

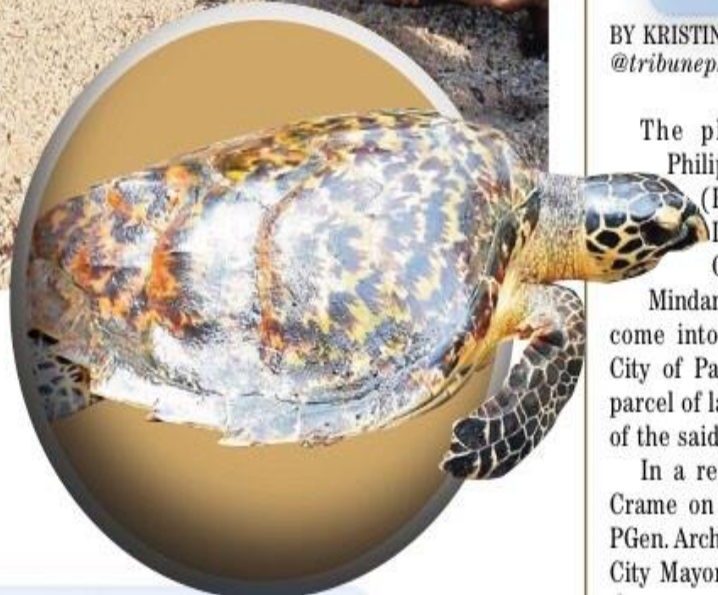


DENR PRESS RELEASE IN PHOTO



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DENR

Swim free Residents of Barangay Toytoy of Caramoran, Catanduanes in Bicol released 59 hatchlings of the endangered green sea turtle to the foreshore of Palumbanes Island. Meanwhile, a juvenile hawksbill sea turtle (inset) was also released from Barangay Tubli also in Caramoran in simultaneous activities conducted on 17 June, a day after the country celebrated the World Sea Turtle Day.



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BY KRISTINA M
@tribunephil_

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Palace says Cimatu's role in Cebu 'tantamount' to acts of PRRD

By Azer Parrocha June 24, 2020, 12:31 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1106839>



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu. (File photo courtesy of National Task Force Against Covid-19)

MANILA – All actions to be taken by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu in leading the fight against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Cebu City will be “tantamount” to the acts of President Rodrigo Duterte, Malacañang said on Wednesday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Cimatu, whom the President assigned to oversee the Covid-19 situation in Cebu City, is free to exercise “all powers” to slow down the spread of the virus as cases in the city exceeded 4,000.

Cimatu would have to notify the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) about the specific actions to be taken.

“The mandate really is to do everything that can be done to avoid a spike in cases in Cebu City and to manage the number of new cases being reported from the City,” he said in an interview over ABS-CBN News Channel’s Headstart.

More than just giving recommendations, Roque said Cimatu would also have to give the IATF-EID regular updates.



Palace says Cimatu's role in Cebu 'tantamount' to acts of PRRD

“He will go there, he will find out what the situation on the ground is, he will make not just recommendations but will implement what he thinks should be done in a period of one week, and all he has to do is keep the IATF posted on the steps being taken,” he added.

Roque said the President could also issue an executive order to allow Cimatu to freely exercise those powers.

“All the actions of Gen. Cimatu are tantamount to acts of the President. And if need be, the President will issue executive orders to give legal validity to the actions being taken by Gen. Cimatu,” he said.

Cimatu can exercise these powers because Roque said “he has been the beneficiary of delegated authority from the President.”

“We all know that although we have equality of power between equal branches of government, the President, because of procedural powers, is, in reality, and in theory, the most powerful. So he (Cimatu) gets to exercise all the extraordinary powers of the Office of the President in dealing with the pandemic in Cebu City,” he added.

Among these powers, Roque said, is allowing Cimatu to seek help from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in enforcing the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Cebu City.

He, however, assured that seeking help from the military should not be compared to martial law.

“We’ve normally done this, resorted to asking the Armed Forces to perform civilian duties. So this is not martial law. This has been decided upon by the Supreme Court. And this is as far as enforcing the ECQ in Cebu is concerned,” Roque said.

He acknowledged that the police are normally assigned to enforce the ECQ but noted if the police are not enough, then the military can enter the picture.



Palace says Cimatu's role in Cebu 'tantamount' to acts of PRRD

Cimatu, who is currently in Cebu City, will be “going down to the barangays to find out the totality of the problem” in implementing quarantine protocols.

He, however, dismissed the possibility of sending police or military personnel down to the villages to arrest quarantine protocol violators.

Data from the Cebu City Health Department as of Tuesday showed the locality has a total of 4,479 Covid-19 infections with 2,213 active cases, 2,177 recoveries, and 89 deaths. **(PNA)**



Cimatu gets all powers vs. virus

posted June 25, 2020 at 12:40 am

by PNA

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/326966>

All the actions to be taken by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu in leading the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Cebu City will be treated as the acts of President Rodrigo Duterte, Malacañang said Wednesday.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque says Cimatu, whom the President had assigned to oversee the COVID-19 situation in Cebu City, is free to exercise “all powers” to slow the spread of the virus as the cases in the city have exceeded 4,000.

But Cimatu would have to notify the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases or ATF-EID on the actions to be taken there.

“The mandate really is to do everything that can be done to avoid a spike in the cases in Cebu City and to manage the number of new cases being reported from the City,” Roque told ABS-CBN’s Headstart.

Meanwhile, as Cebu City struggles to contain the rising number of COVID-19 cases, the rest of the province is waging another battle to correct the misimpression that the health crisis is just as bad there.

As of Tuesday, the city had 4,160 confirmed infections while the province recorded a much lower number of 883—a distinction Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia said should be made clear.

“It’s just the impression that [people] can’t differentiate,” Garcia told ABS-CBN News shortly before Duterte tapped Cimatu to help fix the situation in Cebu City.

Roque said more than just giving recommendations, Cimatu would also have to give the IATF-EID regular updates.

“He will go there, he will find out what the situation on the ground is, he will make not just recommendations but will implement what he thinks should be done in a period of one week, and all he has to do is keep the IATF posted on the steps being taken,” he said.

Roque said the President could also issue an executive order to allow Cimatu to freely exercise the powers given him.

“All the actions of General Cimatu are tantamount to the acts of the President. And if need be, the President will issue executive orders to give legal validity to the actions being taken by General Cimatu,” Roque said.



Cimatu gets all powers vs. virus

He says Cimatu can exercise those powers because “he has been the beneficiary of delegated authority from the President.”

He says among these powers is allowing Cimatu to seek help from the Armed Forces of the Philippines in enforcing the enhanced community quarantine in Cebu City. But seeking help from the military should not be considered as something akin to martial law.

“We’ve normally done this, resorted to asking the Armed Forces to perform civilian duties. So this is not martial law. This has been decided upon by the Supreme Court. And this is as far as enforcing the ECQ in Cebu is concerned,” Roque said.

He says the police are normally assigned to enforce the ECQ, but if the police are not enough the military may enter the picture.





Cimatu has free hand to address COVID-19 situation in Cebu City — Palace

By: Krissy Aguilar - Reporter / @KAguilarINQ

INQUIRER.net / 12:35 PM June 24, 2020

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1296623/cimatu-has-free-hand-to-tap-military-to-address-covid-19-situation-in-cebu-city-palace#ixzz6QGXE7KNH>

MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has a free hand to do whatever is needed to address the COVID-19 situation in Cebu, including tapping the military to contain the coronavirus infection, Malacañang said Wednesday.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier directed Cimatu, a former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), to oversee the government's COVID-19 response in Cebu City after an increase in its coronavirus infections.

“He has to do whatever has to be done,” presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said in an interview over ANC.

“Although we have equality of power between equal branches of government, the President, because of procedural powers, is in reality and in theory, the most powerful. So he (Cimatu) gets to exercise all the extraordinary powers of the Office of the President in dealing with the pandemic in Cebu City,” he added.

Roque added that Cimatu may ask the help of the AFP if police authorities are not enough to enforce the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Cebu City.

“This is not martial law. This has been decided upon by the Supreme Court and this is as far as enforcing the ECQ in Cebu is concerned. Normally, we have the police enforcing it, but if the police is not enough then the Armed Forces can also enforce the lockdown,” he explained.

Cimatu will not just “make recommendations” on efforts to curb COVID-19 infection in Cebu City, but “implement what he thinks should be done,” Roque said.

Cebu City has so far recorded at least 4,400 COVID-19 cases. It is the lone city under ECQ until June 30.

On Tuesday, Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella ordered the cancellation of all quarantine passes to prevent people from going out of their houses.



Palace: No martial law in Cebu City; Cimatú can exercise Duterte's powers

Alexis Romero (Philstar.com) - June 24, 2020 - 4:43pm

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/24/2023245/palace-no-martial-law-cebu-city-cimatu-can-exercise-dutertes-powers>



Situation in Barangay Pasil, Cebu City on June 24, 2020 as police check the movement of residents after ECQ passes were cancelled the night before.
The Freeman/Aldo Banaynal

MANILA, Philippines — There is no martial law in Cebu City despite the deployment of soldiers to enforce quarantine measures, Malacañang said Wednesday.

The southern city reverted to the strictest lockdown scenario last June 15 as its health care capacity is in danger of being overwhelmed by the rising number of persons with coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19.

President Rodrigo Duterte has directed Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú, a retired military general, to oversee the situation in Cebu City and to use all powers of the government's COVID-19 task force to contain the virus.

The designation of Cimatú and the stronger presence of government troops have sparked fears that martial law will be declared in Cebu City, which now has more than 4,400 COVID-19 cases.

"This is not martial law. This has been decided upon by the Supreme Court, and this is as far as enforcing the ECQ (enhanced community quarantine) in Cebu is concerned," Roque told ABS-CBN News Channel.

"Normally, we have the police enforcing it but if the police is not enough, then the Armed Forces can also enforce the lockdown," he added.

Roque said the Supreme Court ruled in Sanlakas versus Executive Secretary that the government can order soldiers to patrol shopping malls and other civilian duties.



Palace: No martial law in Cebu City; Cimatú can exercise Duterte's powers

Only essential services like health care and food production, export-oriented businesses, and business process outsourcing are allowed to operate in areas under ECQ.

Now that Cebu City is under ECQ, only one per household would be allowed to go out to buy essentials, Roque said.

"(If it's) just too many that's allowed to go out...that defeats the purpose of an ECQ," the Palace spokesman said, adding that about 200,000 residents in the city have quarantine passes.

Roque said Cimatú is expected to make recommendations and to implement what he thinks should be done in one week. Duterte, Roque said, would issue executive orders to give legal validity to Cimatú's actions if necessary.

"He (Cimatú) has to do whatever that has to be done. There's now a hierarchy of laws that we're following here. And, of course, the mandate of General Cimatú comes from the president himself backed up by an executive order. He can exercise all powers that the president can exercise, he has been the beneficiary of delegated authority from the president," Roque said.

"He gets to exercise all the extraordinary powers of the Office of the President in dealing with the pandemic in Cebu City," he added.



Palace: Cimatu can exercise all powers to address COVID-19 situation in Cebu City

Published June 24, 2020, 9:53 AM

By Argyll Cyrus Geducos

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/24/palace-cimatu-can-exercise-all-powers-to-address-covid-19-situation-in-cebu-city/>

Malacañang said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu can exercise all powers in order to curb the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in Cebu City which passed the 4,000-mark this week.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu joins the meeting with members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) presided by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte at the Malago Clubhouse in Malacañang on June 22, 2020. (ROBINSON NIÑAL JR./PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque made the statement after the President ordered Cimatu to oversee the implementation of the measures against the COVID-19 pandemic and make recommendations on what should be done to contain the spread of the disease.

In an interview with ANC's "Headstart," Roque said Cimatu was free to do everything he had to do but he just needed to notify the Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

"The mandate, really, is to do everything that can be done to avoid a spike in cases in Cebu City and to manage the number of new cases being reported from the city," Roque said on Wednesday morning.

"He will go there, he will find out what the situation on the ground is, he will make not just recommendations but will implement what he thinks should be done in a period of one week, and all he has to do is keep the IATF posted on the steps being taken," he added.



Palace: Cimatú can exercise all powers to address COVID-19 situation in Cebu City

According to Roque, Cimatú's designation was not against the Constitution because it is being backed by an executive order.

"There's now a hierarchy of laws that we're following here. And, of course, the mandate of General Cimatú comes from the President himself backed up by an executive order," Roque said.

"Although we have equality of power between equal branches of government, the President, because of procedural powers, is, in reality and in theory, the most powerful. So he (Cimatú) gets to exercise all the extraordinary powers of the Office of the President in dealing with the pandemic in Cebu City," he added.

The Palace official also said that Cimatú's actions regarding the situation are tantamount to the acts of the President.

"If need be, the President will issue executive orders to give legal validity to the actions being taken by General Cimatú," Roque said.

He added that Cimatú's powers include calling on the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to help implement the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Cebu City.

"We've normally done this, resorted to asking the Armed Forces to perform civilian duties. So this is not martial law. This has been decided upon by the Supreme Court, and this is as far as enforcing the ECQ in Cebu is concerned," Roque said.

"Normally, we have the police enforcing it. But if the police are not enough, then the Armed Forces can also enforce the lockdown," he added.



NTF Covid-19 welcomes Cimatu's appointment as Cebu City overseer

June 24, 2020, 3:54 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1106894>



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (File photo)

CEBU CITY – The appointment of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu as overseer of the government's coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) response in the city is in line with the national government's intensified efforts to contain the spread of the deadly disease.

"We are here to find out how we can help Cebu and Region 7 (Central Visayas) and Secretary Cimatu," National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19 chairman, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, said during a press conference held here on Tuesday. "We shall not lose sight of why we're here. That's to defeat Covid-19."

Lorenzana underscored the importance of the visit of the NTF and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) to the Queen City of the South.

Chief implementer of the country's National Policy Against Covid-19, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., said Cimatu's appointment is "proof that President (Rodrigo) Duterte cares deeply for Cebu and its people."

The NTF leadership fully supports the designation of Cimatu as the task force's overseer in the city, Galvez said, noting the environment secretary would provide a major boost to the implementation of Covid-19 prevention and mitigation measures.

Members of the NTF and IATF-EID are in Cebu to meet with local chief executives in the province, as well as visit several hospitals to evaluate health conditions in the area.



NTF Covid-19 welcomes Cimatu's appointment as Cebu City overseer

The officials brought with them three polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines, 10,000 N95 masks, and 10,000 Sansure testing kits, which were turned over to the local government.

“Nandito kami para malaman kung ano pa ang mga pangangailangan ng mga ospital. May ipadadala pa (na equipment) si Presidente (We are here to know the needs of the hospitals. The President will send more equipment),” Galvez said.

Barangay consultations

Warming up to his new role, Cimatu said he is set to hold a dialogue with barangay officials in areas with high numbers of active cases.

According to him, Duterte's directive was “to help the people of Cebu understand the problem.”

“We have to do something to help and alleviate the lives of the people there,” he added.

Queried by the media on whether there is a need for an expanded police presence in the city in light of the rising number of Covid cases, Cimatu said it is not necessary as of the moment.

“Kung pwede sana, hindi na kailangang umabot sa ganyan (army and police). Sana hindi naman tayo pupunta sa medyo forceful na pag-implement ng regulation (If possible, it should not come to the point of deploying the army and police. Hopefully, it would not come to the forceful implementation of regulations),” he said. “Mas marami naman ang nagko-comply kaysa hindi (More people are complying with quarantine rules than those who are not).”

Cimatu said he would stay in Cebu for as long as his presence is needed.

“As long as may problema, andito ako (So long as there is a problem here, I will stay). We will stop the bleeding, meaning stop the rise of infection. I am optimistic that this will be resolved at the soonest possible time,” he said.

Meanwhile, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia and Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella have also thrown their support behind Cimatu's appointment.

“I would like to thank the President for sending not one but five secretaries to Cebu,” Garcia said.

“I am a fan of Gen. Cimatu, with what he did to Boracay and Manila Bay. We are happy that he is working with us,” Labella said.

Increasing Cebu City's health capacity



NTF Covid-19 welcomes Cimatú's appointment as Cebu City overseer

As part of the government's strategy to flatten the Covid-19 curve in the city, NTF vice chair, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, said raising the area's health care capacity would be a priority.

"Lalong kawawa ang Cebu kung ang mga pasyente ay hindi mabibigyan ng maayos na medical attention (It would be unfortunate for Cebu if patients are not given proper medical attention)," Año said.

This is the reason, he said, why providing high-quality personal protective equipment (PPEs) to Cebu's medical front-liners is crucial in containing the virus.

Año said the government is enforcing the strategy of "test-detect-isolate-treat" in Cebu.

"To be able to implement this strategy, we have to control the movement of the people. We will focus on areas with large number of active cases," he said. "We placed Cebu City under ECQ to flatten the curve and even make the curve decline."

In support of this effort, Galvez said 46,000 PPE sets have so far been turned over to the city and distributed to the city's health care workers.

Meanwhile, Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Francisco Duque III shared that the IATF's current strategy for Cebu City is based on recent consultations with the local government.

"We need to ramp up testing. (Meanwhile), DOH Region 7 has been providing medical personnel to hospitals in Cebu City," Duque said, adding that it is incumbent upon local leaders to drill down compliance with minimum health standards to slow down the spread of the virus.

He also clarified that the current Covid-19 situation in Cebu City does not indicate a "second wave" of infections.

"It's still part of the first wave. This is a pandemic wave. This is a continuing sustained transmission," Duque said.

He asked the public to help the fight the crisis collectively.

"It is not an easy task. The whole world is reeling from Covid-19. This fight is truly the fight of every Filipino," he said.

Also present during the press conference were Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Michael Lloyd Dino, and DOH-7 Director Dr. Jaime Bernadas. (PR)



CIMATU BINIGYAN NG SAPAT, MALAWAK NA KAPANGYARIHAN SA CEBU CITY —SPOX

written by Len Aguirre June 24, 2020

<http://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/cimatu-binigyan-ng-sapat-malawak-na-kapangyarihan-sa-cebu-city-spoX/>



VIA JAYMARK DAGALA (PATROL 9)

Binigyan ng sapat at malawak na kapangyarihan si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu upang pangasiwaan ang pagkontrol sa pagkalat ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) sa Cebu City.

Binigyan ng sapat at malawak na kapangyarihan si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu upang pangasiwaan ang pagkontrol sa pagkalat ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) sa Cebu City.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque, maaaring gamitin ni Cimatu ang lahat ng kapangyarihan na maaaring gamitin ng pangulo.

Pinapayagan rin anya si Cimatu na gamitin ang Armed Forces of the Philippines kung kinakailangan.

Sinabi ni Roque na hindi ito maituturing na martial law dahil nadesisyunan na ito ng Korte Suprema na maaaring gamitin ang mga sundalo sa pagpapatupad ng pandemic protocols.



Cebuano News: DENR nanghangyo'g suporta sa paglugway sa libreng AFP

By Rey Anthony H. Chiu Published on June 24, 2020
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1045674>

CORTES, Bohol, June 24 (PIA) -- Nanghangyo ang local nga Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) sa Bohol ngadto sa mga Kongresista nga Bol-anon nga iduso na usab ang lakang alang sa paglugway sa pagduso sa Agricultural Free Patents (AFP).



DAGHAN PA'NG WALAY TITULO. Matud ni PENRO Charlie Fabre, kapin sa 300 mil pa ka luna sa Bohol ang wala masakop sa bisan unsa nga instrumento sa pag-angkon sa yuta, kini samtang tak-oapan na sa kagamhanan ang Agricultural Free Patent samtang mohupas na ang taga niini segun sa balaod. Niini, nanghangyo ang DENR sa mga Kongresista sa pagsponsor sa balaod nga maglugway na usab niini. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)

Didto sa Kukabildo sa Kalikopan isip highlight sa pagsaulog sa Environment Month sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Visayas alang sa buwan sa Hunyo, si PENRO Charlie Fabre mibutyag nga subay sa balaod, tak-oapan na sa kagamhanan ang pagpanghatag og Agricultural Land Patents karong katapusan nga adlaw sa Disyembre 2020.

Ubos sa Public Land Use Act o Republic Act 2874, gimandu nga itanyag ang agricultural free patent ngadto sa si kinsa man ang nagpadayon og okupar ug nagpadayon og tikad sa luna nga iyang giyak-an.

Hinuon, kadtong mga nahatagan sa Agricultural Free Patents una na nga gidid-an sa pagprenda ug pagbaligya sa ilang yuta sulod sa 5 ka tuig human ikatugyan kaniya ang free patent.

Una na usab nga gilatid sa Section 119 sa Commonwealth Act No. 141, nga kon ugaling nabaligya ang AFP, ang nahatagan sa patent, iyang nahibilin nga kapikas, o legal nga s



Cebuano News: DENR nanghangyo'g suporta sa paglugway sa libreng AFP

umosunod tugotan nga makapalit og balik sa nabaligya nga yuta sulod sa lima ka tuig sa dili pa matransfer o human sa palit.

Apan, sa pagpasar sa AFP Reform Act, ang mga mag-uuma nga naghupot sa AFP mahimo na nga mobaligya sa ilang yuta o mogamit niini isip collateral kon manghuwam sa bangko.

Gilagdaan na ni Presidente Rodrigo Duterte ang balaod nga naglibkas niining pagdili nga napahimutang alang sa mga yuta nga napaubos sa Public Land Act niadto pang panahon sa Commonwealth.

Ang Agricultural Free Patent Reform Act, o Republic Act 11231, nagpalingkawas na, dapig sa mga tag-iya nga naghupot sa AFP ang katungod sa pagbaligya sa iyang yuta bisan pa kon kini nakuha pinaagi sa free patent.

Gipasabut ni PENRO Fabre nga ang paghupot sa AFP, usa sa mga pamaagi nga ang mag-uuma makaangkon og yuta nga iyang gitikad sukad sa dugay na nga panahon.

Ang Agricultural Land Patent, adunay epekto nga halos susama sa titulo sa yuta, nga human ilibkas ang pagdili, mahimo na nga ikabaligya ug magamit isip kamatuoran sa hingpit nga pagpanagiya sa yuta nga gipuy-an ug giyak-an.

Sa ka daku sa ikatabang sa AFP sa banay ug sa kinatibuk-ang tumong sa kagamhanan sa produksyon sa pagkaon, matud ni PENRO Fabre nga mayo nga masuportahan sa mga Kongresista ang lakang aron malugwayan na usab ang pagpanghatag sa patents human sa 2020.

Kini samtang ang DENR sa Bohol mopasugod na usab sa pagpangtitulo sa yuta nga may pundo gikan sa kagamhanan, gamit ang Rapid Land Tenure Appraisal alang sa mas paspas ug lukop nga pagpangtitulo sa mga yuta sa kabarangayan. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)



Aklanon News: Cimatu magapanguna ro away kontra COVID sa Cebu

By Joselito Edwin Ramos Published on June 24, 2020
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1045708>

KALIBO, Aklan, Hunyo 24 (PIA 6) - - Si Pangueong Rodrigo Duterte hay nag mando ku Lunes nga si Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu hay imaw rong magapanguna sa nagalala eon nga away it syudad it Cebu kontra sa coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Ro Presidente sa anang public address nag hambae nga kinahangean nana it sangka tawo kung siin may kapabilidad para ayuson ro krisis a g si Cimaturu anang ginapatihan nga maka-obra kara.

Nagpabutyag man ro Pangueo ku anang pagkadismaya sa indi maeubtan nga pamaagi it mga opisyaes it Cebu sa andang pagsukoe s akrisis kung siin nakompromiso ro interes ku pub liko.

Raya mga tikang hay owa naga kahueogan nga owa gapati si Duterte sa kapasidad ku Cebu kundi ginalikawan naeang ro pagbae asuean sa ulihi kung ano man manabo. Dapat may ana gid nga mapangutan-an nga sangka tawo, agru yon si Cimatu.

Ro ay Cimatu nga papel hay ro pag tan aw ag tukuyon ro problema sa Cebu agud sa anang pagtao it mga rekomendasyon para sa nagakaig o nga tikang it gobyerno .

Para matapna ro outbreak sa Cebu, gin mandu-an man ku Presidente ro Departmen of Health, Department of the Interior and Local Government agro national Task force para asistihan si Cimatu.

Si Cimatu bilang dati nga opisyal it Militar hay sangka tawo kung siin hapadungan eon sa anang bulig sa pagsalbar sa iba ag mga kabuhi.

Samakaron, ro syudad it Cebu hay may 3,733 nga kaso it COVID-19, ro pinakamataas sa Pilipinas suno s a DOH. (JBG/JERR/PIA 6 Aklan)



'Public must help arrest virus spread'

June 25, 2020 12:30 AM

By Francis Wakefield

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/25/public-must-help-arrest-virus-spread/>

The same UP study predicts Cebu City could deal with 11,000 COVID-19 patients if its spread is not arrested.



Malacañang could only hope citizens will disprove a projection of COVID-19 victims breaching 40,000 at month's end by following the protocols to arrest its spread.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, however, called it a challenge for the people to cooperate with the government.

The projection was raised by a team of researchers and scientists from the University of the Philippines (UP).

"Hopefully (it would) not," Roque said. "Let us disprove the UP prediction that it would reach 40,000."

Presidential spokesman again called on the people to stay home, wear mask, observe physical distancing, practice frequent handwashing and use disinfectants when possible.

"It is a challenge. I hope everyone will accept it," Roque stated.

The Palace official reiterated that the country could not afford a second wave of the contagion, citing similarities with the Spanish flu of 1918-1920 which he described as deadlier.



‘Public must help arrest virus spread’

“It is the reason why President Rodrigo Duterte put special emphasis on Cebu City and Talisay,” Roque added these are areas in the Central Visayas which are now the epicenter of the new coronavirus.

The same UP study predicts Cebu City could deal with 11,000 COVID-19 patients if its spread is not arrested.

The President has sent Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to Cebu City on Monday to oversee the COVID-19 fight following a spike of virus infections last week.

Cebu City was also placed under an enhanced community quarantine last week as the regulations eased up for the rest of the country, The Philippines on Tuesday afternoon reported nearly 32,000 COVID-19 patients with more than 1,000 deaths.



Cimatu challenges Cebu City execs to aim for ECQ downgrade

by John Rey Saavedra June 24, 2020, 9:54 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1106950>



AIM FOR ECQ LIFTING. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu answers queries from the Cebu media during a press conference on Wednesday night (June 24, 2020) night with Mayor Edgardo Labella and Governor Gwendolyn Garcia. Cimatu challenged city and barangay officials in Cebu City to aim for the downgrading of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) to make them aggressive in implementing strict health protocols to avoid further Covid-19 transmissions. (Screengrab from Cebu City Hall PIO video)

CEBU CITY – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu on Wednesday challenged city and barangay officials here to aim for the downgrading of the current enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) to a lower risk classification.

Cimatu issued the challenge during a press briefing with Mayor Edgardo Labella, Governor Gwendolyn Garcia and other officials after making rounds of high-risk barangays here, particularly Mambaling which is considered as the epicenter of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) crisis in Cebu.

“My challenge to the barangay captains is to aspire that goal to lower the confirmed cases here,” he said in mixed Filipino and English. The cases should stop increasing in the next few days, he added.

Cimatu said he is tapping barangay captains in imposing granular lockdown on sitios or barangays with high cases of coronavirus.

With the cooperation of village officials, he said he is optimistic that the city will graduate to lower classification, depending on the aggressive enforcement of



Cimatu challenges Cebu City execs to aim for ECQ downgrade

stringent quarantine protocols and guidelines set by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID).

He revealed that he is organizing two task forces – Task Force Cebu City and Task Force Cebu Province – whose task is to assist him and the IATF-IED in implementing intensified efforts with the aim to arrest the growing number of Covid-19 cases here.

The Environment chief who was appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee the government interventions against Covid-19, visited Barangay Mambaling to see for himself the situation, particularly in Sitio Alaska, where the infection rate is high.

In Mambaling, he said, the coronavirus could easily spread because the houses are very close to each other.

He said he will also monitor hospital occupancy as well as the demand for more medical front-liners who can attend to the needs of the Covid-19 patients.

Labella said the “involvement of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel in enforcing stringent measures would be a big factor in pursuing the ideals” in the fight against Covid-19.

“I am hoping we can downgrade to general community quarantine so that those who are now in no work no pay (that) really suffered can go back to work,” Labella said.

The city government through the City Council will pass an ordinance for the release of PHP500 million to be utilized to assist city residents during the second ECQ implementation.

The mayor also said Cebu City Hall is now devising a system that would ensure each household will get only one quarantine pass unlike before when a family had five passes. (PNA)



Cancellation of quarantine passes in Cebu City a 'good move,' Palace says

By: Krissy Aguilar - INQUIRER.net June 24,2020 - 01:20 PM

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/321191/cancellation-of-quarantine-passes-in-cebu-city-a-good-move-palace-says#ixzz6QGa4TQfz>

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MANILA, Philippines — Cebu City's order to cancel all quarantine passes issued to some of its 250,000 residents is a "good move," Malacañang said Wednesday.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said allowing many people to go out of their houses will defeat the purpose of placing the city under the strictest quarantine measure.

"I think it's a very good move. Because Cebu City has a population of 900,000 and if I'm not mistaken, there are at least 200,000 quarantine passes. A good quarter of the city has quarantine passes," Roque said in an interview over ANC.

Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella ordered the cancellation of all quarantine passes starting Tuesday night.

Central Visayas police chief Brig. Gen. Albert Ignatius Ferro said quarantine passes are canceled "until further notice" after it was observed that a lot of people still go out on the streets.

"I suppose they'll have to issue new ones to ensure that only one from every household will get a quarantine pass to get the essentials," Roque said

"The point being made is just it's too many, it's a quarter of the residents of the entire city that's allowed to go out. That defeats the purpose of an ECQ [enhanced community quarantine]," he noted.

Cebu City has so far recorded at least 4,400 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases. It is the only city in the country under enhanced community quarantine until June 30.

Earlier, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to oversee the government's COVID-19 response in Cebu City after an increase in its coronavirus infections.



Cimatu eyes selective barangay lockdowns in Cebu City after June 30

By CNN Philippines Staff

Published Jun 24, 2020 9:18:49 PM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/6/24/Cimatu-selective-barangay-lockdowns-Cebu-City.html>

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 24) — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who is now spearheading the COVID-19 fight in Cebu City, is considering placing under lockdown after June 30 certain barangays with high incidence of infection.

The city has been placed under an enhanced community quarantine until the end of the month due to a continued rise in confirmed cases.

It has registered 4,539 infections as of June 24, making it the city in the country worst-hit by the coronavirus.

In a press conference Wednesday, Cimatu said he will recommend the shift to the barangay lockdown approach, which he also labeled as a “granular lockdown,” if the situation in the area becomes more manageable.

Alongside the upsurge in cases, the national government earlier pointed out that the critical care capacity in the city is reaching “dangerous levels,” with some hospitals running out of beds for COVID-19 patients. After his visit to quarantine facilities and hospitals, Cimatu also noted the need to address the lack of medical frontliners.

On Thursday, Cimatu is scheduled to meet again with local officials to draft the policy on securing new quarantine passes. This came after Mayor Edgardo Labella ordered on Tuesday night the cancellation of all 250,000 quarantine passes issued by the city government.

Labella said they are looking at implementing a “one quarantine pass per household” policy, and added that the city residents could expect the new guidelines after Thursday’s meeting.

Meanwhile, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia announced that there will be strict border controls for leaving Cebu City to the rest of Cebu Province starting 12:01 midnight of June 27. Travel to and from Cebu City will likewise be restricted, she said.

Cebu-based stringer Dale Israel contributed to this report.



Cimatu, IATF officials to go to barangays in Cebu City with highest number of COVID-19 cases

Published June 24, 2020 8:16am

Updated June 24, 2020 8:24am

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/743934/cimatu-iatf-officials-to-go-to-barangays-in-cebu-city-with-highest-number-of-covid-19-cases/story/>

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and officials of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) are scheduled to visit on Wednesday the barangays in Cebu City with a high number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to a report by Ian Cruz on GMA News' Unang Balita.

Cimatu has been tasked by President Rodrigo Duterte to find solutions to address the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the city.

Cebu City has had more than 4,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19. The number of active cases reached 2,213 as of Tuesday, the Cebu City Health Department said.

On Tuesday night, members of the Central Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Regional Mobile Force Battalion of the Philippine National Police patrolled the city's streets.

Cebu City has been placed under lockdown on Tuesday night.

All quarantine passes have been suspended in the city, which is under enhanced community quarantine to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Only authorized persons outside residence (APOR) and essential workers were allowed on the streets effective 10 p.m. Tuesday.

However, on Tuesday night, GMA News saw some children playing on the roadside.

Their parents said they were only in the area at night to sleep. They also asked for food assistance.

On Wednesday morning, GMA News spotted many people outside their homes walking. Asked where they were going, they said they were on their way to work.

Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella on Tuesday appealed for calm and understanding following the enforcement of the lockdown and the suspension of the quarantine passes of more or less 250,000 residents. —KG, GMA News



Cimatu, IATF officials, pupuntahan ang mga brgy sa Cebu City na may mataas na COVID-19 cases

June 24, 2020 @ 10:48 AM

<https://remate.ph/cimatu-iatf-officials-pupuntahan-ang-mga-brgy-sa-cebu-city-na-may-mataas-na-covid-19-cases/>

Manila, Philippines – Nakatakdang bisitahin ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu at mga opisyaes ng Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) ang mga barangay sa Cebu City na may mataas na bilang ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19 cases.

Kagabi, June 23, nagpatrolya ang mga miyembro ng Central Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Regional Mobile Force Battalion of the Philippine National Police.

Kasabay nito ay ang pagsailalim ng lockdown sa Cebu City at pagsuspende sa mga quarantine pass na naunang iisyu sa lugar.

Maging si Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella ay umapela ng pagkalma at pang-unawa na sumunod sa kanilang mga hakbang. RNT/FGDC



Cimatu to meet Cebu City barangay officials to map out strategies vs COVID-19

Published June 24, 2020, 10:13 AM

By Aaron Recuenco

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/24/cimatu-to-meet-cebu-city-barangay-officials-to-map-out-strategies-vs-covid-19/>

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the newly-appointed overseer of the government's anti-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response in Cebu City, plans to hold a dialogue with barangay officials in the city to map out strategies to contain the spread of COVID-19.



(OPAPP / MANILA BULLETIN)

Cimatu said he will prioritize meeting with officials of the barangays experiencing high numbers of COVID-19 cases. Cebu City has more than 4,000 confirmed cases based on the latest data of the Department of Health.

"The directive given to me is to help the people of Cebu understand the problem. We have to do something to help and alleviate the lives of the people there," said Cimatu.

He clarified that increasing police and military presence in Cebu City is not yet an option, saying the focus is to come up with measures for the people to voluntarily comply with the quarantine rules with the help of officials, especially in the barangay levels.

Quarantine passes were temporarily suspended in Cebu City based on the order of Brig. Gen. Albert Ignatius Ferro, regional director of the Central Visayas police and concurrent regional commander of Joint Task Force COVID Shield.

Cimatu and some officials of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) earlier went to Cebu City to personally



Cimatu to meet Cebu City barangay officials to map out strategies vs COVID-19

supervise and monitor the compliance of the people with the health safety measures in the area.

Cimatu said he is planning to stay in Cebu City “for as long as his presence is needed.”

“As long as there is a problem, I will be here. We will stop the bleeding, meaning stop the rise of infection. I am optimistic that this will be resolved at the soonest possible time,” he said.

Interior and Local Government Secretary and NTF Vice-Chairman Eduardo Año said that their focus is increasing Cebu City’s healthcare capacity, which means, focusing on the treatment and recovery of COVID patients as well as protecting the medical frontliners.

This is the reason, he stressed, why providing high-quality Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to Cebu’s medical frontliners is crucial in containing the virus.

At least 46,000 sets of PPE have so far been turned over to the city and distributed to the city’s health care workers.

‘We are enforcing the strategy of ‘test-detect-isolate-treat in Cebu.’ To be able to implement this strategy, we have to control the movement of the people. We will focus on areas with a large number of active cases,” said Año.

“We placed Cebu City under ECQ (Enhanced Community Quarantine) to flatten the curve and even make the curve decline,” he added.



Granular lockdowns for barangays in Cebu City— Cimatu

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital | June 24, 2020 - 09:55 PM

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/321367/granular-lockdowns-for-barangays-in-cebu-city-cimatu>



Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu speaks before participants of the 4th International River Summit in this November 2018 photo.

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, the overseer of the Interagency Task Force (IATF) in Cebu, said that instead of city-wide or massive total lockdowns, granular lockdowns will be implemented here.

“We have already informed the barangay captains that part of our new method of lockdown will be the barangay lockdown, that will be implemented by the barangay captain. We call it granular lockdown, meaning maliit na lang ang (smaller areas will be placed under) lockdown. We don’t have to place the entire city on lockdown,” said Cimatu.

The IATF overseer said that the barangays are amicable to this type of lockdown, and they have agreed to the method during their meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

Cimatu already took a bird’s eye view of Barangay Mambaling on Wednesday and raised his concern that the area is densely populated with houses built too close to each other, an easy breeding ground for the virus.



Granular lockdowns for barangays in Cebu City— Cimatu

“That is why it necessary for the residents to follow the guidelines of the ECQ. I also look at the landscape of Mambaling. From the helipad, nakita ko talaga na magkakalapit yung bahay, and this is the reason bakit mabilis yung spread ng virus dun. (I saw the area is densely populated. This could be the reason why the virus spread quickly),” said Cimatu.

He also visited the NOAH complex at the South Road Properties (SRP) and praised the city for establishing such.

Read: Cebu City’s NOAH Complex officially unveiled

Yet he saw the need to augment the medical personnel in the quarantine center. He wants the center to be manned by in-house medical personnel.

Cimatu also visited the hospitals around the city and was glad to report that so far, the ratio of medical personnel and patients are still within the standards.

“We told them that if they need more personnel, just make a request and we will ask for that from the Department of Health (DOH),” he said.

The IATF overseer will be in Cebu as long as it takes as he was sent by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee and evaluate Cebu’s response towards the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Read: Duterte to send Cimatu to Cebu to monitor COVID-19 situation

Cimatu said if he sees a decrease in the number of cases per day in the next weeks, he may recommend Cebu City be placed back under General Community Quarantine (GCQ). /bmjo



Cimatu, target ang lockdown sa ilang lugar sa Cebu sa gitna ng ECQ

June 24, 2020 @ 7:08 AM

<https://remate.ph/cimatu-target-ang-lockdown-sa-ilang-lugar-sa-cebu-sa-gitna-ng-ecq/>

Manila, Philippines – Plano ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na isailalim sa lockdown ang ilang bahagi ng Cebu City sa gitna ng umiiral na enhanced community quarantine dahil sa banta ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Maaalalang naatasan si Cimatu ni President Rodrigo Duterte upang maging COVID-19 overseer sa Central Visayas.

Kasama niya sa Cebu sina Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, at Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementer ng national plan against the COVID-19.

Paliwanag ni Cimatu, hindi muna sila magpapatupad ng pagbabago dahil kailangan pa nilang i-assess ang sitwasyon.

Sa kabila nito, magpapatupad naman ng gradual lockdown sa mga piling lugar simula Miyerkoles, June 24 kung kakailanganin.

“If really, hindi na natin talaga ma-contain ng husto ‘yon, we have to further lock down doon sa lugar na ‘yan. Meaning, it is a lockdown within an ECQ,” lahad ni Cimatu.

“Parang ano lang muna doon, ma-emphasize the gravity of the ano, para mai-stop ba ‘yung bleeding doon. And I was told that the Mambaling is the highest,” dagdag pa nito.

Maging ang mga ospital, testing facilities at quarantine ay papasyalan ng mga opisyal.

“Yung mga hindi sumusunod, ito ngayon ‘yun. ‘Yung mga sinasabi natin na kailangan pag-sabihan na they have to comply with the protocol, that they have to comply, really, with the regulation na bina-ban ng IATF,” paalala ni Cimatu.

“Kasi ginagawa naman ito...for the benefit.” RNT/FGDC



Let's see what Cimatu can do for Cebu

SHOOTING STRAIGHT - Valeriano Avila (The Freeman

) - June 24, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/opinion/2020/06/24/2023180/lets-see-what-cimatu-can-do-cebu>

This content was originally published by The Freeman following its editorial guidelines. Philstar.com hosts its content but has no editorial control over it.

I watched President Duterte's speech during a Cabinet or Inter-Agency Task Force of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) meeting last night where he ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, 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.

Duterte said that General Cimatu would head an "adjunct" agency to the IATF-EID in Cebu City. As the president said partly in Binisaya, "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." He added, "I must have the picture of how grave... the situations are. I need to know."

Indeed, while the rest of the country transitioned into the looser General Community Quarantine (GCQ) on June 15, Cebu City was placed back on an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) from June 16 to 30. According to the IATF-EID, 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 would also fly to Cebu City, along with Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, to meet with regional IATF and assist Cimatu on his new task. As I pointed out in my column yesterday, it is because we are an indisciplined people, which is why infections have since gone up.

Of course we Cebuanos are at fault for not keeping our social distancing or wearing of masks. Remember the time when Cebuanos went to Carbon market without social distancing? In fairness to our supermarkets and grocery stores, they force you to go social distancing. But Cebu City, too, has made a huge mistake when they allowed senior citizens to line up and get their money without social distancing and despite the rains. Why was this changed when a month earlier they would go house to house to distribute the money of the seniors in their respective houses? Why was this good idea changed and turned into a bad idea?

Meanwhile, just a week ago, we learned that the IATF-EID chief implementer, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., was reportedly impressed with the Cebu City's quarantine facility at the North Reclamation Area. Galvez, with Dr. Tony Leachon, inspected the CCQC and other COVID-19 facilities in the city when he lauded the city government for having Cebu City Quarantine Center that is equipped with negative pressure and other



Let's see what Cimatú can do for Cebu

equipment, which even Manila does not have that kind of facility. But then all of the sudden Cebu City was back in ECQ?

Meanwhile, the FREEMAN reported last 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 (DOH) 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. At this point, we welcome the move of President Duterte, which really shows that he cares for his fellow Cebuanos. So we welcome General Cimatú and let us see what he can do to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In another related news, we learned that violators of the General Community Quarantine (GCQ) in Lapu-Lapu City have increased to more than 300 since its implementation, as pointed out by Police Colonel Clarito Baja, Lapu-Lapu City Police (LLCPO) Director. Colonel Baja said that since the implementation of the GCQ, they were able to record at least 200 violators, 60 people for going out without quarantine pass and at least 50 for violation of the number coding scheme for vehicles.

He said that these violators were merely reprimanded based on the City ordinance where first offense is reprimand, while the second offense is pegged at P1,000 and third offense is P3,000. Colonel Baja added that those who were reprimanded were listed in their database for tracking, but since then no person has violated the ordinance for the second time, which meant that those apprehended learned their lessons.

The quarantine control posts (QCP) in Lapu-Lapu City were strictly manned to intensify the implementation of the mandatory wearing of facemasks. Baja also appealed to the public not to be complacent in the GCQ protocols even now that the City is placed under GCQ.



EDITORIAL - Hindi sana nag-relax agad sa Cebu

- June 25, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2020/06/25/2023310/editorial-hindi-sana-nag-relax-agad-sa-cebu>



This content was originally published by Pilipino Star Ngayon following its editorial guidelines. Philstar.com hosts its content but has no editorial control over it.

Si President Duterte mismo ang nag-utos na maghigpit sa Cebu City dahil sa patuloy na pagtaas ng COVID cases doon na umabot na sa 4,400. Inatasan niya si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na tingnan ang sitwasyon sa Cebu at gamitin ang COVID task force para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng virus. Inilagay sa enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) ang Cebu. Napapailing ang Presidente nang mag-ulat sa bayan noong Martes dahil sa nangyayari sa Cebu. Ayon sa report, maaaring malampasan ng Cebu ang Metro Manila sa dami ng COVID cases.

Nag-relax agad ang mga awtoridad sa Cebu at hinayaang maglimayon ang mga tao. Wala nang social distancing, mayroon nang hindi naka-face mask. Maraming magkaangkas sa motorsiklo. Mayroon din umanong nagdaraos ng party at kung anu-ano pang kasayahan doon. Hindi na marahil naghuhugas ng kamay o gumagamit ng alcohol.

Hindi pa dapat mag-relax ang mamamayan sapagkat narito pa ang kalaban at nag-aabang nang makakapitan. Matindi ang kapit ng virus kaya dapat mag-ingat.

Huwag magkumpol-kumpol. Iwasan ang mga matataong lugar. Isuot nang maayos ang face mask. Kapansin-pansin na may mga naka-face mask subalit nakalitaw ang



EDITORIAL - Hindi sana nag-relax agad sa Cebu

ilong at ang iba naman ay nasa dakong panga na nila ang mask. Mayroon namang nakasabit na lang sa taynga ang face mask.

May pagkukulang ang mga awtoridad sapagkat hindi na ipinatutupad ang paghihigpit lalo na ang pag-iinuman sa gabi. Kahit na may curfew mula 10:00 ng gabi hanggang 5:00 ng umaga, hindi ito naipatatupad. Bukod sa pag-iinuman, may mga nagkakaraoke pa. Balik na rin ang pagkukumpulan at pagtsitsismisan sa kalsada.

Hindi pa bumababa ang kaso ng COVID-19 at tumataas pa. Sinabi ng isang propesor sa University of the Philippines (UP) na maaari raw umabot sa 40,000 ang kaso ng COVID bago ang Hunyo 30. Nagkakatotoo na ang kanyang sinabi sapagkat nasa 32,000 na ang COVID cases kahapon.

Kailangang sumunod ang mamamayan sa ipinag-uutos. Huwag munang maging kampante sapagkat patuloy pang kumakalat ang sakit. Huwag maging pasaway at balewalain ang health protocol.



DENR-10 celebrates environment month via photo, video contests

By Shaun Alejandrae Y. UyPublished on June 24, 2020
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1045751>

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, June 24 (PIA)--With the theme, "Protect Nature, Sustain Our Future," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-10 celebrates the Philippine Environment Month with a region-wide photography contest and an internal video documentary competition.



DENR-10's photography contest received a total of 18 entries, 10 of which were shortlisted and judged according to content and relevance to the theme, artistic value and communication potential of the image and technical excellence and quality. (DENR 10)

DENR-10 Regional Executive Director Arleigh J. Adorable said, "DENR hopes to promote the protection, enhancement and development of our environment even as we are facing the COVID-19 pandemic. All sectors of society are enjoined to support and actively participate in the celebration of Philippine Environment Month."

The contest received a total of 18 entries, 10 of which were shortlisted and judged according to content and relevance to the theme, artistic value and communication potential of the image and technical excellence and quality.

Submissions came from northern Mindanao residents, however, professional photographers, employees of DENR-10 including their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity were not qualified to join the contest.

The top 10 entries are posted on the DENR-10 official facebook page @DENR10Official for viewing and voting for the voter's choice award. The winner for the voter's choice award will be the photograph with the most number of positive reactions.



DENR-10 celebrates environment month via photo, video contests

Cash prizes of P3,000, P2,000 and P1,000 for the 1st to 3rd places, respectively, are at stake for this competition, and monetary prizes also await the people's choice.

DENR-10 believes that photography is an effective communication tool that shows, tells, and inspires people to take care of the environment and be responsible for the consequences of their actions for the future generations.



DENR-10 holds an internal video documentary competition for the various divisions of the regional office and provincial offices showcasing one successful Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) project implemented in a locality within the region. (DENR 10)

Moreover, DENR-10 held an internal video documentary competition for the various divisions of the regional office and provincial offices showcasing one successful Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) project implemented in a locality within the region.

A total of six entries of documentaries were in competition and are currently streaming on the official YouTube channel of DENR-10 at DENR Northern Mindanao.

With the launching of the activities this June, Adorable said the office will still strictly observe the guidelines and policies set by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

The Philippine Environment Month is celebrated in the country through Presidential Proclamation No.237 signed in 1988 by then President Corazon C. Aquino which focuses on the people's attention, initiatives and innovations in protecting and conserving the country's natural resources. (SAYU/PIA10)



30 heritage trees take center stage on Arbor Day for withstanding the tests of time

Published June 24, 2020, 12:33 PM

By Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/24/30-heritage-trees-take-center-stage-on-arbor-day-for-withstanding-the-tests-of-time/>

Many trees in Metro Manila are fast disappearing in the wake of rapid urbanization, but at least 30 trees managed to keep up with the metropolis' hustle and bustle in the last couple of decades.



DENR National Capital Region
on Sunday



LOOK: The Heritage Trees of Metro Manila

In line with the upcoming celebration of Arbor Day on Thursday, 25 June 2020, DENR National Capital Region is showcasing the Heritage Trees of Metro Manila.

Heritage trees are trees chosen by the regional office--following a recommendation by the host community--because they share a common history with the people and place they are found. These are trees, in other words, that withstood the passing of time and witnessed the urban transformation of Metro Manila.

Established through DENR-NCR Memorandum Order No. 1, s-2019, the Heritage Tree is part of the urban greening and tree protection program of the regional office. Under the program, trees that are old, rare, native, or endemic, with a minimum girth (circumference) of 100 cm and measures one-half meter above ground are chosen by the DENR-NCR from nominations made by the host community.

Trees included in the program receive special attention and protection from a pool of foresters of DENR National Capital Region to ensure that they live longer and preserve their historical legacy.

#ArborDay2020 #HealingThroughUrbanGreening



113 3 54



30 heritage trees take center stage on Arbor Day for withstanding the tests of time

Called “heritage trees,” these trees “withstood the passing of time and witnessed the urban transformation of Metro Manila,” according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR).

They are particularly chosen by the DENR regional office following a recommendation by the host community due to their shared common history with the people and places where they are found.

Nine heritage trees are found in Quezon City, seven in the City of Manila, five in Caloocan City, two each in San Juan City and Marikina City, and one each in the cities of Valenzuela, Pasay, Muntinlupa, and Parañaque, and in the municipality of Pateros.

In line with the celebration of Arbor Day on Thursday, June 25, the DENR-NCR is showcasing the 30 “heritage trees” of Metro Manila. They are:

1. Kamagong (*Diospyrus discolor*), Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Quezon City
2. Acacia (*Samanea saman*), St. Theresa’s College, Quezon City
3. Duhat (*Syzygium cumini*), Kaligayahan Elementary School, Quezon City
4. Balete (*Ficus sp.*), Malacañan Palace, Manila
5. Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), Fe Del Mundo Medical Center, Quezon City
6. Baliteng –baging (*Ficus benghalensis*), Lichauco Heritage House, Santa Ana, Manila
7. Sampaloc (*Tamarindus indica*), Brgy. Amihan, Proj. 3, Quezon City
8. Indian Rubber Tree (*Ficus elastica*), San Francisco High School, Quezon City
9. Duhat (*Syzygium cumini*), Star Woods Manufacturing, Inc., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City
10. Dita Tree (*Alstonia scholaris*), University of the Philippines, Manila
11. Botong (*Barringtonia asiatica*), Philippine Women University, Jose Abad Santos Memorial School, Quezon City
12. Acacia (*Samanea saman*), Philippine School for the Deaf, Pasay City
13. Acacia (*Samanea saman*), Tomas Earnshaw Elementary School, Sta. Ana, Manila
14. Betis (*Madhuca betis*), Manila North Cemetery
15. Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), Manila North Cemetery
16. Ipil (*Intsia bijuga*), Manila North Cemetery
17. Dita (*Alstonia scholaris*), Batasan Hills, Quezon City



30 heritage trees take center stage on Arbor Day for withstanding the tests of time

18. Kamagong (*Diospyros discolor*), House of Representatives, Quezon City
- 19-20. Rain trees (*Samanea saman*), Santuario del Sto. Cristo Parish, San Juan City
21. Rain tree (*Samanea saman*), Shoe Museum, Marikina City
22. Rain Tree (*Samanea saman*), Our Lady of Abandoned Parish Cemetery, Marikina City
23. Mango tree (*Mangifera indica*), Alabang Elementary School, Muntinlupa City
24. Rain tree (*Samanea saman*), Tata Dune Catholic Church, Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City
25. Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), Amparo Nature Park, Caloocan City
26. Tangisang bayawak (*Ficus variegata*), Amparo Nature Park, Caloocan City
27. Dita (*Alstonia scholaris*), Amparo Nature Park, Caloocan City
28. Antipolo (*Artocarpus blancoi*), Amparo Nature Park, Caloocan City
29. Mango tree (*Mangifera indica*), San Roque Parish Church, Pateros
30. Acacia (*Samanea saman*), Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium, Caloocan City

Established through a DENR-NCR memorandum issued in 2009, the Heritage Tree is part of the urban greening and tree protection program of the regional office.

Under the program, “trees that are old, rare, native, or endemic, with a minimum girth or circumference of 100 centimeters and measures one-half meter above ground” are chosen by the DENR-NCR from nominations made by the host community.

Trees included in the program receive special attention and protection from a pool of foresters of DENR-NCR to ensure that they live longer and preserve their historical legacy.



Disiplina at pagkakaisa ng komunidad, susi sa malusog na kapaligiran

By Voltaire N. Dequina Published on June 24, 2020
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1045513>



Ipinaliwanag ni MENRO Iny Lourdes Peroy na pangunahing layon ng Regulated Plastic Use at Anti-littering Ordinance ay ang pagsawata sa pagkalat ng basura lalo na ng plastic. (VND/PIA Occ Min)

"Kailangan ang disiplina, na nilakipan ng malasakit at pagkakaisa, tungo sa isang ideyal na kapaligiran." Ganito tinugon ni Iny Lourdes Peroy, San Jose Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO), ang katanungan kung ano ang susi sa pagpapanatiling malinis at malusog ng kapaligiran, kaugnay ng pag-observa ng National Environment Month ngayong Hunyo.

Ayon kay Peroy, mahalagang taglay ng bawat mamamayan ang mga nabanggit na katangian upang makatupad sa mga batas at alituntunin ng pamahalaan lalo na ang patungkol sa kalikasan. Gaya aniya ng pagkondena sa illegal logging, pagtanim ng puno at iba pang reforestation projects ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Bukod sa pagsuporta sa mga nabanggit na programa, partikular na tinukoy ng opisyal ang pagtalima sa dalawang ordinansang umiiral sa munisipalidad.

"Dito sa San Jose, malaking tulong para sa kalinisan ng bayan kung susunod ang lahat sa Regulated Plastic Use at Anti-littering Ordinance," saad ni Peroy.



Disiplina at pagkakaisa ng komunidad, susi sa malusog na kapaligiran

Ipinaliwanag ng MENRO na pangunahing layon ng nabanggit na mga ordinansa ang pagsawata sa pagkalat ng basura lalo na ng plastic. Aniya, "sa anti-littering, bawal ang magtapon ng anumang uri ng basura sa kalye at may nakalaang parusa sa mga mahuhuli at mapapatunayang lumabag," Dagdag pa nito, sa nasabing ordinansa ay papatawan ang violator ng multang P1,000 hanggang P2,500, community service, at posibleng pagkakakulong.

"Ang regulated plastic use naman ay may kaparehong halagang ipapataw sa mga lalabag, at maaari pang masuspende ang business permit ng establisyementong mapapatunayang nagkasala," saad pa ng MENRO. Ang dalawang ordinansa aniya, sa kabila ng pandemya, ay patuloy na ipinatutupad sa San Jose.

Ayon pa rin sa opisyal, nakalulungkot dahil kung tutuusin hindi na kailangang maglabas ng ganitong mga ordinansa ang pamahalaang lokal kung may disiplina ang mga mamamayan sa pagpapanatili ng kaayusan at kalinisan ng bayan. Aniya, ang disiplina ay kusang lulutang kung may malasakit ang mga San Joseño at ituturing na kanilang sariling tahanan ang kabuuan ng munisipalidad. "Kung ang ating tahanan, sinisikap nating pamalagiing malinis, dapat gayon din ang ating bayan," paglilinaw ni Peroy.

Kaugnay nito, sa isang presentasyon ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) hinggil sa epekto ng plastic noong nakalipas na taon, ay isinaad na base sa pag-aaral ng mga siyentipiko, humahalo na ang mga maliliit na himay ng plastic (microplastics) sa mga asin mula sa dagat. Laman din ng ulat na napakaraming yamang dagat, maliit o malaki, ang namamatay dahil sa mga basurang itinatapon ng tao kung saan-saan na humahantong sa karagatan.

Ang nabanggit na ulat ay sinangayunan ni Krystal Villanada, Apo Reef Protected Area Supervisor (PASu), at sinabing bukod sa ilegal na paggamit ng paputok at cyanide sa pangingsda, ang basura (lalo na ang plastic) ay kabilang sa pangunahing sumisira sa mga bahura o coral reefs.



Disiplina at pagkakaisa ng komunidad, susi sa malusog na kapaligiran

Sinusugan din ito ni MENRO Peroy at idinagdag na hindi iilang beses na lumabas sa mga balita, na pagkatapos ng bagyo ay tone-toneladang basura ang tumatambad sa mga siyudad, na tila ibinabalik ng karagatan ang mga basura mula sa mga tao.

Sa katunayan, saad pa ng opisyal, tila nakahinga ang kalikasan nang mapilitan tayong manatili sa tahanan dahil sa pandemya. “Sa Maynila, napaulat sa mga pahayagan na luminis doon ang hangin nang sumailalim sa partial lockdown ang Luzon. Dito sa San Jose, nakapahinga ang aming tanggapan sa araw- araw na paglilinis ng basura sa plaza at major streets sa Poblacion,” ayon kay Peroy. At kung meron man aniya na magandang naibunga ang Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), ito ay ang pansamantalang paglinis ng mga lansangan, gayundin ng hangin, at katubigan.

Sa pananaw ni Peroy, matagal nang nagpapasaklolo ang Inang Kalikasan at matitigil lamang ang pagsalaula sa kanya kung mananaig ang disiplina at malasakit ng sambayanan. Hindi naman aniya kailangang hintayin ang pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng Kapaligiran para magkaisa ang mga komunidad at iligtas ang planeta sa tuluyang pagkasira.

Sinabi pa rin ng opisyal na ang mga lokal na batas tulad ng pinaiiral sa San Jose ay maliliit na hakbang lamang, ngunit kung lahat ay tatalima, malaking tulong sa pagpapalusog ng kalikasan. Babala ni Peroy, "ang patuloy na pag-abuso sa kapaligiran ay maaaring lagim at trahedyang idulot, hihintayin pa ba natin ang isa pang malaking kalamidad bago tayo magising?"



Herzon Gallego added 8 new photos from June 23.

June 23 at 6:40 PM · 🌐 · 🌐

<https://www.facebook.com/1577352838/posts/10220324247887799/?app=fbl>

CENRO Bislig enforcement team apprehends 323 pieces of illegal lumber products

by Herzon Gallego

Butuan City --The enforcement team at CENRO Bislig ,Surigao del Sur under the management of CENRO Vic Sabornido have apprehended 323 pieces of illegal lumber forest products during two weeks intense operation in separate incidents in Bislig city and Hinatuan town.

PENRO Achilles Anthony Ebron said the enforcement team was conducting search and retrieval operations at a dirt road along Barangay San Fernando when it chanced upon 151 pieces (1,011.97 pieces) tanguile lumber of assorted sizes left behind by suspected timber poachers.

In the nearby Barangay Cumagawas in that city, the government operatives intercepted a habal-habal motorbike loaded with 25pieces of illegally-sliced white lauan lumber products. The police confiscated the motorcycle and took the driver to the police station for questioning and filing of appropriate criminal charges with qualified theft and violation of forestry rules, laws and regulations.

In another incident, the CENRO Enforcement team apprehended 40 pieces (560 bd.ft) of toog lumber at Sitio Palhe,Barangay Tagasaka, in Hinatuan.

The team,early this month, has extracted 107 pieces(1,236 bd.ft of toog lumber under a bridge at sitio San Juan in that city.

PENRO Ebron said the apprehended illegal lumber products were taken at the LGU compound in Bislig and Hinatuan.





11 arestado ng NBI sa paglabag sa environmental laws

Niko Baua, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 24 2020 04:57 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/24/20/11-arestado-ng-nbi-sa-paglabag-sa-environmental-laws>

MAYNILA — Arestado ang 11 sa paglabag sa sari-saring batas na layong prumotekta sa kalikasan.

Nadiskubre ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Environmental Crimes Division ang mga istrukturang ilegal na itinayo umano ng isang resort sa Zambales.

Hindi raw kasi sila dapat lumagpas sa shoreline dahil makakasira ito sa pagkakapatag ng buhangin at lupa sa lugar.

"Bukod sa puwedeng maapektuhan ng storm surge ay 'yung environmental impact nito," ani Eric Nuqui, hepe ng NBI ECD.

Bukod sa tulay, may ginawa ring floating restaurant at view deck ang resort, pero wala raw silang maipakitang permit nang itayo ito habang naka-lockdown.

"Dahil naka-skeletal force ang ating agencies akala siguro nila libreng matatapos ang proyekto nila. Ang iniisip nila fine lang babayaran," ani Nuqui.

Sa Pasig City naman, agad pinaligiran ng mga agent ang mga suspek sa isang entrapment operation. Nagbebenta raw sila ng lapnisan o agarwood na isang endangered species ng kahoy na ginagawang pabango.

Napuslit at nakalusot sila sa mga checkpoint galing Surigao at Bicol.

"Pinakita nila na sila ay frontliner at exempted sa restrictions... May ID na local government representatives sila," ani Nuqui.

Sumatotal, 11 ang naaresto ng NBI dahil sa mga paglabag sa Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Babala ng NBI, bagama't prayoridad ang pagtugon sa pandemya, patuloy pa rin ang pagbabantay nila sa kalikasan.



Villar seeks recall of Cavite reclamation project's permit

Paolo Romero

June 25, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/25/2023403/villar-seeks-recall-cavite-reclamation-projects-permit>



Sen. Cynthia Villar was referring to the ECC issued by the DENR, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), to the Bacoor Reclamation and Development Project initiated by Bacoor City government together with the owner of Erabelle Fishing Corp. on March 5.

Mong Pintolo/File

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Cynthia Villar asked yesterday the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to recall the environment compliance certificate (ECC) issued to the 320-hectare Bacoor reclamation project in Cavite, warning that it would destroy protected areas and trigger flooding in communities around Manila Bay.

Villar was referring to the ECC issued by the DENR, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), to the Bacoor Reclamation and Development Project initiated by Bacoor City government together with the owner of Erabelle Fishing Corp. on March 5.

ECC-CO-1909-0023 was signed by EMB officer-in-charge William Cunado, who gave the go-signal to start dredging, filling the project area with reclamation materials and construction of road networks and drainage system in Manila Bay, off Bacoor City in Cavite.

Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on environment, said the project threatens to destroy protected areas and trigger massive flooding in communities surrounding Manila Bay.

“The reclamation project will potentially cause irreparable damage to the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park. The project will be building on the buffer zone of



Villar seeks recall of Cavite reclamation project's permit

this protected area and will destroy the landscape in which the wetland now thrives,” Villar said.

Under Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act (E-NIPAS Act), the 175-hectare Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park is a declared protected area.

It is also one of seven areas in the Philippines listed as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention because of its critical role in the survival of threatened, restricted-range and congregatory bird species.

She also cited the warning of the Department of Public Works and Highways that reclaiming Manila Bay would cause flooding as high as eight meters in Las Piñas City and other cities around the bay.

She said P1.47 billion worth of flood-control projects in the cities of Bacoor and Imus will be wasted if the reclamation project is implemented.

Flooding was one of the grounds cited by Villar along with 315,000 residents of Las Piñas, Parañaque and Cavite, when they petitioned for a Writ of Kalikasan against the planned reclamation of Manila Bay in 2012.

In 2017, the DENR cancelled the ECC issued to Alltech Contractors Inc. for the Parañaque-Las Piñas Coastal Bay Project Land Reclamation due to its potential to harm the environment.

She also said the Bacoor reclamation project contradicts the P1.3-billion Manila Bay Rehabilitation project implemented to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve the coastal and marine ecosystem of the bay.

“If we allow reclamation to proceed in Manila Bay, what happens now to our rehabilitation efforts? Our government has already poured precious resources into this campaign and many have sacrificed to comply. Are we now losing the battle for Manila Bay?” Villar said.

On Jan. 27, 2019, the “Battle for Manila Bay” was launched to reinforce the Supreme Court continuing mandamus issued in December 2008, which directs 13 agencies and private entities to clean up, rehabilitate, preserve, restore and maintain the waters of Manila Bay to a level fit for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation.

Also on the basis of the continuing mandamus, President Duterte signed Administrative Order No. 16 creating the Manila Bay Task Force on Feb. 19, 2019.



Commentary: Reclamation-related floods and increasingly inequitable development

(Philstar.com) - June 24, 2020 - 10:05pm

<https://www.philstar.com/other-sections/news-feature/2020/06/24/2023406/commentary-reclamation-related-floods-and-increasingly-inequitable-development?>

Coastal lands are environmental setting for aqua- and agriculture especially in islands. These are natural water filters and these mitigate the immediate and disastrous impact of high tides and tidal waves that lead massive flooding.

Coastal lands provide equitable and accessible housing and employment opportunities for people, and habitat for many different plants and animals. And, these are also the best carbon storages to lessen the severe impact of atmospheric pollution on public health and well-being. Their importance should never be underestimated.

Sadly, that is the case for Manila Bay, and at least 18 million people inhabiting the coastal lowlands of Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila, and Cavite.

Inequitable profit-centered development in the form of different types of reclamation along Manila Bay's shores have poorly conserved its environment.

Alarming evidence from development impact assessments and archaeological research on Manila Bay coastal heritage sites illustrated how, in at least the last 200 years, reclaimed lands from the dump and fill of mined soils or dredged sediments on coastal and nearshore areas worsened flooding in adjacent communities.

The largest coastal areas of Manila Bay are the Central Luzon and Greater Manila lowlands comprised of large rivers pouring into the bay.

Human settlements existed in these lowlands from at least the last thousand years. The earliest history of reclaimed lands, however, is the 'tambak' or fishponds dating back to at least about 400 years.

Unknown to many, Intramuros in Manila is the largest reclamation project during the Spanish period.

More recent reclamation includes portions of Ermita and Malate, including all of Roxas Boulevard developed during the American period; the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex and North and South harbor complexes built during the Marcos era; and the Mall of Asia/Newport City development and Cavitex Interchange established in the recent and arguably 'profit-driven, corporation-controlled' period of Philippine history.

Archaeological excavations in Lubao, Pampanga document landscape changes in the last 2,000 years, primarily from mangroves to agricultural lands. Land-use conversion, however was seen only in the last hundred years where rice fields were transformed to fishponds.



Commentary: Reclamation-related floods and increasingly inequitable development

Local interviews documented a shift in land-use and natural resource control from the familial and community-centred to the profit-driven and export-oriented industry within the same period.

In the last few decades, census on local economy in the Central Luzon coastal lowlands showed a sharp shift from agriculture food production to trade and commerce.

Reclamation of mangrove forests turned to fishponds, artificial ports and harbors, and upscale private commercial-residential complexes consistently coincided with the worst flooding.

Geologists demonstrated how continuous ground water extraction following reclamations contributed to flooding in the last few decades. Climate change -related global warming led to sea-level rise that made the situation even worse.

Evidence from inequitable development-driven reclamation projects in Manila are stark and convincing.

Archaeological excavations documented at least a meter of land-fill used during the American development of Ermita and Malate. From mangroves and aquaculturally viable mudflats, these coastal lands turned into urban and gentrified residential areas spanning at least a kilometer from the Central Bank along Roxas Boulevard to St Scholastica's College area on Leon Guinto Street.

Subsequent reclamation development exponentially increased flood levels as archaeologically documented in several excavations in Santa Ana, Manila. The worst floods were documented in the period coinciding with the last three government administrations, including the current one.

Environmental scientists and activists have repeatedly warned against the negative impacts of reclamation.

They predicted potential disasters from naturally occurring environmental phenomena like earthquakes, tsunamis and typhoons on reclaimed lands and structures.

History and archaeology clearly demonstrate that we need not wait for the future to test their predictions. We need only to look at the past to see the disaster we are already in.

Vito Hernandez is an International Postgraduate Research Fellow at Flinders University, South Australia, and Research Affiliate at the Biogeography, Environment, Evolution and Climate Laboratory of the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

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BFAR: Fish mortality in Laguna de Bay not due to disease outbreak

Published June 24, 2020, 10:39 AM

By Madelaine Mirafior

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/24/bfar-fish-mortality-in-laguna-de-bay-not-due-to-disease-outbreak/>

The recent fish mortality cases in Taal Lake and Laguna de Bay were not due to an outbreak of certain diseases, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

In a statement, BFAR said there is no outbreak of diseases in tilapia or shrimp and that the recent cases of fish mortality in the Taal Lake and Laguna de Bay area were caused only by low dissolved oxygen (DO) due to abrupt weather changes.

The agency noted that as part of the biosecurity measures in place under Fisheries Order No. 100 and No. 241, it has been requiring health certificates in the transport or movement of tilapia fry and fingerlings and shrimp in post larvae stage for grow-out since the year 2015.

This is to stop the spread of diseases like the White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV), Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease/Early Mortality Syndrome (APHND/EMS), and the Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) threatening shrimp and tilapia culture.

BFAR noted, however, that these diseases do not pose any risk to human health.

“Should the fish commodities be affected by the said diseases, they are still safe for human consumption, provided that they are fresh and thoroughly washed and cleaned before cooking,” it said.

BFAR, through its regional offices, said that it will continue to strictly enforce the Fisheries Orders to ensure that the spread of fish diseases is controlled and the tilapia and shrimp industries are protected.



Local fishers blame dredging for dwindling fish catch in Zambales

(Philstar.com) - June 24, 2020 - 3:51pm

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/06/24/2023233/local-fishers-blame-dredging-dwindling-fish-catch-zambales?fbclid=IwAR0Bwi9BvceQoPlxA1AsNzM4tjOeQXg4ga1W6ZRbV04vLVALoXm3j9KDqAU>

MANILA, Philippines — Dredging operations in the coastal waters of Zambales have depleted fish catch in the area, a national fishers group said Wednesday.

Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said the provincial government of Zambales should be held "liable" for allowing such operations.

Pamalakaya national chairperson Fernando Hicap said Zambales province, under Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., granted a permit to the operation which "clearly compromised the marine ecology."

"As reports from the ground said that fish catch dwindled since the dredging began on their fishing grounds. The provincial government of Zambales should be held accountable for consenting to such destructive activity at the expense of our marine environment and livelihood of our fishers," Hicap said in a statement.

Pamalakaya vice chair for Luzon Bobby Roldan, a fisherman based in Central Luzon, noted that the municipal waters of Botolan, Zambales serve as an alternative fishing grounds.

Noting that the coastal waters of Botolan used to be abundant with fish and other marine resources, Roldan said Filipino fisherfolks go to this area instead of going farther into the West Philippine Sea.

"Sagana sa huling isda ang dagat ng Botolan bago pa nag-umpisa ang dredging. Nang simulan nang hukayin ang dagat, nabulabog at lumayo ang mga isda," Roldan said.

"Problema ngayon dahil hindi makalabas ng municipal waters ang mga mangingisda dahil malalaking barko naman ng China ang sasalubong sakanila pagdating sa Scarborough Shoal," he added.

(The sea of Botolan was abundant with fish before dredging started. As they started scooping the sea, the fish were startled and they went away. The problem now is that fishermen cannot go outside municipal waters because they will encounter large Chinese ships coming to Scarborough Shoal.)

Ship owner clarifies grounded ship not a dredger



Local fishers blame dredging for dwindling fish catch in Zambales

The company handling the dredging of Bucao River in Botolan earlier clarified that the Chinese ship that ran aground off the town's coast a few weeks ago was not a dredger.

An official of Z2K resources, owner MV Zhang Hai 69 Alfa (ZH 69), said the ship was an aggregate carrier ship and "does not have any capability to dredge or suction sand." The vessel transported dredged materials from Bucao River in Botolan to neighboring coastal town Cabangan.

Pamalakaya, however, pointed out that ZH69 was still part of the dredging operations as materials carrier regardless of its classification.

"Dredging harms the marine life through excavation of seabed and movement of solid particles, noise pollution, and blurring of water that drive away the fish. Thus, dwindling of fish catch as lamented by the local fishers in the affected coastal town," the group said.

According to Fiedni Fontamillas, chief operating officer of Z2K, the recent typhoon Butchoy battered the Chinese carrier ship anchored about 200 meters off the coast of Bucao River at the time.

"As a result, there was a breach in the wall of the ship that allowed the water to enter the hull," Fontamillas said, adding that the vessel was moved closer to shore for its repairs.

He clarified that the position of ZH 69 was part of the preparations for a major dredging activity in the area. — Patricia Lourdes Viray with report from The STAR/Jose Rodel Clapano



In bloom: Rare flowers blossom in Rizal amid pandemic

By Rosette Adel

- June 24, 2020 - 6:12 PM

<https://www.interaksyon.com/hobbies-interests/2020/06/24/171405/in-bloom-rare-flowers-blossom-in-rizal-amid-pandemic/>



This composite June 2020 photo shows voodoo lily and Hoya meliflua flowers that were seen blooming at the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal. (Facebook/Masungi Georeserve, Kal Joffres)

Beautiful and unique flowers were recently spotted at the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal.

Masungi Georeserve, a conservation area in Baras, Rizal, shared photos of an 8-foot-7-inch-tall voodoo lily and rare flora called Hoya meliflua flowers that were discovered to be blooming on the nature-reserve park.

Voodoo lily or the *Amorphophallus rostratus* flower species, locally known “as biga,” is considered to be one of the world’s tallest flowers. It was discovered by park rangers while doing their maintenance work

It was discovered by park rangers while doing their maintenance work.

“The genus was named after the Greek for ‘misshapen or deformed’ male sexual organ in reference to its spire-like spadix,” Masungi Georeserve said.

The reserve park said that this is endemic to their localized area. It added that this bell-shaped endemic species often smell like rotten fish in the first two days.

Meanwhile, almost a week after the growing voodoo lily was discovered, Masungi Georeserve found another captivating endemic species blossoming in the area this month.



In bloom: Rare flowers blossom in Rizal amid pandemic

It shared a photo of star-shaped hoyá meliflua flowers, which are only found in the Philippines.

This rare flora that can have 10 to 20 flowers have been documented in Apayao, La Union, Rizal, Bataan, Laguna, Mindoro, Palawan, Negros, Panay and Leyte.

At least four species of Hoyas have been documented in Masungi.

Hoyá meliflua flowers usually have a reddish-orange color, coming from its dark nectar which easily stains.

“It’s another reason why we need to protect this wildlife sanctuary against quarrying, illegal occupation and other harmful activities,” Masungi Georeserve said.



Bayanihan law expires today; no more emergency powers

Mary Grace Padin

June 25, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/25/2023411/bayanihan-law-expires-today-no-more-emergency-powers>

MANILA, Philippines — The Bayanihan to Heal As One Act expires today, and with it President Duterte’s emergency powers to quickly procure medical supplies needed for the government’s fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr., however, expressed hope yesterday that the executive branch would find middle ground with Congress in order to address the issue.

Roque admitted that the approval of the economic stimulus package prior to adjournment of the 18th Congress earlier this month hit a snag due to disagreements among some executive officials, such as Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, and lawmakers.

“The original proposal was simply to expand the emergency powers and that would have been no problem, but the pending bills now in both houses of Congress incorporated the stimulus package, and that’s where differences (arose) with the executive,” Roque said. “Secretary Dominguez doesn’t want the stimulus package to be something that we can’t pay for. But I think negotiations are continuing.”

The President’s emergency powers, Roque noted, enabled the government to act swiftly in the procurement of ventilators, personal protective equipment and test kits, and provide budget for the hiring and deployment of healthcare workers.

“It would be important to have flexibility (for) emergency purposes without having to comply with procurement law,” he said.

Roque noted that in the case of Cebu City, which has been reverted to enhanced community quarantine until June 30, the national government has to intervene.

“It is still important to have the power somehow to take over some private hospitals like what is happening in Cebu. We’ve had to hire nurses and make them work in private hospitals,” he said. “We’ve asked them to increase. I don’t know if they’ve actually complied because we need medical care capacity in Cebu City.”



Bayanihan law expires today; no more emergency powers

In Cebu City where private hospitals are only allotted a fixed number of beds for COVID cases, Roque said it would be easier for the national government to make necessary adjustments under the Bayanihan Act.

“The emergency power is important in this case because if they don’t comply and if they don’t allot, then we may have to take over some of these hospitals and hire our own nurses and doctors to handle our COVID cases. That’s the importance of emergency powers,” he said.

Roque said: “The challenge posed by Cebu City is the challenge posed to the entire country, if and when we have uncontrolled growth of the disease, spread of diseases.”

For now, Roque said, the government has everything it needs in terms of increased healthcare capacity on the national scale.

“Of course, we would need emergency powers again because it takes forever to comply with the procurement act for purposes of emergency. But I am confident that time will come the executive and both houses of Congress can agree on something, and we can now ask Congress to hold a special session,” Roque said.

Since the Bayanihan Act’s enactment last March, the government has been able to dispatch funds to allow procurement of medical supplies and provide assistance to frontline workers, those who were displaced due to the pandemic, as well as give social amelioration funds to the poorest of the poor.

President Duterte would decide “in the next few days” whether he would convene Congress for a special session to discuss the Bayanihan to Recover As One Act, according to Finance Secretary Dominguez.

“I will know within the next few days,” Dominguez said when asked regarding the possibility of a special session during the Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum yesterday.

According to the finance chief, the proposed session was being discussed with Congress to ensure that it would be spent productively.

“It’s under discussion. In fact by today, we should really have come to an agreement already with the leaderships of both houses. Today or tomorrow,” he said.

“We want to make sure that if there’s a special session called, that actually, we will come out with something rather than nothing,” he added.



Bayanihan law expires today; no more emergency powers

\$7.18 B from foreign sources

The Philippines has so far secured \$7.18 billion in financing support from foreign sources to fund measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Finance (DOF) said yesterday.

During the Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum, Dominguez said the DOF has raised \$4.83 billion in concessionary budgetary support financing from various multilateral institutions for COVID-19 response to date.

These include loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) of France.

Of this amount, Dominguez said \$2.26 billion has already been disbursed for government programs.

In addition, the finance chief said the government also raised \$2.35 billion last April from the issuance of US-dollar denominated global bonds, priced at the lowest coupon rate ever achieved by the government for these debt papers despite market volatility caused by COVID-19.

“This is a clear vote of confidence in our future recovery as well as a favorable appraisal of where our prospects stand compared to that of the rest of the world,” Dominguez said.

The Philippine government borrows from both domestic and external lenders to plug the expected deficit in its budget, which is now seen to widen to P1.56 trillion or 8.1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) due to the pandemic.

On the domestic side, the finance chief said the government has raised \$1.2 trillion in net borrowings since the beginning of the year to cover its budget deficit.

This includes the P300-billion financing support provided by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) under a repurchase agreement with the Bureau of Treasury to help fund the government’s COVID-19 related expenses.

Dominguez said government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) have also remitted a total of P149.2 billion in dividends since the beginning of the year.



Bayanihan law expires today; no more emergency powers

“The President has been granted special powers to reallocate these remittances for programs to address the COVID-19 emergency,” he said.

As of June 22, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has released P355.68 billion in allotments in relation to the government’s COVID-19 response efforts.

Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado said P247.21 billion of this amount came from pooled savings from the discontinuance of programs and projects.

Based on data posted on DBM’s website, some P98.22 billion in allotment releases came from Special Purpose Funds, while another P10.25 billion came from regular agency budgets.

The bulk or P199.98 billion of the total amount went to the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the distribution of cash aid under the Social Amelioration Program.

The DOF received P88.52 billion in funds, P51 billion of which was used for the Small Business Wage Subsidy Program of the Social Security System.

About P48.23 billion was also released to the Department of Health (DOH) for their efforts to contain the pandemic.



Policymakers' dilemma in a health-related crisis

posted June 25, 2020 at 12:05 am

by Rudy Romero

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/326901>

"They were not taught these things in their economics and finance classes."

The coronavirus pandemic is creating a two-headed problem for governments. Economic policymakers are being forced to perform a delicate balancing act. As with all balancing acts, failure to achieve and maintain can produce dire consequences.

Normally economic downturns are the result of widespread and sustained loss of purchasing power following disasters such as financial-market collapses, political upheavals, trade disruptions and agricultural failures. In such situations, the makers of monetary, fiscal and trade policies know what they have to do: Maintain purchasing power by making it possible for producers to continue operating and for consumers to keep buying what the producers are producing and the distributors are selling. This they do by making appropriate policies in such economic policy tools as loan availabilities, interest rates, taxes and benefit payments.

But the downturn that the world economy is currently experiencing—without a doubt the most severe since The Great Depression of the 1930s—is by no means normal.

Unlike other economic crises since the 1930s, the current crisis has two heads like Hydra of mythology. One head is an economic head; the second head has no direct connection with economics. The non-economic half of the current crisis is, of course, the coronavirus pandemic, which thus far has produced over 31,000 infections and caused the death of just over 1,000 Filipinos.

Economic policymakers all over the world are poised on the horns of a dilemma. The dilemma is that they are called upon to accomplish two things at the same time: saving lives and protecting jobs. The two objectives, which have been characterized as lives-versus-livelihoods and deaths-versus-dollars, are to a large extent antithetical to one another. If communities are locked down, lives are saved but jobs are lost; if, on the other hand, communities are unlocked in disregard of established public-health protocols, jobs will be restored but mortality rates are bound to rise. Using tried and tested economic policy tools, it's easy to increase purchasing power and thereby restore jobs. But this remedial operation must be carried out in a manner that does not cause surges in infection and monthly rates. Keeping people from getting sick and dying versus making it



Policymakers' dilemma in a health-related crisis

possible for people to continue earning a living: this is the delicate balancing act that the world's economic policymakers are called upon to perform in these times.

It's an exceedingly difficult balancing act, but it has to be performed. Lives cannot be saved at the expense of livelihoods and deaths cannot be preferred over dollars.

For most economic policymakers, this is uncharted territory. To bring down infection and mortality rates and eventually contain the coronavirus, how much economic reopening should be done, and how and when? The economic policymakers were not taught these things in their economics and finance classes. In the present crisis they are making policy decisions according to best judgments based on economic principles and ethical and Christian precepts.

Surges in infection and mortality rates in countries that have not consistently observed the health safety protocols, and sharp increases in infections and deaths in countries that had been declared COVID-19-free, indicate that achieving and maintaining the right policy balance in the present crisis is very much a work in progress.

Policymaking has never been like this for today's economic policymakers. When the current crisis shall have been solved, they will hope that they won't have to do this kind of policymaking again in their lifetimes.



What will the 'new normal' be like for Boracay?

Published June 24, 2020 5:28pm

By JANNIELYN ANN BIGTAS, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/travel/744013/what-will-the-new-normal-be-like-for-boracay/story/>



After travel restrictions were implemented worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Boracay Island looked more like paradise as it took a break from tourists.

It was only on June 16 when Boracay Island reopened to guests. However, for now, only visitors from Western Visayas were allowed entry.

On the latest episode of "Quarantours," Rhinna, a Boracay resident for almost 20 years now, showed what the new normal was like on the island.

Rhinna said when Boracay was placed under enhanced community quarantine, life on the island became simpler.

"Nag-alaga kami ng mga manok para may pang-ulam kami. Para hindi na kami lalabas. Ito na 'yung pang-ulam namin," she said.

Residents also began planting vegetables and picking fruits.

On June 1, swimming was again allowed in Boracay.

According to the episode, the Department of Tourism said the province of Aklan lost P11.3 billion due to the lockdown.

Thousands of workers in hotels and restaurants had complained and suffered as they lost their jobs.

One of them was Flor Abragan who was a staff member in a resort hotel.

"Mahirap. Mahirap ang kalagayan namin dito na wala kaming trabaho," Flor shared.

"Kasi parehas kami ng asawa ko na nawalan ng trabaho kasi maraming nagsara dito na mga hotel. Halos lahat. Restaurant din. Nagsara din. Tapos may dalawa pa akong anak. Tapos may ginagatas pa ako," she added.



What will the ‘new normal’ be like for Boracay?

But they found hope when authorities finally reopened Boracay.

In one of the popular restaurants in Boracay, their breakfast food and famous calamansi muffins had been made available for takeout and delivery.

The restaurant manager said they had filed a permit to resume their dine-in operations amid the new normal.

“We’re waiting for those composite team na mag-conduct ng inspection ba, para mabigyan kami ng certification to operate for dine-in,” the manager said.

Meanwhile, only six hotels in Boracay were given accreditation by the DOT to operate.

The hotels observed strict safety protocols, including social distancing, temperature check, footbath, and “no mask, no entry” rule.

Their staff also wore protective gear, including face shields, gloves, and masks.

“Every 20 minutes, we’re going to sanitize our hands. We change our gloves. And our face masks,” one of the hotel staff said.

Even at the hotel’s restaurant, they made sure to follow strict safety protocols. Instead of the usual breakfast buffet, the staff now served a big tray of food to their customers.

Boracay also set strict guidelines for swimmers.

According to Rhinna, areas with red flags are non-swimming areas.

Resort guests were required to register their name, address, and cell phone number for faster tracing in case someone tested positive.

Guests should wear masks while registering but they could take it off when they go swimming.

“Before kayo pupunta dito, with face mask po tayo. Yung rules naman dito, ma’am, ‘pag no registration, no swimming po. Bawal kayo maligo pag hindi kayo nag-register dito sa lifeguard station,” the lifeguard said.

While swimming, guests should still observe physical distancing. If one was found violating the rule, lifeguards would call them out on their megaphone.

The episode also showed how Boracay looked as pristine as it did in the ‘80s.

Last week, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año ordered the relief of Bureau of Fire Protection-Region VI personnel over the alleged breach of quarantine protocols on Boracay Island.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the staff involved did not hold a conference but a “despedida party.” – RC, GMA News



'Bating Filipino' ni Rep. Fernando, isinusulong sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic

June 24, 2020 @ 7:30 PM

<https://remate.ph/bating-filipino-ni-rep-fernando-isinusulong-sa-gitna-ng-covid-19-pandemic/>



Manila, Philippines – Isinusulong ng pamahalaan ang ibang paraan ng pagbati sa isang tao habang sinisiguro ang kaligtasan sa gitna ng pandemya.

Hinihimok ng House Resolution No. 408 ang pamahalaan na isulong ang paglalagay ng palad sa gitna ng dibdib kasama ang bahagyang pagtango. Tinatawag ito bilang “Bating Filipino.”

Inihain ni Marikina Rep. Bayani Fernando ang resolusyon noong Hulyo 2019, at opsiyal na tinaggap noong Pebrero 2020.

Papalitan nito ang karaniwang pakikipagkamay upang bawasan ang pagpapasa ng virus.

Ani Fernando sa isang panayam na ipinapakita ng bagong pagbati ang sinseridad at paggalang ng Filipino sa iba pa.

Aniya pa, dapat ding tumulong ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan, partikular ang Department of Education, na ipakalat ang kaalaman tungkol dito.

Kumakalat online ang video na nagsusulong na gamitin ang naturang pagbati. RNT/MM



Bago City evacuates 18 families as Mt. Kanlaon shows unrest

By Nanette Guadalquiver June 24, 2020, 8:11 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1106926>



EVACUATED. Residents of Barangay Ilijan in Bago City, Negros Occidental were briefed and evacuated to safer grounds on Tuesday night (June 23, 2020) after earthquakes were felt and sulfuric fumes were emitted by Mt. Kanlaon in the area. Localities surrounding the volcano were alerted after two magnitude 4.7 earthquakes were recorded by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology early Monday morning. (Photo courtesy of Bago City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office)

BACOLOD CITY – Some 18 families in Bago City, Negros Occidental were evacuated Tuesday night amid the activity of Mt. Kanlaon, which remains at Alert Level 1.

Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson said on Wednesday these residents were transferred to a school as a precautionary measure.

“The good news is, in the last 24 hours there have been 38 volcano-tectonic earthquakes. If you compare that to the previous 24 hours, where there was over a hundred, it seems that it has mellowed down, and I hope this will continue,” he added.

Alert Level 1 means the volcano is at an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest.

According to the Bago City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, those evacuated, which totaled 76 individuals, are all residents of Barangay Ilijan, where earthquakes were felt, and sulfuric fumes were emitted by the volcano.

On Wednesday, information, education and communication activities and assessment were also conducted as part of the city’s preparedness, it added.



Bago City evacuates 18 families as Mt. Kanlaon shows unrest

Lacson said he asked again for prayers that Negros Occidental will be spared from another calamity.

“It is one problem that we really don’t need, at all. Otherwise, it (the volcano) has mellowed down. Even the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said there is no dramatic increase in tremors,” he added.

Lacson also said the local government units (LGUs) around Mt. Kanlaon already have contingency plans.

Concerned LGUs were alerted after two magnitude 4.7 earthquakes rocked areas surrounding the volcano early Monday morning. A series of aftershocks were recorded.

The epicenter was located between Bago City and La Carlota City, which also stepped up its preparedness following the volcano-tectonic earthquakes.

On Monday, Mayor Rex Jalando-on convened the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRRMC) in a meeting also attended by the Provincial Disaster Management Program Division head Zeaphard Caelian and Phivolcs science research specialist Mari-Andylene Quintia.

Jalando-on directed the CDRRMC to set up a command center, activate the city’s incident command system, and mobilize the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils.

In the Kanlaon Volcano Bulletin issued at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Phivolcs said that the seismic monitoring network recorded 38 volcano-tectonic earthquakes on the western flanks in the last 24 hours.

On Monday, 136 earthquakes were monitored while on Tuesday, only 104. (PNA)



Fewer quakes but steam emission continues at Mt. Kanlaon

By: Rosalie Abatayo - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital | June 24, 2020 - 10:57 AM

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/321154/fewer-quakes-but-steam-emission-continues-at-mt-kanlaon#ixzz6QGb4dzi4>



Kanlaon Volcano

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Fewer ground tremors have been recorded in the vicinity of the Kanlaon Volcano in the past 24 hours compared to those reported in the last two days.

In its 8 a.m. bulletin this Wednesday, June 24, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the Kanlaon Volcano seismic monitoring network logged 38 volcano-tectonic quakes in the past 24 hours. This is relatively fewer than the 136 earthquakes recorded for the same length of time reported on Monday, and the 104 reported on Tuesday.

One of the 38 earthquakes recorded was a magnitude 3.6 quake at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. It was felt at Intensity 3 in La Carlota City and at Intensity 2 in Bago City, both in Negros Occidental.

Despite fewer quakes, steam emission at the volcano's vent, however, continues.

“Activity at the vent consisted of moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes that rose 300 meters before drifting southwest,” the Phivolcs bulletin read.

As of June 13, the Sulfur dioxide emission from the volcano was measured at a daily average of 438 tonnes.



Fewer quakes but steam emission continues at Mt. Kanlaon

“Ground deformation data from continuous GPS 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,” the report added.

According to Phivolcs, these parameters indicate of hydrothermal or magmatic activity occurring underground.

Since March 2020, Mt. Kanlaon has been placed under Alert Level 1 which indicates that the volcano 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,” the agency added. / dcb



Kanlaon Volcano continues to emit white steam-laden plumes

Published June 24, 2020 10:16am

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/743948/kanlaon-volcano-continues-to-emit-white-steam-laden-plumes/story/>

Kanlaon Volcano on Negros Island emitted white steam-laden plumes again for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

In an 8 a.m. bulletin on Wednesday, PHIVOLCS said the emission was moderate and rose 300 meters before drifting southwest.

“One earthquake at 7:00 p.m. yesterday was recorded at M3.6 by the Philippine Seismic Network and was felt at Intensity III in La Carlota City and at Intensity II in Bago City, Negros Occidental,” it said.

Unlike in the past days with over a hundred volcano-tectonic earthquakes, only 38 were recorded on the western flanks of Kanlaon in the past 24 hours.

PHIVOLCS measured Kanlaon's sulfur dioxide emission at 438 tonnes per day.

It observed slight deflation of the lower slopes and mid slopes of the volcano since January, based on the ground deformation data from continuous GPS measurements.

A continuing deflation on the lower slopes and inflation on the mid slopes of the volcano have been observed since April through short-term electronic tilt monitoring on the southeastern flanks, it added.

“These parameters indicate that hydrothermal or magmatic activity is occurring beneath the edifice,” PHIVOLCS said.

Kanlaon Volcano is currently at Alert Level 1 which means that it is at an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest, according to PHIVOLCS.

“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,” it said.

“Civil aviation authorities must also advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as ejecta from any sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft,” PHIVOLCS added. —Joviland Rita/KG, GMA News



Bulkang Kanlaon, patuloy na nagbubuga ng mas mataas na usok

June 24, 2020 @ 11:50 AM

<https://remate.ph/bulkang-kanlaon-patuloy-na-nagbubuga-ng-mas-mataas-na-usok/>

Manila, Philippines – Patuloy na nagbubuga ng mas matataas na usok ang Bulkang Kanlaon sa Negros Island sa ikatlong araw ngayong Miyerkoles, June 24 batay sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Sa 8 a.m. bulletin, sinabi ng PHIVOLCS na nasa 300 metro ang taas ng buga nito.

“One earthquake at 7:00 p.m. yesterday was recorded at M3.6 by the Philippine Seismic Network and was felt at Intensity III in La Carlota City and at Intensity II in Bago City, Negros Occidental.”

“These parameters indicate that hydrothermal or magmatic activity is occurring beneath the edifice,” lahad pa ng PHIVOLCS.

Kasalukuyang nasa Alert Level 1 ang Bulkang Kanlaon.

“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.”

“Civil aviation authorities must also advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano’s summit as ejecta from any sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft,” paalala pa ng PHIVOLCS. RNT/FGDC



Strategic Communication
and Initiatives Service



1/2
Page

25 June 2020
Date

LOOK: Golden bangus found in Dagupan turned over to gov't

By: Ryan Arcadio - @inquirerdotnet

INQUIRER.net / 01:15 PM June 24, 2020

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1296606/look-golden-bangus-found-in-dagupan-turned-over-to-govt#ixzz6QGW93WAY>



The golden bangus (Image: Facebook/Lemmor Felomino)

A rare golden bangus (milkfish) found in Dagupan City was transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) last Friday, June 19.

The fish was handed over to the bureau in Barangay Bonuan Binloc “for better care and research purposes,” BFAR Dagupan center chief Dr. Westly Rosario told INQUIRER.net yesterday, June 23.

Prior to being given to Rosario and the bureau, the rare bangus was taken care of by Rommel Felomino. He spotted the fish in a fishpond he rented for other non-bangus fishes in Barangay Carael last July. Felomino told INQUIRER.net that it was still unclear how the bangus had ended up in the pond.

Rommel Felomino with the golden bangus (Image: Facebook/Lemmor Felomino)

He also noted that he and his father, who also looked after the pond, initially thought it was simply a koi fish and did not bother about it. When they later realized it was a golden bangus, they contacted the BFAR and decided to place it under the agency’s care.



LOOK: Golden bangus found in Dagupan turned over to gov't

As to why the bangus has a rare golden hue, Rosario and Filomeno both explained that it was probably an abnormality in its pigmentation. They also likened it to albinism in mammals.

“It is a phenomenon that needs evaluating,” Rosarios added. “Could be albinism, but may not be true albinism.”

Albinism is a congenital disorder characterized by the absence of pigmentation in the skin, hair and irises, according to *National Geographic*.

Felomino stated that the golden bangus currently weighs about 800 grams and is around 15 inches long. Meanwhile, the gender of the fish can only be determined when it is 5 years old.

Rommel Felomino (left) and Dr. Westly Rosario. Image: Facebook/Lemmor Felomino

After handing over the bangus, Filomeno hopes that the bureau can successfully breed it. The rare fish is kept in a hatchery reservoir at the bureau, where others can look at it from a safe distance.

This the second golden bangus to be documented in the Philippines. The first one was found back in 2012 and was also placed under the care of the BFAR and Rosario. However, it [died](#) in June of the same year likely due to a lack of dissolved oxygen in its pond.

“The pond where the bangus was lodged was continuously pumped with sea water. But there was a problem with the pump’s water intake [valve] which was filled with sand, so water could not enter the pond,” Rosario said at the time.

He also noted that some people consider the golden bangus a lucky charm. /ra



4.0-magnitude quake jolts Davao Occidental

Published June 24, 2020, 7:59 AM

By Mike Crismundo

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/24/4-0-magnitude-quake-jolts-davao-occidental-3/>

BUTUAN CITY – A 4.0 magnitude earthquake hit Davao Occidental province Tuesday night, June 23, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

In its bulletin, Phivolcs said the tremor was recorded at 10:55 p.m.

The epicenter was plotted 315 kilometers (km) southeast of Sarangani, Davao Occidental province.

The tremor had a depth of 125 km, Phivolcs said.

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

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

Earlier, a 4.1 magnitude tectonic earthquake was also registered at 1:55 p.m. on the same day and its epicenter was traced 304 kms southeast of that same town and province, with a depth of 33 kms., Phivolcs also said in its bulletin

No aftershock and tsunami alert was raised by the state agency while the OCD and PDRRMC also reported no damage or injury.

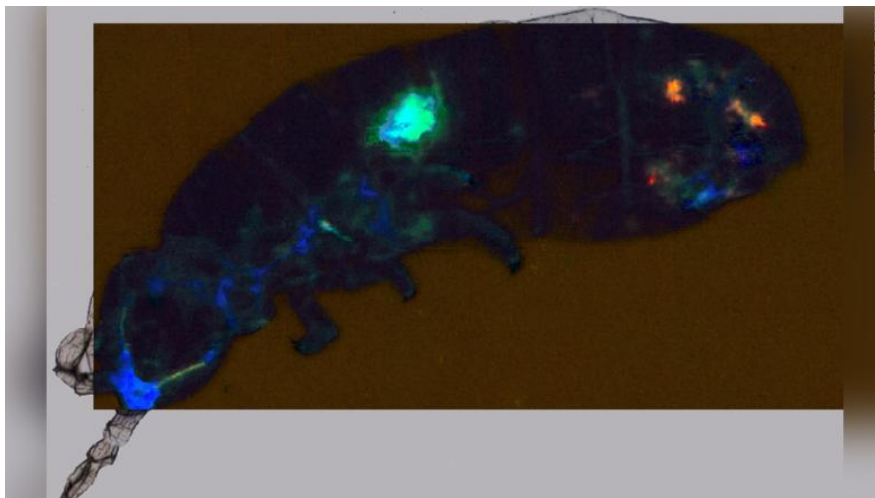


Microplastics found in gut of animal on one of the most remote islands of the world

By Rory Sullivan, CNN

Updated 0044 GMT (0844 HKT) June 24, 2020

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/23/world/microplastics-gut-isolated-animal-antarctic-scnc-scli-intl/index.html>



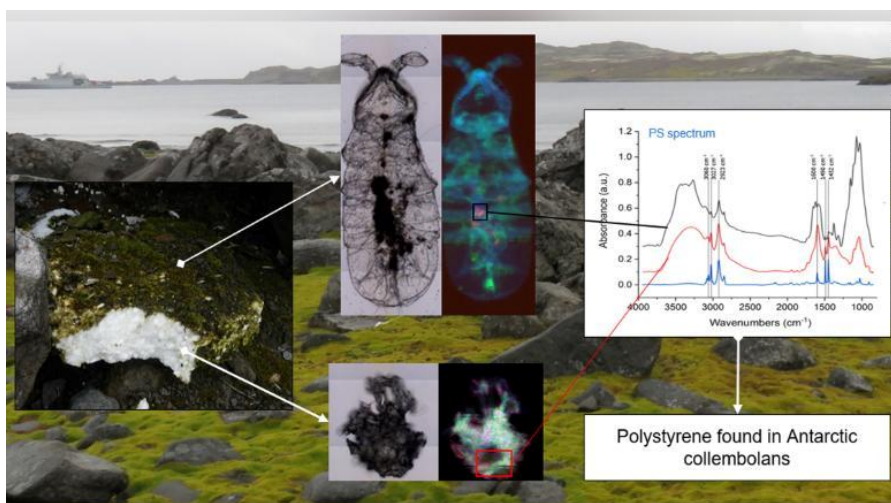
The researchers used infrared spectroscopy to detect microplastics in the "Cryptopygus antarcticus."

(CNN)Microplastics have been discovered in the gut of an animal on a remote island in the Antarctic, raising concerns that plastic pollution could be prevalent in the region's ecosystem.

A new study by researchers in Italy and Ireland found traces of contamination inside the gut of the "Cryptopygus antarcticus," a small invertebrate that lives in the soil of the Antarctic.

The tiny creature is also known as a springtail and it is less than 1 millimeter in length, according to the scientists.

In a statement ahead of the release of their study, the researchers said their findings constituted the "first field-based evidence of contamination by microplastics in Antarctic terrestrial animals."



A graph showing the levels of plastic pollution found in the gut of the "Cryptopygus antarcticus."



Microplastics found in gut of animal on one of the most remote islands of the world

They made their discovery after testing 18 animals which had been found on a large piece on polystyrene foam in 2016 on the shore of King George Island, situated north of the Antarctic continent.

Elisa Bergami, a researcher at the University of Siena who led the project, told CNN that she saw the plastic material while she was on a field trip in the "relatively highly polluted area."

Explaining her decision to bring it to Italy for testing, Bergami said: "I was anxious about plastic debris stranded along the coast because we wanted to understand the pathways of plastic in this remote environment."



Coronavirus is causing a flurry of plastic waste. Campaigners fear it may be permanent

The research team then used infrared spectroscopy at Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste, a research center in Italy, to detect the presence of microplastics inside the animals.

Bergami added that the creatures must have ingested the plastic as they ate the algae, moss and lichen that coated the polystyrene block.

She also noted that microplastics can transport pathogens and contaminants which are harmful to the animals they tested, as well as to other species in the ecosystem's food chain.

Tancredi Caruso, an associate professor at University College Dublin and one of the study's authors, said that the type of Collembola they tested is "very well-

represented" in Antarctica -- both on the continent and on islands like King George Island. This raises potential concerns for the entire ecosystem.

Caruso expressed his hope that the study would lead to more research, telling CNN: "For a long time, there's been some underestimation of the potential negative role of plastics in ecosystems."

The study is published in the journal *Biology Letters*.



Avoiding single-use plastic was becoming normal, until coronavirus. Here's how we can return to good habits

By Kim Borg, Jim Curtis and Jo Lindsay via The Conversation

- June 24, 2020 - 12:09 PM

<https://www.interaksyon.com/hobbies-interests/2020/06/24/171355/avoiding-single-use-plastic-was-becoming-normal-until-coronavirus-heres-how-we-can-return-to-good-habits/>

As COVID-19 restrictions start to ease, we're unlikely to return to our previous behaviors, from our work-life balance to maintaining good hygiene.

But there are downsides to this new normal, particularly when it comes to hygiene concerns, which have led to an increase in an environmental scourge we were finally starting to get on top of: single-use plastics.

We've recently published research based on data collected in mid-2019 (before COVID-19). Our findings showed that not only were people avoiding single-use plastics most of the time, but one of the biggest motivators was knowing others were avoiding them too. Avoidance was becoming normal.

But then COVID-19 changed the game. Since the pandemic started, there has been a significant increase in plastic waste, such as medical waste from protective equipment such as masks, gloves and gowns, and increased purchases of sanitary products such as disposable wipes and liquid soap.

The good news is we can return to our plastic-avoiding habits. It just might look a little different.

As we needed to protect ourselves with masks, we added to the waste crisis.

Shutterstock

Avoidance was more normal than we realized

In our representative survey of 1,001 Victorians, we asked people about their behaviors and beliefs around four single-use plastic items: bags, straws, coffee cups and take-away containers.

We found people's beliefs about how often others were avoiding these items was one of the strongest predictors of their own intentions.

Other influences that predicted intentions included personal confidence, the perceived self and environmental benefits and financial costs associated with avoidance, and whether others would approve or disapprove of the behavior.

While beliefs about other peoples' behavior was one of the strongest predictors of intentions, there was still a gap between these beliefs and reported behavior.



Avoiding single-use plastic was becoming normal, until coronavirus. Here's how we can return to good habits

On average, 70% of our sample reported avoiding single-use plastics most of the time. But only 30% believed others were avoiding them as often.

Thankfully, our findings suggest we can encourage more people to avoid single-use plastics more often by sharing the news that most people are doing it already. The bad news is that COVID-19 has increased our reliance on single-use items.

Some single-use is necessary during a pandemic

Just when avoidance was becoming normal, the pandemic brought single-use plastics back into favor.

Despite the fact the virus survives longer on plastic compared to other surfaces and a lack of evidence that disposable items are any safer than reusable ones, many businesses are refusing to accept reusable containers, such as coffee cups.

Cafes have refused reusable cups to try to maintain better hygiene.
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Overseas and in Australia, some government departments delayed upcoming bans on single-use plastics and others overturned existing single-use plastic bag bans.

So even if consumers want to avoid single-use plastics, it's not as easy as it used to be.

Avoiding plastic can still be part of the new normal

It is still possible to avoid unnecessary single-use plastic right now. We just need to get creative and focus on items within our control.

We can still pack shopping in reusable bags, make a coffee at home in a reusable cup, carry reusable straws when we go out – just make sure to wash reusables between each use.

Many Victorians can even order delivery take-away food in reusable containers, thanks to the partnership between Deliveroo and Returnr, the reusable packaging scheme. Boomerang Alliance also produced guidelines for sustainable take-away options, including practical tips for contactless transfer of food.

Our research focused on public single-use plastic avoidance behaviors, but now is a good time to look at private ones too.

There are plenty of single-use plastics in the home: cling wrap, coffee pods, shampoo and conditioner bottles, disposable razors and liquid soap dispensers to name a few.



Avoiding single-use plastic was becoming normal, until coronavirus. Here's how we can return to good habits

Using reusable wraps for your food is a much better alternative than single-use cling wrap.

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But you can find reusable alternatives for almost everything: beeswax or silicone wraps, reusable coffee pods, shampoo and conditioner bars, reusable safety razors and bars of soap, rather than liquid soap.

Buying cleaning products in bulk can also reduce plastic packaging and keeping glass jars or hard plastic containers are great for storing leftovers.

Just because we're in a period of change, doesn't mean we have to lose momentum. Single-use plastics are a huge environmental problem that we can continue to address by changing our behaviors.

Many are calling on governments, businesses and individuals to use the pandemic as an opportunity to look at how we used to do things and ask – is there a better way?

When it comes to single use plastics during COVID-19, we can't control everything. But our actions can help shape what the new normal looks like.

Kim Borg, Research Fellow at BehaviourWorks Australia, Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Monash University; Jim Curtis, Research Fellow in Behaviour Change, Monash University, and Jo Lindsay, Professor of sociology, Monash University. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article.



US provides technical training on virus testing

By BusinessMirror

June 25, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/25/us-provides-technical-training-on-virus-testing/>



Medical technologists stand to benefit from the recent training from the US.

THE United States, through its Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS), led a two-week molecular biology training to strengthen the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) testing capabilities of Filipino medical technologists.

From June 1 to 12, the US Department of Defense's Philippines-AFRIMS Virology Research Unit (PAVRU) trained four medical laboratory technologists on biosafety, biosecurity, respiratory sample processing and storage, as well as Covid-19 testing techniques at the V. Luna Medical Center, the biggest military medical facility in the Philippines.

During the early phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, PAVRU provided the medical center with testing and laboratory-supply support, including reagents, laboratory consumables, access to equipment and guidance for molecular testing. In addition, the unit offered technical guidance as the military hospital designed, renovated and equipped a dedicated Covid-19 testing laboratory which includes biosafety cabinets, centrifuges and biomedical freezers. With PAVRU support, the medical facility and its personnel have completed nearly 3,000 Covid-19 tests on behalf of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

PAVRU and the AFP have maintained a strong partnership since the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak, when they teamed up to support disease testing in the Philippines. With the onset of the current pandemic, PAVRU is once again working directly with and supporting the Philippine Army's personnel in their fight against Covid-19.

AFRIMS is an overseas laboratory of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland. Since 1893, WRAIR has worked to reduce the impact of some of the world's most debilitating diseases.



Siberian heatwave is a 'warning cry' from the Arctic, climate scientists say

Matthew Green and Emma Farge, Reuters

Posted at Jun 25 2020 04:19 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/06/25/20/siberian-heatwave-is-a-warning-cry-from-the-arctic-climate-scientists-say>

LONDON/GENEVA - Pine trees are bursting into flames. Boggy peatlands are tinderbox dry. And towns in northern Russia are sweltering under conditions more typical of the tropics.

Reports of record-breaking Arctic heat – registered at more than 100 Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) in the Siberian town of Verkhoyansk on June 20 – are still being verified by the World Meteorological Organization.

But even without that confirmation, experts at the global weather agency are worried by satellite images showing that much of the Russian Arctic is in the red. That extreme heat is fanning the unusual extent of wildfires across the remote, boreal forest and tundra that blankets northern Russia. Those blazes have in turn ignited normally waterlogged peatlands.

Scientists fear the blazes are early signs of drier conditions to come, with more frequent wildfires releasing stores of carbon from peatland and forests that will increase the amount of planet-warming greenhouse gases in the air.

"This is what this heatwave is doing: It makes much more fuel available to burn, not just vegetation, but the soil as well," said Thomas Smith, an environmental geographer at the London School of Economics. "It's one of many vicious circles that we see in the Arctic that exacerbate climate change."

Satellite records for the region starting in 2003 suggest there has been a dramatic jump in emissions from Arctic fires during just the last two summers, with the combined emissions released in June 2019 and June 2020 greater than during all of the June months in 2003-2018 put together, Smith said.

Atmospheric records dating back more than a century show Arctic air temperatures also reaching new highs in recent years. That leads Smith to believe the scale of the fires could be unprecedented as well.

"What we're seeing happening right now is the consequence of the past" industrial emissions, Smith says. "What will happen in 40 years' time is already locked in. We can't do anything about that. That's why we should be concerned; it can only get worse."

Although peatland covers only 3 percent of the Earth's land surface, those deposits contain twice as much carbon as all the world's forests together.

A NEW NORMAL



Siberian heatwave is a 'warning cry' from the Arctic, climate scientists say

Scientists have known climate change is causing the Arctic to warm twice as quickly as the rest of the world, and the Siberian heatwave, which began in May, is typical of that trend.

"It becomes like an oven," said Walt Meier, a senior research scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado who specializes in sea ice. "You are doing that on top of the longer-term warming trend, so you are getting the oven nicely baking a pie to scorching it."

"What used to be extreme is becoming normal. Warmer temperatures are now relatively frequent," Meier said.

And as temperatures warm, and polar snow and ice melt, more Arctic area is left darker and absorbs heat faster, which contributes to more warming. The Arctic sea ice has lost 70 percent of its summer volume since the 1970s, with the area also shrinking to the point that last year saw one of the lowest ice covers on record.

"WARNING CRY"

The peat fires make the need to cut man-made emissions all the more urgent, say scientists, who warn that wider changes in the Arctic could trigger bigger impacts on the global climate system.

"It's a huge warning cry that's going off, but it's not the only systemic problem that's happening in the Arctic related to climate change," said Gail Whiteman, incoming professor of sustainability at Britain's University of Exeter and founder of the Arctic Basecamp group of scientists advocating for rapid climate action.

Whiteman and other researchers are also worried about the rising heat thawing Arctic permafrost, which is liable to produce far larger quantities of carbon dioxide and methane than are being released by the fires.

Guido Grosse, head of the Permafrost Research Unit at the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research in Germany, said the fires were stripping away peat and vegetation that normally would form a protective blanket over the permafrost.

"If you take this away the heat from the summer penetrates directly into the ground and warms the permafrost, and it starts thawing," he said. "You see this effect usually a few years after the fires."

The warming temperatures also appear to be making the Arctic wildfire season longer, said Jessica McCarty, an assistant professor of geography at Miami University in Ohio. Typically, the Arctic fire season runs from July to August, plus or minus a couple of weeks. This year, fires were detected in May.

And "as the peat burns ... its neighbor next door gets warmer, and their neighbors get warmer," McCarty said. "We're burning up these ancient pools of carbon."



It is so hot at the Grand Canyon National Park that your shoes could melt

By Virginia Langmaid and Judson Jones, CNN

Updated 1809 GMT (0209 HKT) June 24, 2020

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/24/weather/arizona-california-heat-forecast-grand-canyon-shoes-trnd/index.html>

(CNN)The National Park Service is warning visitors to the Grand Canyon that Wednesday's extreme heat could pose an unusual danger: melted shoes.

In a tweet Monday, the Grand Canyon NPS showed how excessive heat can cause the glue holding hiking boots to melt, making the shoe fall apart. This warning comes on top of additional concerns about extreme heat in the West.

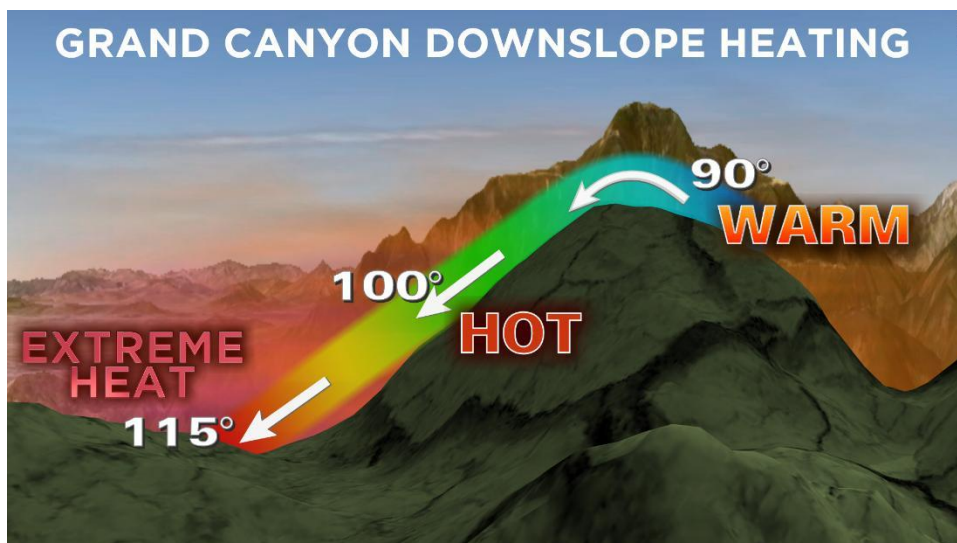
Grand Canyon is an unforgiving environment. The heat inside the canyon can cause shoes to come apart, and heavy hiking boots can trap sweat and lead to painful blisters. Before setting off on a hike, understand the limitations of yourself and your gear. <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/hike-smart.htm> ...

Temperatures in the Grand Canyon are predicted to hit 112 degrees Fahrenheit Wednesday. The heat will get more intense with lower elevation.

The National Weather Service has issued an Excessive Heat Warning for elevations below 4000 feet in the Grand Canyon, cautioning that temperatures will get more extreme deeper into the canyon. People in the area are advised to stay hydrated and out of the sun.

"Temperatures can be vastly different on ridges and mountains than down in canyons and valleys," says CNN meteorologist Haley Brink.

You can thank a weather phenomenon called adiabatic heating. As air sinks down into a lower elevation, it gets compressed, compressed air releases heat as energy. This caused the air mass to become even warmer.





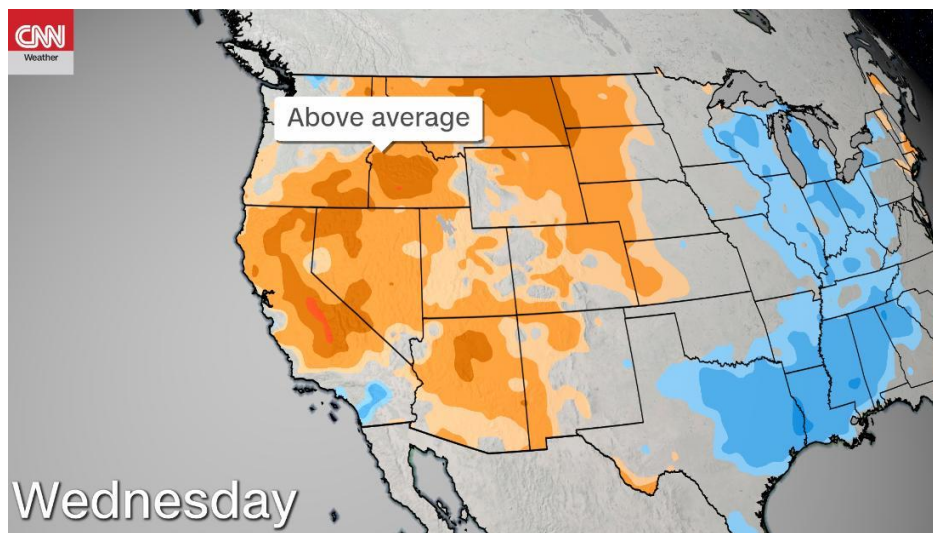
It is so hot at the Grand Canyon National Park that your shoes could melt

"This is why you can see temperatures in the 90's at the top of the Grand Canyon but temperatures 20-30 degrees hotter at the bottom of the canyon," Brink says.

Much of the West is under a heat advisory this week as high temperatures bake the region.

"Temperatures across much of the West are climbing into the triple digits for several days this week," CNN meteorologist Haley Brink says.

Northern California is expected to see record highs by the end of the week.



"Monday and Tuesday, many locations across the central California valley record temperatures in the upper 90's and triple digits," Brink says. "This heat wave is forecast to stick around for the remainder of the week as a ridge of high pressure has set up over the region."

While high temperatures are typical for the West in the summer, this week's highs will likely be some of the year's hottest temperatures.

"Heat like this only happens a few times each year," the National Weather Service in Sacramento says.

High temperatures are coinciding with a wildfire season already made more difficult by the coronavirus pandemic. The National Interagency Fire Center is predicting an "above normal" risk for large fires this year in parts of the Southwest.

Fires continue to burn in Arizona. The Magnum fire in the northwest part of the state has forced the temporary closure of the North Rim of Grand Canyon. Fire season is expected to continue well into July.