

# DENR eyes mining, river dredging to spur economic recovery amid COVID-19

**Published** June 10, 2020 4:41pm

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is planning to launch mining and river dredging as part of the Philippines' economic recovery response amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to its officials on Wednesday.

In a virtual press conference held in celebration of the department's 33rd anniversary, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said DENR chief Roy Cimatu intends to introduce responsible mining as one of the initiatives to resuscitate the country's economy.

"Ang gusto niyang mangyari for this year talaga is i-treat 'yung mining as something which is really helpful to the economy rather than destructive to the environment and natural resources," Antiporda said.

"Bakit? Kasi mas magiging mahigpit po tayo when it comes to policies noong pag-implement nila ng kanilang mining activities," he added.

In November 2019, there were more than 100 active mining projects in the Philippines, of which 48 are metallic mines and 63 are dedicated to non-metallic mine operations, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Among the mineral-rich areas in the country are Zambales, Palawan, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Benguet, Masbate, Camarines Norte, Davao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Cebu, and Zamboanga del Norte.

Cimatu also encouraged stakeholders to dredge rivers to complement the administration's flagship program "Build, Build, Build."

"Kailangan din kasi ang mga materials doon for local, dito sa 'Build, Build, Build' natin nahihirapan na rin 'yung mga ano diyan sa Visayas and Mindanao, so we encourage them to dredge their rivers and at this hard time makabigay naman ng hanapbuhay sa mga tao doon," Cimatu said.

Meanwhile, some residents of [Aparri expressed apprehensions over the dredging operations in Cagayan River](#) in August 2019 as they surmised that the activity was behind the submersion of their farmlands.

Aside from mining and dredging, Cimatu said the DENR plans to use its national greening program to provide livelihood to communities while they are being mobilized to plant.

The DENR's operations against illegal logging and wildlife trade are also uninterrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Antiporda.—**AOL, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/742025/denr-eyes-mining-river-dredging-to-spur-economic-recovery-amid-covid-19/story/?fbclid=IwAR2RzAd\\_Eyp2n5yD\\_XCJrdppsYfjWmwdZ3fYIG8EskIGiQ4TGJFnSINPmdM](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/742025/denr-eyes-mining-river-dredging-to-spur-economic-recovery-amid-covid-19/story/?fbclid=IwAR2RzAd_Eyp2n5yD_XCJrdppsYfjWmwdZ3fYIG8EskIGiQ4TGJFnSINPmdM)

## PAGTATAYO NG CREMATORIUMS SA BANSA PINAMAMADALI NG DENR

written by Gilbert Perdez June 11, 2020



Minamadali na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagproseso ng mga permits at documentations para sa mga crematoriums sa bansa.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, ginagawa nila ito upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Batay aniya sa datos ng DENR-EMB, mayroon lamang 89 crematoriums sa bansa kung saan 69 lamang ang operational.

Sa bilang na ito, ayon kay Antiporda, 26 ang nasa National Capital Region (NCR) pero 16 lamang ang gumagana at may kakayahang mag-cremate ng 66 labi kada araw.

# Cimatu cites improvement in Boracay's water quality

By Marita Moaje June 11, 2020, 9:44 pm



Boracay file photo

**MANILA** – As Boracay reopens to local tourists coming from Western Visayas on June 16, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is closely monitoring the water quality on the island.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu expressed gladness about the present water quality of Boracay. The safe level is 100 mpn/100 ml for Class SB water that is suitable for swimming, skin diving and other recreational activities.

*“Malinis na kung maka 100. Kung mas mababa yan sa 100, mas malinis, so ang average na nakukuha ko dito ay 1.0, from February. Pinakataas lang dito ay 20, so yan ang standard ngayon ng water quality dito sa Boracay. Wala na yung cesspool, gumanda na lalo pa na walang nag si-swimming (it is already clean at 100. If it is lower then that means it is much cleaner, so the average we have here is 1.0, from February. The highest is 20, so that is the standard water quality now in Boracay. It's not a cesspool anymore and it is more beautiful now, especially that no one is swimming),”* he said in a briefing Thursday.

Cimatu said last year, the average water quality they had was at 1.0 until December.

From January until June of this year, the highest average so far is at 7.1.

On the issue of drainage and connectivity of sewers in the island, DENR Director and General Manager of Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group, Natividad Bernardino, said since day one of the island's closure, they already required all commercial establishments to connect to a sewerage system or have their own sewerage treatment plant (STP).

She said on the side of the Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH), the agency is already 70-percent complete while the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) is at 60 percent, as she expressed hope that all major structure projects would be finished by the end of their one-year extended term.

Right now, they are also looking at the sewerage connection of households to the STP.

*“Ang kailangan namin sa mga houses, kailangan lagyan ng mga clusterized STP para connected na rin sila but so far lahat ng commercial establishments hindi pwedeng mag operate kung hindi sila connected or kung wala silang sewage treatment (we need to place a clusterized STP for the houses so they are also connected, but so far, all commercial establishments which are not connected (to the STP) or do not have their own sewerage treatment are not allowed to operate),”* she said.

TIEZA Regulatory Office Director Darren Fernandez said they intend to complete the sewerage connections for residential houses, but the problem is on the right of way where they plan to put the sewer line.

"For Boracay water, (for) residential only about 11 percent lang *ang sewerred* (are sewerred), (for) commercial, ang sewerred ay 60, so ang total, 24 percent *ang sewerred, pero kung volume double sya, its about 48 percent ng volume ang nati-treat* (so the total is 24 percent are sewerred, but in terms of volume, about 48 percent are treated)".

On Boracay forest lands, Cimatu said as of now, there are still many structures built on the areas.

He said owners of these structures were already given an ultimatum to take out their structures on the areas, but due of the pandemic, the implementation was postponed.

"They should really make their presence there legal by making an appeal *para ma-legalize yung presence nila otherwise ma-demolish talaga yung kanilang building* (to legalize their presence otherwise their building will be demolished)," Cimatu said. **(PNA)**

# Cimatu welcomes extension given by BIATF to finish Boracay projects by May 2021

Published June 11, 2020, 4:11 PM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu has welcomed the term extension of the Boracay Inter-agency Task Force (BIATF) until May 2021 to allow them to complete the critical projects in the island destination.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu  
(DOT / MANILA BULLETIN)

“We will continue our unfinished project there. We have our plans set already,” Cimatu said in a virtual presser on Wednesday, June 10.

“We will continue the construction of drainage along the circumferential road. At the same time, we will continue with the rehabilitation of Boracay. The (beach and road) easement, as well as illegal buildings built in forestlands will be addressed by the BIATF this year,” he added.

The BIATF was created on May 8, 2018 under Executive Order (EO) No. 53. Cimatu, as the DENR secretary, was designated as its chairperson, while Secretaries Eduardo Año of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and Berna Romulo-Puyat of the Department of Tourism serve as co-chairs.

The task force’s term was supposed to end two years after its creation.

In signing EO 115 last May 11, 2020 that allows the term extension of the BIATF, President Duterte has pointed out that several establishments in Boracay Island have yet to comply with the beach and road easement protocols.

The task force has yet to complete the demolition of all structures violating the 25+5-meter beach easement rule, while it has to ensure the compliance of the establishments to the 12-meter road easement rule along the Circumferential Road.

“Upon further validation made by the Task Force last 31 March 2020, 33 percent of establishments in the Boracay Island are not yet compliant with the 25 meters plus five meters beach easement, and 27 percent of establishments have not complied with the road easement,” the President said in the EO.

He also noted that there are still 723 structures built on forestland blocks, 112 establishments on the beach easement, and 334 facilities on the road easement that need to be demolished.

Boracay was closed to tourists on April 26, 2018 to give way to a six-month rehabilitation.

It reopened on October 26, 2018 with stricter regulations on the use of its famous white beach and the entry of tourists.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/11/cimatu-welcomes-extension-given-by-biatf-to-finish-boracay-projects-by-may-2021/>

# Boracay now ready to accept tourists from Western Visayas

By [Ma. Stella F. Arnaldo](#)

June 11, 2020



*Quiet times have descended on Boracay Island with its main Chinese and Korean markets now at a virtual standstill.*

BORACAY Island is now open for business.

This was decision reached by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) on Thursday, acting on a resolution of the Aklan provincial government headed by Gov. Florencio Miraflores.

In a virtual presser live from the island, BIATF Chair and Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said Boracay will be open to tourists from Western Visayas, under phase one of its gradual reopening, starting on June 16.

However, he said, only tourists between the ages of 21 and 59 are allowed to enter the island, which is still under the modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) status.

“The tourists will be accommodated in hotels accredited by the Department of Tourism (DOT),” he added. According to BIATF co-chair Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat, there are 390 DOT-accredited hotels and resorts, “but only 98 have so far applied to reopen. So we are encouraging the others to please send in your letter of intent to operate. The DOT wants to give everyone the certificate of authority to operate.”

Under guidelines set out by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, accommodation establishments returning to business during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ), and GCQ periods need to secure said certificate from the DOT before reopening.

Boracay now ready to accept tourists from Western

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For his part, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo S. Año said the age restrictions for tourists into Boracay can be eased, “after zero Covid cases are recorded for a month.” He noted the Boracay has recorded a few Covid cases from returning Filipinos, “but these have already been managed.”

A BIATF co-chair, Año also reiterated that the Caticlan and Kalibo airports will continue to be “closed to commercial flights,” after talking with Western Visayas governors. “Eventually, we will reopen the island to domestic tourists, then to international tourists. We will make Boracay again the showcase for tourism in the country.”

At its peak, in 2017, Boracay recorded 2 million visitor arrivals, half of whom were foreign tourists. It was closed for six months in 2018 starting April 26, to give way to government’s rehabilitation efforts which include the recovery of wetlands, solving environmental problems, construction of a circumferential road, completion a drainage system, and implementing easement rules along the main beaches and along the roads.

According to data on tourist arrivals from March 17 to May 28, 2019 from the DOT, Aklan, where Boracay is located, lost some P14.23 billion in tourism receipts in the comparative period this year, due to the Covid crisis.

The three Cabinet Secretaries inspected the island’s readiness to accept tourists on Thursday, and met with local government representatives, other government agencies, and some private tourism stakeholders. Romulo Puyat told reporters Boracay now has a Covid laboratory with three RT-PCR machines to process Covid tests, with a fourth one to be donated by the Filinvest Foundation. Also, the Bolabog Hospital is now fully equipped to handle patients, courtesy of a donation from the Makati Medical Foundation.

Boracay to reopen June 16, but only to Western

June 12, 2020

TITLE: Visayas residents

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# Boracay to reopen June 16, but only to Western Visayas residents

Updated June 11, 2020, 11:22 PM

By Hanah Tabios

Boracay Island will again accept tourists beginning June 16 after the Boracay Inter-agency Task Force (BIATF) approved Thursday (June 11) Aklan's recommendation to reopen the island, but exclusively for residents from the Western Visayas region.

The development came after the Boracay rehabilitation task force led by Secretary Roy Cimatu and his co-chairs, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año and Department of Tourism (DOT) chief Berna Romulo-Puyat visited Boracay on Thursday for a meeting with the local government unit (LGU) and other concerned stakeholders.

Año said Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores and Malay town Acting Mayor Floribar Bautista filed a resolution on Thursday, which was unanimously approved by the body.

"The task force approved the recommendation for the opening of Boracay effective June 16 this year. It will only be applicable to tourists coming from Western Visayas," Cimatu announced in a virtual press briefing.

The BIATF chief said only locals from Negros Occidental, Guimaras, Iloilo, Antique, Aklan, and Capiz will have the privilege to enter the island on its Phase 1 reopening.

Since June 1, Boracay residents had the long stretch of fine white sand beaches to themselves after the LGU lifted the swimming ban with the province's transition to modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

Puyat also said that even with the reopening, the island's carrying capacity will not be a problem because it is only locals from Western Visayas who are permitted to visit first.

However, tourists below 21 years old and above 60 years old are still prohibited from visiting the island because health authorities identified those age groups as vulnerable populations.

The task force said they decided to gradually open Boracay to boost its local economy. The island itself has been COVID-free for more than a month now. They said they will eventually open Boracay to other local and foreign tourists when the COVID-19 situation in the country improves.

In a text message, Puyat told the Manila Bulletin that in the pre-COVID phase, Boracay had 390 DOT-accredited establishments, and 98 more are now applying for a certificate of authority to operate as required by the DOT and IATF.

"Three have already been approved, but I am encouraging all the establishments to apply," she said, as the department expects the resumption of businesses on the island.

In the presscon, she also said there were also valuable donations from the private sector, including the three reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) donated by real estate corporation Filinvest to early detect possible COVID-19 carriers on the island and prevent the spread of infection.

Puyat previously reiterated that tourism activities will only resume if the safety of guests and business personnel are ensured.

She said tourists will have to undergo the usual temperature checks, mandatory wearing of masks, and other safety protocols imposed by the LGU and DOT to visit Boracay.

Meanwhile, cruise ships visiting the island are still prohibited from docking at the cruise port amid travel restriction protocols.



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But the BIATF and LGU said only no-contact tourism activities would be allowed as physical distancing remains mandatory.

As per IATF's updated Omnibus Guidelines dated June 3 on the implementation of community quarantine in the country, "indoor and outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of exercise such as, but not limited to, walking, jogging, running, biking, golf, swimming, tennis, badminton, equestrian, range shooting, and skateboarding are allowed," provided that minimum public health standards are observed.

Año also said the resumption of nightlife, a popular practice among tourist destinations like Boracay, will depend on the quarantine protocols imposed by the LGU.

Based on DOT's data, the Western Visayas region had around 1.4 million visitors for the period of March 17 to May 28, 2019, accounting for almost P31 billion in tourism revenues.

Puyat has previously said that the same period this year generated zero tourism revenues as there were no visitors, both local and foreign, who traveled across the Philippines amid travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

# Gov't reopens tourism in Boracay for Western Visayas folk on June 16

By: [Consuelo Marquez](#) - Reporter / [@CMarquezINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:05 PM June 11, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The government on Thursday resumed tourism on Boracay Island – but only for residents in Western Visayas starting June 16.

“Local government here... filed a resolution before the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force today and The Task force approved the recommendation of the local government unit of reopening the Boracay Tourism effective on June 16 this year that will [apply] for tourist coming from Western Visayas,”

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, chairman of Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, said in an online press conference on reopening of Boracay.

Cimatu mentioned that Boracay Island is open for the people from the provinces of Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Antique, Aklan, Capiz and Guimaras.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said in the same press conference that there are already three operational hotels in Boracay.

Puyat also said they would require hotels to put up glass panels and hand sanitizers. Both employees and customers must use face masks and observe physical distancing inside the hotels.

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said Aklan has so far recorded zero cases of coronavirus cases.

“Ang Aklan matagal na nagkaroon ng zero cases. Under MGCQ, allowed na rin ang tourism,” Año, vice chair of government’s task force on coronavirus efforts, said during the online press briefing when asked about the decision of the government to reopen tourism in Boracay.

(Aklan province has since recorded zero cases. Under modified general community quarantine, tourism is also allowed.)

## Nightlife in Boracay?

Meanwhile, Año said curfew may still be imposed on the Island through ordinances or resolutions issued by the local government unit (LGU).

“Imposition of curfew is under the discretion of LGU as long as there is a resolution of the local government, panlalawigan (province) o sa munisipalidad (municipality). They can impose curfew during MGCQ,” he said.

Interior Undersecretary Epimaco Densing said only no contact activities are allowed on the Island.

“No contact activities so banana boats cannot be allowed. Importante ang protocols nai-impose ng local government. (Local government protocols that will be imposed are important),” he said.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1290146/govt-reopens-tourism-in-boracay-island-for-western-visayas-residents-on-june-16>

# Boracay to gradually open by June 16

June 11, 2020

The island of Boracay will gradually open starting June 16 for tourists coming from Western Visayas after the IATF in Boracay approved the recommendation of the Aklan local government.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Puyat reiterated the implementation of guidelines under the modified general community quarantine in the gradual opening of the island. The DOT is also ready to accept requests from hotels in Boracay if they wish to operate.

DILG Secretary Año said the opening of Boracay will be used as basis if other tourist spots in the country will be opened. The Boracay IATF said they are also looking at the possibility of opening the island to international tourists after it opens its doors to domestic tourists.



# Boracay to reopen to Western Visayas tourists on June 16 - task force

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 11 2020 06:43 PM | Updated as of Jun 11 2020 08:46 PM



Boracay island. *Nony Basco, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA (UPDATE) – Boracay Island will reopen to tourists coming from Western Visayas on June 16, the task force leading the rehabilitation of the island announced Thursday, in a bid to reboot tourism due to the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Halos more than a month nang walang COVID sa Boracay. Ready na actually ang Boracay. Maganda na rin ang kanilang protocol pagpasok so we are quite excited na i-showcase uli ang Boracay,” Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said in a press briefing.

(It’s been more than a month since no COVID-19 case has been reported in Boracay. Boracay is actually ready. The protocol in place upon entry is good so we are quite excited to showcase it again.)

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Tourism (DOT), on Thursday approved the recommendation of the provincial government of Aklan on the gradual reopening of Boracay.

With the eased restrictions, Boracay will implement cashless transaction and physical distancing, among others, as precautionary measures against the virus. Persons below 21 years old and above 60 are temporarily barred from visiting the island.

“Eventually, ang dream ko ay i-open na rin siya to other countries na COVID-free din para we can open up to international tourists,” Puyat said.

(Eventually, my dream is to open it to other countries that are COVID-free so we can open up to international tourists.)

The world-renowned island was closed to tourists in March to curb the spread of COVID-19, which has so far sickened 24,175 people in the Philippines.



Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores earlier agreed to reopen the island to revive the region's tourism industry.

"We don't want to open it to the rest of the country first. But we are willing to open it within Western Visayas," Miraflores had said.

"The rest of June, we will be preparing for the eventual opening. And maybe, by July, we will be ready for domestic tourism in Western Visayas," he added.

So far, 3 hotels on the island have been accredited to resume operations once tourists are allowed to enter.

Currently, swimming in Boracay is limited only to the island's residents.

Tourist arrivals in February for the island dropped by 40 percent to 103,834 from the 172,695 recorded in the same month in 2019, data from the Malay Municipal Tourism Office showed.

# Boracay to reopen to Western Visayas tourists on June 16

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 11, 2020 6:16:01 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 11)** — Boracay Island is set to reopen on June 16 to tourists from Western Visayas, the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force said Thursday.

In a media briefing, the Boracay IATF said minimum health standards will be observed, including the “no face mask, no entry” policy and physical distancing. Curfew guidelines are to be determined by the local government unit.

Activities involving close physical contact will be prohibited, although the IATF has yet to specify what these activities are. There are also no specifics about the number of tourists to be allowed in the area.

Tourism in the world-class island was put to a halt mid-March due to travel restrictions to contain COVID-19.

The task force said no coronavirus cases have been reported in Boracay for a month. To date, it only has one confirmed infection, a doctor at the island’s hospital.

Based on the Department of Health Western Visayas Center for Health Development, there are a total of 136 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the region. Of this number, 96 have recovered, while 11 died.

*CNN Philippines Correspondent Paolo Barcelon contributed to this report.*

# Boracay, target buksan sa domestic tourist sa Hulyo

By [Bombo Radyo Kalibo](#)

-June 11, 2020 | 9:11 AM

KALIBO, Aklan – Tatangkain ng Aklan provincial government na buksan sa domestic tourist ang Boracay sa susunod na buwan.

Ayon kay Malay acting mayor Frolibar Bautista, batay ito sa inisyal na napagkasunduan sa pulong na ipinatawag ni Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores upang unti-unting buhayin ang industriya ng turismo na may malaking ambag sa ekonomiya ng lalawigan.

Gayunpaman, nakadepende pa rin ito sa magiging assessment at rekomendasyon ng Boracay Inter Agency Task Force na binubuo ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno partikular ng Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), at Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Ang tiyak sa ngayon ay hindi papayagan na makapasok sa isla ang mga walk in tourist dahil 50 porsyentong bisita lamang ang maaaring ma-accommodate ng mga DOT- accredited hotels and resorts upang masunod ang health protocols laban sa Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Samantala, inaasahan umano ngayong araw ang pagdating sa Boracay nina Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu at DILG Secretary Eduardo Año.

Ito ay upang i-assess ang isinagawang dry run gayundin upang malaman ang kahandaan ng isla sa muling pagtanggap nito ng mga bisita makalipas ang ilang buwan na pamamahinga dulot ng COVID-19 pandemic.

## Agroforestry, eco-tourism sites

posted June 11, 2020 at 06:33 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Secretary Raul L. Lambino (left), Presidential Adviser for Northern Luzon and Administrator and CEO of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, points to undeveloped land that can be converted into agroforestry or eco-tourism site. Joining him is Engr. Raymundo Gayo, OIC of the Pangasinan Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), and Marciano Gonzales, chief, Monitoring and Law Enforcement Division.



During their meeting at the Ulopan Farm in Mangaladan, Pangasinan on June 8, Lambino pushed for the establishment of AgroForestry and Eco-Tourism sites in the province. He identified the towns of San Nicolas, Mangatarem, Aguilar, and Mabini as the primary areas for these projects.



# City police hold, arrest DENR team at gunpoint

Jun 11, 2020 [Palawan News Team](#)

*Initial reports obtained by Palawan News indicate that the environmental officers that included Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-CENRO) forester Roldan Alvarez, members of the city government's anti-squatting unit, and local barangay officials were held at gunpoint, and arrested for questioning before they were released later the same day.*



Members of the Philippine National Police reportedly led by P/Col. Marion Balonglong, the city police chief, arrested a team of government environmental enforcers investigating illegal settlers in Barangay Matahimik-Bucana, Puerto Princesa City Wednesday.

Initial reports obtained by Palawan News indicate that the environmental officers that included Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-CENRO) forester Roldan Alvarez, members of the city government's anti-squatting unit, and local barangay officials were held at gunpoint, and arrested for questioning before they were released later the same day.

Ryan Abueme, chairman of Barangay Matahimik-Bucana, told Palawan News the police team was led by Col. Balonglong himself.

“Tinutukan sila ng baril ayon sa kwento ng aking mga tanod. Nakadapa sila tapos tinutukan,” Abueme said.

“Base sa kwento ay parang natadyakan yata ang dalawang taga-CENRO. Base sa kwento, ‘yon nga ang tumadyak si Col. Balonglong,” he added.

The team, composed of barangay peace officers (tanod), along with the officials from DENR-CENRO and City Anti-Squatting Office (CASO), was reportedly handing out “notices to vacate” to the illegal settlers in the mangrove area.

Abueme said the incident happened at around 11:30 in the morning when city policemen arrived in the area and pounced on the DENR-CENRO team, ordering them to lay on the ground.

The environment officers, who Abueme said were even wearing their uniforms, were reportedly questioned by the police officers about the legitimacy of their operation and were asked about certain suspects in a reported robbery incident in the area.

Abueme said the PNP officers were not able to produce a warrant of arrest at the time and handcuffed the members of the team as they were brought at the station for further questioning.

“Nagpakilala ‘yong ating mga tanod at saka ‘yong ating DENR-CENRO ay hindi naman in-acknowledge. Pinakita ang mission order saka ‘yong mga documents na magve-verify na talagang legitimate ‘yong kanilang operation doon sa certain area,” Abueme said.

The environment officers and the local officials were released at around 4 in the afternoon.

DENR-CENRO officials have yet to issue a statement. However, according to a source who requested anonymity, the environment office is keen on pressing charges.

Palawan News repeatedly sought the side of Col. Balonglong and the PPCPO on the incident to no avail.

Asked to confirm the report, Balonglong flatly denied that the incident happened, replying “wala” to Palawan News’.

(With reports from Jayra Joyce Taboada, Romar Miranda, Ruth Rodriguez, and Celeste Anna Formoso)

# Illegal seller of rare bird jailed

June 11, 2020

Byltchie G. Cabayan People's Tonight

**MANILA Police District (MPD)-Station 4 Commander PCol. John Guiagui announced the arrest of a 45-year-old woman for engaging online in the illegal sale of a rare bird of prey which also happens to be held sacred by Hindus.**

In a police report, Guiagui said the suspect, identified as Sharon Jonjon Lim, 45, of 3608 Sining St., Morning Side Subdivision, Sta. Mesa, Manila, was nabbed at around 4:30 p.m. on June 6 along Geronimo Street fronting the Trinidad Tecson Elementary School in Barangay 432, Zone 44 in Sampaloc.

She was charged with violation of Republic Act No. 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Guiagui said that particularly, the suspect violated Section 8 or possession of wildlife and Section 27 which classifies as an illegal act the trading of wildlife.

The arresting officers who also served as complainants in the case are the MPD-Station 4 Lacson Police Community Precinct represented by Pat. Julius Christopher dela Cruz and Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) employees Dr. Esteven Toledo and Dr. Rogelio Demelletes Jr.

Prior to the arrest of the suspect, Guiagui said a police officer posed as a buyer and set an online transaction with the suspect regarding the purchase of two Brahminy Kites worth P10,000.

Guiagui said the police officers immediately coordinated with elements of the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau and a joint entrapment operation was planned and conducted, resulting in the arrest of the suspect and recovery of two Brahminy Kite birds.

Subsequently, a follow-up operation was also conducted by the police which led to the recovery of a white-breasted sea Eagle and a hawk eagle.

Known as Elang Bondol in Indonesia, the brahminy kite is the official mascot of Jakarta. In India, it is considered as the contemporary representation of Garuda, the sacred bird of Vishnu.

In Malaysia, the island of Langkawi is named after the bird ('kawi' denoting an ochre-like stone used to decorate pottery and a reference to the bird's primary plumage color).



Philippine Star

16 hrs · 🌐

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has released six endangered female green sea turtles into the sea of Casiguran, Aurora on Wednesday.

DENR said these green sea turtles were accidentally trapped in a fish corral owned by a local resident in Ditinagyan coastal village.

"Upon rescue, we immediately examined the turtles and found no injury incurred among them," DENR said. | via Ric Sapnu



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## Hope for endangered PH Eagle

posted June 11, 2020 at 07:30 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

(Conclusion, continued from yesterday)

Things took an unfortunate turn when the team returned in January 2020 and saw the Philippine Eagle's nest inside Pasonanca Natural Park in Zamboanga City was empty.



*NESTING PLACE. An active Philippine eagle nest—situated on a fern thicket growing on a branch of a lauan tree—IS documented for the first time in Pasonanca Natural Park. Meanwhile, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) expedition team retrieved the remains of the deceased eaglet for further study (inset). PEF and USAID*

When the team climbed onto the nest, they found a few feathers, small bones, and skin patches of the eaglet, with no sign of its parents. The team collected the scant remains of the young eagle and sent these to the University of the Philippines for DNA and genetic tests.

While the cause of the eaglet's death is still uncertain, such a tragedy is not uncommon among eagle parents in the wild.

Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) data shows that three out of ten nesting attempts of Mindanao eagle pairs can fail even in optimal environments due to natural causes, such as sickness or accidents.

Inexperienced eagle parents breeding for the first time are also more likely to lose their young.

Not all hope is lost, though, as the team spotted the eagle parents numerous times in February and March 2020. Both eagles showed courtship behaviors, such as exchanging vocals, soaring together, and displaying their talons, with the male even attempting to mate with the female on a few occasions. These are hopeful signs that the eagle pair can still re-nest and lay a new egg.

In the meantime, the team continues to monitor the eagle pair while also preparing the site for trapping and tagging, in hopes of catching at least one of the adult eagles and using a GPS tracker to follow its range and movements in the forest.

This information can help experts pinpoint areas of Pasonanca that are hunting and breeding grounds for eagles, which can then be prioritized for stronger protection and conservation measures.

"We hope to see a new nest and track the nesting pair and their new eaglet in future expeditions. We also think that there could be three more eagle pairs in Pasonanca," Dr. Jayson Ibañez, PEF Director for Research and Conservation, said.

"Finding these pairs, and studying and monitoring them, will be very important to eagle research and conservation in the region."

### Protecting Zamboanga's eagles

The expedition team's discoveries in Pasonanca underscores the urgency to protect Philippine eagles in the region and avoid a catastrophic loss of these iconic birds in the wild, especially as escalating diseases and epidemics threaten not only humans but endangered raptors, as well.

“We think these eagles may have adaptations and behaviors that are unique to their bloodlines as a result of adjusting to unique environmental conditions in the Zamboanga region,” Dr. Ibañez explained.

“The key to preventing species extinction is saving as many unique bloodlines as possible and maintaining their genetic diversity to allow eagle populations to adjust to an ever-changing world.”

Initial findings of the ongoing field study are already a clear validation of Zamboanga City’s commitment to safeguarding Pasonanca Natural Park as a protected area and a vital watershed.

Conservation measures put in place by the city government and DENR and regular patrolling and enforcement by forest guards of Zamboanga City Water District have translated to pristine forest habitats in Pasonanca that are highly favorable for nesting eagles.

For its part, USAID, through its Protect Wildlife project, supported partners in the city to enhance their plans and strategies for effectively managing Pasonanca as a protected area. The project also trained the water district’s forest guards in improved skills and practices in enforcing forestry and wildlife laws.

“Gracias a Dios y con orgullo that the Pasonanca watershed is also a habitat of the Philippine eagle.

With evidence of the presence of Philippine eagles in Zamboanga City, there is indeed hope for future generations to continue conservation and protection of our precious watershed and its vital ecosystems,” said Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco.

“Our researchers, in partnership with DENR and USAID, collaborated efforts in preparing our forest land use plan and identifying indigenous flora and fauna. We commit to harness efforts to make our natural habitats safe for God’s precious creations.”

# Two Southeast Asian Box Turtles return to authorities

Published June 11, 2020, 3:41 PM

By *Richa Noriega*

A concerned citizen returned two Southeast Asian Box Turtles to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS).

In a Facebook post of PCSDS on Wednesday, June 10, resident Christian Joel Ladica from Purok Kaakbayan, Brgy. Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa City returned the turtles to the authorities.



According to Ladica, he saw the turtles four days ago in his backyard.

During that time, Ladica said he did not even know where to give the turtles until his friends told him to give it to PCSDS.

One of the turtles is 20 centimeters long, 20 centimeters wide, and weighs 700 grams, while the other one is 20 centimeters long, 21 centimeters wide, and weighs 750 grams.

PCSDS said the Southeast Asian Box Turtle is considered endangered species under Resolution No. 15-521.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/11/two-southeast-asian-box-turtles-return-to-authorities/>

# Environment activists report 'illegal occupation' of Masungi Georeserve

Published June 11, 2020, 11:03 AM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

Conservation patrollers at the Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal have monitored an alleged "illegal occupation" in the Upper Marikina Protected Landscape last Sunday, June 7.



(Masungi Georeserve / MANILA BULLETIN)

"First claiming to be planting fruit trees, they were later seen building and fortifying structures. Interestingly enough, (it was) beside the guardhouse of the quarry that attempted to fence off and occupy part of our reforestation site three months ago," Masungi Georeserve said in a Facebook post.

"It became apparent that these people were neither smallholders, nor from Rizal, nor holders of any papers or legitimate agreements for use of forestland. (But) they brought with them a large truck and building materials," it added.

In a joint patrol with its conservation partners, the Masungi Georeserve observed that truckloads of forest products, such as "buho" have been transported from the vicinity during nighttime.

They have also discovered animal traps in the area.

"As necessary, we have reported this activity to the PENRO-Rizal (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Rizal) or their appropriate action. They have relayed to take action," the Masungi Georeserve said.

"We hope this is not another case of 'professional squatting.' This term refers to the large-scale and syndicated buying, selling or forced occupation of our dwindling forestlands by unscrupulous individuals and groups. They may install dummies, and may even use names of politicians to do as they please," it added.

Just last week, a joint patrol of critical reforestation areas was conducted in the 3,000-hectare Masungi Geopark Project.

At least 25 signages and monitoring systems have been installed in key areas of the project site.

"Before reforesting, we need to make sure these lands where the trees will stand are truly protected for the long-term, so that growth of native trees and return of wildlife can pursue," the patrollers said.



# Mati beaches, other attractions now open

Published June 11, 2020, 12:07 PM

By Ivy Tejano

**DAVAO CITY** – The City Tourism Office (CTO) announced on Thursday that Dahican Beach and other tourist attractions in Mati, Davao Oriental province are now open.



(Mati City Tourism Office)

The Department of Tourism (DOT), through the CTO, released on Thursday 30 certificates allowing the operation of resorts and hotels within Mati City, tourism officer Dashiell Indelible Jr. said.

Indelible said that the city ushers in the “new normal” pending the lifting of the modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) on June 16, Tuesday.

He clarified that not all the 30 tourist spots will open simultaneously as some establishments still need to comply with the implementation of the health and safety requirements mandated by the tourism office.

Mati City locked down its borders to tourists and visitors for more than two months due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

“[In fact] the tourism industry is the most affected sector leading to around P114 million loss for the months of March, April, and May,” Indelible said.

He said the city has an average tourist arrivals of 25,438 per month, with estimated expenditures of P1,500 per tourist/day amounting to P38 million per month before the pandemic.

But due to the lockdown, Indelible said, the local tourism industry lost around P114,471,000 expected income. This excludes the negative effect of the cancellation of the Pujada Bay Festival and Cityhood Day activities this month.

“We are hoping that the local tourism industry will recover from the slump especially now that the most popular attraction of the city, Dahican Beach, is open to the public once again,” he said.

Indelible said Davao Oriental has also opened its borders even on weekends, with the provision of strict health screening and monitoring.

Mati City also expects tourist arrivals following the declaration of Pujada, Mayo, and Balete as the “Most Beautiful Bays in the World (MBBW)” on February 20, 2020, Indelible said.

He advised visitors and travelers who plan to visit the city to expect strict health screening in the provincial and city borders for the safety and security of the community.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/11/mati-beaches-other-attractions-now-open/>

## Part 2 of Sustainable Urban Mobility in 4th Episode of “Stories for a Better Normal” Series

By OHLL Published on June 11, 2020

MANILA, June 10 -- In the fourth episode of the online discussion series “Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Change Pathways,” as part two on the topic of sustainable urban mobility, Deputy Speaker and Antique Congresswoman Loren Legarda will once again promote biking and other greener modes of transportation as essential means to move commuters and citizens in this period of pandemic and climate crisis.

The fourth episode will air this Thursday, June 11, 10AM, via Facebook Live at [facebook.com/conglorenlegarda](https://facebook.com/conglorenlegarda) or [facebook.com/CCCPhl](https://facebook.com/CCCPhl).

Mr. Red Constantino, Executive Director of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities and bike advocate, will join as Legarda’s co-anchor. Resource speakers will include: Mr. Benjamin de la Peña, Advisory Council Member of the Roddenberry Foundation and urban planning expert; The Climate Reality Project (TCRP) Philippines Branch Manager Nazrin Castro; Climate Reality Leader Len Jamadores, and ICSC Urban Transitions Analyst Celine Tabinga. Ambassador Saskia de Lang of the Netherlands will also share knowledge and experience from her home country known for its cycling culture supported by efficient transport systems.

During the first episode discussing sustainable urban mobility, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) supported Legarda’s recommendation to have a bike masterplan in Metro Manila, including the establishment of dedicated, protected, and connected bike lanes, as part of “Better Normal for the Workplace, Communities and Public Spaces Act of 2020” (House Bill 6864 or Better Normal Bill), which she authored and sponsored in Congress.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, Stories for a Better Normal aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities to lead sustainable lives towards a healthier, safer, and much better normal than we used to have.

This online discussion is organized in partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission (CCC), with support from the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), The Climate Reality Project-Philippines, and Mother Earth Foundation. (OHLL)

## Freedom Day: As many as 10 may join rites

posted June 12, 2020 at 01:20 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

President Rodrigo Duterte will skip the 122nd Independence Day celebration at the Rizal Park in Manila today, Friday, Malacañang said.



*LOCAL SUPPORT.* The iconic SM Mall of Asia Globe lights the Philippine flag ahead of the celebration for the Independence Day today. SM malls encourage everyone to support local fashion and food products through its advocacy #MOASupportsLocal.

Duterte would be unable to lead the Independence Day rites because the number of participants would be limited to 10 people, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in a virtual presser aired on the state-run PTV-4.

He raised the possibility that people might flock to Manila in case Duterte graced the event.

“The problem really is when the President goes there, people who want to see him will also go there. That cannot be avoided,” Roque said.

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases has allowed the celebration of Independence Day today despite the COVID-19 pandemic, but only 10 people may join the event.

Roque said Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea would lead the flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies on behalf of Duterte.

“He designated the Executive Secretary as his representative in the wreath-laying and flag-raising ceremonies,” Roque said.

He said Duterte’s taped video message would instead be played during the ceremony on Friday, and that Duterte would be in his hometown of Davao City on that day.

It was on June 12, 1898, when the Philippines’ independence from Spain was declared at the ancestral house of the first Philippine President, Emilio Aguinaldo, in Kawit, Cavite.

Duterte led the celebration of the 121st Independence Day at the Sixth Infantry Battalion’s headquarters in Malabang, Lanao del Sur, in 2019.

And in 2018 he delivered his first keynote speech for the Independence Day rites at the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite.

Simple, short rites to mark 122<sup>nd</sup> Philippine

June 12, 2020

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# Simple, short rites to mark 122nd Philippine Independence Day

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 11, 2020 5:28:38 PM



*The Independence Day festivities will take a different turn this year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to hound the Philippines. (FILE PHOTO)*

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 11)**— The Independence Day festivities will take a different turn this year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to hound the Philippines.

To commemorate the country's 122nd freedom day celebration on Friday, officials will push through with events—but with limited manpower and subject to health protocols.

President Rodrigo Duterte will be skipping the traditional commemoration rites at the Luneta Park in Manila, according to Malacañang, as the chief executive remains in Davao City.

Duterte has designated Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea to lead the Luneta ceremony, which will be limited to only 10 guests, in line with the [Inter-Agency Task Force's directive](#).

*"Dahil sampu lang ang pinayagan ng IATF, ang problema po talaga kapag nandyan ang Presidente, dadami po ang tao na nais lumapit sa kanya,"* Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque explained in a virtual media briefing on Thursday.

[Translation: Because the IATF only allowed 10 people, the problem is, if the President is there, a lot of people would want to come near him.]

The President is still expected to deliver a virtual address after the ceremony, Roque added.

Other government agencies were also tasked to hold celebrations with limited guests.

Joint Task Force COVID Shield commander PLGen Guillermo Eleazar told CNN Philippines that authorities are also encouraged to celebrate the occasion virtually to prevent the spread of the virus.

The June 12 rites at the historic Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite will also be held differently this year as local officials expect a short and simple program.

Kawit Mayor Angelo Aguinaldo said the ceremony will run for about an hour, with only 10 people allowed inside the shrine, where the Philippine flag was first unfurled as a symbol of national sovereignty.

Physical distancing measures will also be strictly followed, he added.

In 2019, Vice President Leni Robredo led the [flag raising and wreath laying ceremony](#) at Rizal Park while Duterte visited government troops in Lanao del Sur. The year before, Duterte was [heckled](#) during his Independence Day speech at the Aguinaldo Shrine.

Simple, short rites to mark 122<sup>nd</sup> Philippine

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## 'Relish our freedom'

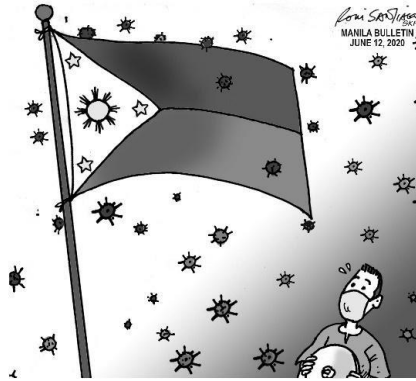
As most of the country will commemorate Independence Day virtually, Filipinos are encouraged to savor the concept of freedom— which has taken a whole new meaning while the world is on quarantine.

"*Sana sa Independence Day, mas pahalagahan natin yung mga sakripisyo ng ating mga ninuno,*" Aguinaldo told CNN Philippines. "*Na-experience natin during the quarantine na ito nakulong tayo sa bahay, ngayon mas pahalagahan natin ang kalayaan (na nakamit),*"

[Translation: I hope during Independence Day, we'll highlight the sacrifices of our ancestors. We experienced during the quarantine how it felt like to be held hostage. So I hope we can savor our independence.]

# The independence we celebrate today

Published June 11, 2020, 11:00 PM



On June 12, 1898, Philippine independence was proclaimed in a ceremony at the ancestral home of General Emilio Aguinaldo in Cavite del Viejo (now Kawit, Cavite). The flag of the Philippines was unfurled for the first time and the national anthem, now known as Lupang Hinirang, was played by the San Francisco de Malabon marching band.

On August 1, the proclamation was ratified by 190 municipal presidents of towns in 16 provinces — Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Bulacan, Bataan, Infanta, Morong, Tayabas, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Mindoro, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, La Union, and Zambales. It was the first constitutional democracy in Asia.

The declaration, however, was not recognized by the United States, whose forces had come to the Philippines in 1898 in the course of the Spanish-American War. General Aguinaldo fought the American forces in the subsequent Philippine-American War but was captured by US forces and the US declared that the “insurrection” had ended on July 2, 1902.

We had been subjugated by Spain for some 350 years and Andres Bonifacio launched the Philippine Revolution in 1896. Aguinaldo’s forces won many subsequent battles against the Spanish colonial forces, but it was also the period of the Spanish-American War and the US came to the Philippines in the course of that war. It ended with the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898, and the US claimed the Philippines, along with Cuba and Puerto Rico, among the spoils of its war with Spain.

The Philippine proclamation of freedom of June 12, 1898, was thus set aside for half a century. The US was starting its rise as a world power and the Philippines was right at the doorstep of the vast land of Asia. It thus chose to keep it and set up a republic patterned after its own. The process was interrupted by World War II but Douglas MacArthur made good on his promise “I shall return.”

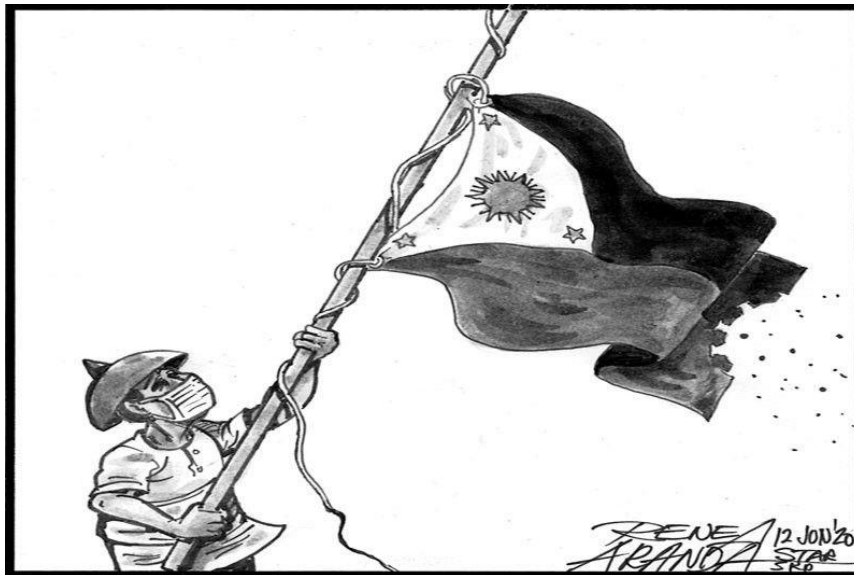
After World War II, the US granted independence to the Philippines on July 4, 1946. For several years this was celebrated as Philippine Independence Day, until President Diosdado Macapagal, on August 4, 1964, signed into law Republic Act 4316 designating June 12 as the country’s Independence Day.

We recall these events today as we celebrate Philippine Independence Day. It has been a difficult journey for the Filipino people through over four centuries of colonial rule, but Filipinos from Lapu-Lapu to Emilio Aguinaldo persisted against great and powerful odds. And so we are free today and we can hold our own in the assemblies of nations.

We have kept our ties with our former colonial rulers as well as with today’s rising political and economic powers. As we seek our place in this world, let us never forget the struggles of our people for freedom through the centuries.

They are all part of that day on June 12, 1898, when our nation — against great odds — proclaimed its intention and desire to be free in the Proclamation of Philippine independence which we celebrate today.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/11/the-independence-we-celebrate-today/>



## EDITORIAL - Freedom in a pandemic

(The Philippine Star) - June 12, 2020 - 12:00am

The country marks the 122nd anniversary of the declaration of independence today as millions of Filipinos wait for the end of nearly three months of home confinement to contain a killer pandemic. The special day is an opportunity for paying tribute to the frontliners who are leading the fight against the coronavirus. Several of them have given up their lives in this battle.

Health officials say quarantine measures have helped slow down the coronavirus contagion. But the measures have also led to the loss of millions of jobs and livelihoods, many of which may no longer be regained.

And for Michelle Silvertino, her inability to get a bus ride from Metro Manila to her hometown in Bicol took a tragic turn. The 33-year-old housemaid reportedly walked from Cubao, Quezon City to Pasay, and then stayed on a footbridge along EDSA for five days in hopes of getting a bus ride to Calabanga in Camarines Sur. On Friday last week, however, the single mother was found dead after suffering from high fever and shortness of breath due to tuberculosis. Silvertino was buried without a coffin in Pasay. She left behind in Calabanga four children aged 3 to 11, whose father abandoned them a long time ago.

Silvertino's tragedy highlights the continuing aspiration of those who declared independence from Spain on June 12, 1898, for a better life for Filipinos. There are millions of other Filipinos who have been forced to leave their children behind to find employment in urban centers or overseas. In this pandemic, even this effort to earn a living has become uncertain as hundreds of thousands of Filipinos return from abroad after losing their jobs.

Workers displaced in Metro Manila and other urban centers are also left with no choice but to return to their hometowns. It will take a long time before the country can be significantly liberated from poverty. Still, today's Independence Day rites should include a commitment to ease the suffering in this pandemic of the neediest sectors, and prevent another tragedy like the one that befell Michelle Silvertino.



Speaking at the government-hosted “Laging Handa” virtual public briefing, Marcelino Escalada Jr., who is also general manager of the National Housing Authority (NHA), said the government would focus in the meantime on the “Hatid Tulong” program for the speedy transport to the provinces of stranded people, especially returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Boy Santos

## 'Balik Probinsya' suspended

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 12, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government’s “Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa” program has been suspended to prioritize the return to the provinces of people stranded in Metro Manila, the program’s executive director Marcelino Escalada Jr. said yesterday.

Speaking at the government-hosted “Laging Handa” virtual public briefing, Escalada, who is also general manager of the National Housing Authority (NHA), said the government would focus in the meantime on the “Hatid Tulong” program for the speedy transport to the provinces of stranded people, especially returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

“I decided as a matter of strategy to suspend for now the rollouts for the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa. The President has a very clear instruction to prioritize the return of our citizens stranded here in Manila,” Escalada said in mixed English and Filipino.

The Balik Probinsya program was proposed by Sen. Bong Go and institutionalized by President Duterte through an executive order as part of the government’s efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 by decongesting Metro Manila.

The program is composed of short, medium and long term components such as cash assistance, education, health and livelihood assistance and housing subsidy.

Escalada said more than 53,000 individuals have applied for Balik Probinsya since processing began online last May 8.

Just last month, the first batch of Balik Probinsya beneficiaries consisting of 112 individuals were sent to Leyte via shuttle bus provided by the government. Two of them, however, turned out to be infected with COVID-19 upon their return to their hometowns of Jaro and Tolosa.

Escalada said also to be prioritized under Hatid Tulong are construction workers, students and tourists stranded in Metro Manila when the government imposed a lockdown in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



“Hatid Tulong is pure and simple assistance in the meantime that there is no available transportation for them. These are the people who don’t have a permanent house here [in Metro Manila] and do not have the capacity to finance longer stay here,” Escalada said.

Escalada’s announcement came following reports that a Filipina housemaid from Antipolo died on Friday while waiting for a bus ride to return to her family in Camarines Sur.

Michelle Silvertino, 33, walked from Cubao, Quezon City to Pasay to get a ride to Bicol.

Silvertino was found unconscious under a footbridge along EDSA in Pasay.

She was brought to the Pasay General Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Duterte earlier gave an ultimatum to concerned government agencies to bring home over 24,000 OFWs stranded in various hotels in Metro Manila.

Escalada said the suspension of the Balik Probinsya program may last for about a month or until public transportation becomes available to stranded individuals.

“I think when the GCQ (general community quarantine) is lifted, then there would be available mass transportation, so naturally our Hatid Tulong will die down and we can go back to the more comprehensive and long-term Balik Probinsya program,” Escalada said.

Social Welfare Secretary Rolando Joselito Bautista said the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has started the release of the second tranche of the P5,000 to P8,000 Social Amelioration Program (SAP) emergency cash subsidy.

The first batch to get the second wave of cash aid includes the family-beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) that have LandBank cash cards.

Bautista said the transfer of the SAP cash aid started Wednesday and the money will be appearing in the accounts of some 1.3 million 4Ps family beneficiaries with cash cards before weekend.

He said that by next week, they expect to start releasing the second tranche cash subsidy to eligible low-income, vulnerable families in local government units (LGUs) whose liquidation reports for the first tranche subsidy have already finished validation.

Also slated to begin next week is the start of distribution of the SAP cash subsidy to the 5 million additional so-called “waitlisted” low-income, vulnerable families that were severely affected by the enhanced community quarantine enforced last March to May to contain the spread of the pandemic. **Rainier Allan Ronda**

# Duterte to announce new quarantine rules on June 15

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos [June 11, 2020, 3:56 pm](#)



**MANILA** – President Rodrigo Duterte is set to announce the new quarantine classifications in the country on June 15, Malacañang said on Thursday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Duterte would address Filipinos on Monday to inform them about the new quarantine rules that will be implemented nationwide beginning June 16.

*“Kaunting hintay na lang po. Mismong si Presidente Duterte po ang haharap at kakausap sa taumbayan sa Lunes, June 15 para i-anunsyo ito (We just need to wait. President Duterte will address the public on Monday, June 15 to make the announcement),”* Roque said in a virtual presser aired on state-run PTV-4.

Duterte was supposed to meet with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) in Davao City on Thursday but decided to move the meeting to Monday in Manila.

Roque said the IATF-EID has already come up with recommendations on the reclassification of community quarantines in the country.

He said the IATF-EID based its recommendations on “science and data.”

He, however, noted that the IATF-EID’s recommendations are still subject to Duterte’s approval.

*“Iko-confirm ko po na meron na tayong mga rekomendasyon pero ang mga rekomendasyon po, hindi pa po pinal (I confirm that there are recommendations already but those are not yet final),”* Roque said. *“Hindi ko po sasabihin kung ano ang mga naging desisyon para sa iba’t ibang lugar ng Pilipinas dahil ayaw ko pong pangunahan ang ating Presidente (I will not announce the decision for different areas in the Philippines because I don’t want to preempt the President’s announcement).”*

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

The rest of the country is under modified GCQ (MGCQ), the lowest level of community quarantine imposed by the government before the shift to the new normal.

## Warning vs. leaked document

Roque warned the public to stop sharing any document from the IATF-EID that might be leaked anew on social media.

*“At ‘yung mga mahilig mag-leak, papaalananan ko kayo, hayaan niyo nang ang Presidente ang mag-announce (For those who always leak [the IATF-EID resolution, I am reminding you to just let the President make the announcement),”* Roque said.

Roque said they might only spread “fake news” since there could still be a lot of changes in the IATF-EID resolution.

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*"Meron pa pong mga apela na mangyayari. So 'yung listahan po ay hindi pa pinal (There will be appeals. So the list is not yet final)," he said. "Pupwede pa po iyang magbago at magiging fake news ang inyong ibabalita (So that there might be changes and you might only share fake news)."*

### LGUs informed

Roque ensured that the country is ready to enforce the new quarantine rules by June 16.

He said the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) had already informed the local government units (LGUs) about the possible quarantine reclassifications in their respective localities.

*"DILG is already in contact with local government units so alam na po nila kung ano ang possible classification nila (They already know the possible classification in their areas). And they are now given the opportunity to appeal para kapag nag-announce po si Presidente sa Lunes, tapos na po 'yung apela (so they already make an appeal before the President makes the announcement on Monday)," Roque said.*

Malacañang admitted on Tuesday that the return to modified ECQ (MECQ) is possible in areas with rising number of Covid-19 cases.

On the other hand, the quarantine classifications might be downgraded in other parts of the country, the Palace said.

MGCQ might be imposed in areas that are currently under GCQ, while the new normal might be experienced in places under MGCQ.

Roque noted that either MECQ, GCQ, or MGCQ would be implemented in Metro Manila and Cebu City where Covid-19 infections continue to rise.

*"The options are either magiging MGCQ or magiging GCQ or babalik sa MECQ (they will be under MGCQ, GCQ, or MECQ)," he said. (PNA)*

**LATEST**

# Ph1 virus cases breach 24,000-mark

Published 12 hours ago on June 11, 2020 06:23 PM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#)



COVID cases reported on Thursday totaled 443, according to the Department of Health.

The Department of Health (DoH) logged 443 additional cases on Thursday, raising the nationwide total to 24,175. In its latest bulletin, the DoH reported 253 “fresh” and 190 “late” cases, majority of which are in the National Capital Region (NCR) which remains the epicenter of the outbreak in the Philippines.

The fresh cases or test results released to patients within the last three days were composed of 35 infections from Metro Manila, 66 from Central Visayas and 152 from other regions.

Meanwhile, the 288 late cases were composed of 49 infections from NCR, six from Central Visayas and 136 from other regions.

The DoH also reported that the number of recoveries increased to 5,165 after the Health department saw 270 additional survivors, while the death toll rose to 1,036 after 9 more patients died.

Earlier in the day, a team of researchers and statisticians from the University of the Philippines said that the number of coronavirus cases in the country could reach as high as 40,000 by the end of June.

The group also projected that about 12,000 to 24,000 infections might be recorded in Metro Manila by 30 June, based on current trends on the COVID-19 data.

Despite this new forecast, UP mathematics professor Guido David noted that a lot of cities in the country have been “winning the war” against the pandemic, saying that Metro Manila and Cebu remain as virus hotspots.

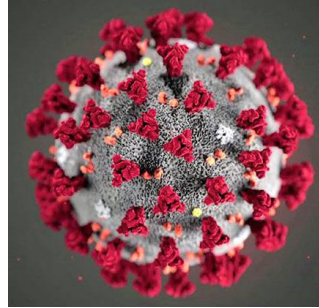
The team has reminded the public to practice minimum health standards such as mask-wearing and physical distancing even if some areas were placed under loosened quarantine measures.

More than seven million individuals worldwide have been infected with COVID-19 according to the World Health Organization, six months after the first case was reported in China.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/11/ph1-virus-cases-breach-24000-mark/>

# Infections may reach 40k by 30 June

Published 7 hours ago  
on June 12, 2020 12:05 AM  
By **Gabbie Parlade**



As easing restrictions continue, researchers from the University of the Philippines (UP) on Thursday revealed that cases reaching up 40,000 by 30 June are at present in its possible projections.

In an online media forum, Professor Guido David of the Institute of Mathematics said that the reported estimation was based on the current trend of cases and available data as provided by the Department of Health (DoH) that is still subject to changes.

With 443 additional cases Thursday, COVID-19 cases in the country has breached the 24,000 mark, according to the DoH.

In its latest bulletin, the DoH reported 253 “fresh” and 190 “late” cases — raising the nationwide total to 24,175.

The fresh cases or test results released to patients within the last three days were composed of 35 infections from Metro Manila, 66 from Central Visayas, 152 from other regions and one Filipino repatriate, according to the DoH data.

The 190 late cases were composed of 48 infections from Metro Manila, six from Region VII, while the remaining 136 other patients are spread out across the country.

The DoH also reported that the number of recoveries increased to 5,165 after the Health department saw 270 additional survivors, while the death toll rose to 1,036 after nine more patients died.

“For the whole country it’s 40,000 by 30 June but it’s based on our projections only because a large factor contributing to it are the current trends, so if it changes then the projection will also change it could lower or increase, in other words, this is just the status quo projection that we made,” David said.

He pointed out that among the factors that contributed to the projection was the R-naught or rate of infection by the disease which in the country is at 1.2.

According to UP Professor Ranjit Rye of the Department of Political Science, the current transmission at 1.2 R-naught means that a greater rate of transmission is still existent.

Rye explained that the mathematical date for R-naught indicates a positive rate if it’s recorded to be lower than one.

## Increased mobility

In terms of community transmission, he said that drivers causing its spread are mostly attributed to the increased mobility and proximity influenced by the public.

David mentioned that cities of Manila, Mandaluyong and the Municipality of Pateros being the most densely populated areas in NCR may also have a higher possibility of infection.

He said that other reported cases outside Metro Manila were also seen in areas such as Cebu and CALABARZON.

“Mostly (of the cases) are centered around NCR and a little from CALABARZON but the main battleground is still in NCR and Cebu,” David said.

On the other hand, he said that ideally about 15,000 tests per day should also be conducted by laboratories in order to cover other asymptomatic who may not have been tested.

Apart from it, he likewise mentioned the need to expand testing to other regions as well as to improve the fast release of data.

“We have to make sure that when we test, we get the result out quickly (which) is also something still a challenge for the country and testing, by the way, is concentrated in Manila, we still need to develop capacity all around the country,” he said.

Earlier in the day, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the government will assess if areas under the modified general community quarantine can shift to the “new normal” beyond 15 June.

According to Roque, the health indicators appear to have been improving in the larger part of the Philippines, but cases remain high in Metro Manila — the epicenter of the outbreak in the country.

The Philippines ranked third among all Western Pacific countries with the highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases as of 9 June, next to China and Singapore.

More than seven million individuals worldwide have been reported by the World Health Organization, six months after the first case was reported in China.

## Declaration needed

Meanwhile, people who wish to dine in restaurants when the country shifts to the ‘new normal’ will have to declare their health status first as a requirement based on the guidelines set by the Department of Tourism (DoT).

Under the DoT Memorandum Circular 2020-004 or the “New Normal Health and Safety Guidelines for DoT-Accredited Restaurants,” diners will be required to fill out Health Declaration Forms (HDF) as part of the health and safety protocols.

Aside from the accomplishment of the HDF, customers must also wear masks, undergo temperature checks, and practice proper handwashing and physical distancing upon entry to or when inside the restaurant premises.

with Raymart Lolo  
@tribunephil\_lolo,  
Elmer Manuel @tribunephil\_lmer,  
and MJ Blancaflor  
@tribunephil\_MJB

# UP experts: PHL Covid cases could rise to 40,000 by end of June

By [Claudeth Mocon-Ciriaco](#)

June 11, 2020



*Policemen guard the 112-bed We Heal As One center at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila serves as quarantine facilities for Covid-19 patients.*

Experts from the University of the Philippines' (UP) OCTA Research Team projected that the confirmed Covid -19 cases in the country may escalate to 40,000 by June 30.

In a media forum on Thursday morning hosted by the Department of Health (DOH), Dr. Guido David, of the UP Institute of Mathematics, said that the current Reproduction Naught or R-naught (R0) of the country is at 1.2

“Our estimate of the reproductive number of the virus in the country is around 1.2 million. Assuming that the reproduction number, remains that there is no significant change in the intervention and strategies by the government, based on our projections, by June 30 there could be an escalation to 40,000 cases and 1,850 deaths,” David said.

David said that given that the data received from the DOH appears to have a lag, the current R0 in National Capital Region (NCR) is estimated between 0.96 and 1.2.

For the first scenario, 16,500 cases and 1, 070 deaths is the projection for NCR by the end of the month while the projection of the second scenario is 20,500 cases and 1,200 deaths in NCR by June 30.

In Cebu province where spike of cases are also recorded, David said that the current R0 is almost 2, much higher compared to NCR.

He noted that the projection for Cebu province, assuming the infection rates continue at the same level, is 11,000 cases and 90 deaths by June 30.

For his part, UP Professor Ranjit Rye, of the Department of Political Science, said that the people of Cebu should be extra cautious noting the R0 in the province “For every infection like in Cebu, there will be two persons who will get infected also”.

Rye urged the government to look at the numbers and place proper measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

“We are urging the government to look at the numbers and implement appropriate timely responses,” Rye said during the virtual media forum.

Rye said that the threat of Covid stays even the restrictions were eased up.

In the regular DOH Beat Covid televised press conference, both David and Rye reiterated the for the public to realize that they have a bigger role to combat the disease.

Rye also stressed the need to strengthen the “Test, Trace, Treat” of the government.

Although the government is doing 10,000 tests in a day, “It is still not enough. “

“We need to double time,” Rye said. He, however, noted the improvement in the treatment of Covid patients.

According to the report of David, the country’s health system capacity in responding to the pandemic has improved.

“Our hospitals are no longer overloaded, ” David cited.

He said that the hospital recovery rate in NCR continue to improve since March up to present by almost 50 percent.

The hospital mortality rate, on the other hand, is also decreasing from almost 40 percent in March down to 16 percent in June.

## Covid Cases

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that as of 4 p. m. of June 11, a total of 24, 175 confirmed Covid cases were reported.

Of the number, 443 were recorded on Thursday with 253 “fresh” cases and 190 “late” cases. Fresh cases refer to results released within the last three days while late cases were logged over four days.

Vergeire said that 270 recoveries were added to the list bringing the total to 5,165.

Nine persons succumbed to the disease. The death toll stood at 1,036.

Of the total number of cases, the DOH said that 17,810 are active cases wherein 792 patients (4.4 percent) are asymptomatic.

A total of 16,946 (95.1 percent) patients are with mild symptoms while 55 patients (0.3 percent) with severe condition were recorded.

The DOH added that 17 persons (0.1 percent) are in critical condition.



# UP experts: Aabot nang 40,000 COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas ngayong Hunyo

(Philstar.com)

- June 11, 2020 - 2:23pm



Sumasakay ng tren ang mga pasahero na ito sa Metro Manila habang "rush hour" sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic, ika-1 ng Hunyo

MANILA, Philippines — Tinatayang aabot sa 40,000 ang kaso ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) sa Pilipinas bago magtapos ang buwan ng Hunyo, ayon sa isang research group, Huwebes.

Sa briefing ng Department of Health (DOH), sinabi ng UP OCTA Research na ibinatay daw nila ito sa kasalukuyang trends ng pagkalat ng virus.

"Right now, 'yung projection namin, ginamit lang namin 'yung  $R_0$  na 1.2 sa Philippines. So 'yung projection actually is nasa 40,000 cases by June 30," ani Guido David, propesor ng Math sa UP.

Tumutukoy ang  $R_0$  sa reproduction number, na ginagamit para ipakita ang potensyal ng sakit upang makapanghawa.

Kapag ang  $R_0$  ay mas mataas sa isa, kumakalat pa ang sakit. Ngunit sinasabing nagfla-flatten na ang "epidemic curve" kung mas mababa ito sa isa.

Nang magsimula ang outbreak sa Pilipinas, mas mataas daw ang  $R_0$  sa tatlo, at bumaba kinalaunan sa isa, ngunit naging dalawa naman sa pagtatapos nang Mayo. Kasalukuyan itonq nasa 1.2.

UP experts: Aabot nang 40,000 COVID-19 cases sa  
Pilipinas ngayong Hunyo

TITLE:

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 12, 2020  
DATE

Sa National Capital Region (NCR), mas mababa raw nang bahagya sa isa ang R0 — na magandang balita. Gayunpaman, bumaba rin daw ang pagkalat ng virus noong Abril ngunit biglang sumipa uli nang Mayo kung kaya't dapat pa ring mag-ingat.

Samantala, tumaas naman daw kamakailan ang R0 ng Cebu, kung kaya't dapat pa raw paigtingin ang pagsugpo dito sa nasabing lalawigan.

"Natitira na lang [na] battleground talaga is NCR and Cebu," sabi pa ni David.

Marso nang sabihin ng DOH na [posibleng umabot sa 75,000 ang kaso ng nakamamatay na sakit sa loob nang dalawa hanggang tatlong buwan](#) kung hindi tuluyang masasawata.

Una nang sinabi ni David, Assistant Prof. Ranjit Singh Rye at Ma Patricia Agbulos na ng OCTA Research na [maaaring umabot sa 24,000 kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa pagsapit ng ika-15 ng Hunyo](#) kung ire-relax nang wala sa oras ang enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) sa Metro Manila. Posible rin daw sa 1,700 patay kung mangyayari ito.

Ang projections nina David ay tila pasok pa rin sa iniulat ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire kahapon, nang [umabot sa 23,732 ang bilang ng nahahawaan ng sakit sa Pilipinas](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, 1,027 na ang binabawian ng buhay. — **James Relativo**

# Misting at spraying ng disinfectant, bawal pa rin

[Mer Layson](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 12, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Bawal pa rin ang misting at spraying ng disinfectant sa mga tao, kasunod na rin ito nang pagkamatay ni Police doctor Casey Gutierrez na nakalanhap diumano ng disinfectant sa isang quarantine facility sa Pasig City, ayon sa Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Kaugnay nito, nagpahayag ng kalungkutan si DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año sa nangyari kay Gutierrez, at nagpaabot ng pakikiramay sa pamilya ng 31-anyos na doktor kasabay ng utos sa PNP na imbestigahang mabuti ang insidente at siguruhing mananagot ang dapat managot.

Muli rin niyang ipinarating sa mga local government units at attached agencies ng DILG, kasama na ang Bureau of Jail Management and Penology at Bureau of Fire Protection, ang panganib na idinudulot ng ganitong mga kemikal sa kalusugan ng tao.

Alinsunod sa DOH memorandum, hindi pa napapatunayan na ang malawakang fogging, misting at spraying ay pumapatay sa virus.

Una nang pinayuhan ng Kalihim ang mga LGU na ipagbawal ang pagtatayo ng mga disinfection tents, misting chambers o sanitation booths lalo na kung hindi nakasuot ng personal protective equipment ang mga papasok sa mga ito.

Nakasaad sa advisory na ang mga kemikal tulad ng hypochlorite ay sanhi ng pangangati ng balat at mucous membrane (sa mata, ilong at lalamunan) at maaaring makasama kapag nalanhap. Limitado rin daw ang mga pag-aaral na nagpapatunay na epektibo ang mga chemical disinfectant.



## **GAMOT SA PNEUMONIA TIYAKIN ANG SUPLAY**

June 11, 2020 @ 2:53 PM 17 hours ago

Dapat tiyakin ng pamahalaan na ang mga gamot laban sa sakit na pneumonia ay mayroon na sa lahat ng sulok ng mahal kong Pinas magsimula ngayong nagpaparamdam na ang tag-ulan na panahon ng nasabing sakit.

Suplay man ito ng pamahalaan na ilalatag sa lahat ng barangay health station o mabibili sa mga botika, dapat mayroon ang anomang epektibong gamot sa nasabing sakit.

Napakahalaga ito dahil ang pneumonia ang isa sa mga sinasakyan ng coronavirus disease-19 para umatake at pumatay sa pamamagitan pagdaan ng huli sa baga na inaatake ng pneumonia.

Kapag pinasok ng COVID-19 ang baga at madatnan nito ang pneumonia, rito na hirap na huminga ng tao at alam mo na ang kasunod.

Swerte ka kung makaligtas ka sa kaway ni kamatayan.

Ang may mga pneumonia ang pangunahin o unang namamatay sa COVID-19 at sumusunod ang mga may ibang sakit gaya ng diabetes, sakit sa puso at iba pa.

Kaya naman, ang gamot sa pneumonia ang malaking tulong sa mamamayan para malabanan nila ang COVID-19.

Ang pamahalaan ang magiging susi sa pagkakaroon ng sapat na suplay ng gamot na ito kaya naman, dapat nang kumilos ang Department of Health para rito.

‘Yun bang === maghanda na ng sapat na pondo para pambili ng nasabing mga gamot at ipamahagi na sa lahat ng barangay health station at pampublikong ospital at bahala na ang mga health worker na nakatalaga sa mga ito na ilapat sa mga magkakasakit ng pneumonia.

### **FACE MASK STYLE**

Sa ngayon, mababa pa ang presyo ng mga gamot laban sa pneumonia sa mga botika.

Pero nangangamba tayo, mga Bro, na magmamahal ito pagdating ng panahong nagiging kalat na ang sakit na ito.

Ito’y dahil lubhang mahalaga bilang panlaban sa COVID-19.

Nangangamba ang ating Uzi na matutulad ang nasabing mga gamot sa face mask na kung kailan naging kailangan na kailangan nang pumutok ang bulkang Taal at nang dumating ang COVID-19, saka naman nagsamantala ang mga anak ng putakteng negosyante.

Ang pagmamahal ng presyo ng mga gamot laban sa pneumonia ang maaaring dahilan upang magkaroon ng maraming magkakasakit nito.

Karaniwan kasing bago magmamahal ang presyo, “nagkakaubusan” daw ang suplay pero ang totoo, itinatago o hino-hoard para kung kakaunti ang suplay, magmamahal ito nang todo.

Paano ka hindi magkakasakit kung hindi ka makabili ng sapat na gamot dahil napakamahal na nito.

Dito naman mananalasa nang todo ang COVID-19.

### **ITURING SILANG TERORISTA**

Para sa ating Uzi, dapat na ang mga anak ng tupang negosyante na laging nagsasamantala sa mga oras ng krisis ay ituring na terorista.

Sa saglit na magpakita ang mga ito ng sungay ng pagsasamantala gaya ng hoarding at overpricing, dapat na dakpin agad ang mga ito at ikulong.

Dapat na gamitan ang mga ito ng warrantless arrest at bigyan ng kapangyarihan ang mga mamamayan na mandakip sa mga ito.

Dito dapat magkaroon ang pamahalaan ng kampanya para malaman ng mga mamamayan ang paggamit nila ng tamang kapangyarihan upang isagawa ang warrantless arrest.

Pwedeng-pwede ito lalo na kung ilapat ang information and education campaign sa mga barangay.

Alalahaning ang mga kapitan ng barangay ay may kapangyarihang magsagawa ng mga pag-aresto sa sinomang kriminal at maaaring dito umangkla ang mga mamamayan na mapapayagang mang-aresto.

At sina kapitan din ang may mga kasanayan at kakayahan kung paano sundin ang mga kaugnay na ligal na aksyon laban sa mga nagsasagawa ng overpricing at hoarding dahil madali silang makakontak sa mga pulis at iba pang awtoridad na ayuda nila.

### **MAGTULONG-TULONG LAHAT**

Kung titingnan natin ang pag-uulat ng Department of Health ukol sa COVID-19, nakababahala ito.

Nakababahala dahil kung dati ay nasa 200 lang kada araw ang iniuulat na nagpopositibo, paakyat nang paakyat ang bilang ng mga ito mula sa ilang araw na naglalaro sa 500 sa mahigit 700 kahapon.

Masasabing isang dahilan dito ang pagdami ng mga testing center na umabot na sa 54 na nakakalat na sa buong bansa na binubuo ng mga pampubliko at pribadong ospital.

Pero maaaring marami talaga ang nahahawahan at parami nang parami ang mga ito at lumalawak pa.

Parami nang parami dahil hindi na lang lokal na nagkakasakit at nanghahawa kundi maging ang napakaraming dumarating na Pinoy mula sa ibang bansa na sinasalakay ng COVID-19 gaya ng Amerika at Europa.

At dagdag pang isipin natin na bahagi sila ng libo-libong nagbabalik-probinsya na talagang dahilan ng pagkalat ng sakit.

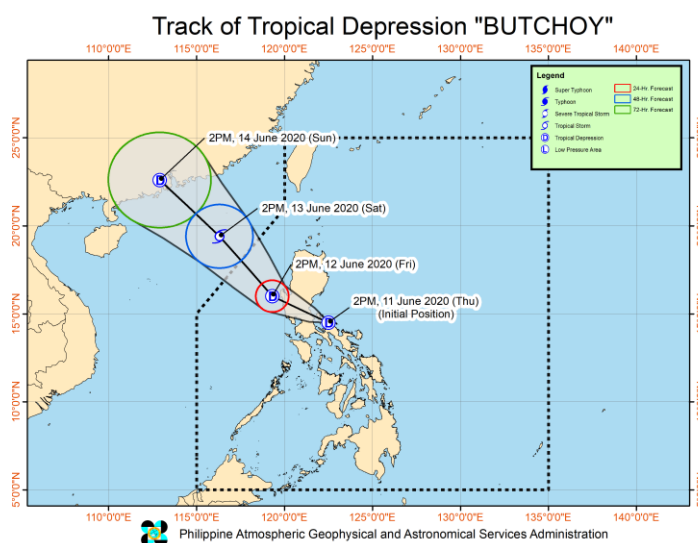
Sa kalagayang ito, mga Bro, dapat tayong magtulong-tulong lahat laban sa COVID-19.

At muli, ipaalala natin, magtulong-tulong din tayong sugpuin ang mga mapagsamantalang negosyante na wala nang ginawa kundi pagkaperahan ang krisis sa kalusugan magkadamatay-matay at magkandahirap-hirap man tayong lahat.

# LPA turns into Tropical Depression Butchoy; Signal no. 1 in NCR, Central Luzon

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lala](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:17 PM June 11, 2020



MANILA, Philippines – The low-pressure area being monitored a few days ago has developed into a Tropical Depression called “Butchoy” as of Thursday afternoon, meteorologists from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

Pagasa’s monitoring showed that Butchoy was recently spotted 75 kilometers northwest of Daet, Camarines Norte. It is now packing maximum sustained winds of 45 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 55 kph.

It was seen moving at a west-northwest pattern with a speed of 20 kph.

A Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No.1 has been raised over Metro Manila, Rizal, the southern portion of Aurora, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, and Bulacan.

But Pagasa reminded that rains are also expected in areas not under any tropical cyclone warning signal as Butchoy intensifies the cloud movements along southwest monsoon or Habagat, bringing rains on other parts of Luzon and Visayas, and even Mindanao.

“Bagamat nandito pa ‘yong bagyong si Butchoy, dahil nga sa pinag-ibayong Habagat, nakakaranas na rin ng mga pag-ulan hindi lamang ‘yong mga areas over Central and Southern Luzon at bahagi ng Visayas kung hindi pati na rin dito sa western section ng Mindanao,” weather specialist Chris Perez said.

Moderate to heavy rains may be experienced from Thursday afternoon to Friday morning over Calabarzon, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, and the areas under Signal No. 1.

Pagasa expects Butchoy to make landfall on Thursday night and make its way across Central Luzon. It added that Butchoy would be exiting Luzon’s landmass by Friday afternoon through the Pangasinan shores.

By Saturday, Butchoy may be well into the South China Sea, outside the Philippine area of responsibility.

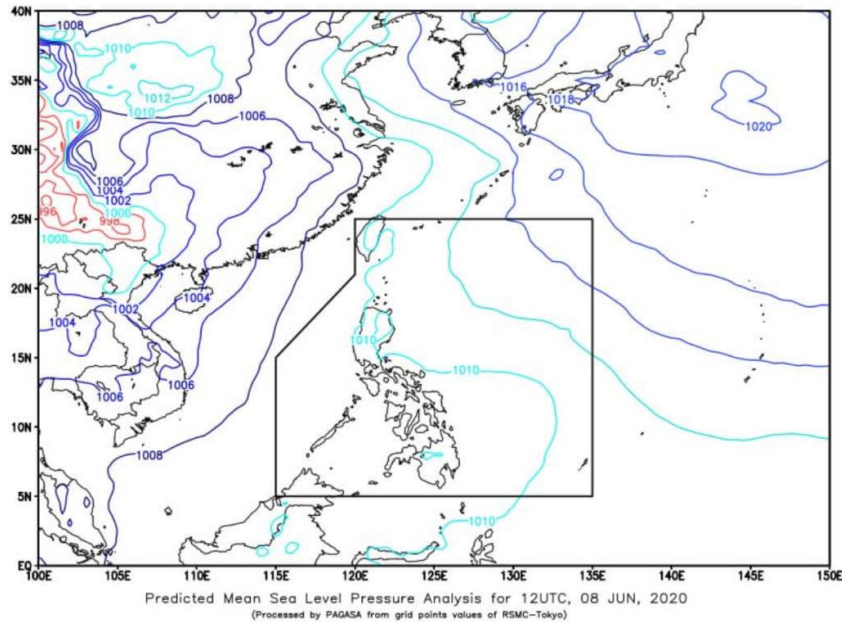
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Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1290098/lpa-turns-into-tropical-depression-butchoy-signal-no-1-in-manila-central-luzon>

# LPA magiging bagyo malapit sa Luzon

## Balita

By Leifbilly Begas June 11, 2020



## LPA Visayas

MAGDADALA ng pag-ulan sa Luzon ang low pressure area na inaasahang magiging bagyo.

Ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration magiging bagyo ang LPA sa susunod na 24 oras.

Kaninang umaga ang LPA ay nasa layong 110 kilometro sa hilagang kanluran ng Virac, Catanduanes o 65 kilometro sa silangan-hilagang silangan ng Daet, Camarines Norte.

“Due to its proximity to land, Tropical Cyclone Wind Signals may be hoisted immediately in the initial Severe Weather Bulletin once this LPA develops into a tropical depression,” saad ng PAGASA.

“This LPA and the prevailing Southwesterly Windflow over Palawan, Visayas and, Mindanao will bring scattered to widespread moderate to heavy rains over Metro Manila, CALABARZON, Bicol Region, northern Palawan including Calamian and Cuyo Islands, Mindoro Provinces, Marinduque, Romblon and Western Visayas.”

Nagbabala ang PAGASA ng posibleng pagbaha at landslide.

# Tropical depression 'Butchoy' maintains strength as it moves towards Pampanga-Tarlac area

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 11, 2020 6:46:21 AM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 11)** — Tropical depression Butchoy is now moving toward the areas of Pampanga and Tarlac, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Administration (PAGASA).

According to the 11 p.m. weather update on Thursday, the center of Butchoy was last seen in the vicinity of Baliuag, Bulacan at 10 p.m.

It has maximum sustained winds of 45 kph and a gustiness of up to 75 kph.

Butchoy made landfall over Polillo and Infanta in Quezon at 7 p.m.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal #1 was lifted over some municipalities in Quezon.

Meanwhile, the following areas are still under Signal #1: Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, the southern portion of Aurora (Dingalan, San Luis), Metro Manila, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, and the northern portion of Quezon (General Nakar, Infanta, Real, Panukulan, Burdeos, Polillo, Patnanungan, Jomalig).

PAGASA said Butchoy will continue to bring moderate to heavy with at times intense rains over Metro Manila, CALABARZON, Zambales, Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, northern portion of Palawan including Calamian and Cuyo Islands, and Occidental Mindoro. It will be light to moderate with at times heavy rains over the Visayas, Caraga, Davao Region, and the rest of Luzon, between Thursday night and Friday noon, it also said.

Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rains will prevail between Friday noon until evening over Zambales, Bataan, Pangasinan, Mindoro Provinces, and northern portion of Palawan, including Calamian and Cuyo Islands. Light to moderate with at times heavy rains will hover over Metro Manila, CALABARZON, Panay Island, and the rest of MIMAROPA, Ilocos Region, and Central Luzon.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/6/11/Rainy-conditions-in-the-country-expected-for-the-next-24-hours-as-LPA-reaches-Luzon.html>



# ‘Butchoy’ makes landfall in Quezon — Pagasa

By [Franz Lewin Embudo](#)

June 11, 2020

TROPICAL depression “Butchoy” made landfall in Quezon Province on Thursday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

The state-weather bureau said “Butchoy” first made landfall in Polillo, Quezon at 5:30 p.m. and in Infanta, Quezon at 6 p.m.

In its 8 p.m. bulletin, Pagasa tracked the center of Butchoy in the vicinity of General Nakar, Quezon, moving west northwest at a speed of 15 kilometers per hour (kph). Butchoy was packing maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 75 kph.

Signal No. 1 remains in Metro Manila, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, the southern portion of Aurora, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, and the northern and central portion of Quezon.

## Several areas in Manila flooded due to strong rain

Published June 11, 2020 11:43pm

Several areas in Manila were flooded on Thursday due to strong rain as the low pressure area east of Quezon Province intensified into Tropical Depression Butchoy.

According to a series of tweets by Carlo Mateo on Super Radyo dzBB, a portion of Padre Faura St, Paco Manila was flooded as of 6:23 p.m.



Meanwhile, the flooding on UN Avenue, Manila was gutter-deep as of 6:40 p.m. while some motorists tried to take shelter from the rain in varying areas in the city.

A rider was also recorded on video guiding his motorcycle and walking through the flood as well as some individuals in Taft Avenue, Manila.

Several areas [were placed under Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal no. 1](#) due to Butchoy on Thursday afternoon, including Metro Manila. — **Joahna Lei Casilao/BM, GMA News**

# AFP to conserve Philippine Rise

Published 5 hours ago on June 12, 2020 01:30 AM

By **Kristina Maralit**



Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff, Gen. Felimon Santos Jr., vowed that the military will not only protect the borders and citizens of the country but also uphold the protection and conservation of the famed Philippine Rise.

Also known as the Benham Rise, the Philippine Rise is an extinct volcanic ridge located in the Philippine Sea approximately 250 kilometers east of the northern coastline of Dinapigue, Isabela and is home to at least 200 fish species, among them surgeonfish, hawk fish, and damselfish, along with large predators such as the tiger shark, along with soft and hard corals, algae, and sponges.

It can also potentially yield the highest catch rate of tuna species, including big-eye, yellowfin tuna and albacore.

“We are celebrating the fourth anniversary of the Philippine Rise and for the years that our dedicated soldiers have continued to protect one of the country’s most precious maritime areas. We commemorate this anniversary to raise awareness of its importance, to maintain marine conservation and protection, and to assert our sovereign rights,” Santos said in his speech during his visit to Sta. Ana, Cagayan last Wednesday to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the maritime area.

Santos also led the sendoff ceremony of the Philippine Navy’s BRP Quezon (PS-70) and Naval Task Unit 11.6.1 which was tasked to navigate and safeguard the areas of the Philippine Rise.

“With confidence and pride, we are also sending-off a maritime patrol vessel to navigate and safeguard these areas of the Philippine Rise. As a pioneer in maritime protection, the Armed Forces is certain that Northern Luzon Command (NoCom) will vigorously pursue all possible means to strengthen the protection of the area in order to achieve its purpose of securing our State and protecting our people,” stated the military chief.

Santos was joined by Avelino Natividad, Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) representative; Lt. Gen. Ramiro Rey, Commander of Area Task Force — North; Maj. Gen. Pablo Lorenzo, Commander of 5th Infantry Division, Philippine Army; and PGen. Angelito Casimiro, Police Regional Office 2 (PRO-2) director. Also in attendance were local government officials of Cagayan and senior military officers of the AFP General Headquarters and NoCom).

Last year, an all-Filipino team of maritime research experts was launched to mark the Philippine Rise anniversary.

The past two years, meanwhile, saw the successful planting of an underwater Philippine flag on its surface.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/12/afp-to-protect-philippine-rise/>

# Beaching ramp inauguration on Pag-asa Island a welcome prelude to Independence Day —Gordon

**Published** June 11, 2020 8:46pm

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

Senator Richard Gordon on Thursday lauded the inauguration of the beaching ramp on Pag-asa Island as he described the territory as a "fitting symbol" for the country's celebration of its 122nd Independence Day on June 12.

"The island of Pag-asa, in English—hope, carries a name symbolic of the aspirations of our people. These aspirations moved our heroes in 1898 to rise up against foreign domination and proclaim the independence of the Filipino people," Gordon said.

"Now, a hundred twenty-two years later after that proclamation, there is a need for us to be more vigilant than ever to maintain our independence, to beware of foreign domination in disguise, to be able to defend our national interests, to protect our people," he added.

On June 9, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana [led the inauguration of the beaching ramp](#), which is seen to improve the delivery of necessary equipment and goods to the island. The repair of its airstrip is also in the pipeline.

Gordon said the government should continue investing in projects that would contribute to the development of far-flung communities and preservation of the country's marine wealth.

The senator stressed that the Philippine archipelago is surrounded by resource-rich waters that would benefit the future generations of Filipinos.

Despite the presence of Chinese militias around the island, Lorenzana [said Pag-asa will not be militarized by the Philippine government](#).

"We will not militarize our island there, we will not bring in the military equipment to defend it because I don't think there is any threat of attack [on] Pag-asa and eight other islands..." he said. — **BM, GMA News**

# Residents raise concern over cyanide fishing by foreigners off Pag-asa Island

Published June 11, 2020 11:12pm

Local fishermen of Pag-asa Island expressed concern over the alleged illegal fishing activities, including cyanide fishing conducted by Vietnamese fishermen in the area, according to Chino Gaston's report on 24 Oras on Thursday.

"Mga Vietnamese po. Sila 'yong mahihilig mag-cyanide. Minsan na-encounter po naming nagsa-cyanide sila diyan. Grabe 'yong operate nila," said Larry Hugo, a fisherman residing on the island.

Cyanide fishing involves spraying a sodium cyanide mixture into the fish habitat to stun the fish.

Due to the foreigners' illegal fishing activities, Hugo said they were only able to catch small types of fish.

'Yong mga Chinese wala kaming nakikitang mga illegal na activities. Basta sila ang ginagawa nila, naka-floating lang 'yong mga barko nila diyan," he said.

Meanwhile, some of the local fishermen also said they were not able to fish near the Subi Reef, the nearest neighbor of Pag-asa Island, because it is being guarded by several Chinese fishing militia.

After the completion of the newly-completed beach ramp on the island, local fishermen have been provided with a boat shelter that they can use during bad weather.

"Napaka-importante po niyan, lalong-lalo na sa aming mga naghahakot ng mga lantsa, na naghahakot kami ng mga materials, mga pagkain. Ngayon po talagang napakagandang nakadikit na diyan sa may pantalan," Kalayaan Island Group Mayor Roberto del Mundo said.

There are other efforts to extend assistance or services to the residents.

The National Power Corporation will be coordinating with the local government unit regarding the electricity supply of the residents.

The LGU is also planning to build a community fish freezer. -- **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BAP, GMA News**

# PH can go to UNCLOS tribunal over 2019 boat-ramming incident in Recto Bank: Carpio

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 11 2020 03:17 PM | Updated as of Jun 11 2020 03:28 PM

MANILA - The Philippines can go to an international tribunal to demand reparation from China over last year's ramming incident by a Chinese fishing vessel of a Philippine fishing boat in the Recto (Reed) Bank in the West Philippine Sea, retired Supreme Court senior associate justice Antonio Carpio said Thursday.

Speaking on ANC's Headstart, Carpio said Manila can go to a United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) tribunal and ask for damages because the 2016 arbitration award ruled that Recto Bank is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

"We can demand damages from China for fishing in our EEZ. We can do that because this action of China happened after the tribunal ruling," Carpio said.

"If China will steal our fish in the West Philippine Sea, our EEZ, we can go to the UNCLOS tribunal and ask for damages," he added.

GemVer1 was fishing in the Reed Bank when a Chinese vessel rammed it and left its 22 Filipino crew at sea on June 9, 2019.

Beijing said the Chinese crewmen attempted to rescue the Filipino fishermen but was "afraid of being besieged by other Filipino fishing boats."

A Vietnamese boat helped rescue the Filipino crewmen.

Three months after the incident, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said sanctions should be imposed on the crew of the Chinese ship that despite an apology from the shipowner.

"The Philippine government needs to exhaust all available legal and diplomatic remedies for the government of China to require reparation from and institute sanctions to the master and crew of the Chinese vessel," he said in a statement then.

Carpio, who is an advocate of the Philippines' rights in the South China Sea, admitted that the recourse he cited would still depend on the policy decision of the government.

"The policy of this government... is never to offend China, always to appease China," Carpio noted, "even if it will prejudice our sovereign rights in the South China Sea."

"Every government must protect our sovereign rights. And this government is not protecting our sovereign rights" because of the said policy, Carpio lamented.

"This is against our national interest," he added.

The Duterte administration has decided to shelve the 2016 arbitration award that invalidated China's sweeping claims over almost the entire South China Sea, as it established friendlier relations with Beijing and court economic investments and aid.

China continues to disregard the ruling.

## SPRATLYS AS MARINE PROTECTED AREA

Meanwhile, Carpio said that the Philippines can ask its Southeast Asian neighbors who are prejudiced by the destructive actions of Chinese fishermen, like Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, to declare the Spratlys as a marine protected area.

"We will regulate the type of fishing that can be done in the Spratlys. We will assign quotas as to how much, how many tons of fish each country can get because the Spratlys are the breeding ground of fish," he proposed.

Carpio said that the South China Sea is rich in fish because the atolls in the Spratlys serve as their spawning ground.

“So we must preserve those atolls. China destroyed at least 7 of those atoll reefs when it created artificial islands on the 7 geologic features that it possessed in the South China Sea,” he said.

“That will benefit everybody, including China. China will be the biggest beneficiary because China gets the biggest catch of fish in the South China Sea of all nations because it has the largest fishing fleet. So, it is to the interest of China that we preserve Spratlys as a marine protected area,” he said.

In Nov. 2017, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China declared to protect the coasts and marine resources in the South China Sea through 2027.

Aside from China and the Philippines, ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam, as well as Taiwan, have competing claims in the South China Sea.

Experts said 12 percent of global fishing catch is sourced in the South China Sea, which is also a vital channel of \$5 trillion worth of annual trade, and is potentially keeping 11 billion barrels of oil reserves and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves.

# Experts question China's proposed wildlife utilisation whitelist

China may ban the utilisation of wildlife except for whitelisted species – but which animals should be on it?



The racoon dog is one of 13 wild animal species featured on the Chinese government 'whitelist'. Image: [Animal Equality International, CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

By Jiang Yifan, Chinadialogue

June 11, 2020

The coronavirus epidemic, and its suspected link to the consumption of wild animals, prompted the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) to [call](#) for a ban on eating terrestrial wild animals in late February. This would be China's toughest restriction ever on the wildlife trade, but it would include some exemptions in the form of a whitelist. Captive-bred animals on the list could still be eaten because they would be regarded as livestock and poultry, not wildlife, and so would fall under the Animal Husbandry Law.

In April, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) issued a draft of the whitelist for consultation, which it calls the [National Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources Directory](#). Alongside traditionally farmed animals, it features a "special livestock and poultry" list of 13 wild animal species.

Explanatory notes attached to the draft say the animals listed have long been domesticated and bred for commercial farming, adding that public health and ecological concerns have been considered, as have the traditions of ethnic minority groups and "common international practice".

But the sika deer and red deer are Class I and II state protected animals, respectively, and several different subspecies of the ring-necked pheasant and Chinese francolin have Class I or II protection, or they belong to the so-called "three-haves" animals. These are terrestrial animals that have "important ecological, scientific and social value" and are protected by the Wildlife Protection Law. The last category also includes the mallard and raccoon dog, which are also in the proposed directory.

The explanatory notes say the sika deer was included because it has a long history of being farmed and supports an established industry. The red deer and reindeer were included because they are traditionally used by ethnic minorities. The alpaca is an imported species but "has long been domesticated and has various uses". Several of the bird species have been imported and are subject to established farming practices. The American mink, silver fox, Arctic fox and raccoon dog are included as "China has developed breeds suitable for farming, and these are primarily used for fur and for export, not food use".

The text also makes clear that while the Animal Husbandry Law applies to these animals when farmed, wild populations still fall under the Wildlife Protection Law and the governance of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA).

## **Will there be only one whitelist?**

According to media reports, the MOA has published a similar whitelist before called the China Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources Directory. Versions circulating [online](#) (China Dialogue couldn't find an official copy) differ from the new national list only in their inclusion of dogs and bees.



The old directory had already prompted criticism following the outbreak of Covid-19. In mid-March, a [petition](#) published by 17 ecologists, environmentalists and social scientists, called on the government “to avoid repeating the mistake of actively utilising wild animals” in its implementation of the NPCSC’s ban on eating wild animals.

The experts called for species in the livestock and poultry directory deemed suitable for consumption to be removed and for no new additions. The petition also demanded that farmed wild animals used for non-food purposes only be allowed onto the list following a rigorous scientific process.

This is because it is common for meat from animals whitelisted for use in the fur industry – the American mink, silver fox, Arctic fox and raccoon dog – to end up on dinner tables, or mislabelled and sold to food manufacturers, and there is a high risk of these animals spreading disease to humans.

In late January, [research](#) carried out at Peking University found that mink were a possible intermediary host of the coronavirus. At the time, other experts also suggested those four species be removed.

But Liu Jinmei, General Counsel for Friends of Nature, says the new draft whitelist is already shorter than she expected.

In mid-February, 10 organisations, including Friends of Nature, Shanshui Conservation Centre and Duke Kunshan University, published [a joint proposal](#) for the ongoing revision to the Wildlife Protection Law. They also proposed a whitelist system of wild animals that could be farmed.

They set out strict conditions for adding species to the list, including established farming techniques and health standards, low levels of risk to public health, and there being no need to capture animals from the wild. They also called for traceability as a prerequisite for acquiring a farming licence, including retaining genealogical data, breeding files and data on individual animals, and even microchipping.

Liu told China Dialogue that they produced their proposal, which attracted much attention, before the NPCSC’s ban on eating wildlife was announced. Unsure how the government would approach the issue of regulating wild animal usage, their goal was to push for an informal whitelist, which had long been used by the NFGA to greenlight wildlife farming, to be replaced by a public list restrained by law and science. At the time, to them it seemed a more realistic goal

This informal whitelist first emerged in August 2003, shortly after the SARS epidemic ended. The State Forestry Administration (which became the NFGA in 2018) published [a list](#) of 54 species for which commercial farming was permitted.

This included the civet cat, a SARS intermediary host, and several protected animals such as the sika deer. The list spurred the development of a huge wild-animal farming industry. In October 2012, the State Forestry Administration [declared](#) the list invalid. However, courts continued to refer to the list to justify [lighter punishments](#) in cases where protected animals were involved or to [uphold](#) appeals.

Experts say that farming of wild animals continued after the list was invalidated only without the restrictions that had been put in place by it. Too many animals could now be farmed provided they were not under state priority protection (Class I and II) and legal provenance and health certificates were available. A prominent example is the bamboo rat, which is a “three-haves” animal that was never whitelisted for farming. Yet bamboo rat farming has boomed, with some farmers even becoming [online celebrities](#).

The new whitelist could bring order to this chaotic situation because it doesn’t just cover using animals for food. The special livestock and poultry section of the directory includes animals raised for fur or use in medicines, such as the sika deer, as well as meat.

Is it possible, then, that the current whitelist could regulate all types of wild animal utilisation in future?

Liu Jinmei says that there may be new whitelists after revisions to the Wildlife Protection Law are finalised, but “we’d like to retain one single list – this one from the MOA”.

Li Binbin, an assistant professor of environmental science at Duke Kunshan University, who was involved in writing the February joint proposal, said her first reaction to the whitelist was “this doesn’t look bad”.

She accepts some farming will continue because farmers need to make a living and winding down the sector responsibly will take time. Using the livestock and poultry directory to regulate it makes sense, but she added that farming threatens wild animal populations because these animals are caught to prevent inbreeding in farmed populations.

While a market exists for captive-bred wild animals, consumers may continue to prefer those captured from the wild, increasing the risk of poaching. She thinks traceability is a vital precondition of wild animal utilisation.

Li wants to see specific quarantine standards to protect the safety of consumers and farmers. She told China Dialogue that no specific standards were in place for farmed wild animals. Instead, those for traditional livestock are applied to the “special” animals on the directory: pheasants are treated as chickens, mallards as ducks, and deer as cows. But the scientific basis for such practice is unsound.

Li thinks that as a living document, it’s possible that the whitelist will be expanded. However, animals such as the civet cat and bamboo rat are currently listed as “[three-haves](#)” by the NFGA, so the MOA cannot include them into the livestock and poultry directory unless that changes. It will be a “long game” among government departments and civil society, she says.

Her main concern is that if this is the only whitelist for the utilisation of wild animals, many farmers will have to quit. It is unclear if or how they will be compensated.

### ***Grey zone for amphibians and reptiles***

China’s Wildlife Protection Law divides animals into terrestrial and aquatic categories without defining them. Unlike terrestrial animals, aquatic animals received no protection from the NPCSC eating ban and they certainly do not feature on the proposed whitelist for livestock and poultry – but, Liu and Li say they present even thornier issues.

The most pressing issue is that of amphibians and reptiles who sit on the boundary between terrestrial and aquatic categories, in what Li describes as a wildlife protection “grey zone”. This is because jurisdiction is claimed both by the NFGA, which manages terrestrial animals, and the MOA, which oversees aquatic animals as part of its fisheries remit.

Their situation is “hopeless”, says Li, citing the example of reptiles. “China has 34 species of tortoise and turtle – and every single one is on the IUCN’s Red List as threatened – they’re all on the way to extinction. There are very few left in the wild, and a big reason for that is our utilisation of them, including for food and as pets,” she says.

To remove these animals from the grey area, Li Binbin says that in their joint proposal for the revision of the Wildlife Protection Law, they inserted a definition of “aquatic wild animal” to refer to animals that spend their entire life in freshwater or the sea. That excludes amphibians or reptiles that spend part of their life in water, which means those animals will fall under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Protection Law, rather than the Fisheries Law, which would continue to regard them as resources.

Some authorities are pushing back against the NPCSC’s eating ban by working in the opposite direction of what Li and her colleagues did in their proposal. Two days after the NPCSC’s ban was announced and citing public health risks, Shenzhen announced a [plan](#) to further ban the farming of bullfrogs and soft-shell turtles, both widely consumed in the country.

This sparked public debate and fierce opposition from the farming industry. Things only calmed down on 4 March, when the MOA issued a [statement](#) declaring that such animals, which are listed on its “Directory of State Protected Commercial Aquatic Animal and Plant Resources”, along with amphibians and reptiles on its “List of New Commercial Aquatic Species”, are managed as aquatic animals, and so don't fall into the scope of NPCSC's eating ban.

This was a coordinated move. Two days before the MOA's statement was issued, on 2 March, the NFGA had [ordered](#) that farming of animals appearing on the MOA's “Directory of Captive-bred State Protected Aquatic Animals” and the “Directory of State Protected Commercial Aquatic Animal and Plant Resources”, would be managed as aquatic wild animals, with licenses or documentation already issued to be cancelled.

From that moment, animals that were formerly overseen by both authorities, all either amphibians or reptiles, would be managed by the MOA.

The change may not be confined to animals already on the MOA's aquatic lists. In early April, conservation activists asked [via the NFGA website](#) if farming of the Chinese brown frog was allowed. The response did not directly address farming or eating of the frog. However, it said that experts are working to re-categorise terrestrial and aquatic animals. This means the Chinese brown frog, which is listed as a “three-haves” terrestrial animal and is not present on any aquatic animal list may still be re-categorised as aquatic and lose the protection of the Wildlife Protection Law.

The wildlife eating ban signals China's wildlife management may shift from blacklisting to whitelisting – that is, rather than protecting certain rare, endangered or important animals, all animals will be protected by default, with farming and utilisation only permitted for those on a whitelist.

This could mean stronger protection, if the whitelist(s) won't be too long and numerous. But the revision to the wildlife law may not improve the fate of aquatic animals that are not rare or endangered – including amphibians, reptiles, fish, aquatic mammals and aquatic invertebrates.

Li Binbin is worried that the MOA's Bureau of Fisheries is overly keen on utilisation, meaning no hope of improvement for these animals. “We hope to see protection and utilisation separated in future reforms, rather than both going on at the same time by the same authority,” she said.

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# Spill cleanup to take years – Russia

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

June 12, 2020

**MOSCOW:** Russian investigators have detained three staff of a power plant over a huge fuel spill in the Arctic, as response teams warned a full clean-up would take years.



*A worker of the Russian Emergency ministry intervenes on a diesel spill pollution in a river outside Norilsk, on June 6, 2020. Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 3, ordered a state of emergency and criticised a subsidiary of metals giant Norilsk Nickel after a massive diesel spill into a Siberian river. The spill of over 20,000 tonnes of diesel fuel took place on May 29, 2020. A fuel reservoir collapsed at a power plant near the city of Norilsk, located above the Arctic Circle, and leaked into a nearby river.*

*Irina YARINSKAYA / AFP*

The spill of over 21,000 tonnes of fuel took place after a fuel reservoir collapsed last month at a power plant operated by a subsidiary of metals giant Norilsk Nickel in the city of Norilsk. It is the largest ever to have hit the Arctic, say environmentalists.

Those working at the site have already seen the first effects of the spill on the local ecosystem, said Viktor Bronnikov, general director of Transneft Siberia oil and gas transportation company involved in the clean-up.

They included dead muskrats and ducks, he said.

The Investigative Committee looking into the accident said it had detained the director of the power station, Pavel Smirnov, and two engineers on suspicion of breaching environmental protection rules.

If convicted, they would risk up to five years in prison. “The company considers this measure to be unjustifiably harsh,” Norilsk Nickel said in a statement to AFP, citing vice-president Nikolai Utkin. All three “are cooperating with law enforcement authorities and now they would be much more useful at the scene of the clean-up operation”, he added.

At the scene at a remote area in the Norilsk industrial district, Bronnikov of Transneft Siberia said that the situation was stabilising, but that the clean-up team had seen animals and birds apparently killed by the spill.

“Today I myself saw dead muskrats,” he told AFP, adding that workers had seen ducks killed by the fuel.

“If a bird lands on the diesel fuel or a muskrat swims through it, it is condemned to death,” he said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/12/news/world/spill-cleanup-to-take-years-russia/731172/>

## 7 killed in Afghan mine blast

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

June 11, 2020

**MAZAR-I-SHARIF:** Seven workers were killed and several more feared dead in northern Afghanistan after a gas explosion caused a coal mine to collapse, an official said on Wednesday. The incident happened on Tuesday in Samangan province, where similar disasters have been reported in the past. Two workers were killed immediately when the mine caved in, while five more bodies were recovered by rescue teams during the night, said Sediq Azizi, spokesman to the provincial governor.

# Coronavirus shocks to fuel years of unrest and hunger in poorest economies

Overseas aid cuts will further stress fragile and conflict-torn countries.



A demonstrator wears a protective suit that reads 'Hunger' during a clash with riot police in a poor neighbourhood in a protest to request food parcels from the government during a general quarantine amid the spread of the coronavirus disease in Santiago, Chile.  
Image: REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

June 11, 2020

Economic shocks caused by the new coronavirus are set to fuel poverty, unrest and instability in heavily-indebted and politically fragile countries for years to come, found an international think-tank on Wednesday.

The pandemic's impacts will undo years of socio-economic development for some countries, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) said in a briefing released alongside its annual index measuring peace levels around the world.

"The worst is still to come," said Steve Killelea, head of the Australia-based IEP, which expects to see most of the peace indicators it measures fall for several years.

"The countries which are going to suffer the most are those which are currently fragile because they are the ones which generally have higher levels of food insecurity, the governments are politically less stable and economies are less robust."

Lockdowns to prevent the spread of the virus have hit economies, with the International Labour Organization estimating some 200 million would lose their jobs and the World Bank [predicting the global economy will shrink by 5 per cent](#) in 2020.

Analysts predict it will take five years for world economies to recover back to their 2019 levels, said Killelea.

Heavily-indebted countries may struggle to find cash to rebuild their economies after the coronavirus, increasing instability, riots and violence, IEP's analysis found.

The countries which are going to suffer the most are those which are currently fragile because they are the ones which generally have higher levels of food insecurity, the governments are politically less stable and economies are less robust.

Steve Killelea, chairman, Institute for Economics and Peace

Many states are also likely to cut overseas aid which will further stress fragile and conflict-torn countries, such as Liberia, Afghanistan, Burundi and South Sudan, and risks worsening humanitarian crises, it said.

Coronavirus shocks to fuel years of unrest and hunger

June 12, 2020

TITLE: in poorest economies

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Climate change and natural disasters also pose a growing threat to peace, said the IEP, which found global peacefulness has deteriorated worldwide over the past year.

Global peacefulness has declined 2.5 per cent since 2008, found the index, which gives countries a peace score of between 1 and 5, based on 23 indicators measuring levels of conflicts, societal safety and militarisation.

Vidya Diwakar, a researcher at the Overseas Development Institute think-tank, predicted the impact of the pandemic would be felt beyond fragile states, driving poverty and hunger, which can trigger unrest, in many countries. “With such a crisis of this sort which affects so many dimensions ... there are likely to be long-term impacts,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation from London.

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Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/coronavirus-shocks-to-fuel-years-of-unrest-and-hunger-in-poorest-economies/>