

DENR, NBI seize P3.2 million agarwood

[Michael Punongbayan](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 22, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) along with agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have confiscated about 20 kilos of agarwood valued at P3.2 million in Pasig City and Cainta, Rizal.

Four suspects were arrested by the DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force and the NBI Environmental Crime Division on June 8. They were Ramil Ong, Bernie Bagay, Rizal Mofar and Arjhun Gaviola.

The DENR said the suspects were nabbed after they caught in the act of transporting agarwood extracted from local tree species.

Charges of violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources and Protection Act and the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines have been filed against the suspects who are being held at the NBI detention facility in Manila.

Agarwood, one of the most expensive raw materials for the production of perfume, incense, fragrance oil and traditional medicine, can be sold for as high as P160,000 per kilo.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu lauded the DENR and NBI for their “unrelenting efforts to go after the suspects despite quarantine restrictions.” — Elizabeth Marcelo

NBI arrests 4 for poaching threatened wood species

Published June 21, 2020, 1:10 PM

By *Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz*

A joint operation by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has led to the arrest of four individuals who were caught transporting ₱3.2 million worth of agarwood, a threatened tree species whose fragrant dark resinous wood is used in incense and perfume.



National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) (MANILA BULLETIN)

The four arrested, identified as Ramil Ong, Bernie Bagay, Rizal Mofar and Arjhun Gaviola, were apprehended in two separate operations conducted by the DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) and the NBI-Environmental Crime Division in Pasig City and Cainta, Rizal last June 8.

The environmental enforcers seized from the suspects almost 20 kilos of agarwood valued at ₱3.2 million.

Agarwood is one of the most expensive raw materials used in perfumery, costing at least ₱160,000 per kilo in the Philippines.

Rogelio Demelletes Jr., a senior ecosystems management specialist and member of EPETF, said that based on their initial investigation, the seized agarwood shipments were of high-grade quality and likely poached from the forests of Mindanao, particularly Surigao and Agusan provinces.

Agarwood is extracted from host trees locally known as Lapnisan and Lanete, which are both included in the national list of threatened Philippine plants per DENR Administrative Order 2007-01.

According to Demelletes, a high-grade agarwood can be sold for as high as US\$30,000 per kilo and its trafficking has spawned indiscriminate cutting of Lanete and Lapnisan trees.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu lauded the DENR and NBI enforcers for their unrelenting efforts to go after environmental criminals despite the quarantine restrictions and other measures imposed to contain the spread of coronavirus disease.

"This clearly sends out the message that the government's campaign against environmental offenders remains unrelenting despite a pandemic that is wreaking havoc worldwide," Cimatu said.

The four suspects were charged with violations of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources and Protection Act and Presidential Decree 705, otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

They are detained at the NBI detention facility in Manila while awaiting court proceedings.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/21/nbi-arrests-4-for-poaching-threatened-wood-species/>

P3.2-M agarwood seized; 4 nabbed

Published 3 hours ago on June 22, 2020 02:50 AM

By [Rey Bancod](#)



Joint operatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have arrested four individuals caught transporting several kilos of agarwood, a threatened and much sought-after tree species.

The four, identified as Ramil Ong, Bernie Bagay, Rizal Mofar and Arjhun Gaviola, were apprehended in two separate operations conducted by the DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) and the NBI-Environmental Crime Division in Pasig City and Cainta, Rizal last 8 June.

The environmental enforcers seized from the suspects almost 20 kilos of agarwood valued at P3.2 million.

Agarwood is one of the most expensive raw materials used in perfumery, costing at least P160,000 per kilo in the Philippines.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu lauded DENR and NBI enforcers for their unrelenting efforts to go after environmental criminals despite the quarantine restrictions and other measures imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19.

"This clearly sends out the message that the government's campaign against environmental offenders remains unrelenting despite a pandemic that is wreaking havoc worldwide," Cimatu said.

The four suspects were charged with violations of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources and Protection Act and Presidential Decree 705, otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines. They are detained at the NBI detention facility in Manila while awaiting court proceedings.

Rogelio Demelletes Jr., a senior ecosystems management specialist and member of EPETF, said initial investigation showed that the seized agarwood shipments were of high-grade quality and likely poached from the forests of Mindanao, particularly Surigao and Agusan provinces.

Agarwood is extracted from host trees locally known as Lapnisan and Lanete, which are both included in the national list of threatened Philippine plants per DENR Administrative Order 2007-01.

According to Demelletes, a high-grade agarwood can be sold for as high \$30,000 per kilo and its trafficking has spawned indiscriminate cutting of Lanete and Lapnisan trees.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/22/p3-2-m-agarwood-seized-4-nabbed/>



DENR: P3.2M halaga ng agarwood nakumpiska sa 4 na suspek sa Rizal

June 21, 2020 @ 4:01 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Arestado ang apat katao ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) matapos maaktuhan ang mga ito na may dalang ilang kilo ng agarwood na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ng batas.

Nakilala ang mga nadakip na suspek na sina Ramil Ong, Bernie Bagay, Rizal Mofar at Arjhun Gaviola na naaresto ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) at NBI-Environmental Crime Division sa Pasig City at Cainta, Rizal noong Hunyo 8.

Nakumpiska ng mga environmental enforcers sa mga suspek ang tinatayang 20 kilo ng agarwood na may halagang P3.2 milyon.

Ayon sa DENR ang agarwood ay isa sa pinakamahal na “raw materials” sa paggawa ng pabango na umaabot ang presyo sa P160,000 kada kilo sa Pilipinas.

Pinuri naman ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang DENR at NBI dahil sa sakripisyo ng mga ito upang maaresto ang mga “environmental criminals” kahit na mahigpit na ipinatutupad ang “quarantine” upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19.

“This clearly sends out the message that the government’s campaign against environmental offenders remains unrelenting despite a pandemic that is wreaking havoc worldwide,” sabi pa ni Cimatu.

Nahaharap ang apat na suspek sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources and Protection Act at Presidential Decree 705 o mas kilala sa Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines. Kasalukuyan din nakapiit ang mga ito sa NBI detention facility sa Manila habang hinihintay ang pagdinig sa kanilang kaso.

Ayon naman kay senior ecosystems management specialist at miyembro ng EPETF na si Rogelio Demelletes, Jr., ang kanilang mga nakumpiskang agarwood ay isa sa pinakamahal at magandang klase na nagmula pa sa mga kagubatan ng Mindanao partikular na sa mga probinsiya ng Surigao at Agusan.

Ang agarwood ay nagmula sa mga puno ng Lapnisan at Lanete na kapwa kasama sa national list ng mga nanganganib na Philippine plants base na rin sa inilabas na DENR Administrative Order 2007-01.

Sinabi pa ni Demelletes, ang high grade agarwood ay maibebenta hanggang US\$30,000 kada kilo at ang pagbebenta nito ay dahilan upang manganib ang mga puno ng Lanete at Lapnisan. **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://remate.ph/denr-p3-2m-halaga-ng-agarwood-nakumpiska-sa-4-na-suspek-sa-rizal/>



Leader News Philippines

18 hrs · 🌐



P3.2 milyong halaga ng agarwood nakumpiska sa 4 na suspek

Naaresto ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang apat na katao matapos na maaktuhan ang mga ito na may dalang ilang kilo ng agarwood na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal sa batas.

Ang mga suspek na nakilalang sina Ramil Ong, Bernie Bagay, Rizal Mofar at Arjhun Gaviola ay naaresto ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) at NBI-Environmental Crime Division sa Pasig City at Cainta, Rizal noong Hunyo 8.

Nakumpiska ng mga environmental enforcers sa mga suspek ang tinatayang 20 kilo ng agarwood na may halagang P3.2 milyon.

Ang agarwood ay isa sa pinakamahal na "raw materials" sa paggawa ng pabango na umaabot ang presyo sa P160,000 kada kilo sa Pilipinas.

Pinuri naman ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang DENR at NBI dahil sa sakripisyo ng mga ito upang maaresto ang mga "environmental criminals" kahit na mahigpit na ipinatutupad ang "quarantine" upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19.

"This clearly sends out the message that the government's campaign against environmental offenders remains unrelenting despite a pandemic that is wreaking havoc worldwide," sabi pa ni Cimatu.

Nahaharap ang apat na suspek sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources and Protection Act at Presidential Decree 705 o mas kilala sa Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines. Kasalukuyan din nakapiit ang mga ito sa NBI detention facility sa Manila habang hinihintay ang pagdinig sa kanilang kaso.

Ayon naman kay senior ecosystems management specialist at miyembro ng EPETF na si Rogelio Demelletes, Jr., ang kanilang mga nakumpiskang agarwood ay isa sa pinakamahal at magandang klase na nagmula pa sa mga kagubatan ng Mindanao partikular na sa mga probinsiya ng Surigao at Agusan.

Ang agarwood ay nagmula sa mga puno ng Lapnisan at Lanete na kapwa kasama sa national list ng mga nanganganib na Philippine plants base na rin sa inilabas na DENR Administrative Order 2007-01

Sinabi pa ni Demelletes, ang high grade agarwood ay maibebenta hanggang US\$30,000 kada kilo at ang pagbebenta nito ay dahilan upang manganib ang mga puno ng Lanete at Lapnisan.

Like and share our page Leader News Philippines



👍🙄 19

6 Comments 2 Shares

4 illegal occupants of Botolan foreshore held

June 21, 2020

By Hector Lawas

People's Tonight

The National Bureau of Investigation has announced the arrest of four individuals accused of illegal occupation of foreshore land in Botolan, Zambales.

This was in line with the national government's campaign against environmental crimes, NBI Officer-In-Charge Eric Distor said.

Distor identified the suspects as Lovelian Reyes Bool, Renato Monsalud, Marcelino Gustero Mañosa Jr., and Apollo Tabios.

They were arrested by the NBI-Environmental Crime Division during an operation that stemmed from a report of an alleged occupation of foreshore land in Botolan town.

According to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Iba, Zambales, the alleged occupation of foreshore land by the Sunrise Paradise Resort was illegal.

Despite the order to cease and desist from the on-going construction activities, Sunrise did not refrain from constructing and installing structures, the NBI said.

NBI-EnCD operatives conducted surveillance and it was established that there are structures constructed in the seashore like floating cottages and a bridge made of steel.

Charges for violations of Republic Act 8550 (Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998), Presidential Decree 1067 (Water Code of the Philippines), and PD 705 as amended by Executive Order 277 and RA 7161 (Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines) were filed against the suspects before the Department of Justice.

Family of Philippine eagles found in Zamboanga Peninsula

Discovery in Pasonanca Natural Park gives conservationists hope that the endangered birds can thrive in Zamboanga Peninsula

By: Jhesset O. Enano - Philippine Daily Inquirer June 21, 2020 - 10:06 AM

MANILA, Philippines — It began with a rare few sightings and fallen feathers on the forest floor.

But more than two decades after, a family of Philippine eagles (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) and their nest were finally observed and documented at Pasonanca Natural Park in Zamboanga City, sparking hope among conservationists and the local community that the endangered birds can soar and thrive in one of the few remaining intact forests in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

“This is the crowning glory of the buildup of investments in the past, as early as 1998,” said Jayson Ibañez, director for research and conservation of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), in an interview on Wednesday.

“A critical approach in conservation is to find as many nesting sites as possible,” he said, noting that eagles only breed and nest in healthy forest habitats where biodiversity is also flourishing.

The discovery took place during the first-ever field research to survey the eagles and find an active nest within the 17,000-hectare protected watershed area. Located just 10 kilometers north of the city center, the natural park is also home to several threatened and endemic bird species in Mindanao, such as the Mindanao bleeding-heart (*Gallicolumba crinigera*) and the Philippine dwarf kingfisher (*Ceyx melanurus*).



NATIONAL BIRD Rescued Philippine eagles at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City are given utmost care to ensure the survival of the country's national bird. —EDWIN BACASMAS

Breeding season

The series of expeditions inside Pasonanca stretched from October 2019 to March 2020, in time for the eagle breeding season in Mindanao. It was led by PEF, with its partners from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, US Agency for International Development, Zamboanga City government and the Zamboanga City Water District, which has jurisdiction over the park.

In October, after almost 10 days into the first expedition, the team finally photographed an adult male Philippine eagle—the first official documentation of the raptor in Pasonanca.

Family of Philippine eagles found in Zamboanga

TITLE: Peninsula

PAGE 1/ 2/3

June 22, 2020
DATE

The majestic bird was spotted carrying a large prey and was seen again for three consecutive days, leading to the belief that it could be providing food to a mate and their eaglet in a not-so-distant nest.

The research team returned several times in November to December, with the goal of locating the nest. Finally, in the morning of Dec. 4, an adult female eagle emerged into view from a thicket of ferns, after the male eagle flew from a tree canopy after delivering food.



OBSERVATION DECK The expedition team uses a tree platform to observe the eagles' behavior.

Protecting nesting sites

From their observation decks, the team saw a healthy month-old eaglet, resulting in the first active Philippine eagle nest recorded at Pasonanca and the third in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

“Philippine eagles are very loyal to the places where they breed, and nesting sites are ancient and occupied by territorial pairs for generations,” Ibañez said. “If you want the population to continue, you make sure that these nesting sites are protected and safe.”

Finding an active nest, he said, is like looking for a needle in a pile of hay, as the expedition teams need to scour up to 11,000 ha of forests for a single nest.

“For the endangered Philippine eagle, every pair is important,” he said.

Unfortunately, the team returned to an empty nest in January 2020, finding only a few feathers, small bones and skin patches of the eaglet. These were sent to the University of the Philippines for genetic tests.

The cause of its death remained uncertain. PEF data, however, shows that three of 10 nesting attempts of eagle pairs in Mindanao can fail even in the best environments, whether due to natural causes or inexperienced eagle parents.

Ibañez said there was still hope for a new family, since the eagle pair was seen numerous times between February and March this year. Both showed courtship behaviors.

“We also think there are two to three more pairs to find within the park,” he said. “The existence of the Philippine eagle is the outcome of the good job that is being done to protect the area.”

Family of Philippine eagles found in Zamboanga

June 22, 2020

TITLE: Peninsula

PAGE 1/ 3/3

DATE



POSTMORTEM The remains of an eaglet found in a nest in Pasonanca are studied by researchers. | PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE EAGLE FOUNDATION AND USAID PROTECT WILDLIFE

Threatened

Across the country, there are only around 400 pairs left of the country's national bird, half of them in Mindanao. One of the rarest eagles in the world, conservationists have been working double time to preserve the numbers left in the wild, especially as these birds of prey are still threatened by hunting and habitat loss.

A crucial component of saving these birds, Ibañez said, was providing support for and protection to local communities, particularly indigenous forest guards who do not only protect the park from deforestation and poachers but also provide valuable observations for researchers and conservationists.

Pasonanca has more than 100 paid forest guards, supported by the city's water district. In Mt. Apo, another known habitat for the Philippine eagle, more than 200 guards who belong to indigenous peoples' groups still monitor the forests, even amid the threat of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

"The government should invest more in supporting green jobs," Ibañez said. "The indigenous peoples in the uplands are among the hardest hit by the lockdown ... Providing them with decent pay—we think that's the way forward."

The COVID-19 pandemic, alongside the avian flu outbreak in Luzon, has also forced the closure of the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City, which is the main source of funds for PEF's work and its day-to-day operations.

It, however, has not stopped the work for Ibañez and his team. In May, even amid the lockdown, they released a Philippine eagle, named "Siocon," back to the wild after it crash-landed on a grassland in Zamboanga del Norte province.

Donations are most welcome to ensure that proper care and food are extended to 32 eagles still in the center and more than 80 other animals.

"In this crisis, our animal keepers are our front-liners in conservation," PEF said on its website. "With your donations, we can purchase personal protective equipment for our keepers and provide for the daily subsistence of the animals."

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/320095/family-of-philippine-eagles-found-in-zamboanga-peninsula>



EDITORIAL - May lason na muli ang hangin sa Metro

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 22, 2020 - 12:00am

Isa sa magandang bunga ng lockdown sa Metro Manila ay ang pagdalisay ng hangin sa lungsod. Sa loob ng mahigit dalawang buwan na enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), nakita ang malaking pagbabago sa kalidad ng hangin sa MM. Nakalanghap ng sariwang hangin ang mga residente. Napagmasdan ang magandang bundok sa Antipolo na dati ay hindi matanaw dahil sa kulapol ng usok mula sa mga tambutso ng mga sasakyan at mga pabrika. Napakagandang tanawin ng bughaw na bundok ganundin ang mga luntiang damo at mga punongkahoy.

Ngayon ay may pagluluwag na sa Metro Manila dahil sa general community quarantine. Pinayagan na ang pagbubukas ng mga establisimyento, pabrika at paktorya; pagbiyahe ng ilang pampasaherong bus, taxi, traysikel at iba pang pampasaherong sasakyan, maaaring hindi na uli makita ang magandang bundok at mga kakahuyan. Balik uli ang air pollution sa Metro Manila. Malalanghap muli ang hangin na may lason.

Marami nang yumayaot na sasakyan sa EDSA. Trapik na uli. Wala na namang tigil ang pagbuga ng nakalalasang usok mula sa tambutso. Ganundin naman, umuusok na ang tsimneya ng mga pabrika. Pati na ang usok mula sa pugon ng mga pagawaan.

Ayon sa report, 120,000 Pilipino bawat taon ang namamatay dahil sa pagkalahap ng hangin na may lason. Pangatlo ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa Asia na marami ang namamatay sa air pollution. Nangunguna ang China at ikalawa ang Mongolia.

Karaniwang pinagmumulan ng hangin na may lason ang ibinubugang usok ng mga sasakyan. Walumpong porsiyento na pinanggagalingan ng air pollution ay mula sa mga karag-karag na sasakyan.

Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH), ang maruming hangin ay nagdudulot ng noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Kabilang sa mga sakit na nakukuha dahil sa pagkalahap ng hangin na may lason ay allergies, acute respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, cancer at cardiovascular diseases.

Matinding kalaban ang air pollution na maihalintulad din sa salot na COVID-19. Nararapat kumilos ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para mapigilan ang pagkalason ng hangin. Maghigpit sa mga sasakyan at pabrika na nagbubuga ng lason.

A year gone by, Didipio renewal blinks in dark

posted June 21, 2020 at 08:35 pm

by [Abe Almirol](#)

In a statement posted in social media on Saturday (June 20), Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos M. Padilla has renewed calls to end mining in Didipio.

One year has passed since the expiration of the Financial and/or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) of OceanaGold Philippines Inc., a local subsidiary of Australian-Canadian miner OceanaGold Corporation operating the Didipio mine.

“Let us vigorously oppose the renewal of OceanaGold’s FTAA. Let us stand against mining,” Padilla said in a press statement.

FTAA, a mining contract governed by the Mining Act of 1995, has a life span of 25 years and renewable for another 25 years. The Didipio mine’s contract was set to end this year.

But the contrast between the country’s current situation and the governor’s plea is evident, as the national government is desperately rushing to look for possible revenues. The economy was left devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and many people lost their jobs.

By the end of April this year, 60% of the 714 employees of OceanaGold at the Didipio mine were laid off. Out of the 300 remaining workers, only a skeleton work force of about 100 will be left by July if there will be no FTAA renewal, an insider from OceanaGold’s Didipio operations revealed.

According to the Mining Act of 1995, Didipio would be under the government’s care and maintenance if OceanaGold gives up or fails to secure a renewed contract.

There is no doubt the national government is still considering the huge potential of the country’s mineral industry, since no categorical response from Office of the President has been made public as of late regarding OceanaGold’s application for FTAA renewal.

In his statement, Padilla lamented that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) is highly supportive of the renewal of OceanaGold’s FTAA.

The MGB estimated that in 2019, the export of metallic and non-metallic minerals and products was valued at US\$4.38 billion.

“In Cagayan Valley alone, where two other large-scale mining operations (FCF Minerals and Nickel Asia) are operating in addition to OceanaGold, an estimated P9.53 billion (US\$ 190 million) worth of gold, copper and nickel were exported to Japan, India, Switzerland, and Australia in 2019,” MGB’s Region 02 website said.

Copper, gold and nickel are the country’s top mineral exports.

MGB also claimed there are 190,000 workers employed by the minerals industry in 2019. The bureau also assumed that for every job in the industry, about four indirect jobs may be generated in the upstream and downstream sectors. (To be continued.)

End OceanaGold ops – NVizcaya gov

By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)

June 22, 2020

KASIBU, Nueva Vizcaya: Gov. Carlos Padilla has renewed calls to end mining in Barangay Didipio, particularly the operation of Australian-Canadian miner OceanaGold Corp. (OGC), which stopped operations after its mining contract with the government expired a year ago.



The Didipio Mine of OceanaGold Philippines Inc. that straddles Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. PIA PHOTO

On June 20, 2019, the Financial and/or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) of the national government-sanctioned OceanaGold Philippines Inc. (OGPI), an OGC subsidiary, expired resulting in temporary cessation of OGPI’s operations pending renewal of its license by President Rodrigo Duterte.

“Let us vigorously oppose the renewal of OceanaGold’s FTAA. Let us stand against mining,” Padilla said in a news statement and over Catholic-operated radio DWRV in Bayombong town.

With a life span of 25 years, an FTAA, a mining contract governed by the Mining Act of 1995 between the Philippines and the mining contractor like OGPI, is renewable for another 25 years.

But mineworkers claimed the current situation of the country and the plea to stop mining in the province contradict the national government in its desperate rush looking for possible revenues when the economy was left devastated by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic and many people lost their jobs.

They said they believed the national government was still considering the huge potential of the country’s mineral industry.

The OGPI management said that in April, 60 percent of its 714 employees in the Didipio Mine were laid off, adding that out of the 300 remaining workers, only a skeleton workforce of about 100 will be left by July in case there will be no FTAA renewal taking place.

Based on the Mining Act of 1995, the Didipio Mine would be placed under the government’s care and maintenance once the OGPI eventually gives up in case it fails to secure another 25-year FTAA.

After a year since its FTAA expired, the OGPI has not received any response from the Office of the President regarding its application for the renewal despite a recommendation from the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB) in Region 2.

Padilla said the MGB was highly supportive of the renewal of the OGPI’s FTAA.

In 2019, the MGB estimated the export of metallic and non-metallic minerals and products \$4.38 billion.

It also claimed that there were 190,000 workers employed in the minerals industry in 2019, and assumed that for every job in the industry, about four indirect jobs may be generated in the upstream and downstream sectors.

In Cagayan Valley, the MGB on its website posted an estimated P9.53 billion (\$190 million) worth of gold, copper and nickel exported to Japan, India, Switzerland and Australia for 2019.

Copper, gold and nickel are the country's top mineral exports.

Mario Ancheta, MGB Region 2 director, said this estimated export from Cagayan Valley pertains to the operations of the three large-scale mining operators in the region such as OceanaGold, FCF Minerals and Nickel Asia.

In 2013, the Didipio Mine started commercial operations.

The OGPI also claimed that it has spent approximately P39.5 billion (\$790 million) since it commenced operations including development expenditure for their host and neighboring communities, community investment projects, payments to national or local suppliers and contractors, government taxes and employee wages.

In a statement, it said 96 percent of its expenditure were paid to employees, government and businesses through salaries, taxes and procurement while P1.2 billion was spent for community development.

According to the MGB, Didipio Mine's potential economic value could be computed by multiplying the current metal prices and the measured and indicated reserves of the mine and that is 1.38 million ounces of gold, 2.85 million ounces of silver and 170,000 tons of copper, the sum of which has an estimated value of \$3.45 billion.

Padilla, however, believes the gains of 25 years of mining in his province is nothing compared to the destruction it caused.

“Let us not forget the human rights violations committed against our brothers and sisters, the pollution of the rivers due to chemicals and the drying up of pump wells where we get our drinking water,” he said.

OGPI employees rebutted Padilla's stance with a statement released by a Didipio-based group Coalition of Communities for Sustainable Development enumerating 20 points raised in response to anti-mining sentiments? aired by the governor.

Lenilee Ananayo, OGPI community relations staff, said in her Facebook posts that the company has complied with all the regulations of the MGB, the mining regulatory body of the government.

2 held for illegal quarry in Ecija

June 21, 2020

By Steve A. Gosuico

People's Tonight

PALAYAN CITY -- Police nabbed two heavy equipment operators for alleged illegal extraction of sand and gravel in Nueva Ecija's capital city on Saturday.

City police head Lt. Col. Renato Morales identified the two arrested suspects as Vicente Benico, 39, dump truck driver, of Bgy. Del Pilar, Zaragosa and Efren Francisco, 44, pay loader operator, of Bgy. Popolon, this city.

The two suspects were caught doing illegal quarrying activities in Bgy. Popolon at 4:30 p.m.

When accosted, they failed to show the required permit for quarrying, Morales said.

Also impounded by the police were a blue Isuzu Giga dump truck and a yellow Liu Gong 855H loader used by the two suspects in their illegal operation.

Charges for violation of Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 are being prepared for filing against them before the city prosecutor's office here.

2 die as tunnel caves in Cebu City

June 21, 2020 | Filed under: Headlines, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk



RESCUERS carry the body of one of the residents who died in a tunnel collapse in Barangay Talamban, Cebu City on Sunday. (Juan Carlo de Vela)

CEBU CITY — A 28-year-old man and his 17-year-old nephew were buried alive when a tunnel collapsed in Barangay Talamban here Sunday morning.

Ramy Cadampog and his nephew were extracting sand some 15 meters from a river when the tunnel caved in, said Talamban Barangay Captain Dario Arcilla.

The tunnel collapsed past 9 a.m. and it was shortly before 2 p.m. that the bodies were unearthed.

Rescuers from the Bureau of Fire Protection and the city's Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office used a backhoe in retrieving the bodies.

The victims were buried about 20 feet deep, Arcilla said.

Arcilla said that the mother of the 17-year-old boy reprimanded him not to haul sand since he was prohibited from going out of the house because of the current enhanced community quarantine.

"The boy proceeded maybe because their situation is already difficult. They don't have money to buy rice," Arcilla said.

Arcilla said hauling of sand in the area was prohibited.

"There had been several apprehensions here because it was illegal to extract sand here. In this case, no one saw them because they were in the tunnel," said Arcilla.

The tunnel was formed because of the rampant sand extraction in the area, Arcilla said.

The sand extracted from the area are being sold, said Arcilla. **(Calvin D. Cordova)**

Dredging ng barko sa Zambales, itinanggi

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 22, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Itinanggi kahapon ng isang mataas na opisyal ng Z2K Resources Inc. ang lumabas na ulat na nagsasagawa ng “dredging operations” ang kanilang sea vessel ZH 69 sa baybayin ng Botolan, Zambales.

Ayon kay Fiedni Fontamillas, chief operating officer (CEO) ng nasabing kumpanya na isa lamang “aggregates carrier ship” at hindi “dredger vessel” ang company-owned ZH 69.

“The vessel ZH 69 is not a dredger, as initially reported online by various news agencies. It is an aggregates carrier ship and does not have any capability to dredge or suction sand,” paglilinaw ni Fontamillas.

Ayon kay Fontamillas, bilang paghahanda sa kanilang “large-scale dredging project” sa bahagi ng Bucao River ay itinalaga sa lugar ang naturang sasakyang-dagat subalit sa kasamaang palad ay nasangkot sa aksidente matapos na hampasin ng malalakas na alon bunga ng matinding hangin dulot ng bagyong Butchoy sanhi ng pagkasira nito.

Dahil dito, inilapit sa pampang ang barko upang hindi tuluyang lumubog at para maisagawa ang kaukulang pagkukumpuni na may koordinasyon at permiso mula sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). Kaya nagpaabot ng pasasalamat si Fontamillas kay PCG-Masinloc Sub-station Chief Rizaldy Sardan, dahil personal na tinutukan at tumulong ang huli sa nagkaaberyang ZH 69. Nakatak dang dalhin muna shipyard ng Z2K ang ZH 69 at isasailalim sa “dry dock”.

Nabatid na Mayo 28, 2020 nang bigyan ng Zambales gov’t ang Z2K Resources Inc. ng “notice to proceed” at “dredging operations permit” para sa gagawing dredging operation ng “heavily silted” Bucao River.

Kaligtasan ni Duterte sa SONA, priority

By [Gemma Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- June 22, 2020 - 12:00am



Isa pang option ay mag-ulat nang live sa Palasyo ang Pangulo habang nasa Batasan ang mga kongresista at Senate building naman ang mga senador.

MANILA, Philippines — Isasaalang-alang ang kaligtasan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa pagsasagawa ng State of the Nation Address (SONA) na nakatakda sa ikatlong Lunes ng Hulyo.

Ayon kay Sen. Bong Go, unang opsyon ay gagawin ang SONA sa Malakanyang subalit nasa Batasan ang mga Senador at Congressmen habang nag-uulat ang Pangulo.

Isa pang option ay mag-ulat nang live sa Palasyo ang Pangulo habang nasa Batasan ang mga kongresista at Senate building naman ang mga senador.

Inamin naman ni Go na i-a-asses pa nila ang sitwasyon sa mga susunod na araw habang sa ?July 15 pag-uusapan kung papayagan ang Pangulo na magtungo sa Batasan para mag-ulat subalit limitado na lang ang mga imbitado.

Subalit bawal pa rin umano ang magdikit-dikit dahil bawal pa ang mass gathering kaya naman dapat ipakita ng gobyerno sa tao na sila ang nangunguna sa pagsunod sa health protocol na pinairal.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/06/22/2022601/kaligtasan-ni-duterte-sa-sona-priority/amp/>

PAGE THREE

Gov't eyes scaling up COVID response

Published 3 hours ago
on June 22, 2020 02:30 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



The government continues to scale up its testing capacity to better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the coming months.

National Action Plan (NAP) against COVID-19 Chief Implementer Carlito G. Galvez Jr., assured this over the weekend, saying the government is looking to increase dramatically its testing capacity once the supply chain is solved this week.

Galvez said at present, 62 accredited testing laboratories across the country are up and running, with 156 more awaiting accreditation and license to operate.

"Except for Caraga, all regions already have their own testing laboratories. We're trying to speed up the accreditation of three of their labs," Galvez said.

He pointed out that as of 19 June this year, a total of 53,197 tests have already been conducted, with a record 15,000 tests done in 16 June alone.

Galvez called on the people to remain steadfast and work hand in hand in combating the deadly disease that has so far claimed the lives of more than 1,000 Filipinos nationwide.

Galvez made the call as Cebu City continues to grapple with the challenges brought about by COVID-19.

"Let us help each other and set aside politics so we could defeat COVID-19," he said. "Let us help Mayor Edgardo Labella and our front liners in containing this virus."

According to Galvez, the National Task Force against COVID-19 is continuously studying data coming from all over the country as part of its efforts to improve the government's response mechanisms and decision-making process.

"We will also assess the National Action Plan and prepare the second phase of our concept of operations for July, August and September to address resurgence of COVID-19 contamination in Cebu and other critical areas," Galvez said.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/22/govt-eyes-scaling-up-covid-response/>

Go: UHC needed more than ever

Published 5 hours ago on June 22, 2020 12:05 AM

By [TDT](#)



There is a crying need for Filipinos affected by the pandemic to be provided with the means to update their contributions to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) as majority of the population including overseas Filipino workers (OFW) have lost their means of livelihood.

Sen. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go said in his weekly column "GOing Forward" the effects of COVID-19 have been so widespread that many countries dealing with its onslaught has incurred losses in their economies, including the Philippines.

"Millions have lost their jobs worldwide, including many in the OFW sector who now need to find other means to support themselves and their families," he noted.

The Universal Health Care (UHC) law's necessity becomes more urgent as the health of Filipinos are threatened in the current situation.

"Although our migrant workers or OFW are classified as direct contributors under the law, the government has decided to make contributions voluntary for them at this time. We do not want to add any more burden to what they already have," according to Go.

UHC review sought

"In my capacity as a legislator and as chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, I have urged everyone during the hearing to review the UHC law and see how we can resolve the issues of our OFW without compromising the universality of the law," he continued.

The law not only seeks to improve access to health care but also aims to fix our broken public healthcare system in the Philippines, according to Go.

Under the law, every Filipino shall be automatically included in the National Health Insurance Program, either as a direct or indirect contributor to protect people from the financial risk of paying for health services out of their own pockets and reduce the risk that people will be pushed into poverty.

"We want to eliminate the idea of healthcare as a privilege of the few who can afford to pay," he added.

"As I have said before and I will say it again: Health is a universal right of every Filipino. It must not be treated as a commodity," Go explained.

He said that while the universal healthcare comes at a cost, for it to be sustainable, "we need to secure the necessary funding that will keep the program in good running shape."

“While we have to make sure that the funds are allocated properly, we also have to take into consideration that the world is in a crisis. So, for now, we are reviewing the UHC law to make sure that it remains inclusive whilst not being a burden to Filipinos,” according to Go.

Assistance as focus

In his opening statement before the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on RA 11223 or the UHC law, Go noted the focus for now should be on how “we can help our countrymen who are in need due to COVID-19. At this time, we must prioritize their needs first before we think of increasing the funds for the UHC law.”

He pointed out that it is for this reason that President Rodrigo Duterte has deemed it best to make PhilHealth contributions voluntary for migrant workers for the time being.

On the other hand, Go reminded PhilHealth to ensure that the funds entrusted to it are “safely guarded and free from dubious schemes and corruption.”

“This Oversight Committee will continuously monitor the implementation of the UHC Act to ensure the prudent use of PhilHealth funds and guarantee that every Filipino family gets appropriate, affordable, and quality health services while being protected from financial burden due to sickness,” he said.

Go wants P500 allowance for 'swabbers'

Published 9 hours ago on June 21, 2020 08:41 PM

By [Concept News Central](#)



SENATOR Bong Go cited the need to recognize those who take on the risky job of conducting COVID-19 swabs. Photograph by Anly Labor for Daily Tribune

Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go appealed to the executive department on Sunday to grant duty allowance to government personnel who volunteer to work in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) mega-swabbing facilities.

Under Congressional Joint Resolution No. 4 (s. 2009), Go cited that the President may authorize the granting of allowances and benefits to government employees subject to the rates and regulations determined by the Department of Budget and Management.

“I am urging the budget department to study if we can provide this kind of allowance to government personnel who have volunteered to work in these facilities despite the risks. This is our way of recognizing their efforts and sacrifices,” Go appealed.

Go suggested as COVID-19 Duty Allowance the amount of around P500 per day, if available resources would allow.

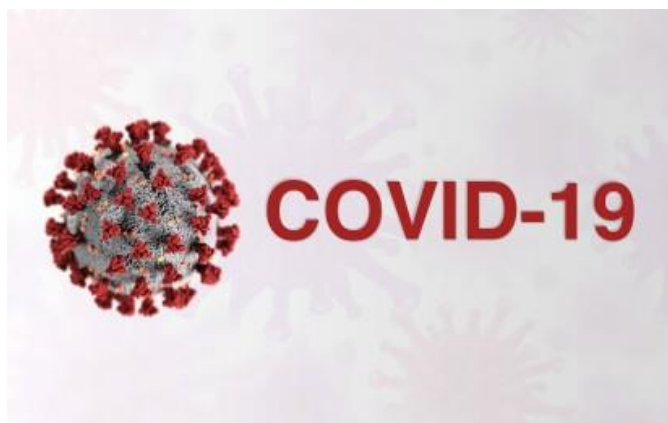
“We want to give people more opportunities to serve. The provision of a Duty Allowance can be similar to the allowances given to public health workers and personnel working in similar functions,” he added.

Go clarified that if this appeal is granted by the President, heads of government agencies may provide the COVID-19 Duty Allowance to their personnel provided that the volunteers are occupying regular, contractual or casual positions, or are engaged through contract of service, job order or other similar schemes.

p/jhd

Covid-19 cases surpass 30K; 243 new recoveries reported

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor June 21, 2020, 6:25 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday reported 653 additional coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases, raising the overall tally to 30,052.

The DOH said 238 of the new cases are "late" or results belatedly reported and were only verified recently, while 415 are "fresh cases" or results released to the patient within the past three days.

Of the fresh cases, 219 are from the National Capital Region (NCR), 89 from Region 7 (Central Visayas) while the remaining 107 are from other regions.

Meanwhile, 32 of the late cases are from NCR, 177 from Central Visayas, and the remaining 29 from other regions.

The DOH also reported 243 new recoveries and 19 new deaths.

To date, the total number of recoveries nationwide is 7,893 while the death toll is 1,169.

In its case bulletin, the DOH noted that there are 20,600 active Covid-19 cases where 550 or 2.7 percent are asymptomatic, 19,963 or 96.9 percent have mild symptoms, 69 or 0.3 percent have severe symptoms, and 18 or 0.1 percent are in critical condition.

As of Wednesday, the DOH has 13,679 total bed capacity dedicated to patients with Covid-19.

Occupied are about 36.65 percent of 3,121 ward beds; 34.24 percent of 9,218 isolation beds; and 34.25 percent of 1,340 intensive care unit beds.

There are 1,998 total ventilators for Covid-19 patients with about 18.87 percent in use.

In Local Isolation and General Treatment Areas for Covid-19 cases (Ligtas Covid) facilities across the country, some 52,441 beds are dedicated to Covid-19 patients.

Meanwhile, some 3,208 beds are dedicated to Covid-19 patients in Mega Ligtas Covid facilities. **(PNA)**

Phl virus cases breach 30,000 mark

Published 11 hours ago on June 21, 2020 06:05 PM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#)

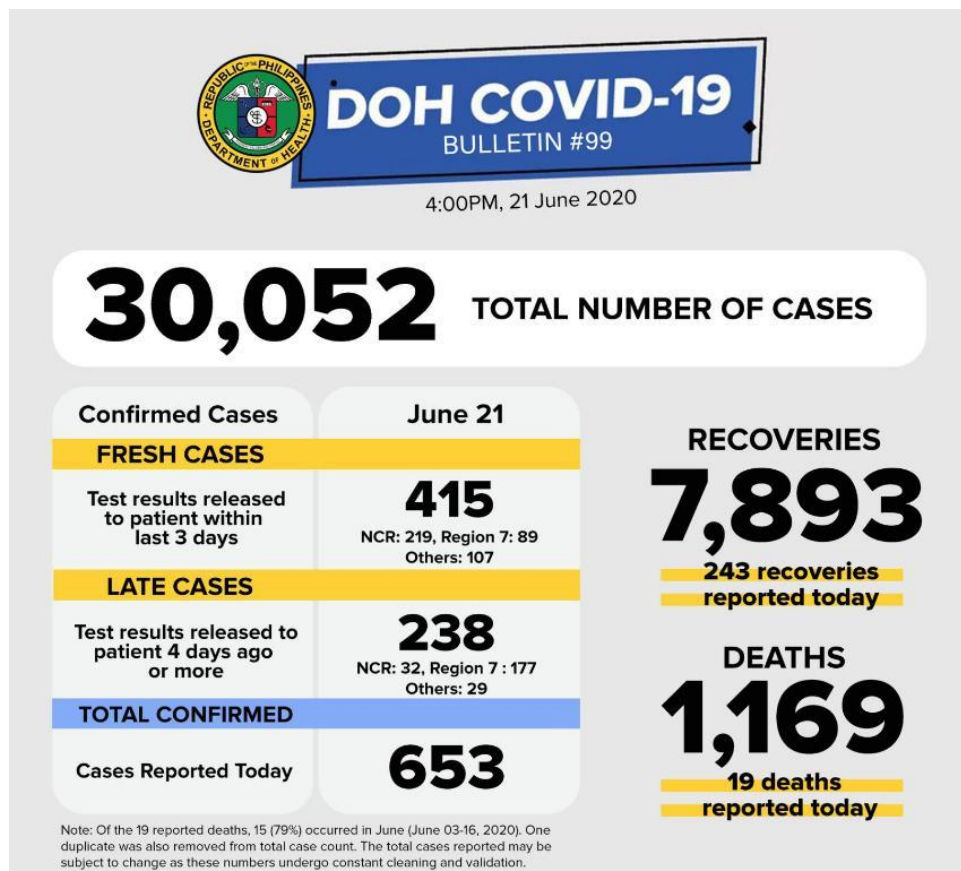


The DoH reported 415 “fresh” and 238 “late” cases Sunday.

The Department of Health (DoH) logged 653 additional cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Sunday, raising the nationwide total to 30,052. In its latest bulletin, the DoH reported 415 “fresh” and 238 “late” cases, majority of which were in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Central Visayas, considered as the virus hotpots in the country.

The fresh cases composed of 219 infections from Metro Manila, 89 from Central Visayas and 107 from other regions. The 238 late cases were composed of 32 infections from NCR, 177 from Central Visayas and 29 from other regions.

Recoveries increased to 7,893 after the health department saw 243 additional survivors, while the death toll rose to 1,169 after 19 more patients died. The agency has been noting which cases are fresh or late in the COVID-19 tally since its bulletin for 28 May, in order to differentiate cases detected in the past three days and those from four days or more.



TITLE :

Phl virus cases breaches 30,000 mark

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 22, 2020
DATE

Meanwhile, the Department of Foreign Affairs also announced one new COVID-19 infection and one new fatality among Filipinos overseas, raising the total to 6,141 cases and 496 deaths.

A team of researchers and statisticians from the University of the Philippines previously estimated that the number of coronavirus cases in the country could reach as high as 40,000 by the end of the month. The group also projected that about 12,000 to 24,000 infections might be recorded in Metro Manila by 30 June, based on current trends on the COVID-19 data.

Over 8.5 million individuals worldwide have been infected with COVID-19 according to the World Health Organization, six months after the first case was reported in China.

Virus cases exceed 30,000

DOH bares 26,000 cases active; NCR, Visayas tally most number of victims

posted June 22, 2020 at 01:30 am

by [Willie Casas](#)

The Philippines breached the 30,000 mark for COVID-19 infections on Sunday as the Department of Health reported 653 additional cases, raising the overall tally to 30,052.

The DOH said 415 are "fresh cases" (results released to the patient within the past three days) while 238 are "late" cases (results belatedly reported and verified only recently).

Of the fresh cases, 219 are from the National Capital Region (NCR), 89 from Region 7 (Central Visayas) while the remaining 107 are from other regions.

Thirty-two of the late cases are from NCR, 177 are from Central Visayas, and the remaining 29 are from other regions.

The DOH also reported 243 new recoveries and 19 new deaths.

To date, the total number of recoveries nationwide is 7,893 while the death toll is 1,169.

In its case bulletin, the DOH noted that there are 20,600 active COVID-19 cases where 550 or 2.7 percent are asymptomatic, 19,963 or 96.9 percent have mild symptoms, 69 or 0.3 percent have severe symptoms, and 18 or 0.1 percent are in critical condition.

As of Wednesday, the DOH had a total bed capacity of 13,679 dedicated to patients with Covid-19, about a third of which are occupied.

Of the 3,121 ward beds, 36.65 percent are occupied. Of the 9,218 isolation beds, 34.24 percent are occupied. Some 34 percent of the 1,340 intensive care unit beds are occupied.

There are 1,998 total ventilators for COVID-19 patients with about 18.87 percent in use.

Also on Sunday, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported that 49 of its personnel had contracted COVID-19.

In an interview with DOBOL B Sa News TV, Vice Admiral George Ursabia said 30 of those have already recovered.

The PCG has been providing transport to stranded overseas Filipino workers arriving in the country in batches.

LGU must lock down if needed

Published 5 hours ago on June 22, 2020 01:10 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



The Palace on Sunday urged local government units (LGU) in Metro Manila to impose community lockdowns in their areas with high number of COVID-19 cases in a bid to contain the spread of the dreaded disease which has so far infected 30,000 people in the country.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque also appealed to LGU to strictly enforce quarantine guidelines set by the government to reduce the number of COVID-19 cases.

This came after some local executives, particularly barangay officials, reportedly brushed aside restrictions in their areas as if the virus has been wiped out.

Stop virus cold

“We are calling on local executives to implement lockdowns in an area, barangay, zone, building or subdivision because if coronavirus transmission will not be stopped, that will be a bigger problem,” Roque said.

Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año previously said that Metro Manila mayors may declare total lockdowns in high-risk areas upon the review of the regional Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Año added that barangays which recorded more than two COVID-19 cases in one week will be under total lockdowns.

Meanwhile, Roque also appealed to the public to stay at home if there is no need for them to go out.

He also reminded the public to observe health protocols such as mask-wearing, physical distancing, and cough etiquette.

The government has imposed one of the longest lockdowns in the world in a bid to slow the spread of the disease and to prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed with patients.

Healing gets litmus test

Published 5 hours ago on June 22, 2020 12:07 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



As coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases exceeded 30,000 infections on Sunday, the resumption of operations of most public utility vehicles including buses, passenger utility vans and some jeepneys will test the capability of local and national officials to enforce health protocols to protect the public.

A total of 3,600 buses and 1,500 other public utility vehicles are expected to start plying various routes in Metro Manila today.

Malacañang urged commuters to always practice social distancing during the second phase of the reopening of mass transportation.

During the Laging Handa public briefing, presidential spokesman Harry Roque urged public transport groups, especially bus drivers, to ensure that they follow the 50 percent passenger capacity as part of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Well, the problem we have due to the lack of public transportation ends on 22 June,” he added.

Roque said with still no vaccine or cure for the deadly virus, there is a need for people to remain vigilant and do their share in making sure that they, those around them and their families are protected from COVID-19 whenever they go out of their homes.

“So, there is always a need to maintain vigilance with the absence of a vaccine as the threat of COVID-19 remains,” he added.

Meanwhile, Roque said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) will meet this week to hold a preliminary review on the latest existing data that will help them determine the quarantine level in Metro Manila on 1 July.

Roque said with 30 June approaching which President Rodrigo Duterte set as the reckoning day for Metro Manila under a general community quarantine (GCQ), a decision should be made on the health situation.

He added that base on data and science, the IATF will either place the National Capital Region under GCQ, to a more relax modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) or put it back to a stricter modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

Aside from Metro Manila, other areas placed under GCQ until month’s end are Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Santiago City in Region 2; Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Tarlac, Olongapo City in Region 3; Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon in Region 4-A and Occidental Mindoro in Region 4-B for Luzon.

For the Visayas, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Mandaue City, Lau-Lapu City in Region VII are placed under GCQ.

For Mindanao, Davao City and Zamboanga City in Mindanao are all under GCQ. The rest of the country remains under MGCQ until 30 June 2020.

Cebu City, meanwhile, is under an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) while Talisay City, a component city under the province of Cebu, is placed under MECQ due to their prevailing high number of contamination.

15 routes for starters

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) also has allowed 15 routes for public utility jeepneys (PUJ) in Metro Manila.

In memorandum circular dated 19 June 2020, the LTFRB said that modern PUJ or those units that have complied with the requirements set by the Omnibus Franchising Guidelines (OFG) will be allowed to ply the identified routes.

“The resumption of PUJ operations in 15 routes in Metro Manila is part of our calibrated response to restore mass transportation in Metro Manila and in the adjacent provinces as we transition into new normal, taking into consideration the strict health protocols being enforced to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” LTFRB chairman Martin Delgra III said.

The 15 Metro Manila routes to open today are Novaliches–Malinta via Paso de Blas; Bagumbayan Taguig–Pasig via San Joaquin; Fort Bonifacio Gate 3–Guadalupe-Market Market-ABC Loop Service; Pandacan–Leon Guinto; Quezon Avenue–LRT 5th Avenue Station; Cubao (Diamond)–Roces Super Palengke; EDSA Buendia-Mandaluyong City Hall via Jupiter, Rockwell; Divisoria-Gasak via H. Lopez; Punta-Quiapo via Sta. Ana; Boni Pinatubo–Stop and Shop, vice versa; Boni Robinson’s Complex-Kalentong/JRC vice versa; Nichols-Vito Cruz; Filinvest City Loop; Alabang Town Center (ATC)-Ayala Alabang Village; and Vito Cruz Taft Avenue-PITX Loop Service.

Additional PUJ routes will be opened on 24 June 2020 and on 26 June 2020 to serve other parts of Metro Manila which are Bagong Silang-SM Fairview; Malanday-Divisoria via M.H. del Pilar; Parang, Marikina-Cubao; Eastwood, Libis-Capitol Commons; Gasak-Recto via Dagat-dagatan; PITx-Lawton; Alabang-Zapote; PITX-Nichols; and PITX-SM Southmall.

On 26 June 2020:, jeepneys will be allowed to ply Quirino Highway-UP Town Center; SM Fairview-Commonwealth via Regalado Ave; QMC Loop; Tikling-Binangonan; Antipolo-Pasig via East Bank Road; Rosario-Pinagbuhatan Pasig; West Avenue-P. Noval via Del Monte; Biñan-Balibago via Manila South Road; Tramo-Sucut; and San Isidro-Congressional Junction Dasmariñas.

Modern jeepneys that will be plying the routes are required to be currently registered and with valid personal passenger insurance policies and must also be equipped with GNSS (global navigation satellite system) or global positioning system for proper monitoring of movement.

Strict health rules

Passengers must be seated one seat apart and no standing passengers will be allowed. Seats to be occupied by passengers must be properly marked in the vehicle.

Should jeepney operators wish to maximize the 50 percent passenger load of the unit, impermeable barriers to separate the driver’s compartment and between rows of seats that are less than one meter apart, are allowed to be installed.

In addition, jeepneys plying the identified routes during the GCQ must also properly display the existing fare matrix for the information of the passengers. The LTFRB said OFG-compliant non-aircon PUJ will collect a minimum fare of P11 for the first 4 kilometers and P1.50 for each succeeding kilometer. OFG-compliant airconditioned PUJ will collect P11 for the first 4 kilometers and P1.80 for each succeeding kilometer.

Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go also urged the IATF to thoroughly study the proposed guidelines to allow motorcycle back-riders.

Go said allowing backriding will be a huge help for the commuters who are saddled by the limited public transportation. “We should not rush it. We should make sure that everything is done safely,” he said.

Go lauded the decision of the IATF to allow backriding in principle provided that the proper guidelines are put in place. He further stressed that the proposal will improve mobility of the public and also provide livelihood, especially to drivers of motorcycle riding apps.

He, however, emphasized that a thorough scientific study considering both health and transportation safety aspects must be conducted in order to provide riders and commuters the necessary guidelines if this mode of transportation is deemed scientifically advisable.

As early as 4 June when more stringent quarantine protocols were gradually lifted, the Senator suggested to the government to study further the possibility of allowing backriding in motorcycles, given the limited public transportation options, especially in big cities, such as Metro Manila. He cautioned, however, that, above all, health safety should be a primary consideration.

Lifting bus ban an economic-booster

Published 15 hours ago on June 21, 2020 02:54 PM

By **TDI**



Lifting the ban on provincial buses will allow people to move and help the economy recover faster from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will also deter opportunistic transport operators from charging transport fares way above the usual—the worst time to take advantage of people amid the health crisis, said Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

“As long as we can maintain minimum health standards, we should allow people to move. A rational system of public transport takes human needs and realities into account,” said Salceda.

Salceda said authorities must face the reality that citizens must move to and from Manila.

“Some bus lines are already operating and we have already allowed people to go to work in most places,” Salceda said.

Continuing the provincial bus bans has little value as far as preventing infections is concerned and merely imposes greater damage to people who need to go to work, added the House and Ways committee chair.

“Until transport can be made operational, the economy will not fully recover. People are the driving force of the economy, and if people find it hard to move, the economy will likewise find it hard to get going,” he said.

“For the stimulus plans to work, you need people to create value. If they’re stuck in the provinces or in Manila, away from where they usually create value, the stimulus will face serious roadblocks.”

Regulatory officials and business sectors must also help make things easier for the public.

“If there are issues on fares pricing because of social distancing, the supply of seats will be reduced, we should talk it out with the regulators. Perhaps we could come up with some government programs that would allow provincial buses to operate at reasonable profit margins without compromising safety and health standards,” said Salceda.

“Fares have to be negotiated, however, at the proper forum. Any attempt at price gouging should be monitored.”

The lawmaker also cautioned certain sectors against imposing regulations that unduly burden ordinary commuters.

TITLE :

Lifting bus ban an economic booster

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 22, 2020

DATE

“There were attempts in the past to ban provincial passengers from EDSA and to channel all passenger traffic in Parañaque. Don’t do it in the middle of this crisis, when even going to Parañaque will prove to be a problem. Now is not the time. Don’t even think about it,” he stressed.

Salceda said that his office is working with transport advocates in designing systems such as service contracting that will make transport more efficient.

“Covid-19 has forced us to look at transport the right way. It has to be a system whose primary purpose is the comfort and convenience of commuters. We do not build transport systems so that private cars can have smoother trips. We build transport systems so that Filipino commuters and workers can go from home to work and back with well-deserved ease, earn a decent living,” said Salceda.

Don't phase out traditional jeepneys amid pandemic, Robredo urges

Published June 22, 2020 1:39am

Vice President Leni Robredo on Sunday urged the government not to phase out traditional jeepneys amid the coronavirus pandemic, stressing that it will further put struggling jeepney drivers at a disadvantage.

Robredo noted an IBON Foundation report stating that jeepney drivers have lost around P78,000 in income each due to the shutdown of mass public transportation under the community quarantine imposed to curb coronavirus transmission.

The vice president lamented news items suggesting that the government plans to use the pandemic as an “opportunity” to implement the controversial jeepney modernization program.

“Kung ipipilit mo iyon, na hindi kayang mag-modernize as of this time, at hindi mo ipapakayod, e ‘di pinaboran mo na naman iyong mga mayroon. Ang kawawa naman iyong mga wala,” she said in her weekly radio show.

Robredo underscored that she is not opposed to jeepney modernization but acknowledged the high price that jeepney drivers would have to pay to comply.

“Iyong sa akin kasi, kung mayroon namang pera itong mga drivers saka mga owners, susunod naman ito eh. Pero kaya sila hindi makasunod kasi wala silang capacity,” she said.

“Parang lalong inaapakan iyong dati nang nakadapa. So iyong sa akin lang, sana mas maging compassionate iyong LTFRB dito, iyong DOTr, na okay naman na gawin iyong modernization ngayon, pero siguruhin na wala namang maiiwan,” she added.

Malacañang earlier [said “roadworthy” traditional jeepneys will be allowed to ply roads](#) if modern units are not enough to accommodate the volume of commuters.

The Department of Transportation said [public transport will resume in two phases under the general community quarantine](#), with Phase 2 beginning on June 22. — **Julia Mari Ornedo/BM, GMA News**

Go: Transportation schemes won't compromise safety

Published 16 hours ago on June 21, 2020 01:51 PM

By **IDI**



Ride-hailing providers like Angkas will soon be allowed to operate again. (Angkas Facebook)

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases must thoroughly study the proposed guidelines and determine the necessary health and safety protocols needed to permit motorcycle backriding again.

At the same time, Go appealed to commuters to comply with health safety guidelines.

“Malaking tulong sa ating mga kababayan kung papayagan ang ‘backriding’ sa motorsiklo lalo na dahil limitado pa ang public transportation. Huwag lang po natin madaliin. Siguraduhin dapat na magagawa ito sa ligtas na paraan,” Go said.

The senator lauded the decision to allow backriding in principle provided that the proper guidelines are put in place. He further stressed that the proposal will improve mobility of the public and also provide livelihood.

He, however, emphasized that a thorough scientific study considering both health and transportation safety aspects must be conducted in order to provide riders and commuters the necessary guidelines if this mode of transportation is deemed scientifically advisable.

“Dapat pag-aralan muna kung ‘yung mga proposals tulad ng paggamit ng plastic dividers sa gitna ng nagmamaneho at ng pasahero ay sapat upang hindi makahawa ng sakit. Ikonsidera rin dapat kung ang mga proposed safety measures na ito ay hindi makakasama sa kaligtasan ng pagmomotorsiklo at sa kalsada,” Go stressed.

As early as 4 June when more stringent quarantine protocols were gradually lifted, the senator suggested to the government to study further the possibility of allowing backriding in motorcycles, given the limited public transportation options, especially in big cities such as Metro Manila.

IATF officials are amenable in principle amid persistent public complaints that the ban on backriding placed greater inconvenience on commuters as public utility vehicles operate at a reduced capacity in areas under general community quarantine.

The GCQ status of Metro Manila is extended until 30 June.

“Hindi pa tapos ang laban. Andyan pa rin ang banta ng pandemyang ito. Kaya hinihikayat ko ang ating mga kababayan na huwag maging kampante. Sumunod tayo sa mga health protocols, lalo na ang social distancing at pagsuot ng face masks,” Go reminded the public.

In a recent presser, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque disclosed that the Department of Health is conducting a study on a special suit that could prevent human-to-human transmission of pathogens.

Ride-hailing service Angkas also presented proposed safety measures that they believe could keep their drivers and passengers safe if backriding is allowed.

Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año assured the public that government would look into making adjustments that can address the needs of the general public when it comes to transportation without compromising their health and safety.

As of 1 June, buses, trains, taxis, ride-hailing services, shuttle services and bicycles, among others, are permitted to operate under the first phase of the Transportation department's plan which runs until Sunday, 21 June.

Tricycles are also allowed, subject to the approval of local government units.

Modern passenger jeepneys and UV (utility vehicles) Express will be allowed under the second phase from 22 to 30 June.

"Ang hangad po natin dito ay mabigyan ng transportation options ang ating mga kababayan na ligtas at maaasahan kahit na kasalukuyang mayroon pong community quarantine measures," Go said.

Go also encouraged various stakeholders to contribute their ideas and participate in the study to ensure that the needs of the general public can be addressed without compromising health and safety protocols in place.

QC gov't employees who worked during ECQ to undergo COVID-19 testing

By [BusinessMirror](#)

June 21, 2020



Quezon Memorial Circle , Quezon City,

Personnel of the Quezon City government who were on duty during the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) will be prioritized for coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) testing to be held from June 22-26 in a site within the Quezon City Hall compound.

Based on guidelines released by Joseph Juico, project head of the city's Covid-19 community based testing, among those to be given priority are employees involved in special amelioration program payouts and packing of relief, among others.

While the city government wants to test all of its employees for the virus, Mayor Joy Belmonte said amended guidelines of the IATF have discouraged it to avoid the depletion of available test kits and testing resources.

“We will maximize all available resources within the bounds of the guidelines issued by the national government,” Belmonte said.

“we will test first our employees who reported for work during the ECQ because the chances of their being exposed to the virus are greater,” she added.

After that, employees of other departments who were not on-duty during the ECQ will be tested, subject to the availability of test kits.

Workers physically present during the ECQ, such as the Office of the City Mayor, Office of the City Administrator, BPLD, CTO, Tourism, Assessor's Office, City Architect's Department, Department of Building Official and Engineering Department, will all be given priority.

Also given priority are employees of the City Health Department, Quezon City Medical Center, Rosario Maclang Bautista General Hospital, Novaliches District Hospital, Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS), Public Affairs and Information Services Department (PAISD), Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD), Transport and Traffic Management Taskforce;

QC gov't employees who worked during ECQ to
TITLE: undergo COVID-19 testing

PAGE 1 / 2

June 22, 2020
DATE

Barangay and Community Relations Department (BCRD), Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD), General Services Department (GSD), Social Services and Development Department (SSDD), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO), and Radio Communications Service.

Employees covered by the guidelines will be required to submit a digital Self-Assessment Form from the CHD via email to avoid close contact and to ensure ease of processing

The CHD, headed by Dr. Esperanza Arias, will conduct review and assess the forms submitted by the employees.

“Employees must secure that their declared mobile number on the form is reachable, in case of clarifying matters and follow-up assessment,” said Dr. Arias.

Arias said employees who will be tested IgM positive through Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) will be required to undergo polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for confirmation.

“All personnel tested positive to IgM+ on RDT and symptomatic must under go mandatory quarantine, either through home isolation or in one of the HOPE Community Caring Facilities, while waiting for the PCR result,” said Arias.

Symptomatic employees will immediately undergo RT-PCR testing without RDT, she added.

Belmonte said time spent under quarantine of personnel will not be deducted from their sick leave.

Asymptomatic carriers are the ‘silent spreaders’ of

TITLE: COVID-19

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 22, 2020

DATE

Asymptomatic carriers are the ‘silent spreaders’ of COVID-19

[AS A MATTER OF FACT](#) - [Sara Soliven De Guzman](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 22, 2020 - 12:00am

The objective for all of us right now is to stop the virus, not just the spread of the virus. But how can we stop it if we do not know where the enemy hides?

The Department of Health will always want to show the best of its work. City mayors will also want to show their management prowess. Malacañang will be forced to rely on all the data given to them. So, who discerns?

While many country’s COVID-19 statistics are going down, ours is going higher and higher each day. What is happening? We seem to be going toward a bleak future.

The biggest mistake is the lack of foresight our leaders have in trying to fight the virus. Instead of distributing all the money, they should have divided it and apportioned half to buying COVID-19 Test Kits. It’s definitely not too late. If there’s a will, there’s a way!

The DOH idea of not using locally made test kits is ridiculous and bothersome. In times of a crisis you cannot afford to be too fastidious. There are advantages and disadvantages to it.

By the way, the Department of Trade and Industry should start controlling the cost of Covid-related products from test kits, PPEs, face masks, alcohol, etc.

So, when can we start flattening the curve? To this day, there is no mandated or required community testing. Last week when Metro Manila shifted to General Community Quarantine (GCQ), only a few companies or institutions imposed rapid testing before allowing employees to enter the workplace.

Why is testing important? Many of us may be “asymptomatic”. This means that a person has been infected by the virus but does not feel sick nor manifest any Covid symptoms. Asymptomatic people can spread the virus in many ways – through spitting, coughing, and sneezing. Infection can also be passed on through direct contact with others or by contaminating surfaces and objects. Jing-Fu Qiu, PhD, of Chongqing Medical University, and his colleagues characterized asymptomatic carriers as the “silent spreaders” of COVID-19.

Many asymptomatic cases have acquired the virus from being exposed to a Covid positive case, touching contaminated items in the grocery stores or public areas and vehicles, etc. If a barangay does mass testing, it will right away know who among the residents are COVID-19 positive and negative. With such data, the problem can be easily addressed thus, stopping the virus from spreading. If no mass testing is done, the enemy will continue to hide in us.

As of the second week of June, Quezon City reported 2,605 COVID-19 cases, with 947 considered active. Barangay Batasan Hills had the greatest number of cases at 117 followed by Barangay Culiati with 114 cases. The city government also placed Sitio Militar in Barangay Toro, Calle 29 in Libis and Kaingin Bukid in Apolonio Samson under a 14-day special concern lockdown due to high number of COVID-19 cases in the area.

As Metro Manila shifted to GCQ, the implementation of barangay lockdowns has been made even more aggressive with still many positive cases and new cases in the NCR recorded. Purok 5 and 6 of Lower Bicutan in Taguig City has been placed under ECQ starting June 17 until July 1 due to confirmed cases in the area. Of course, we all know that Cebu City was reverted to the strictest ECQ due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases that is bound to overwhelm the city’s health care capacity.

Asymptomatic carriers are the 'silent spreaders' of

TITLE: COVID-19

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 22, 2020
DATE

Mum's the word! No one wants to admit they have COVID-19 positive cases. But this is the wrong mindset. We need to bring all these cases out in the open to help resolve the pandemic. If we continue to ignore the problem and just report the number of cases rising without attacking the enemy, then we are doomed.

It has been almost four months now and many of us have not been tested at all. Have you been tested? How do you know you are Covid-free? When those required to take the test (by their companies) went through the process, there was an initial feeling of fear and anxiety into knowing the "unknown". Those who thought they were negative, turned out to be positive and after another test, continued to be positive. Denial would always be the first reaction but later, when left with no choice but to accept the fate, a strong sense of courage will take over in order to confront and resolve the problem.

For a positive asymptomatic case, what happens next? There are 2 choices. First, you can stay home but quarantine yourself inside a room where no one will enter but yourself. You must follow all COVID-19 protocols. Second, you can stay in a quarantine facility (provided by your company, rent or look for one offered by the barangay/ city). After 14 days of observation, another test should be done until you get a negative result. Once you turn from a positive to a negative, you have won the battle and killed the enemy in you. Unless you did not isolate or follow quarantine rules, you could have spread the virus to others again. The vicious cycle continues if one is irresponsible and just continues to spread the virus.

If you are tested you will know if you have the virus or not. Imagine how many asymptomatic cases are out there roaming around unmindful that they are carriers of the virus (asymptomatic). Yes, many must realize that the virus easily spreads through the people who are asymptomatic. They walk around town and even converse with family, officemates and friends not knowing they are asymptomatic. Once the virus from their system is transmitted to another person whose immune system is very weak then a new case, possible a deadly one is born.

We can help stop the virus and prevent it from spreading by getting tested. And if found to be carriers of the virus, we can do the right thing by following the COVID-19 protocols. Every COVID-19 asymptomatic person has a responsibility toward others. But how will they know this when they have not taken the test?

Ormoc Mayor Richard Gomez was right when he criticized the national government for its carelessness in the implementation of the Balik Probinsya program sometime in May. No one seemed to listen to him. He feared for his constituents. Ormoc then was a Covid-free locality. But since he was helpless and had to obey, the enemy in the form of the virus gained entrance to the city. To date, there are 200 cases in Ormoc all originating from Metro Manila and Cebu.

Let us take the case of Ifugao province. They've had 2 cases only, and both came from the outside. If they totally close their gates to outsiders right now, they can live a normal life. Parents can continue working and children can continue going to school with no threat of any invaders (aka virus).

In Macau, the government is very strict. No one can enter Macau. Overseas travel is still banned. Only residents can enter. Upon entry, they follow very strict protocols before they mainstream. The economy is starting to move because people are able to walk in the streets, work and go to school without the fear of the virus attacking them. So far, there is no virus in Macau.

In our country, we continue to allow international flights. Clearly, we cannot handle the influx of travelers coming in. Perhaps we can hold all international visitors first and stagger the return of OFWs. Those coming from hotspots are likely to bring in gazillions of viruses into the country. The government must be very strict in implementing a clear system along COVID-19 protocols.

Remember the enemy may be present in each of us. We must get tested. Think about it!

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/06/22/2022585/asymptomatic-carriers-are-silent-spreaders-covid-19>

The health of humans, environment, and the economy

posted June 22, 2020 at 12:05 am

by [Orlando Oxales](#)

"We must all change for the better."

Economic experts and the International Monetary Fund predict the onset of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. It will push hundreds of millions into poverty.

Here in the Philippines, the Department of Labor disclosed during the recent Senate hearing on the government's coronavirus response that an estimated 4 to 5 million Filipinos will lose jobs while legislators in the House of Representatives see more than 10 million will be unemployed as the community quarantine restrictions are extended.

The extent and complexity of the fallout from the crisis is unprecedented but so is the global response awakened by this existential threat. Inter-sectoral collaboration is no longer a conceptual aspiration but has emerged as a powerful spirit thought to be lost in the post-Baby Boomer, post-Generation X culture.

This awakening is evident in the ongoing interventions from the private sector and civil society to complement the gaping limitations of government resources and agility. Unfairly sullied by the populist posturing of the current administration, the pandemic has somewhat caused a repivoted attitude open to partnerships with private business groups to fight the COVID-19 war with urgency, efficiency and transparency.

Businesses will not survive without sustainability. The disruptions caused by this pandemic has shaken this basic requisite and has caused the closure of half of the country's Micro Small and Medium Enterprises which, according to Department of Trade and Industry data, accounts for 99.5% of the businesses in the country.

To move forward, the leaderships of government and industry must work together on building the country's resiliency to sustain the interlinking dynamics between the health of the population, the environment, and the economy. Regaining the lost momentum of our economy will need the mobilization of the country's best human and natural resources in an environmentally sustainable ecosystem that will result in inclusive economic prosperity for the current and future generations. Each sector will need to rethink its role and re-engineer a new path from the lessons of the pandemic.

The amazingly clean air in Metro-Manila during these lockdowns, perhaps unseen since the 60s, shows the magnitude of the pollution emitted from our daily activities. This should punctuate the urgency for an efficient low emission mass transportation infrastructure that would make private vehicles more of a luxury than a necessity and put an end to the chaotic reign of jeepneys to obsolescence.

Strengthening our public health systems to fully implement a truly universal healthcare system will obviously be on top of the priority. This will need the cooperation of the pharmaceutical industry and its allied linkages to contribute innovative approaches to ensure accessible and quality healthcare services and products ready to be deployed in crisis and non-crisis scenarios.

The big drop in electricity demand during the quarantine months because of the suspended business operations of the manufacturing and service sectors saved us from looming brownouts during the summer months, but the long-term supply outlook will still need more base load power plants as more business operations transition to new normal conditions. Pressured by environmentalists to ban fossil fueled generation plants, consumer subsidized and expensive renewables cannot beat the reliability and cost of coal. The best option for now is to build new and efficient power plants that comply with emission standards or, nuclear power.

Responsible stewardship of our natural resources will address our food security problems by using technology to develop productive marine and agricultural ecosystems. Our potential as one of the most mineralized countries is a low hanging fruit that just needs a stable policy regime to jumpstart a long dormant industry that can become a major economic pillar that will support long-term developed in the remote, unserved areas of the country.

Probably the biggest lesson that hit us all is how technology has become an indispensable tool for interaction in a social distancing world. Imagine how much worse the world would be if we had no digital technologies to connect us outside of our quarantine quarters. Our digital infrastructure must be a top priority in the government's Build, Build, Build program that will need the right private sector partners to build thousands of telco towers and fiber cable networks to deliver fast and reliable broadband services to unserved areas. This is a proven stimulus for investments and new business opportunities.

Warnings of face masks and Personal Protection Equipment adding to the garbage pollution in our oceans is another side effect of the pandemic that reprises a complex waste management problem that needs a whole of society approach.

The timeline of this pandemic will depend on the cooperation of every inhabitant of the planet. When we finally defeat this virus, we cannot afford to revert to the old ways. We must all change for the better.



SAGOT NG LANDBANK AT LUPIT NG GLOBE TELECOM

June 22, 2020 @ 12:20 AM 7 hours ago

SA hinaing ng ULTIMATUM sa Landbank ay sumagot naman ang ating kaibigang si Landbank Dir. Atty. JV Hinlo at ito ang kanyang pahayag.

“Just read your article. Will have your concerns checked.

“On the matter of a missing data on your authorization, my opinion is that the bank will only rightfully entertain representatives of its client if the authorization is complete.

“If the authorization misses a data such a date, the bank personnel cannot just fill up the missing data because that right belongs to the bank client.

“Any amendment or correction thereto must come from the bank’s client.

“Once the document is submitted complete to Landbank, that is the right time that the Bank can process it.

“However, the client can request the Bank for guidance on the process.

“On the ATM at the DENR, if it regularly breaks down, it should be replaced.

“You can relay the said information & request to the bank for us to cause for its replacement.

“You can write your letter to our bank president directly or to me for me to relay it to management your request.

“Another solution is to add another ATM at the DENR.”

Maraming salamat, Dir. Atty. JV Hinlo, sa inyong mabilis na sagot, pero may lilinawin lang po akong kaunting-kaunti lang.

I BEG TO DISAGREE

Sa ligal na usapan ay wala po akong tutol sa inyong naging kasagutan, pero sa usaping client and bank relationship, ang masasabi ko naman ay... “I beg to disagree.”

‘Yun pong authorization na sinasabi ay walang nakalagay na date na kung tutuusin ay pupwede namang utusan na lang ang ating representative na lagyan ng petsa.

Pero kung ‘di ba naman sandamakmak na ugok ang teller ng Landbank talagang pinabalik pa sa opisina ng DENR ang staff natin na pumila nang pagkahaba-haba para ako raw mismo ang maglagay ng petsa.

Kung may nakalagay na date, pero mali ito, 'yan ay mauunawaan ko na kailangang bumalik sa opisina ang tao ko para baguhin ko ang nasabing petsa.

Pero 'yung walang nakalagay na petsa at meron namang lehitimong pirma ko sa baba ng withdrawal slip, abay kabobohan na lang kung bakit kailangang ipabalik mo pa sa kliyente na lalakad nang pagkalayo-layo at pipila uli nang pagkahaba-haba.

Awa ng Diyos dahil sa kagaguhan ng staff ng Landbank diyan sa Elliptical branch, sarado na ang bangko pagbalik ng staff ko.

Ooops! Pero may consolation prize naman, pinapasok pa rin tayo at pinayagang mag-withdraw, laylay nga lang ang dila ng ating staff nang bumalik ito.

ANG TANGANG MANAGER (ATM)

Sino ba ang manager na namamahala sa mga ATM ng Landbank?

Bakit kailangang kami ang sumulat at magsabing sira ang inyong makina at madalas ay walang lamang pera?

Hindi ba't trabaho po ito ng inyong mga tauhan na pagsilbihan kami bilang inyong mga kliyente?

Utang na loob pa ba namin na pinasusuweldo namin ang inyong mga tauhan galing sa kinikita n'yo sa aming deposito?

Mali naman po siguro 'yun and again "with due respect, I beg to disagree."

KOTONG SA WITHDRAWAL

Dahil ang inyong lingkod ay nagmula sa Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority bilang dating director of the board, doon po ang ating Landbank account na kasalukuyan ay mayroon pang utang na hinuhulugan.

Sa madaling salita, ang atin pong sahod sa DENR ay dumaraan sa Landbank North Ave. branch at pumapasok sa SBMA branch, kaya kapag magwi-withdraw tayo rito sa Maynila ay interbranch na ito.

At kapag nag-interbranch withdrawal ka, tumataginting na P100 ang kotong na aabutin mo.

Anak ng pitong putakte, wala ba kayong puso para sa kapwa n'yo tauhan ng gobyerno?

Paano kung katiting lang ang sahod ko?

Paano kung napatapon ako at nadeestino sa ibang lalawigan?

Mangongotong na lang ba ako para hindi ko na kailangang mag-withdraw at makotongan ninyo?

Hayzzz! Baka sagutin n'yo na naman ako na 'yan ang guidelines ninyo?

Hindi ba mukhang mali?

Paano 'yung mga tauhan ng gobyerno na nasa lalawigan ang pamilya, kokotongan n'yo rin ng P100?

Tsk!Tsk! Tsk!

Maawa naman kayo! Palpak na nga ang serbisyo n'yo, malupit pa kayo?

UNAWA NG MERALCO AT LUPIT NG GLOBE

Naningil ang Meralco kaya nag-alsa at nagalit ang mga tao.

Bilib tayo! Kahit na naningil ang Meralco, hindi ito namutol ng suplay ng kuryente, tuloy lang ang serbisyo sa tao at doon sa mga gustong magbayad... pwede nang magbayad, at doon naman sa ayaw... pwede naman ang hulugan, dahil nga naman sa ating dinanas na lockdown dito sa COVID-19 na ito.

May pusong makatao pa rin ang Meralco.

Pero itong punyeta na Globe Telecom, masasabi mong walang puso't kaluluwa ang kompanyang ito.

Bakit kamo?

GLOBE PLATITO HINDI PLATINUM

Meron silang tinatawag na Globe Platinum Accounts na para bang sinasabing VIP client ka nila na mayroon pa nga silang account executives na nag-aasikaso sa iyo.

Minsan ay bigla kang tatawagan at kukumustahin tungkol sa serbisyo ng Globe, na nakatutuwa naman.

Pero ang nakapagtataka ngayon na sangkatutak ang problema natin dahil sa nangyaring COVID-19, ni pabulong ay wala tayong narinig sa account executives nila.

'Yun bang === Tanungin ka lang kung buhay ka pa o baka kinuha ka na ng kalaban ni Lord.

Dagdag pang gigil natin ay sa kalagitnaan ng GCQ ay putulan ka ng linya ng cellphone at kailangan pang makiusap ka sa kanila na irekonek ito dahil lahat ng tauhan mo ay work from home kaya walang mautusang magbayad sa billing.

'Yan ba ang Platinum service o Platito service lang 'yan kung tawagin?

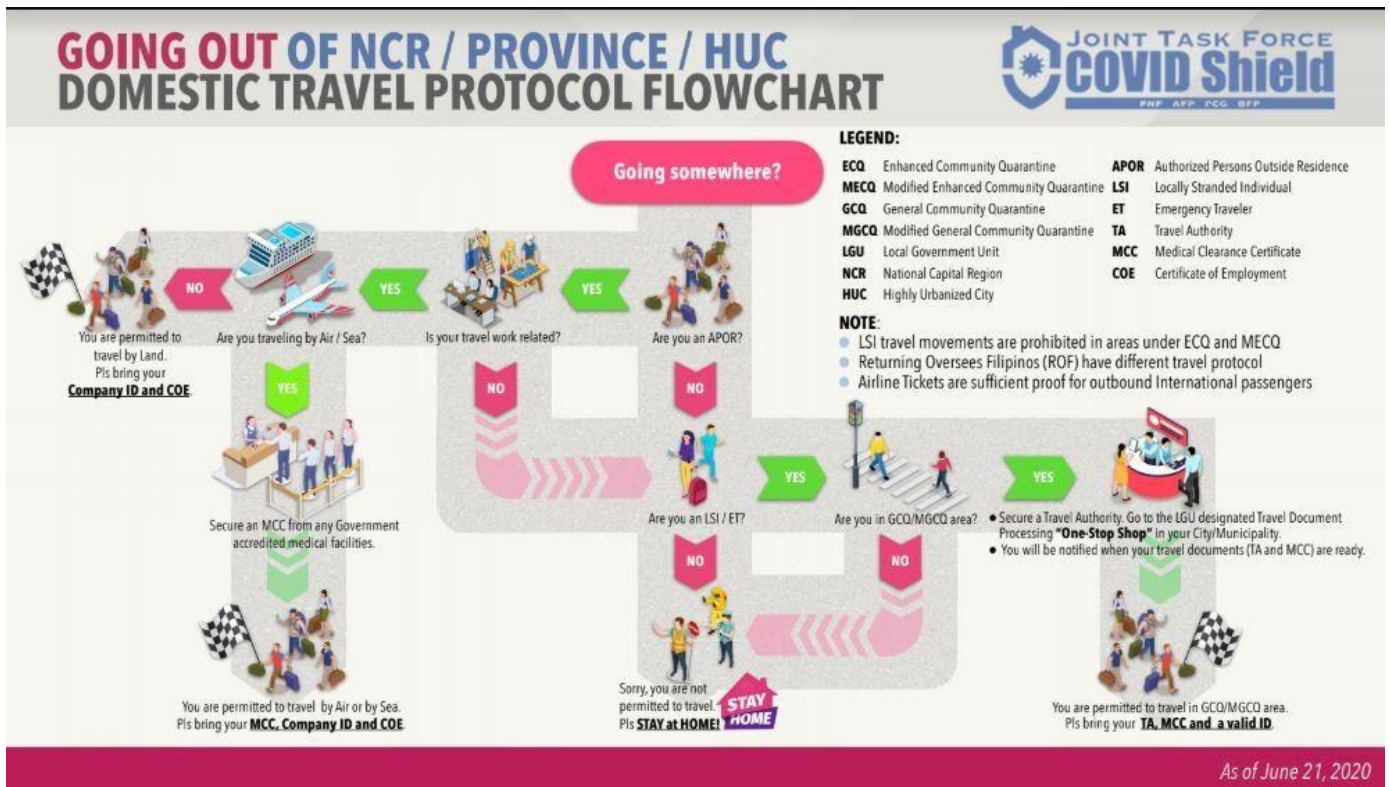
COVID-19 flowcharts released to guide travelers

Published June 21, 2020, 3:13 PM

By Aaron B. Recuenco

Are you forced to go on a travel in the time of COVID-19? If yes, then two travel protocol flowcharts will certainly be of big help.

The Joint Task Force COVID Shield has released two simplified and updated travel protocol flowcharts aimed at guiding the people on what to do and what to secure if they are going to go to any part of the country under the strict quarantine rules.



(JTF COVID SHIELD / MANILA BULLETIN)

Police Lt. Gen. Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar, commander of the JTF COVID Shied, said the two travel protocol flowcharts answer the basic questions of people as they plan to go on travel either because of work, or other important reasons such as medical and family emergencies.

“We understand that some of our kababayan could not forego of some of the travels out of necessity for their family, for their work and especially as we have already partially opened our economy,” said Eleazar.

“Knowledge is power as they say and these flowcharts will serve as their guide for their travel plans to save them time and energy for their smooth travel plan,” he added.

The first travel protocol flowchart stipulates all the rules and documentary requirements on travel within Metro Manila, a province or a highly-urbanized city.

The second one, on the other hand, focuses on travels that involve crossing the border of Metro Manila, a province and highly-urbanized city.

Eleazar explained that the travel flowcharts are meant to simplify the explanations on restrictions what with the continuous implementation of quarantine rules that focuses much on restricting the movement of the people as among the first line of defense against the spread of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19).

“The Travel Protocol Flowchart is a simple ‘Yes or ‘No’ guide which is applicable to all quarantine status existing in the area and applicable anywhere in the country,” said Eleazar.

He added that all travel protocols that they crafted could also be used by the Local Government Units (LGUs) in informing their constituents seeking approval to travel. Interior Secretary Eduardo Año earlier tasked LGUs to establish a ‘One-Stop Shop’ to facilitate the compliance of documentary requirements of the travelers.

But Eleazar was quick to point out that under the current rule, all travels of Locally Stranded Individuals going to and coming from Cebu City and Talisay City, which are under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and Modified ECQ respectively are temporarily banned. The quarantine status of the two cities will be until June 30.

Also included in areas banned for LSI travels are those under localized lockdowns by their respective LGUs, said Eleazar. (Aaron Recuenco)

MWSS bags \$126M loan

By ... -June 22, 2020

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$126-million (around P6.3 billion) loan to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for the construction of a 15-kilometer (km) water transmission pipeline that will ensure water supply to the 13 million residents of the National Capital Region.

The bank said the additional financing for the Angat water transmission improvement project would help strengthen the water system's downstream transmission capacity which is part of the rehabilitation of the Umiray–Angat–Ipo dam system which supplies about 90 percent of Metro Manila's water.

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

The ADB said MWSS' planned aqueduct will have 3.6-meter diameter welded steel concrete-coated pipe to help the dam withstand a magnitude 7.2 earthquake. It will also increase the system's water transfer capacity to 66 cubic meters (cu. m.) per second by 2025 from the current 50 cu. m. per second.

The project will allow MWSS to retire its two oldest aqueducts and repair others through 2032 while providing a stimulus to domestic material suppliers and boost demand for construction jobs once construction starts this year.

Philippines seeks to resume exploration for oil and gas in South China Sea

June 21, 2020 | 8:20 pm



THE Department of Energy (DoE) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) are seeking ways to resume exploration in the West Philippine Sea as pandemic restrictions ease, citing the need to assert sovereignty in disputed waters.

“While we are protecting our territories, the DoE is trying to work together with the DFA on how we can continue exploration in the area,” Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi was quoted as saying in a statement Sunday.

The matter was brought up in a recent meeting of the Regional Peace and Order Council of the MIMAROPA region, which is made up of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan. Mr. Cusi, who was present, is MIMAROPA’s Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security.

Exploration in the disputed waters was halted because of restrictions adopted to contain the coronavirus. Investor interest also suffered because of the collapse in global oil prices because of the pandemic, which dried up demand.

China is still pursuing its expansion plans into the South China Sea, including its designation of the Paracel islands near Vietnam and the Spratly islands as new districts of Sansha City under the jurisdiction of Hainan Province.

The government will resume energy exploration work in its territorial waters in order “to attain energy security,” Mr. Cusi said.

“We are doing this without compromising our sovereignty. That’s one thing we can assure you as we progress in our exploration on how to develop and utilize the resources there at the West Philippine Sea,” he said.

The identities of the bidders seeking to explore three oil blocks in the West Philippine Sea have yet to be made public after the period for challenging their bids lapsed in May.

These prospects were nominated under the DoE’s Philippine Conventional Energy Contracting Program, a petroleum service contract awarding mechanism that allows the government to develop indigenous petroleum resources in partnership with qualified domestic and international exploration companies.

Under the program, service contracts are awarded via a competitive selection process or via nomination. — Adam J. Ang

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/philippines-seeks-to-resume-exploration-for-oil-and-gas-in-south-china-sea/>

Cusi: Exploration in WPS will not compromise sovereignty

[Danessa Rivera](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 22, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said the exploration works in West Philippine Sea would not compromise the country's sovereignty as it looks to find partners –including China – in exploiting resources in the disputed waters.

In a statement, Cusi said the Department of Energy (DOE) is working together with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) so that exploration activities in the West Philippine Sea could finally proceed.

In updating the members of the Regional Peace and Order Council (ROPC) of Region IV-B MIMAROPA (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) recently, the energy chief assured the body that exploration and development of resources within the area would not compromise the country's sovereignty.

“While we are protecting our territories, the DOE is trying to work together with the DFA on how we can continue exploration in the area,” he said.

The body is chaired by Palawan Gov. Jose Alvarez, while Cusi is the designated Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS) for Region IV-B.

“We are doing this without compromising our sovereignty. That's one thing we can assure you as we progress in our exploration on how to develop and utilize the resources there at the West Philippine Sea,” Cusi said. “We need it to attain energy security.”

Cusi earlier said he is planning to discuss with his Chinese counterpart joint exploration efforts in the West Philippine Sea once the enhanced community quarantine is lifted.

He and his counterpart were supposed to hold a meeting on joint exploration earlier this year but the coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 pandemic stalled the visit of the Chinese counterparts to the country.

There are no specific details yet as to when and where the meeting will take place, but a way forward would be discussed, the energy chief said earlier.

The Philippine and Chinese officials last held a meeting on joint exploration in December last year.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/06/22/2022509/cusi-exploration-wps-will-not-compromise-sovereignty>

Covid-19 adds to adversity for climate refugees

June 21, 2020, 2:26 pm



ANKARA – Already facing a legally undefined status, climate refugees must now contend with a shortage of decent medical care, as well as closed borders and international travel restrictions, making their lives excessively difficult during the global pandemic.

Climate refugees, environmental migrants, and environmentally displaced people, which refer to forced migration due to climate and environmental change, are not legal persons as part of international law as they are not recognized in the 1951 Refugee Convention.

However, the debate on the issue has become more visible among academics, human rights advocates, and environmental organizations as the negative effects of climate change are becoming more frequent and intense amid concerns that they will force more and more people to leave their homes in the near future.

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, Sumudu Atapattu, executive director of the Madison Human Rights Program at the University of Wisconsin (UW), and Abdullah Resul Demir, head of the Istanbul-based International Refugee Rights Association, spoke to Anadolu Agency about the climate migration issue on their social, legal and economic aspects.

Atapattu said there were increasing safety concerns among refugees where access to water and other basic hygienic measures were difficult due to the coronavirus outbreak: "It is [also] much harder because the borders are closed and international travel is not possible."

Responding to a question on the UN's role in solving the legal status problem of climate migration or environmentally displaced people, she said this was a complicated and "very" political issue as the UN could only function via countries that were not concerned with resolving the issue.

However, there have been positive moves towards a legal solution, she said, citing the UN Human Rights Committee decision in *Ioane Teitiota, v. New Zealand* in January 2020, which she said was an important example.

Teitiota, author and citizen of the Republic of Kiribati, claimed that New Zealand authorities violated his right to life under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by rejecting his application for refugee status in New Zealand and deporting him from the country in September 2015.

He claimed that the consequences of climate change and sea-level rise forced him to migrate from his home island of Tarawa to New Zealand.

"The Committee accepted that both sudden-onset events and slow onset events can trigger the movement of people seeking protection from climate-related harm. The Committee, while accepting the author's claim that sea-level rise could likely render the Republic of Kiribati uninhabitable, noted that this could take 10-15 years which 'could allow for intervening acts by the republic of Kiribati, with the assistance of the international community, to take affirmative measures to protect and, where necessary, relocate its population,'" she said.

Referring to the points that the court based upon its decision, Atapattu said: "The decision of the Committee rested on two main grounds: First, the threat to the author's right to life was not imminent; and second, the Republic of Kiribati was actively pursuing adaptation measures."

To achieve a solution to the climate refugees' issue, she stressed that urgent recognition of this category of people, affected by environmental disasters and the right of their legal protection abroad, was necessary.

"People will move whether there is a legal framework or not if it is not safe for them to remain in their home country. So being prepared for that eventuality is better than not taking steps at all," she said, referring to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) outbreak which she asserted showed how ill-prepared the world was even after the virus threat became very visible.

Economic, educational, health effects

Abdullah Resul Demir said that although the coronavirus had no positive or negative impacts on refugees who did not have legal status, these refugees have been negatively affected as part of the economy, education, and health.

"For instance, during the distance learning period, these refugees did not have very high-quality education due to the lack of needed technological equipment such as internet connectivity and they could not go to hospitals even though they thought they contracted the virus due to the fear of deportation," he said.

Demir went on to say that, since most migrants did not work with insurance when businesses were closed as part of the Covid-19 measures, they were facing serious economic difficulties.

"This situation applies to climate refugees worldwide as well, as it is the common refugee psychology," he added.

The reason behind the environmental migration for this was "the unequal income distribution and system of exploitation" in the world and as long as these economic irregularities continue, people will continue to migrate to live in better conditions for a better future, he highlighted.

The pandemic once again showed that the health, economic welfare and education of every individual around the world was important, as the virus quickly spread from one side of the world to the other.

"To eliminate the climate-change-related or environmental factors causing migration, the international community must collaborate and solve the problem at its source [...] unless we can eliminate the causes of refugees, we will continue to celebrate the World Refugee Day dolorously," he said.

He concluded that such problems should be tackled in a humanistic manner, not with an economic or utilitarian perspective.

Designated by the UN in 2000 to honor refugees around the globe, World Refugee Day is celebrated annually on June 20, to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. (**Anadolu**)

Coronavirus should spark new environmental awareness –Pope Francis

Published June 21, 2020 7:48pm

By PHILIP PULLELLA, Reuters

VATICAN CITY - The drastic reduction in pollution during coronavirus lockdowns around the world should lead to greater concern for the environment as restrictions are lifted, Pope Francis said on Sunday.

At his Sunday address in St. Peter's Square, Francis said the pandemic made many people reflect on their relationship with the environment. The square reopened to the public a month ago and Italy's last travel restrictions were lifted on June 3.

"The lockdown has reduced pollution and revealed once more the beauty of so many places free from traffic and noise. Now, with the resumption of activities, we should all be more responsible for looking after our common home," he said, using his term for the Earth.

Air and water pollution levels plummeted in many places.

In Venice, the usually dark waters of the city's canals were so clean because of reduced boat traffic that fish could be seen for the first time in many years.

Dolphins swam closer to ports, racoons emerged in New York's Central Park and mountain goats roamed streets in Wales.

In some cities, such as Milan, pollution reduction spurred officials to plan more pedestrian islands and cycling paths.

The Roman Catholic Church is currently marking the fifth anniversary of Francis' landmark encyclical "Laudato Si" (Praised Be) on the need to protect nature.

In a 225-page manual released on Thursday, the Vatican said Catholics should disinvest from fossil fuel industries and closely monitor companies in sectors such as mining to check if they are damaging the environment.

Francis, speaking a day after the United Nations World Refugee Day, also said the coronavirus crisis has highlighted the need to ensure protection for refugees because they had become more vulnerable to exploitation. — **Reuters**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/743563/coronavirus-should-spark-new-environmental-awareness-pope-francis/story/>

Covid-19, deforestation cripple life in Amazon

June 21, 2020, 6:58 pm



ANKARA – While deforestation in the Amazon rainforests continues, the lives of indigenous people are at greater risk as the mortality rate from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) is already double that of Brazil's population.

On World Rainforest Day, celebrated annually on June 22 to raise awareness and encourage action to protect rainforests, Christian Poirier, program director for Amazon Watch, told Anadolu Agency that indigenous people in Brazil are dying at an alarming rate from the virus.

"The mortality rate is double that of the rest of Brazil's population [...] more than 2,640 officially confirmed cases of coronavirus and at least 252 deaths, which suggests a mortality rate of 9.6 percent -- compared to the national rate of 5.6 percent," he said, citing data as of June 9 from the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB).

The situation among indigenous people is also being exacerbated due to the lack of access to decent medical care as the average distance between settlements and the nearest intensive care units (ICU) being 315 kilometers (196 miles) away, he said, highlighting a study conducted by the non-profit InfoAmazonia. Ten percent of villages are 700 kilometers to 1,079 kilometers (434 miles to 670 miles) from an ICU.

"Most of the Covid-19 deaths in indigenous people have occurred in Amazonas, one of the states with the highest infection rates," he said, stressing that the region's health system had collapsed in March, as local officials had warned.

Poirier said the National Indian Foundation, the governmental body responsible for mapping out and protecting lands of indigenous people, is hardly doing anything to coordinate a response to the crisis, although people urged the government and the World Health Organization to improve local health care.

Indigenous people are facing the consequences of the government's attitude towards the virus.

"There's not enough protective equipment for agents who enter indigenous territories or meet with native people in cities. Necessities like kerosene and gasoline are in short supply," he added.

Food deliveries began only at the beginning of the June, a month after indigenous people were instructed to remain in villages that were vulnerable to the spread of the pandemic because they lack adequate access to health care.

As of Sunday, Brazil registered 49,976 deaths from the virus with over 560,000 recoveries. Currently, there are more than 1 million confirmed cases in the country.

'We haven't had many choices'

Dinaman Tuxa, executive coordinator of the Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples, told Anadolu Agency the virus had taken advantage of years of public neglect.

"Our communities are often in remote, inhospitable regions without access or infrastructure. In the face of the pandemic we haven't had many choices," said Tuxa, who is a member of the Tuxa people in northeastern Brazil.

Tuxa have isolated themselves. No one is allowed in and they try to keep anyone from going out, he said.

There is "enormous need" for medicine and Amazon Watch, which advances the rights of indigenous people in the Amazon Basin, helps to provide modest support for indigenous partners whose population contracted the Covid-19.

Tuxa claimed that the cure for a future outbreak could be in their lands. "Large pharmaceutical companies come into our communities, extract our traditional knowledge and plants without recognizing our rights and take them to the cities and say they're their own discoveries," he said, referring to the traditional knowledge of indigenous communities.

For thousands of years, the Amazon has been home to at least 400 distinct indigenous peoples from eight South American nations whose lives are intrinsically connected to the land and water for daily and cultural survival.

In addition to the pandemic, deforestation is still a huge risk for the Amazon as illegal miners advance on areas of isolated indigenous communities.

"Illegal miners and loggers, emboldened by [President Jair] Bolsonaro's promise to open up the Amazon for business, now pose an even greater threat to remote communities, increasing their vulnerability to violence and infection by illegal extraction gangs as the pandemic rages," Poirier said.

Environment Minister Ricardo Salles urged the government to push for further deregulation of environmental policy while people are distracted by the Covid-19 pandemic, he said. It is an example of a policy that uses the crisis to take advantage, he said.

"In the first four months of 2020, Brazilian Amazon deforestation was up 55 percent from a year ago to 1,202 square kilometers [464 square miles] [...] in the same period, deforestation within indigenous territories skyrocketed, increasing by 59 percent compared to the same period last year," he said, citing data from Brazil's National Space Research Institute (INPE).

Fires could be 50 percent worse this year than last year, according to the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM), as low rainfall forecasts between May and October is expected to cause suitable conditions for wildfires.

Deforestation in the "lungs of the earth" in 2019 was more than 900,000 hectares (more than 2.2 million acres) and there were more than 10,200 fires recorded in the Amazon in the last year.

Poirier urged supporters to join Amazon Watch's "call for a moratorium on the invasion and destruction of Amazonian indigenous lands."

The Amazon is home to one-third of plants and animal species in the world and generates 20 percent of flowing freshwater. It produces 20 percent of the earth's oxygen, and as a vast carbon sink, absorbs more than 1 billion tons of atmospheric carbon which is emitted by the burning of fossil fuels annually. (**Anadolu**)

Italian glacier covered by tarp to slow its melting

Published June 21, 2020 11:40pm

PRESENA GLACIER, Italy — A vast tarpaulin unravels, gathering speed as it bounces down the glacier over glinting snow. Summer is here and the alpine ice is being protected from global warming.

In northern Italy, the Presena glacier has lost more than one third of its volume since 1993.

Once the ski season is over and cable cars are berthed, conservationists race to try and stop it melting by using white tarps that block the sun's rays.

"This area is continuously shrinking, so we cover as much of it as possible," explains Davide Panizza, 34, who heads the Carosello-Tonale company that does the work.



An aerial photo taken on June 19, 2020 shows workers covering with huge geotextile sheets the Presena glacier (2700m-3000m) on the Val di Sole near Pellizzano in Trentino, northern Italy, in order to delay snow melting on skiing slopes. Miguel Medina/AFP

From around 30,000 square meters covered in 2008 when the project began, his team now places 100,000 square meters under wraps.

The coverings are "geotextile tarpaulins that reflect sunlight, maintaining a temperature lower than the external one, and thus preserving as much snow as possible," he told AFP.

On the border between the Lombardy and Trentino Alto Adige regions, workers unroll the sheets in long strips, covering an area at an altitude of 2700 to 3000 meters (8,800-9,800 feet).

They move methodically down the mountain under clear blue skies to pull the coverings taut, and sew them together to ensure warm drafts do not slip underneath. Bags of sand then act as anchors against the wind.

Once in place, the sheets, which measure 70 meters by five meters (230 by 16 feet), are hardly distinguishable from the packed white snow beneath.

TITLE :

Italian glacier covered by tarp to slow its melting

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 22, 2020
DATE

"There are glacier cover systems similar to ours on a few Austrian glaciers, but the surface covered by the tarpaulins is much smaller," Panizza said.

The Austrian-made tarps cost up to €400 (\$450) each and it takes the team six weeks to install them—and another six weeks to remove them before winter sets in again.

Franco Del Pero, 48, leads the operation and says technological improvements mean contemporary tarps protect better than earlier versions.

"When we remove them in September and we see that they did their job, we feel proud," he says. — **Agence France-Presse**

'Ring of fire' solar eclipse thrills skywatchers in

June 22, 2020

TITLE: Africa, Asia

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE



The partial solar eclipse seen from Cavite on June 21, 2020.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

'Ring of fire' solar eclipse thrills skywatchers in Africa, Asia

(Agence France-Presse) - June 21, 2020 - 5:21pm

NAIROBI, Kenya — Skywatchers along a narrow band from west Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, India and the Far East witnessed Sunday a dramatic "ring of fire" solar eclipse.

So-called annular eclipses occur when the Moon — passing between Earth and the Sun — is not quite close enough to our planet to completely obscure sunlight, leaving a thin ring of the solar disc visible.

They happen every year or two, and can only be seen from a narrow pathway across the planet.

Sunday's eclipse arrived on the northern hemisphere's longest day of the year — the summer solstice — when Earth's north pole is tilted most directly towards the Sun.

The "ring of fire" was first visible in northeastern Republic of Congo from 5:56 local time (04:56 GMT) just a few minutes after sunrise.

This is the point of maximum duration, with the blackout lasting 1 minute and 22 seconds.

Arcing eastward across Africa and Asia, it reached "maximum eclipse" — with a perfect solar halo around the Moon — over Uttarakhand, India near the Sino-Indian border at 12:10 local time (0640 GMT).

More spectacular, but less long-lived: the exact alignment of the Earth, Moon and Sun was visible for only 38 seconds.

In Nairobi, east Africa, observers saw only a partial eclipse as clouds blocked the sky for several seconds at the exact moment the Moon should have almost hidden the Sun.

Despite some disappointment Susan Murbana told AFP: "It was very exciting because I think I'm so obsessed with eclipses.

"Today has been very kind to us in terms of the clouds. And we've been able to see most of it," said Murbana who set up the Travelling Telescope educational program with her husband Chu.

'Ring of fire' solar eclipse thrills skywatchers in

TITLE: Africa, Asia

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 22, 2020
DATE

Without the coronavirus pandemic, they would have organized a trip to Lake Magadi in southern Kenya where the skies are generally clearer than over the capital.

"With the pandemic situation, we're not able to have crowds... and get kids to look through or do stuff," she said but still managed to share the event on social media.

"We had around 50 people joining us via Zoom and then we have so many people via our Facebook live."

The annular eclipse is visible from only about two percent of Earth's surface, Florent Delefie, an astronomer at the Paris Observatory, told AFP.

"It's a bit like switching from a 500-watt to a 30-watt light bulb," he added. "It's a cold light and you don't see as well."

Animals get spooked

Animals can get spooked — birds will sometimes go back to sleep, and cows will return to the barn.

The full eclipse was visible at successive locations over a period of nearly four hours, and one of the last places to see the partially hidden Sun was Taiwan.

People hundreds of kilometers on either side of the centerline across 14 countries could also see light drain from the day but not the "ring of fire".

Weather conditions are critical for viewing.

A solar eclipse always occurs about two weeks before or after a lunar eclipse, when the Moon moves into Earth's shadow. Lunar eclipses are visible from about half of the Earth's surface.

There will be a second solar eclipse in 2020 on December 14 over South America. Because the Moon will be a bit closer to Earth, it will block out the Sun's light entirely.

Indonesia's most volatile volcano spews ash in new eruption

Associated Press / 01:43 PM June 21, 2020

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia's most volatile volcano on Sunday spewed ash and hot gas in a massive column as high as 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) into the sky.



Pigeons take to the air as Merapi volcano continues to emit smoke from its crater in June 4, 2018 after spewing volcanic ash for days, as seen from Karanganyar in Indonesia's Central Java province. It spewed ash and hot gas in a massive column as high as 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) into the sky on Sunday, June 21, 2020. AFP PHOTO / Agung Supriyanto

Mount Merapi's clouds of ash, accompanied by a rumbling sound heard kilometers (miles) away, blanketed several villages on the main island of Java.

Indonesia's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center did not raise Merapi's alert status, which already was at the third-highest level since it began erupting last August.

Villagers living on Merapi's fertile slopes are advised to stay 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from the crater's mouth and should be aware of the peril of lava, the agency said.

The 2,968-meter (9,737-foot) mountain is the most active of 500 Indonesian volcanoes. It has rumbled and generated dark hot clouds since last year.

Its last major eruption in 2010 killed 353 people.

Indonesia, an archipelago of 270 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped series of fault lines around the ocean.

gsg

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1295131/indonesias-most-volatile-volcano-spews-ash-in-new-eruption>

Indonesia's Mt. Merapi erupts



By [Agence France-Presse](#)

June 22, 2020

JAKARTA: Indonesia's Mount Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted twice on Sunday, sending clouds of gray ash 6,000 meters into the sky, the country's geological agency said.



DANGER This handout photo taken and released on June 21, 2020 by Indonesia's Research and Technology Development for Geological Hazard Mitigation shows the Mount Merapi volcano spewing thick smoke into the air as seen from Yogyakarta.
AFP PHOTO

The two eruptions lasted around seven minutes, according to the agency, and prompted local authorities to order residents to stay outside a three-kilometer no-go zone around the rumbling crater near Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta.

The agency did not raise the volcano's alert status after the eruptions, but it advised commercial planes to be cautious in the area.

Local media reported that people in neighboring areas including Sleman and Klaten heard strong rumbling sounds this morning.

Mount Merapi's last major eruption in 2010 killed more than 300 people and forced the evacuation of some 280,000 residents from surrounding areas.

That was its most powerful eruption since 1930, which killed around 1,300 people, while another explosion in 1994 took about 60 lives.

Indonesia has more than 17,000 islands and islets — and nearly 130 active volcanoes.

The Southeast Asian archipelago nation sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a vast zone of geological instability where the collision of tectonic plates causes frequent quakes and major volcanic activity.



EDITORIAL - 'New and dangerous phase'

(The Philippine Star) - June 22, 2020 - 12:00am

French actors have resumed kissing on screen. Professional boxing is back in Las Vegas while football has resumed in Brazil. The gondoliers are back in business in the canals of Venice, and coffee shops are reopening across Italy.

Manufacturing has resumed in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the coronavirus disease 2019 was first reported last year. Despite the continuing spread of COVID-19, it looks like lockdown fatigue is setting in all over the planet – especially with jobs lost, livelihoods seriously disrupted and millions more added to the ranks of the impoverished.

And the World Health Organization is worried. Last Friday, the WHO chief warned that the world is entering “a new and dangerous phase” as people tire of pandemic restrictions and move to return to pre-pandemic business as usual, even with a cure or vaccine still months away. Countries that have lifted lockdowns including China and Italy have seen new cases emerge in recent weeks. New Zealand’s COVID-free status lasted only a few days. The coronavirus is still spreading rapidly in the Americas.

And the virus remains just as deadly. As of yesterday, COVID-19 had infected 8.8 million people worldwide and killed 465,000 people. In the Philippines, 19 more people were added to the COVID death toll, bringing the total to 1,169 as of 4 p.m. yesterday, with confirmed cases topping 30,000 with the addition of 653. University of the Philippines analysts have warned that the cases could reach 40,000 by the end of June.

Yet officials have stressed that the economy can no longer afford extending strict restrictions particularly in Metro Manila. Beginning today, modernized jeepneys and additional buses will be back in the streets of Metro Manila and other areas under general community quarantine, as more businesses are allowed to reopen.

Displaced employees and entrepreneurs whose businesses are nearing collapse will appreciate the increase in public transportation facilities. Mass transportation, however, also means more people in close proximity to each other, even with physical distancing measures in place. There is a higher threat of COVID contagion. With the WHO warning in mind, people must not let down their guard. The country cannot afford a resurgence of this pestilence.