

Duterte orders Cimatu to oversee COVID-19 response in Cebu City

By: [Darryl John Esguerra](#) - Reporter / [@DJEsguerraINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:09 PM June 22, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte has tasked Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to oversee the government’s COVID-19 response in Cebu City which has recently seen a spike in coronavirus infections.



In a speech aired Monday night, Duterte said Cimatu, a former Armed Forces chief, will serve as an “adjunct” official for the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

“All he has to do is to advise [the IATF here in] Manila that these things are being done, these things are not yet done, and these things must be done,” Duterte said.

The President then called on the Department of Health, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the National Task Force against COVID-19 to assist Cimatu in fulfilling his new designation.

Earlier this year, Duterte tasked Cimatu with coordinating the evacuation of overseas Filipino workers from the Middle East amid US-Iran tensions.

Cimatu will be the latest former military officer to aid the government’s COVID-19 response, joining the likes of Secretary Carlito Galvez and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. To date, there are [30,682 COVID-19 cases nationwide](#), including 8,143 recoveries and 1,177 deaths.

Less restrictive coronavirus lockdowns have been maintained nationwide except for Cebu City which is now under an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) and Talisay City which is now under a modified ECQ due to high transmission rate and an increased demand for critical care. /atm

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1295783/duterte-orders-cimatu-to-oversee-covid-19-response-in-cebu-city>

Duterte: DENR chief Cimatú to oversee Cebu City COVID-19 response

(Philstar.com) - June 22, 2020 - 11:19pm

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte is sending Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú, a former armed forces chief, to Cebu City to look into and make recommendations on how the government will proceed in addressing rising COVID-19 cases in the city.

In a public address aired late Monday night, Duterte said Cimatú will head an “adjunct” agency to the Inter-Agency Task Force of Emerging Infectious Diseases in Cebu City.

Cimatú “will exercise the powers” of the task force, Duterte said.

“All he has to do, not for permission, but to advise Manila, here, that these things are being done, these things are not yet done, these things must be done,” Duterte also said in a mix of English and Filipino.

“I must have the picture of how grave... the situations are. I need to know,” he added.

While the rest of the country transitioned into the looser general community quarantine on June 15, Cebu City was placed on enhanced community quarantine from June 16 to 30.

The Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases said that this was due to “increasing number of new cases” and “widespread transmission” of COVID-19 in most of Cebu City’s barangays.

Peace adviser Carlito Galvez said at the meeting that he will also fly to Cebu City along with Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to meet with regional IATF and assist Cimatú on his new task.

Galvez serves as the chief implementer of the COVID-19 action plan.

The FREEMAN reported earlier Monday that the Cebu City Health Office reported 37 cases, 42 recoveries and one death on June 22. Sunstar reported that Cebu City has now recorded 4,449 COVID-19 infections.

The Department of Health logged 630 COVID-19 cases in the country, pushing national tally to 30,682. Death toll is at 1,177 while 8,143 have so far recovered. — **Kristine Joy Patag with report from The FREEMAN**

Duterte to send Cimatu to monitor COVID-19 in Cebu

By: Morexette Marie B. Erram - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu will be President Rodrigo Duterte's pointman in Cebu to oversee and evaluate Cebu's response to COVID-19. | CDN file photo

CEBU CITY, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte will be sending Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to oversee and evaluate Cebu's response towards the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

President Duterte made this announcement in a meeting with Cabinet officials that was broadcasted live through state-run media outlets on Monday evening, June 22.

“Mga kaigsoonan nako sa Cebu ug both sa mga syudad ug mga probinsya, akong ipadala si General Cimatu who is the secretary of DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources)... I must have a picture of how grave the situation is or the situations are,” said Duterte.

(My fellow Cebuanos from both the city and the province, I am sending General Cimatu, who is the secretary of DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] ... I must have a picture of how grave the situation is or the situations are.)

The President also said he would be issuing an executive order (EO) to formalize Cimatu's new role, and he added that the chief of DENR could exercise powers of the national government's anti-coronavirus task force.

“I am just sad Cebu has to undergo that kind of painful situation, but nonetheless, kaya natin yan and I'm sure Cimatu... he cannot solve the problem on his own. He has just to make recommendations on what we should be doing and that's very important,” he said.

President Duterte on Monday said the people and local officials in Cebu have apparently entered into a 'blame-game' as they try to solve the rising cases of COVID-19 here.

“If you solve the problem locally among the officials there, there is bound to be a derailment in the programs of government because they would start to blame each other and nobody would try to introduce novel ideas or even to implement one that is measured and proven its efficacy kasi nagsisihan na,” said President Duterte.

“So kayong mga taga Cebu, it’s not that I don’t trust your capability but rather I said it’s the penchant to go into a sort of yung sisihan tapos nobody would answer for anything,” he added.

Cimatu was also present during the meeting on Monday who, in response, accepted the task appointed to him.

“Thank you Mr. President for giving me the opportunity to go to Cebu. I will do my best, Mr President,” said Cimatu.

Except for [Cebu City](#), the entire island of Cebu has been placed under general community quarantine (GCQ).

The province’s capital, Cebu City, was reverted back to enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), the strictest form of community quarantine, last June 16 due to spike in new COVID-19 cases, and the surge in the need for hospital care. /dbs



Cimatu, pinadala ni PDU30 sa Cebu para tugunan ang mataas na COVID-19 cases

June 22, 2020 @ 10:46 PM 8 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na magpunta sa Cebu para tugunan ang patuloy na naka-aalarmang pagtaas ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa lungsod.

Sa public address ni Pangulong Duterte, araw ng Lunes, Hunyo 22 ay sinabi nito na si Cimatu ay “adjunct” official ng Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases para alamin kung ano ang dapat gawin sa Cebu.

“I am just sad that Cebu has to undergo that kind of painful situation now but nonetheless kaya natin ‘yan,” ayon sa Chief Executive.

“And I am sure Cimatu he cannot solve the problem on his own he has just to make recommendations and let us know what we should be doing,” dagdag na pahayag ng Pangulo.

Inatasan din ng Pangulo ang Department of Health at Department of Interior and Local Government na assistahan si Cimatu. **Kris Jose**

Duterte deploys Cimatu to address COVID-19 spread in Cebu City

Published June 22, 2020 10:32pm

By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to go to Cebu to address the continued alarming increase of COVID-19 cases in the city.

Duterte said Cimatu would be an "adjunct" official of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases to identify what needs to be done in Cebu.

"I am just sad that Cebu has to undergo that kind of painful situation now but nonetheless kaya natin 'yan," Duterte said in a televised briefing on Monday night.

"And I am sure Cimatu he cannot solve the problem on his own he has just to make recommendations and let us know what we should be doing," he added.

Cimatu welcomed his new role.

"I fully accept the challenge you gave for Cebu," Cimatu told Duterte.

"Just like the orders you gave to me before to Boracay and we changed the image of Boracay into what it is now," he added, referring to the monthslong cleanup of one of the country's most popular tourist attractions in 2018.

Malacañang earlier said it wanted to appoint a [Visayas Deputy Implementer](#) and establish a National Task Force Emergency Operation Center in the region amid the uptick in infections recorded there.

Cebu City has the highest number of COVID-19 cases nationwide at 3,733 as of June 21, while Central Visayas has the second-highest number of infections among all regions with 5,667, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

In the last 14 days alone, the DOH logged 1,277 new cases in Cebu City and 2,030 in the entire Region VII.

The DOH also earlier identified [13 new clusters of infection](#) in Cebu City.

"Yung mga taga-Cebu... bakit marami [cases]? Because you were too confident and too complacent about it," Duterte said. **-NB, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/743722/duterte-deploys-cimatu-to-address-covid-19-spread-in-cebu-city/story/>

Duterte orders Cimatu to oversee COVID-19 response in Cebu City

Pia Gutierrez, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 23 2020 02:19 AM | Updated as of Jun 23 2020 02:44 AM



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (L) is accompanied by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (C). *Robinson Ninal, ABS-CBN News/ File*

MANILA - President Rodrigo Duterte has tasked Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to oversee the government's pandemic response in Cebu City, following an alarming increase in COVID-19 cases in the area.

During his speech in Malacanang Monday night, Duterte ordered Cimatu to fly to Cebu to head an adjunct office of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases and said that the official would be exercising all the powers of the IATF.

"Sabi ko kay General Cimatu just exercise the powers of the Task Force anyway you are an adjunct office there. I will just write an executive order to follow and he might fly anytime," Duterte said during his speech.

"I must have the picture of how grave the situation is," he added. "He has just to make recommendations and let us know what we should be doing and that is very important. It's part really of the intelligence work of any organization to know what is ahead and behind and on the side so that you'd know how to prepare and go and fight the enemy --- COVID."

The Philippine government earlier returned Cebu City under the Enhanced Community Quarantine due to the rising cases of COVID-19. As of Monday, the city has recorded a total of 4,449 cases.

"Kayong mga taga-Cebu, bakit marami? Because you were too confident and too complacent about it. Parang binalewala ninyo kaya dumating," Duterte said.

In his speech, the President noted that the situation might get worse if he lets local officials deal with the situation by themselves.

"If you solve the problem locally among --- amongst the officials there, there's bound to be a derailment in the programs of government because they would start to blame each other and nobody would try to introduce novel ideas or even to implement one that is already --- a measure that is already of proven efficacy kasi nagsisisihan na," Duterte said.

"So kayong mga taga-Cebu, it's not that I do not trust your ability but rather I said it's the penchant to go into a sort of a 'yang sisihan nga tapos nobody would answer for anything," he continued.

Malacanang earlier announced that the National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19 will conduct an evaluation of the ground level response of Cebu city government units on COVID-19 starting this week.

"Maglalagay din po ang NTF ng emergency operation center at magde-designate po tayo ng isang Visayas Deputy Implementer for Region VII and the entire Visayas," Palace spokesman Harry Roque said in his regular briefing Monday.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/23/20/duterte-ordera-cimatu-to-oversee-covid-19-response-in-cebu-city>

Duterte appoints Cimatu to lead COVID-19 fight in Cebu City

By [David Tristan Yumol, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Jun 23, 2020 12:09:23 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 22) – President Rodrigo Duterte ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Monday to lead the COVID-19 fight in Cebu City, as the city grapples with a spike of virus infections during the past week.

In his weekly address to the nation, Duterte emphasized he needed a particular person to contain the spread of the virus in Cebu City.

"If you solve the problem locally amongst the officials there, there's bound to be a derailment in the programs of government because they would start to blame each other and nobody would try to introduce novel ideas or even to implement one that is already," said Duterte in his speech.

Cebu City is now the top city in the country with the most number of confirmed COVID-19 cases with 3,733, as of the latest count by the Department of Health. Among these figures, some 3,741 are considered as active cases.

According to the Health Department, the city recorded a total of 1,277 new infections during the past 14 days which is also the highest in all areas in the country. Some 205 persons recovered and 57 people died due to the virus in Cebu City.

The said situation convinced Duterte to re-order the enhanced community quarantine setting in Cebu City [last week](#).

Cimatu was re-appointed in the same position by Duterte in October 2016, before he was chosen to lead the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in May 2017.

"All he have to do is just to advise Manila that these things are being done, these things are not yet done, and these things must be done," said the President.

Duterte also instructed Cimatu to establish an emergency operations center in Cebu City to support local officials in looking to the health situation in the area.

Cimatu, who is present in the weekly Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) meeting, accepted the responsibility given to him by the President.

"I fully accept your challenge you gave. Just like the orders you gave to me before, to Boracay, we changed the cesspool image of Boracay to what it is now," said Cimatu, referring to his role in leading the cleanup of the world-famous Boracay Island in 2018.

Duterte appoints Cimatu to lead COVID-19 fight in

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National Task Force on COVID-19 Chief Implementer Carlito Galvez Jr. expressed his support in the appointment of Cimatu and vowed to help him in averting the spread of COVID-19 in Cebu City.

“He’s the one who orders us to arrest the Abu Sayyaf. He is a great leader,” said Galvez, also a former military general like Cimatu, in the meeting with Duterte.

[In an interview with CNN Philippines last week](#), Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella insisted the spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases in the city was due to the intensified mass testing efforts in their area.

He added that around 25,000 Cebu City residents were tested of COVID-19 and emphasized 80 to 90 percent of the positive patients are asymptomatic.

“It is our moral and legal duty to really test, trace, isolate, and treat. That’s why we have this number,” said Labella.

The Cebu City Mayor touted in last week’s interview they recorded almost 52 percent recovery rate, higher than the 23 percent national recovery rate of COVID-19.

DUTERTE IPADADALA SI CIMATU PARA TUTUKAN ANG SITWASYON NG COVID-19 SA CEBU

written by Ashley Jose June 23, 2020



Ipadadala na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte si Duterte si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu sa Cebu upang pag-aralan ang sitwasyon ng kaso ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) sa lugar.

Ito ay kaugnay nang patuloy na pagtaas ng bilang ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa Cebu City na nakasailalim pa rin sa enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

Akong ipadala si General Cimatu. General Cimatu is the secretary of DENR. Sabi ko kung maiwanan mo ang opisina mo sandali, total ikaw ang inuutusan noon ni GMA,” ani Duterte.

Sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte, batid niyang hindi kaya ng kalihim na masolusyunan ang kaso ng COVID-19 sa Cebu, ngunit nakatitiyak siya na makapagbibigay ito ng rekomendasyon upang maibsan ang tumitinding sitwasyon sa lugar.

..kaya natin ‘yan and I’m sure Cimatu, he cannot solve the problem on his own, but he can make recommendations,” ani Duterte.

Dahil dito, si Cimatu na ang magiging ‘adjunct’ official ng Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases na tututok sa sitwasyon sa cebu.

Umapela naman ang pangulo sa iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno gaya na lamang ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), at ang National Task Force Against COVID-19 na makipagtulungan sa kalihim.

Cimatu tinanggap ang responsibilidad sa COVID-19 fight ng Cebu

Malugod namang tinanggap ni Cimatu ang nabanggit na responsibilidad na iniatang sa kanya ng pangulo.

Kagaya aniya nang pagtanggap nito ng kautusan ng pangulo noon na pangunahan din ang pagsasaayos ng Isla ng Boracay.

“I fully accept your challenge you gave. Just like the orders you gave to me before, to Boracay,” ani Cimatu.

Samantala, suportado naman ni National Task Force on COVID-19 Chief Implementer Carlito Galvez Jr. ang pagkakatalagang ito ni Cimatu at nangakong tutulong upang mapigilan ang pagkalat pa ng COVID-19 sa Cebu City.

Cimatu, itinalaga ni Pres. Duterte na pamunuan ang COVID-19 task force sa Cebu

By [Bombo Jovino Galang](#)

-June 23, 2020 | 12:22 AM

Itinalaga ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu na maging person-in-charge sa paghawak ng mga kaso ng coronavirus diseases 2019 o COVID-19 sa Cebu.

Sa kaniyang national address, sinabi ng pangulo na maglalabas agad ito ng executive order para agad na magtutungo ang nabanggit na kalhim sa Cebu.

Dahil dito ay mag-uulat ang kalihim sa kalagayan ng Cebu sa Inter-Agency Task Force for infectious disease.

Maluwag naman na tinanggap ni Cimatu ang pagkakatalaga sa kaniya ng pangulo.

Magugunitang mayroong mataas na kaso ng coronavirus ang Cebu kaya ito ay inilagay ng pangulo sa enhanced community quarantine.



Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM

6 hrs · 🌐

Inanunsyo ni Pres. Duterte na ipaadadala niya si Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu sa Cebu City para tutukan ang COVID-19 response ng gobyerno. Ito ay sa gitna ng dumaraming kaso ng virus infections doon.



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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DENR

Agarwood trafficking Some P3.2 million worth of agarwood were seized in Pasig and Cainta malls last June 8 by operatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Bureau of Investigation. Four Mindanao-based traders were arrested. The poaching and illegal trade of agarwood has caused the continuous population decline of threatened tree species lanete and lapnisan.

P3.2M na halaga ng ‘agarwood’ na isa sa pinakamahal na raw materials sa paggawa ng pabango, nakumpiska ng DENR at NBI

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo June 22, 2020 - 12:47 PM



May nakumpiska ang pinagsanib na puwersa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) na ‘agarwood’ – na pinakamahal na “raw materials” sa paggawa ng pabango sa mundo.

Ayon sa NBI, aabot sa 20 kilo ng agarwood ang nakumpiska sa operasyon sa Pasig City at Cainta.

Tinatayang aabot sa P3.2 million ang mga nagkumpiskang agarwood.

Apat naman ang naaresto na kinilalang sina Ramil Ong, Bernie Bagay, Rizal Mofar at Arjhun Gaviola.

Ang Agarwood ay isa sa pinakamahal na raw materials na ginagamit sa paggawa ng pabango.

Dito sa Pilipinas, umaabot sa P160,000 kada kilo ang bentahan nito.

Ang mga nakumpiskang agarwood shipments ay high-grade quality at maaring kinuha umano sa Surigao at Agusan provinces.

Ang Agarwood ay nakukuha mula sa mga puno ng Lapnisan at Lanete na kapwa nasa “national list of threatened Philippine plants” ng DENR.

Source: <https://radio.inquirer.net/250158/p3-2m-na-halaga-ng-agarwood-na-isa-sa-pinakamahal-na-raw-materials-sa-paggawa-ng-pabango-nakumpiska-ng-denr-at-nbi>

Tagalog News: Bagong Reg'l Executive Director ng DENR Mimaropa, itinalaga

By Lisabelle CarpioPublished on June 22, 2020



Tinanggap ni Gng. Ma. Lourdes G. Ferrer (pangatlo mula sa kaliwa) ang watawat ng DENR Mimaropa bilang pagtanggap sa posisyong Regional Executive Director ng nasabing ahensya. (Larawan mula sa DENR Mimaropa)

LUNGSOD NG CALAPAN, Oriental Mindoro, Hun. 21 (PIA) -- Pormal nang tinanggap ni Gng. Ma. Lourdes G. Ferrer ang watawat ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Mimaropa bilang pagtanggap sa posisyon ng Regional Executive Director (RED) ng DENR Mimaropa. Ang seremonya ng turn-over ay alinsunod sa DENR Special Order No. 2020-191 na may petsang Hunyo 5.

Pinangunahan ni DENR Undersecretary Jim Sampulna ang seremonya ng turn-over na ginanap sa DENR Mimaropa Regional Office sa Maynila kasama si outgoing RED Henry Adornado.

Samantala, si outgoing RED Henry Adornado ay muling itinalaga bilang Direktor ng Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) alinsunod sa DENR Special Order No. 2020-192.

Naging saksi din sa naturang seremonya ng turn-over sina Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Assistant Secretary Nonita Caguioa, Director Nilo Tamoria, Director Ricky Arzadon, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Regional Director Michael Drake Matias, Mines and Geoscience Bureau (MGB) Regional Director Roland De Jesus, ARD Vicente Tuddao, Jr at ARD Bighani Manipula. (LC/PIAMimaropa/Calapan)

DENR opens RTLA in land titling activities in Bohol

By Rey Anthony H. Chiu Published on June 22, 2020

CORTES, Bohol June 21 (PIA) -- With over 300,000 lots in Bohol still untitled after the government closed a land administration and management project in 2011, the good news is that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced a land titling program that could ensure property owners' security in land tenure and possible magnet to encourage investments.

With Bohol among the country's leaders in land titling activities, DENR would be implementing in Bohol a two-year land titling project that uses Rapid Land Tenure Assessment (RLTA), according to Bohol Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Charlie Fabre during the Environment Month's highlight *Kukabildo sa Kalikopan* held at the DENR Conference Room in Upper De Lapaz Cortes on June 19.

Kukabildo sa Kalikopan (Talk on the Environment) in Bohol is the Regional DENR's regional talk which focused on land titling, a strength in DENR Bohol having been in national scopes after the Land Administration and Management Projects 1 and 2 which ended in 2011.



VISUAL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE. Bohol PENRO Charlie Fabre (right) shows a consolidated cadastral map showing color coded information on lots that are titled, those with pending applications, those with adverse claims, rejected land title applications, and other relevant information that can show an investor potential sites ripe for development and their proximity to key development infrastructure. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)

A further enhancement of the LAMP 1 and 2 projects, RLTA has been introduced as a management tool to facilitate faster and more integrated land titling by determining potential or workable lots for titling as seen in a consolidate cadastral map, explained Fabre in the webinar streamed online via the DENR Central Visayas Facebook page.

"This is a process of obtaining a clear picture of land tenure situation on the ground before land titling operations start through systematic adjudication," he added.

With the old titling method, the landowner goes to DENR to have his land titled.

This causes titling in irregular intervals and only in places applied for title, while with the RLTA, the DENR goes to the barangays to perform the titling processes over adjoining vast segments of lots.

DENR prepares the consolidated cadastral map, a color coded map that shows which lots in the barangays do not have titles application, which have titles applied, which lots have been patented, under protest or with adverse claims, which are subdivided or which are subdivided with adverse claims, and which have applications rejected.

This makes it easier to accomplish much because with the barangay government now involved, it can conduct simultaneous information activities to make sure that all identified untitled lots get into the DENR titling program, preventing double titling and further land conflicts as it will now determine the actual and present claimants through the common knowledge and assessment by the DENR ground team and the barangays, added Glicerita Racho, RLTA focal person at the PENRO.

CENRO Tagbilaran Forester Ariel Rica said that with the ground verification through a survey and with the barangays and key informants including adjoining lot owners interviewed in the barangay, certainty of claims can be facilitated, thus settling the issue of double claims.

With this, LGUS can have better tax collection, while the DENR ground team, in partnership with the municipal government through its municipal assessor, can conduct generation of Free Patent Applications in the barangay.

For LGUs, barangays prioritized for titling are those with high potential or workable lots identified through the RLTA.

RLTA was already conducted in Bohol with the LAMP Project in 22 towns.

In fact, after LAMP Project, Bohol continued with the RLTA with the municipal local governments using funds from Bohol Provincial Government, earning Bohol the distinction as model site for RLTA and systematic adjudication through DENR and LGU partnerships, Rica continued.

Now with the new project, PENRO Fabre highlighted the need for titles for a security of tenure in their occupied lots, a title that can also be used as a capital in loan collateral for a business venture or simply have a proof of ownership that nobody can take away. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)

DENR gives out P3.7 million support for COVID fight

[Mitchelle L. Palaubsanon](#) (The Freeman) - June 23, 2020 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Visayas has extended over P3.7 million worth of donation and other relief assistance to support government responses in the region against the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

DENR-7 Regional Executive Director Paquito D. Melicor said that all DENR line bureaus—Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) 7, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) 7, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs), Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs)—have donated a total of P1.3 million worth of hygiene and sanitation kits and over P500,000 worth of personal protective equipment for medical and frontline workers.

Melicor said they have also turned over around P1 million worth of confiscated logs with order of finality to partner government agencies to augment efforts in the establishment of quarantine facilities.

On relief assistance, DENR 7 distributed nearly P400,000 food products, vitamins and food supplements to frontliners conducting checkpoints across the four provinces in the region.

PENRO Bohol designated one of the DENR Buildings as quarantine facility for locally stranded individuals and repatriated overseas Filipino workers. A cash donation of P357,550 was also collected from the employees for the purchase of additional PPE and face masks.

"We are doing our best to help and extend our support to our partner government agencies especially to our frontliners and health workers in these trying times. Rest assured that we shall continue our efforts to help contain the spread of COVID-19 and help manage its impacts not only to the economy but most importantly to the environment," said Melicor. FPL (FREEMAN)

DENR seeks justice for slain forester

Published 4 hours ago on June 23, 2020 01:40 AM

By [Elmer Recuerdo](#)



TACLOBAN CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is seeking the help of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to launch a speedy investigation into the death of an environment management official last month.

Forester Fernando Polenio, assistant protected area superintendent (PASu) who was assigned at the Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park in Burauen, Leyte, was gunned down by an unidentified assailant on 28 May 2020 in his place of assignment inside DENR Eco-lodge.

DENR Eastern Visayas regional director Tirso Parian Jr. expressed his grief and condemned the killing of Polenio.

“His death, whatever the motive was, is highly reprehensible and deserves our condemnation,” Parian said.

Immediately after the incident, Parian ordered a team from the DENR to conduct a comprehensive investigation on the killing of Polenio. He also requested the Department of the Interior and Local Government in the region to assist in ensuring a swift and credible conclusion of the investigation by the authorities.

“The management is seriously looking into the incident and is committed in crafting mechanisms to ensure that all DENR employees can work in a safe and secured environment and that no similar incident will happen again,” Parian said.

The DENR Lawyers Guild Inc. (DLGI), a group of lawyers handling cases of the agency, issued a statement strongly condemning the killing of Polenio and vowed to closely monitor the case until justice for his untimely death is served.

The lawyers’ group said Polenio had shown great dedication in protecting the environment, enforcing environmental laws and asserting environmental rights. They said slain forester has previously played an important role in apprehending environmental offenders, especially loggers, in his area of jurisdiction.

“May the heroism of Forester Polenio further strengthen our resolve in attaining environmental justice,” the DLGI said through a statement.

Legarda pushes creation of DENR enforcement unit

Published June 22, 2020, 6:50 PM

By **Charissa Luci-Atienza**

Deputy Speaker and Antique lone district Representative Loren Legarda has sought the creation of the Environment Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to fortify the agency's enforcement capacity to run after the violators of country's environmental laws.



Antique Rep. Loren Legarda
(FACEBOOK / MANILA BULLETIN)

She filed House Bill No. 6973, citing the need for the DENR to have its own enforcement unit to address the snowballing violations against environmental laws and regulations.

"The EPEB will increase the DENR's environmental law enforcement capacity by professionalizing and institutionalizing law enforcement within the Department and concurrently with other agencies having environmental law enforcement duties," Legarda said in a statement.

She explained that her bill sought the "full capacitation of DENR enforcers through an enforcement academy similar to that of the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) or the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), where agents can learn skills and techniques normally taught to mainstream law enforcement agencies."

Legarda urged her colleagues to support her bill, which seeks to address the rampant illegal wildlife trade.

She said illegal wildlife trading is an "equally serious environmental threats such as water pollution, pollution caused by solid waste, hospital and hazardous wastes, as well as infraction of protected area laws, rules and regulations".

She expressed serious concern about an alleged incident in Puerto Princesa City where the city's police chief allegedly took seven personnel and three 'bantay dagat' of the DENR to a vacant lot and beat up one of them.

Reports said the DENR personnel were on their way to inspect a mangrove area that was being logged.

"This scenario and many other instances of poaching, polluting, illegal wildlife trading is what we hope to eliminate through the passage of the EPEB Bill. We have seen the urgent need for a separate enforcement unit within the DENR to match the growing threats to the environment and biodiversity," Legarda said.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/22/legarda-pushes-creation-of-denr-enforcement-unit/>

Marine experts ramp up efforts to save coral reefs

TITLE: from bleaching

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Marine experts ramp up efforts to save coral reefs from bleaching

Published June 22, 2020, 11:27 AM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

Marine conservationists are working to find coral reefs that have recovered from bleaching as these could potentially be the “hope spots” that can save Philippine reefs.

“We not just aim to map the extent and severity of the coral bleaching incidence and other reef stressors around the Philippines but we also want to identify areas that have recovered from bleaching because these are the areas that are most likely more resilient than others,” Philippine Coral Bleaching Watch (PCBW) social media administrator Erina Pauline Molina said during a recent webinar organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ (DENR) Biodiversity Management Bureau.

Molina, who is also a National Geographic explorer, said the identification of most resilient reefs should be done immediately to provide them protection.

“The academe or the DENR cannot do it alone. We all need to come together to search our reefs of hope around the Philippines,” she said.

She urged the public to document possible coral bleaching or report the occurrence of reef stressors in their areas, as reports from the general public are consolidated and verified by marine experts. She stressed that the power of citizen science helps marine scientists capture a bigger picture of bleaching event around the country.

The PCBW regularly updates its social media account with coral bleaching alerts issued by the United States’ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that shows the coral bleaching hotspots for the past 30 days.

“This could provide us guidance in identifying stress levels in different parts of the Philippines,” Molina pointed out.

A yellow warning indicates that coral bleaching is likely to progress in that particular area; an orange warning indicates that there is possible bleaching; a red warning or Alert Level 1 indicates that bleaching is likely happening; while a maroon warning indicates that coral mortality is likely in these areas, she said.

“But since these are just based on modeling techniques, there is still a need to verify what is happening on the ground,” she added.

To date, PCBW has received at least 500 reports of possible coral bleaching from about 100 citizen scientists.

Hope for bleached corals

The country’s rich marine ecosystem is continuously under threat because of climate change impacts, Molina said.

She noted that there have been three global bleaching events occurring in 1998, 2010, and 2015. “These are also reflected in our coral bleaching observations in the Philippines with the most number of observations in 1998, 2010, and 2016,” she said.

PCBW coordinator Miledel Quibilan in an e-mailed interview said coral bleaching is caused by anomalously high sea surface temperatures (SST) and high solar radiation.

Marine experts ramp up efforts to save coral reefs

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The extent of damage to corals is determined based on a number of factors—how anomalously high the sea temperatures are at a particular time; how long the high SSTs remain in an area (from days to weeks to months); and if the coral reef area consists of coral species that are sensitive to high temperatures. “If this is the case, then you can expect more bleaching and possibly high coral mortality,” Quibilan said.

“When corals bleach and if it cannot recover within a few months, these corals die, destroying the habitat of our marine fishes,” she added.

But there remains hope that bleached corals can recover. Molina said bleached corals are not dead but are dying.

“Corals can still recover after they have bleached. But they lack nutrition because they rely on their symbiotic zooxanthellae for food. They bleach because they expel their symbiotic zooxanthellae as a stress response. They recover when they re-acquire a new set of zooxanthellae from the water column. If they fail to do this, then the more complete algae will grow on them and the corals die,” Quibilan explained.

While we cannot control the occurrence of thermal stress events and the occurrence of massive coral bleaching, Quibilan emphasized that local management efforts can be done to aid the recovery of coral reefs after coral bleaching events.

She added that long-term resiliency should be built by establishing a network of marine protected areas and managing for chronic stressors, such as sedimentation, pollution, overfishing, and removal of known coral predators such as crown of thorns starfish.

For them to recover, Molina said the corals have to be in the best favorable condition and reef stressors should be minimized.

She cited studies showing possible coral recovery within three to six months.

“But at business-as-usual scenario, bleached corals tend to die in the long run if they continuously face these stressors. When this happens, the change is already irreversible,” Molina said.

“This shows that there is still hope for our reefs that are experiencing bleaching if they are managed properly,” she added.

Controversy surrounds Didipio Mine

posted June 22, 2020 at 10:40 pm

by [Abe Almirol](#)

(Conclusion)

“Since commencing commercial operations in 2013, the Didipio Mine has spent approximately P39.5 billion (US\$790 million). That includes development expenditure for our host and neighboring communities, community investment projects, payments to national or local suppliers and contractors, government taxes and employee wages,” a statement by OceanaGold Philippines claimed.

Of this expenditure, 96 percent (P38.3 billion) was paid to employees, government, and businesses through salaries, taxes, and procurement while P1.2 billion was spent for community development, the statement further explained.

But Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos M. Padilla 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,” Padilla said in a statement.

The younger generation of Didipio residents disputed the governor’s point of view. In her Facebook page, Lenilee Ananayo, an employee of the company’s Community Relations Office, disagreed with the facts presented by Gov. Padilla.

Ananayo quoted a statement released by the local group Coalition of Communities for Sustainable Development, enumerating 20 points raised in response to the sentiments aired by anti-mining advocates like Gov. Padilla.

“The company has complied with all the regulations of the Mines and Geoscience Bureau. The company is also guided by globally accepted responsible mining principles. That is why MGB wrote a letter giving provisional permit to operate, which was not respected by the LGUs who opted to support an illegal blockade that crippled the Didipio mine,” Ananayo argued.

“The renewal of the FTAA of OceanaGold will certainly help boost economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic most specifically here in Didipio. When normal operation of the mine resumes, temporarily laid-off employees will be back to their jobs, not only Didipio locals but also employees from other places,” says Kimberly Guimbangan, a young entrepreneur who use to work with a contractor inside Didipio mine.

“Temporarily suspended projects will also resume, such as the road concreting as this will provide easier access down to Solano & Bambang, and also down to Quirino province. It will be a great relief for all specially for farmers so we can now transport our agricultural products easily,” Guimbangan added.

But the older generation of residents in Didipio prefer traditional living in their swidden farms and small-scale mines. Majority of the members of the group called Didipio Earth-Savers Multipurpose Association (DESAMA) and other groups against large-scale mining are older folks.

The election in May 2018 of Barangay Chairman Ireneo Bobbola, a traditional small-scale miner, turned the local government unit’s stand against the renewal of the FTAA.

Didipio’s potential economic value could be computed by multiplying the current metal prices and the measured and indicated reserves of the mine—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 valued of US\$3.45 billion.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/326744>

Mga illegal na nilagareng kahoy, nasamsam ng mga otoridad sa Abuan River

By [Bombo Radyo Cauayan](#)

-June 23, 2020 | 2:41 AM

CAUAYAN CITY – Muling nakasabat ang mga otoridad ng mga pinutol na punong kahoy sa Abuan River Cab. 10, Ilagan City.

Sa nakuhang impormasyon Bombo Radyo Cauayan sa himpilan ng City of Ilagan Police Station, nakatanggap sila ng impormasyon kaugnay sa nilagareng kahoy na nakasalansan sa gilid ng ilog.

Umaabot sa halos 500 board feet ang sukat ng ng iba't ibang klase ng kahoy na pinaghalong fresh at old cut.

Samantala, ikinatuwa ng Isabela Police Provincial Office ang sunod sunod na pagkakasabat ng mga iligal na nilagareng kahoy sa Ilagan City maging sa ibang lugar sa lalawigan .

Sa naging panayam ng Bombo Radyo Cauayan kay Provincial Director PCol. James Cipriano ng Isabela Police Provincial Office, sinabi niya na nagbaba na siya ng direktiba sa mga hepe ng pulisya sa lalawigan sa mas lalong pagpapaigting ng monitoring sa mga lugar na may Illegal logging activity.

Sa bahagi naman ng pamahalaang Lunsod ng Ilagan ay sinimulan nang ipatawag ng mga kasapi ng City Environment and Natural Resources Office ang mga mamamayang nasasangkot sa illegal na pamumutol ng mga punong kahoy.

PNP: Illegal logging continues in Cagayan despite quarantine

By Oliver T. BaccayPublished on June 22, 2020

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan, June 22 (PIA) - - The Cagayan Police Provincial Office has confiscated and recovered more than 20,000 board feet of illegal logs worth over a million since community quarantine was imposed.

Provincial Director Ariel N. Quilang said there were 74 operations conducted by the police forces in different municipalities of the province which resulted to the arrest of 94 persons involved.

Quilang added that they also confiscated the conveyances used in the transport of the illegal lumbers to include two vans, two elf trucks, five motorcycles and 18 *kulung-kulong*. There were also 28 chainsaws confiscated.

"Despite the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine and the general community quarantine in which there were several checkpoints installed in the different parts of the province, there were still a lot of illegal logs transported. We already filed charges against the arrested individuals," Quilang said.

Quilang also said there are already some police officials who face raps for not intensifying the anti-illegal logging law within their areas of responsibility.

He also reported that there were already 1,009 chainsaws confiscated and surrendered since he started his campaign against illegal logging upon assumption of his duty as the provincial director of PNP Cagayan.

However, he expressed his dismay that despite the number of chainsaw units in their possession and the intensified environmental protection campaign, illegal logging is still rampant.

Quilang urged public support to further intensify the campaign to end illegal logging in the province. (MDCT/OTB/PIA 2-Cagayan)

‘Illegal logging in Cagayan rampant’

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

June 23, 2020

TUGUEGARAO CITY: Community quarantine did not stop illegal logging in Cagayan, with the apprehension of more than 20,000 board feet of illegally sawn lumber worth over P1 million, according to the Cagayan Police Provincial Office (CPPO).

Ariel Quilang, CPPO director, said at least 74 operations were conducted in different towns in Cagayan province that led to the arrest of 94 persons involved in illegal logging.

He added that in addition to the illegally cut logs, which were confiscated, also impounded were the conveyances used in transporting the logs, including two vans, two Elf trucks, five motorcycles, 18 kulung-kulong (tricycles) and 18 chainsaws.

“There were still a lot of illegal logs transported while the province was placed under the enhanced community quarantine and now under the general community quarantine with stringent checkpoints installed in the different parts of the province,” Quilang said.

He added that cases of illegal logging were already filed against the arrested individuals, including police operatives.

“We already filed charges against the arrested individuals, including police personnel who are involved for failing to intensify the anti-illegal logging law within their areas of operation,” Quilang said.

According to the CPPO, 1,009 chainsaws were confiscated, some of which were voluntarily surrendered by owners, since Quilang took his post as Cagayan province police director and who immediately ordered a strong campaign against illegal logging in Cagayan.

“It quite frustrating that our confiscation of such a large number of illegally used chainsaw units as a result of our intensified environmental protection campaign has not deterred illegal logging in the province and even became rampant,” Quilang said.

He added that he had renewed his call for public support and cooperation to end illegal logging in the province to protect the environment.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/23/news/regions/illegal-logging-in-cagayan-rampant/733622/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0-0TVI7QrLvAYsJNuhDj1FWaKyS8DiBKyyE_NT3komG48AVYl_gTfnx0k#Echobox=1592852620

3 illegal loggers, inaresto ng mga pulis sa Misamis Occidental

By [Bombo Radyo CdeO](#)

-June 22, 2020 | 8:13 PM

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Sinampahan na ng kasong paglabag sa Republic Act No. 9175 ang tatlong mga illegal loggers sa Purok 7, Brgy. Southern Looc, Plaridel Misamis Occidental.

Kinilala ang mga suspek na sina Diego Bao-as, 60, Jarne Bao-as, 30 at Eddie Bongcawel, 53 na pawang mga residente sa Purok 2 sa nasabing Barangay.

Sinabi ni Plaridel Municipal Police Station Commander PCpt. June Jose Booc na nagsasagawa umano sila nang moritong sa sinabing illegal na sabong nang makasalubong ang naturang mga tao na mayroong mga tinabas na kahoy ng niyog na walang kaukulang dokumento.

Ayon kay Booc, nakuha rin sa posisyon ng mga suspek ang ginamit nitong mga chainsaw.

As lockdown eases, Manila's dirty air is back. It
TITLE: doesn't have to stay

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As lockdown eases, Manila's dirty air is back. It doesn't have to stay

To maintain improved air quality even as lockdown ends in Metro Manila, a new report says measures implemented during the lockdown must continue, like limited work arrangements and coming up with 'people-centric' urban planning designs.



Traffic jam in Metro Manila. The air quality in the Philippine capital region improved after the start of the lockdown on March 15, but began deteriorating in May, when authorities started easing the measures. Image: [Gihan Dias, CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

By Mavic Conde, [Mongabay.com](#)
June 22, 2020

Air quality in Metro Manila is returning to its usual noxious levels as Covid-19 lockdown measures are loosened up. But this backslide into business-as-usual can be preempted if local governments adapt existing measures and transition to cleaner energy technologies, a new report says.

Published by the international think tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and Greenpeace Philippines, the new [report](#) shows that air pollution has been making a gradual comeback in the Philippine capital since authorities began easing the lockdown beginning May 16.

During lockdown, the city's notorious air pollution levels dropped, giving residents back a [view of the skyline](#) they hadn't seen in decades. The lifting of the smog also gave a glimpse of what cities can be like with vastly improved air quality, the report says.

The report is the second one released by the group and focuses on Metro Manila, specifically the cities of San Juan, Caloocan, Quezon City, Makati, Marikina, Pasig and Manila. Metro Manila is composed of 16 cities and one municipality. It looks at data on two major air pollutants emitted from burning fossil fuels: nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particulate matter known as PM_{2.5}. Levels of these pollutants were measured by the Sentinel-5 TROPOMI satellite.

Since the beginning of May, NO₂ and PM_{2.5} concentration levels in the atmosphere increased steadily, ahead of starting to loosen lockdown measures.

"The rebound has far-reaching implications for the country's recovery, as air pollution, particularly from the burning of fossil fuels in transportation and industry, impacts not only health but also climate and the environment," the report says.

All seven cities covered in the report showed an increase in their NO₂ levels at the beginning of May, with Pasig and Makati showing a 75 per cent jump in a week's time. Unlike NO₂ levels, however, PM_{2.5} levels did not dramatically rebound with the easing of lockdown, as transportation activities within cities remain limited, even as traffic volume on major roads and highways increased, the report says.

As lockdown eases, Manila's dirty air is back. It

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The nasty-smelling reactive NO₂ gas contributes to the formation of smog and air pollution, while PM_{2.5} is often a byproduct of NO₂; both can cause respiratory problems. Studies have shown that air pollution makes people more vulnerable to Covid-19 infection, which also primarily affects the respiratory system.

The rebound has far-reaching implications for the country's recovery, as air pollution, particularly from the burning of fossil fuels in transportation and industry, impacts not only health but also climate and the environment.

Both NO₂ and PM_{2.5} are linked to severe respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses that can cause premature death. Exposure to high levels of air pollution affects the body's natural defenses against airborne viruses and increases vulnerability to the current pandemic, the report says.

In February, Greenpeace Southeast Asia and CREA released a [report](#) looking at the impact of air pollution from fossil fuels in Southeast Asia. The burning of coal, oil and gas is estimated to cause around 27,000 premature deaths per year in the Philippines and costs the country up to 1.9 per cent of GDP in economic losses annually.

Keeping air pollution at manageable levels is possible, the report says, and cleaner air could reduce additional public health risks. It could also address climate, environmental and economic issues that air pollution magnifies, the report says. To do that, it's crucial to incorporate the welfare of the urban poor, the segment most vulnerable to dangerous air quality, in the development of solutions, it says.

The return of air pollution to levels seen before the pandemic is expected, the report says, as the Philippines depends heavily on fossil fuels across all sectors. But air pollution can be eased without sacrificing people's access to mobility if the government learns from the lessons of the lockdown and considers maintaining flexible work arrangements or "staggered work shifts" across sectors. This approach can help control the spread of the virus, save employees from long commutes, and reduce traffic volume on the roads, the report says.

Urban design also plays a key role. The report points to going for a "people-centric" design that makes sustainable use of limited resources for all. Community-based designs, conceptualised in consultation with residents, should support "the physiological, mental and social well-being" of its residents and aligned with mobility programmes.

It's also important to support existing mass transportation systems and rebuild people's trust in them by coming out with clear guidelines for safety and sanitation measures. There should be stimulus packages for displaced drivers and transport-related workers, who could be tapped for local government relief and response initiatives.

Lastly, low-cost, active and carbon-neutral transport options should take center stage, and micro-mobility options, like walking and cycling, should be encouraged, the report says.

It adds these efforts should be combined with tighter vehicle emission standards, the development of real-time monitoring capabilities of dangerous pollutants, and strengthened industrial air pollution standards.

Investments in e-mobility projects like funding battery-charging infrastructures for bikes, scooters and e-jeeps should be considered, and both businesses and private citizens should be given incentives to shift, the report says. "Reorganise transport systems with health and wellness as a priority," it says.

This story was published with permission from [Mongabay.com](https://www.mongabay.com).

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/as-lockdown-eases-manilas-dirty-air-is-back-it-doesnt-have-to-stay/>



Greenpeace touts plastic ban to LGUs

Published June 22, 2020, 5:18 PM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

International environmental group Greenpeace on Monday called on local government units to strengthen measures against single-use plastic in their localities amid a significant increase in the usage of single-use plastic during the coronavirus outbreak.

It also recommended introducing prohibition and heightening the implementation of policies to keep communities safe from harmful waste.

The call came as over 115 health experts from across the globe signed a statement assuring the public of the safety of reusables during the pandemic.

“The COVID-19 global pandemic has triggered a discussion of how to ensure the safety of reusable systems in a public crisis. Based on the best available science and guidance from public health professionals, it is clear that reusable systems can be used safely by employing basic hygiene,” the statement read.

Endorsed by scientists, academics, doctors, and specialists in public health and food packaging safety around the world, the statement noted that household disinfectants have been proven effective at disinfecting hard surfaces, such as reusables. This follows several temporary pauses on single-use plastic bans across the world and a trend of shops ceasing reusables usage amid COVID-19.

Reacting to the statement, Filipino physician and public health expert on health, climate change, and the environment, Renzo Guinto said “protecting the public’s health must include maintaining the cleanliness of our home, the earth.”

“We don’t need to choose one over the other – we can protect ourselves from COVID-19 while protecting the environment. Evidence shows that reusable bags, containers, and utensils can be used safely to dramatically decrease exposure to the virus while not causing harm to the planet,” he said.

In the Philippines, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed back efforts to cut plastic use.

Based on recent reports, Quezon City, which implemented an ordinance banning plastic bags in January, is “mulling the deferment of the ban on single-use plastic/disposable material.”

However, the rise of plastic waste during the pandemic, including single-use gloves, protectors and packaging, may instead be increasing the risks and impacts on our communities and citizens, especially for frontliners such as sanitation workers and fisherfolk.

“There has been a growing call for a better normal after the pandemic and that should include dramatic reductions in plastic waste. Single-use plastic is not inherently safer than reusables as it will cause additional public health concerns once discarded,” Greenpeace campaigner Marian Ledesma said.

“As the government gradually allows businesses to reopen, reusable systems and single-use plastic bans must be implemented to ensure the protection of the environment, workers, and consumers,” she added.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/22/greenpeace-touts-plastic-ban-to-lgus/>

Make China pay for reef damage? Locsin says he'll 'give it some thought'

By: [Christia Marie Ramos](#) - Reporter / [@CMRamosINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:11 AM June 22, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Monday said he would give some thought to the possibility of making China pay reparations for billions of pesos' worth of damages sustained by the Philippine reef ecosystem in the West Philippine Sea due to Chinese reclamation activities.

"I've never thought of that issue yet so I have to think about that. Any damage? Well, I'd give it some thought," Locsin said in an interview on ABS-CBN News Channel when sought for a comment on the matter.

Asked if seeking reparation from China would be a "legitimate" option should damage be proven, he said: "Yes, that's an option, we'll bring it to the international forum."

Earlier, Senator Risa Hontiveros and Locsin's predecessor, former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, said China should be made to pay for the country's losses due to the damage it inflicted on Philippine reefs.

In April, [Hontiveros](#) filed a Senate resolution urging the Duterte administration to "exert legal and diplomatic pressure" upon China to end its activities in the West Philippine Sea and to pay compensation to the country for the damaged reefs.

"I guess that's their point of view, that doesn't mean they're always right... I think maybe I'll ask them to propose to me what we should do. But if it's just to provoke China, (then) no," Manila's top diplomat said.

[Del Rosario](#) earlier said Philippine authorities "have the right to seize" assets and properties owned by China in the Philippines as payment for the damage it caused to Philippine reef ecosystems, which amounts to over P200 billion.

"China inflicted the most massive, near-permanent and devastating destruction of the marine wealth belonging to Filipinos in the West Philippine Sea," Del Rosario said in an online forum last June 8, citing "unanimous" findings of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016.

"In other words, China is enormously accountable and owes Filipinos billions of pesos for its continuing abuses in the West Philippine Sea," he added.

Del Rosario cited a study by the [UP Marine Science Institute](#) which estimated that the Philippines is losing at least P33 billion annually from damaged reef ecosystems due to China's artificial islands and illegal fishing operations.

EDV

Source: <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/188740/make-china-pay-for-reef-damage-locsin-says-hell-give-it-some-thought>

Duterte signs bills upgrading public hospitals

Published 16 hours ago on June 22, 2020 02:25 PM

By **TDI**



THE CARAGA Regional Hospital in Surigao City will now have 500 beds from the previous 150. (Facebook photo)
President Rodrigo Duterte signed bills that will upgrade three local hospitals—from increased bed capacity to improved services.

Signed into law were House Bills 1477, which will increase the bed capacity of the Caraga Regional Hospital in Surigao City, Surigao del Norte from 150 to 500 beds (Republic Act No. 11472); HB 1799 to upgrade the Talisay District Hospital in Cebu into a medical center to be known as the Cebu South Medical Center (RA No. 11473); and HB 5871 which will upgrade the Maria L. Eleazar District Hospital in Tagkawayan, Quezon into a Level III general hospital to be known as the Maria L. Eleazar General Hospital (RA No. 11474).

The newly enacted measures, sponsored by Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, mean quality medical and healthcare services.

For the CRH in Surigao City, its average bed occupancy rate from 2017 to 2018 was at 207.37 percent—way above the national standard of 85 percent. Meanwhile, the TDH in Talisay City is the only Department of Health hospital in southern Cebu, which also serves patients from neighboring Negros Oriental, Bohol and Siquijor.

MLEDH in Quezon province is the lone public hospital located at the border of Calabarzon and Bicol regions. It is currently a Level I hospital with an authorized bed capacity of only 25 beds. In 2017, its bed occupancy rate was 100.99 percent. Upgrading it to a Level III hospital will allow an increase in bed capacity.

“Sa bawat health-related bill na naipapasa natin at nagiging batas, buhay ng kababayan natin ang pwedeng mailigtas mula sa sakit. Bilang Senate Committee Chair on Health, patuloy po ang ating trabaho para masigurong maisaayos ang serbisyong pang-medikal na ibinibigay ng gobyerno kahit saan mang parte ng bansa lalo na sa panahon ngayon,” Go said.

“Maraming salamat kay Pangulong Duterte dahil agaran niyang pinirmahan ang mga ito. Sa tulong ng mga kasamahan natin sa Kongreso, hangarin nating mas iangat pa ang kalidad ng ating mga pampublikong ospital lalo na sa mga probinsya.”

Apart from the passage of the three measures, Go emphasized that the process of upgrading health care facilities must be streamlined and made easier to improve the country’s health care system.

“Ngayon po natin pinaka-nararamdaman ang kakulangan ng ating mga pasilidad at ospital. Kaya importante po na magtulungan ang legislative at executive branches para maisaayos ang health facilities sa kahit saan mang parte ng bansa,” Go said.

Late last year, Go filed Senate Bill 1226 or the proposed Department of Health Hospital Bed Capacity and Service Capability Rationalization Act in recognition of the need to provide the government a faster approach in upgrading services in public hospitals.

“Tulungan natin ang DOH na maisaayos ang mga ospital natin para mas maibigay sa mga tao ang mabilis, maayos at maaasahan na serbisyong medikal kahit saan mang parte ng bansa para sa lahat ng Pilipinong nangangailangan,” Go said then.

The bill seeks to streamline the process for approving changes in the authorized bed capacities and corresponding service capabilities of all DOH hospitals. Through this bill, the process of upgrading hospital services will be easier and faster.

If passed into law, DOH will also be required to develop the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan, which will guide the modernization and development plans of all health facilities in the country. It will also facilitate access to capital outlay investment through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the DOH and other national government capital outlay investment mechanisms.

Incentives for gov't virus warriors sought

Published 3 hours ago on June 23, 2020 02:40 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



Volunteers helping in the fight against the coronavirus disease in mega swabbing facilities (MSF) ought to be granted duty allowance, according to Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go.

Citing Congressional Joint Resolution 4 (s. 2009), Go said 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," he appealed.

Go suggested that national government agencies and government-owned or -controlled corporations may be authorized by the President to grant volunteer personnel deployed in COVID-19 designated facilities duty allowance 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 ones 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.

Go further stipulated in his proposal that qualified personnel must have been authorized to physically report for work at any of the MSF approved by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases on the prescribed official working hours by the head of agency or office.

He said that the total rate of the COVID-19 Duty Allowance may also be based on the number of days an employee physically reports for work.

Moreover, Go proposed that these personnel who are already entitled to Hazard Pay, including the COVID-19 Hazard Pay under AO 26, Hazardous Duty Pay, Hazard Allowance, Special Risk Allowance under AO 28, or other similar benefits under existing laws, issuances, rules and regulations, or any combination thereof, may continue to be entitled to such benefits, or the COVID-19 Duty Allowance, whichever is higher.

Go was also the one who earlier suggested to the executive branch to provide these additional benefits, such as hazard pay and special risk allowance to those personnel on-duty amid the COVID-19 crisis.

“Compensation is not the only issue here. The best way to help the health sector respond to this crisis is by sufficiently providing them with the tools and protection needed to do their job,” he said.

As part of an ongoing effort to ramp up testing capacities, government put up MSF in each of Metro Manila’s four sectors: (east) Enderun College, Taguig City; (south) Mall of Asia, Pasay City; (west) Palacio de Maynila, Manila; and (north) Philippine Arena, Bulacan.

Several departments had enlisted at least 100 personnel each to be deployed to the MSF and other swabbing and test results processing facilities. This was done in response to a call made by the IATF.

The government personnel volunteers served as encoders or barcoders. They are expected to be given training, protective medical equipment, accommodation, food and transportation.

Go urges review of Hatid Tulong program

Published 11 hours ago on June 22, 2020 07:12 PM

By [Hananeel Bordey](#)



After the implementation of the Balik Probinsya, Balik Pag-Asa Program (BP2) was deferred, Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go on Monday asked the Executive Department to review the Hatid Tulong initiative of the government to prevent further transmissions of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the country.

"I am urging the Executive branch to conduct a thorough review of the implementation of Hatid Tulong initiatives aimed at helping Locally Stranded Individuals, OFW, and other affected Filipinos who wish to return to their provinces," said Go.

The senator explained that the BP2 program is different from the Hatid Tulong initiative noting that the latter is a directive of President Rodrigo Duterte and his call comes after several experts on infectious diseases have suggested the review of the BP2 program.

"I am also urging the IATF to look into unauthorized travels and unsanctioned initiatives reportedly conducted by various LGU and groups that do not comply with health protocols," said Go.

"Even if they eased the community quarantine measures in other areas, the government should still be strict when it comes to the guidelines that are related to travel to other provinces to prevent the spread of the disease," he added.

The lawmaker also welcomed the experts' opinions on the BP2 program and other government programs related to COVID-19.

"After all, our collective goal is to make the whole government more responsive to the rapidly changing concerns brought by the global health crisis," said Go.

Go — who brought up the idea of the BP2 program — stressed that local government units are not forced to accept the beneficiaries or returning locals in their respective areas, adding that proper protocols should be observed while implementing the BP2 program and emphasized that the program's temporary suspension will give the Executive Department more time to further study it.

"I am also urging executive agencies mandated to implement the BP2 program to use this time to conduct a thorough review taking into consideration the health and safety measures that should be implemented. This will also give more time for receiving LGUs to prepare their communities for the return of BP2 beneficiaries," said Go.

"We have enough time to polish, study and review the necessary guidelines and seek wisdom from other LGU prior to implementing the BP2 program," he added.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/22/go-urges-review-of-hatid-tulong-program/>

Philippines logs 630 new COVID-19 cases, total up to 30,682

Published June 22, 2020 4:54pm

By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

The Philippines on Monday logged 630 more cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)—467 “fresh” or newly validated and 163 reported late—bringing the total to 30,682.

The Department of Health (DOH) also announced that total recoveries rose to 8,143 after 250 more patients recovered from the respiratory disease, while the death toll climbed to 1,177 with eight new fatalities.

This marks the fifth straight day of at least 400 fresh cases and 12th consecutive day of over 200 new recoveries.

Among the fresh cases, 149 are from Metro Manila, 164 are from Region VII, one is a repatriate, while the remaining 153 are spread out across the country.

Among the late cases, 25 are from Metro Manila, 93 are from Region VII, while the 45 other patients came from various areas nationwide.

As of June 20, the Philippines has 46 certified polymerase chain reaction facilities and 17 GeneXpert laboratories that have tested a total of 547,373 individuals.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire earlier said that while the Philippines has sufficient test kits, the [lack](#) of other laboratory supplies is hampering the acceleration of testing in the country. —**LDF, GMA News**

COMMENTARY

It's now or never: Implementing the UHC Law

"I enjoin cavalier Morales to engage in self-examination whether he has made our people trust PhilHealth and whether his continued service in the agency would be a service to this nation.

Published 6 hours ago
on June 23, 2020 12:30 AM

By [Harry Roque](#)



With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our country's legislators saw it fit to revisit Republic Act 11223 or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act through a recent Joint Congressional Oversight Committee meeting to look at the possibility of amending the law to align its provisions to the new normal.

In the course of doing so, a call to generally delay the implementation of the UHC Law and postpone the expansion of primary care benefits under it has come to the fore.

Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) president and CEO Ricardo Morales made the call in view of the significant drop in PhilHealth contributions and the fast dwindling funds of the organization because of the pandemic.

As much as I understand PhilHealth's position on this matter because of the burden that the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed on its coffers, I am not in favor of its recommendations with regard to the UHC Law. Suspending the implementation of the UHC Law and its benefits is not only against the provisions of the law itself, but also goes against the intent of the lawmakers who pushed for its enactment.

As a primary author of the bill in the House of Representatives in the 17th Congress, I oppose any plans to delay its implementation, especially amid the pandemic that we are in. Delaying the full implementation of the law is definitely not the answer. It should be now, more than ever, that we need to fully implement the UHC Law as our current situation dictates it.

Suspending its implementation will only burden the marginalized and the most disadvantaged even more. If we suspend health care benefits under the UHC Law, how will they even pay for medical services or even avail of health care services at this time when many of them have lost sources of livelihood?

While working on the bill as a legislator, I knew that PhilHealth premium contributions will not be enough to provide access to quality health care for all, which is why we crafted the bill in the first place. In his wish to provide free medicines and affordable or free health care to all, just like what he did when he was mayor of Davao City, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte had certified the UHC bill as urgent. The President also promised to spend money from government coffers if needed to fulfill the state's obligation to provide quality health care to its citizens.

I also support the views of the current chair of the Senate Committee on Health Demography, Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, on this matter when he said that any amendment to the UHC Law should not be in expense of providing universal health care for all. Senator Go also proposed to look at the possibility of tapping into government funds or increasing the budget of PhilHealth for it to continue to provide free medical care for all Filipinos.

Accordingly, another way to ensure sufficient funds for PhilHealth is to get rid of corruption in its system. I have called on the attention of Mr. Morales many times to act on these corruption cases and conduct administrative investigations to clean PhilHealth’s ranks. But up to now, he has failed to clean up the agency, which was the mandate given to him by President Duterte.

Instead of investigating, Mr. Morales has taken on the stance of waiting for filed cases in the Ombudsman to take their course and let the officials in question to continue working in PhilHealth.

Mr. Morales has the wrong view that only the courts can remove scoundrels in PhilHealth when in truth, he has administrative powers to suspend and remove them. Worse, he takes advice from lawyers who are the ones responsible for the pitiful plight of the agency.

It is tragic that Mr. Morales is taking things personally. This is not about me being the presidential spokesman. This is about President Duterte’s appointing Mr. Morales to fix the organization and eliminate corruption.

Mr. Morales once said, “I will make it a point that our members will renew their trust on PhilHealth.” I enjoin cavalier Morales to engage in self-examination whether he has made our people trust PhilHealth and whether his continued service in the agency would be a service to this nation which we both love so dearly, or whether his talents can be better utilized elsewhere.

COVID-19 WATCH

PUJs may ply roads soon — Roque

Published 12 hours ago on June 22, 2020 06:27 PM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Presidential spokesman Harry Roque on Monday said that Malacanang is not discounting the possibility of public utility jeepneys (PUJ) to soon ply the streets of Metro Manila if the current public transportation in the metropolis is still not enough to accommodate the riding public.

Roque made the remark following complaints from commuters of shortage of public utility buses, modernized jeepneys, taxis, TNVs, and other public utility vehicles plying roads.

This despite the fact that a total of 3,600 buses and 1,500 other public utility vehicles started plying various routes in Metro Manila today, 22 June, as part of the second phase of the public transportation operation services on the road sector.

The Palace official noted that 308 modern public utility jeepneys has been given by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) the green light to operate today after they have complied with the requirements set by the Omnibus Franchising Guidelines.

Roque added that 30 of the 31 rationalized (bus) routes are now operational with Route 10: Cubao to Doroteo Jose opening soon and revealed that as per the Department of Transportation (DoTr), UV Express are expected to resume its operations within this month with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) currently formulating the guidelines.

Meanwhile, Roque said that as what he mentioned last Saturday, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) is currently studying the possibility of allowing back riding on private motorcycle subject to health and safety protocols.

On calls to also resume operations of provincial buses, Roque said that the LTFRB and the IATF are closely studying the matter following the Joint Task Force (JTF) COVID Shield guidelines.

Modern jeepneys back in select routes

Published 23 hours ago on June 22, 2020 07:23 AM

By [TDT](#)



Modern jeepneys will start plying their routes again, like this unit that will take passengers from Pablo Ocampo-Taft Avenue to PITX in Parañaque. (Al Padilla)

Modern public utility jeepneys in 15 routes are back on the road Monday to serve Metro Manila that is still under general community quarantine (GCQ).

Modern PUJs are units that have complied with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) requirements set by the Omnibus Franchising Guidelines of the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP).

“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,” said LTFRB Chair Martin Delgra III.

Modern jeepneys must also be currently registered and with valid personal passenger insurance policies and equipped with GNSS (global navigation satellite system) or global positioning system for proper monitoring of movement.

As part of the enforcement of health protocols to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease, jeepneys will have to make use of cashless fare payments and make sure commuters can make use of their mobile apps or contactless smart cards to pay for fares.

As part of the new normal, drivers, conductors and passengers must wear face masks at all times; drivers or operators should provide a disinfecting foot bath for passengers to use before boarding the jeepney; and physical distancing must strictly be observed inside the jeepneys.

The passenger load of each jeepney must not exceed 50 percent of its seating capacity, excluding driver and conductor.

Passengers must be seated one seat apart and standing is not 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 must 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.

Non-aircon PUJs will collect a minimum fare of P11 for the first 4 kilometers and P1.50 for each succeeding kilometer. Airconditioned PUJs will collect P11 for the first 4 kilometers and P1.80 for each succeeding kilometer.

The resumption of modern PUJ operations in Metro Manila and in nearby provinces will be done gradually. The LTFRB allowed 308 OFG-compliant modern jeepneys to ply identified routes.

The 15 Metro Manila routes with the corresponding number of PUJs per route are:

1. Novaliches – Malinta via Paso de Blas
2. Bagumbayan Taguig – Pasig via San Joaquin
3. Fort Bonifacio Gate 3 – Guadalupe-Market Market-ABC Loop Service
4. Pandacan – Leon Guinto
5. Quezon Avenue – LRT 5th Avenue Station
6. Cubao (Diamond) – Roces Super Palengke
7. EDSA Buendia-Mandaluyong City Hall via Jupiter, Rockwell
8. Divisoria-Gasak via H. Lopez
9. Punta-Quiapo via Sta. Ana
10. Boni Pinatubo – Stop and Shop, vice versa
11. Boni Robinson's Complex-Kalentong/JRC vice versa
12. Nichols-Vito Cruz
13. Filinvest City Loop
14. Alabang Town Center (ATC)-Ayala Alabang Village
15. Vito Cruz Taft Avenue-PITX Loop Service

The following additional PUJ routes will begin on 24 June and on 26 June to serve other parts of Metro Manila that are adjacent to provinces:

24 June:

1. Bagong Silang – SM Fairview
2. Malanday – Divisoria via M.H. del Pilar
3. Parang, Marikina – Cubao
4. Eastwood, Libis – Capitol Commons
5. Gasak – Recto via Dagat-dagatan
6. PITx – Lawton
7. Alabang – Zapote
8. PITX – Nichols
9. PITX – SM Southmall

26 June:

1. Quirino Highway – UP Town Center
2. SM Fairview – Commonwealth via Regalado Ave.
3. QMC Loop
4. Tikling – Binangonan
5. Antipolo – Pasig via East Bank Road
6. Rosario – Pinagbuhatan Pasig
7. West Aveune – P. Noval via Del Monte
8. Biñan – Balibago via Manila South Road
9. Tramo – Sucat
10. San Isidro – Congressional Junction Dasmaringas

Commuters naman! Modernize transport now

Published 6 hours ago on June 23, 2020 12:30 AM

By [Goddess Hope Libiran](#)



Talk about the modernization of public utility vehicles (PUV) and some people will take a step back and flag it as being “anti-poor.” They would argue that the transformation of our transport system will mean the death of the livelihood of drivers and their families and that it only favors those that belong to the higher strata of the society. Sadly, even high-ranking officials of the government believe in this premise, which definitely is untruthful on many accounts.

We have heard a lot from their sides. But what about on the part of commuters? Where do they stand on this issue? And have we really listened to what they truly want?

The government, through the Department of Transportation (DoTr), intends to heed the call of many Filipinos who have longed for a better transport system. They are the ones who have suffered from neglect for decades — risking their lives in the streets just to get a ride from old and dilapidated PUV, exposing themselves to hazardous air pollutants, and enduring discomfort for the whole hours of travel from a limited space the traditional PUV units offer.

This unfortunate situation has to stop. We have seen the need to urgently address the matter and for that, our answer is to provide the Filipino people with a safe, modern, reliable and environment-friendly public transport system through the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP). This is what we are doing now and it is our way of answering the call of the people.

Branding the PUVMP as anti-poor is absolutely a far cry from the outcome it presents. Saying that it favors the rich is unjust and only muddles the true intention of the initiative.

When we want to provide a safe and convenient public transport system, when we intend on fixing public transportation that has been neglected for decades, is it not because we want to make life and the livelihood of our countrymen better?

In the PUVMP, we are not just transforming the engineering, quality and the design of PUV. WE ARE CHANGING THE OLD SYSTEM OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT. We want to do away with the culture of racing in the streets just to make ends meet, the disorganized distribution of routes, people exhausting their time waiting in long lines just to get a ride, and the danger of contributing to the pollution in the environment, among others.

If we try to take a closer look, the truth is: While we are creating a win-win solution for all stakeholders, we are in favor of providing for the needs of the commuters.

If jeepneys are modern and have a high level of service standard, can it be labeled as anti-poor? If the government wants the people to be able to take public transportation, be it rich or poor, is it rightful to call it as anti-poor?

Why is the DoTr insisting that drivers be salaried and be given the opportunity to enjoy benefits similar to what regular employees get, such as SSS and PhilHealth? Why do we want the boundary system to be removed? It is because we do not want them to compete on the road and be dead-tired in order to reach their boundary for the day. Is this, too, an anti-poor initiative? We have given three years for operators to consolidate as cooperatives and corporations in acquiring modernized units. In fact, we have extended it until December 2020. Further, traditional jeepneys are still allowed to ply our roads, given that they pass the road worthiness standards.

The DoTr also supports operators and drivers who may want to take part in the modernization program by doubling the equity subsidy from P80,000 to P160,000 and is implementing the 5-6-7 scheme or five percent downpayment, six percent interest, and seven years of extended repayment period.

The PUVMP is not a new move that the DoTr has come up just recently. Since 2017, it gave its stakeholders a window or transition period of three years to comply and be part of the transformation. And now that we are facing an unprecedented situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the urgent need to further push for PUV modernization.

With modern PUV units, commuters will be safer as proper physical distancing can be achieved, cashless payments can be implemented and contact tracing will also be possible. In this “new normal,” modernization will significantly play a vital role that is why it is indeed high time to embrace modernization in our society.

All of these benefits are for the good of the Filipino people. It favors the majority of our kababayans who have suffered long enough from the old system of public transport. We want to give them a future where solutions are at hand and can be enjoyed at the soonest possible time. But we cannot reach our goal smoothly and successfully if some will turn a blind eye to what the majority of us wants.

WE NEED TO MODERNIZE TRANSPORTATION NOW.

As DoTr Secretary Arthur Tugade puts it: “We are not fighting the few. We are protecting the many.”

Palace outlines PRRD's busy sked for 36th Asean Summit

By Azer Parrocha June 22, 2020, 9:24 pm

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte will have a “full schedule” on Friday (June 26) for the virtual 36th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit, Malacañang said on Monday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Duterte will be attending at least six online Asean-related activities.

These activities include the 36th Asean Summit; Asean Leaders Special Session on Women’s Empowerment; Asean Leaders Interface with the Representatives of Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly; Asean Leaders Interface with Representatives of Asean Youth; Asean Leaders Interface with Representatives of Asean Business Advisory Council; and a press conference of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, chairman of the 36th Asean Summit.

“Busy po si Presidente sa Asean Summit, itong linggong ito (The President will be busy during the Asean Summit this week),” he said in a virtual presser. “It will take the whole day po of Friday. So it’s a full schedule po for the President on Friday.”

Roque said he will also be present during all Asean-related activities.

“Madami pong pag-uusapan, in fact, madaming pagpupulong and nandoon po ako. Hindi ko alam kung natutuwa ako o hindi (There will be many topics. In fact, there will be many meetings and I’ll be there. I don’t know if I should be happy about it or not),” he quipped.

Roque said he has yet to determine if there will be a special session to discuss the Asean-China dialogue which the President chairs.

“Siguro po kabahagi po noong mga binasa kong mga schedule pero wala pong special session para sa pag-uulat on his chairmanship of China-related matters ‘no. Siguro po papasok po iyan doon sa meeting mismo ng mga Heads of State of Asean (Perhaps it is part of the schedule I read but there is no special session for his report on his chairmanship of China-related matters. Perhaps it will be discussed in the meeting of the heads of states of Asean),” he said.

Asean leaders were supposed to hold their 36th annual summit in April this year but the meeting was postponed due to the global threat posed by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

There was also a proposal from Vietnam, this year’s chair of the 10-man regional bloc, to hold the 36th Asean summit in Hanoi, Vietnam on June 27 and 28.

However, the final decision was to resort to a virtual summit on June 26 as the Covid-19 pandemic remains a threat in the region.

Asean members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. **(PNA)**

Rody to still study Anti-Terror bill — Palace

Published 14 hours ago on June 22, 2020 03:53 PM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Malacanang on Monday said that they expect the Anti-Terror bill to be presented to President Rodrigo Duterte sometime this week, saying that the President is still waiting for all the inputs of concerned government agencies.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said that the President has 30 days to study the bill before making any decision on it and he also shrugged off the comments made by retired Justice Antonio Carpio that the Anti-Terrorism Act is “very defective” due to many unconstitutional provisions of the bill.

To recall, Carpio was also quoted as saying that the bill will place the country under a situation worse than martial law in the 70s and early 80s and one of the provisions cited by the former Chief Justice as unconstitutional is the warrantless detention of perceive terrorists.

The Palace official earlier said that being a lawyer himself, President Duterte will read the Anti-Terrorism Bill to personally determine if there’s any provision there that is contrary to the Bill of Rights and the Constitution before making a decision to sign it or not.

The Anti-Terrorism Bill has been transmitted to Malacañang last 9 June for Duterte’s final review and decision, while the Department of Justice was also tasked by the Palace to submit its independent review on the said measure by 17 June.

Kanlaon Volcano emits steam; 136 earthquakes recorded

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#), [Raffy Cabristante](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:13 AM June 22, 2020



Kanlaon Volcano (DOST photo)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 136 volcano-tectonic earthquakes have been recorded from the western flanks of Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Occidental in the last 24 hours as it emitted white steam-laden plumes, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said on Monday.

Four of the earthquakes that happened at 1:01 a.m., 1:04 a.m., 1:34 a.m., and 2:06 a.m. were recorded by the Philippine Seismic Network at magnitudes that range from 3.2 to 4.7, [Phivolcs said in its 8 a.m. bulletin](#).

The said earthquakes were felt at Intensities II to V in La Carlota City and Bago City, Negros Occidental and Canlaon City, Negros Oriental.

“Activity at the vent consisted of moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes that rose 200 meters before drifting southwest. Sulfur dioxide emission was measured at an average of 438 tonnes/day on 13 June 2020,” said Phivolcs.

“Ground deformation data from continuous GPS (global positioning system) measurements indicate a slight deflation of the lower and mid slopes since January 2020. Short-term electronic tilt monitoring on the southeastern flanks recorded continuing deflation on the lower slopes but inflation on the mid slopes since April 2020,” it added.

Phivolcs said these parameters indicate that hydrothermal or magmatic activity is occurring beneath the surface.

“Kanlaon Volcano is at Alert Level 1 which means that it is at an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest. The local government units and the public are strongly reminded that entry into the 4-kilometer radius Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) must be strictly prohibited due to the further possibilities of sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions,” Phivolcs said in its Monday morning advisory.

Phivolcs said civil aviation authorities must also advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano’s summit as ejecta or materials spewed from any sudden phreatic eruption poses aviation risks. Kanlaon is located between the borders of Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental.

At 2,465 meters above sea level, it is the highest point in Negros Island and in the Visayas.

gsg

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1295451/kanlaon-volcano-emits-steam-136-earthquakes-recorded>



In a bulletin issued at 8 a.m. yesterday, Phivolcs said the quakes, with magnitudes ranging from 3.2 to 4.7, were recorded on the western flanks of the volcano.

Philstar.com/File

Kanlaon Volcano showing signs of activity

[Helen Flores](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 23, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) is monitoring Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island after it recorded 136 volcanic earthquakes in the past 24 hours.

In a bulletin issued at 8 a.m. yesterday, Phivolcs said the quakes, with magnitudes ranging from 3.2 to 4.7, were recorded on the western flanks of the volcano.

The temblors were felt at Intensities 2 to 5 in La Carlota and Bago City, both in Negros Occidental, and Canlaon City in Negros Oriental.

The volcano remains at Alert Level 1, which means it is at “an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest,” Phivolcs said.

Entry within the four-kilometer-radius permanent danger zone is strictly prohibited due to the possibility of sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions.

Pilots were advised to avoid flying close to the volcano’s summit as sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft.

Phivolcs recorded at least two phreatic or steam-driven eruptions of Kanlaon in December 2017.

In a separate bulletin, Phivolcs said a magnitude-4.7 volcanic-tectonic temblor occurred 16 kilometers northeast of La Carlota City at 2:06 a.m.

It was felt at Intensity 4 in La Carlota , Intensity 3 in Bago City and Bacolod City, and Intensity 2 in Canlaon City.

It was followed by a magnitude-2.5 tectonic quake at 5:07 a.m.

The epicenter of the second quake was located 13 km northeast of La Carlota City. **Gilbert Bayoran**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/06/23/2022801/kanlaon-volcano-showing-signs-activity>

PHIVOLCS not discounting possibility of magmatic activity beneath Kanlaon Volcano

Published June 22, 2020 1:43pm

The possibility of movement of magma underneath Kanlaon Volcano is there but the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) has yet to gather enough data to support such theory, its officer-in-charge director Undersecretary Renato Solidum said on Monday.

In an interview on Dabol B sa News TV, Solidum said around 140 volcanic earthquakes have been [detected in the area since Sunday](#), the epicenters of which were located at the foot of Kanlaon Volcano. He said PHIVOLCS thinks these earthquakes are caused by fault movement.

"Ang pagkilos ng fault ay puwedeng maimpluwensiyahan ng pressure mula sa isang magmang umaakyat o 'di kaya ay hydrothermal fluids o pinapakuluuang tubig," Solidum said.

"Sa ngayon wala pa tayong significant data na nagsasabing may umaakyat na magma, so babantayan nating mabuti ito," he added.

Solidum further said that the institute is monitoring whether the epicenters of the volcanic earthquakes would transfer from the slope of the volcano to under its crater because such was the scenario before Central Luzon's Mount Pinatubo erupted in 1991.

He added that because Kanlaon Volcano has not had a major eruption since the early 1900s, the PHIVOLCS does not see a distinct magma chamber.

"Unlike Mayon Volcano, walang distinct na magma chamber kaming nakikita so far. Para ngang aming interpretation dito, may mga magma pero umaakyat pakaunti-kaunti recently. Wala pa [malaking lagusan] kasi nga ang tagal nang hindi sumasabog. But in the past, violent ang eruptions ng Kanlaon Volcano," Solidum said.

"Ang huli talagang may lumabas na lava diyan sa Kanlaon Volcano would be the early 1900s, matagal na. 'Yun po ang kailangan natin bantayan mabuti," he added.

Based on the data from the PHIVOLCS, Kanlaon Volcano had two phreatic eruptions or steam-driven explosions in 2017. Same activities were observed in 2015 and 2016.

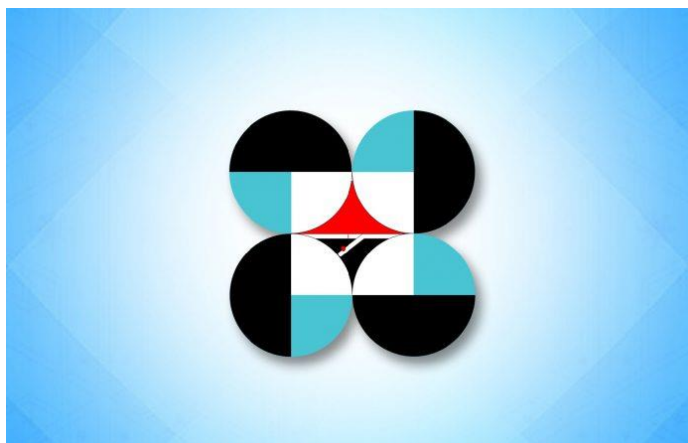
It was in May 1884 that the volcano had a phreatomagmatic eruption which involves both magma and water. A strombolian eruption was also recorded in Kanlaon in January 1902.

As Kanlaon Volcano remains under Alert Level 1 status, Solidum reminded the residents of the Negros island to [stay out of the four-kilometer permanent danger zone](#) due to the possibility of sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions. —**Dona Magsino/KG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/743636/phivolcs-not-discounting-possibility-of-magmatic-activity-beneath-kanlaon-volcano/story/>

PHIVOLCS monitors Kanlaon Volcano activity

June 22, 2020



The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) is monitoring the series of earthquakes at the right side of Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island. Three earthquakes have been reported within 24 hours. The volcano has also emitted white smoke with a height of 200 meters going northwest.

Alert level 1 has been raised over areas around the volcano. The public has been prohibited to go within the 4-kilometer radius permanent danger zone. Pilots have also been barred from flying over Mt. Kanlaon's crater to avoid the possible emission of ashes. – *PTV News*



Mayon Volcano continues to show signs of unrest

Published June 22, 2020, 8:24 AM

By Marjaleen Ramos

Mayon Volcano in Albay continues to show signs of unrest, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said on Monday.

“Patuloy ang kanyang pamamaga at pamumula ng crater,” Phivolcs Officer-in-Charge Undersecretary Renato Solidum said in an interview on Unang Balita.

“Hindi pa masyadong matingkad pero ito ay senyales na may mainit na source o magma o gas na talagang nandoon tuktok,” he added.

Solidum also assured that the state volcanology agency will continue to monitor the volcano for further activity such as increase in rockfall events.

“Binabantayan kung dadami ang bilang ng rockfall events. Kung sakaling makita natin ito, ibig sabihin noon, ‘yung magma umuusad pataas at inuusog ang pinakamataas nito,” he said.

Mayon Volcano remains under Alert Level 2.

Phivolcs said that entry into the six-kilometer permanent danger zone is still strictly prohibited.

Magnitude 5 quake jolts Ilocos Sur

By Ma. Cristina Arayata June 22, 2020, 7:09 pm



Image grabbed from Phivolcs' website

MANILA – A magnitude 5 quake jolted Ilocos Sur on Monday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported.

The tectonic quake struck 55 kilometers northwest of Candon City at 4:02 p.m.

It had a depth of four kilometers.

Intensity 4 was felt in Candon City, Ilocos Sur, and Intensity 3 in Vigan City, Sinait, Santa, and Magsingal, Sta. Lucia, Santa Maria, Sta. Cruz, and San Esteban, all in Ilocos Sur; and San Fernando City, La Union.

Intensity 2 was recorded in the towns of Cabugao, San Juan, Bantay, San Ildefonso, Narvacan, Nagbukel, Tagudin, Burgos, Santiago, Sigay, Suyo, all in Ilocos Sur; and Banna, Bacarra, Batac, and Laoag City in Ilocos Norte.

The following instrumental intensities were also recorded with Intensity 3 in Vigan City; Intensity 2 in Sinait, Ilocos Sur; and Intensity 1 in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte.

Reported intensity is the traditional way of knowing the intensity based on reports by people who felt the earthquake, Phivolcs director Renato Solidum Jr. explained earlier.

Solidum said Phivolcs deployed around 100 instruments or intensity meters to measure the ground acceleration.

"Acceleration record is converted to intensities. What is being measured is called the instrumental intensity," he added.

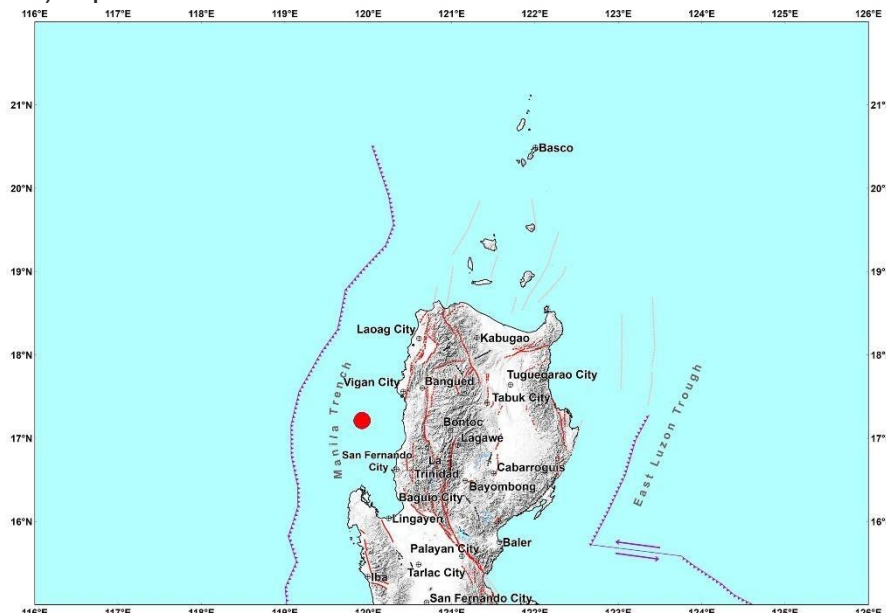
Phivolcs said aftershocks are possible from the magnitude 5 quake, but damage is not expected. **(PNA)**

Magnitude 5 quake hits Ilocos Sur

Published June 22, 2020, 5:12 PM

By **Andrea Aro**

A magnitude 5.0 quake jolted Ilocos Sur on Monday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported.



(Phivolcs / MANILA BULLETIN)

The earthquake, which occurred at 4:02 p.m., was tectonic in origin and traced to 55 kilometers northwest of Candon City, Ilocos Sur.

The quake had a depth of four kilometers, with the following registered intensities: Intensity IV- Candon City, Ilocos Sur; Intensity III- Vigan City, Sinait, Santa, and Magsingal, Sta. Lucia, Santa Maria, Sta. Cruz, San Esteban, Ilocos Sur; San Fernando City, La Union; Intensity II- Cabugao, San Juan, Bantay, San Ildefonso, Narvacan, Nagbukel, Tagudin, Burgos, Santiago, Sigay, Suyo, Ilocos Sur Banna, Bacarra, Laoag City, and Batac Ilocos Norte

Phivolcs said the quake was also felt under the following instrumental Intensities: Intensity III – Vigan City;

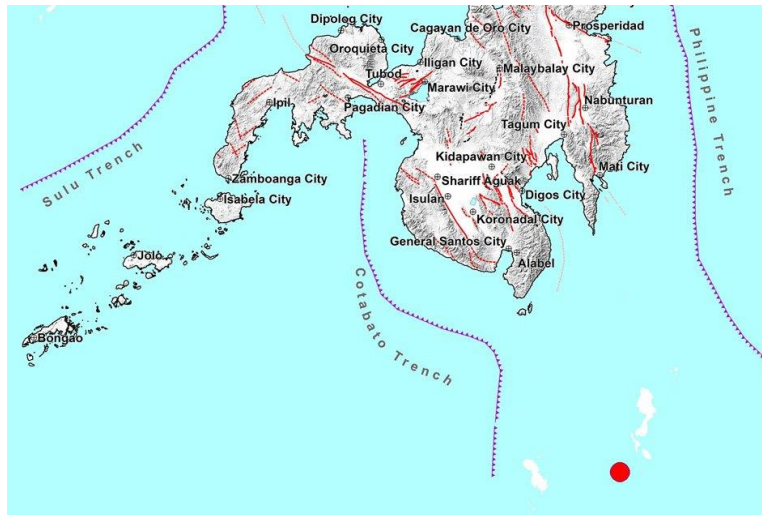
Intensity II – Sinait, Ilocos Sur; Intensity I – Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte

The tremor was not expected to cause any damage to property, but aftershocks are likely to occur.

Magnitude 4.6 tremor jolts Davao Occidental

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 22 2020 09:52 PM



MANILA — A magnitude 4.6 earthquake struck off Davao Occidental Monday night, state geological agency Phivolcs said.

The tremor happened at 6:56 p.m., 235 kilometers southeast of Sarangani town.

It had a depth of 70 kilometers and was tectonic in origin, Phivolcs said.

No damage or aftershocks are expected.

Reusable cups, bags safe to use during COVID-19, Greenpeace says

June 22, 2020 | 5:00 pm



Reusable products such as cups and bags are safe to use even during the coronavirus pandemic as long as basic hygiene practices are employed, according to Greenpeace USA Inc.

Reusable products are safe to use even during the coronavirus pandemic as long as basic hygiene practices are employed, according to Greenpeace USA Inc.

Single-use plastic is not inherently safer than reusable products as the virus can remain infectious on both surfaces for varying time, Greenpeace said in a statement endorsed by over 100 health experts around the globe. Either reusable or disposable, they can be cleaned with widely used household disinfectants, such as soap and detergent, it said.

Concern over virus transmission has spurred consumption of single-use plastic products globally, including personal protective gear, medical equipment, and delivery packaging. The [resurgence](#) in the use of disposable materials will have negative impact on the environment and undermine years-long global efforts to curb plastic pollution, according to Greenpeace.

“It’s been shocking to witness the plastic industry take advantage of the pandemic to promote throwaway plastics,” Graham Forbes, Greenpeace USA global project leader, said. “It is crucial for businesses and governments to know that as they reopen, reusable systems can be deployed safely to protect both our environment and workers and customers.”

The pandemic has renewed commitment to hygiene, which has helped drive sales of plastic like polystyrene as consumers relegate environmental priorities in an effort to stay clear of the virus. About 15 million tons of polystyrene are produced globally every year, which is used in cars and hospital ventilators as well as takeaway coffee cups and food packaging.
— **Bloomberg**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/reusable-cups-bags-safe-to-use-during-covid-19-greenpeace-says/?fbclid=IwAR0HNIgRebYFrkEobisPli8Jpe-A41OGzNhC4FGNAiIrwQuya8Ti3hUO_-0

China's annual dog meat fair opens; activists hope for last time

Reuters

Posted at Jun 23 2020 04:22 AM



Dogs are seen in a cage at a dog meat market in Yulin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China June 2020 in this handout provided on June 22, 2020. *Humane Society International/Handout via Reuters*

SHANGHAI - China's notorious dog meat festival has opened in defiance of a government campaign to improve animal welfare and reduce risks to health highlighted by the novel coronavirus outbreak, but activists are hopeful its days are numbered.

The annual 10-day festival in the southwestern city of Yulin usually attracts thousands of visitors, many of whom buy dogs for the pot that are on display in cramped cages, but campaigners said the numbers this year have dwindled.

The government is drawing up new laws to prohibit the wildlife trade and protect pets, and campaigners are hoping that this year will be the last time the festival is held.

"I do hope Yulin will change not only for the sake of the animals but also for the health and safety of its people," said Peter Li, China policy specialist with the Humane Society International, an animal rights group.

"Allowing mass gatherings to trade in and consume dog meat in crowded markets and restaurants in the name of a festival poses a significant public health risk," he said.

The coronavirus, which is believed to have originated in horseshoe bats before crossing into humans in a market in the city of Wuhan, has forced China to reassess its relationship with animals, and it has vowed to ban the wildlife trade.

In April, Shenzhen became the first city in China to ban the consumption of dogs, with others expected to follow.

The agriculture ministry also decided to classify dogs as pets rather than livestock, though it remains unclear how the reclassification will affect Yulin's trade.

Zhang Qianqian, an animal rights activist who was in Yulin on Saturday, said it was only a matter of time before the dog-meat festival was banned.

"From what we understand from our conversations with meat sellers, leaders have said the consumption of dog meat won't be allowed in future," she said.

"But banning dog-meat consumption is going to be hard and will take some time."

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/06/23/20/chinas-annual-dog-meat-fair-opens-activists-hope-for-last-time>

ANIMAL RIGHTS | China's annual dog-meat fair opens; activists hope for last time

June 22, 2020 , 05:48 PM

SHANGHAI (Reuters) – China's notorious dog-meat festival has opened in defiance of a government campaign to improve animal welfare and reduce risks to health highlighted by the novel coronavirus outbreak, but activists are hopeful its days are numbered.

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Reporting by David Stanway; Additional reporting by Shanghai newsroom Editing by Robert Birsell

Why white rhino numbers increased 34,000%

Story by Tamara Hardingham-Gill, video by Edward Scott-Clarke and Joseph Ataman, CNN • Updated 22nd June 2020

(CNN) — The southern white rhino has been to the brink of extinction and back, but even as it continues to be under threat from poachers, it's survival is largely thanks to the conservation work of one park. Today, most of these rhinos can trace their ancestry back to the Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park (HiP) in KwaZulu-Nata, South Africa.

In the late 19th century, the southern white rhino was on the brink of extinction due to game hunting.

However, by 2011, numbers had increased from fewer than 50 to over 17,000, mainly due to the work at HiP.

"All southern rhino throughout the world, the gene pool comes from this park," explains Richard Penn Sawers, park manager at HiP, known as the home of the rhinoceros species.

"It is a species which has huge importance in the conservation world."

Unfortunately, a new threat emerged just under a decade ago, when poachers began targeting the rhinos for their horns.

Made entirely of keratin, a protein found in hair, fingernails and animal hooves, rhino horn has long been used as a traditional medicine ingredient in countries like China and Vietnam.

But it's since reportedly [become popular as among wealthy party goers](#) in Asia.

Coveted horns



Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park has brought in advanced technology to protect southern white rhinos from poachers.

"It's worth a great deal of money," adds Sawers. "It's worth more than gold.

"There's a very high demand for it, and we are experiencing severe threats on our rhino population at the moment."

As a result, the 96,000-hectare park, the oldest proclaimed wildlife reserve in Africa, has found itself battling to protect the rhinos once again.

While the rangers here have long been trained to deal with bush meat hunters brandishing assegais (spears) and bush knives, poachers armed with guns was relatively new territory for them.

"The dynamic changed because international syndicates were becoming involved," says Sawers.

"I think the scourge of rhino poaching migrated South from the Northern parts of Africa where the rhino had been wiped out."

International trade in rhino horn has been banned for years, but poachers can earn a huge amount of money from selling it on the black market.

"There was a time where everybody thought the rhino would not survive because of the poaching that was taking place," says Tumelo Matjekane, a project manager at [Peace Parks Foundation](#), a non-profit organization that assists with setting up transfrontier conservation areas in southern Africa.

In order to tackle the organized criminal gangs, [HiP](#) was transformed into South Africa's first "Smart Park."

Integrated surveillance technology, including smart fencing, has been installed in the grounds of the reserve, along with camera traps to call attention to intruders.

Rapid response



The reserve was previously losing between 10 to 15 rhino per month before the new measures were brought in.

"We consider this to be a war," explains Sawers. "So, in any war situation, rapid response and rapid detection is key."

The park even has an intelligence gathering base, the HiP Nerve Centre, which keeps track of information picked up by the cameras.

"They're [the camera traps] all linked to the internet and they send their photographs directly to the Nerve Centre," explains Sawers.

"So, we know exactly where the camera is and where the photograph comes from. And we can react very, very quickly."

The team use a helicopter so they can reach targeted areas swiftly.

It was recently deployed just eight minutes after being given the green light, reaching its intended location around seven minutes later.

"Without the technology, it would have probably taken in the region of two hours," adds Sawers. "And by then it would have been too late."

Of course, such advanced technology is costly, the Peace Parks Foundation apparently contributed more than 10.6 million South African rand (around \$600,000) towards the rhino protection program.

Sawers says he's extremely encouraged by the results so far.

"Where we were losing between 10 and 15 rhino a month, that has stopped completely," he says.

For Sawers, whose great-grandfather was a park ranger here, protecting the rhinos is too important for any level of complacency.

"The preservation of the southern white rhino is critical," he adds. "We cannot allow it to disappear. It would be too awful to contemplate."

Four arrested in Indonesia tiger poaching case

Published 10 hours ago
on June 22, 2020 07:58 PM
By [Agence France-Press](#)



Police displayed a confiscated tiger skin along with teeth and bones taken from the suspected traffickers. (AFP) Four suspected poachers have been arrested for killing a critically endangered Sumatran tiger, Indonesian police said Monday, highlighting the Southeast Asian nation's battle with illegal wildlife trafficking.

Authorities in Aceh, at the northern tip of Sumatra island, said they were also searching for a fifth suspect, all allegedly part of a crime syndicate.

At a press briefing Monday, police displayed a confiscated tiger skin along with teeth and bones taken from the suspected traffickers.

The men — who had been under police surveillance — also had the teeth and bones of a sun bear, authorities added.

“The four ensnared this protected animal in a trap and it was left to die,” said Aceh police spokesman Margiyanta, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

We think “the perpetrators are part of a syndicate given the professional way they caught the animals”.

The animal parts may have been destined for buyers outside the region, he added.

In January, Aceh police arrested a man trying to sell a tiger skin for some 90 million rupiah (\$6,400), and dozens of wildlife crime cases have been recorded in recent years, according to the region's conservation officials.

Poaching accounts for almost 80 percent of Sumatran tiger deaths, according to TRAFFIC, a global wildlife trade monitoring network.

Sumatran tigers are considered critically endangered by protection group the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with fewer than 400 believed to remain in the wild.

Iniligtas ang amo 2 elepante sa India, pinamanahan ng lupa

[MGA PANGYAYARING KAGILA-GILALAS](#) - [Arnel Medina](#) (Pang-masa) - June 23, 2020 - 12:00am

ISANG lalaki sa India ang nagpamana ng lupa sa dalawang alagang elepante na nagligtas sa kanya sa kamatayan. May nagtangka raw sa kanyang buhay at iniligtas siya ng mga ito.

Ayon kay Akhtar Imam ng Bihar, India gumawa na siya ng last will kung saan iniwan niya ang 2.5 ektarya ng kanyang lupain sa kanyang mga alagang elepante na sina Moti at Rani.

Ayaw raw kasi niyang mahihirapan ang dalawa, ayon kay Imam na itinuturing ng kapamilya ang dalawang elepante.

Nangangamba kasi siyang kapag yumao na, magiging ulila ang dalawa at magpapalabuy-laboy sa mga lansangan.

Inalagaan ni Imam sina Moti at Rani simula ng kanilang kapanganakan ngunit naging mas malalim pa ang pagmamahal niya sa dalawa nang iligtas siya ng mga ito mula sa mga armadong kalalakihan na papunta sana sa kanyang tahanan isang gabi noong nakaraang taon.

Mabuti na lamang daw at nag-ingay ang dalawa at hinabol ang mga armadong lalaki kaya naudlot ang pagpatay sa kanya.

Masama naman ang loob ang asawa at mga anak ni Imam sa kanya sapagkat mas maliit ang mga mamanahin nilang lupa kumpara sa dalawang elepante.