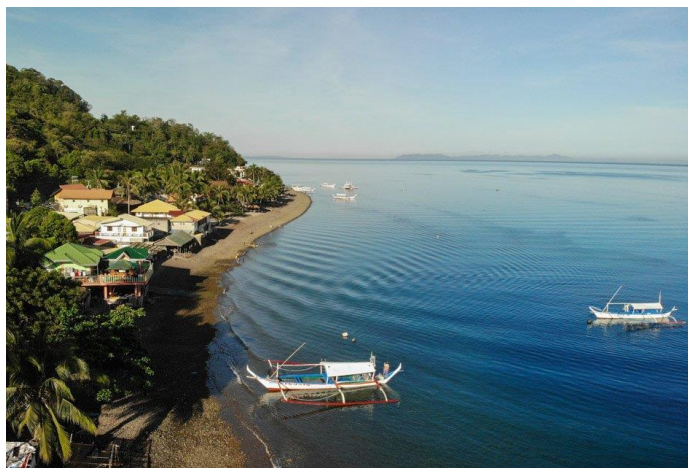
Posted at Jun 08 2020 12:18 PM | Updated as of Jun 08 2020 04:30 PM

World Oceans Day is celebrated every June 8 since 1992 to give a strong voice for the ocean sector.

Through the years, celebrating this day has allowed for stronger international and national policies that focus on implementing measures to manage and protect marine resources and fisheries.

This year, as we celebrate World Oceans Day, we are faced with a global pandemic that has affected everyone in different ways. Two sectors that rely on the oceans directly are tourism and fisheries, which both require healthy and resilient marine resources.

What has been the impact of COVID-19 on these sectors in Anilao (Mabini), Batangas, considered to be the birthplace of scuba diving tourism in the Philippines?



Dive boats on the shore of Mabini. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

The municipality of Mabini, collectively called Anilao together with the municipalities of Tingloy and Bauan, is considered the birthplace of diving when the first resort and diving operations started in the 1960s. It has been popular for water sports activities such as windsurfing and paddling.

From the quiet town that it was then, it now has around 84 resorts that employ between 800 to 1000 people directly (not including freelance tourist and dive guides as well as boat crews).



A school of big-eye trevally or jacks is a common attraction in one of the popular dive sites in Bauan, easily accessible from most of Mabini's resorts. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

Located adjacent to the Verde Island Passage, considered the center of marine biodiversity, Anilao developed a reputation as a dive destination, which has led to a steady influx of visitors. Popular among macro photographers, the coast of Mabini boasts of underwater critters such as frogfishes, seahorses and their colorful relatives ghostpipefishes and pipefishes.

IN PHOTOS: how the COVID-19 pandemic affected  
Anilao, Batangas

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During the first quarter of 2019 (January to March), around 14,301 dive passes were sold by the Mabini Tourism office. This peaked at around 6,429 dive passes sold during the month of May. The dive pass or conservation fee is sold for P200 and the revenue is split between the municipalities of Mabini and Tingloy. Bauan has its own dive pass system for its dive sites.



Ash plume as seen from Janao Bay in Mabini, Batangas during the eruption of the Taal Volcano on January 12, 2020. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

Early this year on January 12, Taal Volcano erupted and alert level 4 was raised in various towns surrounding the volcano. The town of Mabini was affected by ashfall and earthquakes were felt during the eruption leading to tourists shortening their stay or cancelling their trips. Dive passes sold in January 2020 were only 3,266, compared to 4,453 during the same month in the previous year.



Anilao void of tourists with leisure activities prohibited under the enhanced community quarantine in this photo taken on April 9, 2020. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

This decline in tourism activities in Mabini were further felt from February when travel restrictions were imposed due to the spread of the novel coronavirus. Dive pass sales continued to decline from February until Luzon was put on enhanced community quarantine on March 15. Mabini was put on enhanced community quarantine on March 17 and visitors were requested to leave prior to the lockdown or they will not be allowed until the lockdown is lifted.



Dive boats currently dry-docked on the shore as leisure activities remain prohibited under the modified general community quarantine in this photo taken on June 7, 2020. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

A few days after the lockdown, boat operators dry-docked their boats used to ferry tourists and divers. Freelance dive guides and dive masters, some resort staff and boat crew started to look for other sources of income.



Dive master Alvin Cedullo on the way to fishing using 'santing' or multi-hook fishing line. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

Alvin Cedullo is local divemaster in Mabini and lives with his wife and daughter in Barangay Solo. He started diving in 2010 and started guiding guests since 2017. Since the lockdown was enforced in Mabini, he lost his main source of income since dive operations were suspended and resorts were closed down. The Mabini local government provided relief goods but these were not enough to support his family, so he turned to the sea.



Daniel Abulag, divemaster and Eugene Tatoy, dive master trainee, use an old windsurfing board to catch fish at Janao bay to provide food on the table on June 7, 2020. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

Like others who became jobless during the lockdown, Cedullo turned to fishing. Since he doesn't have a boat, he uses a paddleboard as his makeshift boat. Other dive guides and boat crew also use paddleboards and windsurfing boards when they go fishing, joining the more seasoned fisherfolk in the afternoon until early evening. What was once a busy bay for divers, is now once again a fishing ground for the locals of Mabini. Others would line up on the shore and glean shells and other marine life for food from the rocky shores.



Salay-salay or yellowstripe scad caught from Janao Bay. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

Cedullo's main source of income now is fishing, and he goes out to sea from around 3 p.m. and spends a minimum of an hour up to 3 hours to catch alumahan, lagidlid, galunggong and kalapato. He usually catches enough to feed his family but sometimes he comes back to shore with no catch. On really lucky days he can catch between 3 to 9 kilos of fish, more than enough for his family so he sells the rest to neighbors.

In the last two weeks, he decided to also buy bangus and tilapia from Anilao port and sell them to neighbors to augment his income. He is hopeful that tourists will once again come to Anilao but he's also concerned about ensuring that those coming to his town will not cause the further spread of COVID-19.



Locals turn to fishing as tourism remains closed in Anilao. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

After two months of quarantine, those involved in tourism have expressed concern on whether tourism will bounce back and return in the near future while others are more concerned about COVID-19 and would rather not venture into tourism or allow visitors in their resorts any time soon.



Fisherman tends to his net and boat at sunset in Anilao on May 17, 2020. *Danny Ocampo, ABS-CBN News*

One important thing that needs to be done though is to manage and protect coastal and fisheries resources as it is a source of food for a lot of people, especially now that the world's economy is on the decline due to the global pandemic. At the end of the day, protecting our oceans is about protecting our home and our food security.

## No water rate change till September

posted June 09, 2020 at 12:50 am

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System said Monday there will be no tariff adjustments in the water bills of its two water concessionaires until September.



Patrick Lester Ty, MWSS' chief regulator, said there will be no change in the foreign currency differential adjustments of Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. in the third quarter.

"The MWSS Board of Trustees has recently approved the recommendation of the MWSS to retain the prevailing second quarter FCDA this coming quarter based on its evaluation of the FCDA proposals of the Concessionaires," Ty said in a statement.

The FCDA is a mechanism allowing water concessionaires to recover losses or to refund gains from the movements of the peso against foreign currencies such as the US dollar, the Japanese yen, and the euro.

Manila Water, which serves the East zone, will continue to implement an FCDA of 48 centavos per cubic meter, which is equivalent to 1.69-percent of its 2020 average basic charge of P28.52 per cubic meter.

Maynilad will still apply an FCDA of 8 centavos per cubic meter, which is equivalent to -0.21 percent of its 2020 average basic charge of P36.24 per cubic meter.

# No tariff adjustments in Manila Water, Maynilad rates until September -MWSS

Published June 8, 2020 10:59am

By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

There will be no tariff adjustments on the water bills of both Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. until September, the Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System (MWSS) announced Monday.

MWSS chief regulator Patrick Lester Ty said there will be no adjustment in the Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) for both concessionaires in the third quarter.

"The MWSS Board of Trustees has recently approved the recommendation of the MWSS RO to retain the prevailing 2nd quarter FCDA this upcoming quarter based on its evaluation of the FCDA proposals of the Concessionaires," he said in a statement.

The FCDA is a mechanism which allows water concessionaires to recover losses or refund gains from movements of the peso against other currencies such as the US dollar, the Japanese yen, and the euro.

With this, Manila Water will continue to implement an FCDA of 48 centavos per cubic meter, equivalent to 1.69% of its 2020 average basic charge of P28.52 per cubic meter.

Manila Water is the east zone concessionaire which services 23 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila and Rizal.

These include Mandaluyong, Makati, Pasig, Pateros, San Juan, Taguig, Marikina, and parts of Quezon City and Manila. The towns of Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jalajala, Morong, Pililia, Rodriguez, Tanay, Taytay, Teresa, San Mateo, and Antipolo in the province of Rizal are also part of the east zone.

Meanwhile, Maynilad will continue to apply an FCDA of 8 centavos per cubic meter, equivalent to -0.21% of its 2020 average basic charge of P36.24 per cubic meter.

Maynilad currently serves customers in the cities of Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Manila, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Quezon, Valenzuela.

It also services certain areas in Cavite such as the cities of Bacoor, Cavite, and Imus; and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta, and Rosario.—**AOL, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/741611/no-tariff-adjustments-in-manila-water-maynilad-rates-until-september-mwss/story/>

# Taal mudflow affects Laurel, Batangas

Updated June 8, 2020, 8:45 PM

By *Kate Marajas and Aaron Recuenco*

**LAUREL, Batangas** – At least 26 houses were affected when a mudflow hit Buso-Buso one of the barangays of Laurel town closest to Taal Volcano, a local official said Monday.

Residents living near Taal Volcano here experienced strong mudflow after heavy rains hit the area Sunday afternoon.



(Photos courtesy of Leslie Ann Tenorio Pesigan / MANILA BULLETIN)

Joselito Castro, head of the Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), said the mudflow was triggered by heavy rains that pounded Laurel town on Sunday.

“The rain started to pour around 3:20 p.m. here. At first I thought it was just a light rainfall, but suddenly it became strong,” recalled Leslie Ann Tenorio Pesigan, a resident of Laurel Batangas. Pesigan did not know that the deposited ash will turn into a flood of mud.

“There were no damaged houses or displaced families. The mudflow just entered some of the houses in Barangay Buso-Buso,” Castro told the Manila Bulletin in an interview.

“The local residents with the help of the local and provincial government are now clearing the area of mud, including the roads,” he added.

Batangas Provincial Police Office director Col. Rex Malimban said the incident happened around 6 p.m. on Sunday and affected the residential area of Barangay Buso-Buso.

He said a large volume of water came from the mountainous areas of Barangay Buso-Buso and Barangay Gulod of Laurel town.

“The large volume of water carried the ash of [the] Taal volcanic eruption. The flash floods [were] concentrated at Laurel-Agoncillo road of Barangay Buso-Buso that lasted for almost an hour,” Malimban wrote in a text message to the Manila Bulletin.

He said there were no reported casualties related to the incident.

Buso-Buso was one of the severely affected during the eruption last January in terms of volume of ashfall and number of volcanic quakes.

Castro also clarified that it was not lahar which hit the residential area in Barangay Buso-Buso. Quoting experts from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), Castro said it was water with mud and ashes that swept some areas in the barangay.



Pesigan told Manila Bulletin that her family haven't recovered yet from the Taal Volcano eruption that occurred last January.

"Mudflows entered our house and we still don't know how to overcome this. The relief goods that we also received were also soaked in mud flood," Pesigan shared.

According to Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), Alert Level 1 is still maintained over Taal Volcano.

As of this writing, the PHIVOLCS stated that in the past 24-hour period, the Taal Volcano Network recorded three volcanic earthquakes that are associated mainly with rock-fracturing processes beneath and around the edifice.

Residents are advised to observe precautions due to ground displacement across fissures, possible ashfall, and minor earthquakes.



# WIND POWER

By [The Manila Times](#)

June 9, 2020



*At least 40 houses, made from light materials, were damaged by a tornado that hit farming communities in President Quirino, Sultan Kudarat over the weekend of June 7, 2020 as torrential rains hit the province. Affected villages were Romualdez and Kalanawi 2. The local government has already extended help to the victims. PHOTO BY ASANGAN T. MADALE/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO*



# 4.3 magnitude quake hits Davao Oriental

Published June 8, 2020, 12:18 PM

By *Mike Crismundo*

**BUTUAN CITY** – A 4.3-magnitude earthquake jolted Davao Oriental province in Southern Mindanao region on Monday morning, June 8, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

In its bulletin, Phivolcs said the tremor was recorded at 7:30 a.m.

The epicenter was plotted 224 kilometers (kms) southeast of Governor Generoso town, Davao Oriental province.

The tremor had a depth of 137 kms, Phivolcs said.

The earthquake was tectonic in origin and no aftershock or tsunami alert was raised by the agency. The regional office of the Southern Mindanao Office of Civil Defense and provincial disaster risk reduction and management council there reported no damage or injury.

# South China Sea disputes again putting spotlight on Beijing

Associated Press / 05:08 PM June 08, 2020



In this March 6, 2020, file photo, a woman protester wearing a protective mask holds a slogan during a rally outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines against the planned military exercises between the Philippines and US under the Visiting Forces Agreement. The Philippines has decided not to suspend a defense pact with the U.S., avoiding a major blow to one of America's oldest alliances in Asia. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila, File)

BEIJING — A look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple territorial disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons. The waters are a major shipping route for global commerce and are rich in fish and possible oil and gas reserves.

## US-Philippine pact stands

The Philippines has decided not to suspend a defense pact with the U.S., avoiding a major blow to one of America's oldest alliances in Asia.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Tuesday that the Philippines is delaying its decision to abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement by at least six months.

The alliance is seen as having deterred aggressive Chinese actions in the disputed South China Sea, including possible construction of structures in Scarborough Shoal, a disputed fishing area off the northwestern Philippines that China effectively seized after a tense standoff in 2012.

## Cambodia says base open to all

Cambodia's leader says China has not been given exclusive rights to use a naval base on the country's southern coast, and that warships from all nations, including the United States, are welcome to dock there.

Prime Minister Hun Sen last week repeated denials that the Ream naval base on the Gulf of Thailand had been handed over to close ally and financial benefactor China for 30 years. Such a move would allow the Chinese navy to post military personnel, store weapons and berth warships.

Many analysts believe basing rights in Cambodia would extend Beijing's strategic military profile considerably and tilt the regional balance of power in a manner that would pressure adjacent countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations whose security concerns traditionally have been aligned more closely with the United States.

South China sea disputes again putting spotlight on  
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## US rejects China maritime claims

The U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations has fired back at Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Ambassador Kelly Craft's note weighs in on Malaysia's behalf in its bid to reject China-imposed limits on its continental shelf allowing it rights to resources.

"The United States rejects these maritime claims as inconsistent with international law as reflected in the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention," Craft's note said.

China in December issued a rejection of Malaysia's petition to extend its continental shelf. Beijing ignored a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague that invalidated most of China's claims to virtually the entire South China Sea.

The U.S. does not officially take a stand on sovereignty issues in the area, but maintains its military has the right to fly, sail and operate in all areas open to international navigation.

## India-Australia to strengthen ties

India and Australia are strengthening defense ties and cooperation on Indo-Pacific maritime issues, at a time when both countries are facing increased tensions with China.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison, on Thursday agreed to give each other access to their military bases.

India accuses China of starting the latest standoff along their undefined border in the Himalayas.

China and Australia are at loggerheads over trade, China's territorial ambitions in the South China Sea, and most recently, Australia's push for an international investigation into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic and China's response to it.

# Carpio wants single repository of West Philippine Sea research for youth's education

Katrina Domingo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 08 2020 06:00 PM



The Philippine flag flutters from BRP Sierra Madre on the disputed Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea on March 29, 2014. *Erik De Castro, Reuters*

MANILA - The Philippines needs to have a single repository of "historical, legal and environmental research" on the West Philippine Sea so that younger Filipinos can learn and "continue the struggle" of defending the waters from Chinese incursion, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said Monday.

The country must have a long-term plan on how to reclaim its islets that have been militarized by China, which "wrongfully" claims that they own the entire South China Sea, Carpio said in a webinar about defending the West Philippine Sea during the global pandemic.

"We must have a very good database of our arguments. All that we have done so far in terms of our historical, legal and environmental research must be put in one place so that this can be accessed by future generations," Carpio said.

"All this knowledge that we have accumulated must be passed on to the next generation... It is important that our generation should teach the Filipino youth all these facts so they will continue the struggle."

According to Carpio, the Chinese government has taught its citizens "from grade school to college that China owns the South China Sea since ancient times," which, he said, is "totally false" as ancient maps - produced in Beijing - show that the southern-most territory of the Asian giant is Hainan.

The maps were only revised in 1932 when China claimed the Paracels, and again in 1946 to include the Spratlys, he said.

"[In that revised record,] China said that the Spratlys were also claimed by the Philippines and the French who were in Vietnam then... They cannot deny this because this is their own publication," Carpio said.

Filipino students should be exposed to more fora about the Philippines' rights to the West Philippine Sea, said former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, who led the country's team in the arbitration case filed against China in The Hague in 2013.

In 2016, the arbitral court ruled to invalidate China's 9-dash-line map that claimed most of the South China Sea.

President Rodrigo Duterte has refused to enforce the ruling as he sought friendlier economic and political ties with Asia's largest economy.

"We should have this fora so that our people can be educated... It's all about the rule of law and our people are very strong to take a position... We need to convince our government that rule of law begins in the Palace," Del Rosario said.

It is important for Filipinos to educate themselves so they can "educate the rest of the world," Carpio said.

"It is important that we educate ourselves... and in the next elections we raise this issue," he added.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/08/20/carpio-wants-single-repository-of-west-philippine-sea-research-for-youths-education?fbclid=IwAR0U3TR6bflgNMcWAPPBF3Wkr2d1AX1xzx53ve-w-tMHx0nx6Cz-fUF7NqQ>

# Pag-aari ng China pwedeng angkinin ng Pilipinas

**Balita**

June 08,2020



PWEDENG angkinin ng pamahalaan ang mga pag-aari ng China sa bansa sa ginawa nitong “pagwasak” sa mga isla ng Pilipinas, ayon kay dating DFA Secretary Albert del Rosario.

“China inflicted the most massive, near-permanent and devastating destruction of the marine wealth belonging to Filipinos in the West Philippine Sea,” aniya. “In other words, China is enormously accountable and owes Filipinos billions of pesos for its continuing abuses in the West Philippine Sea.”

Dalawa sa mga pag-aaring ito, ani del Rosario, ang mga interes ng China sa National Grid Corporation of the Philippines at DITO Telecommunity.

Mayroong 40 porsyentong interes ang China sa National Grid Corp., habang partner ang China Telecom sa DITO.

Ayon sa pag-aaral, aabot sa 1,850 ektarya ang “nasira” ng China sa ginawa nitong pagtatayo ng mga gusali sa Scarborough Shoal at Spratly Islands o P33.1 bilyon kada taon na “danyos” sa Pilipinas.

“This sums up to more than P231 billion since the start of 2014. China refuses to pay its debt to the Filipino people. How will we make China pay? It is time for Filipinos to unite and demand what is due from China,” aniya pa.



Jointly embracing a better future of China-Philippines  
friendship and partnership

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# Jointly embracing a better future of China-Philippines friendship and partnership

Published June 8, 2020, 11:02 PM

By **CHINESE AMBASSADOR HUANG XILIAN**  
CHINESE AMBASSADOR HUANG XILIAN

Midsummer is a good season to indulge in the beauty and fragrance of the pristine white sampaguita flowers. It is also high time to tell the story of a blooming friendship between China and the Philippines. On the day of 9 June, 45 years ago, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines formally established diplomatic relations, which has renewed and continued the millennium-old friendship between the two nations.

China and the Philippines are close neighbors sharing time-honored bonds of kinship and friendship. Back to more than a thousand years ago, the two peoples jointly paved the way to the flourishing Maritime Silk Road with diligence, bravery, and wisdom. The Maritime Silk Road has not only successfully promoted unimpeded trade and transportation, but also deepened mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries. Since then, our peoples have been good neighbors, close relatives as well as trusted friends. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, bilateral relations have made substantial headway with the joint efforts of both sides over generations, with sincere friendship and win-win cooperation always being the main theme of our relations.

Over the past 45 years, China and the Philippines have continually deepened mutual political trust. The bilateral relationship has been steadily upgraded, from **21st century-oriented cooperative relationship of good neighborliness and mutual trust** to the **strategic and cooperative relationship for peace and development**, and then **the relationship of comprehensive strategic cooperation**. President Xi Jinping and President Duterte have drawn up strategic blueprints for China-Philippines relations and ushering the relationship into the New Golden Age for the two countries.

Over the past 45 years, China and the Philippines have reaped nourishing fruits of practical cooperation. Bilateral trade volume increased from around US\$72 million in 1975 to US\$60.95 billion in 2019, with an increase of more than 800 times. China is now the Philippines' top trading partner, the largest source of imports and the third largest export market. The synergies between the Belt and Road initiative and the Build, Build, Build program have been deepened, unleashing tangible potential in practical cooperation.

A number of major infrastructure projects such as bridges, railways, water conservancy and telecommunication, are continuously making headway. Last year, the total value of China's newly signed contractual projects in the Philippines reached US\$6.24 billion, up 102% year on year. China has become a salient partner in supporting the Philippines' economic and social development.

Over the past 45 years, China and the Philippines have enjoyed thriving people-to-people exchanges. So far, 34 pairs of sisterhood cities or provinces have already been established. China has been the second largest tourist origin of the Philippines for years, with over 1.74 million Chinese tourists visiting the Philippines last year. As exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in science, education, culture, art, media, think tanks, youth and other fields become increasingly vigorous, our traditional friendship has been full of vitality in the new era.

Over the past 45 years, China and the Philippines have been dedicated to maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea. The two countries established mechanisms such as the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) to exchange views, manage differences, and explore practical cooperation. With joint efforts of China and ASEAN countries including the Philippines, the consultation of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea is proceeding smoothly and effectively. Recently, ships and planes carrying critical medical supplies are sailing and flying over the South China Sea, making it a sea of friendship, mutual support and cooperation.

Jointly embracing a better future of China-Philippines  
friendship and partnership

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The year 2020 witnessed profound changes in our lives. The ruthless coronavirus disease (COVID-19) wreaked havoc in many countries around the globe, severely threatening humanity and global public health security. Facing the common challenge of the COVID-19, China and the Philippines have been supporting and helping each other, demonstrating our long-standing profound friendship. At the height of China's battle with COVID-19, the Philippine government and people from all walks of life provided valuable support and assistance to China, which we will always be grateful and hold dear to the heart. In light of the pandemic situation in the Philippines, we feel keenly for the Philippine people amid the trying times. China extended every help and support to the Philippines to the best of its ability.

China has unreservedly shared its hard-earned experience in the fight against the pandemic with the Philippines. All these first-hand feasible information and knowledge have been collected through arduous efforts and with tremendous sacrifice, and with hopefully help save more lives in the Philippines. Upon the request of the Philippine government, the Chinese government dispatched an anti-pandemic medical expert team with front line experience, to assist the Philippines in its battle against the COVID-19.

Despite its own difficulty, China has promptly provided well-needed medical supplies to the Philippines within the best of its ability amid the pandemic outbreak. At the early stage of the outbreak here, the Chinese Embassy, in cooperation with the China Mammoth Foundation, donated 2,000 test kits to the Philippine government. The Chinese government then donated three batches of medical supplies to the Philippines, including 252,000 test kits, 130 ventilators, and 1,870,000 surgical masks. A large number of Chinese local governments, enterprises, and civil groups donated millions of sets of personal protective equipment and other medical supplies to different local units of the Philippines. Recently, the Embassy also donated thousands of "Friendship Packages" containing assorted relief goods to Filipino families in need around the country to help them get through the current difficult time.

China has provided assistance to the Philippines to procure medical supplies in China. We have made every effort to prioritize the production and supply of medicine and medical equipment urgently needed by the Philippines. Over 10,000 cubic meters of anti-pandemic medical supplies and a large amount of medicine have been purchased and transported from China and distributed to the frontliners in the Philippines. In light of the temporary suspension of commercial flights between the two countries, we have issued permits for the Philippine military aircraft and vessels to land and dock in China for the transportation of medical supplies, and chartered "Goodwill Flight" to deliver anti-pandemic supplies to the Philippines. All these efforts have secured the life channel by air/sea between our two countries.

Under the new normal of day-to-day pandemic response, China will continue to engage with the Philippines in joint COVID-19 prevention and control, exchanging experience on resumption of work and production to ensure supply and industrial chains, and implementing projects pertaining to the Belt and Road initiative and the Build, Build, Build program, so as to accelerate the recovery and growth of our economies in the post-pandemic era.

True friendship endures trial and hardship. Through joining hands to fight against the COVID-19, the foundation of China-Philippines relations have been further cemented, people-to-people ties strengthened, and the sense of building a community of shared future deepened. We have every reason to believe that, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping and President Duterte, with the concerted participation and support from both governments and peoples, China-Philippines friendship and partnership will embrace an ever better future in the new era.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/08/jointly-embracing-a-better-future-of-china-philippines-friendship-and-partnership/>



# Australian surfer dies after being bitten by a great white shark nearly 10 feet long

By Jessie Yeung, CNN

Published Jun 8, 2020 2:35:03 PM



**(CNN)** — A 60-year-old surfer died Sunday in Australia after being bitten by a great white shark that was nearly ten feet long, authorities say.

The man, from Queensland, was killed while surfing at Salt Beach near Kingscliff on the far north coast of New South Wales, according to Surf Life Saving New South Wales.

Shortly after 10 a.m. on Sunday, police and emergency responders were notified that a man had been attacked on the beach. Several other surfers and board-riders had already rushed to rescue him, fighting off the shark then helping the man to shore, local police [said a statement](#).

He was bitten on the back of his thigh, and received first aid on shore for serious injuries on his left leg, but died at the scene, said Surf Life Saving [in a statement](#).

Beaches between the towns of Kingscliff and Cabarita will close for 24 hours.

First responders, police and biologists are now monitoring the area.

Surf Life Saving deployed multiple jet skis, drones, and helicopters to track down the shark. Authorities spotted it from the air and took photographs.

Shark biologists assessed these photos and the man's bite marks, and determined that it had been a large great white shark measuring about three meters (9.8 feet), according to Surf Life Saving.

The attack is the latest in a handful of other fatal shark encounters in Australia this year. In January, a diver was seemingly attacked by a great white shark off the southern coast of Western Australia, although his body wasn't recovered. In April, a parks and wildlife officer was killed by a shark near the Great Barrier Reef.

*This story was first published on CNN.com. ["Australian surfer dies after being bitten by a great white shark nearly 10 feet long."](#)*

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/6/8/Australian-surfer-great-white-shark-attack.html>

# 'Man-eater' tiger to spend lifetime in captivity

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Jun 08 2020 09:59 AM



A tiger walks in a cage as disinfectant is being sprayed during a government-imposed nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus, at Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata on April 8, 2020. *Dibyangshu Sarkar, Agence France-Presse*

NEW DELHI - A tiger blamed for killing three people will spend the rest of its life in captivity, Indian officials said Sunday, saying the big cat was "too dangerous" to be allowed to roam free.

The five-year-old male predator, also blamed for attacking cattle, had embarked on a trek more than 500 kilometers (310 miles) long from western Maharashtra state to central India's Betul district in Madhya Pradesh state in 2018.

"We gave it several chances to re-wild but it habitually went into human habitations," Madhya Pradesh's chief wildlife warden, S.K. Mandal, told AFP.

"The only option left was to put it in captivity to ensure both the tiger and humans are safe."

The tiger -- dubbed the "vagabond" or "nomad" by some local media -- was first trapped in December 2018 after its long journey and held in captivity for two months.

The big cat was eventually fitted with a tracking collar and shuttled between a tiger reserve and a national park.

Officials however said it repeatedly strayed and hunted near human settlements, attacking cattle and endangering humans.

Finally the tiger was tranquilized and sent to a zoo in Madhya Pradesh capital's Bhopal on Saturday.

Officials said the decision to capture the adult tiger was taken a few months ago, but was delayed due to the novel coronavirus lockdown.

"It will take sometime for him to adjust to the new environment. We will be monitoring his behavior," Bhopal's Van Vihar National Park director, Kamlika Mohanta, told AFP.

"As of now it will remain in solitary confinement. A decision to put it on display at the zoo or send it to a (fenced) safari will be taken later."

Human encroachment on tiger habitats have increased in recent decades in the nation of 1.3 billion people, leading to deadly conflicts with the animals.

Nearly 225 people were killed in tiger attacks between 2014 and 2019, according to government figures.

More than 200 tigers were killed by poachers or electrocution between 2012 and 2018, the data showed.

India is home to around 70 percent of the world's tigers. Last year, the government said the tiger population had risen to 2,967 in 2018 from a record low of 1,411 in 2006.

ja/grk/ch

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Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/06/08/20/man-eater-tiger-to-spend-lifetime-in-captivity?fbclid=IwAR1Xs5xtDSuhT4RD5jj3OiMI\\_OVim-biPNX6XPg6oskUhA0MDWRS4HSo3vs](https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/06/08/20/man-eater-tiger-to-spend-lifetime-in-captivity?fbclid=IwAR1Xs5xtDSuhT4RD5jj3OiMI_OVim-biPNX6XPg6oskUhA0MDWRS4HSo3vs)

Zoo in Jaan sells ‘animal-produced items’ as an  
alternative way to make money

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# Zoo in Japan sells ‘animal-produced items’ as an alternative way to make money

By [Kathreena Gabaldon](#)

June 08th, 2020

[North Safari Sapporo](#) is the first face-to-face interaction type of zoo based in Hokkaido, Japan. Since its opening 15 years ago, the zoo has given a unique experience to its visitors and many of them enjoyed the direct contact and feeding to different animals. Even people outside Hokkaido frequent the facility that consists of 500 animal species.

Aside from the live animal interaction, visitors also get to enjoy other activities every year such as “spring baby animal exhibition, summer vacation event, autumn animal sports festival, and winter dog sledding experience.”

However, due to the implementation of social distancing, the facility decided to cease its operations. And if the situation worsens, which means a long period of closure, it could jeopardize not just their business but also the lives of animals there.

In order to help these animals survive in the midst of a pandemic, North Safari Sapporo raised a crowdfunding campaign through the website, [CAMPFIRE](#), which involves the selling of animal-produced products.



## Here are the sample products:

Animal paintings and note cards made by monkeys, fur seals, and goats, worth 7,000 JPY (Php 3,100).



Photo credit: Campfire

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Original animal handprint painted on Shikishi (card paper) made by Little Otter and Kinkajou (Honey Bear). This is worth 8,000 JPY (Php 3,600).



Photo credit: Campfire

Lion-ripped jeans scratched with their nails and fangs and a 'Thank You' card worth 70,000 JPY (Php 31,000). Sizes vary from small, medium, and large.



Photo credit: Campfire

Aside from these products, you can also purchase a beaver-gnawed coaster, real parrot-feather earrings, and even become the head zookeeper for a day.



The money that will be collected will go directly to the needs of raising animals, medical expenses, and personnel and facility management expenses. For more information, you can check [here](#).

Source: <https://pop.inquirer.net/95626/zoo-in-japan-sells-animal-produced-items-as-an-alternative-way-to-make-money>

What is 'eco-anxiety' and 'solastalgia'? When  
environmental consciousness causes psychological pain

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June 09, 2020  
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## What is 'eco-anxiety' and 'solastalgia'? When environmental consciousness causes psychological pain

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Image: sanjeri/IStock.com via AFP Relaxnews

How can you remain committed to the environmental cause without winding up depressed? While this question may seem humorous on the surface, it actually raises a real concern for many. Eco-anxiety and solastalgia are increasingly common phenomena.

A direct reference to ecology and psychological state of anxiety, the term “eco-anxiety” refers to the fear of seeing the world collapse and the resulting feeling of powerlessness.

Meanwhile, the term “solastalgia,” coined by Australian philosopher Glenn Albrecht, is a contraction of the English words “solace” (comfort) and “nostalgia” (longing). It evokes deep distress at the destruction of the environment.

Melting glaciers, fires in the Amazon and in Australia, air pollution, the extinction of animal species; it is indeed difficult, when one lives on a planet whose resources are running out, to find a daily allotment of good news. Even more so if we take a close look at the climate crisis.

One person who is more than familiar with this feeling is famous environmental activist Greta Thunberg. The adolescent has spoken of how she fell into a depression for several months after having seen a documentary on polar bears and marine species poisoned by plastic waste.

“I began thinking about it all the time and I became very sad. Those pictures were stuck in my head,” the Swede told the *New York Times* in early 2019.

Thunberg is far from being alone in this regard. In recent years, the ecological awareness of citizens has grown steadily. Especially among the younger generations, who in 2019, inspired by Thunberg, organized demonstrations around the world, skipping school to gather and demand greater action from world leaders on environmental issues.

This anxiety can lead to a profound questioning of numerous aspects of one’s lifestyle. How can one overcome this eco-anxiety? According to French author Laure Noualhat, who recently published a book in French on the matter (“Comment rester écolo sans finir dépressif” meaning “How to stay green without ending up depressed”), “everyone must go through the phases of mourning, mourning for our planet: shock, denial, depression, acceptance before being able to overcome this ordeal and hopefully ‘come back to life.’” On this, Thunberg again serves as an example.

“I’m happier now. I have meaning. I have something I have to do,” she explained in the *New York Times*, suggesting that she feels less alone because of her activism than in her previous existence. **JB**