

# DENR issues notice to vacate to scion of wealthy clan for illegally occupying protected area in Palawan

Published June 17, 2020, 9:27 AM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

A regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued a notice to vacate (NTV) to a scion of a wealthy clan and other individuals for illegally occupying and building structures within a protected area in Taytay, Palawan.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (MANILA BULLETIN)

Contrary to reports that authorities have not acted on the illegal occupation, the DENR-MIMAROPA (Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan) clarified that they have issued the NTV “as early as March.”

DENR-MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado said the agency, through Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Allan Valle, issued the NTV on March 3, 2020 for violation of the provisions of Republic Act 11038, the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System or E-NIPAS Act of 2018.

The law prohibits occupation or dwelling in any public land within a protected area, in this case the Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape (MSPLS), without clearance from the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), he said.

It also forbids construction and maintenance of any kind of structure, fence, and enclosure, as well as conducting any business enterprise within the protected area without prior clearance from the PAMB and permit from DENR, he added.

“The PAMB has neither accepted from the respondents any application for tenurial instrument nor approved any construction of structures in the said area,” Adornado said.

He added that the respondents also violated Presidential Decree 705, the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, which prohibits occupation of timberland areas without proper tenurial instrument issued by the DENR.

Adornado said the group was given 30 days from receipt of the notice to comply, otherwise, further legal actions shall be taken against them.

The DENR regional director also said that Felipe Valones, the chieftain of an indigenous peoples group who had written the DENR about the cutting of century-old trees within the protected area, was furnished a copy of the NTV issued by the DENR.

He also assured that the DENR had been monitoring the compliance with the eviction notice, but was restricted due to the quarantine measures imposed to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/17/denr-issues-notice-to-vacate-to-scion-of-wealthy-clan-for-illegally-occupying-protected-area-in-palawan/>

NOTICE ISSUED IN MARCH

# DENR evicts illegal settlers in El Nido

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

June 18, 2020

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday said as early as March this year, it had ordered a scion of the Zobel de Ayala family and her group to vacate timberland areas that they have illegally occupied within a protected area in Taytay town, Palawan province.

The DENR regional office in Mimaropa made the clarification after a Palawan-based environment group claimed that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) and the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape (MSPLS) had not acted on the matter.

The Nagkakaisang Tribu Tandolanon Barangay Pancol earlier reported that several large century-old trees were cut in Sitio Maypa, Barangay Pancol, Taytay, Palawan.

DENR-Mimaropa Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado said the DENR —through Cenro Officer Allan Valle — issued a notice to vacate on March 3 to the group of philanthropist Beatriz Zobel de Ayala for violating the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 11038 or the “Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System” or E-Nipás Act of 2018.

The law prohibits occupation or dwelling in any public land within a protected area, in this case the MSPLS, without clearance from the PAMB.

RA 11038 also forbids construction and maintenance of any kind of structure, fence and enclosure, as well as conducting any business enterprise within the protected area without prior clearance from the PAMB and permit from DENR.

“The PAMB has neither accepted from the respondents any application for tenurial instrument nor approved any construction of structures in the said area,” Adornado said.

He said the respondents also violated Presidential Decree 705, or the “Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines,” which prohibits occupation of timberland areas without the proper tenurial instruments issued by the DENR.

Adornado said Zobel de Ayala and her group were given 30 days from receipt of the notice to comply, “otherwise further legal actions shall be taken against them.”

He said the DENR had been monitoring the compliance with the eviction notice but was restricted due to the quarantine measures imposed to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

He also pointed out that Felipe Valones, the chieftain of an indigenous peoples group who had written the DENR about the cutting of century-old trees within the protected area, was even furnished a copy of the notice to vacate issued by the Cenro.

When sought for comment, Zobel de Ayala, through her counsel Christopher Louie Ocampo, belied all the accusations against her.

“While we received word of a complaint filed by the Chieftain of the Indigenous Peoples about her alleged cutting of a tree in the area, this complaint has since been retracted. The complaint was not made on behalf of or in representation of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in Taytay, Palawan,” said Ocampo in an earlier statement.

The lawyer added that Zobel de Ayala’s activities in Taytay are with the “full knowledge, consent, and participation of the [IP] communities” in the area.

# Palawan property ordered cleared

*posted* June 17, 2020 at 11:05 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Wednesday clarified that as early as March, the agency has already ordered a scion of the wealthy Zobel de Ayala clan and her group to vacate timberlands within a government protected area in Taytay, Palawan.

Henry Adornado, DENR-MIMAROPA regional director, said that on March 3, community environment and natural resources officer (CENRO) Allan Valle had issued a notice to vacate to the group of philanthropist Beatriz Zobel de Ayala for violation of Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System or E-NIPAS Act of 2018.

The agency said the group illegally occupied and built structures within the disputed area.

Adornado reacted to "misleading news reports that the agency, particularly the CENRO and the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape, had not acted on the matter."

"The PAMB has neither accepted from the respondents any application for tenurial instrument nor approved any construction of structures in the said area," he said.

The philanthropist and her group violated Presidential Decree 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines prohibiting occupation of timberland areas without proper tenurial instrument issued by the DENR.

Eviction notice vs Ayala sa Palawan protected area

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## Eviction notice vs Ayala sa Palawan protected area ikinasa noon pang Marso – DENR

June 17, 2020 @ 7:15 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nito pang nakalipas na Marso taong kasalukuyan ay ipinag-utos ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa anak ng pamilyang Zobel de Ayala clan at sa grupo nito na umalis na sa timberland sa loob ng protected area sa bayan ng Taytay sa Palawan na kanilang inokupahan at tinayuan ng mga ilegal na struktura.

Niliwanag ito ng DENR regional office sa MIMAROPA matapos lumabas ang mga balita na walang ginawang aksyon ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) ng DENR at ang Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) ng Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape (MSPLS) ukol sa bagay na nabanggit.

Ayon sa DENR noong Marso 3 ay nag-isyu na si DENR-MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado sa pamamagitan ni CENR Officer Allan Valle ng notice to vacate sa grupo ni Beatriz Zobel de Ayala, isang pilantropo, dahil sa paglabag sa kundisyon ng Republic Act 11038 o Expanded National Integrated Area System or E-NIPAS Act of 2018.

Sinabi pa ng DENR na pinagbabawal ng batas ang pag-okupa o pagtira sa isang public land sa loob ng protected area tulad ng MSPLS na walang pahintulot ng PAMB.

Hindi rin pinapayagan ang pagtatayo at pagpapanatili nang kahit anong istruktura at bakod, at pagnenegosyo sa loob ng protected area nang walang paalam mula sa PAMB at pahintulot mula sa DENR.

“The PAMB has neither accepted from the respondents any application for tenurial instrument nor approved any construction of structures in the said area,” sabi ni Adornado

Nabatid pa sa DENR regional director, nilabag din ng mga respondents ang Presidential Decree 705 o ang Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines na nagbabawal na okupahan ang timberland areas ng walang karampatang tenurial instrument mula sa DENR.

Dagdag pa ni Adornado, si Zobel de Ayala at ang kanyang grupo ay binigyan ng 30 araw mula ng pagtanggap nila ng notice upang sumunod, “otherwise further legal actions shall be taken against them.”

Eviction notice vs Ayala sa Palawan protected area

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Aniya, sinusubaybayan ng DENR ang pagsunod sa eviction notice subalit nalimitahan ang pagkilos nito dala ng quarantine measures na ipinatupad upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19.

Hindi rin sinang-ayunan ni Adornado ang paratang ng Palawan-based Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC) na may alam diumano ang CENRO at PAMB sa mga nagaganap sa MSPLS “but have not done any concrete actions to address these problems.”

Ipinaliwang niya na si Felipe Valones, pinuno ng isang grupo ng mga katutubo o indigenous peoples at siyang sumulat sa DENR tungkol sa pagpuputol ng century-old trees sa loob ng protected area, ay binigyan ng kopya ng notice to vacate na inisyu ng CENRO.

“Records and the date of the issued notice show that even before receipt of the said letter from Mr. Valones, the DENR has already conducted investigation and has taken appropriate actions against the respondents, contrary to what came out in the news reports,” ani Adornado.

Dagdag pa niya: “We earnestly hope that with the above-mentioned details, we have given ELAC and the general public, the clear course of actions that we have undertaken to address the matter. Our office is open for clarification so that confusion shall be avoided in publishing wrong information.” **Santi Celario**





Leader News Philippines

22 hrs · 🌐



DENR: Eviction notice vs illegal occupants in Palawan protected area issued 'as early as March'

As early as March this year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered a scion of the wealthy Zobel de Ayala clan and her group to vacate timberlands that they have illegally occupied and built structures within a protected area in Taytay town, Palawan province.

The DENR regional office in MIMAROPA made this clarification in the wake of misleading news reports that the agency, particularly the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape (MSPLS), had not acted on the matter.

DENR-MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado said the DENR—through CENR Officer Allan Valle—issued last March 3 a notice to vacate to the group of philanthropist Beatriz Zobel de Ayala for violating the provisions of Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System or E-NIPAS Act of 2018.

The law prohibits occupation or dwelling in any public land within a protected area, in this case the MSPLS, without clearance from the PAMB. It also forbids construction and maintenance of any kind of structure, fence and enclosure, as well as conducting any business enterprise within the protected area without prior clearance from the PAMB and permit from DENR.

"The PAMB has neither accepted from the respondents any application for tenurial instrument nor approved any construction of structures in the said area," Adornado said.

The DENR regional director said the respondents also violated Presidential Decree 705, or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, which prohibits occupation of timberland areas without proper tenurial instrument issued by the DENR.

Adornado said Zobel de Ayala and her group were given 30 days from receipt of the notice to comply, "otherwise further legal actions shall be taken against them."

He said the DENR had been monitoring the compliance with the eviction notice, but was restricted due to the quarantine measures imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Adornado, meanwhile, took exception to a claim by the Palawan-based Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC) that the CENRO and PAMB were aware of the developments in MSPLS "but have not done any concrete actions to address these problems."

He also pointed out that Felipe Valones, the chieftain of an indigenous peoples group who had written the DENR about the cutting of century-old trees within the protected area, was even furnished a copy of the notice to vacate issued by the CENRO.

"Records and the date of the issued notice show that even before receipt of the said letter from Mr. Valones, the DENR has already conducted investigation and has taken appropriate actions against the respondents, contrary to what came out in the news reports," Adornado said.

He added: "We earnestly hope that with the above-mentioned details, we have given ELAC and the general public, the clear course of actions that we have undertaken to address the matter. Our office is open for clarification so that confusion shall be avoided in publishing wrong information." Photo credit: GMA Network

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# Tagalog News: Operasyon kontra ilegal na pagpuputol ng puno, ikinasa ng DENR-Romblon

By Paul Jaysent FosPublished on June 17, 2020



Sa ilalim ng superbisyon ni PENRO Maximo Landrito, ang grupo ng Patrollers na binubuo ng Forester, Forest Technician, Forest Ranger at Forest Protection Officer ay nagsagawa ng Patrolling at Surveillance activity sa Calsanag Watershed Forest Reserve sa Tablas at sa Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park sa Sibuyan Island. (Larawan mula sa DENR-Romblon)

ODIONGAN, Romblon, Hun. 17 (PIA) -- Kasabay ng selebrasyon ng 33rd Anniversary ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), isang sabayang operasyon kontra ilegal logging ang ikinasa ng Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources Office - Romblon noong kamakailan.

Sa ilalim ng superbisyon ni PENRO Maximo Landrito, ang grupo ng Patrollers na binubuo ng Forester, Forest Technician, Forest Ranger at Forest Protection Officer ay nagsagawa ng Patrolling at Surveillance activity sa Calsanag Watershed Forest Reserve sa Tablas at sa Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park sa Sibuyan Island.

Binaybay ng Forest Protection Teams ang trail ng main entry at exit point ng Calsanag Watershed Forest Reserve at Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park kung saan may report na ng dating ilegal na aktibidad.

Ang mga nasabing Protected Area ay mga tinatanging pinangangalagaang lugar ng probinsya kung saan matatagpuan ang mayamang samut-saring buhay katulad ng mga magagandang klase ng puno at buhay ilang.

Sa pagsasagawa ng Patrolling and Surveillance Operation, ang grupo na pinangungunahan ni EcoMS II Rebecca Delgado sa Brgy. Tampayan, Magdiwang ay naaktuhan nila ang isang residente na may dalang 21 sako ng uling kaya agad nila itong kinumpiska sa tulong ng Magdiwang Municipal Police Station at Barangay Captain Darwin Ruado.

Dinala ang mga nasabing uling sa Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) ng truck na pinahiram ng Munisipyo ng Magdiwang upang doon muna ilagay.

Tagalog News: Operasyon kontra ilegal na pagpuputol  
ng puno, ikinasa ng DENR-Romblon

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Ang grupo naman na pinangunahan ni Forester Rolly Morales na nag umpisang magsagawa ng operasyon sa Brgy. España, San Fernando ay may nakuhang abandonadong putol na kahoy na may dimensyong 8x8x10.

Samantala, ang grupo sa Tablas Island na pinangunahan ni Forester James Mendoza ay pinagpatuloy ang pagpapatrolya sa Calsanag Watershed Forest Reserve sa kabila ng malakas na ulan.

Ang PENRO Romblon sa pamamagitan ng Enforcement and Monitoring Section, Protected Area Mangement Office (PAMO) ng Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park at Calsanag Watershed Forest Reserve ay patuloy pa din sa pagsasagawa ng patrolling activities kahit na ang probinsya ay sumasailalim sa community quarantine. (PJF/PIA-Mimaropa)



# Stop road project in Romblon park'

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) (The Philippine Star ) - June 18, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — An environmental group yesterday urged President Duterte to stop a road construction project at the Guiting-Guiting Natural Park on Sibuyan Island in Romblon.

Rodne Galicha, chairman of the Bayay Sibuyanon Inc., said the 3.8-kilometer road would destroy the natural flora and fauna of the park.

“Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park or known as #G2 has thick forests, which serve as carbon sink and protection against landslides and floods in the entire island,” Galicha said in a statement.

He said the project would affect watersheds providing water to a mini-hydro power plant, a source of renewable energy of residents.

Galicia said funds for the road project should instead be used to provide cash assistance for poor households affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

He said the government could also use the funds for unfinished infrastructure projects, such as the circumferential and farm to market roads as well as bridges and ports in Sibuyan.

Galicha said the Department of Public Works and Highways stopped clearing operations for the project in April 2018, but funds for the project was approved under this year's national budget.

# Brahminy Kite rescued in Cotabato, turned over to environment officials

Updated June 17, 2020, 10:59 AM

By Marjaleen Ramos

A Brahminy Kite was turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday after being rescued by a concerned citizen in Cotabato City.



DENR/ FACEBOOK/ MANILA BULLETIN

In a Facebook post, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Midsayap Officer Badjury H. Mustapha, said the bird of prey was rescued by Meilin Abigail Abang, a senior high school teacher of Notre Dame University in Cotabato.

Abang said that the bird descended on a clothes line near her house. "I know that it is endangered, that's why I saved it and immediately notified our barangay officials and the DENR," she said.

Abang, along with Barangay RH 4 Kagawad Muslimin Sela, immediately turned over the bird to the CENRO Midsayap Wildlife Enforcement Team.

Based on the inspection of the raptor's features, DENR said it weighed around 600 grams, and was estimated to be one to two years old.

The agency believes the bird was domesticated due to the ring tag on its leg bearing the identification "Love Love Forever".

Meanwhile, Mustapha advised the public not to capture and keep any wildlife species if they are in good condition.

"Let them live in their natural habitat. If they are injured, immediately notify the nearest office of the DENR," he said.

Hunting, killing, illegal collection, possession, and trafficking of wildlife in the Philippines are punishable under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, the agency noted.

# Mga basurero, pinagsusuot ng PPE sa paghahakot ng mga basura sa mga quarantine facilities

By [Bombo Radyo Cauayan](#)

-June 18, 2020 | 3:21 AM

CAUAYAN CITY – Mahigpit na ipinapatupad ng Community Environment and Natural resources Office (CENRO) Ilagan City ang memorandum na inilabas ng DENR kaugnay sa paghahakot ng basura sa mga quarantine facilities sa lunsod.

Sa naging panayam ng Bombo Radyo Cauayan kay Engr. Elvis Bayad ng CENRO Ilagan City, sinabi niya na alinsunod sa ipinalabas na memorandum ni Secretary Roy Cimatu ng DENR may kaugnayan sa paghahakot ng basura sa mga quarantine areas ay mahigpit nilang inaabisuhan ang mga naghahakot na mag-ingat upang mapangalagaan ang kanilang kalusugan.

Aniya, upang matiyak na sila ay ligtas sa anumang sakit ay pinagsusuot sila ng kumpletong PPE tulad ng facemask, face shield at gloves na mula sa pamahalaang lunsod ng Ilagan.

Bago kunin ang mga basura ay dapat ma-disinfect muna ang mga ito.

Tiniyak din niya na sinusunod ng mga ito ang social distancing.

Pinapayuhan nila ang mga nasa quarantine areas na huwag punuin ang mga garbage bin upang kayanin itong buhatin ng isang tao.

# DENR in the Ilocos launches online spoken poetry contest

By Caren Grace R. Cabanayan Published on June 17, 2020

SAN FERNANDO CITY, June 17 (PIA) – As part of the celebration of this year's Environment Month, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the Ilocos launched an online spoken poetry contest which kicked off last June 6.

Youth, ages 13 to 20 years old and residing in the Ilocos Region, are encouraged to create their own poetic composition in line with the theme, "Protect Nature, Sustain our Future."

*"Kabataan ang ating mga target dahil gusto nating ma-revive ang kanilang consciousness and awareness on their critical role in protecting our environment," Renelita Santos, chief of the Regional Public Affairs Office, said during her guesting at PIA-La Union's radio program dubbed as "Tugstugan at Balitaan" on Monday.*

Participants will have to film themselves while reciting their piece.

The video must have at least two to five minutes of duration.

Entries will be submitted through e-mail at [rpao1sfc@gmail.com](mailto:rpao1sfc@gmail.com) or [rpao1sfc@yahoo.com](mailto:rpao1sfc@yahoo.com) attached with the transcription of the poem, and some personal details such as name, address, contact number, and a copy of an identification card proving their residency.

Submission is still on going until its deadline on June 26.

"Winners will be announced in our official Facebook page, the DENR-Ilocos Region on June 30," Santos said.

The grand winner will receive a cash prize amounting to Php 5,000.00, while the second best will have Php 3,000.00 and Php 2,000.00 will be awarded for the 3rd placer.

Eco-friendly items will also be given to non-winners as their consolation prize.

Moreover, other online activities had been launched simultaneously with the said contest during the first week of this month.

*"Dahil nga iniawasan natin ang mga malakihang pagtitipon sa gitna ng banta ng COVID-19 ay ginamit natin ang most powerful platform ngayon – ang social media para mairaos ang taunang selebrasyon ng Environment month," she added. (AMB/CGRC/PIA La Union)*



# Boracay task force reprimands travelers for violating protocols

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora June 17, 2020, 4:43 pm



**MANILA** – The Boracay Inter-agency Task Force (BIATF) on Wednesday denounced the entry of a group of travelers to Boracay last week prior to the island's official reopening for breaching health protocols.

One of the said guests, [a Bureau of Fire Protection employee](#), had in fact tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

The task force said the Department of Tourism is also revoking the accreditation of the resort that housed the group from June 12 to 14.

In a televised CNN Philippines interview, Tourism chief Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the guests checked in on June 12 and "pretended" to be part of the BIATF delegation when it convened a meeting on the island from June 11-12.

Although accredited by the DOT, the concerned hotel at that time had no Certificate of Authority to Operate, which is issued by the agency after ensuring it has certain health and safety protocols in place.

"That's already a violation and (the guest) found out that she was Covid-positive... We already revoked the accreditation of the hotel," she said.

The official noted that contact tracing had been conducted immediately and that the hotel staff who came in contact with the guest have been quarantined.

Boracay was re-opened to tourists from Western Visayas on June 16 upon the recommendation of the Aklan government and the approval of the BIATF.

Romulo-Puyat said the reopening for select travelers serves as a dry run for Boracay once it accepts more tourists from other regions.

"Maybe after two weeks, we will ask them again if they are open to opening to other areas under modified enhanced community quarantine," she said.

Meanwhile, she assured that DOT will strictly implement rules and regulations under its mandate to ensure safety for tourism industry players and tourists under the "new normal" brought by the pandemic. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1106177>

# Boracay in the new normal: What your stay will look like amid the COVID-19 pandemic

By [Alyssa Rola, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Jun 17, 2020 3:47:27 PM



*Just like other places around the globe, the world-renowned tourist destination is abiding by the ‘new normal’ in travel— with strict health and safety protocols in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. (FILE PHOTO)*

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 17)**— World-class beach destination Boracay recently [reopened](#) to local tourists— but this time, a trip to the island won’t mirror your previous stays or preconceived notions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Forget crowded shores or beach parties. Just like other places around the globe, the renowned tourist spot is abiding by the “new normal” in travel— with strict health and safety protocols in place to curb the spread of the viral disease.

What will your stay in Boracay look like in the time of coronavirus? CNN Philippines spoke to Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat to learn more.

## Contactless transactions

To prevent physical contact, commercial establishments and other industries have gone digital when it comes to payments and transactions. Services in Boracay are no exception.

Upon entering the island, guests will be given a QR code for faster, contactless processes. The code will also be used for the medical declaration forms.

## Standard health protocols

A COVID-19 hotline will also be in place to cater to guests’ possible health concerns. Meanwhile, individuals with high temperatures will be brought to the nearest hospital. If a person tests positive for coronavirus, he or she will be transported out of the island immediately.

Face masks will also be provided for guests, while hand sanitizers and alcohols will also be available in accommodations and establishments.

Physical distancing shall also be strictly observed. Authorities have also placed foot markings along the island to make sure guests follow the rule.

## Reduced operations, limited guests

For now, the island is only accepting tourists from the Western Visayas region. The move is seen as a “dry run,” with authorities still studying the possibility of opening Boracay’s doors to other low-risk COVID-19 areas.

Under quarantine rules, tourists above 60 years old and below 21 years old are still prohibited from entering the island.

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“Not many people or hotels are wanting to open because it’s only for Western Visayas,” Puyat said in an interview with *The Source*. She added that as of Wednesday, only 91 hotels have signified that they wanted to resume operations.

Activities involving close physical contact will likewise be prohibited, the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force earlier announced. However, authorities have yet to specify what these activities are.

## Same brand of service

Despite the new measures, the Tourism department assured that a Boracay trip will still let guests experience the same brand of customer service the Philippines has long been known for.

“Even with all the safety protocols in place, you still felt the Filipino brand of service, people were so warm,” Puyat added.

## Breach of protocols?

The DOT said it has also revoked the accreditation of a resort which housed a group that supposedly breached quarantine protocols after visiting the island prior to its official opening.

Local officials said they have initiated contact tracing measures, while staff and management of the resort are now under quarantine.



## Boracay reopening off to rough start

posted June 18, 2020 at 01:30 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

The reopening of Boracay to tourists in Western Visayas on Tuesday was spoiled after the authorities confirmed that a female staff of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) in Region 6, who had stayed behind on the island, tested positive for COVID-19.



*EMPTY AGAIN. In this file photo, beach chairs lay bare on the white sands of Boracay Island, which was ready to welcome visitors from across Western Visayas. Instead, local officials had to trace people who were in contact with a female staffer of the Bureau of Fire Protection, who tested positive for the coronavirus while staying three days on the island.*

Aklan acting mayor Frolibar Bautista says the patient was on the island from June 12 to 14 to attend a conference, and now the local government is conducting contact tracing to isolate those who had close contact with her.

“Our opening yesterday was not good because of what happened,” Bautista said.

BFP personnel had held a “despedida party” last week, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said Wednesday.

The group said they were attending a conference of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force from June 12 to 14, but they had already left the island by then.

“What’s worse is that they knew it was prohibited, and they said they were with us but we had already left. Some 24 personnel were there. That was prohibited,” Puyat said.

She says her department will revoke the license of the hotel who hosted the group because it did not have permission to operate at the time.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año has ordered the relief of the BFP’s director in Region VI following the alleged breach of quarantine protocols of one of its personnel in Boracay.

Año said he had appointed Fire Senior Superintendent Jerry Candido, director for logistics of BFP-National Headquarters, to be the officer-in-charge of BFP-Region VI following the relief of Fire Senior Superintendent Roderick Aguto.

“We will never tolerate any wrongdoing by our BFP personnel or any other DILG personnel for that matter because lives are at stake here,” Año said.

Bautista said initial investigation showed that the female patient went to the island with a pending COVID-19 test.

“Lumabas na naka-quarantine pala siya sa Iloilo City pero ang report ay galing daw ng Cebu, then nag-quarantine doon tapos umuwi sa Iloilo,” Bautista said.

“Pina-rapid test daw at negative, so pina-swab test pa kaya naka-quarantine pa siya. Hindi pa lumabas ‘yong resulta pero umalis sa Iloilo at pumunta sa Boracay.”



Before the incident, Bautista said, eight establishments on the island secured their certificate of authority to operate from the Department of Tourism, with 632 rooms made available for the Filipino tourists who were expected to visit the island on reopening day.

However, Bautista said only a few tourists arrived.

“Yong expectation namin, hindi natupad,” he said.

“Hindi maganda kasi very discouraging na mangyari ‘yan, especially sa mga tourists natin na excited na pumunta sa Boracay. Siyempre ‘pag narinig ‘yang balita na ‘yan, ‘yong iba diyan mag-aatrasan.”

So far, Bautista said, the 59 people who had close contact with the patient were now under quarantine.

He urged the residents of Western Visayas to still visit the island. He assured all tourists that Boracay was strictly implementing health protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

# Boracay like a 'ghost town' even after reopening on June 16

Published June 17, 2020, 4:04 PM

By Tara Yap

**ILOILO CITY** – There has been no huge turnout of visitors at Boracay Island, the country's most popular beach destination, which reopened June 16 to residents of Western Visayas region after a three-month lockdown.



A June 17, 2020 photo shows the famous white sand beach of Boracay Island empty even when the national government has allowed visitors from Western Visayas region. (Ernesto B. Cruz / MANILA BULLETIN)

"It felt like a ghost town," said Flord Nicson Calawag, a tour operator from Antique province who went on a Wednesday morning tour at the resort island located in Malay town, Aklan province.

Calawag told Manila Bulletin in a June 17 online interview that he expected low turnout as many were still afraid to travel due to the fear of contracting the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The national government earlier approved the reopening of Boracay only to residents of Western Visayas, a region comprising of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental provinces as well as the highly urbanized cities of Iloilo and Bacolod.

Aside from COVID-19's health threat, there were also socio-economic factors.

"People will always prioritize paying their bills rather than travel [for leisure]," Calawag pointed out.

It was unclear how many regional tourists went to Boracay, but Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista said that only six tourists came on the first day of the post-lockdown reopening.

In a separate interview, Bautista admitted to Manila Bulletin that news of a person infected with COVID-19 visiting the resort island last week may have also had a negative impact on other potential visitors. The mayor was referring to the female personnel of Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) who allegedly went to Boracay from June 11-14 when her test result for COVID-19 was still pending.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force also has set other strict policies including age limits that ban people below 21-years-old and above 60-year-old while only guests with confirmed hotel or resort bookings will be allowed.

"It may take a while until people feel safe and when they are financially stable," Bautista added.

# Boracay quarantine breach: Hotel closed, BFP chief axed

[Emmanuel Tupas](#), [Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 18, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The accreditation of a hotel in Boracay where a Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) employee who tested positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 stayed has been revoked.

In an interview on CNN Philippines yesterday, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the hotel, which she did not identify, did not have a certificate to operate at the time.

“All the staff and general manager of the hotel are now quarantined,” Puyat added.

The Department of Tourism (DOT)-Western Visayas office said only nine accommodation establishments in Boracay have been issued certificates of authority to operate as of Tuesday.

The Malay municipal government said the BFP employee was allowed to enter the island around 5 p. m. on June 12.

She claimed she would attend a conference, referring to the meeting of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), which is headed by the secretaries of the Departments of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Tourism.

“We left after lunch. That person arrived after we came. She pretended that she was with our party,” Puyat said.

The BIATF decried the entry of a group of BFP personnel in Boracay, noting that the island was not yet open to tourists.

Boracay reopened on Tuesday only for tourists from Western Visayas.

Natividad Bernardino, Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group general manager, said no other groups had entered the island before it was reopened.

The infected BFP employee arrived in Iloilo City from Cebu and was waiting for the result of her swab test when she and 25 other BFP personnel visited Boracay. She stayed at the hotel until June 14. Her test result came out on June 13.

## 26 other BFP personnel relieved

BFP-Western Visayas director Senior Superintendent Roderick Aguto and 26 other BFP personnel were relieved from their posts over the quarantine breach and unofficial trip to Boracay.

Aguto was reassigned to the BFP office in Quezon while an investigation is ongoing.

Senior Supt. Jerry Candido, BFP director for logistics, assumed Aguto’s post.

“We will never tolerate any wrongdoing by our BFP personnel or any other DILG personnel. Our lives are at stake here,” Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said.

The Malay municipal government said it would file charges against the “irresponsible” BFP personnel for putting the lives of residents and tourists on the island at risk.

**Rhodina Villanueva, Jennifer Rendon, Ghio Ong**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/06/18/2021624/boracay-quarantine-breach-hotel-closed-bfp-chief-axed>

# Virus-infected fireman in W. Visayas spotted in Boracay; fire chief ordered relieved

DILG INVOKES COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:51 PM June 17, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Eduardo Año ordered the relief of Fire Senior Superintendent Roderick Aguto, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) regional director in Western Visayas, for command responsibility after one of his fire personnel breached quarantine protocols.

In a statement on Wednesday, Año said Aguto's fire personnel, whose name was not mentioned, roamed in Boracay Island while waiting for a swab test result, which turned out positive for novel coronavirus, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Año also warned law enforcers that the agency will not tolerate violations of BFP personnel and other DILG officials, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Panahon ng pandemya ngayon at hindi pwede ang mga palusot. (We are in a pandemic and we can't make excuses.) Moreover, as law enforcers, we must set a good example to our people and the breach of quarantine protocols sets a very bad example,” he said.

Año ordered BFP Chief Jose Embang to investigate the accused BFP official and submit its report to the DILG.

He also appointed Fire Senior Superintendent Jerry Candido, director for Logistics of BFP-National Headquarters, as officer-in-charge of BFP-Region 6 to replace Aguto.

Meanwhile, Interior Undersecretary and Spokesman Jonathan Malaya said a special investigation task group of the BFP National Headquarters would conduct contact tracing of the infected BFP personnel and her 27 co-workers.

Malaya added that the infected BFP personnel would also face investigation.

Malaya added that the BFP-6 Regional Office, provincial offices and fire stations were on lockdown to conduct disinfection.

Malaya said 28 out of 196 BFP-6 personnel were infected with the coronavirus disease after undertaking rapid testing. The 28 were placed under quarantine and would undergo swab testing.



# COVID-positive BFP employee goes to Boracay

Published 2 hours ago on June 18, 2020 04:40 AM

By **Trina Ibarle Orquiza**



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ILOILO CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE/PN

A 26-year-old female employee of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) who was found positive of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has traveled to Boracay Island for three days this month, according to the local government unit (LGU) of Malay, Aklan.

Malay acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista has already consulted the town's legal office for the filing of appropriate cases against the erring BFP employee, who allegedly claimed to be going to Boracay on official business but was later on to be false.

"The local government unit of Malay strongly condemns this irresponsible and blatant disregard of quarantine protocols," the Malay LGU said in a statement.

BFP personnel claimed to have originated from Kalibo, Aklan and were going to Boracay "for a conference," pertaining to the meeting of respective secretaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Tourism on 11 and 12 June.

Based on the port manifesto, the BFP employee entered the island at about 5 p.m. on 12 June via the Tabon-Tambisaan Port and left Malay at 1:40 p.m. on 14 June.

Bautista confirmed that said based on the list, 29 members of the BFP went to Boracay on 12 June. He added that the BFP personnel who were in uniform, being front-liners, were allowed to enter the island.

Contact tracing and investigation of the series of events are already being conducted, including those establishments that "accepted the unofficial business of BFP personnel."

The resort island was gearing up for reopening to local tourists on 16 June.

The Iloilo City government placed the regional and city offices of the BFP under lockdown on Monday through Executive Order 91, while regional and city offices were also subjected to decontamination and sanitation procedures.

Mass testing was also conducted on Tuesday for Iloilo BFP personnel who were on active duty since 9 June, who were also required to undergo the 14-day quarantine period and submit themselves to contact tracing procedures.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/18/covid-positive-bfp-employee-goes-to-boracay/>



## **BFP personnel na nagtungong Boracay, positibo sa COVID-19**

June 17, 2020 @ 10:13 AM 22 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nagpositibo sa coronavirus disease (COVID-19) ang isang babaeng empleyado ng Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) na nanatili sa Boracay bago ang araw ng paglabas ng resulta.

Sa ngayong ay binabantayan at hinahanap na ng mga health personnel ang nasa 28 people indibidwal na nagkaroon ng contact sa 26-anyos na empleyado ng BFP Western Visayas office.

Kinumpirma ito ni Acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista at sinabing sasampahan ng kaso ng lokal na pamahalaan ang BFP personnel na lumabag umano sa quarantine protocols.

“This can be considered economic sabotage,” ani Bautista.

Sa impormasyon mula kay Madel Joy Tayco, spokesperson ng municipal interagency task force on COVID-19, isa ang empleyado sa 28 BFP personnel na nagtungo sa isla noong June 11 at June 12.

Dumating ang unang batch noong June 11 para bisitahin ng mga opisyales ng Boracay Inter-Agency Task (BIATF) force sa pangunguna nila Secretaries Roy Cimat (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), Eduardo Año (Department of the Interior and Local Government) at Bernadette Romulo-Puyat (Department of Tourism).

Kasama naman sa batch 2 ang nagpositibong empleyado na dumating noong June 12.

Tinataya ni Tayco na 15 ang kinokonsiderang close contacts ng infected person.

According to Bautista, the BFP employees said they were going to Boracay for a “conference,” apparently referring to the BIATF meeting.

Kasalukuyang naka-isolate ang empleyado sa Iloilo City habang naka-quarantine naman ang iba pa. **RNT/FGDC**

# BFP official sinibak dahil sa Boracay party na labag sa quarantine protocol

Jeff Canoy, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 17 2020 06:24 PM | Updated as of Jun 17 2020 08:37 PM

MAYNILA — Pinasibak sa puwesto ni Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año ang isang regional director ng Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) matapos umanong magsagawa ng despedida party ang mga tauhan niya sa Boracay, kung saan ang isa ay kalauna'y nalamang may COVID-19 pala.

Ayon kay Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, galing Iloilo ang grupo ng BFP personnel na pumunta sa Boracay noong Hunyo 12 ng hapon.

Nakapasok sila sa isla dahil sinabing kasama sila sa conference ng Boracay inter-agency task force doon. Ito'y kahit pa nakaalis na ang mga kalihim at task force.

Nag-check-in sa hotel ang mga taga-BFP nang 2 gabi at nagdaos pa umano ng despedida party.

Habang nasa Boracay, napag-alaman ng isang BFP personnel na positibo sya sa COVID-19.

"Ang nakakagalit ay alam naman nila na bawal at nagsabi pa na kasama daw namin eh umalis na kami noon. 24 silang pumunta. Bawal 'yon," ani Puyat.

Ayon kay Año, sinibak na niya sa puwesto ang regional director ng BFP pati ang mga personnel na kasama sa party.

Pina-quarantine na ang mga ito at nahaharap sila sa mga kasong administratibo.

"Siyempre nadismaya ako, unang-una dapat nga ay tayo ang ehemplo ng pagpapatupad... Hindi siguro nila intention pero dapat discerning, dapat binabantayan mo kilos mo... They also put in danger also 'yung ibang personal ng hotel," ani Año.

Babawiin naman ng DOT ang certificate to operate ng hotel na nagpatuloy sa mga guest kahit hindi pa ito nabibigyan ng permiso noong Hunyo 12.

Ayon sa Malay, Aklan local government unit, 58 tao ang napapasailalim sa quarantine na posibleng nakasalamuha ng mga positive case.

Sabi naman ni Malay Acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista, malaki ang epekto nito sa kanila.

"Malaki talaga 'yung negative impact to Boracay pero anyway tao lang naman 'yun baka nakalimutan lang nila, pero 'yung ginawa nila hindi maganda," ani Bautista.

Sa inilabas na pahayag ng BFP, nagnegatibo na sa rapid test ang 197 na mga personnel nila kabilang ang mga personnel ng Iloilo office ng Provincial Fire Marshal at Iloilo City Central Fire Station.

Nagsagawa na rin sila ng decontamination sa kanilang fire stations.

# Conserving biodiversity means good business — ACB chief

By Rhodelia R. Divina Published on June 17, 2020

CALOOCAN CITY, June 17 (PIA) -- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim on Wednesday called businesses to embrace nature considerations and sustainable management and use of biodiversity in their corporate strategy and practices.

At the same time, Lim outlined some of the measures that the business sector can do to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity during a webinar earlier organised by Holcim Philippines, Inc. in celebration of the Environment Month in June.

"More businesses are undertaking efforts that support biodiversity conservation as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, but are these enough?" she told the **PIA-NCR**.

This, she said, will ensure the business' long-term survival and prevent pandemics and outbreaks of infectious diseases.

"We hope we can dive deeper into biodiversity conservation and consider this not just as part of the CSR. We hope it will be embedded in your plans because conserving and protecting biodiversity is good for business," Lim said.

She commended Holcim's sustainability initiatives and encouraged other companies to follow suit.

Under the theme "Building a Healthier World Together," the webinar was organised by Holcim Philippines for its employees in celebration of Environment Month in June.

Holcim Philippines Environment Manager Stephanie Anne Frogoso, for her part, shared the company's commitment to strengthen sustainability initiatives and demonstrate leadership by connecting the dots between this unprecedented health crisis and the need for sustainable recovery.

"Our company takes part in addressing environmental issues and ensuring sustainability of operations. We reiterate our commitment to improving our environmental and social contributions and support calls to aligned COVID-19 recovery programs with the efforts to address sustainability challenges. As a member of the Lafarge Holcim Group, Holcim Philippines will continue to support the achievement of targets on Climate and Energy, Circular Economy, Environment, and Communities aligned with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals," Frogoso said.

Lim, a wildlife management expert, explained the connection between the loss of biodiversity and the rise of infectious diseases originating from wildlife.

"The COVID-19 pandemic may not be the last. Scientists have extrapolated that there may be around 1.7 million unidentified viruses that still exist in mammals and water birds and can potentially cause pandemics," Lim said.

She explained how viruses get amplified through biodiversity loss. Shrinking wildlife populations could weaken genetic diversity and reduce the capacity of species to stave off the spillover of viruses, which are dormant and inactive in wildlife, to domestic animals and humans.



Conserving biodiversity means good business – ACB

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Among the drivers of biodiversity decline that she cited are poaching and wildlife trade and habitat loss, which all increase opportunities for human interactions with wildlife.

“This is an opportunity for the business sector to do something more, especially to prevent future pandemics and transition to the new normal,” Lim said.

Lim said businesses are encouraged to help in the baselining and assessment of species and ecosystems that are unique in their business locations.

“Before identifying your locations, it is important to do baselining and assessment of the area because that will help you eventually in restoring the ecosystems to its approximate natural state,” Lim said.

The ACB executive director also suggested increased investments for green infrastructure and sustainability-driven innovation.

Holcim Philippines President and CEO John Stull said: “We are determined to help where we can to ensure that new ways of doing business supports the overall efforts to preserve gains in improving the quality of life for people all over the world and build resilience against similar global challenges.”  
(PIA NCR)

# Enactment of nat'l land use act pushed

Published June 17, 2020, 2:44 PM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Wednesday called on lawmakers to pursue the passage of the National Land Use Act (NLUA) to prevent the overexploitation of soil due to unbridled human activity.

The NLUA, which seeks to ensure the sustainable and efficient use of the country's land and physical resources, has been pending in Congress for two decades, according to the CCC.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

Early this year, the CCC said that the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) had initiated the drafting of an executive order that will institutionalize national land use planning in the country. This step was taken pending the enactment by Congress of the NLUA.

In observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17, the Commission urged the lawmakers to enact the NLUA, as it underscored the importance of behavioral change and policy interventions in ensuring the efficient and sustainable management of our lands.

In line with the theme of this year's observance on food, feed and fiber, the CCC pointed out that changing consumption patterns and enacting the right policies could send a powerful signal to producers and suppliers of the change they need to make in order to thrive more sustainably.

In 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change and Land revealed that the major drivers of desertification and climate change are the expansion of croplands, unsustainable land management practices, and increased pressure on land from population and income growth.

Based on the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the world's population is expected to reach 9.7 billion by mid-century and could peak at nearly 11 billion by 2100.

By 2030, food production will require an additional 30 hectares of land while the fashion industry is projected to use an additional 35 percent of land or approximately 115 million hectares, according to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Given these figures, the climate body emphasized that the shift to sustainable consumption and production is necessary to ensure a livable and thriving planet for the generations to come.

According to the CCC, there is a need to develop policies that will create an enabling environment for the private business sector to practice resource efficiency, establish sustainable supply chains, and adopt more efficient and sustainable land use and land management practices.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/17/enactment-of-natl-land-use-act-pushed/>

Pinoy biologist discovers new butterfly subspecies in  
TITLE: Mount Talinis in Negros

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# Pinoy biologist discovers new butterfly subspecies in Mount Talinis in Negros

Published June 17, 2020 2:43pm

There's officially a new butterfly in the Philippines!

Jade Aster T. Badon, a biologist and instructor at the Silliman University in Dumaguete, discovered the new butterfly when he hiked to the peak of Mount Talinis in Negros back in 2012.

He collected the specimen around Lake Nailig, a crater lake near the summit, during his research expedition.



Photo: Jade Aster T. Badon, published in Nachrichten des Entomologischen Vereins Apollo.

However, it wasn't until 2019 that he realized that it was a completely new subspecies of the *Appias phoebe*, when he attended a wildlife conservation symposium in Leyte.

"[The butterfly] was actually featured in one of my books, and then when I skimmed through the pages, I noticed the picture of the butterfly. I said, it looks different," he told GMA News Online.

"The one here in South Negros is distinctly different from the other subspecies in the country," he added.

The *Appias phoebe nyudai* ssp. n. has a funnel-shaped cell end spot in the forewing, as compared to another subspecies, the ssp. *montana*, which has a circular-shaped cell end spot.

Badon said the new subspecies can only be found in Mount Talinis, more than 1,500 above sea level.

The researcher shared that growing up, he would always see Mount Talinis, but it's only in 2012 that he was able to reach the peak. He has always been curious, however, because Mount Talinis was "understudied."

Pinoy biologist discovers new butterfly subspecies in

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He added that he was honored to be the one to discover the new subspecies.

"My advisor passed away ten days after I graduated [grad school]. Before he passed away, he told me, I can't wait for what you're going to accomplish. I feel honored to be able to discover something because he was expecting a lot from me. I feel happy that I discovered this unexpectedly," he said.

Badon named the new butterfly after Justin S. Nuyda, a painter and one of the first Filipinos to document the country's butterflies, for his valuable contribution to the study of Philippine butterflies.

His research just been published in Nachrichten des Entomologischen Vereins Apollo (NEVA).

Badon is a biologist, instructor, and the president of the Philippine Lepidoptera Butterflies and Moths, Incorporated.

—JCB, GMA News

Pagtagas ng septic tank sa binubuong gusali ng  
Chinese company sa Parañaque inireklamo

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# Pagtagas ng septic tank sa binubuong gusali ng Chinese company sa Parañaque inireklamo

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 16 2020 04:25 PM | Updated as of Jun 16 2020 04:41 PM

MAYNILA - Inireklamo ng ilang residente sa Tambo, Parañaque ang pagtagas ng isang septic tank sa katabing gusali na ipinatayo umano ng isang Chinese company.



Nakita pang walang building permit at certificate of occupancy ang 4 na palapag na gusaling isang taon nang itinatayo ng isang Chinese contractor sa loteng pag-aari ng Roligon Compound.

Hawak din ng Roligon ang katabing gasolinahan at sabungan.

Ayon kay Ruben Dela Cruz, maintenance officer ng compound, tumatagas papunta sa kanilang compound ang laman ng septic tank ng 4 palapag na gusali.

Tatlong buwan na nila itong inirereklamo dahil tumatagas ito noong una sa driveway ng kanilang establisimyento.

Nang ayusin ito ng contractor, lumipat naman ang tagas sa gilid ng water tank ng compound nitong nakaraang 2 linggo.

Nitong weekend lalong lumakas ang amoy nito. Kaya naman, idinulog na nila ito sa barangay at sa lokal na pamahalaan.

Ayon sa taga-Roligon, maayos kausap noong una ang contractor pero nahirapan nang makipagharap sa kanila nitong mga nakaraang linggo.

May mga isyu pa sa konstruksyon gaya ng hindi ligtas na paglagay ng mga gamit tulad ng external aircon na posibleng makahulog sa katabing parking.

Lumalabas sa pagsusuri ng barangay na natengga na roon ang ilang construction worker magmula noong ECQ. Malapit umano ang gusali sa isang Phiippine offshore gaming operator.

Naglabas naman ang Office of the Building Official ng LGU ng final notice of violation sa nagpapatayo ng gusali.

Iniutos na rin ng contractor na itigil ang lahat ng aktibidad sa lugar at ayusin ang permit

Ayon sa interpretor ng building owners na si Johnny Co, inaayos na nila ang permit na naantala umano.



Pagtagas ng septic tank sa binubuong gusali ng  
Chinese company sa Parañaque inireklamo

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Sisimulan na rin anila nila ang paghuhukay pero naghihintay sila ng magsisipsip ng pozo negro.

Nangako naman ang kinatawan ng may-ari na aayusin nila ang gusot, kasunod ng insidente.

-- Ulat ni Anjo Bagaoisan, ABS-CBN News

# Duterte is fine – Roque

Published 12 hours ago on June 17, 2020 06:11 PM

By **Francis Wakefield**



Presidential spokesman Harry Roque on Wednesday assured the public that President Rodrigo Duterte is in “the pink of health” amid questions on the President’s current health condition amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Palace official also noted that Duterte even jokingly stated that he lost some weight when he stayed in Davao City after spending 67 days in Manila as precautionary measures to protect himself from the virus as advised by the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

In the same interview, Roque said Duterte is also set to accept the credentials of five new ambassadors which for the first in history will be done via teleconference.

An ambassador who is set to leave the country soon will have his farewell call to the President in person this Friday, 19 June.

When asked when the meeting of the President with businessmen will take place in Malacañang, Roque said there is still no schedule.

# COVID-19 in PHL breaches 27K mark

Published 12 hours ago on June 17, 2020 05:58 PM

By **Gabbie Parlade**



The Department of Health (DoH) on Wednesday announced that the total number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infections in the Philippines reached 27,238 after 457 new cases have been added to the tally.

Of the total number of infected, 19,126 were reported as active cases with a large percentage being mild and asymptomatic cases.

Of the day's total, 342 fresh cases or test results released within the last three days were composed of NCR with 144 cases, Region VII with 101 and 97 others from different regions.

On the other hand, the late cases or those validated from backlogs were cases from NCR with 29, 59 from Region VII and 27 from separate regions.

The Health department also recorded 268 recuperations to bring the total number of recoveries to 6,820, while the death toll is now at 1,108 with five fatalities recorded.

Meanwhile, the DoH's bulletin showed that the COVID-19 testing laboratories rose to 60 with 45 RT-PCR and 15 Gene Xpert laboratories licensed.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire earlier said that one of the newest laboratories to operate is the Modular Molecular Laboratory in Veterans Memorial Medical Center that was donated by the pharmaceutical company Unilab.

Vergeire said that the pop-up laboratory can conduct up to 300 tests in a day.

Worldwide, over eight million people have contracted the coronavirus disease, as the United States remains at the top spot with 2.1 million cases, according to John Hopkins University.

## Gov't gets \$500-M loan

ADB cites effectiveness of 4Ps program in addressing poverty

By: [Ben O. de Vera](#) - Reporter / [@bendeveraINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:24 AM June 18, 2020

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) will get a fresh \$450 million (about P22.5 billion) in funds to continue providing cash grants to poor families for their children's health and education needs.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Department of Finance (DOF) said Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and Asian Development Bank (ADB) country director for the Philippines Kelly Bird on Monday signed the loan agreement for the \$500-million expanded social assistance project (Esap) extended by the Manila-based lender for the 4Ps.

"We thank the ADB for again extending its support to our sustained efforts to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economy and our people. This budget-support loan will not only help bridge our funding gap for our COVID-19 response but will also strengthen our social protection program as we restart our economy and help people get back on their feet amid the pandemic," Dominguez said.

"This budget-support loan under the Esap is part of the Philippine government's external financing program for 2020, with \$450 million of the fund proposed for accelerated disbursement by next month," the DOF said. "The Esap loan, which covers a maturity period of 29 years inclusive of an eight-year grace period, brings to \$2.6 billion the total financing package extended by the ADB so far to the Philippines for its programs to address the COVID-19 crisis," the DOF added.

The ADB earlier said that on top of the Esap loan, a \$3.1-million technical assistance would be provided to help improve the family and youth development sessions, update the list of eligible poor households, provide a package of livelihood and other support to help up to 3,000 households graduate out of poverty, support IT reforms to automate compliance verification and grievance redress, and prepare for the integration of the 4Ps database with the government's national ID system.

"The Philippine government is boosting social investment in Filipinos to break the decades-old intergenerational cycle of poverty. The 4Ps provides vulnerable households with an income supplement to help their children become educated, stay healthy and leave poverty for good. Our evidence shows that this is working. The 4Ps has helped 1.5 million people escape poverty since it began in 2008. Through this project loan and technical-assistance support, the ADB is helping the Philippines expand these gains," ADB vice president Ahmed Saeed said in a separate statement when the lender's board approved the loan on June 11.

"Independent impact evaluations and ADB analyses have confirmed the 4Ps' significant benefits to households. For example, the average enrollment rate for children aged 16 to 17 years old in 4Ps households is 88 percent, significantly higher than the average rate of 70 percent for children in non-4Ps households. The cash grants do not discourage 4Ps parents from looking for and retaining employment. In fact, employment outcomes in 4Ps families are the same as non-4Ps families. In addition, the incidence of hunger is lower for 4Ps households," the ADB said.

To date, the ADB's cumulative financial assistance for the Philippines' 4Ps already amounted to over \$1.5 billion.

Last year, President Duterte signed into law Republic Act No. 11310, which institutionalized the 4Ps being implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development while also providing more cash subsidies to its current 4.3 million beneficiaries nationwide.



# Roque resumes fight vs PhilHealth fraud

Published 6 hours ago on June 18, 2020 12:05 AM

By **Francis Wakefield**



Presidential spokesman Harry Roque on Wednesday disclosed having uncovered new anomalies in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

He vowed to reveal these alleged irregularities in the agency soon. Roque even announced his intention to quit as President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman if only to resume his advocacy of cleansing the agency of corruption.

The Palace official criticized PhilHealth's leadership under its president Ricardo Morales for not ridding the PhilHealth of corrupt officials.

The PhilHealth on Wednesday also proposed the postponement of the implementation of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law allegedly due to revenue losses brought by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Morales earlier said that the insurance company's revenue is seen to decline approximately by P100 billion until 2024 to affect the provision of primary health benefits to all Filipinos under the UHC law.

"There are new anomalies there, but I struggle because I am still the presidential spokesman. But I can't deny the fact that we pushed for universal healthcare, and yet it would not succeed because of corruption," Roque said.

Asked if he will wait for President Duterte's word for him to resign as spokesman, Roque said he will continue his crusade of cleansing PhilHealth "if that is the case."

"What I am saying is if I need to. But of course, I will use my position to ensure that the Universal Health Care will succeed because it's an administration bill and it's something we hold dear together with the President, one of our commonalities," he said.

"We will not let corruption come in the way of the success of Universal Health Care," he added.

"As an author of the Universal Health Care Law, there will always be funding for Universal Health Care because they know that the premiums could never be enough," Roque stated.

He charged that since Morales took the helm at the agency, hundreds of (billions) have been to corruption with no official or staff facing a case or being fired.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto, meanwhile, argued that the UHC is "critical" in the fight against COVID-19.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/18/roque-resumes-fight-vs-philhealth-fraud/>



## HEADLINES

# Health care in crisis

Published 6 hours ago on June 18, 2020 12:07 AM

By [Gabbie Parlade](#)



Only days after getting President Rodrigo Duterte's backing, Health Secretary Francisco Duque on Wednesday found himself in the center of an Ombudsman's probe.

It is for alleged anomalies in the Department of Health's (DoH) handling of the new coronavirus pandemic.

The investigation comes as the country's health care system falls on the fringe of a crisis.

An organization of private hospitals pushed the suspension of the Universal Health Care, a new law that aims to provide accessible health support to the public. It is now threatened by revenue losses brought by the virus.

While pressed for action and accurate information which could have guided the formulation of policies, a special adviser to the National Task Force (NTF) on COVID-19 was forced to quit following disagreements with the DoH and Duque's tact.

The Health agency chief is also being charged of lack of leadership.

President Duterte had earlier defended Duque when 14 senators called for the Health Chief's resignation. The President believed Duque would have worked harder after getting the flak.

These will come to fore when Ombudsman Samuel Martires starts investigating the many alleged anomalies which have marked the DoH's handling of the pandemic.

Duque described his anti-pandemic program — already questioned by many — as a "model" for other countries.

Other DoH officials will also be probed.

Martires said the investigation will center on the delayed procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other gears. This lapse led to the many deaths among the medical frontliners.

The Ombudsman will also look into the reported delay of benefits meant for the fallen and infected health workers.

The "confusing and delayed" reporting of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the country will also be probed.

Martires disclosed his men were given a “runaround” by DoH officials when he ordered a 15 March field investigation.

“The Office of the Ombudsman through its Field Investigation Office started to conduct an investigation. But our investigators were given a runaround by some DoH officials and personnel by referring us from one department or office to another,” he stated.

The team will file criminal cases against DoH executives who failed to comply, hindered or obstructed their efforts.

Charges will also apply to those who “willfully misled or attempted to mislead” investigators and officials of the Office of the Ombudsman.

The DoH welcomed the investigation. It said it will comply with the directives by the Ombudsman.

“DoH officials will willingly cooperate with the authorities to ensure utmost transparency throughout the duration of the investigation and beyond,” its statement read.

The agency also claimed that it was transparent in procurement, provision of benefits and with the data released to the public.

“As firm believers of transparency, the Department has likewise religiously informed the public for corrections and clarifications raised by all sectors as it continues to validate all submitted data,” the DoH stated.

Also within the day, the DoH vowed to process new claims for benefits for the fallen and infected health workers in addition to the 32 who died and the 19 others confined with severe symptoms.

Last 26 May, President Rodrigo Duterte also ordered an investigation on the procurement of PPE and other equipment by the Department of Budget and Management.

Several lawmakers have also earlier slammed Duque’s “failure of leadership, negligence, lack of foresight, and inefficiency in performance” in his response to the pandemic.

The most scathing criticisms, however, came from Dr. Tony Leachon, an epidemiologist and adviser to the NTF. He accused the DoH of having a leadership vacuum and of botching its response to the virus.

Leachon resigned as NTF special adviser on Wednesday. But only because he was asked to do so by National Action Plan Against COVID-19 Chief Implementer Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr.

Galvez allegedly informed him that his remarks did not sit well with presidential spokesman Harry Roque and Duque.

“I was asked to resign. That’s the truth. But it’s an acceptance on my part because I am ashamed to be a burden to Secretary Galvez,” he said.

Leachon claimed that he was repeatedly asked against airing his “independent views” which he thought were helpful to the country.

“I am also apologizing for making some things that are not aligned with the Palace’s decisions,” he said. “It hurts me because I know I can add value to the crusade.”

Leachon maintained that the government needs “granular and real-time” data to craft policies related to COVID-19.

Roque said the Palace respects the Ombudsman's initiating the probe on the DoH and Duque. He stated that the Ombudsman is an independent constitutional body that is doing its job in probing allegations of anomalies.

"We will let the process run its course and we enjoin Secretary Duque and the entire DoH bureaucracy to cooperate with the investigation and respect the orders of the OMB," Roque said.

Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, who had earlier stated that the President will not fire Duque, also called the Ombudsman's action as "its constitutional duty," a statement echoed by Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon and several other lawmakers.

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# From mañanita to despedida: How some gov't employees breached quarantine protocols

By [Jeline Malasig](#) - June 17, 2020 - 9:01 PM



Some personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection Region VI in this photo uploaded on Facebook on June 14, 2020. (Photo from Public Information Section, BFP 6 via Facebook)

After mañanita, Filipino online users are now criticizing the “despedida party” involving some personnel of the **Bureau of Fire Protection Region VI** that was held in **Boracay** last week despite the ban on non-essential social gatherings.

The group went to the famed island from June 12 to 14 to supposedly attend a [conference](#) held by the **Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force** before it officially opened to tourists in **Western Visayas** on June 16.

The BFP staff stayed there even after members of the task force had already left post-conference, [according](#) to Tourism Secretary **Bernadette Romulo-Puyat**.

She also confirmed that the group held a “[despedida party](#)” despite stringent quarantine measures.

One of the personnel in the bureau, which is under the **Department of Interior and Local Government**, had later on tested positive for COVID-19.

The Malay municipal government said in a [statement](#) that “the BFP personnel allegedly went on unofficial business and violated quarantine protocols of both the **Municipality of Malay** and **Municipality of Kalibo** (the personnel’s place of origin).”

It also assured the public that it is exhausting all means to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19 following the group’s “irresponsible and blatant disregard of quarantine protocols.”

Puyat in a phone interview with [Philstar.com](#) also said that the staff of the resort where the party was held was ordered to undergo a “strict quarantine.”

DILG Secretary **Eduardo Año** has [sacked](#) the BFP regional director in Region VI and the personnel involved in the quarantine protocol breach.

‘Despedida is the new mañanita’

Meanwhile, the disregard on lockdown measures, specifically in relation to non-essential social gatherings, has prompted Twitter users to recall another party that was held by law enforcers last May.

“From mañanita to despedida. The Duterte admin is the biggest breaker of its own rules. Then again, in this admin, rules don’t apply to gov’t officials, only to ordinary citizens,” award-winning screenwriter **Eric Cabahug** [said](#).

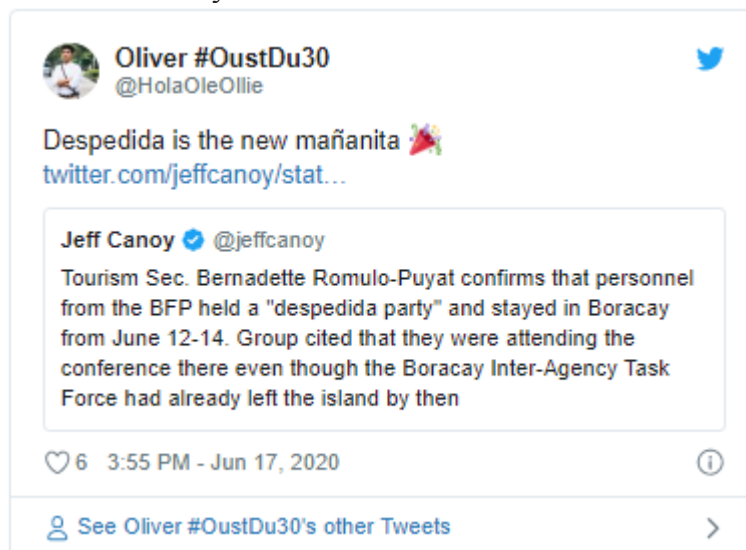
From mañanita to despedida: how some gov't employees breached quarantine protocols

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June 18, 2020  
DATE

“First, there was a birthday party. Now, it’s a despedida. Deplorable. This government appears to be the number one breaker of its own rules,” wrote a [Twitter user](#).

Another online user couldn’t help but [comment](#) in jest, “From mañanita to despedida. Ano kayang next, quinceneara? Despedida de soltera? Pasiyam?”



Despedida, which literally means “farewell,” is [described](#) by Lexico as “a social event honoring someone who is about to depart on a journey or leave an organization.”

It also said that the term refers to a “going-away party.”

Mañanita, on the other hand, refers to a birthday “salubong” or a traditional [early morning “serenade”](#) for a celebrant. This word first entered the mainstream news cycle when some police officers held such [gathering](#) for Metro Manila Police chief Major General **Debold Sinas**.

In the viral photos last month, Sinas and some members of the **National Capital Region Police Office** were seen standing close to each other, crowding at a buffet table and eating meals without being distant from each other.

Sinas earned condemnation from Filipinos since there are strict guidelines against holding mass gatherings in light of the health crisis and amid the then-imposed **enhanced community quarantine** over Metro Manila. The NCRPO is also expected to enforce the quarantine rules.

The controversial mañanita reached [international news outlets](#) but that didn’t stop Sinas from continuously pursuing his duties as the top cop of Metro Manila, especially after President **Rodrigo Duterte** had expressed his disagreement over firing him.

Despite failing to abide by the ban on social gatherings, Sinas and the police officers involved in the mañanita were only investigated, not sanctioned.

Meanwhile, some critics of the controversial anti-terrorism bill mobilized last June 12 at UP Diliman in an assembly they called a “mañanita” in an attempt to still abide by the government’s restrictions on gathering.

Presidential spokesperson **Harry Roque** said that the government only allows a ten-people limit on gatherings under the less strict **general community quarantine**.

Source: <https://www.interaksyon.com/politics-issues/2020/06/17/170959/from-mananita-despedida-how-some-govt-employees-breached-quarantine-protocols/>





## LANDBANK, PERA KO BUHAY MO, SALOT KA NAMAN SA BUHAY KO!

June 17, 2020 @ 8:35 AM 24 hours ago

Kailan kaya matitigil ang kalbaryo ng mga kliyente ng Landbank?

Isa akong taong gobyerno na naglilingkod sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources bilang undersecretary.

Minsan ay nagpautos ako sa aking staff na pumila sa Landbank para mag-withdraw ng aking sweldo. (Siyempre may authorization letter na dala.)

Sa hinaba-haba ng pila... sa wakas ay umabot din naman sa teller ang ating staff.

Pero gumuho ang daigdig ng ating inutusan nang sabihin sa kanya ng teller ng Landbank na kailangang bumalik daw siya sa akin dahil walang petsa na nakalagay sa withdrawal slip.

Laglag tuka na naglakad pabalik ng DENR ang ating staff para lang sabihing, sir, wala raw pong date ang withdrawal slip.

Ang tanong ko naman sa kanya... bakit hindi na lang ikaw o 'yung teller ang naglagay?

Bawal daw po 'yun! Teng eneng buhay ito! Kung ganyan kabulok ang serbisyo ng bangko n'yo... mabuti pang magsara na kayo! Pabulong na sinabi ko sa aking sarili.

### KARAG-KARAG NA ATM

Isa pang paraan para makuha mo ang iyong sweldo ay ang pumila naman sa ATM.

Karamihan sa ATM ng Landbank ay matanda pa yata sa lolo ko, kaya inutil kapag dito ka nag-withdraw, bukod sa katiting na maximum withdrawal, kadalasan ay sira ito o wala namang lamang pera.

May hustisya ba ang ginawa ng pamahalaan na Landbank ang suportahan ng mga ahensya ng gobyerno samantalang isa ito sa pinakainutil na bangko ng bansa?

### HOSTAGE ANG KLIYENTE

Sapilitang magbubukas ka ng account sa Landbank sakaling makipagtransaksyon ka sa Pag-Ibig Fund.

Dahil dito lang nila inire-release ang kanilang pondo sa mga pinautang nila na ibinabayad naman sa real estate companies.

Sa madaling salita, tiis ka sa kabulukan ng serbisyo kung gusto mong makipagnegosyo sa Pag-Ibig.

Landbank, pera ko buhay mo, salot ka naman sa  
buhay ko

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June 18, 2020  
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## WALANG PAKIALAM SA COVID-19

Dahil sa coronavirus disease-2019 ay na-lockdown ng tatlong buwan ang may-ari ng AC Realon Developer sa Calapan, Mindoro kung kaya't nagtungo ito sa Landbank Calapan para mag-withdraw at para mapasahod din ang kanyang mahigit 50 tauhan sa isang proyekto.

Hindi na inisip ng mga hijo at hija de punggol sa Landbank kung ano ang dinaranas ng mga tao ngayon dahil sa COVID-19.

Sa unang punta sa bangko ni Mrs. Aurora Realon ay katakot-takot na pahirap ang inabot nito sa kanyang interbranch withdrawal.

Sa ikalawang punta ay ganun pa rin ang kanyang dinanas, hanggang sa pangatlong ulit ay napundi na ito nang tuluyan.

Sa halip na mag-withdraw ay lumabas na lang ito ng bangko at dumulog sa sumbungan ng bayan at ito ay ang... gawain ng karamihan sa ating lipunan ngayon ang magsumbong kay Mark Zuckerberg.

'Yun bang === FACEBOOK.

Ipinost na lang ni Realon sa Facebook ang kanyang dinanas sa Landbank na agad namang napansin ng manager na si Ma'am Evelyn Marquez.

Agad na ginawan nito ng paraan na makuha ang contact number ng kliyente at nang makausap ay sinabing pwede na raw siyang mag-withdraw.

Aba'y loko! Bakit kailangang pahirapan n'yo muna ang inyong kliyente saka n'yo hahabulin kapag inuupakan na kayo sa Facebook?

'Yan bang tauhan n'yo sa teller 3 ay hindi man lang dumaan sa seminar n'yo, Ma'am Evelyn?

## PERA NAMIN 'YAN

Bakit ganyan na lang ang pahirap ng Landbank sa kanyang mga kliyente?

Hindi ba't pera namin ang bumubuhay sa inyo?

Bakit naman para kayong salot sa buhay namin na sa halip na alagaan kami ay pahirap ang dulot n'yo sa tuwing makikipagtransaksyon kami sa inyo?

Maiparating nga natin ito sa ating kaibigang si Landbank Dir. Atty. JV Hinlo para naman malaman n'ya kung gaano kabulok ang serbisyo ng kanilang mga tauhan sa bangko.

Dito masusubukan natin ang asim ng MRRD!

**NATION**

# 'Red tide' detected in NegOr bay

Published 2 hours ago on June 18, 2020 04:10 AM

By [Trina Ibarle Orquiza](#)



PHOTO COURTESY OF PNA

A significant increase in microalgae that causes red tide was observed in waters of the Tambobo Bay in Siaton town, Negros Occidental, according to the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) in the province.

Provincial agriculture officer Nestor Villaflores said a surge in red tide-causing dinoflagellate or microalgae was discovered in the bay in recent weeks, pushing his office to warn against the human consumption of shellfish collected in the area.

"We have also advised the local chief executive in Siaton to announce the stoppage of shellfish collection and consumption at Tambobo Bay until the red tide event has subsided," Villaflores said.

A team from the PAO, led by marine biologist Wilmencita Pialago, conducted a red tide monitoring on the density of the *Pyrodinium bahamense* var. *compressum*, a type of red tide-causing dinoflagellate, on Monday.

Sampling results showed that the cell density of the *Pyrodinium bahamense* var. *compressum* had spread across the bay and significantly increased at "very significant cell counts" from the last time samples were tested.

"These particular microalgae can grow exponentially and is harmful to humans, resulting in the occurrence of red tide," the PAO Red Tide Task Force said in a report.

Toxic algae contaminate shellfish and consumption of this can lead to human illnesses, such as paralytic shellfish poisoning.

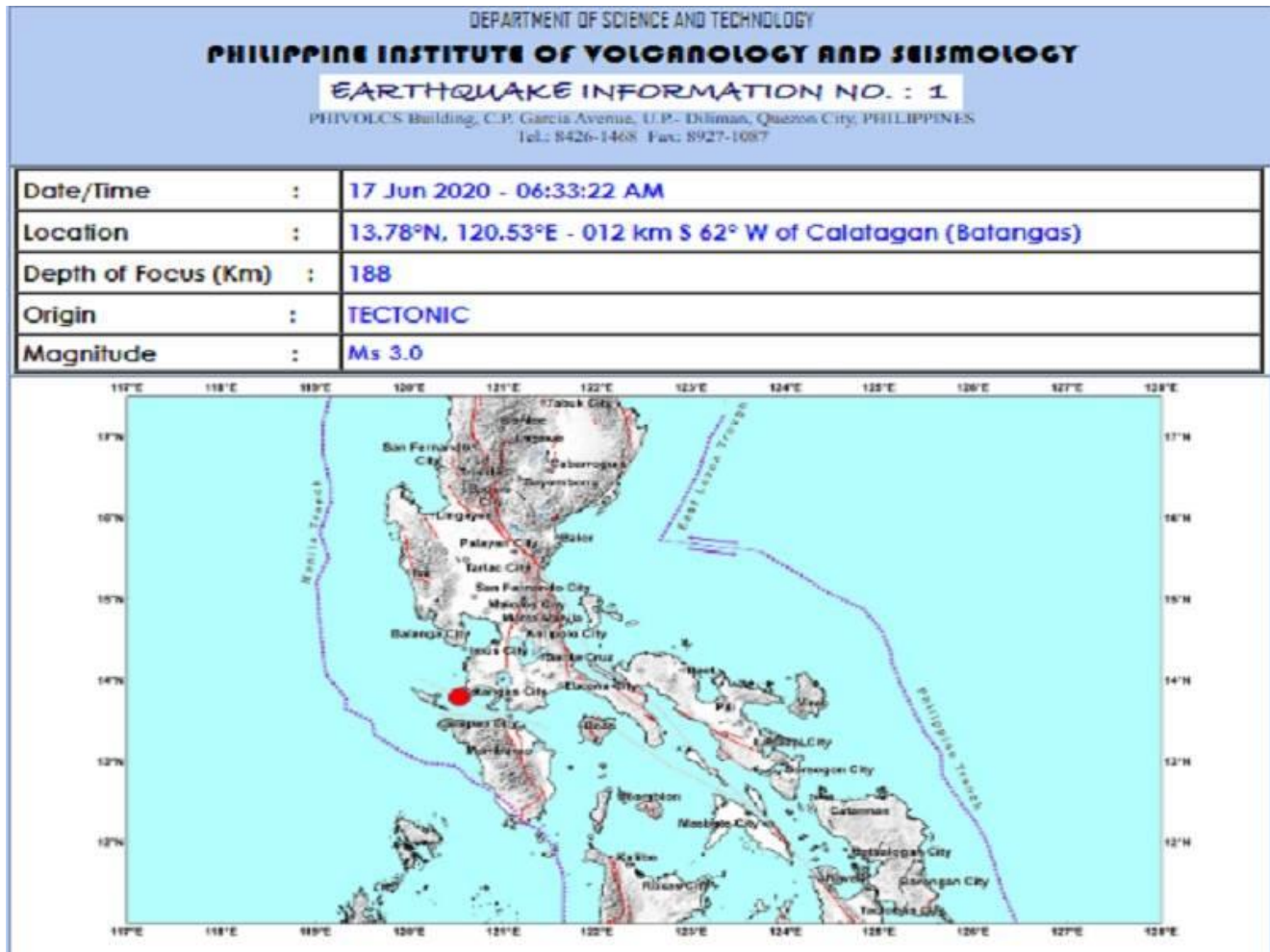
The team took water and shellfish meat samples for analysis, both of which will also be forwarded to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for confirmation.

Villaflores said that weekly monitoring and sampling will be done at the bay to determine the intensity of the algal bloom and its level of toxicity, but he added there is no telling when the algal bloom will decrease to a level that is no longer harmful to humans.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/18/red-tide-detected-in-negor-bay/>

# Calatagan, Batangas niyanig ng lindol

By Mary Rose Cabrales June 17, 2020 - 06:59 AM



Niyanig ng magnitude 3.0 na lindol ang lalawigan ng Batangas .

Ayon sa Phivolcs, naitala ang pagyanig sa 12 kilometers southwest ng bayan ng Calatagan, alas-6:33 umaga ng Miyerkules (June 17).

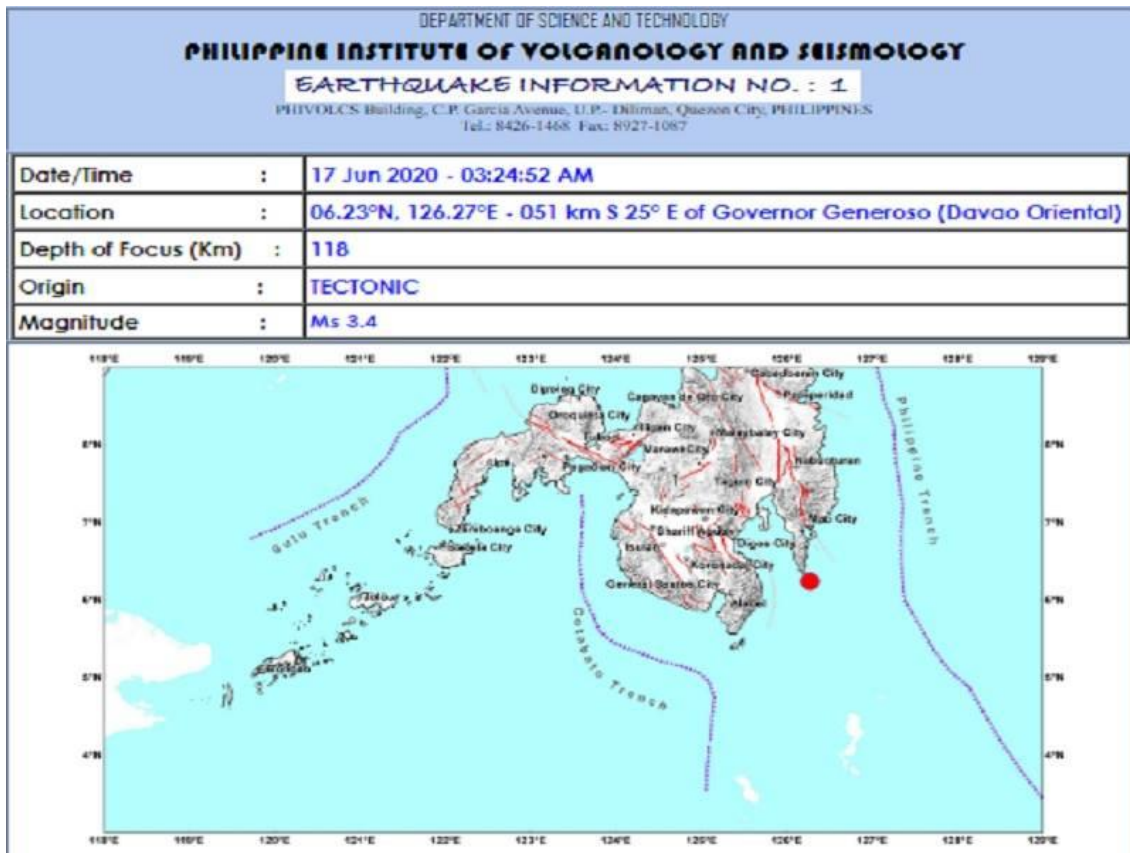
May lalim na 118 kilometers at tectonic ang origin ng pagyanig.

Wala namang inaasahang pagkasira sa mga ari-arian, intensities at aftershocks.



# Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental niyanig ng magnitude 3.4 na lindol

By Mary Rose Cabrales June 17, 2020 - 05:27 AM



Niyanig ng magnitude 3.4 na lindol ang lalawigan ng Davao Oriental .

Ayon sa Phivolcs, naitala ang pagyanig sa 51 kilometers southeast ng bayan ng Governor Generoso, alas-3:24 madaling araw ng Miyerkules (June 17).

May lalim na 118 kilometers at tectonic ang origin ng pagyanig.

Wala namang inaasahang pagkasira sa mga ari-arian, intensities at aftershocks.



## Diego, the tortoise who saved his species from extinction, finally released to the wilds

INQUIRER.net / 06:59 PM June 17, 2020



Diego the tortoise on Santa Cruz Island, Galápagos, Ecuador. Image: Galapagos National Park via AP

The Galápagos tortoise Diego, famous for saving his species from extinction with his sex drive, has returned home to the wilderness of Ecuador.

Diego has finally received his well-deserved retirement after [decades of mating](#) with several female tortoises under a breeding program that started in the 1960s, as per BBC yesterday, June 16.

He is joined by 14 other male tortoises as he returns to their native island of Española, where Diego's species – the *Chelonoidis hoodensis* – can only be found.

Diego, through his internet-famous libido, was able to father an estimated 40% of the 2,000 giant tortoises alive today in the island. Around 50 years ago, Española only housed two male and 12 female tortoises.

Diego was then taken from California's San Diego Zoo, in an attempt to join the others and repopulate the nearly-extinct species back in 1976, the report said.

Galápagos National Parks service believes that Diego was in the said zoo back then because he was brought there by a scientific expedition during the early 20th century, the report said.

“We close an important chapter in the management of @parquegalapagos,” said Paulo Proaño Andrade, environment minister of Ecuador, as per his statement on Twitter on June 15. “[Fifteen] Española tortoises, including Diego, return home after decades of breeding in captivity and saving their species from extinction. Your island welcomes you with open arms.” **Ian Biong/JB**

Source: <https://technology.inquirer.net/100925/diego-the-tortoise-who-saved-his-species-from-extinction-finally-released-to-the-wilds>

## 58 rare species in Cambodia almost extinct

**KHMER TIMES**

By [KHMER TIMES](#)

June 18, 2020

**PHNOM PEHN:** About 58 endangered aquatic species in Cambodia face extinction if no efforts are made to protect them. “For example, the Royal Turtle are classified as a globally threatened species because it takes them 30 years to reproduce and normally they can only live in specific areas,” Vibol said. “If their habitats are destroyed or harmed, we won’t find these species anywhere else in Cambodia.”

“Next year, we also plan to review and conduct studies on other types of animals to find out whether their populations are also declining. If they face threats, it will require them being listed as endangered species,” he added.

Vibol stressed that the authorities need to conduct research into threats the animals face and find out the exact locations of their habitats in order to declare such as protected areas.

“We also need to publicise the information to the local community and invite public participation in efforts to ban poaching,” he said. “In some cases, we have to locate hatching sites in order to take the eggs and nurture them till they hatch and reach adulthood before we release them into the wild.”

Recently, the Fisheries Conservation Department released 80 adult Royal Turtles back into the wild after rescuing the eggs from poachers.

The Royal Turtle is listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List as being “critically endangered.”

Vibol said people are aware of the need to protect animals such as the Royal Turtle and Irrawaddy dolphin. However, other endangered aquatic species, including the Mekong giant catfish and giant carp are still being hunted.

“This is why our authorities have to strictly monitor conservation areas and punish those who illegally poach the endangered species,” he said.

Ouk Vibol, director of the Fisheries Conservation Department of the Agriculture Ministry’s Fisheries Administration, said in an interview with a local media outlet yesterday the population of these species was continuing to decline despite there being laws to conserve them.

He said 29 of the aquatic creatures are freshwater species and the other 29 are saltwater ones. Of these, 14 species are considered as critically endangered, including the Irrawaddy dolphin and the Royal Turtle.