



DENR-Caraga welcomes new OIC

By Alexander Lopez June 9, 2020, 8:07 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1105376>



NEW ASSIGNMENT. Regional Executive Director Felix Alicer has been designated as the new chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 12. He was replaced by Director III Didaw Piang-Brahim as the new OIC-regional executive director. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-13 Information Office)*

BUTUAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Caraga Region (DENR-13) has a new officer-in-charge Regional Executive Director (RED) in the person of Didaw D. Piang-Brahim.

DENR-13 information officer Herzon Gallego said Tuesday that Piang-Brahim's appointment is based on DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu's Special Order (S.O) No. 2020-191 on the assignment and designation of some DENR field and bureau officials released on June 5 this year.

Piang-Brahim was previously assigned with the DENR in Region 12.

“We received the copy of S.O No. 2020-191 Friday evening (June 5) and it was relayed immediately to RED Felix S. Alicer,” Gallego told the Philippine News Agency.

Alicer, meanwhile, has been designated as the new RED of DENR-Region 12.

“Reshuffling of REDs and other key officers of DENR takes place after more than two years of service in certain area or region,” Gallego said.

He said Alicer served the people of Caraga Region for more than two years.

“The men and women of DENR Caraga will give their full support to the new OIC-RED for the effective implementation of the mandates, programs, and services of the DENR in Caraga,” Gallego said. **(PNA)**



Wildlife trader charged over P20,000 offer to sell a pair of 'lawin' birds

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

June 10, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/10/wildlife-trader-charged-over-p20000-offer-to-sell-a-pair-of-lawin-birds/>



Brahminy kite, known as Lawin

A 45-year-old wildlife trader was arrested by authorities during an entrapment operation in Sampaloc, Manila.

Lt. Col. John K Guiagui, station commander of the Sampaloc police station identified the suspect as Sharon Jon Jon Lim, a resident of Sta. Mesa, Manila. A case of violation of Republic Act 9147 was filed against him before the Manila Prosecutor's Office on Monday.

Lim was arrested around 4:30 p.m. on June 6 along Geronimo Street in front of Trinidad Tecson Elementary School in Barangay 432, Zone 44, Sampaloc, Manila, during a buy-bust operation initiated by the Sampaloc police in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB).

He is now facing charges for violation of Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Act, for trading endangered species. Illegal wildlife trade is a major driver of biodiversity loss, which is the fourth-largest transnational crime after drugs, arms and human trafficking. In the Philippines, illegal wildlife trade is a P50-billion industry.

The suspect was supposed to sell for P20,000 two brahminy kites, or P10,000 per bird, to a policeman who posed as buyer of the endangered birds. Brahminy kite, known locally as lawin, is a popular exotic pet among hobbyists.



Wildlife trader charged over P20,000 offer to sell a pair of 'lawin' birds

Following his arrest, the police and DENR wildlife law enforcers led by Steven Toledo and Rogelio Demelletes conducted a follow-up operation at the suspect's residence wherein a white-breasted sea eagle and an hawk-eagle were eventually rescued.

The brahminy kites, along with the sea eagle and hawk-eagle were turned-over to the DENR-BMB.

Lim, a recidivist wildlife trader according to Demelletes, has been in the radar of the DENR-BMB for years.

"We've been hunting him for five years. Finally, we got him this time," Demelletes said.

Lim, according to Demelletes, discreetly buys and sells endangered species, mostly rare birds of prey.

The DENR-BMB said campaign there's no letup in the drive against illegal wildlife trade, even as he appealed to the public to report suspicious activities of members of a syndicate engaged in on-line trading of endangered wildlife species which has become rampant in social media.



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

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/08/20/lalaking-dawit-umano-sa-illegal-wildlife-trade-arestado-sa-entrapment>

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.



6 endangered na ibon na-rescue

Rhoderick Beñez

June 8, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2020/06/08/2019337/6-endangered-na-ibon-na-rescue>



Sa taya ng DENR, parehong matured na ang grass owl at brahminy kite habang pawang mga juvenile naman ang black shouldered kite. Hindi naman nakitaan ng anumang sugat ang nasabing mga ibon ma-liban lamang sa isa na may bakas ng sugat sa kanyang isang paa na tila matagal nang itinali.

twitter.com/DENROfficial

NORTH COTABATO, Philippines — Nasa pangangalaga na ngayon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 3rd District Satellite Office sa Matalam, dito sa lalawigan ang anim na mga ibon na may iba't ibang species matapos na maiturn-over ng mga residente mula sa dalawang barangay ng Tulunan nitong Sabado.

Ayon sa ulat ng Tulunan LGU, isang grass owl, isang brahminy kite at apat na mga black shouldered kite na uri ng ibon ang narescue mula sa barangay Popoyon at Damawato ng nasabing bayan.

Sa taya ng DENR, parehong matured na ang grass owl at brahminy kite habang pawang mga juvenile naman ang black shouldered kite. Hindi naman nakitaan ng anumang sugat ang nasabing mga ibon ma-liban lamang sa isa na may bakas ng sugat sa kanyang isang paa na tila matagal nang itinali.

No stimulus packages without revenue sources, says Palace

Ayon sa pag-aaral, ang black shouldered kite ay kabilang sa pamilya ng Philippine Eagle na endemic na sa Marsh area habang ang grass owl naman ay matatagpuan sa Pilipinas at mga bansang Vietnam, Southeast China, Taiwan at iba pa na madadamong lugar. Ang brahminy kite naman o tinatawag ring red-backed sea-eagle ay matatagpuan sa mga kabundukan ng Southeast Asia partikular sa mga lugar na malapit sa karagatan.

Ayon sa DENR, itinuturing na endangered species ang naturang mga ibon o nanganganib ng maubos kaya't papakawalan din ito ng ahensiya kung sakaling maaari nang ma-kalipad muli sa mga lugar ng Mt. Sinay sa Arakan at Mt.Apo sa Kidapawan.



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UB: Philippine Eagle, na-rescue sa Cotobato

PANOORIN: Nasagip ang isang Philippine Eagle sa isang plantasyon ng goma sa Makilala, Cotobato. Itu-turn over sa DENR ang agila na itinuturing na endangered o nanganganib nang maubos. See Less



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Child rescues juvenile PH eagle in North Cotabato

Published June 9, 2020, 5:57 PM

By Ivy Tejano

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/09/child-rescues-juvenile-ph-eagle-in-north-cotabato/>

DAVAO CITY – A juvenile Philippine eagle was rescued on June 8, Monday, in Barangay Kisante in Makilala town in North Cotabato province.



(Bayan ng Makilala / MANILA BULLETIN)

The Bayan ng Makilala, on its official Facebook page, showed that the eagle was rescued by a child named Joel Arombo, a resident of the same village.

According to Arombo, he saw the young eagle being ganged up on by the crows in a corn plantation area owned by a certain Mrs. Velasco. He immediately ran to the eagle's rescue and drove the crows away.

The child then sought assistance from the elders in the area to help the eagle.

Bayan ng Makilala said that the local government is set to turn over the eagle to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in Davao City this week, for further medication and attention.

The PEF is a non-profit organization in Davao City dedicated to saving the endangered Philippine Eagle.



Senador Cynthia Villar: “Paigtingin ang implementasyon ng batas ukol sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran”

June 9, 2020 Ricardo Deleno PHILIPPINES, Politics & Government 0

<https://news.definitelyfilipino.net/posts/2020/06/senador-cynthia-villar-paigtingin-ang-implementasyon-ng-batas-ukol-sa-pangangalaga-ng-kapaligiran>



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- May panawagan si Senador Cynthia Villar
- Paigtingin umano ang batas ukol sa pangangalaga sa kapaligiran at kalikasan
- Kailangan umanong protektahan ang mga wildlife animals at kanilang natural habitat upang masugpo ang paglaganap ng mga infectious diseases na lubusang nakaaapekto sa mga tao

Nanawagan si Senador Cynthia Villar na paigtingin pa ang implementasyon ng batas ukol sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran, lalo na ang mga lugar na itinuturing na tirahan o natural habitat ng mga wildlife animals at endangered species na may malaking ambag sa biodiversity.

Sinabi ng senadora, na siya ring chair ng Senate committee on environment and natural resources na ang patuloy na pagsira sa kalikasan ay nakadaragdag din sa pagkalat ng mga infectious diseases kagaya ng Ebola, human immunodeficiency virus o HIV, swine fever, avian flu, at maging ang COVID-19 na sinasabing nagmula sa paniki.

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



Senador Cynthia Villar: “Paigtingin ang implementasyon ng batas ukol sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran”

Ibinahagi pa niya na ayon daw sa pag-aaral, two-thirds ng mga sakit na puminsala sa mga tao ay nagmula sa mga hayop, 70% ay mula sa mga wild animals, na tinatawag na zoonotic diseases.

“We need to not only create awareness about biological diversity, but to take action about its protection because any damage or loss will cost too much for a country such as ours. There is so much at stake and we become vulnerable to the adverse side effects if we do not commit to taking care of our environment,” dagdag pa niya.

Nanguna si Villar sa mga nagnanais na maamyendahan ang Republic Act 7586 o National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992.



Public Domain Image

Nakasaad sa batas na ito ang pagtatakda ng legal framework para sa pangangalaga ng mga protected areas para sa biodiversity. Ang Expanded NIPAS Act ay naipasa noong taong 2017.

Si Senador Cynthia Villar ay kilala rin bilang isa sa mga pangunahing nagmamay-ari ng real-estate company sa bansa.



Kids return 'vulnerable' Asian Box Turtle to authorities

Updated June 9, 2020, 10:52 PM

By Richa Noriega

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/09/kids-return-vulnerable-asian-box-turtle-to-authorities/>

A group of children from Puerto Princesa City, Palawan returned a "vulnerable" Asian Box Turtle to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) on Monday, June 8.

In a Facebook post of PCSDS, three kids from Barangay San Jose, Puerto Princesa City said that they found the turtle at the back of their house.



According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Asian Box Turtle (*Cuora Amboinensis*) is considered a vulnerable species. They are not yet fully endangered but should be looked after and protected for a balanced ecosystem.

PCSDS advised the public to follow the good deed of the children because it is "a proof that one can help take care an animal, whether it is big or small."



Solon bats for biodegradable packaging of consumer products

Published June 9, 2020, 11:53 AM

By Charissa Luci-Atienza

Magdalo Para sa Pilipino partylist

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/09/solon-bats-for-biodegradable-packaging-of-consumer-products/>

Rep. Manuel Cabochan III wants to require the use of recyclable or biodegradable materials for the packaging of consumer products to ensure the conservation and preservation of the country's natural environment.



Rep. Manuel Cabochan III (Party-list, MAGDALO)
(HOR / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

He said necessary measures should be put in place to address the worsening environmental degradation.

“Product packaging creates huge environmental impact such as pollution and congestion of garbage landfills. Many companies are voluntarily looking into reducing the environmental hazards of the packaging of their products to adhere to existing environment laws. While companies create environmental-friendly packaging, many still commit packaging hazards especially with the use of non-biodegradable materials such as plastics,” Cabochan said.

He filed House Bill No. 6744 seeking to mandate the use of recyclable and biodegradable materials in the manufacturing process of consumer goods.

“This bill seeks to mandate consumer product packaging to use biodegradable and recyclable materials only and implement conservation measures in the production level,” Cabochan said.

He explained that biodegradable materials can easily be broken down and decompose rapidly without the release of toxic substances in the environment.

“This promises sustainability that will address economic and social obligations to protect our environment that will help alleviate our country's problem on pollution and environmental degradation,” he said.

HB 6744, the proposed Recyclable and Biodegradable Packaging Act of 2020, provides that any business or non-business entity which shall undertake the effort of using recyclable and biodegradable materials for the packaging of consumer goods shall enjoy a tax deductibility privilege on its income tax to the extent of the proven cost of the recyclable or biodegradable material on its production processes.

The bill tasks the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of the proposed Act within 60 days from its passage.



Hedcor pays fine for soil dumping

posted June 09, 2020 at 08:15 pm

by Alena Mae S. Flores

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/325632>

Hedcor Inc., the hydro subsidiary of Aboitiz Power Corp., paid a fine of P200,000 for alleged dumping of soil in the Chico river in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Aboitiz Power said in a disclosure to the stock exchange it was informed by Hedcor of the fine paid to the Pollution Adjudication Board in connection with the DENR-PAB Case No. CAR-00874-16.

The case involved the alleged illegal dumping of soil in the Chico River during the construction of the Hedcor Sabangan hydro-electric power plant, supposedly in violation of Republic Act No. 9275.

Aboitiz Power said the respondents in the case were directed to pay the fine, and the payment was made for and on behalf of all the respondents by Sta. Clara International, the contractor for the Hedcor Sabangan hydro-electric power plant, in compliance with its contractual obligation and liability for the “care of water” during the construction of the plant.

“During the development of our Sabangan Hydro from 2013 to 2015, as in the construction of all hydropower facilities, it was necessary to build a temporary cofferdam to be able to construct the weir,” Aboitiz Power said.



Smart's green programs lauded in latest GSMA global report

By Rachele Nessia Published on June 9, 2020
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1044297>



Among PLDT-Smart's carbon footprint offsetting initiatives involves the conservation of mangroves, which are able to trap carbon dioxide to help mitigate climate change. (Smart)

The GSM Association (GSMA), the global industry organization of mobile network operators, has cited wireless services provider Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) for initiating environmental protection programs that utilize innovative technologies.

In its report "Digital Dividends in Natural Resource Management" released on World Environment Day, the GSMA commended Smart in two out of its three featured environmental programs. The study highlighted Smart's innovations that protect rainforests and restore coastal communities, which are currently under the PLDT Group's Gabay Kalikasan effective environmental stewardship sustainability pillar.

Conducted under the GSMA CleanTech programme, the study explored the "Digital Dividends" of applying various types of technology to natural resource management (NRM). The report emphasized how digital solutions can significantly improve the efficiency, responsiveness and efficacy of NRM activities. "Innovative approaches to environmental concerns are believed to contribute to at least 10 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as natural resources, livelihoods and poverty are interlinked," PLDT-Smart Chief Sustainability Officer and concurrent PLDT SVP and Group Controller and Smart Chief Financial Officer Chaye Cabal-Revilla explains.

Guarding the rainforest

Launched in the first quarter of 2020, the Rainforest Connection Program is a collaborative effort between Smart, the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Huawei Technologies Philippines (Huawei). It has been



Smart's green programs lauded in latest GSMA global report

successfully deployed in five DENR-designated areas in Palawan, which is recognized as the “last ecological frontier” of the country.

The program uses an Internet of Things (IoT) solution that taps mobile technology to record sounds in the rainforest sounds in order to detect illegal logging and poaching activities in the country's rainforests.

Developed by a US-based NGO of the same name, Rainforest Connection makes use of old cell phones, all powered by solar panels and wireless technology, to monitor and record ambient sounds of DENR-identified priority forest areas.

The bio-acoustics are then uploaded to a cloud service using Smart's mobile network connectivity. Findings based on the collected data are accessible via a mobile app and may be used by key community stakeholders to interpret patterns of forest activity and to guide their course of action.

Restoring mangroves with Ericsson, LGUs

Smart's Connected Mangroves partnership with network vendor Ericsson is also featured in the 2020 GSMA Digital Dividends report. This program was also lauded by GSMA in its Case for Change initiative in 2019, as one of the global mobile industry's contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Prior to the Digital Dividends report, Connected Mangroves was also featured in GSMA's Case for Change 2019, an initiative that features the global mobile industry's contribution to achieve the UN SDGs. (Smart)

The IoT for mangroves protection uses wireless connectivity to collect critical data relevant to the survival of these plants, such as water level, temperature, soil moisture, and other conditions in the mangrove area. The information, which is being collected by



Smart's green programs lauded in latest GSMA global report

the mangrove sensor system, is transmitted over a cloud system to a dashboard accessible to the fisherfolk communities and authorities.

Mangrove forests are deemed important in the protection of seaside communities from typhoons, flooding, erosion and other coastal hazards, and serve as a vital habitat for various aquatic life forms. The newly established Sustainability Office of PLDT-Smart aims to scale up the project for 2020, following its 2017 deployment in the Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad Critical Habitat and Eco-tourism Area in Pampanga.

Aside from Rainforest Connection and Connected Mangroves, most NRM projects that GSMA studied also leverage data collected through satellites, drones or connected devices. One in five uses artificial intelligence to discover, explore and derive insights from datasets. GSMA studies show that when an initiative receives support from a telco or a technology organization, it is twice as likely to use emerging technologies like connected devices, blockchain, and the like.

Supporting GSMA's #RaceToZero

These recognitions coincide with PLDT-Smart's announcement that it is supporting the GSMA's Race to Zero campaign, as a member of the organization's Climate Change Task Force. The movement highlights broad-based commitment to zero emissions from all stakeholders, building back better from the COVID-19 context.

Race to Zero aims to mobilize leadership and support from business cities, regions, and investors for a net zero greenhouse gas emissions economy by 2050, preferably earlier. PLDT-Smart aims to do this by progressively improving operational efficiencies, turning to green technologies this 2020, and pursuing the use of renewable energy in its facilities. This is on top of the various partnerships established to help protect and conserve our rainforests, mangroves, and marine life - all leveraging on digital technology and the PLDT-Smart network.

"For us, 'The Race To Zero' has already begun, we have hit the ground running," PLDT Chief Revenue Officer and Smart President and CEO Alfredo S. Panlilio says in a video message.

"We realize this is not a sprint but a marathon. So, we will run this race at a steady pace, keep our eyes focused on our goal, and stay determined to see it through to the finish line," he concludes.

"This is the larger mission before us – the purpose that drives our organizational will and energy towards sustainability on the triple bottom line of profit, people, and planet," PLDT Chairman, President, and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan says.



NWRB: Water supply to MWSS normal even as customers complain of low pressure

Published June 9, 2020 1:02pm

By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/741795/nwr-b-water-supply-to-mwss-normal-even-as-customers-complain-of-low-pressure/story/>

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) on Tuesday said the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) continues to receive normal water supply from the Angat Dam, even as customers — specifically from Las Piñas — have complained of low pressure.

According to NWRB executive director Seville David Jr., the MWSS continues to receive a water supply of 48 cubic meters per second (CMS).

"Sa ngayon, 188.6 meters ang level ng Angat Dam, so medyo umayos naman po ang level niya at malapit lapit na 'yung tag-ulan kaya sa ngayon normal ang supply ng tubig na binibigay natin sa MWSS," he said in an interview on "Dobol B sa News TV."

He was responding to queries regarding the Angat Dam water supply, as customers have been complaining of low water pressure, specifically those under Maynilad Water Services Inc. located in Las Piñas.

"Sa ngayon po kasi may mga ongoing repair pong ginagawa yata sa system ng MWSS kaya po hindi ganon kalakai ang nakukuha nila ngayon sa Angat," said David.

"Yung nagkakaroon ng issue doon sa mga distribution system nila," he added, noting the spike in demand given the coronavirus pandemic and the summer heat.

He noted, however, that the MWSS can instead source water from the La Mesa Dam while their systems connected to the Angat Dam are being repaired.

"Puwede nilang kunin ang kakulangan doon para naman po hindi masyadong makaapekto ('yung repair works sa Angat)," explained David.

For its part, Maynilad said the low pressure in Las Piñas is due to the high demand in the Marcos Alvarez Pumping Station.

"Our customers in portions of Las Piñas City will experience low pressure to no water daily starting June 8 until June 20," it said in an advisory.

"This is due to high demand in Marcos Alvarez Pumping Station. We apologize for the inconvenience," the concessionaire said.

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.

The MWSS earlier said that there will be no tariff adjustments on the water bills of both Maynilad and Manila Water until September. — RSJ, GMA News



Cayetano: Bayanihan 2, magiging mas responsive, pagbubutihin ang pamimigay ng ayuda ng pamahalaan

June 9, 2020 @ 7:27 PM

<https://remate.ph/cayetano-bayanihan-2-magiging-mas-responsive-pagbubutihin-ang-pamimigay-ng-ayuda-ng-pamahalaan/>

Manila, Philippines – Magiging “more responsive” at isasama nito ang ilang mga hakbang upang mas mapabuti ang pamamahagi ng ayuda ng pamahalaan sa ilalim ng Social Amelioration Program (SAP) ang ikalawang bahagi ng Bayanihan Law, ayon kay Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano.

“Congress will be exercising its oversight functions to ensure that the mistakes of the past will not be repeated,” pahayag ni Cayetano.

“We want also to ensure that SAP will be given to all Filipinos who need it most. We respect and acknowledge the tremendous work done by the departments involved, but our citizens cannot afford to wait that long. There must be a better way, and together we will find it,” dagdag pa niya.

Inaprubahan ng House committee of the whole noong Miyerkoles ang House Bill 6953, o ang panukalang Bayanihan to Recover As One Act, bago ito mag-adjourn sine die.

“Habang ang buong bansa ay naghahanda sa pagpasok ng ‘new normal,’ abala po ang buong gobyerno—kasama na ang Kongreso—sa paghahanap ng mga paraan upang mapaghandaan ang mga pagsubok na haharapin natin,” saad ni Cayetano.

“Now we must take the hard lessons we have learned the past months and apply it in the testing, tracing, and treatment of patients in order to escape the threat of a more devastating second wave,” dagdag pa niya.

Sa ilalim ng panukalang ikalawang Bayanihan Law, gagamitin ang P162-bilyong standby fund upang suportahan ang mga operasyon at response measures upang masolusyunan ang COVID-19 crisis.

Kabilang dito ang pagpapabuti sa healthcare services at COVID-19 testing at tulong sa mga manggagawa, education sector, government financial institutions, agriculture sector, at turismo.

Kagaya ng naunang Bayanihan Law, magbibigay rin ito ng P5,000 hanggang P8,000 subsidy, ngunit sasakupin na nito ang “all affected Filipinos”.

Magbibigay rin ito ng isang buwang emergency subsidy sa low-income na pamilyang kwalipikado ngunit hindi nabigyan ng ayuda.

Sakaling maisabatas ito, tatagal ang Bayanihan 2 hanggang Setyembre 30 sa taong ito. RNT/MM



Philippines secures \$5.76 billion in COVID loans, grants

Mary Grace Padin

June 10, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/06/10/2019772/philippines-secures-576-billion-covid-loans-grants>

MANILA, Philippines — The government has secured \$5.758 billion in loans and grants from foreign lenders and partners to finance its response to the coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

In a report, the DOF said the government has raised \$5.65 billion in budgetary support financing from multilateral agencies and offshore commercial debt market for COVID-19 response as of June 4.

Of the amount, the DOF said \$4.05 billion has already been disbursed to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

About \$2.1 billion of the total financing support came from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), \$1.2 billion from the World Bank, and \$2.35 billion from the offshore debt market through the issuance of dollar-denominated global bonds in April.

On top of these, the DOF said \$108 million in grants and loan financing packages have also been contracted by the Philippines in support of various projects to be implemented by agencies involved in COVID-19 response.

The government borrows from both domestic and external lenders to plug the expected deficit in its budget, which is now expected to widen to P1.56 trillion or 8.1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) due to the pandemic.

Last April, the DOF and the ADB signed a \$1.5 billion loan agreement for the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Program, plus another \$200 million loan for the Social Protection Support Project.

Just last week, the ADB extended another \$400 million loan to the Philippines for the Support to Capital Market Generated Infrastructure Financing, Subprogram 1.

The ADB also extended grants amounting to \$3 million for the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project and \$5 billion for the Rapid Emergency Supplies Provision in March.

Meanwhile, the Philippines and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have signed a \$750 million loan agreement to support the government's fight against the pandemic, the DOF said.

In a statement, the DOF said Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez and AIIB acting Director General Rajat Misra finalized the loan agreement for the Philippines' COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program on June 5.

The DOF said the loan augments the \$1.5 million already extended by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the CARES program, which is intended to support the Philippines' efforts to combat COVID-19 and mitigate its ill effects on the economy.

"The loan package from the AIIB will help augment our funding requirements necessary to mitigate the severe negative impact of COVID-19 on our people and our economy," Dominguez said.



Virus rush to push metro back to strict lockdown

June 9, 2020 | 7:56 pm

<https://www.bworldonline.com/virus-rush-to-push-metro-back-to-strict-lockdown/>

MANILA and nearby cities, where coronavirus cases are mostly concentrated, could revert to a stricter lockdown after June 15 if cases continue to surge, the presidential palace said on Tuesday.

“If the trend continues, either the general community quarantine will continue or we will go back to a modified enhanced community quarantine,” presidential spokesman Harry L. Roque said at a news briefing in mixed English and Filipino.

An inter-agency task force made up of Cabinet secretaries will base their decision on data from the Department of Health, he added.

If cases continue to rise, “there’s a possibility that we won’t graduate to the next phase,” Mr. Roque said.

DoH reported 518 new infections yesterday, bringing the total to 22,992. The death toll rose to 1,071 after six more patients died, while 99 more patients have gotten well, raising the total recoveries to 4,736, it said in a bulletin.

Of the new cases, 280 results came out in the past three days while 238 came out late, the agency said.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte locked the main Philippine island of Luzon in mid-March, suspending work, classes and public transportation to contain the pandemic. People should stay home except to buy food and other basic goods, he said.

He extended the lockdown on the island twice and thrice for Metro Manila, where the lockdown has since been relaxed. Some businesses have been allowed to reopen with minimal workforce.

Metro Manila and Cebu were placed under a general community quarantine on June 1 along with Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Calamba, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Pangasinan, Albay, Mandaue City, Zamboanga City and Davao City.

Others were put under a more relaxed modified general community quarantine.

The task force will discuss later this week what should be the next step, Mr. Roque said.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario S. Vergeire earlier on Tuesday said there was a case backlog of about 1,500.

“It’s erratic owing to the different operational issues that each laboratory is facing,” she said at a news briefing.

She also traced the backlog to more samples from highly populated areas, adding that zoning guidelines should address the problem.



Virus rush to push metro back to strict lockdown

Some facilities have failed to meet the daily deadline for reporting because of the lack of encoders, Ms. Vergeire said.

Meanwhile, she said mothers who have given birth at health facilities will be tested for the coronavirus disease 2019 under new guidelines on expanded testing protocol that will be signed by Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III this week.

Pregnant women are among those most at risk of dying in case they get infected, aside from the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions.

Ms. Vergeire last week said the daily testing capacity had reached 10,000, allowing the expansion of the targeted testing to include patients without symptoms.

Anna Ong-Lim, president of the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines, said relatives, colleagues and health workers who got in contact with positive patients should be tested as well.

The virus has sickened 7.2 million and killed about 409,000 people worldwide, according to the Worldometers website, citing various sources including data from the World Health Organization.

About 3.6 million people have recovered, it said. —Gillian M. Cortez and Vann Marlo M. Villegas



I-LOCKDOWN LAHAT NG ESKWELA

June 9, 2020 @ 11:04 AM

<https://remate.ph/i-lockdown-lahat-ng-eskwela/>



Malinaw nang walang pasok sa mga eskwelang sakop ng Department of Education na mula senior high school hanggang kindergarten para sa school year 2020-2021 at parehong hind gagana ang mga pampubliko at pribadong eskwelahan.

Habang sinusulat ito, wala namang inilalabas ang Commission on Higher Education na may sakop naman sa mga kolehiyo at unibersidad, pampubliko man o pribado, sa buong bansa ngunit maaaring susunod ito sa patakarang sinuong na ng DepEd.

Sinunod ng DepEd ang mariing pagbabawal ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pumasok ang milyon-milyong mag-aaral habang wala pang natatagpuang bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease-19.

Naiintindihan natin ang buong punto ni Pang. Digong na wala ni sinomang bata ang dapat mapahamak sa nakamamatay at walang gamot na sakit.

Iniuulat ng Department of Health na naglalaro sa 500 ang tinatamaan ng sakit at naglalaro sa 10 ang namamatay araw-araw at sa paniniwala ng Malakanyang, tiyak na matatamaan ang mga bata kung papasok sila sa mga buwan na ito.

27M WALANG KALABAN-LABAN

Silipin natin, mga Bro, ang kalagayan ng mga estudyante.

Sa mga pampublikong paaralan lamang, maaaring may mag-aaral na halos 23 milyon batay na rin sa rekord nitong taong 2019-2020.

Binubuo ang mga ito ng mahigit dalawang milyon para sa kinder; mahigit 12M para sa elementarya; mahigit 7M para sa junior high school at mahigit sa 1.6M para naman sa senior high school.

Ang natitirang 16 porsyento o mahigit 4M ay para sa mga pribadong paaralan at nahahati sa mga sumusunod: mahigit 231,000 para sa kinder; mahigit sa 1.2M para sa elementarya; mahigit sa 1.4M para sa junior high school at mahigit sa 1.3M para sa senior high school.

Iba pa ang inaasahang papasok sa mga State Universities and Colleges at Local Universities and Colleges gaya ng nasa 329 para sa kinder; nasa 11,000 para sa elementary; mahigit 62,000 para junior high school at halos 85,000 para sa senior high school.



I-LOCKDOWN LAHAT NG ESKWELA

Mahigit 27.2M ang inaasahang papasok sa darating na pasukan, lalo't libre na lahat, maging sa mga kolehiyo at unibersidad na pampubliko.

Sila, mga Bro, ang nais protektahan ni Pangulong Digong dahil magiging walang kalaban-laban ang mga ito kung kapitan sila ng COVID-19 at mabuting sumunod ang DepEd at CHED.

HINDI UUBRA

May ilang nabuong plano ang DepEd para isulong ang pag-aaral magsimula sa Agosto sana at tinawag nitong blended learning.

Isang estilo ang face to face o dating gawi na papasok sa iskul ang mga bata pero kailangan ang social distancing at iba pang pangkaligtasang gamit at gawain gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield, laging paghuhugas ng kamay o paggamit ng mga hand sanitizer at iba pa.

Ang isa'y may face to face na maaaring kalahati ng bilang ng mga mag-aaral ang dadalo, mapadadalhan naman ng parang homework sa anyo ng module ang iba o sa pamamagitan ng radyo at telebisyon.

'Yung iba, pupwedeng parang distance learning at daraanin na lang sa cellphone, laptop, kompyuter, zooming, internet at iba pa.

Itong huli, kaya ng mayayamang eskwela, lalo na ang mga pribado.

Pero sa pangkalahatan, anak ng tokwa, alam naman ng lahat na higit na nakararami ang walang pambili ng mamahaling cellphone, laptop at iba pang gadget at lalong walang pangmantina sa buwanang bayarin sa wifi at repair ng mga gadget kung masira.

Kitang-kita ito, lalo na sa mga lalawigan at maging sa Kamaynilaan, sa mga komunidad ng mga informal settler.

Madaling isipin ang lahat ng ito subalit mahirap isagawa.

Pero dahil tiyak na mas magkakaroon ng face to face, maaaring dito aatake ang COVID-19 at ano ang maipanlalaman ng milyon-milyong bata sa sakit na ito?

I-LOCKDOWN SILA

Kung makikibalita tayo sa ibang bansa, sinasabing may ilan nang nagbubukas ng kanilang mga eskwela.

Pero ang mga bansang iyon ay may kaya ang kanilang pamahalaan na isustine ang mga mamamayan nila sa oras ng kagipitan, lalo na sa gastos.

Ang mahal kong Pinas?



I-LOCKDOWN LAHAT NG ESKWELA

Pero heto ang isang lumabas na pagtaya: kung hindi nagpairal ng matinding lockdown ang 11 bansa sa Europa gaya ng Germany, France, Italy, Britain, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, malamang umanong namatayan na sila ng nasa 3M mamamayan sa mga araw na ito.

Dahil naman sa lockdown, nasa 170,000 pa lang ang namamatay sa Europa mula sa mahigit 1.4M kumpirmadong kaso rito.

Ang tamang gawin natin?

I-lockdown ang lahat ng eskwela, pairalin ang patakarang stay at home para sa mga mag-aaral at kung gusto natin silang matuto, ibigay sa kanila ang mga aklat at module para basahin at tugunan...kung meron silang time.

MAGSUMIKAP SILA

Ang mga taga-DepEd at CHED?

Nasa kanila na kung ano ang gagawin nila at maaaring isipin nila na ang mga iskul at mga guro sa Pinas ay halos wala sa mapa ng kahit sa 1,000 top colleges and universities sa world ranking para rito.

Kahit tuwing graduation ay naririnig natin ang mga guro na nagsasabing “world class” na raw ang mga iskul at guro sa Pinas pero tanging ang University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila, University of Sto. Tomas at La Salle ang nasa listahan ng Top 1,000 world universities.

Ang isa, nasa pang-350; ang isa nasa bracket na 600-700; ang dalawa, muntik pang ma-out sa pagkakabilang sa mga kulelat na 800-1,000 bracket.



NCR may remain in GCQ till June 30

posted June 10, 2020 at 01:30 am

by Willie Casas and Rey E. Requejo, Vito Barcelo

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/325684>

One question is sweeping Metro Manila these days: Will the national capital of nearly 13 million people transition away from General Community Quarantine (GCQ) after June 15?

The question chases reports from the Department of Health, which registered 280 “fresh cases” of COVID-19 in the Philippines as of Tuesday, with total recorded cases reaching nearly 23,000 and deaths now recorded at 1,011, and 4,637 recoveries—and the numbers are rising.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said quarantine restrictions in the National Capital Region (NCR) could also be tightened and extended to June 30 by the government's Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases on COVID-19, depending on doubling rate and healthcare capacity.

Given these figures, Malacanang said the government might keep Metro Manila under GCQ until the end of June if coronavirus infections in the metropolis continue to rise.

"All the decisions of the IATF, whether or not to graduate to the next regime, in the case of Metro Manila to MGCQ (modified general community quarantine), is always dependent on data," Roque told a Palace press briefing.

According to Roque, who is also IATF spokesman, if Metro Manila would continue to see a rise in infections, further easing of restrictions might be unlikely.

"If the trend continues, either we continue on under GCQ or we could go back to modified GCQ. All classifications are flexible, depending on the data," he said.

"Fresh cases" of COVID-19 have been averaging more than 300 daily for the last three days, higher than previous weeks, but it does not mean a spike in the actual number of cases, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a media briefing.

"Our fresh cases really are increasing in the past days," Vergeire said. "But we can't say these are actual fresh cases because the date of the release of test results is actually far from the recorded date of the onset of illness."

The health department started re-classifying additional cases into “fresh cases” and “late cases” in late May to distinguish those that are only being reported now because of delayed validation.

The DOH said fresh cases referred to patients whose test results were released and subsequently validated in the last three days, while late cases referred to patients whose test results were released more than three days ago but validated only recently.



NCR may remain in GCQ till June 30

Tightened restrictions

President Rodrigo Duterte is set to meet with the IATF in his hometown Davao City on Thursday to decide on fresh quarantine protocols for the June 16-30 period.

Of the 280 fresh cases reported by the DOH yesterday, 61 are from the National Capital Region, 82 are from Region 7, and 115 are from other regions. There are also 22 Filipino repatriates.

This was the fifth straight day that fresh cases from Region 7 or Central Visayas exceeded that of NCR.

Late cases for Tuesday reached 238, which brings the total additional cases to 518, raising the total coronavirus cases in the country to 22,992, according to the Department of Health.

At the same time, the DOH reported the number of healthcare workers who have contracted the coronavirus disease has reached 2,736 as of June 7.

In its COVID-19 report on Monday, the DOH said 1,589 of these health workers recovered from the respiratory illness. The death toll has remained at 32 since May 29.

The DOH said the other 1,115 medical workers were active cases undergoing treatment or quarantine.

Of this number, 990 are mild cases, 124 are asymptomatic, while one is in severe condition.

Health workers account for 12 percent of the total infections nationwide.

Testing backlogs

But health authorities said the fresh cases might include testing backlogs and patients who sought medical help much later.

Vergeire said this was because the date of the onset of illness of the fresh cases were far from the release date of test results.

This is why, she claimed, the recent increase in cases may not mean that the virus is spreading further in the country.

Vergeire said DOH's experts on data analytics were already studying the figures to help the IATF come up with its decisions on whether to further relax restrictions in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

Metro Manila and other earlier hotspots are now under GCQ, where businesses have been allowed to reopen and public transport have resumed limited operations. The rest of the country is under modified GCQ.



NCR may remain in GCQ till June 30

Worldwide, people who contracted the COVID-19 virus reached 7.1 million on Tuesday, according to the Johns Hopkins University coronavirus dashboard. Of this number, almost 3.3 million have recovered while 406,000 have died.

Tracing efforts

Meanwhile, the DOH is tracing the date of onset of illness in patients positive for COVID-19 as the number of fresh coronavirus cases reported this week increased.

Vergeire was responding to questions if the rising number of fresh cases—meaning those samples from patients whose results were released by the laboratories in three days—equate to the rising COVID-19 cases amid the easing of quarantine measures nationwide.

“We have to be cautious in interpreting our data. We also have to look at the weakness of our information system...There has been an increase in the past few days, but this could be a function of reporting (on the part of laboratories) because our timeline begins from the time the results are released,” Vergeire said.

Vergeire earlier said the varying capacity of laboratories processing COVID-19 tests, which are experiencing shortage in supplies and manpower, greatly affects their ability to report COVID-19 cases in real time.

DOJ employees positive

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra on Tuesday revealed that 40 employees of the Department of Justice were tested positive after being subjected to rapid anti-body testing for coronavirus disease, prompting him to seriously consider suspending the work at the DOJ.

Guevarra said there were 40 DOJ employees tested positive as of Tuesday, but these were through rapid test only. “They will still be subjected to a more reliable swab test,” he added.

The numbers of DOJ employees who tested positive in the rapid test rose from the initial three, comprising of two security guards and one from maintenance, to 40.

According to the DOJ chief, they have disinfected the DOJ premises to prevent other employees from being infected with the virus.

“We've disinfected the premises over the weekend, and we'll do it all over again. We will also decide if we need to suspend all work on site in the meantime,” Guevarra said.

The DOJ had also sought the help of the Chinese General Hospital and requested that they conduct rapid test on their other employees.



NCR may remain in GCQ till June 30

Prohibited still

The Palace reiterated that motorcycle backriding, horse racing and cockfighting remained prohibited in areas under community quarantine to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Duterte's spokesman Roque also said this coming Independence Day celebration on June 12, only 10 people will be allowed to attend the ceremony as part of the health protocols being observed amid the COVID 19 pandemic.

The latest decision on the quarantine restrictions on amusement games and June 12 occasion was reached during a meeting of the IATF, Roque told a news briefing on nationwide television.

Roque also warned local government officials of possible administrative charges should they allow motorcycle backriding in their respective areas while the country was still under community quarantine.

"Horse racing is still not allowed. Cockfighting is also prohibited. Although the IATF gave the approval for the celebration on June 12, the participants must be limited to 10 persons," he added.

At present, amusement, gaming, and fitness establishments, as well as those in the kids and the tourism industries are still not allowed to operate in areas under GCQ like Metro Manila.

Outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of exercise such as walking, jogging, running, biking, golf, swimming, tennis, badminton, equestrian, range shooting, and skateboarding however are allowed, subject to minimum health standards in GCQ areas.

At the same time, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said other industries still prohibited to operate in GCQ are gyms/fitness studios and sports facilities, cinemas, theaters, karaoke bars, libraries, cultural centers, museums, beaches, water parks and other tourist destinations, travel agencies, tour operators, personal care services such as massage parlors, sauna and facial care; pet grooming services, internet shops, and education centers like testing centers, review centers, language, driving, dance/acting/voice schools.

Mass gatherings such as movie screenings, concerts, sporting events, and other entertainment activities, religious services, and work conferences shall be allowed provided that participants shall be limited to 50 percent of the seating or venue capacity in places under MGCQ.

Meanwhile, the Department of Interior and Local Government said chiefs of police could now issue travel passes, which would cut down bureaucracy as the Philippines restarts its economy under relaxed restrictions imposed during the lockdown.

Those who want to cross checkpoints were previously required to coordinate with the police, which will then inform their regional counterparts and the local governments responsible for issuing travel authority.



Abusers of women, children will pay — Roque

June 9, 2020 07:56 PM

By Francis Wakefield

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/09/abusers-of-women-children-will-pay-roque/>

Malacañang on Tuesday expressed sadness over reports that close to 4,000 women and children experienced violence since the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in the country.

Presidential spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque said it is quite odd that while the country is in quarantine and families are spending more time with each other, the number of cases of violence against women and children also increased.

Roque, however, assured the public that authorities are now investigating the incidents. He also encouraged other victims to come out and report the matter to local and police authorities.

The Palace official also expressed hope that now most of the areas in the country are under a more relax community quarantine, the trend of violence will also slow down in the coming weeks.

In President Rodrigo Duterte's 11th Report to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Monday, 08 June, he said that the Philippine National Police (PNP) Women and Children Protection Desks are working closely with local government units to ensure that the welfare of women and children are protected.

As of 04 June 2020, the PNP has recorded a total of 1,945 cases of violence against women and 1,754 cases of violence against children since the implementation of the ECQ.

It added that the Philippine Commission on Women, through the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children Secretariat, has been actively responding to the relevant inquiries received through various electronic platforms.



Pag-asa Island dev't projects to go full blast with beaching ramp

By Priam Nepomuceno June 9, 2020, 7:00 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1105353>



BEACHING RAMP. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (center) and some military officials lead the inauguration of the beaching ramp at the Pag-asa Island on Tuesday (June 9, 2020). The completion of the beaching ramp at Pag-asa Island is expected to help in the construction of more development projects to improve the living conditions of the island's residents. (Photo courtesy of DND)

MANILA – Development projects in Pag-asa Island are expected to go full blast with the completion and turnover of its beaching ramp, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Tuesday.

"Once operational (beaching ramp), we can go full blast already. Any project here, mga barracks ng mga sundalo (barracks of soldiers) bahay ng mga tao dito (houses of people living here) eskwelahan (schools), electricity, power, solar siguro tsaka (and) diesel hybrid, everything, we will improve this," he said in a media interview.

Lorenzana said the purpose of these developments is to develop Pag-asa Island into a viable community.

Among these development plans, he added, is the installation of a radio broadcasting center.

"We will put out money here. Si (Department of Transportation) Secretary (Arthur) Tugade, kita niyo yung fishermen's shelter? (You saw his fishermen's shelter?) Magtatayo din siya ng ice plant (he will also put up an ice plant) so that the fishermen can deposit their catch para hindi masisira ang mga huli (so that their catch will not spoil)," Lorenzana said.

He is also looking at the possibility of constructing another beaching ramp to carry equipment and supplies to other Philippine-claimed territories in the Spratlys Island chain.



Pag-asa Island dev't projects to go full blast with beaching ramp

Out of the seven islands and two reefs being controlled by the Philippines in the Spratlys, Pag-asa is the largest measuring 37.2 hectares.

Other Philippine possessions in the area include Likas Island which measures 18.6 hectares, Parola Island, 12.7 hectares; Lawak Island, 7.93 hectares; Kota Island, 6.45 hectares; Patag Island, 0.57; Panata Island, 0.44; Rizal and Ayungin Reefs.

Lorenzana said there are no plans to militarize Pag-asa Island and soldiers deployed are only armed for protection.

"We will not militarize this. I call it militarization if we bring in other weapons that are heavy like cannons or missiles. We will not do that here," he added.

Lorenzana earlier said transportation of materials needed to repair and then maintain the Rancudo Airfield will be made easier with the completion of the Pag-asa Island beaching ramp.

"Very significant (as with) the beaching ramp, we can now bring in materials, equipment to continuously repair and later on to maintain our runway (Rancudo Airfield)," Lorenzana said.

Prior to the turnover of the beaching ramp, equipment and supplies could only be brought in by ship who have to anchor 500 meters away from the shore and transfer it to a smaller boat so that it can be carried to the island.

"So it's very tedious (practice) and very expensive and we can only do that during calm weather," Lorenzana said.

During the "habagat" or southwest monsoon season, even fishermen are very wary to go in the area due to rough weather and large waves.

With a budget of PHP267.18 million, the construction of the beaching ramp on Pag-asa Island is one of several projects aimed at improving the living conditions of the people there.

A total of PHP1.3 billion worth of projects are also in the pipeline, including the repair and concreting of the runway that has been damaged by erosion. (PNA)



'China owes us P33 billion in annual marine loss'

By Butch Fernandez

June 9, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/09/china-owes-us-p33-billion-in-annual-marine-loss/>



The Philippine-claimed Kalayaan (Thitu) Island on the Spratlys chain of islands is shown off the West Philippine Sea, April 21, 2017.

RETIRED Associate Justice Antonio Carpio flatly dismissed Monday China's claims that it owns the West Philippine Sea (WPS), as well as the whole South China Sea since ancient times. This, as former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario cited computations showing China, in fact, owes the Philippines P33 billion a year in damage to Philippine marine resources in the WPS, or a total of P200 billion since 2014.

"This is totally false," Carpio said at a webinar hosted by Sen. Risa Hontiveros. "I call this the fake history.... This historical claim by China has been ruled by the arbitral tribunal as without legal or factual basis. The tribunal said that there is no evidence that China controlled the entire South China Sea at any time in its history beyond its territorial seas."

He said "all the important maps of China from the Tang dynasty to the Ching dynasty which ended in 1912, all these important maps of China were published in a 2-volume Atlas of Ancient Maps by the People's Republic of China in the 1990s and all these ancient maps showed without exception that the southernmost territory of China was Hainan Island."

He added: "Without doubt, China's own official maps since almost 1,000 years ago show that Hainan Island was their southernmost territory."

It was only in 1932, Carpio stressed, "that China officially claimed the Paracel Islands, it was only in 1946 that China officially claimed the Spratlys."

In 1943, he said, China published the China Handbook to include the Paracels but China did not claim the Spratlys as part of its territory in this 1943 handbook. In 1946, China



‘China owes us P33 billion in annual marine loss’

revised the China Handbook and for the first time in China’s history, China claimed the Spratlys but only starting 1946. However in this China Handbook, China said that the Spratlys was also claimed by the Philippines and the French who were then in Vietnam.

Asked by Hontiveros about China’s strategic end-goal, del Rosario replied: “The answer to your first question, is that China wants complete control and domination of the South China Sea, and I think we all know what this is about, it is about feeding its people, it is about fueling their economy, and it is about strengthening their military. Those are the reasons for China to seek total domination of the South China Sea.”

Citing the Hontiveros resolution filed in the Senate, del Rosario noted its provisions that China has been causing great damage, maritime losses, to the Philippines, as part of its maritime designs, its ability to move forward on its strategy in the South China Sea.

“I have come up with some notes here actually,” del Rosario said, adding: “This week as we celebrate June 12 or Independence Day, we Filipinos should continue to stand up for our rights.

China does not see us as having equal rights. China is simply a duplicitous friend that continues its construction of artificial islands and structures in our West Philippine Sea. China to date refuses to recognize what the international community recognizes: that our nation and we Filipinos litigated our rights amid China’s abuses and violations in the West Philippine Sea,” securing the arbitration award on July 12, 2016. “Part of this award is the unanimous finding that China inflicted the most massive, near-permanent damage to marine life in the West Philippine Sea. In other words, China is enormously accountable and owes Filipinos billions of pesos for its continuing abuses in the West Philippine Sea.”

Del Rosario added that more than half of the country’s 110 million Filipinos live in coastal communities, relying on marine resources for their daily needs. “And as highlighted by Justice Carpio and Senator Hontiveros, our country’s best and brightest scientists at the University of the Philippines [UP] Marine Science Institute conservatively estimated that our country is conservatively losing P33 billion a year in damage to our marine ecosystems due to China’s artificial island building and fishing operations. This sums up to more than P200 billion since the start of 2014,” he added.

The ex-DFA chief lamented, however, that 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 to us from China. Philippine authorities have the right to seize assets owned by the Chinese state here in the Philippines to satisfy China’s debt to the Filipino people once China’s full monetary damages are determined.”

In del Rosario’s view, it is also time for the Philippines to protect itself from “China’s predatory and abusive practices.” He added that ‘despite China’s clear disrespect of our internationally recognized rights over our territory, our fishermen and our people, our government welcomes China while other countries like the Australia, India, the US, Japan the European Union recently enacted measures to prevent China from taking over their strategic and vital industries like energy, technology and media and telecommunications.’”



It's Sea Transportation Safety Month

By Carlos C. Salinas

June 10, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/10/business/maritime-business/its-sea-transportation-safety-month/730765/>

June has been designated Sea Transportation Safety Month under Proclamation 115-A, series of 1966, which identified each month of the year as safety month for a specific area of our everyday lives.

It is under this proclamation that March, as we know, has been named Fire Prevention Month, April is Vacation Hazards Month, May as Land Transportation Month and June as Sea Transportation Safety Month. This was in response to the “impelling and constant need for propagating safety consciousness among our people” every month of the year.

In May 2008, then president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo further underscored the significance of the sea by proclaiming the month of June as Celebrate the Sea Month, and the second Saturday of June as Celebrate the Sea” Day, to raise “greater awareness and consciousness of our seas... as part of our pride and heritage.”

Indeed, in light of the dominant role that the sea plays in our lives, safety at sea should be paramount in our consciousness. During the inaugural Safety4Sea Conference held in Manila last November, the following areas were taken up:

Safety considerations in attitude and mindset across all industry stakeholders – driven by the theme Together in Safety, while unleashing the power of collaboration in getting things done;

De-carbonization – the need for each of us to “take the lead” in our own ways, driven by growing societal demands for achieving zero emissions sooner rather than later. A week before the conference, over 11,000 scientists from around the world signed a manifesto seeking urgent and concerted global action on climate issues;

Talent Acquisition – understanding and defining the work force of the future — managing through diversity, flexibility, and automation, among others in order to attract the best and the brightest; and

Eliminating Waste – driving productivity by merging the physical and the digital.

Safety4Sea is committed to promote safer, smarter and greener shipping. For this to happen within the Philippine maritime industry and for the various publics whom we serve, we have to ensure a mindset change that drives a new view towards people, process and technology.

Recognizing that what got us to where we are today, will not get us to where we need to be, is another must. Unless we adapt and disrupt, addressing the evolving issues and anticipating the future, we will be lost in terms of how the game will play out in the years ahead.



It's Sea Transportation Safety Month

Even as early as November, before we were even aware of a virus that was about to turn our lives upside down, we were already asking if we, as individuals, as companies, as institutions were ready for change and ready to change?

It was truly a blessing that we had adopted that mindset that early, because it is only this attitude, this openness, this willingness and readiness to think out of the box — that would see us through this challenge that is so unlike anything that we had to deal with before.

Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari affirms that only cooperation can make us triumph over this pandemic.

He said, “I hope the main lesson from this epidemic is that people realize that we are all in this together. This isn’t a Chinese crisis or an Italian crisis — it is a global crisis. People all over the world share the same experiences, fears and interests. From the virus’ perspective, we are all similar, we are all human prey. And from the human perspective, as long as the epidemic spreads in any one country, it endangers all of us, because it can reach all of us. Therefore we need a global plan to fight this epidemic.”

“The real antidote to epidemics isn’t isolation and segregation”.

Harari added, “it is information and cooperation. The big advantage of humans over viruses is the ability to cooperate effectively.”

Harari cites the two last major crises we faced — the Ebola crisis in 2014 and the global financial crisis of 2008.

In both cases, it was international cooperation that kept the crises from getting worse. Ebola was contained because countries from all over the world sent help to the most affected countries in West Africa.

As for the global financial crisis, the worst outcomes were again prevented because the major economies cooperated to formulate a global plan of action.

“We can do it again,” Harari said. “But for this, we need leadership and we’d need global solidarity.”

It may seem ironic and counter-intuitive that a pursuit of safety has to be achieved by taking risks. That’s because playing safe — burying our heads in the sand, hoping the problem will just disappear — is more dangerous.



Task force allows Independence Day rites in Luneta, but only 10 attendees

By CNN Philippines Staff

Published Jun 9, 2020 4:46:36 PM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/6/9/Independence-Day-covid-19-crisis.html>



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 9) — The traditional Independence Day celebration will push through at the Luneta Park in Manila on June 12, but there will be limited guests due to the coronavirus crisis.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases, the policy-making body in the government's COVID-19 response, has approved the attendance of only 10 people during the ceremony.

Under the government's guidelines for areas under general community quarantine such as Metro Manila, only 10 people are allowed to gather to prevent further spread of COVID-19, which has infected more than 22,000 people nationwide.

"Binigyan po ng permiso ng IATF na magkaroon ng celebration sa Luneta (The IATF gave its permission for a celebration to be held in Luneta) but limited to 10 people only," Roque said in an online media briefing.

He said he'll check if President Rodrigo Duterte will attend the commemoration. The President has been in his hometown in Davao City since last week. Roque said he will again meet with members of the IATF there.

Last year, Vice President Leni Robredo led the flag raising and wreath laying ceremony at Rizal Park while Duterte visited government troops in Lanao del Sur.

Duterte previously skipped the Independence Day rites in Manila in 2017, which would have been his first since taking office on June 30, 2016. In 2018, Duterte was heckled during his Independence Day speech at the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite.



Taal Volcano rumbles, 5 earthquakes recorded

By: Daphne Galvez - Reporter / @DYGalvezINQ
INQUIRER.net / 09:10 AM June 09, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1288422/taal-volcano-rumbles-5-earthquakes-recorded>



Taal Volcano (EDWIN BACASMAS)

MANILA, Philippines – Taal Volcano registered five earthquakes in the last 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Tuesday.

The earthquakes are associated mainly with “rock-fracturing processes beneath and around the edifice”, Phivolcs said.

ADVERTISEMENT

Vents on the main crater and along Kastila Trail emitted 20-30 meter high steam which drifted to the southwest.

Alert Level 1 remains hoisted over Taal Volcano, where sudden steam-driven or phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall, and lethal accumulations or expulsion of volcanic gas may occur and threaten areas within Taal Volcano Island (TVI).

Entry to the TVI, the volcano’s permanent danger zone, is strictly prohibited, Phivolcs stressed.

Local government units should continuously monitor barangays around Taal Lake for damage and to strengthen preparedness, contingency, and communication measures, Phivolcs said.

Residents are likewise urged to observe precautionary measures due to ground displacement across fissures, possible ashfall, and minor earthquakes.

Pilots should also avoid flying close in the vicinity of the volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from eruptions, as well as wind-remobilized ash, can harm aircraft Phivolcs warned.



Cavite City records day's highest heat index at 47°C

Published June 9, 2020 10:21pm

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

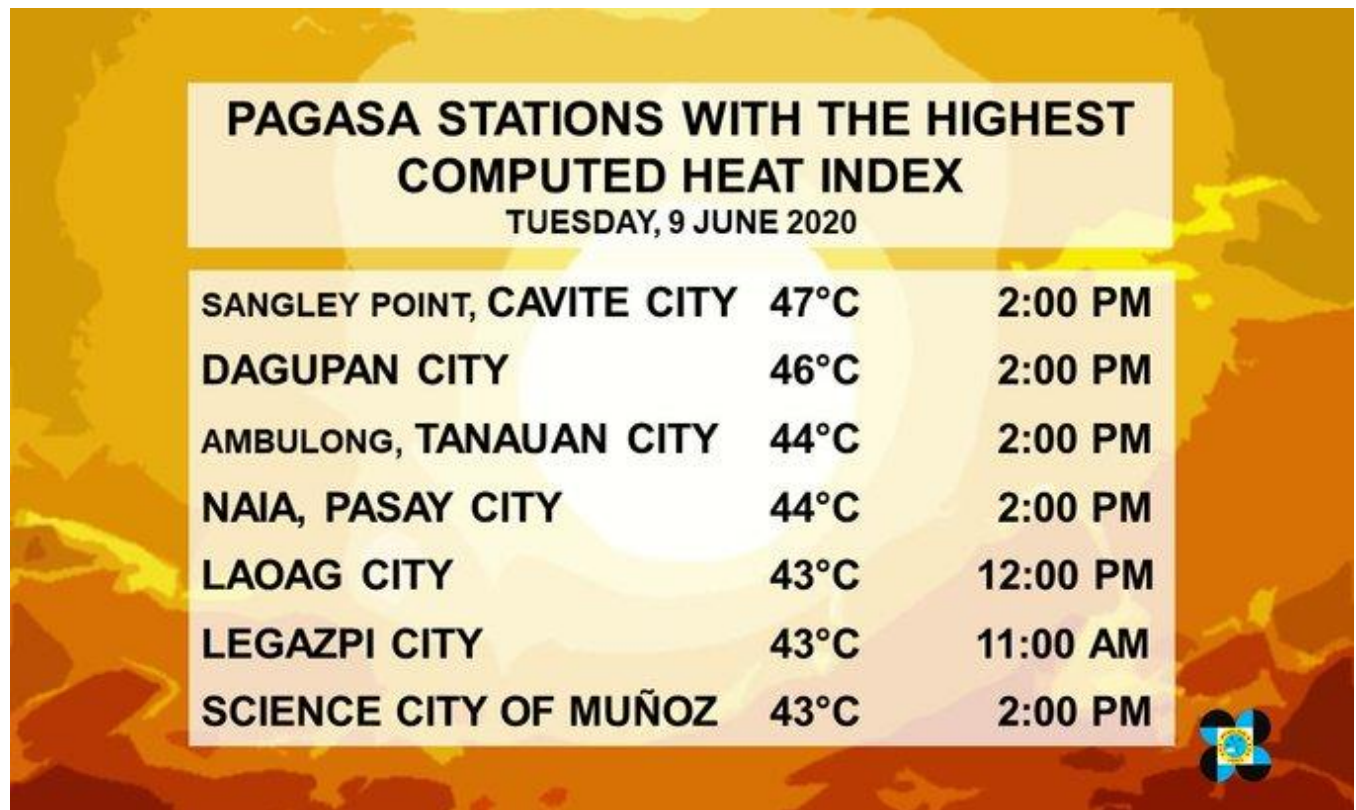
<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/741901/cavite-city-records-day-s-highest-heat-index-at-47-deg-c/story/>

The synoptic station at Sangley Point, Cavite City recorded Tuesday's highest heat index at 47°C, according to PAGASA.

The state weather bureau also reported the heat indexes at the stations in Dagupan City with 46°C, Ambulong, Tanauan City and NAIA, Pasay City with 44°C, and Laoag City, Legazpi City, and the Science City of Munoz with 43°C.

The heat index or the temperature felt by an individual, measures "human discomfort." It is computed by factoring in the humidity and the air temperature.

Due to this, heat cramps and heat exhaustion are possible. This may lead to heat stroke amid continued physical activity.



Meanwhile, the station at the Science Garden, Quezon City reported a heat index of 40°C at 2 p.m.

A maximum temperature of 33.4°C was also recorded at the same time.



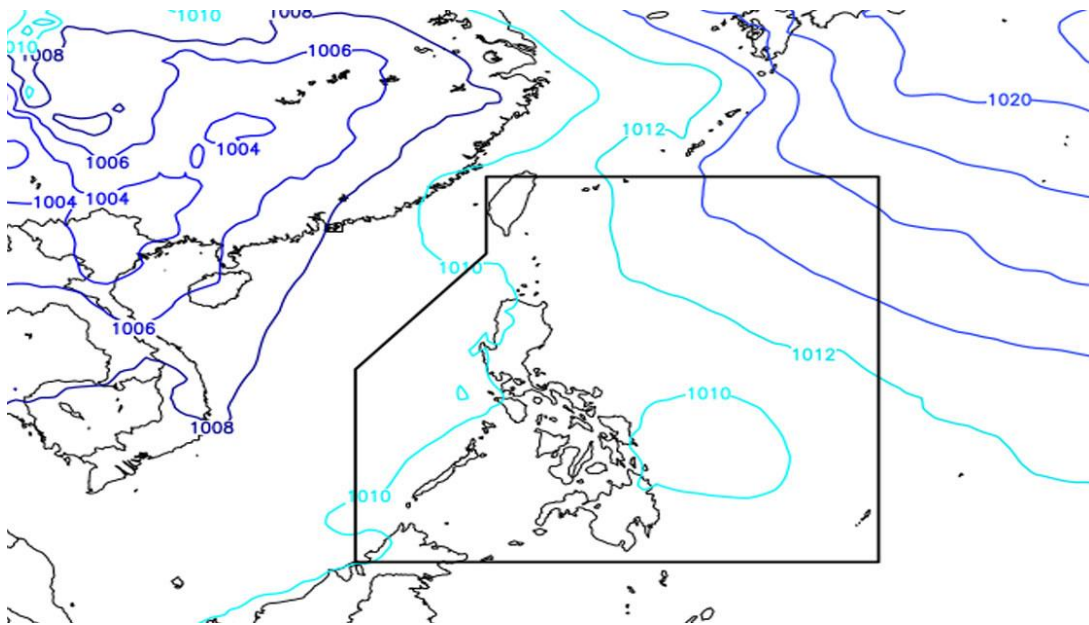
LPA, binabantayan sa may silangang bahagi ng Guiuan, E. Samar

June 9, 2020 @ 6:21 AM

<https://remate.ph/lpa-binabantayan-sa-may-silangang-bahagi-ng-guiuan-e-samar/>

Manila, Philippines – Binabantayan ang isang Low Pressure Area (LPA) na may layong 465 kilometrong silangan ng Guiuan, Eastern Samar ngayong Martes, June 9.

Kasabay nito ay nakaaapekto rin ang Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) sa Palawan, Visayas at Mindanao, ayon sa PAGASA.



Kaugnay nito ay makararanas ng pag-ulan at maulap na kalangitan ang Palawan, Visayas, at Mindanao.

Habang easterlies naman ang makaaapekto sa Metro Manila at nalalabing bahagi ng bansa na magdudulot ng panaka-nakang pag-ulan at maulap na panahon.

Samantala, nagbabala naman ang PAGASA sa posibilidad ng pagbaha o pagguho ng lupa sa kasagsagan ng buhos ng ulan, kulog, at kidlat. RNT/FGDC



WHO: COVID-19 pandemic worsening

posted June 09, 2020 at 11:05 am by AFP and Peter Hutchison

<https://manilastandard.net/news/top-stories/325595/who-covid-19-pandemic-worsening.html>

New York City—the epicenter of America's coronavirus outbreak—began partially reopening its shattered economy Monday after almost three months of lockdown, as the World Health Organization warned the health crisis was "worsening" worldwide.

Some 400,000 New Yorkers were allowed to return to work as retailers began offering limited in-store and curbside pickup, with construction and manufacturing also permitted to resume operations.

"It's good to be back," said Michael Ostergren, manager of the Shakespeare and Co bookshop on Manhattan's Upper West Side, where a trickle of customers arrived shortly after the doors reopened.

"Everybody wants to be out of the house. We're just picking up where we left off in March," he added.

As New York entered phase one of its reopening and some of Europe's hardest-hit nations lurched back to a new kind of normal, the WHO reported a record number of new cases globally.

Director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said 136,000 cases had been reported in the past 24 hours, "the most in a single day so far," with the majority of them in the Americas and South Asia.

"Although the situation in Europe is improving, globally it is worsening," he told reporters.

COVID-19 caused more than 21,000 confirmed and probable deaths in New York after America's most populous city quickly became ground zero of the US epidemic in late March.

Mayor Bill de Blasio hailed the first easing of restrictions but warned residents that they must continue to social distance and wash their hands regularly.

"This is a triumphant moment for New Yorkers who fought back against this disease," he told CNN.

"Come back to work, but remember to stick to those smart rules that got us this far."

But the reopening effort was stymied by large numbers of high-end stores remaining boarded up following widespread looting during anti-racism protests a week ago.

The start of the economic reboot came a day after de Blasio lifted a controversial week-long curfew he had imposed over the looting.



WHO: COVID-19 pandemic worsening

Governor Andrew Cuomo has urged the thousands of protesters who demonstrated the police killing in Minneapolis of an unarmed black man, George Floyd, to get tested for COVID-19, fearing they may trigger a surge in infections.

US recession

One shop that did open in Midtown Manhattan was The Container Store, a home storage outlet.

Sixty-one-year-old K.B Barton left with three bags of items that he had first ordered online.

"It's livelier today in Manhattan. I see a lot more people in the streets. I am happier but not everyone wears a mask," he told AFP.

In the borough of Queens, rush hour subway trains into Manhattan were slightly busier than in recent weeks, but still nowhere near pre-coronavirus numbers.

Seventy-year-old Brandy Bligen said he was looking forward to dining outside, which will be included in phase two of the reopening alongside barbershops, and expected in a fortnight if cases don't surge.

"Being confined is enough to drive you crazy," he told AFP at the Roosevelt Avenue-Jackson Heights station.

New York's bars will be allowed to open in phase three, but movie theaters and museums have to wait until phase four, likely in late July and with reduced capacity.

COVID-19 deaths have passed 404,000 worldwide, with more than seven million infections, since the disease emerged in China late last year before sweeping the globe, subjecting billions to some form of lockdown and paralyzing economies.

Governments around the world are cautiously peeling back those restrictions to resuscitate their economies while trying to avoid a resurgence of infections.

In Belgium, pubs and eateries flung their doors open, but with social distancing measures in force, while Ireland opened shops and allowed gatherings of six people and limited travel.

British quarantine

Moscow said Monday it would ease border restrictions and lift lockdown measures in the Russian capital from Tuesday.

New Zealand meanwhile buoyed hopes for the rest of the world as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declared that her country had beaten the virus, though strict border controls remain.



WHO: COVID-19 pandemic worsening

But Britain, embarking on a more cautious reopening, imposed a two-week quarantine for anyone coming into the country, British nationals included -- sparking legal action by airlines.

The quarantine came as it recorded its lowest daily death toll in more than two months, with 55 deaths in the previous 24 hours.

Across the Atlantic, figures showed the US economy entered a recession in February, ending 128 months of expansion.

And the World Bank said the pandemic has caused the broadest collapse of the global economy since 1870, despite unprecedented government support.

In Latin America, countries geared up for the worst as the outbreak escalated, with Brazil, Mexico and Peru particularly hard hit.

Brazil has the world's third-highest death toll at more than 36,000, but President Jair Bolsonaro continues to play down the impact of the virus and has urged regional officials to lift lockdown measures.

Fears in Asia that the virus may not be under control persist, with the death toll and infection rate climbing sharply in India, even as the government lifted some curbs Monday after a 10-week lockdown.



World Bank: Pandemic may trigger economic collapse

June 9, 2020 07:32 AM

By Agence France-Presse

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/09/world-bank-pandemic-may-trigger-economic-collapse/>



The World Bank now believes 70 to 100 million people could fall into extreme poverty due to the coronavirus pandemic. (AFP)

The coronavirus pandemic inflicted a “swift and massive shock” that has caused the broadest collapse of the global economy since 1870 despite unprecedented government support, the World Bank said Monday.

The world economy is expected to contract by 5.2 percent this year — the worst recession in 80 years — but the sheer number of countries suffering economic losses means the scale of the downturn is worse than any recession in 150 years, the World Bank said in its latest Global Economic Prospects report.

“This is a deeply sobering outlook, with the crisis likely to leave long-lasting scars and pose major global challenges,” said World Bank Group Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions Ceyla Pazarbasioglu.

The depth of the crisis will drive 70 to 100 million people into extreme poverty — worse than the prior estimate of 60 million, she told reporters.

And while the Washington-based development lender projects a rebound for 2021, there is a risk a second wave of outbreaks could undermine the recovery and turn the economic crisis into a financial one that will see a “wave of defaults.”

Economists have been struggling to measure the impact of the crisis they have likened to a global natural disaster, but the sheer size of the impact across so many sectors and countries has made that difficult.

Under the worst-case scenario, the global recession could mean a contraction of eight percent, according to the report.



World Bank: Pandemic may trigger economic collapse

But Pazarbasioglu cautioned: “Given this uncertainty, further downgrades to the outlook are very likely.”

Meanwhile, a group of American economists who are the arbiters of when a recession starts and ends said Monday the United States entered a downturn in February, ending 128 months of uninterrupted growth, the longest streak in history.

Recessions typically are defined by several months of declining economic activity.

But the Business Cycle Dating Committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a non-profit, non-partisan research organization, called the current situation in the world’s largest economy “unprecedented” due to the severity of the drop in employment and production, even if it might turn out to be shorter than other recessions.

China still growing, barely

China is nearly alone in seeing modest growth this year. However the World Bank warned the depth of the slowdown in the world’s second-largest economy will hinder recovery prospects in developing nations, especially commodity exporters.

While China will see GDP rise just one percent, the World Bank said, the rest of the forecasts are grim: US -6.1 percent, eurozone -9.1 percent, Japan -6.1 percent, Brazil -8 percent, Mexico -7.5 percent and India -3.2 percent.

And things could get worse, meaning the forecasts will be revised even lower, the bank warned.

Though dramatic, the current forecast falls short of the Great Depression, which saw a global contraction of 14.5 percent from 1930 to 1932, while the post-war downturn in 1945-1946 was 13.8 percent, according to the World Bank.

But because of the pandemic there remain some “exceptionally high” risks to the outlook, particularly if the disease lingers and authorities have to reimpose restrictions — which could make the downturn as bad as eight percent.

“Disruptions to activity would weaken businesses’ ability to remain in operation and service their debt,” the report cautioned.

That, in turn, could raise interest rates for higher-risk borrowers. “With debt levels already at historic highs, this could lead to cascading defaults and financial crises across many economies,” it said.

But even if the 4.2 percent global recovery projected for 2021 materializes, “in many countries, deep recessions triggered by COVID-19 will likely weigh on potential output for years to come.”



World looks to innovation for sustainable oceans

June 8, 2020, 8:24 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1105308>



ANKARA – On the occasion of World Oceans Day, the role of the oceans -- which provide the oxygen we breathe, food, as well as regulate the climate -- will be celebrated online Monday with the theme "Innovation for Sustainable Ocean".

Covering approximately 70 percent of the Earth's surface and 90 percent of the biosphere, oceans are under the threat of climate change-related warming and acidification that directly affect human life as well as many ecosystem services.

World Oceans Day is celebrated annually on June 8 to raise awareness over the importance of the world's oceans and efforts to improve "the deep" since 1992, following the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In 2008, the UN General Assembly decided that June 8 would be designated as "World Oceans Day" as of 2009.

This year's theme is "Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean" which will be observed with day-long events produced in partnership with Oceanic Global featuring keynote speeches, panels and presentations online due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) outbreak.

"Innovation -- relating to the introduction of new methods, ideas, or products -- is a dynamic term, and one that is fundamentally filled with hope," as the problems that oceans face keep growing, said the UN.

According to the latest research published in the scientific journal *Advances In Atmospheric Sciences*, heat in the world's oceans reached record levels in 2019 and the past five years were the top five hottest recorded in the ocean.

One possible result of the finding would be warming ocean-driven melting ice that leads to rising sea levels which could affect 1 billion people by 2050, with iconic polar species facing the risk of extinction, experts warn.



World looks to innovation for sustainable oceans

Importance of coastal ecosystems

Speaking to Anadolu Agency on the occasion of World Ocean Day, Jerwin Baure, a Filipino environmentalist and chairperson of the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People, stressed the significant role of oceans via coastal ecosystems, the region where land and oceans meet.

"Oceans, particularly coastal ecosystems like mangroves and seagrass meadows, are capable of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and trapping them in the sediments," he said, referring to carbon sequestration.

As he mentioned during the third webinar of the Talks for Future series organized by the Fridays for Future movement on April 10, Baure said coastal ecosystems serve as habitats and nursery grounds for many commercially important species and also provide protection by buffering storm surges and waves.

Touching on his experiences with environmental activities for the protection of the climate and oceans, he mentioned the campaign against the Manila Bay reclamation, "which could potentially destroy mangrove ecosystems and ultimately affect food production and coastal protection," he said.

He said the project poses a threat to mangroves, which are seen as significant ecosystems for climate change adaptation and mitigation, already violating many environmental laws.

"Calcifying organisms like shells of many species will dissolve, corals and clams will bleach, seagrasses will die due to excessive warming, and thus these coastal ecosystems will be destroyed," he highlighted, referring to one possible worst-case scenario that people may face if they fail to eliminate the threats.

Habitat destruction of the ocean ecosystems will not be limited to the oceans, but "will ultimately affect many ecosystem services," he said.

"Climate change would have minimal impacts on our oceans and coastal ecosystems if we keep these ecosystems healthy," Baure said, adding the world "must" stop development projects that destroy ocean ecosystems.

He concluded that stepping up conservation efforts and addressing carbon emissions are a must for keeping oceans safe.

In its statement on World Oceans Day, the UN highlighted that some organisms that were discovered at extreme depths are being used to speed up the detection of Covid-19, which is an example of how the environment could provide solutions for humankind.

The novel coronavirus pandemic has killed more than 403,100 people worldwide with over 7 million confirmed cases and over 3.14 million recoveries, according to figures compiled by US-based Johns Hopkins University. (Anadolu)



Bored na sa lockdown: Panda, tumakas sa kulungan at nagpaikot-ikot sa zoo

June 9, 2020 @ 1:53 PM

<https://remate.ph/bored-na-sa-lockdown-panda-tumakas-sa-kulungan-at-nagpaikot-ikot-sa-zoo/>



Copenhagen – Tumakas ng isang panda sa kanyang kulungan Copenhagen Zoo, ayon sa ulat.

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Nagpaikot-ikot ito hanggang sa mapansin ng kanilang empleyado at tumawag ng security team.

“The veterinarian of the zoo anesthetized the panda and he was brought back to the enclosure,” saad ng tagapagsalita.

“There he was given an antidote and woke up a couple of minutes later.”

Ligtas naman si Xing Er sa panganib at wala ring indibidwal na nasaktan. RNT/FGDC



China removes pangolin from traditional medicine list

Published June 9, 2020 11:32pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/741908/china-removes-pangolin-from-traditional-medicine-list/story/>

BEIJING, China - China has removed pangolin parts from its official list of traditional medicines, state media reported Tuesday, days after increasing legal protections on the endangered animal.

Pangolins were left out of the official Chinese Pharmacopoeia this year, along with substances including a pill formulated with bat faeces, the state-owned Health Times reported.

The pangolin, the world's most heavily trafficked mammal, is thought by some scientists to be the possible host of the novel coronavirus that emerged at a market in China's Wuhan city last year.

Its body parts fetch a high price on the black market as they are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine, although scientists say they have no therapeutic value.

China's forestry authority on Friday gave pangolins the highest level of protection in the country due to its threatened status.

"Depleted wild resources" are being withdrawn from the Pharmacopoeia, Health Times reported, although the exact reason for the removal of pangolins was unclear.

China has in recent months banned the sale of wild animals for food, citing the risk of diseases spreading to humans, but the trade remains legal for other purposes -- including research and traditional medicine.

The World Wide Fund for Nature on Saturday said it "strongly welcomed" China's move to upgrade protections for the pangolin, calling it an "important respite" from the illegal pangolin trade. — Agence France-Presse



Climate change brings fires, floods and moths to Siberia

Updated June 9, 2020, 9:10 PM

By Agence France-Presse

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/09/climate-change-brings-fires-floods-and-moths-to-siberia/>

Best known as a vast, cold tundra, Russia's sprawling Siberia region is being transformed by climate change that has brought with it warmer temperatures, forest fires and growing swarms of hungry moth larvae.



Russia's Siberia region, best known as an icy tundra, is being transformed by climate change (Yuri KADOBNOV / AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

Spanning millions of square kilometres east of the Urals to the Pacific Ocean, the area has been particularly hard hit this year by extreme weather, which scientists say is the result of global warming.

Photographs of wild flower fields in local media last month were a rare site so early in the year in the normally chilly region — and ice cream sales were up 30 percent.

“This winter was the hottest in Siberia since records began 130 years ago,” said Marina Makarova, the chief meteorologist at Russia's Rosgidromet weather service.

“Average temperatures were up to six degrees centigrade higher than the seasonal norms.”

Then spring came, and with it much warmer temperatures. Makarova says April saw some days reach 30 C or higher.

The warmer temperatures didn't just bring wild flowers and boosted ice cream sales.

Rainfall was up by a third in eastern Siberia, sparking devastating floods that forced thousands to be evacuated, particularly in the town of Tulun and the surrounding area.

‘Huge moths’

Swarms of the Siberian silk moth, whose larvae eat away at conifer trees in the region's forests, have grown rapidly amid the rising temperatures.

The moths are usually inactive during winter and eat in spring, summer and autumn periods which are now lengthening.

“In all my long career as a specialist, I've never seen moths so huge and growing so quickly,” said Vladimir Soldatov, a moth expert, who warns of “tragic consequences” for forests.



Climate change brings fires, floods and moths to Siberia

The larvae, which are taking over larger areas of forest, strip trees of their needles and make them more susceptible to forest fires.

The moth “has moved 150 kilometres north compared to its usual territory and that’s because of global warming,” Soldatov told AFP.

In the Krasnoyarsk region of eastern Siberia, more than 120,000 trees have had to be treated to kill the larvae, according to the regional forest protection centre.

Another insect pest, the bark beetle that bores into tree trunks, has also recently colonised the region. It has flourished since 2003 as the climate became milder.

With snow melting earlier in the year in northern Siberia, exposed dry vegetation and soil means fires can spread easily, said Alexei Yaroshenko, who heads the forest section at Greenpeace Russia.

From January to mid-May, fires devastated 4.8 million hectares in Siberia, among them 1.1 million hectares of high-latitude boreal forest, according a Greenpeace report published Tuesday.

This year’s fires follow on from exceptionally severe blazes last summer.

Forest fires ‘doubled’

Climate change has led the number of forest fires to “double in 10 years,” said Vyacheslav Kharuk, the head of the forest monitoring laboratory at the Forest Institute in the city of Krasnoyarsk.

The fires risk cutting the capacity of far-northern boreal forests to retain carbon dioxide and methane, which will lead to higher emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

According to research by Kharuk’s laboratory, between 2000 and 2009, around three million hectares of forest caught fire every year. Between 2010 and 2019, the average was six million hectares.

In years to come “the area of the fires will increase to double or four times the size,” he predicted.

The news is not all bad: the changing nature of Siberia’s landscape will attract new species of birds and animals, Kharuk added.

“Our steppes are getting greener. Our lakes are warming up. Siberia is becoming a more appealing region for animals and for us, too.”

But, he says, the number of extreme weather events means he is already starting to “miss our winters with temperatures of minus 40 degrees centigrade”.



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By Agence France-Presse

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/09/climate-change-brings-fires-floods-and-moths-to-siberia/>

Best known as a vast, cold tundra, Russia's sprawling Siberia region is being transformed by climate change that has brought with it warmer temperatures, forest fires and growing swarms of hungry moth larvae.



Russia's Siberia region, best known as an icy tundra, is being transformed by climate change (Yuri KADOBNOV / AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

Spanning millions of square kilometres east of the Urals to the Pacific Ocean, the area has been particularly hard hit this year by extreme weather, which scientists say is the result of global warming.

Photographs of wild flower fields in local media last month were a rare site so early in the year in the normally chilly region — and ice cream sales were up 30 percent.

“This winter was the hottest in Siberia since records began 130 years ago,” said Marina Makarova, the chief meteorologist at Russia's Rosgidromet weather service.

“Average temperatures were up to six degrees centigrade higher than the seasonal norms.”

Then spring came, and with it much warmer temperatures. Makarova says April saw some days reach 30 C or higher.

The warmer temperatures didn't just bring wild flowers and boosted ice cream sales.

Rainfall was up by a third in eastern Siberia, sparking devastating floods that forced thousands to be evacuated, particularly in the town of Tulun and the surrounding area.

‘Huge moths’

Swarms of the Siberian silk moth, whose larvae eat away at conifer trees in the region's forests, have grown rapidly amid the rising temperatures.

The moths are usually inactive during winter and eat in spring, summer and autumn periods which are now lengthening.

“In all my long career as a specialist, I've never seen moths so huge and growing so quickly,” said Vladimir Soldatov, a moth expert, who warns of “tragic consequences” for forests.



Climate change brings fires, floods and moths to Siberia

The larvae, which are taking over larger areas of forest, strip trees of their needles and make them more susceptible to forest fires.

The moth “has moved 150 kilometres north compared to its usual territory and that’s because of global warming,” Soldatov told AFP.

In the Krasnoyarsk region of eastern Siberia, more than 120,000 trees have had to be treated to kill the larvae, according to the regional forest protection centre.

Another insect pest, the bark beetle that bores into tree trunks, has also recently colonised the region. It has flourished since 2003 as the climate became milder.

With snow melting earlier in the year in northern Siberia, exposed dry vegetation and soil means fires can spread easily, said Alexei Yaroshenko, who heads the forest section at Greenpeace Russia.

From January to mid-May, fires devastated 4.8 million hectares in Siberia, among them 1.1 million hectares of high-latitude boreal forest, according a Greenpeace report published Tuesday.

This year’s fires follow on from exceptionally severe blazes last summer.

Forest fires ‘doubled’

Climate change has led the number of forest fires to “double in 10 years,” said Vyacheslav Kharuk, the head of the forest monitoring laboratory at the Forest Institute in the city of Krasnoyarsk.

The fires risk cutting the capacity of far-northern boreal forests to retain carbon dioxide and methane, which will lead to higher emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

According to research by Kharuk’s laboratory, between 2000 and 2009, around three million hectares of forest caught fire every year. Between 2010 and 2019, the average was six million hectares.

In years to come “the area of the fires will increase to double or four times the size,” he predicted.

The news is not all bad: the changing nature of Siberia’s landscape will attract new species of birds and animals, Kharuk added.

“Our steppes are getting greener. Our lakes are warming up. Siberia is becoming a more appealing region for animals and for us, too.”

But, he says, the number of extreme weather events means he is already starting to “miss our winters with temperatures of minus 40 degrees centigrade”.