

# DENR asks authorities to impose maximum punishment on habitual environmental law offenders

Published June 14, 2020, 8:05 PM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu on Sunday (June 14) appealed to authorities to ensure the imposition of maximum punishment on habitual environmental law offenders.



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu  
(RTVM / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

The DENR chief made the statement after an illegal wildlife trader who was apprehended and charged last year was again caught in an entrapment operation in Sampaloc, Manila last June 6.

“This illegal wildlife trader probably thought he could do it again and get away with it. Now, I call on the police, the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), and government prosecutors to make sure this repeat offender of the country’s wildlife protection law will face [a] heftier fine and spend more time in jail,” Cimatu said.

Sharon Jonjon Lim, a resident of Sta. Mesa, Manila, was supposed to sell two brahminy kites (*Haliastur indus*), locally known as “lawin,” for P10,000 each to a policeman who posed as buyer of the endangered birds.

After his arrest, the police and DENR wildlife law enforcers led by BMB senior ecosystems management specialist Rogelio Demelletes conducted a followup operation at Lim’s residence where they also recovered a white-breasted sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), and a changeable hawk-eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*).

All four raptors seized from Lim were turned over to the BMB.

Lim was also nabbed for illegal possession and trade of 13 rare animals, including three peregrine falcons worth P250,000 on the black market, in August last year.

He is again facing criminal charges for violating Republic Act No. 9147, otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Under the law, violators may be sentenced to up to six years imprisonment and fined up to P1 million.

Lim was convicted in the previous offense and was sentenced to a jail term of up to two years and fined P40,000. Since his sentence was less than two years, Lim applied for probation.

However, Demelletes pointed out that Lim, being a repeat offender, no longer qualifies for probation.

“Since he (Lim) repeated the illegal act twice, he might be serving a longer period of jail time and a higher penalty for his unwarranted actions,” he said.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/14/denr-asks-authorities-to-impose-maximum-punishment-on-habitual-environmental-law-offenders/>

Maximum punishment, nais ni Cimatú sa paulit-ulit na lumalabag sa environmental laws

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## Maximum punishment, nais ni Cimatú sa paulit-ulit na lumalabag sa environmental laws

June 14, 2020 @ 3:48 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang maprotektahan ang mga likas na yaman hiniling ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa mga awtoridad na mapatawan ng mabigat na parusa ang mga paulit-ulit na lumalabag sa environmental laws matapos na maaresto ang isang illegal wildlife trader sa entrapment operation sa Sampaloc Manila noong Hunyo 6 na nauna na ring naaresto sa parehas na paglabag noong isang taon.

“This illegal wildlife trader probably thought he could do it again and get away with it. Now, I call on the police, the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and government prosecutors to make sure this repeat offender of the country’s wildlife protection law will face heftier fine and spend more time in jail,” sabi pa ni Cimatú.

Ang pahayag na ito ni Cimatú ay patungkol sa muling pagkakaaresto sa 45-anyos na si Sharon Jonjon Lim na nadakip dahil sa pagbebenta ng “illegally trafficked wildlife species” sa isinagawang entrapment operation ng Sampaloc police sa pakikipagtulungan ng BMB ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon sa DENR si Lim na residente ng Sta. Mesa, Manila ay nakatakdang magbenta ng dalawang brahminy kites (*Haliastur indus*) o mas kilala sa tawag na lawin sa halagang P10,000 bawat isa sa pulis na nagpanggap na buyer ng endangered birds.

Matapos ang pagkakaaresto ay agad na nagsagawa ng follow-up operation ang mga pulis kasama ang representante ng BMB na si senior ecosystem management specialist Rogelio Demelletes sa bahay ni Lim kung saan ay nakuha sa pag-iingat nito ang white-breasted sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) at changeable hawk-eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*). Ang apat na species na nakuha kay Lim ay ibinigay sa pangangalaga ng BMB.

Nabatid pa sa DENR na si Lim ay ikalawang beses nang naaresto dahil sa illegal wildlife trade. Noong Agosto ng nakalipas na taon nang madakip ito sa parehas na kaso at nakuha din sa pag-iingat nito ang 13 rare animals kabilang ang tatlong peregrine falcons na may halagang P250,000 bawat isa sa black market.

Sa ikalawang pagkakataon ay muling mahaharap si Lim sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o mas kilala sa tawag na Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. Base sa batas, ang sinumang maaresto sa naturang kaso ay maaaring makulong ng hanggang anim na taon at may multa na aabot hanggang P1 milyon.

Maximum punishment, nais ni Cimatú sa paulit-ulit na

June 15, 2020

TITLE: lumalabag sa environmental laws

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Si Lim ay nahatulan na sa parehas na kaso at napatawan ng parusang pagkakulong ng dalawang taon at multang P40,000 ngunit dahil mababa lamang ang sentensiya ay nakakuha ito ng probation.

Ayon kay Demelletes, dahil sa paulit-ulit na paglabag ay hindi na muli pang makakakuha ng probation si Lim.

“Since he (Lim) repeated the illegal act twice, he might be serving a longer period of jail time and a higher penalty for his unwarranted actions,” sabi pa ni Demelletes. **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://remate.ph/maximum-punishment-nais-ni-cimatu-sa-paulit-ulit-na-lumalabag-sa-environmental-laws/>



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Maximum punishment nais ni Cimatu sa paulit-ulit na lumalabag sa environmental laws

Hiniling ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa mga awtoridad na mapatawan ng mabigat na parusa ang mga paulit-ulit na lumalabag sa environmental laws matapos na maaresto ang isang illegal wildlife trader sa entrapment operation sa Sampaloc, Manila noong Hunyo 6 na nauna na ring naaresto sa parehas na paglabag noong isang taon.

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June 13 at 2:15 PM · 🌐

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### Boracay rehab tatapusin ng task force sa May 2021

Target ng inter-agency task force na pinamumunuan ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na tapusin ang isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Boracay sa Mayo ng susunod na taon bagama't pansamantalang isinarado ang isla upang maiwasan ang paglaganap ng COVID-19.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang isang taong ibinigay na "extension" sa Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) ay sapat na upang matapos ang mga naantalang trabaho upang maibalik ang ganda ng tinaguriang "world-famous resort island."

Base sa nilagdaang Executive Order (EO) 115 ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte, binibigyan ng "extension" ang BIATF na pinamumunuan ni Cimatu na tatagal hanggang Mayo 2021 na dapat sana ay natapos nitong Mayo 8, 2020 o dalawang taon matapos itong buuin sa pamamagitan ng EO 53.

The new EO gives us another year and directs us to finish the rehabilitation of Boracay," saad pa ni Cimatu sa ginanap na BIATF Principals' Meeting na idinaos sa Boracay nitong Hunyo 11. "We aim to do that as we propose a bill in Congress that would create a permanent management group for the island."

Ang tinutukoy na ito ni Cimatu ay ang iminungkahing "legislative measure" na bubuo sa Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) na isang "independent body" na mangangasiwa sa implementasyon upang matiyak na masusubaybayan ang mga isinaayos sa isla partikular na ang mga nagawa ng BIATF.

"We want to preserve all the good things that resulted from rehabilitation of Boracay and which brought it back to its rightful place as one of the best islands in the world," dagdag pa ni Cimatu.

Sa kasalukuyan, sinabi ni Cimatu na tututukan ng task force ang mga prayoridad nito para sa rehabilitasyon ng Boracay hanggang Mayo 2021 kabilang na dito ang pagpapatupad ng "easement laws" upang tuluyang mailalis ang mga nakasagabal sa beachfront at iba pang roads obstructions. Nitong Hunyo 8, ang 25+5-meter easement ay nasa 69 percent nang maayos habang ang 12-meter road easement ay nasa 73 percent na.

Titiyakin din ng task force na masusunod ang "capacity regulations" sa Boracay na hanggang 6,405 na turista lamang kada araw ang papayagang makapasok sa isla kapag binuksan itong muli sa turista. Ang Boracay at iba pang "tourism destination" sa bansa ay isinara sa mga turista simula nitong Marso nang ipatupad ang enhanced community quarantine upang mapigilan ang paglaganap ng COVID-19.

Nitong Hunyo 16 nang muling buksan ang isla ngunit ito ay para lamang sa mga residente ng Western Visayas matapos itong ilagay sa mas maluwag na modified general community quarantine.

Plano din ng BIATF na ipatupad ang moratorium sa konstruksiyon ng mga residential at commercial establishments upang matiyak ang pagsunod sa "physical carrying capacity" na inilabas sa Boracay.

Upang matiyak din ang maayos na water quality sa isla ay regular ang isasagawang environmental compliance monitoring para sa tubig ng Environmental Management Bureau at maglalagay din ng mas maraming sewage treatment plants (STPs).

Ayon naman sa mga naging resulta sa mga monitoring stations sa Boracay nitong huling anim na buwan, ang water quality ng tubig sa dagat ay nasa standard limit na 100 most probable number (mpn) per 100 milliliters (ml). Sa mga naging resulta, mayroon lamang 1 mpn/100 ml hanggang 7.1 mpn/100 ml ang tubig sa isla.

Karamihan din ng commercial establishments ay sumunod sa patakaran na magkaroon ng sariling STP o kaya naman ay kumonekta sa sewage line ng kanilang water service providers. Samantala, kinakailangan namang magkaroon ng "clusterized" STP ang mga residential areas.

Isa rin sa tinututukan ay ang pagtatapos sa mga road projects ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at ang drainage projects ng Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

Plano na ring simulant ang Phase 3 ng DPWH road projects habang ang Phase 1 nito ay tapos na samantalang ng Phase 2 naman ay nasa 70 percent na. Ang TIEZA drainage projects ay 93 percent completed na para sa Phases 1 at 2 habang 47 percent na ang Phases 1A, 3, 4 at 5.

Isinusulong din ng BIATF na matapos na ang rehabilitasyon ng mga wetland sa pamamagitan ng kanilang "corporate adoptors", Energy Development Corp. para sa Wetland No. 2, Aboitiz at TIEZA para sa Wetland No. 4, Boracay Tubi System para sa Wetland No. 6 at ang JG Summit para sa Wetland No. 8. Photo credit: Rappler

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# Intervention of Puerto Princesa police chief in DENR operation condemned

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Published June 14, 2020, 3:44 PM

By *Aira Genesa Magdayao*

**PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan** – Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu condemned the reported arrest of environment personnel by the Philippine National Police (PNP) here.



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu  
(DENR / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

“It is totally unacceptable that these environmental enforcers who continue to perform their duties despite the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) pandemic have to suffer violence at the hands of the police,” Cimatu said in a statement.

P/Col. Marion Balonglong has been relieved as Puerto Princesa City police chief after he allegedly pointed his gun and arrested foresters under the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) who were scheduled to serve a notice to vacate on illegal settlers at a mangrove area in Barangay Bucana last June 10.

According to Barangay Bucana official Ryan Abueme, the CENRO personnel were not able to serve the notice to vacate because of the intervention of Balonglong and his companions.

Abueme said the CENRO personnel were ordered to lie down on the ground while a gun was pointed at them.

Balonglong was subsequently relieved from his post last June 12.

But Puerto Princesa City Information Officer Richard Ligad said Balonglong had asked that he be relieved of his post.

“(Balonglong) told me he personally requested his relief. We had a good relationship with him,” Ligad said.

P/Col. Sergio Vibar will be replacing Balonglong.

# Puerto Princesa police chief axed

By: [Melvin Gascon](#), [Romar Miranda](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:06 AM June 14, 2020



Marion Balonglong —LASPINACITY.GOV.PH

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan, Philippines — Col. Marion Balonglong was relieved as chief of the Puerto Princesa City Police Office (PPCPO) on Friday two days after he was linked to the alleged illegal arrest and maltreatment of eight forest guards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) personnel and two barangay tanods (village watchmen) in the city.

The relief order issued by Police Gen. Archie Gamboa, the Philippine National Police chief, came a day after Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu called for a “swift resolution” of the incident that happened in Barangay Matahimik of the city on Wednesday.

“It is totally unacceptable that these environmental enforcers who continue to perform their duties despite the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have to suffer violence at the hands of the police, who should be assisting them in their operations,” Cimatu said in a statement.

Gamboa, in a separate statement on Saturday, said Balonglong will face an investigation on the accusation of police brutality while conducting the arrest of the forest guards.

“The allegations against Balonglong are serious and his relief is an administrative action to preclude any possibility of undue influence in the ongoing investigation,” Gamboa said.

Balonglong, a former chief of the Las Piñas City police, had previously been relieved from his post in the National Capital Region city along with 36 members of his station’s Drug Enforcement Unit after they were linked to an abduction-extortion case of an arrested drug suspect in 2018.

He will be replaced in his post here by Police Col. Sergio Vivar Jr., the chief of the personnel management office of the PNP-Mimaropa regional office. Vivar is expected to assume the PPCPO post on Monday.

## Dismayed

Lawyer Arnel Pedrosa, this city’s administrator, said they were dismayed by the maltreatment of the forest guards and the village watchmen and welcomed Balonglong’s relief.

“We are not happy of course and the city government will not tolerate any wrongdoing,” Pedrosa said.



Three Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) foresters, four forest rangers and one forest protection officer along with two barangay watchmen were conducting an investigation on the illegal occupation and massive mangrove cutting at Sitio Bucana of Barangay Matahimik when they were intercepted by a group of policemen led by Balonglong.

The DENR team initially thought Balonglong's group was the police security they requested to assist them in their operation until they were suddenly subjected to full body search and told to lie down on the ground.

After the body search, all ten of them were ordered to board a police vehicle, which brought them to a vacant lot supposedly owned by Balonglong.

#### Kicked and punched

The police chief allegedly made one of the forest rangers, Roldan Alvarez, kneel while he and his companions were being interrogated about their purpose in going to the mangrove site.

Balonglong, while allegedly holding a gun, allegedly repeatedly kicked and punched Alvarez, whom the former accused of stealing galvanized iron sheets.

The ten men were later brought to the police station in Barangay San Pedro where Cenro officer Felizardo Cayatoc, who approved of the mangrove inspection, pleaded for their release.

Balonglong ordered their release only after a long dialogue with Cayatoc and after the latter agreed to sign a document stating that the DENR personnel were "in good mental and physical condition" when they were turned over to him, according to a DENR statement issued on Friday. In reality, Alvarez sustained wounds and bruises due to Balonglong's alleged beating, the statement said.

#### Unfortunate incident

The DENR Lawyers Guild Inc. (DENRLGI), in a separate statement, condemned the "unfortunate" incident, considering that the PNP is supposed to be the DENR's partner in enforcing environmental laws in the province. "What is more distressing is that this incident happened on June 10, the DENR's 33rd anniversary," said Lawyer Camilo Garcia, president of the DENRLGI.

Levi Evangelista, information officer of the Iwahig Penal Prison Farm (IPPF), confirmed there were illegal settlers at the parcels of land in Barangay Matahimik that IPPF has been claiming to be part of its territory.

He said several operations were conducted in the past to evict settlers who were deforesting the area but they kept on coming back.

## Puerto Princesa PNP chief sacked for DENR staff ‘maltreatment’

By [Darwin Pesco](#)

June 14, 2020

PUERTO Princesa police chief PCol. Marion Balonglong was relieved from service on Saturday for allegedly maltreating and apprehending Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Archie Francisco Gamboa announced on Saturday the administrative relief of Balonglong, who was reportedly involved in the maltreatment of DENR personnel on Wednesday.

The DENR team was investigating the illegal cutting down of mangrove trees in Barangay Bucana-Matahimik, Puerto Princesa and was advising residents to vacate the area.

The team was then arrested by local police, who supposedly aimed their guns at the environmentalists.

The sacked Puerto Princesa City PNP chief is now under investigation.



## **DLGI, kinondena ang ilegal na pag-aresto at pagkulong sa Forest Protection Officers sa Palawan**

*June 14, 2020 @ 8:55 AM 24 hours ago*

Manila, Philippines – Mariing kinondena ng DENR Lawyers Guild, Inc. (DLGI) ang labag sa batas na pagaresto at ilegal na pagkulong sa empleyado ng DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Puerto Princesa City, isang representante ng City Government Bantay Bakawan, at official mula sa Brgy. Matahimik Resettlement Area, na nag-iimbestiga sa ilegal na pag-okupa at pagputol ng mga mangrove trees sa Sito Bucana, Brgy. Iwahig, Puerto Princesa City Palawan noong Hunyo 10, 2020.

Ayon pa sa DENR Lawyers Guild ang DENR Team ay gumagawa ng kanilang trabaho para imbestigahan ang ilegal na pag-okupa sa forestland at pagpuputol ng mangrove trees nang arestuhin sila ng mga tauhan ng pulis sa pamumuno ng Director ng Philippine National Police Puerto Princesa Marion Balonglong, sakabila na nagpakilala ang mga tauhan ng DENR na sila ay empleyado ng ahensya sa Puerto Princesa City Environmental and Natural Resources Office.

Nauna rito hiniling ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mabilisang resolusyon sa kasong ilegal na pag-aresto at police brutality sa grupo ng environmental enforcers sa kamay ng mga tauhan ni Puerto Princesa City Police Director Col. Marion Balonglong.

Ayon kay Cimatu ang ilegal na pag-aresto sa walong (8) empleyado ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at dalawang iba pa habang ginagawa ng mga ito ang kanilang trabaho sa Barangay Iwahig, Puerto Princesa City noong Hulyo 10, 2020 ay maituturing na paglabag sa karapatan pantao ng mga empleyado ng DENR.

Sinabi pa ng grupo ng mga abogado ng DENR na ang mga tauhan ng PNP ay kapartner sana ng DENR sa pagpapatupad sa environmental laws at hindi protector ng mga lumalabag environmental laws na nilagdaan ng President ng DENR Lawyers Guild, Inc. ATTY. Camilo D. Garcia. **Santi Celario**



## EDITORIAL - Protecting the environment protectors

(The Philippine Star) - June 15, 2020 - 12:00am

Palawan is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park. The province is also considered a biodiversity corridor, serving as a refuge for both marine and terrestrial threatened species. Despite illegal logging, the province has managed to retain approximately 50 percent of its original forest cover.

Through eco-tourism, the province knows the value of protecting the environment. Yet being the custodian of natural blessings is no easy task. Foreign poachers continue to threaten marine life around Palawan and locals continue to sell endangered pangolins mainly to Chinese traders. Illegal loggers threaten the forests.

The government, through the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, has moved to protect Palawan's rich biodiversity. Last Wednesday, however, police officers themselves reportedly prevented CENRO personnel from evicting people who have illegally occupied a critical mangrove area and are cutting down mangrove trees.

CENRO members are appointed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. But a police team led by Puerto Princesa chief Col. Marion Balonglong reportedly stopped the serving of the eviction notice, ignoring a mission order and other documents. At gunpoint, the police reportedly brought the CENRO team together with members of the city's anti-squatting office and village peacekeepers to the police station, where those apprehended were detained for several hours. Balonglong allegedly kicked and slapped the CENRO team leader.

Mangroves account for 4.4 percent of Palawan's total area, occupying about 63,532 hectares. The province was declared a mangrove forest reserve in 1981, and the Forestry Code prohibits cutting of mangrove trees.

Environmental defenders have faced violent resistance in Palawan. In 2017, barangay official Ruben Arzaga was shot dead while on patrol. Last year, forest ranger Bienvenido Veguilla Jr. was hacked to death.

On May 21 this year, Subterranean River ranger Guillermo Celino was shot and wounded by suspected illegal loggers Fernando Mameng and his son Fernando Jr. At least in this case, the elder Mameng was taken into police custody; his son is at large. Officials should find out why the Puerto Princesa police prevented the CENRO team from carrying out its mandate. Protecting Palawan's environment is challenging enough.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/06/15/2020944/editorial-protecting-environment-protectors>

DENR nag-donate ng face masks, face shields sa  
office of Civil Defense

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## DENR NAG-DONATE NG FACE MASKS, FACE SHIELDS SA OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE

June 14, 2020 @ 12:02 PM 21 hours ago

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

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

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

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

Ang turnover ng medical supplies sa OCD ay pinangunahan nina USecs. Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., Jonas R. Leones, Antiporda at ASec. Fragada.

Ikatlong bahagi ito ng ComPassion Project na inisyatibo ng DENR officials at employees sa pakikipagtulungan ng Career Executive Service Board na pinamumunuan ni OIC-Executive Director Hiro Masuda na layuning matulungan ang mga nangangailangang komunidad.

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

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

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

DENR nag-donate ng face masks, face shields sa  
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Ang unang bahagi ng ComPassion Project ay sinimulan sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng relief goods sa mga nangangailangang komunidad habang ang ikalawang bahagi naman ay inilaan sa mga medical frontliner sa Quezon City na nabiyayaan ng PPE at food packs.

Ang naturang lungsod ang nakapagtala ng pinakamaraming kaso ng COVID-19 sa Metro Manila.

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

## EMB 3 denies request to blacklist firm

*posted* June 14, 2020 at 08:25 pm

by [Butch Aquino](#)

Hermosa, Bataan—The Environmental Management Bureau in Region 3 (EMB-3) has denied the request of Hermosa Mayor Jopet Inton to blacklist Econest Waste Management Corp. from undertaking any waste management facility in the future.

Inton wrote EMB 3 on March 2, 2020 but was disappointed with the bureau's reply, release to media over the weekend.

"With regard in the blacklisting of Econest Waste Management Corporation and its officers from undertaking any waste management facility in the future, this Office has no mandate on the concern," EMB 3 Regional Director Wilson L. Trajeco wrote to Inton dated May 6, 2020.

In February, the Hermosa local government padlocked the town's sanitary landfill facility being operated by Econest for purported violations of environmental laws.

Econest was operating the landfill under a public-private partnership with the Hermosa LGU.

EMB 3 also denied the request of Inton to revoke the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) of Econest over the Hermosa landfill and have the landfill rehabilitation at the expense of the company.

"The request for relief of ECC cannot be granted. Based on the Revised Procedural Manual for DAO 2003-30, ECC may only be suspended for violations of Proponent to comply with any of the ECC conditions," said Trajeco.

"The undersigned posed no objection with the issuance of order for the immediate full rehabilitation of the landfill as it is deemed necessary. Result of laboratory analyses showed that significant effluent parameters have high concentration which most likely can be damaging if care and maintenance or rehabilitation would not be undertaken," the EMB 3 regional director wrote.

"With regards to who shall shoulder the cost, may we recommend for Hermosa LGU and Econest to revisit their MOA PPP Agreement or bring it to the right forum for issuance of decision," Trajeco further wrote.

# IM4Manila Bay Program: Sustainable solutions, science needed beyond cleanup

By [Rizal Raoul Reyes](#)

June 14, 2020

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES



March 14, 2017 Sentinel-2 image



Development of Integrated Mapping, Monitoring, and Analytical Network System for Manila Bay and Linked Environments



Satellite image processing for mapping of water quality and other features

Manila Bay is facing gargantuan pollution challenges that need to be addressed.

In response, the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) agency, the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) recently launched the "Integrated Mapping, Monitoring, Modelling, and Management Systems and Linked Environments (IM4Manila Bay Program) for the "complete rehabilitation, restoration and conservation" of the Manila Bay using scientific research and development methods.

The two-year (2020-2022) program with a total fund of PP40,616,786.52 from the DOST will be led by Dr. Ariel C. Blanco.

It will be implemented by the University of the Philippines Diliman College of Engineering, through the Training Center for Applied Geodesy and Photogrammetry (UP TCAGP) and the Institute of Civil Engineering (UP ICE).

The DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) will manage and monitor the program.

### Collaboration to rehabilitate Manila Bay

The IM4ManilaBay Program was conceptualized when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) asked the DOST how the latter can support the rehabilitation efforts in response to a call for a collaborative effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay, as echoed during the Battle for Manila Bay campaign launched in January 2019, DOST-PCIEERD told the BusinessMirror in an e-mail interview.

Initially, seven projects were conceptualized which were presented to the DENR and the task force with the assistance of PCIEERD, until four were eventually "selected."

The four projects will provide valuable data and information for monitoring and evaluating whether intervention measures are translating to overall improvement of bay water quality.

Evaluation and utilization of technologies are expected to result in improved management of solid waste and dredge materials. Models and simulations of scenarios can be used for evaluating future impacts of activities (e.g.: reclamation) and intervention measures.



IM4Manila Bay Program: Sustainable solutions,  
TITLE: science needed beyond clean up

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

### Rehabilitation is beyond cleanup

Prior to the launching of the campaign, the DENR recorded extremely high fecal coliform levels from different water quality monitoring stations. But most recent data shows that coliform levels have “drastically decreased” just a year after rehab efforts, DOST-PCIEERD said.

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

From prerehabilitation record of 35 million mpn/100ml at the Raja Soliman/Remedios drainage outfall, coliform level went down to 11 million mpn/100ml.

Fecal coliform levels give a general indication of the water condition in Manila Bay—the higher the count, the higher the water contamination is.

The IM4ManilaBay Program is instrumental and contributory to President Duterte’s Administrative Order 16 Series of 2019, “Expediting the Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystem of the Manila Bay and Creating the Manila Bay Task Force.”

It is also in response to the 2008 Supreme Court Mandamus ordering various government agencies to “clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation.”

Based on the mentioned data, however, there is still a long way to go to reach the standard fecal coliform level of 100 mpn/100ml for its supposed Class SB classification.

This shows that the rehabilitation of Manila Bay goes beyond clean up drives and sustainable solutions backed up by scientific data must be established and institutionalized, the DOST-PCIEERD said.

### Project e-Smart

One of the four projects in the IM4ManilaBay campaign is the “Ecosystems Modeling and Material Transport: Analysis for the Rehabilitation of Manila Bay,” or Project e-Smart.

In his presentation during the virtual news conference, project leader Dr. Eugene Herrera pointed out that the rehabilitation of the world-famous bay needs to tackle the challenges, such as forest mangrove degradation, waste disposal, shore land encroachment, eutrophication and shellfish poisoning.

Herrera admitted that rehabilitating Manila Bay is a herculean endeavor because it serves as the single outlet of all rainfalls and streams coming from more than 150 rivers.

Moreover, Manila Bay has water system links to Laguna Lake via the Pasig River. The primary objective of e-Smart is to streamline solution interventions for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay through hydrodynamic and material transport analysis of the integrated Manila Bay-Pasig River, Laguna Lake and surrounding watersheds system using numerical modeling.

Furthermore, Project e-Smart will provide as much scientific information as possible, including scenario analysis of various coastal development like reclamation, among others, and their corresponding impacts with regard to the hydrodynamics and water quality dynamics of the Manila Bay environment.

Methodologies to be implemented include hydrologic, hydrodynamic, surge-wave and material transport characterization, bio-chemical characterization, geo-simulation modeling and model scenario analysis

Herrera said e-SMART hopes to publish its research output for knowledge dissemination to the public and peer-reviewed journals; file patents for patentable products and technologies; participate in conferences; produce models, maps, time-series plots, knowledge and modules, develop scenario-based analysis capacity-building for researchers, professors and students; knowledge transfer to cooperating agencies; increased efficiency and expertise in the hydrologic, hydraulic and hydrodynamic research; and provide science-based recommendations to national and local policies to support Manila Bay rehabilitation.

As far as the controversial Manila Bay reclamation project is concerned, Herrera stressed that that only a comprehensive benefit/cost analysis can provide realistic, comprehensive and unbiased assessment of the feasibility of such development.

“Considering that such studies should not only quantify the tangible items but also the intangible ones— stakeholder-specific appreciation of the development for example—a full blown cost/benefit analysis is beyond the project’s scope vis-a-vis its available time and resources. Project e-SMART, therefore, reserves such role to the mandated government agencies like [DENR] or the National Economic and Development Authority instead,” Herrera told the BusinessMirror in an e-mail interview.

### Three other projects

The other three projects in the IM4Manila Bay Program include: Integrated Waste Analysis, Survey and Technological Options (Project Iwasto): Development of Integrated Mapping, Monitoring and Analytical Network Systems for Manila Bay and Linked Environments (Project MapAble); and Management not Dredged Material Characterization, Treatment and Disposal (Project CharTED DreaM).

Project Iwasto, led by Dr. Maria Antonia N. Tanchuling, aims to describe and assess the solid waste management (SWM) activities in communities that are part of the Manila Bay watershed.

It also intends to set up appropriate waste-utilization technologies to process biodegradable and plastic wastes in selected communities. SWM information, such as waste characteristics and available facilities, will also be systemized and made available to the general public.

Project MapAble, with by Dr. Ariel C. Blanco at the helm, aims to develop and deploy an integrated system for mapping and monitoring the water quality of Manila Bay and linked systems, including major tributary rivers, using geospatial technologies and citizen science.

Project CharTeD DreaM, led by Engr. Reynaldo L. Esguerra, aims to provide technology for the management and utilization of dredged materials collected from Tullahan-Tinajeros River System.

The dredged materials will undergo characterization, pretreatment, chemical treatment and immobilization studies. Design of pilot treatment facility will be developed for the utilization of treated dredged materials into concrete aggregates.

*With Lyn Resurreccion*

Research confirms presence of PHL eagle in

TITLE: Zamboanga City

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# Research confirms presence of PHL eagle in Zamboanga City

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

June 14, 2020



*A Philippine eagle pair soaring together.*

All hope is not lost for the iconic Philippine eagle. An on-going research on the world's largest bird of prey in Zamboanga City confirmed the presence of at least one Philippine eagle family in Pasonanca Natural Park in the city.

A series of expeditions was started in October 2019 by the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) and its partners, the Zamboanga City government, Zamboanga City Water District, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Protect Wildlife Project.

The announcement of the find made by the USAID in a news release came in time for the celebration of the Philippine Eagle Week on June 4 to 10.

The critically endangered Philippine eagle is endemic to the Philippines, or can be found nowhere else in the world. Around 400 pairs of this rare eagle species are left in the wild.

While PEF has led Philippine eagle studies and confirmed the presence of the eagle in various parts of the region, an eagle subpopulation in the Zamboanga Peninsula, including those in Pasonanca, is yet to be studied and fully understood.

The PEF, USAID and partners in Zamboanga City have rolled out last year the first-ever field study to survey Philippine eagles and find an active nest inside Pasonanca Natural Park.

The 17,000-hectare protected area is one of the few remaining intact forests in Zamboanga Peninsula, making it an important habitat for many bird species and other wildlife.

Jayson Ibañez, PEF director for Research and Conservation, said there are possibly three more eagle pairs in Pasonanca based on reported sightings of the monkey-eating eagle by forest protectors and traces of their existence, such as feathers, on the forest grounds.

The field study aims to locate nesting sites in the park, record and observe behaviors of resident eagles, and tag and monitor live Philippine eagles.

Research confirms presence of PHL eagle in

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Finally, on the morning of December 4, 2019, as the team spotted a male eagle flying from a tree canopy after delivering food, an adult female eagle emerged into view from a thicket of ferns.

The team observed the nest and its feathered dwellers, including a healthy and well-fed one-month-old eaglet.

This was the first active Philippine eagle nest recorded in Pasonanca and the third in the whole Zamboanga Peninsula.

“The presence of an eagle nesting pair and its young is strong proof that conservation is working in the park,” Ibañez explained.

“Eagles breed and nest only in safe and healthy forest habitats. If forests are intact, that means the rest of biodiversity therein is also diverse and thriving,” he added.

In January 2020, however, upon the team’s return, the nest was already empty. Ibañez believes that the chick died of natural causes, which is not unusual especially in the wild.

But in February and March, the eagle pair were again spotted showing courtship behavior, 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 pair can still reneest and lay a new egg.

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.

Research being conducted by experts aim to 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,” Ibañez said.

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



Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said many Filipinos now believe that life is better in the province as the Philippines faces the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

The STAR/Joven Cagande

## 'Balik Probinsya' to return – Palace

[Alexis Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 15, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The “Balik Probinsya, Balik Pag-Asa” program will resume after the government has assisted the people stranded in Metro Manila, according to Malacañang.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said many Filipinos now believe that life is better in the province as the Philippines faces the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

“I think in the medium and long-term, (the Balik Probinsya) will continue. Because of this crisis, many Filipinos suddenly realized that life is better in the province. At least in the province, you won’t go hungry, you can plant crops, you can catch fish,” Roque told GMA News over the weekend.

“We are just waiting for the improvement of the capacities of the provinces, for them to have their own swabbing (centers) and (polymerase chain reaction) test laboratories so that they can undergo tests in Manila before they go home, and there will also be testing in the provinces before they return to their homes,” he added.

The “Balik Probinsya, Balik Pag-Asa” program, which was created through Executive Order 114, seeks to “ensure balanced regional development and equitable distribution of wealth, resources and opportunities through policies and programs that boost countryside development.”

The program offers cash, education, health, livelihood and housing assistance to people who will return to their provinces to decongest Metro Manila.

About 53,000 persons have expressed interest to avail themselves of the benefits of the program.

Gabriela party-list, however, has warned that the program could lead to a wave of coronavirus infections because of lack of mass testing.

Ormoc City Mayor Richard Gomez has also criticized the supposed lack of coordination on the arrival of Balik Probinsya beneficiaries, but officials have denied this.

Last Friday, Balik Probinsya executive director and National Housing Authority general manager Marcelino Escalada Jr. announced that the program would be suspended to prioritize the return of people stranded in Metro Manila, like overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), construction workers, students and tourists.

Escalada said Balik Probinsya trips might resume next month if the number of stranded persons going to provinces goes down.

Roque said all people who were sent home to the provinces had undergone COVID testing.

“That’s why it’s surprising that there are people with COVID-19 who went home (to their provinces),” the Palace spokesman said in Filipino.

More than 25,000 people have been infected by the coronavirus, according to latest data from the Department of Health.

### **'More organized' Balik Probinsya**

Meanwhile, Vice President Leni Robredo yesterday called for a “more organized” Balik Probinsya program of the government, noting the importance of providing livelihood in the countryside to make the initiative successful.

“Balik Probinsya is not that easy... it must be organized. If there are no jobs waiting for the returning residents, they’ll just return (to Metro Manila),” Robredo said over radio station dzXL.

The Vice President also appealed to the national government to closely coordinate with local government units (LGUs) receiving the stranded Filipinos from Metro Manila.

She said some of those who tested negative for the COVID-19 a few months ago might be already infected by the time they leave the capital.

“This happened because of unsystematic procedure and lack of coordination with the LGUs,” Robredo said in Filipino.

Two beneficiaries of the Balik Probinsya program reportedly tested positive after arriving in Leyte from the National Capital Region.

Hundreds of OFWs and locally stranded individuals camped out under the Ninoy Aquino International Airport’s elevated expressway last week while waiting for their flights to their respective destinations.

The stranded passengers were brought to the nearby Villamor Airbase Elementary School and Philippine Army Wellness Center in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

### Medical clearance certificates

In another development, police will start requiring all domestic passengers to show medical clearance certificates (MCC) before boarding ships and airlines as a preventive measure against the spread of COVID-19.

Joint Task Force COVID Shield commander Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar said the move would ensure the safety of all passengers and harmonize protocols being implemented by LGUs as the government turned its focus to the “Hatid Tulong” program for the speedy transport to the provinces of stranded people, especially returning OFWs.

“The MCC for travelers is one of the minimum health safety protocols that we have to continuously observe for the safety of everybody because as we have been saying even before, the threat of coronavirus infection is still high,” Eleazar said.

The move came after airline industry stakeholders asked the government to require all domestic passengers to produce a medical clearance certificate before they are allowed to board the plane.

Eleazar said the task force had already coordinated the measure with the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Emerging Infectious Diseases for the “strict implementation” of the policy.

“We have to require the MCC for the peace of mind not only of all ship and airline passengers, but also of local government officials and their constituents of the travelers’ points of destination across the country,” he added.

The airline industry stakeholders argued that the MCC would also help LGUs in implementing their respective quarantine protocols as the government helps ferry stranded passengers back to provinces.

Currently, locally stranded individuals and emergency travelers have to secure a travel authority approved and issued by local police chiefs and station commanders.

To secure travel authorities, MCCs issued by local health offices from the LGU of origin need to be submitted.

Eleazar said the “no MCC, no boarding” policy covers even those classified as authorized persons outside residence or APOR, whose domestic travels are allowed if they are work-related.

APORs are allowed to secure MCCs from Department of Health-accredited hospitals and clinics. **Helen Flores, Neil Jayson Servallos**

PRRD mulls MECQ, 2 other options in

TITLE: Metro Manila, Cebu

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# PRRD mulls MECQ, 2 other options in Metro Manila, Cebu

By Azer Parrocha June 14, 2020, 3:33 pm



**IATF MEETING.** President Rodrigo Roa Duterte holds a meeting with members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) at the Matina Enclaves in Davao City on June 4, 2020. Duterte is set to meet IATF-EID again on Monday (June 15) in Manila. *(Presidential photo Joey Dalumpines)*

**MANILA** – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte is weighing in on three options for the new quarantine classification to be implemented over Metro Manila and Cebu by June 16.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Duterte could retain the general community quarantine (GCQ) classification in both areas, place them in the least strict modified GCQ (MGCQ), or return them to more strict modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

*“Bahala po ang Presidente kasi binabalanse naman po natin iyong ekonomiya at sapat naman po iyong kakayahan nating magbigay ng medical care doon sa mga magkakasakit nang critical, iyong critical care capacity natin* (It would be up to the President because we are balancing the economy and enough capacity to provide medical care for critical patients),” he said in an interview over DZBB on Saturday.

MGCQ is the lowest level of community quarantine imposed by the government before the shift to the new normal.

Under MGCQ, public gatherings would be allowed up to 50 percent of the venue’s capacity and more transport options would be available.

Roque, however, said the high number of cases in Metro Manila and Cebu do not seem to deem a transition from the current GCQ to MGCQ.

*“It’s a gamble po na hinayaan na natin ang Presidente na magdesisyon* (that we’re letting the President decide),” he said.

Earlier, 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.

Duterte is set to announce the new quarantine classifications in the country on June 15.

He was supposed to meet with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) in Davao City last Thursday (June 11) but decided to move the meeting to Monday in Manila.



PRRD mulls MECQ, 2 other options in  
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On June 13, a total of 607 new Covid-19 cases were reported in the country, bringing the total to 25,392 cases with 1,074 deaths and 5,706 are recoveries.

Metro Manila has the most number of Covid-19 cases at 5,706 while Cebu City has 3,361 infections as of June 12.

Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella wanted Cebu City to remain under GCQ after June 15.

Five regions including the National Capital Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Central Visayas, the provinces of Pangasinan and Albay and the cities of Zamboanga City, Davao City, Cebu City and Mandaue are under GCQ until June 15. The rest of the country is under MGCQ. **(PNA)**

# GCQ o balik-MECQ sa Metro Manila, Cebu

By [Gemma Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 15, 2020 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, kabilang sa ikinokonsidera ng Pangulo ay kung gaano kabilis ang bilang ng pag-akyat ng kaso o ang pagdoble ng rate at capacity ng bansa sa pagbibigay ng critical care.

Presidential Photo/Albert Alcain, File

MANILA, Philippines — Ang pagpapalawig ng general community quarantine sa Metro Manila at Cebu City o ang paglalagay sa modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) ang umano'y mga pinagpipiliang opsyon ni Pangulong Duterte na ihahayag ngayong araw.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, kabilang sa ikinokonsidera ng Pangulo ay kung gaano kabilis ang bilang ng pag-akyat ng kaso o ang pagdoble ng rate at capacity ng bansa sa pagbibigay ng critical care.

Ayon pa kay Roque, ang mga datos nito ang siyang inihahanda para sa pagdedesisyon ng Pangulo ngayong araw.

Paliwanag pa ni Roque na ang MECQ ang pinaka mataas na level ng restriksyon na opsyon ng Pangulo, habang sa kasalukuyan ay umiiral na ang GCQ at ang MGCQ.

Sa ilalim ng MGCQ, pinapayagan ang public gatherings hanggang 50 porsiyento ng kapasidad ng isang lugar at pagdadagdag ng pampublikong transportasyon.

Nauna nang sinabi ni Roque na ang bilang ng kaso sa Metro Manila at Cebu na inilagay sa GCQ simula noong Hunyo 1 ay hindi pa dapat sa ganitong pagbubukas.

Samantala, iminungkahi ng ilang Senador ang patuloy na pananatili ng Metro Manila sa GCQ dahil sa patuloy na banta ng COVID-19 at pagtaas ng kaso nito.

Ayon kay Senate President Vicente Sotto III, ngayong ?June 15 hanggang June 30 dapat manatili pa rin ang MM sa GCQ dahil hindi pa rin nakikita ang pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID-19.

Para naman kay Sen. Sonny Angara, dapat manatili pa rin ang GCQ at saka pagdesisyon kung dapat bumalik sa enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) sa mga lugar na may mataas na hawahan ng impeksyon.

Nauna nang inihayag ni DILG Scretary Eduardo Año na patuloy na minomonitor ng gobyerno ang sitwasyon sa Regions II, III, IV at ang Cebu City.

Bukod sa Metro Manila, nasa ilalim pa rin ng GCQ ang Davao City, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Pangasinan at Albay.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/06/15/2020948/gcq-o-balik-mecq-sa-metro-manila-cebu/amp/>

# Is Metro Manila staying under GCQ?

By [Jocelyn Montemayor](#)

-June 15, 2020

MALACAÑANG yesterday urged the public to continue to be “homeliners” as presidential spokesman Harry Roque noted more people going out on the streets, traffic build-up and mass gatherings in Metro Manila even while the region remains under general community quarantine (GCQ).

Roque reminded everyone that all existing community quarantines imposed all over the country remain in effect as the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) has yet to give its final recommendation to President Duterte.

The GCQ is in effect in the National Capital Region (NCR)/Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley (Region 2), Central Luzon (Region 3), Calabarzon (Region 4-A), Central Visayas (Region 7), Pangasinan province, and the cities of Zamboanga, Davao, Cebu and Mandaue, while the modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) is in effect in other provinces and cities of the country until June 15.

Roque reiterated that current data on coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases show that Metro Manila and Cebu City continue to record the highest number of cases, a critical factor which would take center stage when IATF members meet again today (Monday) before they meet with the President in the afternoon.

Roque has said that data covering Metro Manila and Cebu City does not suggest that it can be downgraded to the more relaxed MGCQ and allow the opening of churches the gathering of up to 50 percent of the capacity of the venue or the increasing of public transportation capacity.

“Iyong numero talaga ng Metro Manila atsaka ng Cebu ay parang hindi pa akma na magbukas nang ganiyan (The figures for Metro Manila and Cebu are not appropriate for the opening of such establishments or resumption of operations),” Roque said.

He repeated that the IATF recommendation and subsequently the decision of the President will be based on science, including the number of current COVID cases, critical care capacity of local governments to handle and attend to the patients, and the economy.

President Duterte is expected to address the nation on Monday evening.

Roque noted that in the last few days, more and more people have been going out even if their areas are still under GCQ.

He said at present, he is already experiencing traffic now when going to Malacañang in Manila from his home in Quezon City. He said his previous 20-minute travel now is taking longer and sometimes making him late for work or his appointments.

“Ako naman po, talagang nananawagan kaunting kooperasyon po. Iyong mga huling araw, kahapon, mayroon na naman pong nagtipon-tipon, hindi po natin tinututulan ang ating mga karapatan pero sa panahon po ng COVID (I am calling for some cooperation. In these last few days, like yesterday (Saturday), there had been some gatherings. We are not curtailing one’s rights but there is still COVID),” Roque said.

“Ngayon sa panahon na nahihirapan na nga tayo na umusad dahil hindi pa rin napapababa iyong datos ng mga nagkakasakit... Please lang po, homeliners muna po uli (We are having difficulties to move forward as we have not reduced the data on the number of infected ...Please, let us continue to be homeliners),” he said.

The 17 mayors of Metro Manila are ready to comply with President Duterte’s decision on what community quarantine to impose in the NCR, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Jojo Garcia said on Sunday.

The MMC is composed of 17 mayors in 16 cities and one municipality. It is the region's the governing and policy-making body.

Garcia said all the mayors have unanimously agreed to let the IATF decide on the issue.

"We all know that IATF is a composition of experts – economic, health, and enforcement, so we really trust of the wisdom of the members of the group," he said.

Garcia said the mayors met on Saturday evening but did not send any recommendation to the IATF.

Joint Task Force COVID 19 chief Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar wants to require all domestic passengers of commercial ships and airlines to produce medical clearance certificate (MCC) before they are allowed to board.

Eleazar said he has submitted his recommendation to the IATF.

"I recommended to the IATF for its implementation," said Eleazar, the concurrent PNP deputy chief for operations, referring to the "no MCC, no boarding" scheme. The MCC will be issued by the health office of a city or town.

Eleazar said he proposed the measure after a recent dialogue with airline industry authorities and government security agencies for sea and air travels and representatives from local government units. – ***With Victor Reyes and Noel Talacay***

# Nation awaits Duterte GCQ decision

June 14, 2020 | Filed under: [Headlines, News](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)



Malacañang has said that while it was a gamble to leave it to President Duterte to decide on what will happen to the country's quarantine protocols after June 15, the public can be sure that the Chief Executive will make the right decision for the people and the economy.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque made the statement as the public awaits Duterte's announcement on what will happen to the country's quarantine, particularly in Metro Manila and Cebu City, both high-risk areas under the general community quarantine.

In an interview over Super Radyo DZBB, Roque said the President will make a decision based on what he thinks is right.

"It's a gamble po na hinayaan na natin ang Presidente na magdesisyon," he said. "Pero alam ninyo naman ang Presidente, nagdedesisyon siya sa tingin niya ay tama...So, hintayin na lang po natin talaga ang pronouncement niya," he added.

Meanwhile, Roque agreed that Metro Manila and Cebu City are better off staying under the GCQ after June 15 because of the high number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in these cities.

However, he said the country is now at the point where it cannot afford to close down the economy again. This is why, he said, the government is now focusing more on strengthening the capacity to provide healthcare.

"Parang hindi pa akma na magbukas nang ganiyan. Pero bahala po ang Presidente kasi binabalanse naman po natin iyong ekonomiya at sapat naman po iyong kakayahan nating magbigay ng medical care," Roque said.

Roque appealed to the public to stay at home and follow the quarantine and health protocols to prevent the situation from getting worse.

He said that the Duterte administration was not against people expressing their grievances against the government but they should remember that the Philippines is still battling a pandemic.

"Kaunting kooperasyon po. Iyong mga huling araw mayroon na naman pong nagtipon-tipon. Hindi po natin tinututulan ang ating mga karapatan," Roque said. "Pero ngayon sa panahon na nahihirapan na nga tayo na umusad dahil hindi pa rin napapababa iyong datos ng mga nagkakasakit. Please lang po, homeliners muna po uli," he added. (Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)

# GCQ o MGCQ sa MM: Bahala na si Pres. Digong

[RESPONDE](#) - [Gus Abelgas](#) (Pang-masa) - June 15, 2020 - 12:00am

Anumang oras ay magbibigay na nang pahayag si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, kung mananatili pa sa general community quarantine o luluwagan na sa modified GCQ ang Metro Manila.

Babase kasi ang Pangulo sa magiging rekomendasyon ng AITF, LGUs at ibang ahensya.

Mistulang hati ang pananaw dito ng ilang miyembro ng IATF.

Nauna nang nagpahayag si DILG Sec. Eduardo Año na 50/50 ang kanilang tantiya dito dahil nga raw sa may mataas pang bilang ng mga COVID cases ang naitatala, malamang na manatili pa sa GCQ ang NCR.

Pero may ilan naman katulad ni DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na mas nais na mailagay na sa modified GCQ ang NCR.

Gaya nga ng sabi ni Sec. Harry Roque, 'wag daw nating pangunahan kung ano ang magiging desisyon ng Pangulo tungkol dito, na ito nga ang inaantabayan ng marami.

May ilang bagay marahil ang dapat na isaalang-alang dito.

Kung mailalagay o maisasailalim na ang Metro Manila sa modified GCQ, magkakaroon ng kaluwagan.

Mas maraming pampublikong transportasyon na ang posibleng bumiyaha.

Ito kasi ang pangunahing inaantabayan ng mga nagbabalik- trabaho ng manggagawa, ang transportasyon.

Sa araw ding ito, pinapayagan na ang dine-in sa mga resto kahit pa sa ilalim ng GCQ. Pero nasa 30 percent capacity lamang, pero kung magbabago mula GCQ sa MGCQ nasa 50% na ang maaaring payagan, papayagan na rin maging ang mga religious gathering at mga sinehan kung sakali.

Anut-anuman, ang Pangulo pa rin ang magdedesisyon dito, ito na lamang ang ating abangan.

## Metro Manila's return to ECQ fake news – Año

June 14, 2020 | Filed under: [Headlines, News](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año on Sunday brushed off claims that Metro Manila will be reverted to the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

Reiterating his previous calls, Año told the public not to believe the messages circulating on social media that Metro Manila be placed under ECQ on June 16.

On Saturday, Department of Health (DoH) Undersecretary and Spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire echoed Año's statement during her announcement of the COVID19 cases situation in the country.

In previous interviews, Año insisted that it is up to the President whether to place Metro Manila and some other areas under any quarantine protocols as the announcement is set on June 15.

A supposed resolution on social media revealed that the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management (IATF) identified areas which will be placed under ECQ, general community quarantine (GCQ) and modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque stressed that the fate of community quarantine in the country is in Duterte's hands.

Earlier, Año said that Metro Manila will most likely still be placed under general community quarantine (GCQ) after June 15.

He made his assessment as Metro Manila continued to compile "fresh" coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

Año noted that although the threat has somewhat diminished, new COVID-19 cases are still recorded in the region.

The DILG chief feared that relaxing further quarantine protocols in Metro Manila may cause a resurgence of more COVID-19 cases.

"Para sa akin 50/50 pero mas lamang magre-remain sa GCQ," Año said.

However, he clarified that the final decision on whether or not GCQ will be extended in Metro Manila would be announced on Monday.

At present, government officials are still studying and discussing latest trends on COVID-19 cases. **(Chito Chavez)**

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Año explained the need to scrutinize all pertinent data extensively citing that the local chief executives (LCE) are consulted to gather what recommendations they may come up with.

Aside from Metro Manila, Año said the national government is also monitoring the situation in Regions II, III, IV-A and in Cebu City where there is a spike on the number of infections in the previous days. (Chito Chavez)

# NCR mayors: Up to IATF to present quarantine recommendations

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:52 PM June 14, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila mayors will leave it up to the Inter Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease to present recommendation on the quarantine status of the metropolis to President Duterte this week, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said on Sunday.

“Nag-decide lahat na whatever decision of the IATF (Inter Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease), we trust their wisdom and we will follow, and pangalawa naka-ready kung ano ang decision ng Pangulo,” MMDA General Manager Jojo Garcia said in an interview on dzBB when pressed for an update on the agency’s meeting with the 17 Metro Manila mayors Saturday night.

(They decided to abide by the decision of the IATF. We are ready for the President’s decision.)  
“If ever nag GCQ (general community quarantine), kailangan lang ng guidelines. Nagkaroon kami ng paguusap tungkol diyan... and we will coordinate with national government kung ano yung mga bagong papayagan,” he said.

(If the GCQ status is extended, we will need guidelines. We already had a meeting about that and we will coordinate with the national government on the new protocols.)

On Saturday night, the MMDA had a meeting with Metro Manila mayors regarding bus routes and bicycle lanes. They did not tackle quarantine / lockdown issues, the MMDA said.

President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to issue new orders on the nation’s quarantine status amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on Monday, June 15.

Currently, Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) Pangasinan, Albay, Western Visayas, Cebu City, Mandaue City, and Davao City are under general community quarantine status while the rest of the country is under the less stringent modified GCQ status.

As of Saturday afternoon, the Philippines has logged 25,392 COVID-19 cases including 1,074 deaths and 5,706 recoveries.

gsg



**PAGE THREE**

# Public cooperation crucial in crisis — Roque

Published 5 hours ago on June 15, 2020 03:10 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Malacañang said over the weekend that regardless what decision President Rodrigo Duterte will make regarding the community quarantines currently imposed in the country, the people's cooperation is fully needed to put a stop on the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque made the remark even as he reiterated that it will be up to the Chief Executive to decide whether the general community quarantine (GCQ) currently enforced in Metro Manila and the municipality of Pateros, Cagayan Valley Region, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Pangasinan, Albay and Davao City, will be lowered to a more lenient modified general community quarantine (MGCQ), retained to GCQ or revert back to modified enhanced community quarantine or (MECQ).

The rest of the country, on the other, is currently under MGCQ which is the lowest form of community quarantine enforced by the government.

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) earlier defined GCQ as the implementation of temporary measures limiting movement and transportation, regulation of operating industries, and presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols.

MGCQ, on the other hand, refers to the transition between GCQ and the "New Normal," when the following temporary measures are relaxed and become less necessary: limiting movement and transportation, the regulation of operating industries, and the presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols.

Roque said the President will announce personally what kind of community quarantine Metro Manila, Cebu and the rest of the country will have during a televised address to the nation on Monday night, 15 June.

## **Not promising**

He said the numbers in Metro Manila and Cebu doesn't look promising as cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in these areas but at the end of the day, it will be up to President Duterte to make the decision.

He added that the IATF already has submitted its recommendation to the President but refuse to say what it is.

“The President will make the announcement. It can be MECQ, GCQ or MGCQ,” Roque said during a radio interview.

Although its a gamble on the part of the IATF, the President carefully listens and weighs all the options provided to him particularly data from the ground.

Roque acknowledges during the interview that with COVID-19 cases rising in Metro Manila and Cebu, its currently not right to put those areas under MGCQ considering that public gatherings will now be allowed by 50 percent, transportation and movie houses by 50 to 100 percent and religious gatherings by 50 percent.

### **Fake IATF resolution**

Roque, at the same time, warned the public in believing an alleged IATF resolution 35 circulating online stating that Metro Manila may revert back to ECQ.

No less than Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año said that the message circulating online is fake news.

# Lawmaker calls for review of accuracy of DOH, laboratory COVID-19 tests

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 14, 2020 4:53:35 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 14)** — A solon is pushing for a comprehensive review of the accuracy of all the brands of coronavirus tests used by the Department of Health and licensed laboratories nationwide.

"We've gathered that there are some brands of COVID-19 tests that return up to 20 percent false-negative results, which is unacceptable," said Anakalusugan Party-list Representative Michael Defensor on Sunday.

The lawmaker added that the DOH and authorized laboratories might be wasting precious time and resources in redoing thousands of tests, due to the large volume of inaccurate results. This may lead to patients being falsely reassured they aren't infected with the coronavirus, and these individuals "can contribute to the spread of the disease without them knowing it," said Defensor.

Last month, medical societies in the Philippines have cautioned against the usage of rapid antibody test kits, particularly for employers who want to test their workers. These might yield inaccurate results, especially for asymptomatic individuals, they said.

This echoed earlier warnings of the Department of Health and Food and Drug Administration saying antibody test kits could still yield false positive or negative results, with RT-PCR (reverse transcription - polymerase chain reaction detection) test kits remaining the "gold standard" in COVID-19 testing as these can detect the actual virus causing the disease.

As of Thursday, the DFA has already approved 155 coronavirus test kits for commercial use. Of the total, 60 are rapid antibody test kits, 56 are RT-PCR-based, 36 are immunoassay, and three of other kinds. Only one of these test kits originated from the Philippines, which is the GenAmplify COVID-19 rRT-PCR Detection Kit.

"We are counting on the DOH to track closely the accuracy of all brands of COVID-19 tests – regardless of their country of origin – so that we may be properly guided as to which of them offer the best value for money for long-term use in the country," he said.

The DOH [received over P95 million in cash allocations](#) for the purchase of RT-PCR kits, revealed President Rodrigo Duterte in his latest report to Congress.

Defensor likewise called on the DOH to release the number of COVID-19 tests that had to be conducted again due to inaccurate results, along with the cumulative number of tests that have been performed since March.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/6/14/lawmaker-calls-for-review-COVID-19-tests-accuracy.html?fbclid=IwAR0nshM-o4VUElbeYCyMEXxhKXl-vIAvpIhLj9r0DGPiJTijLD0GQApRqV4>

# DOH apologizes for errors in daily reports

Published June 15, 2020 12:18am

By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday apologized for the mistakes in its daily situationer reports that made the rounds on social media after some netizens noticed an erroneous bar graph.

“Thank you to all who pointed this out. Rest assured that we, at the DOH, are continuously working and striving to improve the quality and accuracy of our materials,” [the department said on Facebook.](#)

In a statement, the DOH also stressed that its data is reliant on submissions from healthcare facilities and local government units (LGUs).

“The timeliness and integrity of the national data are only as good as the submission of our partners on the ground—laboratories, hospitals, and LGUs,” it said, adding that reporting delays have been “significantly reduced” over the past few months.

Earlier on Sunday, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire [said the number of new deaths has been rising in recent days due to the delayed reporting of fatalities by LGUs.](#)

She explained that out of the 22 new fatalities reported on June 13, only four actually died in the month of June.

Despite delays in the reporting of data, the DOH claimed that the Philippines’ case fatality rate went down in June. — **BM, GMA News**

# US willing to share Covid-19 vaccine, treatment to PH

By Priam Nepomuceno June 14, 2020, 11:29 am



Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (File photo)

**MANILA** – The US government is very much willing to share to the Philippines any coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) vaccines and therapeutics once these become available.

This was one of the topics discussed by Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and his US counterpart, Mark Esper, during their telephone call Friday (June 12).

"Secretary Esper mentioned that developments on vaccines and therapeutics in the US are making very good progress and expressed their willingness to share them with US allies and partners once available," the DND statement said on Sunday.

Lorenzana also took the opportunity to share the Philippines' response to the Covid-19 and expressed his appreciation for the medical assistance and donations of medical supplies provided by the US government.

Esper, on the other hand, expressed his appreciation for the DND's support for the Philippine government's decision to suspend the termination of the agreement regarding the treatment of US Armed Forces visiting the Philippines, referred to as "the Visiting Forces Agreement".

Both defense officials also discussed the security situation in the South China Sea, counter-terrorism, and logistics cooperation, particularly on the capability upgrades of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"Both sides committed to sustain dialogues amidst the pandemic and strengthen cooperation between the two defense establishments," the DND statement added. **(PNA)**

# Food vouchers for bikers eyed

*posted* June 15, 2020 at 12:40 am

by [Maricel Cruz and Rio N. Araja](#)

The proposed Bicycle Law should include incentives like tax perks, extra-pay credits, or food vouchers for the people who use bicycles in their daily commute to their workplaces, a legislator said Sunday.

Rep. Ronnie Ong says the coronavirus pandemic, which is forcing many people to use bicycles to move around, has presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the government to solve two of the country's biggest problems: pollution and traffic.

He says by providing incentives to those using bikes, the government may be able to persuade people to continue using bicycles in their daily commute even after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

The Caloocan City government, meanwhile, has started putting up bicycle lanes on its major roads following the transportation lockdown as a result of the pandemic.

"We got orders from Mayor Oscar Malapitan to focus on setting up bike lanes on the major thoroughfares in order to protect the people, especially its residents who are now depending on bicycles for their mobility," traffic management chief Jay Bernardo said.

Ong, vice chairman of the House committee on rural development, says the proposed food vouchers as incentives for bicycle riders is apart from the provision of protected bicycle lanes for cyclists under the proposed Bicycle Law.

On June 11, Ong launched a #LibrengBisikleta program as reported on his official Facebook page. He has now turned over more than a dozen bicycles to security guards, utility workers, and manual laborers who used to walk to work because of the lack of jeeps and buses.

Many of them come to Ortigas and Makati to work all the way from Antipolo, Katipunan or Manila. Previously, they said, they either had to walk for hours or to borrow a bike from a neighbor or relative to go to work.

Ong says more Filipinos will definitely prefer a bike instead of using public transport if the government could provide them the infrastructure to do it.

He says creating a cycling culture in the Philippines can provide a long-term solution to the traffic gridlock in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas, which costs the government P3.5 billion in economic losses a day. It will also help reduce pollution.



## **MAY COVID, 8M NA; PATAY, MALAPIT NANG 500K**

June 15, 2020 @ 1:46 AM 7 hours ago

UMABOT na sa 8 milyong tao sa buong mundo ang may Corona Virus Disease-19 habang sa loob ng isang linggo mula ngayon, maaaring aabot na sa 500,000 ang patay habang nasa 4M naman ang gumaling na.

Kung mananatiling nasa 130,000 araw-araw ang bagong kaso na critical at mild, sa loob lang ng susunod na pitong araw, 9M na ang may Covid-19.

Ang magandang balita, sa nasa 55,000 na kritikal araw-araw, nasa 5,000 lang ang namamatay, araw-araw din.

Kaya lang, sa usaping patay, bagama't maituturing na maganda dahil maliit lang ang bilang, mahirap maisama sa mga ito.

At kahit pa sa mga nasa mild na kaso, mahirap ding maibilang, lalo na sa mga kritikal.

Aba, bukod sa enhanced o general community quarantine ang ating aabutin kung dinapuan tayo, puro gutom at paghihirap ang aabutin natin na baka hahantong din sa kamatayan.

Sa kabuuan, mahirap maisama sa mga tinamaan.

'Yun bang === magkasakit ka o mamatay.

### **SA PINAS**

Sa mahal kong Pinas, hindi rin maganda ang kalagayan.

Sa pagdami ng mga testing center natin na nakakalat sa buong kapuluan, dumarami rin ang sumasailalim sa test o pagsusuri.

Kaya naman, sa nakaraang ilang araw, naglalaro na sa 600 araw-araw ang natatagpuang positibo sa Covid-19.

At palundag pataas-pababa naman ang bilang ng mga patay sa nasa 15-22 araw-araw kumpara sa nasa 5 lang sa nakararaang mga araw.

Ang tanong ngayon, pasama ba nang pasama ang ating kalagayan sa kabuuan?

Makikita natin ang trend sa mga susunod na araw.

Pero kung pagbabasehan ang lumalaking bilang ng nagkakasakit, hindi maling isipin na darami rin ang mamamatay.

## PANAHOON NG PNEUMONIA

Tag-ulan na sa mga darating na araw, depende sa sasabihin ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Atmospheric Services Administration.

Pero sa bahagi ng mga magsasaka, dumarating na nga ito.

Aba, kahit saan, palawak nang palawak na ang mga inaararong paghahagisan ng mga binhi ng palay at may nag-aararo na rin sa mga pagtatamnan nito pagkabunot ng mga binhi sa istayl na transplanting kung tawagin.

Pero kung magtatag-ulan na, hudyat naman ito ng pagdami ng magkakasakit ng pneumonia o mahina ang pulmon sa simpleng salita.

Heto ang mga sintomas ng matatamaan ng pneumonia.

Mataas na lagnat; pag-ubo na may plema na may kulay na berde, dilaw o may dugo; hirap sa paghinga; pangiginig ng katawan; parang palaging pagod; kawalan ng gana sa pagkain; labis na pagpapawis; suson-suson na paghinga at mabilis na pintig ng puso; pangangasul ng mga kuko; at palaging pagkalito, lalo na sa mga senior citizen.

Sa ibang salita, may impeksyon ka sa baga kung may pneumonia ka.

Ang nakatatakot, mga Bro, itong mga may pneumonia ang peborit na atakehin ng Covid-19 dahil karaniwang ang baga ang inaatake nito.

Ngayon ang tanong: hindi kaya darami ang mamamatay sa Covid-19 ngayong magtatag-ulan na panahon ng pneumonia?

## KONTRA BAHA

Ang isang punto natin, mga Bro, sa pagdating ng tag-ulan na posibleng marami ang magkasakit ng pneumonia at Covid-19, simulan nang maghanap ang mga kinauukulan ng mga paglalagyan ng mga pasyente na hindi sasalakayin ng baha.

Sa Metro Manila na pinakasentro ng Covid-19 at maaaring magiging sentro rin ng pneumonia, malaki ang posibilidad na babahain ng mga pasyente ang mga ospital, lalo na ang mga pampublikong ospital.

Hindi pa natin isinasali ang problema sa dengue na kung umatake ay gayon na lang kung pumuno ng mga ospital.

Kaya naman, dapat tumingin-tingin na ang mga kinauukulan ng mga lugar na hindi tatamaan ng baha na pagdadalhan ng maraming pasyente na hindi kayang tanggapin ng mga pampublikong ospital.

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, hindi na uubra ang mga tent lamang na ilalatag sa mga sementadong lugar at nasa mga labas ng mga gusali ng mga nasabing ospital.

Kailangan na ang mga may pangalawa o mas mataas pang palapag na gusali.

Meron na ba tayong ganitong programa?

Alalahaning pasama nang pasama na ang Metro Manila sa problema sa baha at palatandaan dito ang sinasabi ng senior citizens natin na “ngayon lang nagbabaha nang ganito.”



Ang masama, may Covid-19 din sa labas ng Metro Manila, may pneumonia at may dengue rin kaya dapat ipaghanda rin ang mga pasyente nang maayos na kalagyan .

## INDULTO HUWAG HINTAYIN

Maalala ba ninyo na nagalit si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Department of Health makaraang malaman nitong lumipas na ang mga buwan ay wala pa ni isang frontliner ang nabibigyan ng ahensya na ayuda na P1M sa namatay at P100,000 sa nagkasakit, ayon sa kanyang kautusan at bilang tadhana ng batas?

Ngayon, ang DOH ang dapat na manguna sa paghahanap ng mga gusali o lugar na pagdadalhan ng mga daraming pasyente ng Covid-19, pneumonia at dengue.

Maaaring bahay, hotel, lodging inn, motel, apartelle at iba pa na hindi na kailangan ng napakalalaking gastos sa paggawa.

Pero hindi basta ganito, mga Bro.

Dapat ding ihanda ang mga ito na parang ospital, malinis, may sapat na suplay ng kuryente at malinis na tubig, may lugar para sa mga health worker, pasukan at labasang ng mga ambulansya at marami pang iba.

O paano, Health Secretary Francisco Duque, nasaan na ang inyong paghahanda?

Baka magkakaroon na naman ng labis na kapabayaang dito gaya ng nangyari sa kompensasyon ng mga frontliner?

# The next step: Will it make life worse or better?

By [Ellen Tordesillas](#) - June 15, 2020

***'A study done by a group of professors from the University of the Philippines on the situation in Metro Manila and Cebu related to COVID-19 released last June 8 will help us deal with whatever Duterte will announce.'***

OUR lives have been drastically altered by the measures the government imposed to stop the spread of COVID-19 for the last four months.

The new quarantine classification that President Duterte is going to announce today, June 15, will further affect our lives. Will it make life worse or better?

A study done by a group of professors from the University of the Philippines on the situation in Metro Manila and Cebu related to COVID-19 released last June 8 will help us deal with whatever Duterte will announce.

The UP professors said based on the trends that they have observed since March 1 to June 8, 2020, they forecast that “the number of COVID-19 cases, assuming a continuation of current trends, is a total of 40,000 COVID-19 cases by June 30, and 1,850 total deaths due to COVID-19.”

As of June 13, the Department of Health tracker showed the total number of cases nationwide at 25,392 while 1,074 have died and 5,706 have recovered.

The UP professors said the National Capital Region is classified “as a medium to high-risk area. The number of new COVID-19 cases needs to decrease for 14 days as per international health policy consensus.”

Cebu, on the other hand, is classified as “a high-risk area, which means the COVID-19 virus is still spreading in the province.”

“This should be a cause for concern for both the national and the local government of Cebu.

To this end, we recommend that the government review its strategies for social distancing and other health protocols in NCR and Cebu.

“The easing of quarantine restrictions must be matched with tighter monitoring, stricter social distancing, and the wearing of PPEs (masks and other protective equipment) and increased testing and surveillance as the working population begins to increase their exposure,” they said.

They said their forecast “is not a reason for all of us to panic.

“The situation is still manageable. Our health system is not about to be overwhelmed. The period under ECQ and MECQ has allowed the government to scale up some capacity to deal with the pandemic. But we need to intensify efforts. This requires a timely and appropriate response from the government and the continued support and cooperation of civil society and the private sector.”

They further said, “As the government continues a calibrated and gradual reopening of the economy, it is incumbent among individuals to exercise their citizenship and leadership to ensure that health guidelines are implemented such as social distancing, the wearing of masks, and proper hygiene. As we reopen, everybody becomes a frontliner in the cause of managing the pandemic. What we do as individuals is important to ensure that the efforts of the government in fighting the pandemic succeed. Let us not forget that the pandemic is still here and it still remains a threat to public health. We still have a lot to do. With the cooperation and collaboration of government, business, civil society, and each and every Filipino, we are on our path to overcoming the pandemic.”

The UP professors who conducted the study are Guido David, Ph.D. Professor, Institute of Mathematics; Ranjit Singh Rye, MPA Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science University of the Philippines; Ma Patricia Agbulos, MBM Associate. The three are fellows of OCTA Research.

Other professors also contributed to the study, namely, Erwin Alampay, Ph.D. Professor, UP National College of Public Administrations and Governance; Eero Rosini Brillantes, CEO, Blueprint Campaign Consultancy; Emmanuel Lallana, Ph.D. Alumnus and former faculty member, UP Diliman CEO, Ideacorp, Inc.; Rodrigo Angelo Ong, MD Professorial Lecturer, Science Society Program, UP College of Science; Michael Tee, MD, MHPED, MBA Professor, UP College of Medicine; Benjamin Vallejo Jr. Ph. D. Professor, UP Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology & the Science Society Program, College of Science.

Government officials keep on saying that what they are doing is to keep the people safe.

They should read the SWS Mobile Phone survey conducted May 4 to 10.

– The COVID-19 crisis brought great stress to 55percent and much stress to 34 percent of working-age Filipinos (15 years old and above). Only 11percent felt little or no stress because of it.

– The suspension of public transport is burdensome for 77 percent of Filipino families – very burdensome for 40 percent, and somewhat burdensome for 37 percent. Only 22 percent feel little or no burden from the suspension.

– 5.4 percent of working-age Filipinos (15 years old and above) were stranded by quarantines. This gives an estimated 4.1 million stranded based on the 2020 projected population of 75.8 million working-age persons.

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# Bureaucratic barriers to digital infrastructure development

posted June 15, 2020 at 12:25 am

by [Orlando Oxales](#)

"Our leaders must solve this serious disconnect between the mandate of local governments and national policy."

The lockdowns have triggered a sudden shift to cloud-based technologies and a surge in demand for internet and telecommunications services. Accessing the internet through smartphones and computers has now become the indispensable link to safely communicate and do business. Even as the government slowly starts easing lockdown restrictions, we must all continue to comply with social distancing measures. This is the new reality until a vaccine is available to eradicate this virus from Wuhan.

As we now rush into a society-wide digital transition, there will obviously be an exponential rise in demand for wireless broadband services which the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) says will need some 50,000 new cell towers. Hence, building these towers should be a top priority.

DICT Secretary Gregorio Honasan recently signed Circular No. 8 on new guidelines to encourage the fast construction of these towers to address a looming overload of cloud users and to expand access to underserved communities. This allows independent tower companies with construction and financial capabilities with "category A" rating to build towers that telco companies can lease on a non-exclusive arrangement.

What I found most critical in the guidelines is the maximum processing time which sets a seven working-day time limit for national, local government and barangays permits and clearances. A source from one of the telcos said that he is praying that this will actually happen on the ground as despite the Ease of Doing Business Law, it still takes up to eight months to complete all permits before tower construction can start.

To get some firsthand insights, I called an old friend who is an "A" grade contractor with over 20 years track record building cell site towers. He agreed to share some interesting stories which, for understandable reasons, I will now share in a digested and anonymous manner.

Let's call my friend "John." His story is a test in patience, perseverance, human relations, and transactional creativity.

The first permit that John works on is the Barangay Resolution "interposing no objection in construction installation and operation of the cell site." This is a difficult chase to confirm the earliest available schedule of a barangay session which may be once or twice a month. When a meeting is set, he is expected to provide refreshments and allot some "S.O.P" resources. It's sort of like a determined suitor pursuing an elusive and expensive love interest. A sad anecdote of constituents who stand to benefit greatly by John's project being stymied by their local leaders.

After the barangay session, a public consultation is called where John will now provide snacks and refreshments for around 30 people. To facilitate, he has learned to recruit the barangay secretary to secure the signatures of kagawads. He also must deal with the barangay captain and the owner of the property by being "creative and dynamic." This phase takes 30 to 60 days.

Simultaneously, John's associates are already working in securing the Neighbors Consent, a requirement of the municipal/city engineer and a requisite for the approval of the Barangay Resolution. This requires the signed consent of residents within 40 meters of the site or the radius equivalent to the height of the tower to be constructed.

Bureaucratic barriers to digital infrastructure

June 15, 2020

TITLE: development

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DATE

With a Barangay Resolution in hand, John then applies for a Locational Clearance with the City/Municipal Planning Division Office which needs a Certificate of No Coverage (CNC) from the Department of Natural Resources, a Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) Safety Evaluation Report from the Department of Health in San Lazaro, Manila which needs a domestic plane trip from his home base. Plus, a Height Clearance from the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. This group of permits done concurrently will take another month to complete.

The last hurdle before construction finally starts is the Building Permit which usually takes three weeks can be shortened to about a week with some “facilitation tactics.”

All in all, John has learned to live with a conservative timeline of four to six months for all the permits before he mobilizes for construction which he would complete in 40 to 60 days. Before we ended our long-distance interview, he lamented an ongoing project that had been stalled since December because of what he considers the most fantastic demand from an influential person in the community.

John’s little story is a simple illustration of the real problem that shall test the administration’s political will and influence. We don’t just want to survive in the new normal, we want to perform and excel, at least, to the same economic velocity before the pandemic. The leadership must solve this serious disconnect between the mandate of local governments and national policy. These bureaucratic barriers to the country’s development must be destroyed.

# Where do infectious diseases emerge?

By [BusinessMirror](#) June 14, 2020



*Direct handling of a common emerald dove.*

Did you know that wildlife also experience a lot of stress? Bushmeat hunting for consumption pushes several terrestrial or land-based mammal species to the brink of extinction while agitating hunted animals.

Hunting is common in developing countries across Southeast Asia, South America and Africa. Traditional medicine, pet trade, and ornamental use of body parts were also some of the reasons why wildlife and other biodiversity are hunted and collected.

Live trade for the pet industry and ornamental use of wild animals primarily occur in Africa, Latin America and in Southeast Asia.

Bushmeat is a vital source of food and income in rural areas in Southeast Asia for over 40,000 years. Increasing human population and the continuous destruction and degradation of forests and other habitats have contributed to wildlife hunting to unsustainable levels.

The demand for bushmeat increases the risk of transmission of zoonotic diseases from animals to humans through direct contact.

**Table 1. Coronaviruses and their bat host from which they were first identified or sequenced (Moratelli and Calisher 2015).**

FAMILY	GENUS	VIRUS	SOURCE SPECIES
Coronaviridae	Alphacoronavirus	Human coronavirus	Sundevall's leaf-nosed bat ( <i>Hipposideros caffer</i> ) Small long-fingered bat ( <i>Miniopterus pusillus</i> )
		Mystacina coronavirus New Zealand/2013	New Zealand lesser short-tailed bat ( <i>Mystacina tuberculata</i> )
	Betacoronavirus	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV)	Chinese rufous horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus sinicus</i> )
		Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)	Egyptian tomb bat ( <i>Taphozous perforatus</i> )

## What is zoonosis?

Zoonosis is the transmission of disease from animals to humans. It follows a simple equation: wildlife interaction plus increasing demand plus habitat conversion is equal to zoonotic diseases.

This risk from handling wildlife has long been acknowledged. This awareness has to lead to the development of standard practices in handling wildlife.

Wildlife professionals like biologists and fieldwork technicians are expected to follow personal protective measures, such as the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), when handling wildlife to reduce the chances of zoonosis.

Unfortunately, the use of PPE is not observed in the informal bushmeat trading sector across Asia and Southeast Asia. Markets wherein bushmeat is sold usually do not have guidelines on how to prevent zoonosis.

Moratelli and Calisher in 2015 successfully isolated, among other viruses, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) from bats.

SARS-CoV is associated with the bushmeat industry across a wide range of host animals. The pathway of transmission of the virus involves bats as primary host followed by transmission to intermediate amplifying hosts, such as palm civets that could transfer it to humans.

MERS-CoV, on the other hand, is genetically related to SARS-CoV and also originates from bats but differs in the intermediate host being camels as a potential source of virus for humans.

## Zoonosis in the Philippines

Demand for bushmeat in the Philippines makes it challenging to limit potential zoonotic transmission of viruses from bat-animal human interactions.

In Southern Luzon, civet cats and flying foxes are sold for P150 per individual (price in 2012).

These wildlife are known origins of zoonotic diseases, especially bats. Over 200 viruses have been detected or isolated from bats, including coronaviruses by Philippine scientists in just a hot-off-the press scientific journal.

While the threat to public health in the Philippines posed by viruses from bats is currently unknown, research on the subject continues to draw interest. Recent studies suggest that BtCoV, or bat coronaviruses, has a widespread distribution and diversity in the Philippines.

The most recent BtCoV detected in the Philippines was discovered in Mindanao in 2020 by Nikki Tampon and her team from the University of the Philippines and Nakamura Laboratory in Japan.

Their group isolated from a local bat species called long-tongued nectar bat (*Macroglossus minimus*).

Tampon and her group heavily emphasized the conservation of natural habitats as a means of limiting potential zoonotic transmission by reducing bat-animal human interactions.

Their recommendations could not have come at a better time as the world faces the Covid-19 pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 that has infected almost 24,000 and caused more than 1,000 deaths in the Philippines as of June 10.

### Takeaways

It is important to remember that bats are not the culprit in this volatile situation. Humans are. People keep on encroaching wildlife, habitats as with the plight of Lolong, the largest crocodile in captivity.

People should not harm bats in any way. They are pollinators of fruits that people need to improve their health.

Bats keep insects at bay, such as mosquitos and the like. Refrain from eating or patronizing bushmeat in any form.

People can also help restore wildlife habitats by supporting conservation programs like Haribon Foundation's "Forest for Life Movement," a campaign to restore denuded Philippine forests using native trees.

Finally, keep wildlife in the wild. And together, we will all live in harmony.

***J Kahlil Panopio/Haribon Foundation***



# Youth leaders dedicate 122 trees at Masungi Georeserve to honor frontliners

Published June 14, 2020, 7:08 PM

By *Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz*

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation and youth leaders from Baras, Rizal have dedicated 122 rescued pine trees in honor of health and environment frontliners who have risked their lives taking action to fight health and environmental crises.



(Masungi Georeserve)

In celebration of the country's Independence Day, the environment advocates adorned 122 pine trees within the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal province with the colors of the Philippine flag.

Like the pine trees that were able to withstand illegal activities such as quarrying and multiple burning, the activity was a reminder for everyone to stand together against the current health and environmental threats.

The activity also saw the planting of 27 narra trees in honor of fallen frontliners, and introduced new monitoring trails and stations following quarry encroachments and forest fires during the lockdowns.

"We were so inspired by the passion of our local youth in protecting nature. We look forward to exciting collaborations on developing the next generation of environmental stewards in Baras and beyond," the environment advocates said.

The Masungi Georeserve is a conservation initiative of Masungi Georeserve Foundation in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

It is home to a sprawling limestone formation dating back 60 million years, that was the subject of rampant environmental degradation and real estate speculation.

After 20 years of conservation work, the conservationists said it is coming back to life and is now a sanctuary for more than 400 species of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic to the Philippines and Luzon.

The project's latest mission is to restore and conserve in perpetuity some 3,000 hectares of denuded mountains around the georeserve through the Masungi Geopark Project.

These mountains remain in constant threat of quarrying, illegal logging, kaingin, treasure-hunting, and land speculation despite previous efforts to conserve them.

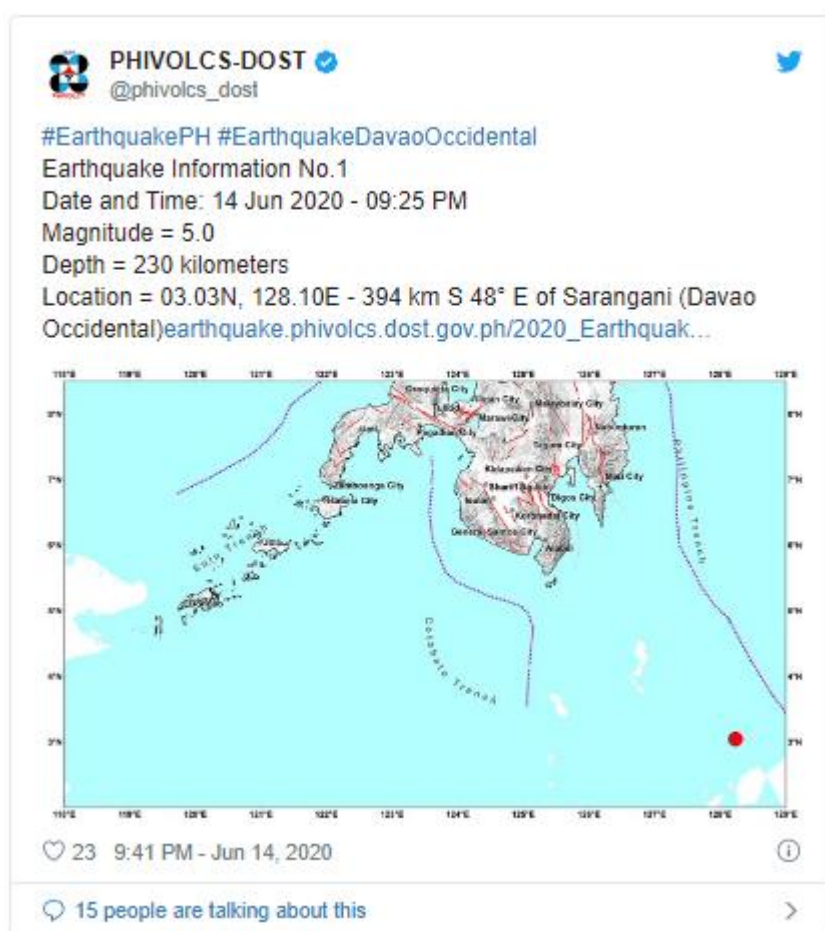
Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/14/youth-leaders-dedicate-122-trees-at-masungi-georeserve-to-honor-frontliners/>

# Magnitude 5 quake strikes southeast of Davao Occidental

Published June 14, 2020 11:24pm  
By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

A magnitude 5 earthquake struck 394 kilometers southeast of Davao Occidental's Sarangani town on Sunday evening, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported.

The tremor struck at 9:25 p.m., was tectonic in origin, and had a 230-kilometer depth of focus.



No damage was expected from the quake, though aftershocks were likely. — DVM, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/742612/magnitude-5-quake-strikes-southeast-of-davao-occidental/story/>

# Second wave fears rise as China reports more new infections

Published 18 hours ago on June 14, 2020 01:38 PM

By **Agence France-Presse**



China reported its highest daily number of new coronavirus cases in months on Sunday with parts of Beijing still under lockdown, offering a second wave warning to the rest of the world as the pandemic rages in South America.

The shock resurgence in domestic infections has rattled China, where the disease emerged late last year but had largely been tamed through severe restrictions on movement that were later emulated across the globe.

It also provides a bleak insight into the difficulties the world will face in conquering COVID-19 — even as countries in Europe prepare to reopen borders at the beginning of the summer holiday season after an encouraging drop in contagion.

Of the 57 new cases logged by Chinese authorities, 36 were domestic infections in the capital, where a large wholesale food market at the centre of the outbreak has been closed and nearby housing estates put under lockdown.

“People are scared,” a fruit and vegetable trader at another local market in central Beijing told AFP.

“The meat sellers have had to close. This disease is really scary,” said the man surnamed Sun, adding there were fewer customers than normal.

At least 429,000 people worldwide have died from the respiratory illness, nearly halfway through a year in which countless lives have already been upended as the pandemic ravages the global economy.

The total number of confirmed cases has doubled to 7.7 million in slightly over a month and the disease is now spreading most rapidly in Latin America, where it is threatening healthcare systems and sparking political turmoil.

Brazil now has the second-highest number of virus deaths after the United States, surpassing Britain’s toll, and the Chilean health minister resigned on Saturday amid a furore over the country’s true number of fatalities.

There is still no treatment for COVID-19, but pharmaceutical group AstraZeneca said it has agreed to supply an alliance of European countries with up to 400 million doses of a possible vaccine.

German government sources told AFP a vaccine could be developed by the end of the year.

Second wave fears rise as China reports more new  
infections

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June 15, 2020  
DATE

## Europe reopens

Many European nations are further lifting painful lockdowns that have saved lives and forced caseloads down, but have also caused their economies to shrink and caused misery for millions.

After the European Commission urged a relaxation of restrictions, a number of nations are preparing to reopen borders on Monday — while some like Poland have done so already, with people from other European Union countries allowed to visit.

Germany said it would end land border checks on Monday, and France said it would gradually reopen its borders to non-Schengen countries from July.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis travelled to picturesque Santorini island on Saturday to open his country's tourism season.

"Greece is ready to welcome tourists this summer by putting safety and health as our No. 1 priority," he said in English in front of a spectacular sunset.

Venice sprang back to life Saturday, as hundreds of tourists flocked to the city for the reopening of the iconic Doge's Palace.

"It's a very strong emotion, like the first day of school," said Maria Cristina Gribaudo, who heads the city's Civic Museums Foundation.

In another joyful return to semi-normality, football superstar Lionel Messi took to the pitch again in Spain as Barcelona resumed their La Liga title challenge and thumped Real Mallorca 4-0 in an empty stadium.

Live sport also returned on Saturday to New Zealand, which has gone 22 days without new coronavirus cases, as 20,000 fans watched rugby's Otago Highlanders edge the Waikato Chiefs.

But even in the much-awaited global sporting revival, there are wobbles — Australian rugby league officials postponed a top-level game on Sunday hours before kick-off due to a coronavirus scare.

The World Health Organization said this week the pandemic is accelerating in Africa. Botswana's capital Gaborone was locked down Saturday after new cases were detected.

And in the US, which has seen the most COVID-19 deaths with over 115,000, more than a dozen states — including populous Texas and Florida — reported their highest-ever daily case totals in recent days.

The rise comes as huge anti-racism protests rage across America and the world, with many demonstrators wearing masks to protect against the spread of the virus.