



## Phase 4 ng DENR ComPassion Project

June 20, 2020 @ 3:49 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ipinagkaloob ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Attached Agencies Rodolfo C. Garcia kay Hackett Security Agency Detachment Chief Mario Calizo na kumakatawan sa frontline security guards, ang bag ng grocery items at face shields bilang bahagi ng Phase 4 ng DENR ComPassion Project na inorganisa ng DENR Association of Career Executives at DENR Employees Union sa pakikipagtulungan ng Career Executive Service Board.

Ang pamamahagi ng 90 bags ng groceries at 90 mga piraso ng face shields sa mga security guard ay bahagi ng pagtulong ng ahensiya sa gobyerno upang malabanan ang COVID-19 at upang mabigyan ng proteksiyon ang mga empleyado kabilang na ang mga guwardiya na nakatalaga sa DENR.

Ang Phase 4 ng ComPassion Project ay bahagi ng celebration ng ika-33 taong anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag ng DENR na ginanap noong Hunyo 10. Kabilang din sa larawan si DENR Undersecretary for Priority Programs Jonas R. Leones. **Danny Querubin**



## DENR: Mapaghanda sa paglaban sa COVID-19

June 20, 2020 @ 3:37 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinangunahan nina Undersecretary for Priority Programs Jonas R. Leones (nasa harapang kanan) at Undersecretary for Attached Agencies Rodolfo C. Garcia (kanan, ikalawang linya) ang pagbibigay ng reusable face masks kina DENR Employees Union (DENREU) Board Director Antonio Bautista, Jr. (nakasuot ng dark blue uniform) at DENR Personnel Division Chief, Human Resource Development Service (HRDS) Miriam Marcelo (nakasuot ng light blue uniform), na siyang kumatawan sa mga DENR frontline employees partikular na ang mga nagsisilbing skeletal workforce.

Ang pamamahagi ng 2,000 piraso ng face masks ay ang Phase 4 ng DENR ComPassion Project na inisyatibo ng DENR Association of Career Executives at DENREU sa pakikipagtulungan ng Career Executive Service Board na layuning matulungan ang gobyerno sa paglaban sa COVID-19 sa pamamagitan ng pagtiyak na mabibigyan ng proteksiyon ang mga empleyado ng DENR.

Ito ay ginanap noong Hunyo 10 sa pagdiriwang ng ika-33 taong anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag ng DENR. Kabilang sa mga nasa larawan sina (mula sa kaliwa) Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Visayas Joselin Marcus E. Fragada, HRDS Director Ric. G. Enriquez at Assistant Secretary for Administration, Human Resources, and Legislative Affairs Joan A. Lagunda. **Danny Querubin**

# Flight of the Philippine cockatoo

*Can these amazing creatures talk, sing, dance and fly their way away from extinction?*

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

June 21, 2020



*A red-vented cockatoo at the Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City.*

With a once-thriving population over the Philippine archipelago, the population of the red-vented cockatoo has drastically decreased in the 1990s due to persistent poaching and the massive destruction of their habitats.

With slightly over 1,200 cockatoo individuals left in the wild, they remain on top of the list of endemic species threatened with extinction.



*A coastal forest near the Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape in the northwestern part of the Palawan. Coastal forests are known habitats of the Philippine red-vented cockatoo.*

Roughly around 70 percent of the remaining population of the red-vented cockatoo, or the Philippine cockatoo, is in Palawan province. The rest are spread out in small concentrations on Polillo Island, in Quezon province, and in Sulu and possibly, in Tawi-Tawi in Mindanao.

Known for their ability to mimic humans, the Philippine cockatoo can talk, sing and even dance, making these amazing parrots a prized possession among pet lovers.

Sadly, poaching, coupled with habitat loss, are driving the species to the brink of extinction. Can they talk, sing and dance or more aptly fly their way away from extinction?

## Vanishing species

There are 21 known parrot species in the world, including one that is known to exist only in the Philippines, the nation's pride, the Philippine cockatoo, which is vanishing from the face of the Earth.

Known as *katala*, *agay*, *kalabukay* or *abukay*, the Philippine cockatoo continues to face grave threats from poaching, habitat loss and other destructive human activities that have likewise compromised other iconic species like the Philippine tamaraw, or the dwarf buffalo of Mindoro, and the monkey-eating Philippine eagle.

## Saving the 'katala'

Fortunately, the *katala*'s population remains stable in some areas where adequate protection is provided by the people in the community.

In 1998, a group of conservation advocates under the Katala Foundation started a program to help save this rare species from extinction.

At that time, its population has already gone down drastically due to poaching and massive habitat loss.

“There were only 25 to 30 of them left on Rasa [Island] when we started the program,” said Indira Lacerna-Widmann, executive director of Katala Foundation.

## Cockatoo stronghold

Speaking during a series of webinar, dubbed “Imagining a Just and Green Recovery: An Online Conversation,” on June 2, Lacerna-Widmann said roughly 1,230 cockatoos are left in the wild, with viable populations in four to six municipalities in the province of Palawan, considered as the country's last ecological frontier and the stronghold of the Philippine cockatoo.

Palawan remains as the stronghold of the Philippine cockatoo, where the campaign to save the species from being extinct remain strong.

In fact, every June 14 to 18, the people of Dumaran celebrate the “Kalabukay Festival” to promote the conservation of the forests and the last remaining populations of the *kalabukay*, or *katala*.

## Conservation program

Lacerna-Widmann's presentation highlighted the community-based approach to environmental protection and conservation with special focus on the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program.

Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon, concurrent director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program is an institutional partnership between the DENR and the Katala Foundation, which he credited for its successful conservation program.

“We have an existing memorandum of agreement with the Katala Foundation,” Calderon said in a telephone interview on June 9.

## Strong partnership

He said the strength of the partnership is anchored on the Katala Foundation's implementation of the program.

The foundation, he said, is also based in Palawan, and therefore, has a better understanding of the problems and solutions needed to be learned in saving the species from extinction.

“The conservation program is good, and they are in place as far as the communities are concerned. They also have a lot of institutional partners focusing on Philippine cockatoo. They have international [partners] that help provide expertise on conservation,” he said.

## Talented bird

According to Calderon, the dramatic decline in the population of *katala* may be attributed to the rampant poaching of unique birds which are highly in demand in the pet market.

“Birds like the talking mynah or common hill mynah, which, like the *katala*, are very talented. They can mimic humans. They can talk, they can sing and dance. That is why they are in demand in the black market before,” Calderon said.

He shared that when he was assigned in Palawan in the 1990s he witnessed how the smuggling of native birds out of the island became a serious concern for the DENR.

## Performers not by choice

Calderon cautioned, however, that the unique birds might as well be singing and dancing in the wild, rather than in birdcage “because they belong in the wild.”

“Talking, singing and dancing are for people. These birds are better appreciated when they are out there in their natural habitat, where they are free,” he explained.

In 1994, Calderon recalled that the DENR learned how even the locals use their indigenous knowledge to smuggle the bird out of the island-province, perhaps to some foreign lands, where they are highly in demand.

“These birds are being put to sleep when being smuggled. They [smugglers] dose them [the birds] with water, so the birds would sleep before putting them to a container. That way, they won’t make any noise, allowing the smuggling unchecked,” he said.

Sadly, like most wild animals, the *katalas* lose their instinct and ability to fend for themselves once they become accustomed around humans.

Thus, even when rescued, rehabilitation no longer works for them to be able to learn how to feed themselves and avoid predators, so they could be release back into the wild.

## Seed disperser

Calderon said the *katala*, like most birds, have important ecosystem functions. Nature’s farmers, birds help disperse seeds that allow forest vegetation to flourish.

As a seed disperser, a lowland forest specialist as Lacerna-Widmann described them, Calderon said the *katala* is special because of its ability to crack fruits and seeds open with its powerful beak, allowing them to disperse the fruits’ seeds faster and more efficiently.

“If you notice their beak, they can crack the seed open, thereby allowing the seed to germinate faster, so they are a good seed disperser,” Calderon, also a forestry expert, explained.

## Feeding, breeding areas

Lacerna-Widmann said at the webinar that the biggest threat to the existence of the *katala* in Palawan remains the same—but with added weight to the destructive human activities in coastal areas and lowland forests—where the birds feed, play, and more importantly, breed.

They feed on at least 60 fruit-bearing trees, including the famous *malunggay*, or moringa, Lacerna-Widmann said.

“They nest in cavities of high trees. In most cases, trees like apitong and manggis are highly valued timber species that are also threatened,” Lacerna Widmann said.

From January to June or July, depending on the weather, the *katala* start to breed.

“In each nest, there are two to four eggs, but a pair can only have two hatchling survivors. If we see four chicks in a nest, we are very happy already,” she said. This explains why it takes so many years to see the bird’s number grow in a particular habitat.

## Working with communities

Katala Foundation have four project sites—Rasa Island in Narra, Palawan, the pilot site of the program; Dumaran and Rizal also in Palawan; Polillo Island in Quezon; and in Pandanan in Balabac, also in Palawan, where the foundation work with communities to protect and conserve not only the species but their habitats as well.

The strategies for conservation include protection, identification, and management of conservation sites, habitat restoration, conservation education, community involvement, rescue, translocation, conservation breeding and, eventually, reintroduction to the wild.

During the breeding season, the *katala* are thriving in coastal or mangrove and beach forests.

Sadly, these areas, along with lowland forests, are also the areas where humans do the most damage—exploiting natural resources, such as fishing and gathering wood for charcoal, gathering food from nature, doing slash-and-burn agriculture, establishing mono-crop plantations, massive conversion of forest for residential, commercial and industrial use—all leading to habitat loss and, eventually, species extinction.

## Caring for common home

In working with communities to conserve the *katala* and their habitats, Lacerna-Widmann cited paragraph 137 of Pope Francis’s encyclical, *Laudato Si*, or “The care of our common home” or “Integral ecology.”

“Everything is interrelated and today’s problems call for a unison capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis—one which clearly respects its human and social dimensions,” she read.

Hence, she said the strategy is anchored on the “ecosystemic and participatory approach.”

“When you take care of the cockatoo, you also care for the forest. You are also assured of water supply all year round. You also have the mangrove, the nesting and feeding ground of cockatoo. There are various ecosystem services provided by mangroves. River ecosystem, where precious lives depend on, and agriculture.

“These are a clear, very successful tool, developed together with the communities to simply explain to make the people aware of the bigger connections of protecting the Philippine cockatoo,” she said.

## Economic benefit

More importantly, while it is not evident, protecting the cockatoo and its habitat, she said, makes good economic sense

She cited a study on the added value to the ecosystem services due to conservation on Rasa Island over a 30-year period.

For coastal forest, \$5,161,434.78; mangroves \$10,903,043.48; fisheries \$494,239.13 and others: \$379,610.87.

Besides, the *katala* has brought a sense of pride to Palawan as the stronghold of the famous parrot that can mimic humans.

But with the continuing threat to their existence in Palawan, supposedly the country's last ecological frontier, can this amazing creature eventually, talk, sing, and dance their way far away from extinction?

Hopefully, the current and future generations will see the *katala* fly not only on Palawan but on every island and islets known.

*Image Credits: Gaudencio de la Cruz/DENR -SCIS, Gregg Yan*



## EDITORIAL - Online wildlife trafficking

(The Philippine Star) - June 21, 2020 - 12:00am

Cyber space is a boon for all types of commerce including, unfortunately, the trafficking of wildlife. And the Philippines, with its rich biodiversity, is one of the hotspots for the illegal wildlife trade.

Whether aquatic or terrestrial, Philippine flora and fauna – many on the endangered list – are targets of illegal wildlife traders. Cockatoos and other attractive birds continue to be smuggled out of the country. Special conservation areas have had to be set up to allow marine turtles, giant clams, seahorses and other endangered aquatic creatures to thrive.

The coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic has one upside: it may yet save the pangolins of Palawan from extinction. The only mammal covered with scales, believed to have medicinal properties, has been a delicacy in China. Perhaps after being suspected together with bats as a possible transmitter of the COVID-19 virus, consumption of the pangolin will stop.

Other species, however, remain threatened. The depletion of geckos, believed to have aphrodisiac properties, continues as the small lizard, listed as a critical species, is reportedly sold by Filipino traffickers to foreigners for about P1,000 per gram. Perhaps if another deadly coronavirus is linked to the gecko, its trafficking will finally stop.

Digital technology is facilitating wildlife trafficking. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is warning people amid the COVID quarantine not to buy wildlife online. The DENR issued the warning following the discovery by Customs authorities of a rare lizard called the Bearded Dragon (*Pagona vitticeps*), native to the Australian desert, at the Clark International Airport in Pampanga. Officials said the lizard was sent by an online seller based overseas to a consignee in the Philippines with no import permit. The lizard did not survive being shipped. It can cost up to P8,000 alive.

Under Republic Act 9147 passed in 2001, wildlife trafficking carries a prison term of up to 12 years and fines of up to P1 million for critical species. Those who engage in the illegal trade, including online, have been warned. And if they contract a killer pathogen because of their illegal activity, the trafficked creatures would consider it poetic justice.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/06/21/2022331/editorial-online-wildlife-trafficking>





Masungi Georeserve

12 hrs · 🌐



This is why illegal occupants, especially those that are professionally doing so, must be quickly removed from protected areas. 🙌

Our enforcers must not wait until forests are gone or structures are built. We are one with environmental advocates in Palawan in denouncing this abuse, and we condemn the reported harassment by a police officer claiming mangrove forests. 🙏

We hope and trust that Penro Rizal will have the same political will in removing illegal occupants in the Upper Marikina Watershed.



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### Informal settlers destroy mangrove areas in Palawan

In a bid to make a home, informal settlers destroyed a portion of a ...

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# Mining firms donate P30 million worth of rice to Palaweños

(The Philippine Star) - June 21, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Mining firms Rio Tuba Mining Corp. (RTN), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp., and Coral Bay Nickel Corp. (CBNC) have donated a combined P30 million to purchase sacks of rice intended for the Palaweños. This is in response to the call of Palawan Governor Jose Ch. Alvarez for a joint public-private sector effort to address the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Palawan, with its 1.3-million population, was among the first provinces to close its borders on March 17 to adhere to the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) directive of the national government. The closure is particularly hurting the tourism industry of the province which, according to reports, brought in an income of some P83 billion in 2018 alone.

Earlier, RTN downloaded to the communities in Bataraza a total of P5.5 million from its realigned Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) funds, with an additional P560,000 from its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, for relief operations conducted in the mining communities during the ECQ.

The SDMP is a five-year budgeted plan for development programs in the mining communities, which the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has allowed to be realigned during this pandemic in order to assist the mining companies' host communities and neighboring barangays.

Aside from tourism, mining is another industry in Palawan that brings about economic progress to the communities.

Bataraza municipal treasurer Romana Bermudez earlier said RTN and CBNC taxes have had a huge impact on the economic growth of Bataraza, a first-class municipality in Southern Palawan where the two companies are based.

According to the municipal treasurer's record for 2019, RTN has paid P10 million in real property taxes and P33 million in business taxes while CBNC paid P31 million for real property tax and P86 million for business tax.

# Illegal logging monitored in Ecija town, 1 arrested

June 20, 2020

By Steve A. Gosuico

People's Tonight

**GABALDON, Nueva Ecija -- Illegal logging activities were monitored to have been taking place in a barangay of this town amid the COVID-19 pandemic.**

This after the local police got a tip from a concerned citizen about the alleged unabated illegal operation taking place in Sitio Buwis, Bgy. Cuyapa along the Santor River.

Staff Sgt. Darius Soriano, police investigator said the local police immediately coordinated with the local environment and natural resources office and conducted an anti-illegal logging operation in the area which resulted in the arrest of Mario Mendoza, 38, of Bgy. Sawmill on Friday at 11 a.m. here.

Mendoza was caught red-handed by the joint police-MENRO unit while some of his companions managed to escape.

Seized during the operation were 23 pieces of illegally-cut logs in various sizes, having a total volume of 248 board feet valued at P11,160.

Soriano said the arrested suspect was brought to the police station for proper disposition while the seized wood contraband was turned over to the MENRO-Gabalton here.

# Botolan marine incident explained

June 20, 2020

People's Tonight

**FIEDNI P. Fontamillas, Z2K Resources Inc.'s Chief Operating Officer, said that the marine incident near the mouth of the Bucao River in Botolan, Zambales, involving their vessel ZH 69 was a result of its initial positioning as they prepare to embark on a large-scale dredging project.**

The project involves the dredging and desilting of the Bucao River in order to restore its natural state and water flow. Pursuant to the provisions of the Department Administrative Order No. 13, series of 2019 issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on October 24, 2019, large-scale dredging in the river systems of Zambales was rationalized to improve the hydraulic capacities of the rivers to eliminate flooding in the province.

The vessel was battered by strong winds and waves during the recent typhoon Butchoy while anchored off the coast of Bucao River.

As a result, there was a breach in the wall of the ship that allows the water to enter the hull when it is constantly hit by strong waves.

In order to prevent further damage and possible sinking while on the anchorage, emergency repairs were done in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Personnel stationed in Masinloc, Zambales.

ZH 69 is about 200 meters off the coast of Bucao River and was purposely moved closer to the shore in order to facilitate some afloat repairs in coordination with the PCG. The vessel is not a dredger, as initially reported on-line by various news agencies.

It is an aggregates carrier ship and does not have any capability to dredge or suction sand.

As a result of the timely intervention and preventive action taken by the management and personnel of Z2K, no further damage was incurred and there was no presence of any oil spill as confirmed by the PCG. The breach has already been sealed and the vessel will be moved to a shipyard for dry dock.

Fontamillas expressed appreciation to the PCG- Masinloc Sub-station Chief Rizaldy Sardan for being on top of the situation. Led by Sub-station Chief Sardan, PCG personnel was on-hand to monitor, supervise, and assist on the activities conducted to help the troubled ZH 69 since it ran into trouble with Typhoon Butchoy.

Z2K Resources Inc. was awarded by the Province of Zambales with the Notice to Proceed and Dredging Operations Permit last May 28, 2020 to conduct large scale dredging operation in the heavily silted Bucao River in Botolan Zambales. Prior to the start of operations, Z2K conducted dialogues with concerned local officials of the Municipality of Botolan to ensure that the project will make a positive impact not only on the environment but also in the inclusive development of the community.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/provincial/botolan-marine-incident-explained>

# 'Viggo' assured of sustained flight through biz-NGO partnership

By [BusinessMirror](#)

June 21, 2020



*Viggo is one of the 31 Philippine eagles nested in the Philippine Eagle Center, a breeding and rehabilitation facility set up by the Philippine Eagle Foundation. Viggo turned 10 years old on March 7, having been hatched and bred within the conservation facilities of the PEC.*

Viggo," a Philippine eagle, is assured of continued care and support as Eagle Cement Corp. (Eagle Cement) strengthened its partnership with the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) during recent Philippine Eagle Week.

The company pledged its support to Viggo, its adopted Philippine eagle within the PEF's conservation program.

Viggo is an official ambassador for the conservation of the species. Since becoming sexually mature recently, he has successfully established a bond with his caretaker as his "human surrogate mate" through sexual imprinting. This enables PEF to collect sperm samples from Viggo for its artificial insemination breeding program.

As such, Viggo plays a significant role in safeguarding the species from extinction as he is one of the PEC's potential semen donors.

Furthermore, Viggo is the first captive-bred Philippine eagle trained to perch on a gloved fist. He continues his flight training to be one of the featured eagles in the flight demonstrations at the PEC.

Eagle Cement has been providing essential benefits, such as food, enclosure maintenance, and veterinarian and keeper care annually for Viggo since 2017. The company will continue to do so until 2022.

Eagle Cement's partnership with the PEF is among a series of initiatives that the company is taking to advocate the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Promoting biodiversity (SDG 15) and leveraging the power of partnerships to generate sustainable development (SDG 17) are two pillars of Eagle Cement's commitment to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem.

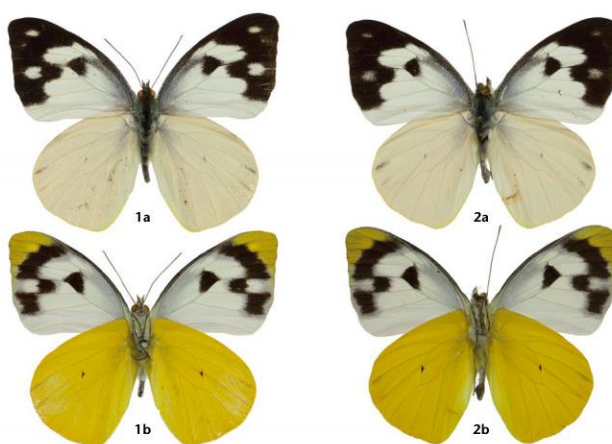
"We join the PEF in calling on corporations, large and small, and regular Filipinos to support the conservation of Philippine Eagles, especially as they are still considered endangered today. As our national bird, they embody the health of our forests, the state of our natural resources, and the proud national heritage of our people. In these disruptive times, the Philippine eagle, like the people it represents, should not only be celebrated but also protected," said John Paul L. Ang, Eagle Cement's president and CEO.

Support and donations to the PEF amid Covid-19, may be coursed to the foundation through <https://www.philippineaglefoundation.org/donate>.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/21/viggo-assured-of-sustained-flight-through-biz-ngo-partnership/>

# Dumaguete biologist discovers new butterfly subspecies

By: Gresheen Gift M. Libby - Social Media Specialist/CDN Digital|June 20,2020 - 03:49 PM



An endemic butterfly species that can only be found in Mount Talinis, Negros Oriental, has been discovered by a biologist from Dumaguete City.

Dr. Jade Aster T. Badon, a biologist and also an instructor at the Silliman University Biology Department, first discovered the butterfly in 2012 in a research expedition in Mount Talinis, Negros Oriental. He and his companions spent the night at Lake Nailig, which is at the mountain's crater, and the following morning, Badon noticed yellow and white butterflies that were flying by the edge of lake.

Badon collected two specimens, and at that time he did not realize that the butterflies were new. "I thought at that time that these butterflies might be interesting because I found it at the peak."

It was only until last year in 2019 when Badon attended the Annual Biodiversity Symposium in Visayas State University in Leyte when he found out that the specimens were actually new.

According to Badon, the *Appias phoebe nuydai* is a butterfly subspecies that can only be found at higher elevations.

Badon named the new subspecies as *Appias phoebe nuydai*, which he named after Justin S. Nuyda, an artist and one of the pioneer Filipinos to document Philippine butterflies.

In his research, the ssp. *nuydai* have a funnel-shaped cell end spot (which same with ssp. *mindana*, another subspecies), while it is circular in another subspecies called ssp. *montana*.

Badon's research was recently published in entomological journal Nachrichten des Entomologischen Vereins Apollo (NEVA)./dbs



## Manila Zoo, mananatiling sarado hanggang 2022

June 20, 2020 @ 12:20 PM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Mananatiling sarado ang pasyalang Manila Zoo hanggang 2022, ayon sa ulat.

Ito ay dahil sa isasailalim ang lugar sa major rehabilitation na may P1.8 bilyong budget mula sa city hall.

Kasama na rito ang paglalagay ng jungle safari, 30-foot man-made waterfall sa lagoon, guided tours, walk-in aviary at mas marami pang endemic species.

Mag-o-operate rin ang zoo ng mas mahabang oras at magsasara ng alas-8 ng gabi.

“Once na ma-rehabilitate ang lugar we will have more spaces for the animals, more suitable enclosures. We can expect na it will be on a higher level, international standards. Hindi na mukhang nakakulong ‘yung hayop, more of nasa kung ano ‘yung lugar nila nando’n na din tayo,” lahad ni Dr. Joseph Pedron, Zoological Division head.

The elephant’s enclosure, for example, will be doubled in space. Species will also be grouped according to their classification.

Magkakaroon din aniya ng pagbabago dahil sa walang nakakaalam kung kailan magwawakas ang coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis.

Hindi na pahihintulutan ang mga walk-in guest sa pagbubukas ng zoo.

“Not like before ‘pag pumasok ka walk-in, bibili ka ticket sa labas. Ngayon, ang plano namin magiging online na. Limitado na mga tao saka may mga usherettes tayong gagamitin. Kaya magdaragdag ako ng mga empleyado to secure the health of the people who will come in,” paliwanag ni Morabe. **RNT/FGDC**

Source: <https://remate.ph/manila-zoo-mananatiling-sarado-hanggang-2022/>

# Responding to climate change amid pandemic

By Kris Crismundo June 20, 2020, 3:05 pm



**MANILA** – Addressing climate change has been sidelined as governments around the world focus on fighting the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

The pandemic has made leaders imposed lockdown measures to contain the virus. There were suspensions of some business operations including factories, public transportation, and flights, which improved air quality.

According to the International Energy Agency, the economic slowdown that the world is experiencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic can bring down carbon dioxide emissions by 2.6 billion metric tons this year.

A research paper of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) said this type of pollution reduction will keep the global temperature to increase below 1.5 degree Celsius.

Dr. Ilan Noy, chair of Economics of Disasters and Climate Change in Victoria University of Wellington, said the climate change has become a secondary issue now that the world is dealing with the Covid-19.

“And rightfully so, that the primary issue today is the [health] crisis. But if we completely forget about the climate change, then we will, and we are making policies that sometimes counterproductive,” Noy said Friday during the closing ceremony of the virtual Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) 2020 of the Asian Development Bank.

“I think that is the biggest short term risk that our focus will be exclusively on the current crisis rather than on our long term goals,” he added.

He said the government is spending “much money now” for Covid-19 response and economic recovery.

Noy noted that most of these Covid-19 responses by governments are funded through borrowings.

ADB vice president for Knowledge Management Bambang Susantono said governments shall include investments in clean energy in stimulus packages that will help address the climate change issue.

“We don’t need to choose between pandemic and clean energy; we must do both,” Susantono said.

He said innovative technology, energy system resilience, addressing financing issues, and enabling policies for the private sector to invest in clean energy will help in the climate change response. (**PNA**)





## 7 sa mga dumalo sa 'despedida party' sa Boracay, sinibak mula sa BFP

June 20, 2020 @ 12:08 PM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sinibak na ang tatlong superintendent at apat na non-commissioned officers ng Bureau of Fire Protection Region 6 sa kanilang pwesto makaraang dumalo sa isang "despedida party" sa Boracay sa gitna ng coronavirus pandemic.

Ayon kay Fire Senior Insp. Stephen Jardeleza, spokesperson ng BFP 6, pansamantalang ililipat sa BFP headquarters sa Metro Manila naturang nabanggit.

"Still ongoing pa po ang investigation and this is part of the process na i-relieve po sila, pero physically hindi pa sila makaalis dahil paramount 'yung quarantine protocols na in-impose po sa kanila," paliwanag ni Jardeleza.

Pinasibak na rin sa pwesto ni Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año ang isa pang BFP regional director matapos ang salo-salo ng 28 sa kanyang mga tauhan sa Boracay.

Maaalalang sa ulat ay nagpositibo sa COVID-19 ang isang miyembro nito.

Kasabay ng relief order, iniutos na ng BFP national headquarters na bumuo ng investigating team.

Kasalukuyang nasa quarantine facility sa Iloilo City ang pitong BFP personnel. **RNT/FGDC**

# 7 sa mga dumalo sa 'despedida party' sa Boracay, sinibak mula sa BFP

Cherry Palma, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 20 2020 04:57 AM

Tatlong superintendent at apat na non-commissioned officers ng Bureau of Fire Protection Region 6 ang tinanggal na sa kanilang pwesto matapos dumalo sa isang "despedida party" sa Boracay sa gitna ng coronavirus pandemic.

Pansamantalang ililipat sa BFP headquarters sa Metro Manila ang mga ito, ayon kay Fire Senior Insp. Stephen Jardeleza, spokesperson ng BFP 6.

"Still ongoing pa po ang investigation and this is part of the process na i-relieve po sila, pero physically hindi pa sila makaalis dahil paramount 'yung quarantine protocols na in-impose po sa kanila," ani Jardeleza.

Pinasibak na sa puwesto ni Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año ang isang BFP regional director matapos ang salo-salo ng 28 sa kaniyang mga tauhan sa Boracay, kung saan ang isa sa kalauna'y nalamang may COVID-19 pala.

Kasabay ng relief order, nagpalabas din ng order ang BFP national headquarters na nag-uutos ng pagbuo ng investigatng team mula sa BFP main office.

Kasalukuyang nasa quarantine facility sa Iloilo City ang pitong BFP personnel.

# BFP personnel na COVID-19 positive na naki-party sa Boracay, pinakakasuhan

By [Bombo Radyo Kalibo](#)

-June 21, 2020 | 1:23 AM

KALIBO, Aklan – Hinimok ng Sangguniang Bayan ng Malay si acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista na kasuhan ang 26-anyos na firewoman mula sa Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Region 6 na lumabag umano sa quarantine protocols at inilagay sa peligro ang buhay ng mga residente at frontliners matapos na mag-positibo sa coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Isang resolusyon ang inihain ni SB member Dalidig Sumndad na kumukundina sa ginawa ng naturang firewoman na umano'y dumalo sa despedida party sa isla ng Boracay noong Hunyo 12 hanggang 14.

Iginiit pa ni Sumndad na nang pumutok ang pandemya, ginawa ng LGU-Malay ang lahat upang maging covid free ang kanilang bayan at mapangalagaan ang mga mamamayan nito.

Dapat din aniyang sampahan ng kaso ng Civil Service Commission (CSC) at Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang naturang pasyente.

Magugunitang hindi tinapos ng firewoman ang kanyang dalawang linggong quarantine at bumiyahe papuntang Boracay at habang hindi pa natatapos ang bakasyon ay lumabas ang resulta ng kanyang RT-PCR test na siya ay infected ng nakamamatay na sakit.

Pinatalsik na sa pwesto at inilagay sa floating status si BFP-6 Regional Dir. Fire Senior Supt. Roderick Aguto at 28 iba pang tauhan nito na dumalo sa sinasabing despedida party habang nagpapatuloy pa ang imbestigasyon.

# Spox. Roque announces new IATF guidelines

June 20, 2020



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque announced several updates on the new IATF-EID resolution including further response on widespread COVID-19 transmission in Cebu City, back riding, and solidarity trial for COVID-19 vaccine.

Based on IATF Resolution No. 47, the NTF will evaluate the “ground-level” response of Cebu City LGUs starting June 22, and the “possibility of instituting NTF emergency operation center and designation of a Visayas Deputy Implementer for Region 7 and the entire Visayas.”

Various agencies have also been directed to convene and determine the safest and most effective way to reduce rate of transmission in back riding in motorcycles.

“So malapit na po ang back riding pero kinakailangan ang NTF po ang mag-issue ng mga guidelines. Pinapayagan na in principle ang back riding upon the approval of the requirements na isi-set ng Technical Working Group (Back riding will come soon but the NTF must issue guidelines. Back riding has been allowed in principle upon approval of the requirements set by Technical Working Group),” Roque elaborated.

Roque reported that the AITF has strengthened the participation of the Philippines in the WHO solidarity trial for the COVID-19 vaccine and its funding.

Aside from the IATF policies, Roque issued a reminder regarding the start of the second phase of public transportation in Metro Manila on Monday.

“No less than 3,600 buses na po ang lalabas at mayroon pang mga 1,500 na iba pang mga sasakyan. Pero kinakailangan po talaga mag-social distancing dahil wala na pong alternatibo. Kinakailangan siguraduhin natin na 50% capacity lang ang mga bus (No less than 3,600 buses will be on roads and 1,500 other vehicles. We need to observe social distancing since there is no alternative yet. We must ensure a 50% capacity for buses).”

Report from Mela Lesmoras

# Gatherings allowed under MGCQ

Published 2 hours ago on June 21, 2020 04:10 AM

By [Keith A. Calayag](#)



Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases has allowed mass gatherings in Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) such as colleges and universities in areas under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

“Mass gatherings are allowed in higher educational institutions but they have to observe existing guidelines under MGCQ,” said Roque during Laging Handa public briefing.

According to Roque, the IATF in its meeting on Friday amended the omnibus guideline on the community quarantine.

Aside from allowing mass gathering in universities and colleges in MGCQ areas, the task force has also allowed operations of Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in general community quarantine areas.

However, face-to-face TVET up to 50 percent site capacity is allowed only in areas under MGCQ subject to compliance with minimum public health standards and TESDA guidelines, Roque said.



Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano revealed that the SONA would most likely be a “blended” style or a mix of actual and virtual session similar to the teleconference-type sessions being held by the chamber.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman, file

## House eyes virtual SONA

[Edu Punay](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 21, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives is considering using teleconference or a virtual fifth State of the Nation Address (SONA) for President Duterte next month, possibly for the first time in history as the nation continues to face the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis.

Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano revealed that the SONA would most likely be a “blended” style or a mix of actual and virtual session similar to the teleconference-type sessions being held by the chamber.

Under this setup, a limited number of guests would be physically present in the session hall while the rest of the lawmakers attend through an online teleconferencing app.

“The worst thing that can happen is if the (COVID-19) situation still prevails with no immunization, no vaccine, then we fill up Batasan and an outbreak occurs because we were all there,” he told reporters last Friday.

“So, safety will be the (priority) of the day but we will make sure that the President’s speech will be communicated nationwide,” Cayetano said.

However, there is no plan yet released by Malacañang on how the President will deliver his SONA on July 27.

It also remains to be seen whether pre-SONA forums would be held to discuss the administration’s achievements.

While Duterte delivered his past four SONAs in the Session Hall of the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City, Senate President Vicente Sotto III has suggested that the President deliver his next SONA at Malacañang due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past, previous presidents had delivered their SONAs in Maharlika Hall (now Kalayaan Hall) in Malacañang in Manila and in other venues like the legislative building in Manila (destroyed during the Second World War), temporary Congress building along Lepanto Street in Manila, Quirino Grandstand and Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

The SONA is delivered by the President every year to report on the state of the country, unveil the government’s agenda for the coming year and also submit to Congress certain legislative measures.

It is required by Article VII, Section 23 of the 1987 Constitution: “The President shall address the Congress at the opening of its regular session.”

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/21/2022382/house-eyes-virtual-sona>

# 'Blended' SONA ni Duterte ikinokonsidera

By [Joy Cantos](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- June 21, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Ikinokonsidera na ang pagsasagawa ng "Blended" State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Hulyo 27 na kapag nagkataon ay kauna-unahan sa kasaysayan ng bansa.

Ayon kay Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, ngayon pa lamang ay kailangang maging preparado na sa pagkakaroon ng malaking adjustments sa SONA ng Pangulo.

"Ang pagkaintindi ko sa "blended" para rin 'yung sa hearing namin. So mayroon na sa Batasan, but most will not be there physically. So, baka... I'm not sure kung teleconferencing or etcetera," pahayag ni Cayetano.

"But the worst thing that can happen is kung ganito pa rin ang sitwasyon at walang immunization, walang vaccine (sa COVID), pupunuin namin ang Batasan tapos magkaka-outbreak dahil nandoon kaming lahat. That's the worst thing that can happen. So, there's no use telling the people the state of the nation, then the next day iba na 'yung state of the nation dahil nagkahawaan na," ani Cayetano.

Tiniyak naman ni Cayetano na ang talumpati sa bayan ni Pangulong Duterte ay makakarating sa mga mamamayan sa buong kapulan.

Posibleng sa Malacañang na lamang din magtalumpati ang Pangulo, wika niya.

# Gov't backs Phl part of WHO trial

Published 5 hours ago on June 21, 2020 01:00 AM

By [Keith A. Calayag](#)



The Philippines participation in the World Health Organization's (WHO) solidarity trial for COVID-19 vaccine will be supported by the government.

During the Laging Handa public briefing, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases has adopted the recommendation of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) for the country to join the said solidarity trial launched by WHO.

The task force has also approved the recommendation of DoST for the government to provide funding for the project.

Roque said the funding for the Philippine's participation in the program will be included in the proposed DoST budget for 2021.

The task force has also approved the recommendation to create a separate panel under the sub-technical working group on vaccine development to provide technical support for local pharmaceutical companies.

The solidarity trial is an international clinical trial to test the safety and effectiveness of possible therapies in treating COVID-19.

The Department of Health last 22 April announced that the participation of the Philippines to solidarity has been approved by the Single Joint Research Ethics Board last 17 April, in support of the COVID-19 global response.

Since its launch, over 100 countries have joined the project.



## HEADLINES

# Ramping up testing necessary to recovery

Published 6 hours ago on June 21, 2020 12:05 AM

By **TDI**



With the highest unemployment rate recorded as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Senator Richard J. Gordon on Friday pointed out that ramping up testing for COVID-19 would enable Filipinos to get back to their jobs faster.

Gordon, who is also chairman and CEO of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), issued the statement after inspecting the newly-opened molecular laboratory in the PRC Logistics and Training Center in Subic, one of two laboratories that the PRC inaugurated outside of Metro Manila on Friday.

In his speech, he cited the 17.7 percent unemployment rate recorded in the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the highest ever, surpassing the 10.3 percent unemployment rate in the 1998 recession in the Philippines.

“I emphasize this — the logic behind the testing is that we can separate the people who are sick from the people who are not sick so they won’t contaminate. But the more important reason is — if we are able to do that, we can get our jobs back faster,” he said.

The PRC chairman cited as example the factories in Subic, which is one of the country’s investment hubs, once their employees are tested, they can open shop again.

“When people are tested and we know where they are, for example here in Subic, they can start working here already for the factories that had their employees tested. If there’s somebody who tests positive, we can test again after and when they’re already cured they can work again,” he said.

Gordon stressed that without testing, it would be hard to get people back to work again and stop them from relying on government dole outs.

“But without that, it’s going to be hard getting people back to getting an income of their own. We do not want a system where people rely on government, without jobs people will keep getting money from the government. That is the worst thing that we can do to our country and it’s been happening for some time. Now we’re going to get out of it,” he said.

The product of collaboration between the foremost humanitarian organization in the country and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Administration led by chairman and administrator Wilma Eisma, the PRC’s newly-opened molecular laboratory in Subic is equipped with two real-time polymerase reaction chain (RT-PCR) machines that are capable of running a combined total of up to 2,000 tests per day. The swabbing center is located near the Main Gate.

# Gov't offices invited to Webinar on alternative work arrangements

Published June 20, 2020, 11:28 AM

By **Charissa Luci-Atienza**

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has called all government agencies, local government units (LGUs), government-owned or controlled corporations, and state universities and colleges (SUCs) to send their representatives to participate in a Webinar and "Lunchat" on June 30 to further increase public awareness on the government's multiple alternative work arrangements (AWA).



(MANILA BULLETIN)

CSC Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala recently issued an advisory to all heads of constitutional bodies, departments, bureaus, and agencies of the national government, LGUs, GOCCs with original Charters, and SUCs to participate in the CSC's online AWA information campaign on June 30, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

"This online event aims to increase understanding and appreciation of the Revised Interim Guidelines, Leadership Perspectives and Best Practices for AWA," she said in an advisory dated June 18.

She encouraged government agencies to participate by sending at most two representatives, the House Resource Department head and/or an HR practitioner.

"At most 300 participants can be directly accommodated at the Zoom Webinar. All other government leaders, managers and employees may also join via CSC FB Page Live Streaming," Bala said.

"The participation to the event is free of charge but on a first come-first served basis," she added.

Bala said the CSC webinar activity is pursuant to the Commission's Memorandum Circular No. 10, s. 2020, which contains the complete set of guidelines for implementing the AWA and CSC Resolution No. 2000540 or the "Revised Interim Guidelines for Alternative Work Arrangements and Support Mechanisms for Workers in the Government During the Period of State of National Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic", which was promulgated last May 7, 2020.

The CSC earlier said government agencies can adopt multiple alternative work arrangements (AWA) during this time of the pandemic crisis. These include work-from-home arrangement, skeleton workforce, four-day or compressed workweek, and staggered working hours.

"An agency may also adopt work arrangements consisting of a combination of these, or other work arrangements appropriate and applicable to the agency considering the prevailing community quarantine in the area where it is located and the nature of work performed by its employees," it said

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/20/govt-offices-invited-to-webinar-on-alternative-work-arrangements/>

# Digitalize, Go tells gov't agencies

Published 3 hours ago on June 21, 2020 03:15 AM

By [Larry Payawal](#)



The new coronavirus should hasten the government agencies' digital transformation, Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go stated on Saturday.

Going digital, he said, would make it easier for the Filipinos to access the various government services needed especially during this time of a health emergency.

The government, the lawmaker shared, should invest on technology in the promotion of e-governance and practices to improve in the efficiency and delivery of public services.

"A reliable and comprehensive way of providing services to the people could be answered by technology," Go said.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology must spearhead the digitalization of government functions and procedures, he added.

A shift will dramatically improve access to public services, specifically in terms of availability, convenience, cost and speed.

The country's top officials and senior tech executives have been surveyed and disclosed that nearly half of the nation's agencies are behind schedule in completing their jump towards e-governance.

"We have seen the importance of digital transformation in government. Even the private sector is adopting e-commerce, there's no better time for the government to prioritize this than now," Go said.

"It will improve access to the government regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic condition," he added, citing the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) as an example of a successful connection of 17 regional offices.

Their data have been collated, providing the agency with insights to improving its internal management and fine-tune programs.

It also allowed the agency to swap information and coordinate programs faster with other relevant bodies, such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

The Senator highlighted that utilizing digital health technology will not only address the nation's most urgent needs during the pandemic but also reshape the health system.

Go, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, also stressed that an integrated healthcare database will strengthen and improve the service delivery of existing government initiatives, such as the Malasakit Center.

Malasakit Centers bring together various agencies — the Department of Health, DSWD, PhilHealth and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, under one roof. It was institutionalized under Republic Act 11463 or the Malasakit Center Act of 2019, principally authored by Go.

Its primary aim is to provide better access to financial medical assistance from government to help bring down to the lowest amount the hospital bills, especially the out-of-pocket expenditures of poor and indigent Filipinos. There are 71 Malasakit Centers to date in the country.

# Modern jeeps, buses, UV express allowed back on the road starting June 22

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 20, 2020 10:52:30 AM



(FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 20)** — Public utility buses, modern public vehicles and UV Express will be allowed to operate at limited capacity in areas under general community quarantine starting next week, according to the transport agency.

Department of Transportation road sector consultant Bert Suansing told CNN Philippines on Friday that modern jeeps can ferry only up to 20 percent of passenger capacity to ensure the one-meter physical distance rule.

Meanwhile, buses could run at half of their capacity, Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said in a 'Laging Handa' briefing on Saturday, and that the government expects around 3,600 units and 1,600 other vehicles to hit the roads on Monday.

UV Express units, on the other hand, will be allowed up to nine passengers per trip, a transport group leader said Saturday.

The limit may appear stringent but Coalition of Operators and Drivers of UV Express Atbp. (CODEX) President Rosalino Marable said: "Sabi nga nila sa Ingles, 'Beggars cannot be choosers.' While we agree with that, very little ang matitira sa ating drivers."

[Translation: As they say in English: Beggars cannot be choosers. While we agree with that, our drivers will be left with very little income.]

Marable told CNN Philippines' Newsroom the UV Express drivers are "ready and raring to go back to work" under the new normal after months of work stoppage.

He also said that they will 'push through' with their P2 fare hike proposal, noting that the last increase was 14 years ago.

Mass transportation has been suspended for more than two months now since Luzon and other parts of the country were placed under enhanced community quarantine in mid-March to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The Department of Transportation earlier said the land transport sector will resume operations in two phases as movement restrictions caused by the COVID-19 crisis were gradually eased.

For phase one, only trains, augmentation buses, taxis, Transport Network Vehicle Service like Grab, shuttle services, point-to-point buses and bicycles were allowed to return to roads to ferry passengers from June 1 to 21. Tricycles are also allowed, subject to prior approval of local governments.

Backrides in motorcycles — even if the passengers are married couples, remain prohibited in GCQ areas.

But the government has said it is conducting studies if traditional jeepneys and motorcycle taxis will be allowed to ply the roads as Metro Manila and other areas under GCQ move to the second phase of reopening public transport.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/6/20/jeep-uv-express-buses-back-on-the-road-June-22.html>

# Bike to work

[EVERY POUND COUNTS](#) - [Allan 'Coach A' Choachuy](#) (The Freeman ) - June 20, 2020 - 12:00am

Bike has been one of the oldest mode of transportationS. Bicycle dates back to the early 19th century. As early as 1817, the 2-wheel bike was invented and it was designed to be glide with or walk with it. The pedals were added to the front wheel in 1869. The bicycle transitioned through history until gears were invented in the early 20th century. However, it was allowed only until the 1930s but was introduced in Tour de France in 1937.

Biking is a balancing act. Once you learn to balance, you will never forget it. The simplest way to learn to ride a bike is to remove the pedals, lower the saddle and start walking around on your bike until you can glide. Both your legs will act as a balance and support. Whenever you are about to lose that balance, step on the floor. It is easier said than done but removing the pedals will force you to learn balancing, pushing off with your legs until you can glide. The second step is learning to pedal the bike and most importantly learning how to stop. There are usually 2 brakes on your bike, front and back. The front brake is for stopping while the back is for control. Avoid suddenly squeezing the front brake as it will make go ENDO, short for end-over or end-over-end. It is a crash wherein the cyclist goes over the handlebars caused by the sudden slowing down of the front wheel resulting in rear portion of the bike to flip over above and behind you. Squeezing the rear brake will also make your bike slide or swerve to the left or right. Others use this technique as an art form in bike which we fondly called "labay lubot" or "drifting". The best way to stop is gently squeeze the back and the front brake. I usually prefer to squeeze more the back just to be in control but once you feel the bike to skid, you need to let go of the brake to regain traction of the wheel. It takes practice to learn how to stop the bike properly so I suggest you go slow at first.

Safety first. Helmet should be worn at all times even if you are just travelling nearby. That is why it is called accident because you will never know when or how it will happen. Protective eyewear is also necessary with all the dust and road condition we have. We never know what will fly into our eyes, big or small. Once it goes into our eyes, it will cause some discomfort and might lead to accident.

In this time, wearing a face mask is the best prevention in getting the virus. If the face mask restricts airflow when you are exerting effort, you can take it off once in a while especially when you are alone. But you need to put it back if you can see crowded people up ahead. Don't use phone and never wear an earpiece or headphones will biking. Put up light or blinker if you are travelling late in the afternoon or early in the morning. Avoid wearing dark colored clothes. White, green, yellow are the most visible color or you can get a reflectorized belt. Avoid swerving, sudden change lane and even sudden stop. Don't get distracted if someone suddenly calls you or someone "sit-sit" you. I usually glance through my peripheral vision but still maintaining focus on the road if ever some calls me. Never turn your head.

Maintain road awareness. Mandaue city has already installed some bike lanes but don't be complacent. You should be aware of everything around you, from debris on the road like broken glass or wet/slippery section to dog and cats running around, pedestrians and other motorist that sometimes forget to share the road. Maintain common sense as well that if car is parked on the road side, he or she may suddenly open the door so you have to slow down and make sure you are safely distanced from the car.

Learn the proper hand signal in biking, turning left or right.

During these challenging times when basic public transportation is not yet available, people may opt to bike to work. We must all share the road and respect each other, from the motorists, bikers, and pedestrians as well. Follow all traffic rules and always give way.

[www.alanchoachuy.com](http://www.alanchoachuy.com)

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-sports/2020/06/20/2022043/bike-work>



## EDITORIAL - Mga karag-karag na jeepney, hindi papayagan

(Pang-masa ) - June 20, 2020 - 12:00am

MALIWANAG pa sa sikat ng araw ang sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque na mga modernong public vehicles (PUVs) lamang ang papayagang makapasada sa Lunes (Hunyo 22). Kapag sinabing modernong PUVs, ito yung mga tinatawag na e-jeepney na Euro-Compliance. Hindi ito nagbubuga ng hangin na may lason. Marami nang ganitong klase ng jeepney sa Metro Manila at tiyak nang ang mga ito ang yayaot sa Lunes.

At dinagdag pa ng Presidential Spokesman na kapag kinulang ang mga e-jeepney, saka lamang papayagang makabiyaha ang mga tradisyunal na jeepney pero maaaring dumaan sa “butas ng karayom” sapagkat hindi uubra rito ang mga kakarag-karag. Pipiliin ang mga jeepney na bago at sumusunod sa mga pagbabagong ipinatutupad ng Department of Transportation (DOTr) at Land Transportation, Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). Tiyak na kasama sa pagbabago na kailangang susunod sa health protocols ang papayagang jeepney. Dapat mayroong space o pagitan ang bawat pasahero para hindi magkahawahan. Tiyak din magpo-provide ng sanitizer o alcohol ang drayber ng jeepney para sa mga pasahero.

Sa dami ng mga bulok na jeepney, tiyak nang hindi na kasali ang mga ito sa papayagang bumiyaha sa Lunes. Noon pa man, pinawawalis na sa kalsada ang mga ito pero dahil laging nagbabanta ng welga ang mga grupo ng jeepney drivers at operators kaya hindi sila mawala-wala sa kalsada. Ngayong nananalasa ang COVID-19 at hindi na puwede ang kumpol-kumpol o pagsisiksikan sa pampublikong sasakyan dahil sa panganib na mahawa ng virus, hindi na sila ubrang makabiyaha.

Kung wala nang trabaho ang mga driver ng mga kakarag-karag na jeepney, dapat bigyan sila ng ibang pagkakakitaan. Maganda ang ginawa ng Quezon City government na ang mga jeepney ay ginawa umanong pangdeliber ng mga paninda at iba pang kalakal na tiyak na kikita ang mga driver. Hindi dapat pabayaang ang mga driver na mawawalan ng pagkakakitaan. Dapat silang ayudahan.

# Hatid Probinsya spreads virus

In a television interview, the presidential spokesman admitted that government 'had been caught off-guard by the returning residents and had been unable to prepare for them.

Published 6 hours ago on June 21, 2020 12:22 AM

By [Macabangkit B. Lanto](#)



Do you want to know why the count of COVID-19 cases is not plateauing? Blame program like Hatid Probinsya. Or, at least that's one of the causes.

No, I am not referring to the Balik Probinsya Program, a well-intentioned program sponsored by Sen. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go. I refer to the Hatid Probinsya project to rescue from misery the locally stranded individuals (LSI) and repatriated overseas Filipino workers (OFW). The former is an elaborate long-term program conceived way back before the pandemic outbreak and revived by Senator Go. It intends to decongest the nation's capital and provide opportunities and incentives for people to return to their place of origin. On the other hand, Hatid Probinsya is an interim reactive measure to ease the longing for home of those in the metropolis to be with their loved ones, away from the epicenter of the pandemic.

The media has shown heartrending pictures of LSI sheltered under bridges and overpasses of expressways in makeshift cardboard beddings exposed to the elements and vulnerable to ailments. A death was even reported in Pasay City of a woman who waited for five days for transportation to Bicol.

Allow me to cite the experience of Lanao del Sur and Marawi City, which was mentioned by Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementer of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), in a virtual presser. Following a directive from IATF, the local government of Lanao del Sur facilitated the airlifting of Maranaos in support of the Hatid Probinsya program. They were even met at the airport by a convoy of vehicles, an event that went the rounds in social media.

People were initially all praise for the humanitarian gesture. Alas, some of these returnees escaped from a well-constructed facility of the local government unit (LGU) where they were supposed to undergo quarantine. And the next thing they knew, there was sudden surge of COVID-19 cases. For the first time, the province, which has been enjoying relative lull in community infection cases for months now, registered a confirmed case of 49 (40 new) and still counting. This is not an isolated case. The lawmakers from Eastern Visayas have called for a review of the Hatid Probinsya program because of the upsurge of COVID-19 cases in the region.

The Maranaos are blaming their LGU. They feel disquiet. They have willingly subjected themselves to strict home quarantine for months and now this threat. Meantime, the LGU, which are taking a beating, are scrambling to activate their tracing mechanism. For a while, the LGU basked in the popularity of their benevolence only to realize the danger, 10 times over, it posed on hundreds of residents.



The IATF should recall the policy immediately. Until such time that the count of victims has considerably flattened, people should stay put in the place they are currently staying and wear out the potency of the pandemic. Else, a second or third wave of contamination is not far-fetched.

The national government is honest enough to acknowledge the folly of their action. In a television interview, the presidential spokesman admitted that government “had been caught off-guard by the returning residents and had been unable to prepare for them.” The IATF has succumbed to pity and call of the heart over wisdom.

Meantime, Gov. Bombit Adiong and Mayor Majul Gandamra of Marawi City have appealed to the IATF to suspend momentarily the Balik Probinsiya project. He suggested that prospective beneficiaries should first undergo not only a rapid test but swab and other confirmative tests. Most suspect carriers are alarmingly asymptomatic.

According to the Provincial Health Officer, with the resumption of airlines operations, suspected carriers can easily sneak out using fake medical clearances in checkpoints. They expect more cases when the swab results come out. Local officials asked the military and police manning boundary checkpoints to be stricter in implementing health protocols.

As we go to press, the national government has reportedly shelved temporarily the Hatid Probinsya program, even as donations and help have poured in for the destitute marooned travelers.

*Email: amb\_mac\_lanto@yahoo.com*

# PH among 10 most dangerous work sites

posted June 21, 2020 at 12:10 am

by [Vito Barcelo](#)

The Philippines is among top 10 dangerous place for workers in 2020 based on the 2020 Global Rights Index issued by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) said Saturday.

Other countries in the top 10 are Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

“The ALU-TUCP) are fully in accord with the findings of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and stand by their listing of the Philippines as one of the top 10 most dangerous countries in the world for workers,” the country’s biggest labor group said in a statement.

“We see the handwriting clearly on the wall: workers rights and workers are and will be victims in the current political environment,” the labor group’s spokesman Alan Tanjusay said.

This, Tanjusay said, was considering the current state of labor relations policy during the quarantine allowing wage reductions and suspending labor rights inspections, the anti-labor and the anti-consumer program of the economic managers to raise anew excise taxes and opposing security of tenure, and the “dangerous political slide towards authoritarianism” evidenced by passage of the Anti-Terror Bill.

“There remains unresolved assassinations, allegedly labor-related disappearances, various repressions, red-tagging and wanton attacks on workers and workers’ fundamental rights that makes the current environment dangerous and difficult for workers,” the group said.

The ALU-TUCP also foresee the conditions to get even worse in the days ahead because of the current full operationalization of police and military offices in ecozones to combat what they describe as “radical trade unions”, the inevitable enactment and enforcement of anti-terror bill and the current aggressive push by business owners in cahoots with the economic managers for increased labor flexibilization, wage reduction and the lowering of labor standards -- using the COVID19.

Tanjusay said it is the government that now makes the country more dangerous and more difficult place for workers to live and to work and as they are promoting unproductive and very dangerous class warfare.

“We urge our national government to listen to us and to remember the lessons to history. We plead to our national leadership to step back from the brink of this totalitarian temptation and accept the path of building back better by upholding our individual civil and political liberties, respecting our collective economic rights, and by putting our workers interests first. This is the path to saving jobs and saving lives.” he said.

The ITUC Global Rights Index depicts the world’s worst countries for workers based on the degree of respect for workers’ rights by rating 139 countries on a scale from 1 to 5. Workers’ rights are absent in countries with the rating 5 and violations occur on an irregular basis in countries with the rating 1.



In a recent research brief, Capital Economics said high-frequency data such as mobility data from Google and Apple and daily figures on tourism arrivals and electricity usage suggest that recovery is much faster in China, Taiwan and Vietnam but will be slowest in the Philippines, Indonesia and India.

STAR/Miguel de Guzman, file

## 'Recovery slowest in Philippines'

[Czeriza Valencia](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 21, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Economic recovery in the Philippines will likely be among the slowest in Asia because of prolonged lockdowns and the continued rise in the number of cases of the coronavirus disease 2019, according to London-based Capital Economics.

In a recent research brief, Capital Economics said high-frequency data such as mobility data from Google and Apple and daily figures on tourism arrivals and electricity usage suggest that recovery is much faster in China, Taiwan and Vietnam but will be slowest in the Philippines, Indonesia and India.

The macroeconomy research firm said hard activity data such as retail sales, industrial production, and ultimately gross domestic product provide the most complete picture of output and activity but come with a long delay.

"In these fast-moving circumstances, they aren't a very useful guide for policymakers and markets," said Capital Economics.

Through the use of high-frequency data, Capital Economics said economic activity in most countries appeared to have already bottomed out in April and is now set for recovery.

However, the pace of recovery is uneven across the region as countries where mobility restrictions are still in place and little improvement in the rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases appear to be recovering slowly.

"The high-frequency data that we track suggest that while all countries in the region are now rebounding, the pace of recovery varies significantly. The recovery is most advanced in China, Taiwan and Vietnam. The Philippines, Indonesia and India are doing the worst," said Capital Economics.

But even with faster recovery in some countries, overall recovery in Emerging Asia economies will likely be slow as unemployment levels remain high and balance sheets become "impaired."

In places where the virus is not yet fully contained, social distancing measures will need to remain in place for much longer, further dragging on the recovery.

Weaker demand from overseas will also become a drag on the growth momentum.

"While global demand may now have bottomed out, it remains very weak," said Capital Economics.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/06/21/2022307/recovery-slowest-philippines>

## Port of hope

*Kalayaan residents dream of bigger projects to come after the completion, launch of a delayed port project*

By [Rene Acosta](#)

June 20, 2020



*Ships carrying construction materials are docked at the newly built beach ramp at the Philippine-claimed island of Pag-asa, also known as Thitu, in the disputed South China Sea on June 9, 2020.*

THE recent completion and inauguration of a military harbor project on Pagasa Island in the Municipality of Kalayaan, Palawan, has sparked a ray of hope within a small Filipino community there that the much-awaited undertaking could pave the way to bigger infrastructure projects and full-scale development of the island.

Dubbed in military parlance as a “beaching ramp,” the port project should usher improvement to the island’s underdeveloped state by allowing the repair of its airfield, the improvement of the living quarters of soldiers guarding the island, and a stable power supply in the future, while hastening the delivery of other basic and essential services, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.



*Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (fourth from right) and the other military officials are welcomed by residents wearing masks during a short ceremony at the newly built beach ramp at the Philippine-claimed island of Pag-asa, also known as Thitu, in the disputed South China Sea, on June 9, 2020.*

Lorenzana led a group of defense-military officials at the recent inauguration of the port, one of the two similar projects on the island being claimed by China in the vast expanse of the South China Sea (SCS). Along with the repair of the airfield, the entire undertaking costs P1.8 billion.

The other project, a sheltered port, was built through funds from the Department of Transportation (DoTr), which is building another, but bigger, harbor. Although it has yet to commence construction, the project is expected to play a bigger role in the island’s full-scale development.

## Occupy, develop Kalayaan

IF Pagasa were to be developed, its residents want that the whole Kalayaan Island Group (KIG) be improved and repopulated, both for economic and military purposes—with the transformation of Subic Bay Freeport, which allows both commercial and military use, as a possible template.

“It could also be developed into an ecotourism zone,” said former Kalayaan mayor-turned-municipal councilor Eugenio Bito-onon Jr., noting his long-pending proposition for this purpose that he sent the Senate.

The proposal wants the government to declare Kalayaan and its cluster of islands, also known as Spratlys, into an ecotourism area, with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (Tieza) taking charge of this development and spinning its shift into a tourism haven.

Bito-onon believes that unless the shoals and reefs claimed and occupied by the country in the Kalayaan are populated by civilians, there is no guarantee that it could not be taken by China, which disputes the territory by way of a sweeping claim.

He fears that KIG would end up like Scarborough, a shoal comparable to the size of Quezon City, that China has already secured and exercises a de facto control after the government “failed” to establish its presence there before.

“We have six Scarborough shoals that are closest to Palawan,” Bito-onon said, naming them as Alitia Ani Shoal, Rizal Reef, Royal Captain Shoal, Half Moon Shoal, Sabina Reef and Ayungin Shoal.

The regular resupply in Ayungin Shoal, military officials and even Lorenzana declared, is always challenged by Chinese patrols.

“If we want to protect Kalayaan, if we want to control the Spratlys, we have to occupy it, develop it,” the municipal councilor declared. “The problem is, it is not being developed.”

The government has stakes on nine reefs and shoals in the KIG, or Spratlys, and all of them, according to Lorenzana, are occupied by soldiers.

Bito-onon said the KIG, which resembles the shape of a hexagon, the entire length of which is bigger than the island of Mindanao, could be developed for an industry for which it is most fitting—fishing—due to its rich marine life.

“It could also be a fishing destination with the needed infrastructure,” he said.

“It could be developed for the fishing industry,” Bito-onon said. “All of its rich marine resources will go to waste if it will not. Instead of the Filipinos and the whole country benefiting from these resources, it will just go to the Chinese who exploit them.”

Chinese fishermen “in swarms,” aided by Chinese military and paramilitary ships, have been exacting a heavy toll on marine resources in Kalayaan, harvesting even the prohibited giant clams, known locally as *taklobo*, and destroying corals—damage mostly inflicted by the Chinese government when it reclaimed and developed man-made islands in the SCS.

“Giant clams are a billion-dollar industry in Hainan,” Bito-onon revealed, referring to China’s province.

By transforming Kalayaan into a mariculture and fishing development zone, it could turn into and support ocean farming and be protected like Tubbataha in Palawan and even other diving destinations.

## Waning hope

WHILE the residents of Pagasa and even Bito-onon took note of Lorenzana’s “messianic” message of development at the recent turnover ceremony and inauguration of the beaching ramp, the islanders’ hope, however, is beginning to ebb due to the absence of a firm and concrete stance from the national government on what it would do next with Kalayaan.

“We were hoping to hear a policy stand on the development even for Pagasa, a development blueprint, from the national government, but there is none,” Bito-onon noted.

Bito-onon, who had long advocated for the development of the island and even the whole of Kalayaan into a maritime economic zone, was expecting to hear Malacañang reinforce Lorenzana’s message of hope with a strong “policy direction.”

The municipal councilor and the residents are eager to hear the Duterte government unveil its whole development package for the KIG, but it may not be coming at all, given the absence, or perhaps an oversight, of a concrete development plan.

“What is the national government’s policy direction for Kalayaan? There is none,” Bito-onon lamented.

Still, the former mayor was very appreciative of Lorenzana’s military plans, at least for Pagasa, as jumpstarted by the construction of the beaching ramp by its contractor, Luzviminda Engineering Construction. This, he said, would also benefit them.

Luzviminda finished the project at a rather extended and “unreliable” performance record of nearly three years, although it was supposed to have been constructed a year after the project was awarded in 2017. In comparison, the sheltered port was completed in 24 months.

For the residents, the two ports, especially the one built by the transportation department, have ended their constant near-encounters with death, which occurs when they have to bring in their supplies.

A boat tapped to ferry the goods into the island stops at least one kilometer away from the Pagasa shoreline, and as it drifts, the goods have to be carried and transferred manually to the “utility” boat of the local government of Kalayaan, which sails them closer to land.

Sometimes, the boat would even drift away by as far as five kilometers from the shoreline, and as it moves, the utility boat has to follow. The transfer of goods happens as both boats are in motion, or are drifting, as the case may be.

It was worse when Pagasa did not yet have its utility boat.

“It was really a game of death every time we had to bring in supplies for the whole of Pagasa,” Bito-onon recalled.

## Triangular development

THE development of Kalayaan, let alone the island of Pagasa, should not be improved at a purely military standpoint, but it has to be economically viable also, if it has to grow and sustain its existence.

As such, its improvement should be pursued along three components—security, development and investment.

Bito-onon said Pagasa alone will not improve if the government is only after its military development, as shown by the construction of the beaching ramp and the upcoming repair of the Rancudo military airfield.

“Okay, you will have security development, but where is the investment?” he asked.

Bito-onon said that if facilities and infrastructure are only built for the military’s restrictive use, Pagasa cannot encourage civilian investors to come in.

“The civilian government should come in, Tieza should come in,” he said, encouraging projects such as those of the transportation department and even the building of at least an “aerodrome.”

When he was still a mayor, Bito-onon tried to persuade a group of big-time fish exporters from Hong Kong to invest in the island. The businessmen, however, moved back after seeing that the island is bereft of facilities and infrastructure.

This time around, he hopes that the recent developments encouraged by Lorenzana will lead to a more sustained initiative by the national government to pursue the long-term, comprehensive development of the island. Who knows? Subic’s stunning success was built on big dreams, but also some stumbling moments along the way. And yet it has triumphed against all odds, because there was political will.

# ADB approves \$126 million loan to MWSS

[Czeriza Valencia](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 20, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$126 million loan to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) as additional financing for its Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project.

Specifically, the loan will support the construction of a 15-kilometer water transmission pipeline aimed at improving water supply in Metro Manila.

The Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project, which will strengthen the downstream transmission capacity, is part of the MWSS effort to rehabilitate the Umiray-Angat-Ipo Dam system, which supplies about 90 percent of Metro Manila's water.

MWSS is a government-owned and controlled corporation that operates Metro Manila's bulk water system. It oversees two private concessionaries that source, treat and distribute water to customers.

"Climate change is making annual rainfall unpredictable, putting tremendous pressure on water resource use," said Vijay Padmanabhan, director of the Urban Development and Water Division of ADB's Southeast Asia Department.

"The Philippine government is increasing investments in clean infrastructure for environmentally sustainable water resource management across the country. Through this project, ADB is helping the Philippines secure Metro Manila's water supply."

The new aqueduct, with a 3.6-meter diameter, will increase the system's water transfer capacity to 66 cubic meters per second (m<sup>3</sup>/sec) by 2025, from 50 m<sup>3</sup>/sec in 2019. It will allow MWSS to retire its two oldest aqueducts and repair others through 2032.

It will have a welded steel concrete-coated pipe and will be able to withstand magnitude 7.2 earthquakes, therefore increasing the resilience of Metro Manila's water supply.

The new loan supplements ongoing ADB financing to MWSS, approved in 2016 to fund the construction of a 6.3-km modern, earthquake-resilient upstream water tunnel. The tunnel is expected to be completed in June, three months ahead of schedule.

Since 1974, ADB has supported more than a dozen Metro Manila water projects, which, in addition to the current loan, includes four other loans supporting the Angat supply system.

The Angat water transmission project is part of the government's Build Build Build infrastructure development program.

Once construction starts this year, it is expected to provide a stimulus to domestic material suppliers and create more construction jobs.

Source: [https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/06/20/2022077/adb-approves-126-million-loan-mwss?fbclid=IwAR3\\_0Yz5k3VWRnnDZ1Xr-scM9l0wbJUfjZrPOQNabjfujCg9USIRwoe6n6s&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&utm\\_term=Autofeed](https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/06/20/2022077/adb-approves-126-million-loan-mwss?fbclid=IwAR3_0Yz5k3VWRnnDZ1Xr-scM9l0wbJUfjZrPOQNabjfujCg9USIRwoe6n6s&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&utm_term=Autofeed)



# Rekomendasyon sa water consession agreement ng pamahalaan at Manila Water, Maynilad, isusumite na ng DoJ sa Palasyo

By [Bombo Jerald Ulep](#)

-June 21, 2020 | 3:45 AM



IMAGE | Angat Dam/Maynilad

Nakatakda na raw isumite ng Department of Justice (DoJ) ang kanilang rekomendasyon kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kaugnay ng water consession agreement sa pagitan ng pamahalaan at Manila Water at Maynilad.

Kung maalala ang hindi magandang serbisyo ang naging dahilan kung bakit ni-review ng DoJ kasama ang iba pang ahensiya ng pamahalaan ang 1997 deal ng dalawang water concessionaire sa gobyerno.

Sinabi ni Guevarra na sa katapusan ng buwan nila isusumite ang kanilang rekomendasyon sa Pangulo at nasa diskresyon pa rin niya kung ano ang susunod na gagawin sa kanilang rekomendasyon.

Aminado si Guevarra na hindi ito sigurado kung tatanggapin lahat ni Duterte ang kanilang rekomendasyon.

Kapag okay na sa presidente ang resulta ng kanilang review sa agreement ay pupulungin daw nila ang dalawang kumpanya.

Siniguro naman daw ng dalawang water distributor na makikipag-cooperate ang mga ito ano man ang maging desisyon ng Pangulong Duterte sa kasunduan.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/rekomendasyon-sa-water-consession-agreement-ng-pamahalaan-at-manila-water-maynilad-isusumite-na-ng-doj-sa-palasyo/>

# 4.1-magnitude quake jolts Davao Occidental

Published June 20, 2020, 6:35 AM

*By Mike Crismundo*

BUTUAN CITY – A 4.1-magnitude earthquake hit Davao Occidental province anew early Saturday morning, June 20, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

In its bulletin, Phivolcs said the tremor was recorded at 12:49 a.m., with the epicenter plotted 59 kilometers (km) southeast of Jose Abad Santos town, Davao Occidental province. The tremor had a depth of 134 km, Phivolcs said.

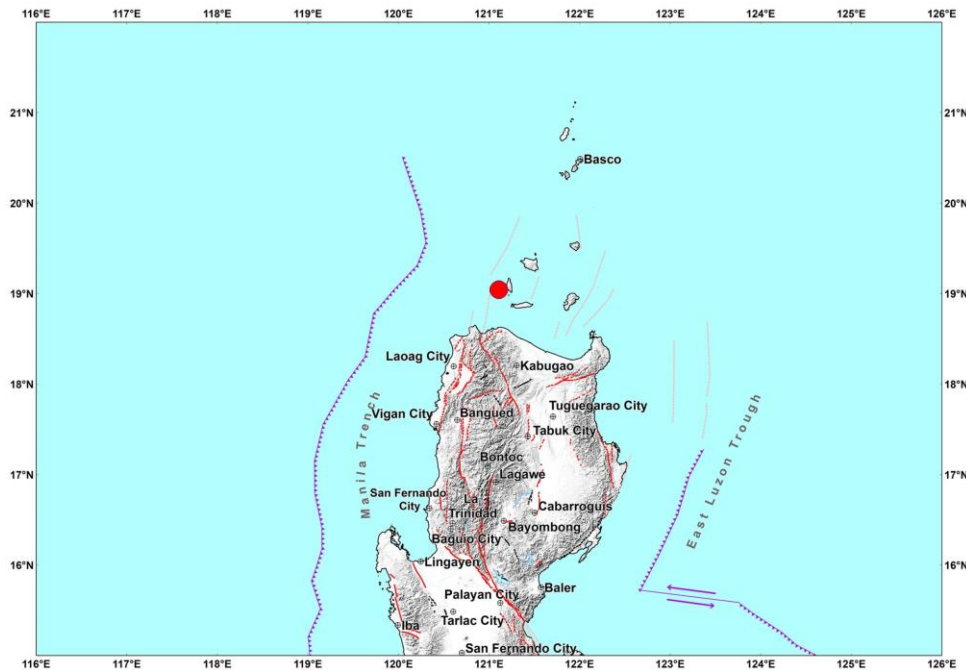
The earthquake was tectonic in origin and no aftershock or tsunami alert was raised by the agency.

The regional office of the Southern Mindanao Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and Davao Occidental provincial disaster risk reduction and management council (PDRRMC) there reported no damage or injury.

# Magnitude 4.5 quake hits Cagayan, nearby areas

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:46 PM June 20, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 4.5 quake struck Cagayan and nearby areas on Saturday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported. According to Phivolcs, the quake was recorded at 11:49 a.m., with the epicenter located 46 kilometers southwest of Calayan town in Cagayan.

The quake, which was of tectonic origin, had a depth of 16 kilometers.

## FEATURED STORIES

Intensity II was recorded in Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte while Intensity I was recorded in Laoag City. Phivolcs said no damage and aftershocks are expected following the quake.

/MUF

# Cagayan niyanig ng magnitude 4.5 lindol

## Balita

By Leifbilly Begas June 20, 2020



NIYANIG ng magnitude 4.5 lindol ang Cagayan kanina.

Ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology naramdaman ang lindol alas-11:49 ng umaga.

Ang epicenter ng lindol [ay 37](#) kilometro sa kanluran ng Calayan. May lalim itong 28 kilometro. Naramdaman ang Intensity IV sa Calayan, Cagayan.

Intensity III naman sa Sanchez-Mira, Cagayan.

Ang mga instrumento ng Phivolcs ay may naitalang Intensity II sa Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte at Intensity I sa Laoag City.

# ASEAN on relieving COVID-19 impact

Published 4 hours ago on June 21, 2020 02:00 AM

By [Pauline Songco](#)



ASEAN Economic Ministers Plus Three consultations on the COVID-19 response. / PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ASEAN.ORG

Economic Ministers from the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea have expressed serious concerns about the growing COVID-19 cases in the region and around the world. In a joint public statement, the Economic Ministers extended their deepest sympathies to the numerous loss of lives, and they sought that the pandemic should be dealt with within the soonest possible time to prevent greater economic impact.

The joint statement also commits the Economic Ministers to explore cooperation with its external partners and the international community. The statement further says, "They acknowledge that there is an urgent need for intensified and concerted efforts to address the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their people, including economic disruptions that have affected regional supply chains, the financial markets, and human capital."

In line with their objectives to combat the effects of COVID-19, the joint statement affirms the Ministers' continuous facilitation of supporting small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and keeping the markets open for trade and investment, thus strengthening the resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains and its flow of goods and services.

The Ministers also indicated their efforts in utilizing the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve, or the (APTERR), to overcome possible food shortages, thus ensuring food security in the region during emergencies.

They also agreed to use and enhance, as stated on the joint statement, existing platforms such as the SEOM Plus Three Consultations "to promote and strengthen sharing and exchange of information, experience and best practices in the region, particularly preemptive, mitigative and corrective measures to be taken in response to COVID-19."

The statement closed with the Ministers vowing to continue working together in restoring economic growth in the region by enhancing regional trade and economic cooperation through, among others, addressing trade barriers, promotion of trade and investment, and expansion of the fields of cooperation.

# Pandemic is accelerating, WHO warns

Published 2 hours ago on June 21, 2020 04:15 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — The coronavirus pandemic is now in a “new and dangerous phase,” the World Health Organization (WHO) said Friday, with the disease accelerating at the same time as people tire of lockdowns.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged nations and citizens to remain extremely vigilant, as the number of cases reported to the UN health agency hit a new peak.

“The pandemic is accelerating. More than 150,000 new cases of COVID-19 were reported to WHO yesterday — the most in a single day so far,” Tedros told a virtual press conference.

He said almost half of those cases were reported from the Americas, with large numbers also being reported from South Asia and the Middle East.

“The world is in a new and dangerous phase. Many people are understandably fed up with being at home. Countries are understandably eager to open up their societies and economies,” he said.

“But the virus is still spreading fast, it’s still deadly and most people are still susceptible,” he said, with the most vulnerable set to suffer the worst.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 454,000 people and infected more than 8.5 million since the outbreak began in China late last year, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

Italy’s top health agency on Friday urged caution after last week seeing “warning signs” of new coronavirus transmission, especially over outbreaks of cases in Rome.

WHO emergencies director Mike Ryan said countries needed to be on alert for second waves of infection — and second peaks within the first wave if it is not properly suppressed.

“You may have a second peak within your first wave, and then you may have a second wave: it’s not either or,” the Irish epidemiologist said.

While increased numbers of confirmed cases could be down to improved testing, he said unexpected rising hospitalization and death figures were a better indicator of a resurgence.

“Exiting lockdowns must be done carefully,” he said.

“If you don’t know where the virus is, the chances are that the virus will surprise you.”

Ryan said countries needed to be more agile and react quickly and precisely to new clusters, and he praised the intensity of investigations going on in Beijing, which is battling a new outbreak.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/21/pandemic-is-accelerating-who-warns/>

WHO warns world pandemic in 'new and dangerous

TITLE: phase' of pandemic

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DATE

# WHO warns world in 'new and dangerous phase' of pandemic

Agence France-Presse / 02:49 PM June 20, 2020



Passengers wearing face masks exit a train at a subway station in Beijing on June 20, 2020. – Tens of thousands of people in the Chinese capital are being tested for the COVID-19 coronavirus while neighborhoods have been locked down and schools closed as authorities seek to contain a cluster linked to the Xinfadi food market. (Photo by STR / AFP)

The World Health Organization warned Friday of a “new and dangerous phase” of the coronavirus pandemic with people tiring of lockdowns despite the disease’s accelerating spread.

The warning came as it emerged the virus was present in Italy in December, months before its first confirmed cases and about the same time as the disease was first reported in China.

The virus, which has now killed more than 454,000 people and infected 8.4 million people worldwide, is surging in the Americas and parts of Asia even as Europe starts to ease restrictive measures.

Lockdowns imposed to halt the spread of the disease have caused crippling economic damage, but the WHO said the pandemic still posed a major threat.

“The world is in a new and dangerous phase. Many people are understandably fed up with being at home... but the virus is still spreading fast,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference.

A [vaccine remains months off](#) at best despite several trials, while scientists are still discovering more about the virus, its symptoms and the extent to which it may have spread before being identified.

## Italian sewage

Italian researchers discovered genetic traces of SARS-CoV-2 — as the virus is officially known — in samples of [waste water collected in Milan and Turin](#) at the end of last year, and Bologna in January, the ISS institute said.

Italy’s first confirmed cases were not until February.

The results “help to understand the start of the circulation of the virus in Italy,” the ISS said. Italy was the first European country to be hit by the virus and the first in the world to impose a nationwide lockdown, in early March.

Many European countries followed suit, and most have only begin reopening this month after painful shutdowns that devastated their economies.

Facing the biggest recession in the EU’s history, leaders on Friday held a virtual summit on the European Commission’s proposal for a 750 billion euro (\$840 billion) rescue fund.

However, they fell short of reaching a deal on a plan that has been seen as a key gesture of solidarity and unity for the troubled bloc.

WHO warns world pandemic in ‘new and dangerous

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TITLE: phase’ of pandemic

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Opposition is fierce from the “frugal four” — Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Austria — who have promised to fight to rein in spending.

On the other side are countries such as Italy and Spain that were the first and hardest hit by the pandemic, having already been crippled by overstretched finances.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said it was “uncertain” whether there would be a deal when leaders are set to meet in person in mid-July, adding that it may not even be finalised until after the summer.

### ‘Came from Europe’

Chinese scientists have said the virus likely emerged in a market that sold wildlife in the central city of Wuhan in December, but Beijing officials have recently suggested that it may have originated elsewhere.

After largely bringing the virus under control and easing restrictions, China is now fighting a resurgence of the coronavirus after finding a cluster centered on a market in the capital [Beijing](#).

Authorities launched a nationwide campaign to inspect food imports, while tens of thousands of people are also being tested and neighborhoods have been locked down and schools closed.

Chinese authorities said studies of genome data, which it had shared with the WHO, suggest the new outbreak in Beijing “came from Europe,” but is different from what is currently spreading there.

“It is older than the virus currently circulating in Europe,” Zhang Yong of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said.

He raised the possibility of the virus lurking in imported frozen food or in the wholesale market itself, resulting in similarities to older strains.

### ‘Better control’

The disease continues its rampage elsewhere.

The United States still leads the world in the number of confirmed infections and deaths, with a recent surge in southern states, while the economy has also been hammered in a year when US President Donald Trump seeks re-election.

However, top US expert Dr Anthony Fauci offered a ray of hope as said in an interview with AFP that he did not see America returning to fresh lockdown.

He predicted it would instead focus on “trying to better control those areas of the country that seem to be having a surge of cases.”

Fauci said he was optimistic the world would soon have a vaccine to end the pandemic, calling early trial results “encouraging.”

### French kissing

Normality is however returning to cultural and sporting events disrupted by the virus.

Football returned to hard-hit South America on Thursday after a three-month hiatus with a Rio state tournament match in Brazil.

And In France, nation of le grand amour, actors have started kissing again on film shoots.

“No, the kiss is not over with,” French culture minister Franck Riester declared when asked if social distancing was in danger of killing off love scenes altogether.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1294736/who-warns-world-in-new-and-dangerous-phase-of-pandemic>



# WHO: World in dangerous virus phase

By [Associated Press](#)

June 21, 2020

**SAO PAULO:** The World Health Organization (WHO) warned of a “new and dangerous phase” of the coronavirus pandemic as infections continued to surge in the Americas, with Brazil registering more than 1 million cases.

“The world is in a new and dangerous phase. Many people are understandably fed up with being at home... but the virus is still spreading fast,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference.

The virus has now killed more than 458,000 people and infected 8.6 million worldwide.

A vaccine remains months off at best despite several trials, and scientists are still making daily discoveries about the virus, its symptoms and the extent to which it may have spread before being identified.

Meanwhile, Brazil’s government confirmed on Friday (Saturday in Manila) that the country has risen above 1-million confirmed coronavirus cases, second only to the United States.

The country’s Health ministry said the total now stood at 1,032,913, up more than 50,000 from Thursday. The ministry said the sharp increase was due to corrections of previous days’ underreported numbers.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro still downplays the risks of the virus after nearly 50,000 deaths from the coronavirus disease 2019 in three months, saying the impact of social isolation measures on the economy could be worse than the disease itself.

**AP/AFP**