

COVID-19 WATCH

'Reconcile Cebu figures'

Published 4 hours ago
on June 27, 2020 02:00 AM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, tasked by President Rodrigo Duterte to look over the coronavirus cases in Cebu City, has urged officials of the Department of Health (DoH) and city health department to reconcile their figures.

Cimatu called on DoH 7 regional director Dr. Jaime Bernadas and city health chief Dr. Daisy Villa to check their data.

"I requested the regional director for Health and the City Health director here because I would like them to reconcile their figures. The figures in the barangays don't reflect those by the health department. We have to have one figure for Cebu City," Cimatu said during a press briefing on Thursday.

As of 24 June, the DoH-7 COVID-19 data tracker reported that Cebu City has 5,088 confirmed cases with 118 deaths.

The Cebu City Health Department in its daily report on the same day said it has 4,539 confirmed cases with 100 deaths.

Cimatu finds lapses in isolation centers in Cebu City hotspots

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 26, 2020 6:13:04 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 26) — COVID-19 response chief for Visayas Roy Cimatu on Friday said he found mistakes in the locations of isolation facilities in barangays in Cebu City that are deemed as hotspots.

Cimatu shared his initial assessment from his three-day trip to Cebu City after he was tapped by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee the urbanized city following an alarming spike in COVID-19 cases. I

The so-called Queen City of the South registered 4,216 infections as of June 24, the worst of any city nationwide.

Cimatu wants all isolation facilities be far from communities as the viral disease can easily spread in close quarters if health protocols are not strictly observed.

"I observed that each barangay na may cases, nag put up sila ng isolation buildings right in the center of the barangay," he told a media briefing in Quezon City. "Mga iba sa eskwelahan nag put up ng isolation center. To me, I suspect na dito nanggaling ang pag-spread."

He also noted the varying and unsynchronized COVID-19 data of the health department, city government, and at the barangay level. He said he will ask the national government's COVID-19 task force to send out a team to Cebu City to help in data management.

Cimatu said will ask the health department to pool medical frontliners from other regions who will be sent to Cebu City as there are not enough health workers attending to patients.

He also questioned why some Cebu City residents refuse to seek medical help when they experience COVID-19 symptoms, saying this may also be the cause of the spread of the virus.

"How can a person who died of this virus namatay on arrival" he stated. "So saan nangyari yun? Yung iba nagkukunwari na walang sakit, yung iba naman may sakit na pero ayaw pang ipa-ano sa ospital. I am trying to suspect na nagpapa-albularyo na lang ang mga ito eh."

[Translation: How can someone with this virus die upon arrival in hospitals? Some are pretending they're not sick, some experience symptoms but refuse to be admitted to hospital. I think they're opting for alternative medicine.]

Cimatu, a former military man, also wants stricter lockdown policies especially in areas where there's an increase in number of infected residents. But he urged the local government to provide food and other essentials.

The Interior Department said there are 19 containment zones in Cebu City namely Sambag II, Punta Princesa, Tejero, and Inayawan. The following barangays, on the other hand, were identified as hotspots and are under strict lockdown: Sambag II; Kamputhaw; Sambag 1; Basak San Nicolas; Mabolo; Guadalupe; Lahug; Duljo Fatima; Tinago; Tisa; Ermita; and Tejero.

Cimatu is set to discuss his initial observations and recommendations to improve the health situation in Cebu City with Duterte and the COVID-19 task force.

Source: https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/6/26/Cebu-City-isolation-centers-Cimatu-.html?fbclid=IwAR34Snim1YcnNooL2MMYpwT1nZbB6_rTqbdM8fDDTb7W3c1c_jE_zgWqTJI

12 Cebu City villages placed under tight watch

By John Rey Saavedra **June 26, 2020, 7:32 am**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu (Photo courtesy of Cebu City PIO)

CEBU CITY – The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF-EID) is keeping a close watch on the 12 villages that recorded a high number of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases before deciding to place them under a barangay-wide total lockdown.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu on Thursday said his team might put all or some of the villages under strict quarantine measures, including restrictions of people from entering or leaving the area.

The barangays under close monitoring as of Thursday are Sambag 2 which registered 128 active cases, followed by Kamputhaw with 123, Sambag 1 with 109, and Basak-San Nicolas with 104.

The barangays of Mabolo (82 active cases), Guadalupe (79), Lahug (78), Duljo-Fatima (77), Tinago (67), Tisa (65), Ermita and Tejero (45 each) are also placed under close watch.

The IATF is also considering placing sitios of 10 barangays here under a "sitio-level lockdown" to impose stricter control of the movement of the people.

These may be the villages of Lahug, Sambag 1, Tinago, Tejero, Duljo-Fatima, Guadalupe, Basak-San Nicolas, Mabolo, Tisa and Ermita.

The decreasing number of Covid-19 cases as well as many recoveries in Luz and Mambaling were considered reasons they were no longer included in the list of villages under tight monitoring.

Mayor Edgardo Labella, through his spokesperson, lawyer Rey Gealon, clarified that there is no takeover of the national government to the city, amid Cimatu's presence after being appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee the measures to stop the alarming rise of Covid-19 cases in the city.

"Giklaro sa mayor nga walay takeover. Ang lokal nga kagamhanan sa Dakbayan sa Sugbo padayon ug pabilin nga under control niining maong sitwasyon nato dinhi sa dakbayan (The mayor clarified that there is no takeover. The local government of the city of Cebu continues and remain to be in control of the city until now)," Gealon said in a statement.

Gealon also viewed the relationship between the mayor and Cimatu as "close coordination and cooperation".

The mayor, he said, has been given the "final say" in recommending matters to the IATF and he would be consulted on solutions to be done for the city, Gealon said. **(PNA)**

Sanitation sa central office ng DENR, personal na pinangasiwaan ni Cimat

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Sanitation sa central office ng DENR, personal na pinangasiwaan ni Cimat

June 26, 2020 @ 5:24 PM 3 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Personal na pinangasiwaan ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimat ang pagsasagawa ng sanitation sa Central Office ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) matapos ilagay sa lockdown status ang buong tanggapan ng ahensya sa Visayas Avenue, Quezon City kaninang umaga ng Biyernes, Hunyo 26.

Isinagawa ang naturang hakbang matapos umanong magpositibo ang dalawang empleyado ng DENR sa coronavirus.

Ayon sa DENR mula sa Cebu personal na nagtungo si Sec. Cimat para pangasiwaan ang pagsanitize sa buong gusali ng DENR central office dakong alas 10:30 ng umaga.



Nauna rito, ipinag-utos ni Cimat na ilagay sa lockdown status ang buong central office ng DENR bilang precautionary measure at hindi na kumalat ang virus at mapigil ang Covid-19.

“The lockdown takes effect in the afternoon of June 25 (Thursday) until June 27 (Saturday), during which disinfection and contact tracing will be conducted to stop the spread of COVID-19 within the DENR compound,” sabi ni Cimat.

Samantala kaugnay nito, sinabi naman ni DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda na ang empleyadong nagpositibo sa COVID-19 ay nakatalaga sa Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) na ang tanggapan ay matatagpuan sa DENR compound.

Sanitation sa central office ng DENR, personal na
pinangasiwaan ni Cimatu

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“The two personnel were part of the skeleton force of the EMB, and they work directly with the office of the EMB Director,” paliwanag pa ni Antiporda.

Sinabi sa ulat na magsasagawa ng “sanitation procedure” sa buong central office habang ito ay nasa lockdown status bukod pa sa isinasagawang regular na “disinfection” tatlong beses kada linggo simula ng magkaroon ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na magtatagal ng dalawa at kalahating araw ang lockdown upang agad na makabalik sa trabaho ang skeleton workforce sa Hunyo 29. **Santi Celario**

 **PTV**
19 hrs · 🌐

LOOK: Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu supervises the ongoing disinfection at the DENR's main office in Quezon City | via Allan Francisco



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#PTVNews | Sec. Cimatu: Pagkuha ng datos ukol sa CoVID-19 cases sa Cebu City, aayusin; bilang ng mga doktor at nurse sa Cebu City, dadagdagan | via Allan Francisco



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2 empleyado positibo, DENR ni-lockdown

By Ariel Tolentino — Last updated Jun 26, 2020

NEWS



Dalawang kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Visayas Ave., Quezon City ang nagpositibo sa COVID dahilang para isinailalim sa lockdown ang tanggapan.

Ayon kay Environment Undersec. Benny Antiporda, taga-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ang 2 nagpositibo sa sakit kaya magkakaroon ng sanitation at disinfection sa 4 na gusali ng DENR.

Nagsasagawa na ng contact tracing upang malaman ang mga nakasalamuha ng mga empleyado. (Riz



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#ABSCBNRegional

Magalong displeased by developer that cut trees during quarantine

By: [Vincent Cabreza](#) - Reporter / [@Inquirer_Baguio](#)

[Inquirer Northern Luzon](#) / 05:23 PM June 25, 2020

BAGUIO CITY — A developer began cutting 54 pine trees at the heavily forested hills of Outlook Drive, alarming Mayor Benjamin Magalong on Thursday.

Citing plans to enforce a tree-cutting moratorium to help regenerate Baguio's dwindling tree line, Magalong required the developer to replace these trees with 10,800 new pine trees in a meeting with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The developer secured permits to cut the trees in 2018, after being granted an Environmental Compliance Certificate for the construction of a condominium in 2017.

Proceeding with the tree cutting during the quarantine affects Baguio's greening plans, which were delayed by the coronavirus disease pandemic, Magalong said in a city release.

The developer's representative, Ferdinand Salcedo, said the company would comply with Magalong's directive.

The mayor initiated Baguio's redevelopment last year when he assumed office, to address overdevelopment and overcrowding in the summer capital.

To achieve this, Magalong asked Malacañang to enforce a moratorium on building constructions and tree cutting.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu backed Magalong's suggestion and ordered an inventory of Baguio trees, which now sums up to 2.5 million trees clustered in a few areas of the City.

A recent study on Baguio's carrying capacity indicates that the city's tree population is insufficient for its over 350,000 residents, and a daytime population that climbs to 700,000.

During an assessment of the quarantine's impact on Baguio, the restrictions on movement helped Baguio's forests and tree-lined parks to regenerate, according to lawyer Rhenan Diwas, acting city environment officer.

LZB

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1297434/magalong-displeased-by-developer-that-cut-trees-during-quarantine?fbclid=IwAR0L240XYv1j-6mmvv3B1DRmiYg6DsaO0FIgcATfD_g3TZpDos3cYM1T2VY

HEADLINES

Unconscionable Baguio tree cutting

Published 6 hours ago on June 27, 2020 12:05 AM

By [Aldwin Quitasol](#)



BAGUIO CITY — Residents cry foul over continued environmental destruction at the country's summer capital with the unabated cutting of trees for commercial reasons even as the population deals with the ravages presented by the coronavirus disease or COVID-19 pandemic.

Baguio's nature lovers and environmentalists lament the sustained disregard for the environment at the City of Pines as its trees are again under siege in the guise of development.

Fifty-four of the trees were cut by Vista Residences Inc. in developing a private lot in Barangay Outlook Drive. Those were Benguet and Norfolk pine trees that were felled on 24 June 2020, more than a month after a special private land timber permit was granted the developer on 4 May 2020 by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office in Quezon City.

The DENR issued Permit No. SPLTP No. CAR-58-2020 to the developer to pave the way for the construction of a building.

The DENR said the permit is subject to relevant forestry laws, rules and regulations and ordered the developer to replace the fallen trees with 5,400 seedlings strictly of the Benguet pine variety. The validity of the permit ends on 15 July this year.

The net volume of the 54 naturally-grown pine trees, which is a reflection of its economic value, is 27. 52 cubic meters.

On October last year, Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong pushed for a moratorium on tree cutting and construction of commercial buildings. He claimed Malacañang itself approved of the moratorium in principle.

A Baguio netizen said residents fight fiercely and well against the cutting of trees for so long. "We are supposed to be healing the land, why wound it anew? And 54 trees are a lot. You might as well have razed a fire that burned the forest," the resident lamented.

DOTR urged to enforce ‘Clean Air Act’

posted June 26, 2020 at 10:50 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Clean Air Philippines Movement Inc. on Friday urged the Department of Transportation to “protect lives” by enforcing the Clean Air Act and Protect lives by enforcing the Clean Air Act, and Land Transportation and Traffic Code.

Leo Olarte, CAPMI president who is a lawyer and former Philippine Medical Association president, appealed to Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade to show empathy to the sorry state of jeepney drivers and operators who have been displaced by the lockdown.

He, however, asked the government to stay “steadfast on its duty to strictly enforce (with malice to none) the motor vehicle emission standards under the Clean Air Act or Republic Act 8749, and RA 4136 or the land transportation law to benefit all Filipinos, and not just a few groups.”

“Both air pollution and road crashes (now also a global health issue), without an iota of doubt, can kill people. Fortunately, both events can also be prevented. In 2017, the World Health Organization said 1.25 million people worldwide died yearly due to road crashes. In 2018, WHO estimates that around seven million people died every year from exposure to polluted air that caused diseases such as stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, respiratory infections, including pneumonia, even diabetes and hypertension,” the group said.

PRCMO partners with UP NEC to address plastic pollution in Pasig River, Manila Bay

By Ma. Elaine P. AllaniguePublished on June 26, 2020



Personnel of PRCMO and UP NEC conduct an ocular inspection at the Pasig River (Delpan Bridge) on Thursday, one of the proposed project sites. (Photo credit: PRCMO)

QUEZON CITY, June 26 (PIA) --The Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office (PRCMO) partnered with the National Engineering Center of the University of the Philippines Diliman (UP NEC) for key projects that aim to address the plastic pollution problem hounding the Pasig River, its tributaries, and Manila Bay.

Staff members of PRCMO and UP NEC conducted ocular inspection at the proposed project sites, namely: Pasig River (Delpan Bridge), BASECO (Beach and Mangrove Forest Nursery Operations and Livelihood Center), and Estero de Binondo (pumping station and Juan Luna Street) on Thursday, June 25.



The BASECO Mangrove Forest Nursery Operations and Livelihood Center (Photo credit: PRCMO)

These potential sites will be the sampling locations that will aid in data gathering and analysis for the two projects entitled "Plastics Monitoring on Pasig River, Philippines" and "Microplastics and Plastic Field Surveys on Pasig River, Philippines" which are funded by the World Bank.

"We thank the UP NEC for this timely collaboration which would greatly contribute to the ongoing restoration and management programs on the Pasig River and its tributaries," PRCMO posted on the Facebook page.

"We hope that more and more partners could make the same initiative and stand with us in our battle for Manila Bay and our battle for our rivers and esteros," the statement added. (PRCMO/PIA-NCR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1045926>

Tagalog News: Paggamit ng plastic ipinagbabawal na sa Calapan tuwing Biyernes

By Dennis NebrejoPublished on June 26, 2020

LUNGSOD NG CALAPAN, Oriental Mindoro, Hun. 26 (PIA) -- Bilang pakikiisa sa mithing maging Eco-Friendly Environment ang buong lungsod, mahigpit nang ipinagbabawal simula ngayong araw at tuwing Biyernes ang paggamit ng single-use plastic materials matapos pangunahan ng City Economic Enterprise Dept. (CEED) at City Environment and Natural Resources Department (CENRD) ang kampanya sa Pamilihang Lungsod.

Pinamunuan ni CEED Head Ronald Cantos na siya din nangangasiwa sa pamilihang lungsod ang paghikayat sa mga mamimili at manininda na huwag ng gumamit ng plastic bag bilang lalagyan ng mga pinamili, gayundin ang mga straw, disposable na mga kutsara at tinidor, plastic cup at mga styro foam na sisidlan ng pagkain at cup at tubig na nasa boteng plastic dahil nakakasama ito sa kalikasan.



Bilang alternatibo sa mga supot na plastic, ibinabahagi ni CEED Head Ronald Cantos ang isang Eco-Friendly bag na native sa mga mamimili sa pamilihang lungsod bilang paglulunsad sa pagbabawal sa paggamit ng plastic bag tuwing araw ng Biyernes sa lungsod. (Kuha ng Tatak Calapeño)

Ayon kay Cantos, "Aking hinihikayat ang mamamayang Calapeño na huwag na tayong gumamit ng plastic sa halip ay pwede naman ang ilang alternatibong bagay tulad ng eco bag, native bag o bayong, tupperware, canister o tumbler, fish net at paper bag na maari natin magamit araw-araw sa pamimili."

Samantala, nagpahayag din si CENRD Head Wilfredo Landicho ng suporta sa kampanyang ito. "Hindi lamang tuwing araw ng Biyernes dapat ugaliin ang bagong sistemang ito, kundi kailangan na natin sanayin na huwag ng gumamit araw-araw ng plastic sa atin pamimili", ani Landicho.

Inilunsad din ng dalawang pinuno ang mga alternatibong pamamaraan sa pamimili tulad ng paggamit ng eco-friendly bag ng Calapan City Public Market na siyang ipinamahgi sa mga namimili. Ito ay isang bayong o native bag na siyang unang ginamit ng atin pang mga ninuno. Ikinatuwa din ito ng ilang mamimili sa nasabing pamilihan na siyang sumang-ayon sa ganitong sistema ng pamimili. (DPCN/PIA-OrMin)



ABS-CBN News

7 hrs ·

Mga nagamit nang syringe, may edta tube na may dugo at mga ginamit nang mga rapid test -- ito ang tumambad sa mga opisyal sa Barangay Pajo sa Lapu-Lapu City sa Cebu, matapos nilang matanggap ang report na maraming mga infectious waste na nakakalat sa isang bakanteng lote ng barangay.

Nababahala naman na ang ilang residente dahil sa posibleng sakit na maaring makuha galing sa mga infectious waste.

Panoorin ang #TVPatrolLive ngayong araw, Hunyo 26, 2020.

Facebook: <https://bit.ly/3dCKxj4>

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Surigao Norte mining firm: Zero Covid-19 case

By Danilo Adorador, III June 26, 2020, 4:08 pm



SURIGAO CITY--A large-scale nickel mine firm in the Surigao del Norte town of Claver has clarified it has zero cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) among its workers.

In a statement sent to the Philippine News Agency Friday, Taganito Mining Corporation (TMC) said its workplace and mining site "continues to have no known case of Covid-19".

"Recently, the Claver Municipal Health Office tested a number of employees and contractors and they were all negative," TMC said. "We intend to keep it that way."

TMC released the statement following the Department of Health's announcement earlier in the week that at least eight of the 21 new cases in the province as of Monday (June 22) were workers in the mining industry.

While Claver town hosts several large-scale mining firms, TMC made it clear that the positive cases did not come from its workforce.

"TMC continues to observe the strictest protocols in our operations. These protocols conform to the requirements of the IATF (Inter-Agency Task Force on Covid-19)," the company.

Since the lockdown following the implementation of the community quarantine in March, TMC said its workplace has "strictly" enforced IATF health guidelines and protocols "in order to keep our communities safe."

TMC, an ISO (International Standards Organization) for occupational workplace health and safety certificate, had earlier partnered with two other mining companies in the province for the establishment of the first Covid-19 testing laboratory in Surigao del Norte.

As of Friday, DOH-Caraga said the region has logged a total of 116 Covid-19 cases with the addition of 29 new cases.

In an online press briefing, DOH-Caraga Director Jose Llacuna said 26 of the infected persons were individuals stranded in virus hotspots Cebu and Manila who just came home, and three were returning OFWs. **(PR/PNA)**



Dredger na sumadsad sa Zambales, pag-aari ng Pinoy firm

June 26, 2020 @ 7:12 AM 23 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pag-aari ng isang Filipino firm ang dredger na sumadsad sa Botolan, Zambales noong nakaraang linggo dahil sa masamang lagay ng panahon.

Maaalalang naiulat na pawang mga Chinese nationals ang crew nito.

Sa report, sinabi ng Z2K Resources Incorporated na tatanggap din sila ng mga aplikanteng Pinoy.

“It will be manned by all Filipinos. As of now, they have to transfer the technology to us, we call it shadowing, magsasabay-sabay. Gagawin niya, matututo ‘yung Filipino, and then later on aalisin na namin,” ani Pierre Gonzales, company engineer.

“We will dredge that river, mababalik ‘yan sa dating ganda, sigla nu’ng Bucao River without cost to the government.”

“Yung lahat ng tintawag nating sand, supposedly basura na sa atin, we would be selling it, meron tayong taxes. babayaran ng government,” saad pa nito.

Batay sa Z2K, dadalhin ang buhangin sa Hong Kong at Singapore.

Nilinaw rin dito na nagbabayad sila sa gobyerno.

“We will be paying the government per shipload, [an] average of P1.6 million. On top of that meron pa kaming mga bayad sa PPA, all other port charges,” paliwanag ni Gonzales.

“So every shipload, kikita ang government. Part of it will go to the barangay, part of it will go to the province, and to the national government,” lahad pa nito.

Itinanggi rin ng kompanya na nagmimina sila ng black sand.

“Hindi siya blacksand, its white sand. At saka dito, wala namang black sand, eh, that’s one. Second, hindi pa kami nag uumpisa. Dinala namin ‘yung marine assets to positioning.”

Source: https://remate.ph/dredger-na-sumadsad-sa-zambales-pag-aari-ng-pinoy-firm/?fbclid=IwAR1JVsd9D9oqv5_ptTlmW_Z7jY0I6-D4GOADHFGgRn8o_NJxDUd7KAqJMG4

Bohol launches coin-assisted water system

By Angeline Valencia June 26, 2020, 4:29 pm



COIN-ASSISTED WATER SYSTEM. Governor Arthur Yap fills a container with water from the coin-assisted system in Barangay Guinobatan, Trinidad town in Bohol on Thursday (June 25, 2020). Yap led the inauguration of the first-ever coin-operated communal water system that is expected to solve the water supply problem in far-flung areas of the province. *(Photo courtesy of Bohol Provincial Capitol PIO)*

TAGBILARAN CITY – The provincial government of Bohol has launched a coin-assisted water system project, the first in the province, to solve the problem on potable water in far-flung villages.

Governor Arthur Yap on Thursday led the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Salintubig water system rehabilitation project under the "Accessible, Reliable and Timely (ART) Water for All" program in Barangay Guinobatan, Trinidad town.

In the coin-assisted system, one will just have to insert a PHP5 coin in the machine and water will flow, enough to fill up two 20-liter containers.

The project in Trinidad is only the beginning and the rest of the barangays in the province will be next in line.

In the said town, seven barangays have been listed for the ART Water for All program. These are Guinobatan, La Union, Kinan-oan, Tagum Norte, Sto. Tomas, Hinlayagan Ilaud and Banlasan.

"If we are going to evaluate the total water resources of Bohol, the surface water resource (those that need no drilling), the open water sources such as streams and rivers, Bohol has overcapacity in terms of water," Yap said.

He said that during his visits to the villages before he became governor, he observed that the common problem in far-flung areas was water supply. Because of this, he made water one of his administration's priority projects.

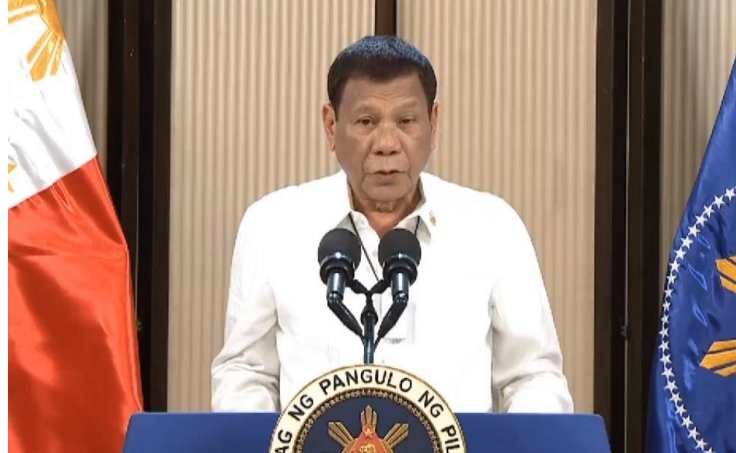
Yap said water is significant not only for the people's daily routine but also in the fight against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), both in the efforts to contain it, and for food security. He said water is necessary to maintain hygiene and sanitation, and for the cultivation of rice, crops, fruits and vegetables.

The water projects will also be a revenue-generating venture for the barangays and the municipalities, he said.

Also present at the launching were Trinidad Mayor Judith Cajes, Vice-Mayor Manuel Garcia, former Second District Rep. Roberto Cajes, Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO) head Tata Ganub, Guinobatan Barangay Captain Esteban Ibaoc, and 19 other village chiefs of Trinidad. **(PNA)**

Bayanihan 2.0 OK with legislators

Published 6 hours ago
on June 27, 2020 12:07 AM
By [Hananeel Bordey](#)



The Senate on Friday said it is one with President Duterte in convening the houses of congress to a special session and pass legislation helping the Executive Department address the COVID-19 crisis in the country.

“I welcome a possible special session for the passage of a Bayanihan to Heal as One extension as the first law recently expired... So, if there is a call for a special session to address the problems during these trying times, then so be it and we will be there to heed the call,” Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said.

This developed after presidential spokesperson Harry Roque on Thursday said Duterte may ask the House of Representatives and the Senate to hold a special session to craft Bayanihan 2.

Roque said this will push through once Congress and the economic managers agree on allowing the Executive Department to deploy standby funds as further response to the COVID-19 challenge. The houses of Congress adjourned in the first week of June without passing measures extending or adding power for the Executive to address the health crisis.

The Lower House has proposed a measure setting aside P162 billion as funds for the purpose while the Senate passed a bill on second reading proposing P140 billion as standby fund.

The economic managers, however, did not certify either measure as urgent, maintaining that found sources could only go as high as P130 billion.

“We would only like to request that the Executive Department, particularly the finance team, know what they want and coordinate with both Houses to come up with a doable compromise so they won’t waste the President’s time and effort for calling a special session,” Zubiri said.



Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano yesterday said the chamber needs to pass the measure under House Bill 6953, which extends the effectivity of Republic Act 11469 – or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act – until Sept. 30.

Senate PRIB/Released, file

Congress to hold special session for Bayanihan 2

[Edu Punay](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 27, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Congress is set to hold a special session to pass the proposed Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, also known as Bayanihan Act 2, that will extend measures to address the coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 pandemic, including the social amelioration program (SAP).

Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano yesterday said the chamber needs to pass the measure under House Bill 6953, which extends the effectivity of Republic Act 11469 – or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act – until Sept. 30.

“We’re expecting to have a special session soon. Hopefully next week or the week after, depending on the schedule from the Palace. But we’re working hard – the DOF (Department of Finance) is working with Congress,” he told reporters in an ambush interview yesterday.

The Taguig-Pateros representative said the House is planning to fund the proposed measure with P140 billion to P200 billion.

“We will look at a separate stimulus,” he bared, referring to the P1.3-trillion proposed Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy (ARISE) Act, which the chamber already passed on final reading before adjournment.

He vowed to institute mechanisms to improve the SAP, particularly the distribution of assistance packages, under the Bayanihan 2 that he promised to be “better and more responsive.”

Cayetano made the commitment after leading the congressional oversight hearing on implementation of the SAP under the first Bayanihan Act earlier this week.

“We want also to ensure that SAP will be given to all Filipinos who need it most. We respect and acknowledge the tremendous work done by the departments involved, but our citizens cannot afford to wait that long. There must be a better way, and together we will find it,” the Speaker stressed.

The Speaker noted that while the government response to this unprecedented crisis has been nothing short of extraordinary, there is still room for improvement.

The Speaker noted that while the government response to this unprecedented crisis has been nothing short of extraordinary, there is still room for improvement.

“Now we must take the hard lessons we have learned in the past months and apply it in the testing, tracing and treatment of patients in order to escape the threat of a more devastating second wave,” he explained.

The House committee of the whole passed HB 6953 last June 3 before Congress adjourned sine die.

The proposed measure seeks allocation of additional funds for continuation of COVID-19 response measures.

Deputy Speaker LRay Villafuerte, co-author of the bill, explained that the proposed law is necessary to allow the national government to continue providing Filipinos with various forms of relief as the health crisis continues while a vaccine remains unavailable.

“This (Bayanihan Act 2) contains similar provisions as contained in the Bayanihan To Heal as One Act. But this is a new and enhanced version – meaning we have put in improved (and) enhanced provisions that will help the economy bounce back and help our people, also the affected sectors, cope with COVID-19,” the Camarines Sur representative stressed during interpellation.

Under HB 6953, P162 billion in funds will be used to support operations and response measures to address the COVID-19 crisis – in addition to the P275-billion funding used under RA 11469, which was enacted last March and is set to expire this month.

This measure will also provide for the grant of P5,000 to P8,000 subsidy for low income families, households with recently returned OFWs and no-work-no-pay individuals such as freelancers and self-employed individuals.

It also grants a one-month emergency subsidy to low-income households that were left out in implementation of the SAP under the first Bayanihan Law.

Specifically, P18 billion will be allotted for the implementation of cash-for-work program and the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), P5 billion for the implementation of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and P21 billion for unemployment or involuntary separation assistance to displaced workers in health, education, tourism, culture and arts, creative industry, transportation and other sectors affected by the pandemic.

There will also be P50 billion for infusion of capital to government financial institutions, P21 billion support to the agriculture sector, P21-billion assistance to the critically impacted businesses in the transportation industry and for the development of accessible sidewalks and protected bicycle lanes, P10 billion to finance Department of Tourism programs to assist impacted businesses in the tourism industry, P3-billion assistance to state universities and colleges for their transition to flexible learning modality and P1-billion assistance to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority for the development of smart campuses.

Lastly, the bill seeks to provide P12 billion for the procurement of polymerase chain reaction testing and extraction kits, supplies and materials for COVID-19 testing and for the enhancement of Department of Health’s capacity to provide healthcare services.

Senate seeks meeting

Senators are amenable to passing a replacement for the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, but asked Malacañang to hold some preliminary meetings with lawmakers to come up with a final bill that will be acceptable to both Congress and the executive branch.

The senators issued the statement after President Duterte is reportedly planning to call for a special session of Congress to approve the proposed Bayanihan Act 2 that was nearly passed before lawmakers adjourned session last June 5.

Malacañang's failure to certify Bayanihan 2 as urgent, as well as its insistence on retaining some of Duterte's special powers – including taking over private medical facilities and transportation – and putting a budget cap on various financial aid to distressed sectors, led to the non-passage of the measure.

The certification from Duterte was needed to shorten the period for passing Bayanihan 2 in Congress, and the Senate waited two days for it, but at the last minute what senators received instead was a list of over 30 amendments on the last day of session, so there was inadequate time to review the changes.

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said the chamber had passed the measure on second reading “with some amendments that we thought could help stimulate some needed sectors and the economy.”

“However, the finance team did not recommend its certification at that time, so here we are today. Being legislators we swore an oath to do our job with the best of our abilities and so, if there is a call for a special session to address the problems during these trying times then so be it, and we will be there to heed the call,” Zubiri said.

“We would only like to request that the executive department, particularly the finance team, know what they want and coordinate with both houses to come up with a doable compromise so they won't waste the President's time and effort in calling a special session,” he said.

Senators originally proposed a P236-billion package for Bayanihan 2 but the Department of Finance, in submitting the proposed amendments, warned the government can only afford P140 billion, at least until the end of the year.

Accept 'failures'

Vice President Leni Robredo yesterday urged the Duterte government to accept its “failures” in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and “listen” to those who want to contribute to the fight.

“It seems that (the government) is in a state of denial. They have done good (initiatives) but there were also some which didn't work. And for me, if (a strategy) doesn't work, we need to change it,” Robredo said in an interview with CNN Philippines.

“Because for me this is the time to unite. This is the time for us to all work together. Our office is very small but we have been doing our part. We have to accept our failures so we can correct them,” she said.

Asked if she thinks as a female leader she could have done better to address the crisis, Robredo said countries which succeeded in containing the virus are “inclusive.”

“We would have responded well if many other people are given voices, not just me,” she said. **Paolo Romero, Helen Flores**

Covid-19 cases top 34K; 1,006 new infections reported: DOH

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz June 26, 2020, 7:47 pm



The latest bulletin of the Department of Health on the number of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases on Friday (June 26, 2020). (Infographic by DOH)

MANILA – The number of coronavirus cases is now at 34,073, with additional 1,006 new infections reported on Friday.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the Department of Health said that of the new cases, 788 were fresh cases (test results released to the patient within the last three days), of which 266 were in the National Capital Region (NCR), 251 were in Region 7, and 271 in other areas.

For late cases, it said there were a total of 218, of which 113 were in the NCR, seven in Region 7, and 98 in other areas.

There are new 274 recoveries, for a total of 9,182.

However, it said that two duplicates were found from the tally for recoveries and have been removed since.

“Two duplicates (both previously tagged as recovered) were also removed from total case count. The total cases reported may be subject to change as these numbers undergo constant cleaning and validation,” the DOH said.

Meanwhile, 12 more deaths were reported, bringing the country’s death toll at 1,224.

“Of the 12 reported deaths, 10 occurred in June (June 5-21, 2020),” the DOH said.

In an online briefing, Dr. Beverly Ho, DOH director for Health Promotion and Communication Service, said there was a rising trend in Covid-19 cases in some parts of the country following the relaxation of quarantine in Metro Manila and other regions.

In the last 14 days, she said the highest number of cases were reported in NCR (3,461), Region 7 (2,573), Region 4A (405), Region 8 (234), and repatriates (198). (PNA)

Duterte to reveal quarantine classifications on or before June 29 —Palace

Published June 26, 2020 5:18pm

By VIRGIL LOPEZ, GMA News

President Rodrigo Duterte will announce on or before June 29 the quarantine classifications that will be implemented next month, Malacañang said Friday.

Duterte's spokesperson Harry Roque said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases would inform the local government units about their possible quarantine status to give way to appeals ahead of the President's announcement.

The current quarantine classifications will expire on June 30.

"May rekomendasyon na po pero this is subject to review by the President. Anyway, the President will announce on or before the 29th, I believe," Roque said in a televised briefing.

The Palace spokesman also urged the public not to believe false information about the government's containment measures.

"[I]yong mga fake news na kumalat po noong isang linggo o noong dalawang linggong nakalipas, maling-mali po at ibang-iba doon sa nilabas na desisyon ng ating Presidente. Konting antay lang po," he said.

No areas in the Philippines will transition to new normal in the coming days after the IATF decided early this week that the country will remain under community quarantine to slow the spread of COVID-19.

At present, only Cebu City is under enhanced community quarantine while its neighboring city of Talisay is under modified ECQ. The rest of the country is either under general community quarantine or modified GCQ. —LDF, GMA News



DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said the government sees the localized lockdown in areas where there is a concentration of positive and suspected cases as the “best approach” in containing the pandemic.

Geremy Pintolo/ File

112 areas nationwide under local lockdown

[Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 27, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Over a hundred areas nationwide have been placed under localized lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said the government sees the localized lockdown in areas where there is a concentration of positive and suspected cases as the “best approach” in containing the pandemic.

“Localized lockdown is like hitting COVID-19 at its source, which has been proven to be effective, especially in the 112 areas where it is currently being implemented. It really works since the hot zones are secluded from the rest of the community, hence, stopping the transmission to other communities,” Año said in a statement before the weekend.

The Cordillera Administrative Region leads the regions with the most number of areas under localized lockdown, with 67 areas, which the DILG said has helped keep the number of positive cases in the region low.

Cebu City is second with 19 communities under tight watch, 18 in Metro Manila, five in Cagayan de Oro City and one each in the provinces of Cavite, Quezon and Leyte.

The government earlier said only the interagency task force has the authority to declare community quarantine levels in entire cities, provinces and regions.

However, it empowered local government units to apply a zoning strategy to quarantine specific sitios, barangays or subdivisions under a community lockdown for COVID-19 infections.

DILG spokesman Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said that with the lockdown, LGUs should ensure that they have organized quick response teams to carry out the test-trace-treat strategy against COVID-19.

He added that localized lockdowns cannot be declared with no system in place.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/27/2023888/112-areas-nationwide-under-local-lockdown>

Asymptomatic COVID patients 'di na nakakahawa matapos ang 10 araw - DOH

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

- June 27, 2020 - 12:00am



Sa ilalim ng lumang sistema, maidedeklara lamang na 'cleared' na ang isang pasyente kapag magnegatibo sila sa dalawang magkasunod na RT-PCR tests.

MANILA, Philippines — Papayagan na ng Department of Health (DOH) na ma-discharge sa pagamutan ang mga pasyente ng COVID-19 na wala nang sintomas sa loob ng 10 araw dahil sa hindi na umano sila nakakahawa.

Ito ang laman ng bagong panuntunan ng DOH sa mga pasyente na tinamaan ng virus na inaasahan na magpapataas sa datos ng mga recovered COVID patients.

Sa ilalim ng lumang sistema, maidedeklara lamang na 'cleared' na ang isang pasyente kapag magnegatibo sila sa dalawang magkasunod na RT-PCR tests.

"Hindi naman sasabihin ng RT-PCR sa'yo kung ang tao'y nakakapanghawa pa o hindi na. Ang sasabihin lang ng RT-PCR, nade-detect ko pa tong virus sa loob ng katawan mo," ayon kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire sa online press conference.

Sa bagong protocol, kung ang pasyente ay wala nang sintomas sa loob ng 3-10 araw, maaari na siyang i-clear at makauwi na ng kaniyang tahanan.

Ito rin ang panuntunan na inilabas ng World Health Organization na sinusunod ng DOH.

Dahil sa bagong protocol, pinag-aaralan ng DOH na gawin na lamang 7 araw ang kasalukuyang 14-araw na quarantine days sa mga pinaghihinalang may taglay ng virus.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/06/27/2023890/asymptomatic-covid-patients-di-na-nakakahawa-matapos-ang-10-araw-doh/amp/>

Duterte to Asean: Avoid escalating sea dispute

By [Catherine S. Valente, TMT](#)

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte called on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to exercise self-restraint and respect the rule of law to avoid “escalating tension” in the disputed South China Sea.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte gives his intervention as he joins other leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries during the 36th ASEAN Summit video conference at the Malago Clubhouse in Malacañang on June 26, 2020. KING RODRIGUEZ/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTOS

Addressing the 36th Asean summit via video conference on Friday, Duterte said the dispute must be solved peacefully, aligned with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos).

“Even as our region struggles to contain Covid-19, alarming incidents in the South China Sea occurred. We call on parties to refrain from escalating tensions and abide by responsibilities under international law, notably the 1982 Unclos,” Duterte said.

“We urge all parties to adhere to the rule of law and to their commitments to international instruments, including the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea,” he added.

As country coordinator for Asean-China dialogues, Duterte admitted facing “constraints in dealing with the deliverables,” but noted, “We must also not lose sight of the strategic interest in the [South] China Sea.”

“We must find innovative ways and exercise flexibility to achieve our common goals,” the President said. “We remain committed to work closely with Member States and China towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea,” he added.

In a virtual press briefing, Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said the other Asean leaders also pushed for the early conclusion of the code of conduct in the South China Sea to reduce tension in the region.

“Marami ring nagbanggit sa South China Sea at kaparehong sinasabi nila kinakailangan ibigay natin ang ating atensyon sa pagbuo ng Code of Conduct diyan sa South China Sea para maiwasan pa ang hidwaan (There are several Asean leaders who also mentioned the South China Sea and said that we really need to focus our attention to the finalization of the sea code in the South China Sea so that we can avoid conflict),” he said.

The proposed set of rules governing the conduct of parties passing the disputed waterway is being negotiated by Asean and China. The Philippines currently serves as country coordinator for Asean-China dialogue.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea and has stepped up reclamation works and military installations in the area in recent years, drawing protests from other claimant nations.

Four Asean members, namely the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam, also have claims in the area.

Duterte recently raised Manila's 2016 victory in the arbitration court on the South China Sea dispute during his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying it was final, binding and not subject to appeal.

The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration has nullified China's nine-dash line claim over the South China Sea. The Chinese leader, however, still refused to recognize the arbitration ruling.

ASEAN leaders want adherence to rule of law in South China Sea

Published June 26, 2020, 3:40 PM

By *Argyll Cyrus Geducos*

Malacañang said many of the Southeast Asian leaders pushed for "adherence to the rule of law" in the South China Sea amid the rising tension in the disputed waters.



(AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in his Friday presser that at least half of the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) leaders raised the South China Sea issue.

President Duterte, during his intervention in the 36th ASEAN Summit, asked his fellow ASEAN leaders to refrain from escalating the tension in the disputed waters and abide by their responsibilities under international law, notably the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

He also asked them to adhere to other international instruments such as the 2002 declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea.

As country coordinator for ASEAN-China dialogue relations, Duterte revealed that there were constraints in dealing with the deliverables. He, however, said ASEAN must not lose sight of the strategic interest in the South China Sea.

"We must find innovative ways and exercise flexibility to achieve our common goals," the President said. "We remain committed to working closely with the member-states and China towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive code of conduct in the South China Sea," he added.

Earlier, Malacañang disagreed with the remarks of former Associate Justice Antonio Carpio that China was taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to advance its interests in the South China Sea.

"We do not agree with that conclusion. Although the current national policy is we will defend territory and sovereign rights," Roque said in April.

He, however, said Carpio's suggestion to hold joint patrols with Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia in the disputed waters was being considered.

Early this week, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi advised claimants of the South China Sea to continue a Code of Conduct negotiation that was delayed by the pandemic.

"Negotiation among claimant countries is key. Indonesia supports continuing the code of conduct negotiation that was halted due to the pandemic," Retno said during a virtual Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Wednesday.

She also said that it was important for ASEAN to keep sending out messages to great powers involved in the dispute to maintain regional peace and stability in the South China Sea.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/26/asean-leaders-want-adherence-to-rule-of-law-in-south-china-sea/>



COVID-19, sentro: PDU30, nagtalumpati sa 36th ASEAN Summit

June 26, 2020 @ 4:25 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Isinentro ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang kanyang 7 minutong talumpati sa 36th ASEAN Summit sa isyu ng covid 19 pandemic.

“A cohesive and responsive ASEAN,” iyan ayon kay Presidential spokesperson Haery Roque ang naging tema ng 36th ASEAN Summit na kung saan lumahok ang lahat ng Heads of State ng ASEAN, kasama si Pangulong Duterte.

Sa kaniyang pitong minutong talumpati, sinabi aniya ni Pangulong Duterte na talagang ang COVID-19 pandemic ang naging dahilan ng ‘disruptions worldwide’ na mayroon aniya talagang far-reaching consequences.

Kinakailangan, sabi pa ng Pangulo na magkaroon ng isang ‘cohesive and responsive response’ ang ASEAN para makapaglayag palayo mula sa bagyo ng krisis.

“Tumawag ang ating Presidente para sa greater cooperation and connectivity, at ang sabi po niya importante na palakasin natin ang ating economic cooperation, lalung-lalo na pagdating po sa supply chain connectivity,” ayon kay Sec. Roque.

Welcome din aniya kay Pangulo ang binuong ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund, kung saan lahat ng bansa ng ASEAN ay lalahok at lahat ng bansa ay susubukan na kumalap ng mga pondo para sa ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund.

Sinabi aniya ng Punong Ehekutibo na itong COVID-19 ay nag-expose ng mga vulnerabilities sa mga sistema.

Kasama na nga aniya sa mga vulnerabilities na sinabi ng Panguli ay ang mga limitasyon ng healthcare at ang social protection system.

Sinabi rin aniya ng Pangulo na kinakailangan na tulungan ang mga manggagawa sa Pilipinas at sa ibang bansa at kinakailangan na tulungan din ang mga micro, small, medium enterprises.

Bagama’t mayroon na aniyang existing cooperation sa mga lugar na ito ay kinakailangan aniya na ma-recalibrate ang mga plano para mas mabilis na maka-recover mula sa COVID-19.

“Sabi po niya, kinakailangan na mapatupad ang further acceleration ng connectivity projects to build resilient and sustainable regional supply chains. Kinakailangan ma-maximize daw po ang trade facilitation initiatives to promote the growth and participation of small scale and medium industries in regional and global value chains,” litaniya ni Sec. Roque.

Bukod dito, kinakailangan ayon sa Pangulo na magkaroon ng mas mabilis na progreso pagdating sa human capital development at dahil dito aniya ay winelcome ng Pangulo ang pagtatatag ng ASEAN TVET (Technical And Vocational Education Training) Council kasama na rin aniya ang mas malawak na pagpapatupad ng ASEAN Consensus on the Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers.

Sinabi rin aniya ng Pangulo na kinakailangan na mapalakas ang kapasidad ng Pilipinas para tugunan ang mga darating pang mga infectious diseases , kagaya aniya ng COVID.

Sinabi aniya ng Pangulo na makakamit ito sa pamamagitan ng research and capacity-building pagdating sa health technology development.

Maliban dito, sinabi rin aniya ng Pangulo na na kinakailangan ma-enable na ang ASEAN Center for Biodiversity para makapag-ambag sa paglaban sa wildlife trafficking para maiwasan ang pagkalat ng zoonotic diseases.

Samantala, sinabi pa aniya ng Pangulo na hindi naman aniya lahat ay naging bad news.

Sa katunayan aniya ay sinabi ng Pangulo na isa sa mga mabuting nangyari rito ay naging mas malinis ang kalikasan at na nagkaroon ng reyalisasyon na dapat ay maging nature's stewards and not its abusers ang mga filipino.

Dahil aniya sa mga lockdown ay natuto rin aniya ang mga filipino na gumamit ng e-commerce, e-learning, video conferencing at artificial intelligence.

Kaya nga aniya ang panawagan ng Pangulo ay palawakin pa ang cross-border e-commerce dahil narito raw aniya ang mga oportunidad para sa mga mamamayang filipino.

Sinabi rin aniya ng Pangulo na bagama't COVID-19 ang pinakamalaking problema ng buong ASEAN ay marami pa ring ibang mga problema ang bansa kung saan aniya ay kasama na rin dito ang banta ng terorismo.

At bukod pa aniya sa terorismo ay sinabi ng Chief Executive na kinakailangang pagplanuhan din ang mga sakuna, mga disasters at natural calamities.

"Now tanging ang Presidente lang po ang nagsabi na huwag po nating kalimutan iyong tinatawag na geopolitical shifts na lalo pang tumindi sa nakalipas na anim na buwan bagama't mayroon pong banta ng COVID. Ang sabi po ng Presidente, iyong rivalry sa panig ng United States at ng Tsina ay bagama't ito ay nagsimula na bago mag-COVID, ay nagkaroon ng complex relations pa dahil nga po dito sa continuing rivalry 'no."

"Pero ang sabi ng Presidente and I quote: "The great powers will continue to draw us into their respective camps. We should continue to nimbly engage them in ways that most benefit us. We must insist on an open and rules-based international order that gives all countries, large or small, not just a voice but an equal standing." ayon pa rin kay Sec. Roque. *Kris Jose*



Sen. Go: Duty allowance sa gov't personnel sa MSFs, inaprub ni PRRD

June 26, 2020 @ 1:03 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinuri ni Senator Bong Go ang pag-apruba ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pagkalooban ng duty allowance ang mga volunteers ng mega swabbing facilities (MSFs).

Ayon kay Go, pagkilala ito ng Pangulo sa naging pagtatrabaho at sakripisyo ng volunteering personnels para labanan ang coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

“Sa tulong po nitong COVID-19 Duty Allowance, masisiguro natin na ang volunteers natin ay maaalagaan. Maraming salamat po at napakinggan ang ating panawagan bilang pasasalamat rin natin sa sakripisyo at serbisyo para sa bayan ng mga volunteer frontliners,” ayon kay Go.

Nauna rito, umapela si Go sa executive department na kilalanin ang sakripisyo ng volunteers na tumutulong para labanan ang pandemiya.

Bilang tugon sa kanyang apela, nagpalabas ang Office of the President ng Administrative Order No. 31 na naglalayong bigyan ng duty allowance ang government personnel na boluntaryong nagtrabaho sa MSFs.

Ang ibibigay na duty allowance ay ‘retroactive effect’ na ang ibig sabihin ay sa simula ng operasyon ng MSFs at iba pang designated facilities.

“Habang sinusubukan nating malampasan ang krisis, siguraduhin rin dapat natin na maalagaan at maprotektahan ang mga ordinaryong kawani ng gobyerno lalo na ang mga kusang nagboluntaryo at nagbuhos ng kanilang oras upang maalagaan at maprotektahan ang kapwa nilang Pilipino,” ayon kay Go.

Sa pamamagitan ng AO, ang mga pinuno ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan ay maaaring magbigay ng COVID-19 duty allowance sa kanilang mga personnel na hindi na kailangan pang aprubahan ng Department of Budget and Management.

Kailangan lamang na ang volunteers ay nasa regular, contractual o casual posisyon, o nauugnay sa pamamagitan ng contract of service, job order o iba pang similar schemes.

Ang total rate ng COVID-19 duty allowance ay ibabase sa bilang ng mga araw na pisikal na ipinasok o ipinagtrabaho ng empleyado.

“Kaya natin isinulong ang Bayanihan to Heal as One Act. Binigyan natin ng kapangyarihan ang Pangulo upang magamit ang pondo ng gobyerno para matulungan at madagdagan ang mga frontliners sa laban natin kontra COVID-19,” ang pahayag ni Go. [RNT/ NCT](#)

Source: <https://remate.ph/sen-go-duty-allowance-sa-govt-personnel-sa-msfs-inaprub-ni-prrd/?fbclid=IwAR1DyiNbiQUL3ERcvmR9YSi05nrqApyKoiFwhz3FLUWBDdg6i-wvUKWzyQA>

Prudent spending to continue – DOF

(The Philippine Star) - June 27, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said the government plans to continue spending responsibly to prepare in case a second wave of coronavirus infections hits the country.

“Keep your powder dry. We don’t know how long this crisis is going to last so we have to have enough reserves for a second wave, for a third wave,” Dominguez said during a webinar hosted by Bloomberg on Thursday.

According to the finance chief, the Philippines is well-prepared for the coronavirus pandemic, given its strong fiscal position before the crisis.

He emphasized the country’s revenue effort, which reached 16.1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019, was the highest in 22 years.

“Our debt-to-GDP entering this was 39.6 percent, the lowest it’s ever been at any particular time. So we have a lot of space here,” he added.

The government is boosting up its war chest against the COVID-19 pandemic. It has prepared a P1.74 trillion socioeconomic strategy to deal with the health crisis, which is equivalent to 9.1 percent of GDP.

Dominguez said most of its financing requirements are being supplemented by domestic commercial borrowings, as well as foreign loans. He said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has also assisted in this aspect.

Meanwhile, Dominguez said the 50 basis point rate cut implemented the BSP was needed to bring back consumer confidence in the Philippines.

“Essentially, we’ve seen that we have to bring back confidence to our bankers. We have to bring back confidence to our consumers. Our economy is about 70 to 75 percent consumption driven so it’s of utmost importance that we bring back the confidence of our public in spending again,” he said.

The government’s economic managers are projecting the budget deficit to widen to 8.4 percent of GDP this year.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) also expects the economy to contract by two to 3.4 percent this 2020 due to the standstill caused by the pandemic.

“But we’re ready for a big bounce back next year,” Dominguez said.

For 2021, DBCC sees economic growth recovering at 7.1 to 8.1 percent.



“The Philippines imposed among the world’s longest tight lockdowns but new COVID-19 cases remain stubbornly high. Economic activity has stalled and we expect the economy to shrink three percent this year, compared with growth of six percent in 2019,” S&P said.

AFP/Ted Aljibe, File

Philippines to slump deeper — S&P

[Lawrence Agcaoili](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 27, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Credit watchdog S&P Global Ratings now expects a deeper economic contraction for the Philippines, which is going through one of the world’s longest lockdowns to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19.

In its latest research titled “Asia Pacific losses near \$3 trillion as balance sheet recession looms,” the global debt watcher said Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) is now seen to contract by three percent instead of its earlier forecast of 0.2 percent.

“The Philippines imposed among the world’s longest tight lockdowns but new COVID-19 cases remain stubbornly high. Economic activity has stalled and we expect the economy to shrink three percent this year, compared with growth of six percent in 2019,” S&P said.

The last time Philippine GDP contracted was in 1998 at 0.5 percent due to the Asian financial crisis. In the first quarter, GDP already shrank by 0.2 percent, ending 84 straight quarters of growth.

Economic managers, through the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), expect GDP to contract between two and 3.4 percent this year as the entire Luzon was placed under enhanced community quarantine since March 16.

“We expect the permanent costs of COVID-19 to be highest in India and the Philippines, due mainly to the severity of lockdowns, and in Thailand given its high exposure to international travel,” S&P said.

In the region, Vietnam is expected to post a GDP growth of 1.2 percent this year, followed by Indonesia with 0.7 percent and Taiwan with 0.6 percent. Aside from the Philippines, Thailand’s GDP is expected to sink by 5.1 percent, followed by Singapore with five percent, and Malaysia with two percent.

S&P expects the GDP of Asia Pacific shrinking by 1.3 percent instead of growing by 0.3 percent this year, implying \$2.7 trillion of lost output for 2020 and 2021, even assuming broad containment of the coronavirus.

“We expect the COVID-19 pandemic to leave lasting scars on Asia Pacific, with the extraordinary measures needed to shore up economies leading to higher debt, weaker balance sheets, and less appetite for spending in the future,” it added.

S&P said the Philippines is expected to book a strong rebound, with a GDP growth of 9.4 percent in 2021, 7.6 percent in 2022 and 7.5 percent in 2023.

“We forecast growth will rebound to 9.4 percent next year as activity resumes. Risks to the recovery path include the persistent spread of the coronavirus and weakened balance sheets in the private sector due to the length and magnitude of the downturn,” it said.

Malacañang has eased the lockdown by placing the National Capital Region (NCR) under the general community quarantine last June 1 to help jumpstart the Philippine economy.

Economic managers are expecting a stronger recovery with a GDP growth of eight to nine percent instead of 7.1 to 8.1 percent next year.



ATAKE SA PUSO, KANSER, STROKE, PNEUMONIA AT COVID-19

June 26, 2020 @ 12:06 PM 18 hours ago

Tinitingnan ng ULTIMATUM ang mga rekord ng mga namamatay sa mga mababagsik na sakit na tumatama sa Pilipinas habang nananalasa ang coronavirus disease-19.

Sakit sa puso, kanser, stroke, pneumonia ang mga sakit na ito.

Lumalabas na mas pinakamabagsik pa rin ang atake sa puso, sumunod ang kanser, stroke at pneumonia taon-taon.

MGA PATAY

Heto ang mga klarong rekord.

Ayon mismo sa Department of Health at Philippine Statistics Authority, marami ang namamatay taon-taon dahil sa mga sakit na ito batay sa mga naitalang kaso mula 2013 hanggang 2018.

Ang sakit sa puso o ischaemic heart disease, pumatay ng 118,740 Pinoy noong 2013 at kumonti ito sa 88,433 nitong 2018.

Ang kanser, pumatay ng 53,601 noong 2013 at lalong bumagsik noong 2018 sa pagpatay ng 67,138.

Ang stroke, pumatay ng 68,325 noong 2013 ngunit humina ang bagsik nito noong 2018 sa 61,951.

Lumiit din ang patay sa pneumonia mula sa 53,101 noong 2013 sa 567,815.

MGA DAHILAN

Itong atake sa puso, mga Bro, ay pagbabara ng mga ugat papasok sa puso at nawawalan ng tamang suplay ng dugo at oxygen na dahilan ng pagkatok nito, kumbaga sa makina ng sasakyan.

Nagbabara ang mga ugat dahil sa sobrang kolesterol na ating kinakain o pumapasok sa katawan natin hanggang sa tumigas ang mga ito at barahan ang mga ugat natin.

Ito namang kanser, ang paninigarilyo, polusyon at pagiging tamad sa paggalaw-galaw ng tao ang kabilang sa mga dahilan.

'Yang sigarilyo at polusyon ay nagtatanim ng maraming kemikal sa mga cell o kalamnan natin hanggang sa sirain ng mga ito ang mga cell na nagiging tumor sa kalaunan.

Nag-eksperimento naman ang mga Kano ng nasa 8,000 hanggang 30,000 katao at napatunayan nilang ang mga tamad na magkikilos o walang ehersisyo ay malamang na tubuan ng kanser sa anomang bahagi ng katawan.

Ito namang stroke ay nagaganap kung nagbabara ang mga ugat dahil sa kolesterol o mga naninigas na taba. Nawawalan ng suplay ng dugo at oxygen ang utak.

Stroke rin ang bunga ng pagsabog ng mga ugat papuntang utak kung hinahayblad tayo.

Ang pneumonia, gawa naman ng bakterya, virus o fungi na nang-iimpeksyon sa baga hanggang sa magkaroon ng sobrang plema na dahilan ng hirap sa paghinga hanggang sa matepok na lang tayo.

ANG COVID-19

Kung bakit pinag-interesan ng ULTIMATUM na silipin ang mga nasabing sakit ay upang alamin ang relasyon ng kamatayan sa COVID-19 sa mga ito.

At kung paano umiwas sa kamatayan kung may time.

Batay sa nagaganap sa Amerika, mga Bro, ang sakit sa puso na sinasakyan ng COVID-19 ang lumilitaw na kabilang sa ikinamamatay ng mga Kano.

Sa ibang mga bansa, ang kanser sa baga ang sinasakyan ng COVID-19 para pumatay.

Itong pneumonia, gayundin na sinasakyan ng COVID-19.

Kapag tinira ng COVID-19 ang mga may sakit sa baga sa kanser o pneumonia, rito na nahihirapang huminga ang tao hanggang sa mamatay siya.

TAMA ANG GOBYERNO

Dito natin napagtanto kung bakit ganoon na lang ang kautusan o pakiusap ng ating pamahalaan na ang mga maysakit, bata man o katamtaman ang edad o senior citizen, ay hindi dapat na kilos nang kilos at pumunta kung saan nila gusto sa kasagsagan ng COVID-19.

Sa huling ulat ng DOH, 33,069 na ang sinasabing tinamaan ng COVID-19 at 1,212 na ang patay sa nakalipas lang na anim na buwan.

May mga namamatay araw-araw na naglalaro sa 10 at kung minsan, may nasa 20 pa.

Sana naman, makinig nang husto ang mga mamamayan sa pamahalaan na laging nag-uutos ng stay-at-home lalo na sa mga maysakit, palaging pagsusuot ng face mask at social distancing at iba pa.

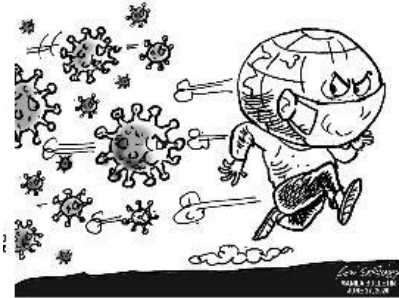
Iwasan nating maidagdag sa listahan ng mga naiimpeksyon at namamatay.

At panghuli, paano kaya makokonsensya ang mga ospital at doktor upang ibaba nila ang singilin sa paggamot sa atake sa puso, stroke at kanser?

Hindi magawang magpagamot ang maraming maysakit nito dahil sa sobrang mahal na singil ng mga ospital at doktor at mas gusto pa nilang mamatay na lang kaysa mabaon sa utang at paghihirap ang kanilang mga maiiwang mahal sa buhay.

Nations starting to ease COVID-19 restrictions

Published June 26, 2020, 11:00 PM



Some nations around the world are now beginning to relax the restrictions they imposed on their people when COVID-19 emerged as a major threat around March this year.

All 50 states of the United States have now ended their lockdowns, allowing people to gather once more in parks and beaches. US President Donald Trump himself led an election campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, although the 19,000-seat auditorium was not filled to capacity as in previous gatherings of his loyal followers.

In Europe, the French people gathered in two districts of Paris last Monday to dance and sing in celebration of the annual midsummer Festival of Music – Fete de la Musique — that is traditionally celebrated all over the country. On the same day, France took a big step back to the old normal as millions of children returned to school. In England, the government announced that moviehouses, museums, and galleries would reopen July 4. Most of the world's nations, however, chose to retain their restrictions. Saudi Arabia announced it would allow only a "very limited" number of pilgrims for the annual hajj which normally draws 2.5 million pilgrims from around the world, including the Philippines.

In South America, Mexico delayed plans for a reopening of the economy. Coronavirus deaths continued to rise in Brazil, Peru, Chile, and Argentina. The pandemic is still accelerating, said World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

This is the world today — a mixture of self-confidence and hope in some countries and continuing fear and despair in other countries. Scientists all over the world are striving to develop vaccines and cures, but the best expectation is that a vaccine will be ready only by the end of the year.

In the mass gatherings in the US and in France, it was noted the people were not wearing face masks. Many who watched the crowds in Paris were horrified and took to social media to voice fears of a second wave of COVID-19 infections.

The Philippines is carefully managing its own COVID-19 cases, lifting restrictions in areas where cases are down. In general, cases are down except for Cebu City where the severe restrictions remain. It has now been established that ultimately, the spread of the virus depends upon the people themselves — whether they comply with orders to wear face masks, keep a one-meter distance from the next person, and maintain the highest levels of personal hygiene. Today, in the streets of Metro Manila, for example, everyone wears a face mask of some kind.

Let other people throw caution to the winds after being cooped up for so long. We will follow our own carefully studied plans for phased lifting of restrictions, with the people themselves knowing their fate in this pandemic is — to a very great extent — largely in their own hands.

Tags: [Roni Santiago](#)

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/26/nations-starting-to-ease-covid-19-restrictions/>

Refocus on the pandemic, please

By: [Peter Angelo V. Perfecto](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:03 AM June 27, 2020

I believe that one key to resilience is our ability to see the silver linings, the opportunities that become evident as we pursue efforts to overcome disasters and crisis.

Phinma Education's president, Dr. Chito Salazar, just recently on this same column concluded that "we shouldn't waste this opportunity to recreate education not only for the pandemic, but also for a whole new world."

Recent articles by McKinsey & Company have been encouraging companies to recognize the need for continuing innovation in these challenging times, as failure to innovate will lead to almost certain demise.

While there are indeed exciting developments and initiatives already igniting sparks of hope, I will not talk of these, but rather would like to put the spotlight on how this crisis is also being abused in insidious ways.

How the anti-terrorism bill was passed recently by Congress and now awaits only the President's action or inaction to become law is one glaring example of abuse of the pandemic.

While I agree that we may need a more effective law to counter terrorism, a law like this deserves more scrutiny and should benefit from more constructive dialogue.

However, while many groups were busy trying to save our nation and our people from the virus, our Congress leaders saw it fit to railroad its passage, instead of rushing much more urgent laws needed to save the country's economy and create jobs.

Malacañang has said it is reviewing the law before the President makes a decision. Although the President certified this as urgent, I appeal to him to veto the law in its current form and urge Congress to also focus first and foremost on saving the nation and the people from COVID-19.

All over social media today are pictures of jeepney drivers begging along the streets, because they are still not allowed to ply their routes to make a decent living.

Instead, only the modern e-jeepneys are being allowed to start operations. It seems some of our officials in government saw the pandemic as the opportunity to wish away all the old and inefficient jeepneys by simply denying our drivers any chance to rise from this crisis.

While this seems like a very efficient way to realize the objective of transport modernization, doing so now when most people are barely surviving and jobs are quickly disappearing is heartless and just plain anti-poor. Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, I am sure, is now aware that this may not be the right time to push the modernization. Secretary, please save our jeepney drivers.

Another program that has been made to ride on the pandemic is the "Balik Probinsya." I have for decades seen this program come and go.

It has its merits, but the current program was clearly too hastily rolled out with not enough consideration for unintended consequences.

Without first addressing the lack of opportunities in the countryside, not to mention the weak social services and the poor infrastructure development, our kababayans sent back to the provinces may very quickly find themselves with little choice but to return to the cities again, or worse, become victims of illegal overseas work recruiters always preying on the desperate in the rural areas. And with lack of planning, the program just became another vehicle for the virus to spread even to previously safe zones.

Our very popular senator and presidential adviser, Bong Go, has been the lead champion of this program, and he can withdraw support for the program pending more thorough planning and dialogues. An essential first step, which again brings us all back to our worst enemy today, is to address the weaknesses of health care in the countryside.

Since the pandemic brought never-before-imagined conditions all over the world, I have always echoed the call for an all-of-nation approach to save our economy and our people. For the three cases cited above, the President, a senator, and an esteemed secretary have a unique opportunity to make everyone refocus on beating the pandemic and be the leaders we need. May I thank you in advance?

Peter Angelo V. Perfecto is former executive director of the Makati Business Club. Business Matters is a project of the Makati Business Club.

Training really matters

[BUSINESS MATTERS \(BEYOND THE BOTTOM LINE\)](#) - [Francis J. Kong](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 27, 2020 - 12:00am

Do you remember the “times of old,” meaning the pre-COVID era when it was so hard to have people change behavior as you embark on a program of innovation? Consider the migration of your business system or the institution of change and the all-famous “Go Digital Transformation” programs? These change initiatives were met with tremendous resistance. Consultants were brought in, incentives were offered, but there was little progress. Notice how suddenly people can change because a tiny virus has brought the whole business and economy to a grinding halt? No complaints, just compliance. No resistance, but adherence.

And now I would like you to see the picture of what is happening. Overnight, you and I must change our behaviors and actions. And as hard as this is for me to admit, our appearances have changed too. When was wearing masks appealing? But now we wear masks. When was social distancing acceptable in the past, but now we feel weird when we see people not standing apart in lines. Our way of doing things and our behavioral changes in response to COVID-19 may be the blueprint for the long-term.

And now, I would like you to think about what this crisis has forced your people to change their ways and actions almost overnight. There was a lot of fear and anxiety about how these changes could be implemented. But now that we are months since the lockdown and some businesses have opened, we slowly realize that these new ways of working could indicate that they might be the pattern for the long-term. The containment phase of the crisis is gradually receding. While it is reasonable that remote work will be the norm, we may also expect it to fade. Still, there is an intense need for companies to retool and retrain their people towards working in the new environment.

Business organizations will have to quickly figure out how to match workers to new roles and activities. Rapid changing conditions and business work requirements go beyond just remote work, but also expect an increase in usage and application of artificial intelligence and automation.

Adding to this is the need to train people in soft skills and equip them with the resilience to operate in an almost-all-new environment. HR and L&D people will have to double-time on developing their people’s critical cognitive and digital skills. At the same time, train, equip them with social, emotional, and providing them to be adaptable and resilient with so many new things happening. The work is tremendous and will not be easy.

The sales force would most likely shift to more video meetings and presentations. Add to this is the necessity of managing customer relationships from a distance. What about leadership? How could managers lead their teams virtually when the possibility of building relationships through informal coffee, lunch, or activities are nil for the moment? These require new skills. What about the mindset of people who would feel and experience the stress of learning new skills and being overwhelmed with the demands placed upon them brought about by the new environment? How do we encourage and inspire them to do their best and deliver their best?

The road to recovery will not be easy. But to retool and to retrain our people is a must. The training budget has to be protected. Leaving the people to learn and adapt on their own will only make business recovery slow and almost impossible. We do not just want to have our people weather the storm and go back to “Business as Usual” because it will never be. We want our people to have the ability to manage ambiguity, develop adaptability, and possessing the resilience to meet challenges and difficulties.

History of past crises would indicate that business organizations that did not abandon their training turned out to be at a better place than competitors during business recovery. And this positions them to explore new opportunities for further growth and stability. Here is the gist of it. While others are not training, and you are. Then you would be in a better place.

(Bring your family, attend and take part in a live webinar via Zoom this July 8-9, “Raising Future Leaders - Values, Virtues and Attitude with Chinkee Tan, Nove Tan and Francis Kong as they present winning ideas on Money Management, Online Education and Life Skills for Success. For further inquiries or registration email: admin@successoptionsinc.com or contact April at 0928-559-1798 or Abby at 0917-533-6817.

In defense of old jeepneys

Buses, trains and jeepneys where masked commuters sitting a seat apart while silently browsing their phones may prove less risky than other settings where patrons are talking loudly and singing.

Published 5 hours ago on June 27, 2020 12:50 AM

By [Nick V. Quijano Jr.](#)



Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr.'s considerable gift for colorful phrase-making naturally distracts and lately, is oftentimes disagreeably corruptive.

But I have no grievances when he disses the modern jeepney as an “inflated condom.” Allows for relief from dreary days, sensibly congenial, too, at least to me, are his arguments.

“Keep the old jeepneys,” trumpets the new-found ally of hungry, begging-for-food jeepney drivers.

“Did you see the new one? It looks like an inflated condom,” he harrumphs. Emphasizing further his animated tweet, he adds: “Absolutely. I won’t have MY people going around in an inflated condom. Did you see the new model? Puti at malaput looking. My people deserve better.”

Aesthetics, of course, informs Mr. Locsin’s complaint. Can’t argue there nor is it frivolous. The modern jeepney really is clunky, ungainly and unsexy — very much near what a condom looks like.

Truly, a “condom” jeepney can’t stand a chance against the dashing, folk art laden jeepney of old. And, can the modern jeepney driver readily claim the old “basta jeepney driver sweet lover” motto of the towel-on-the-neck old jeepney driver?

It’s true though the old jeepney now is a typically browbeaten jalopy. To restore the amour, Locsin suggests “get only Sarao to build the same jeepneys, retaining the traditional look, just improve the engine.”

For those born late, in jeepney lore, Sarao of Las Piñas is credited with inventing the jeepney. Millennials, too, should take note the new jeepneys bear a striking resemblance to the mini-buses of the 1970s, Marcos time. Mini-buses didn’t survive into the 21st century. Jeepneys, no matter how sorry looking, did.

Tourists reminded they can only stay in DOT-certified hotels in Boracay

Published June 26, 2020, 9:31 AM

By Tara Yap

ILOILO CITY—With the gradual reopening of tourist destinations after strict lockdown was eased, the Department of Tourism (DOT-6) is reminding potential visitors of world-famous Boracay Island that they can only stay at certified hotels and resorts.



While residents of Western Visayas region are allowed to visit Boracay Island, there has been a low turnout. (Ernesto B. Cruz / MANILA BULLETIN)

“They cannot book their stay in unauthorized hotels or resorts,” said DOT Western Visayas Regional Director Helen Catalbas.

The DOT-6 is leading the checking of accredited hotels after the June 16 reopening of the country’s most popular beach destination in Malay town, Aklan province to regional visitors.

As of June 24, DOT has granted 20 hotels and resorts in Boracay with the Certificate of Authority to Operate (CAO), while another one has a Provisional Certificate of Authority to Operate (PCAO).

Catalbas explained to Manila Bulletin that a hotel or resort with CAO means it has passed the safety standard, and has established protocols against the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

“We need to make sure they are going to protect both their guests and their workers,” Catalbas emphasized.

She explained that CAO certification can only be given once it is fully inspected by the composite team, which includes members of Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Aklan Provincial Health Office, the Malay Municipal Health Office, and the DOT.

Catalbas said that the lone establishment with PCAO means that it has been inspected, but not by the entire composite team.

The 21 hotels and resorts have combined 756 rooms.

Boracay currently allows entry to visitors who are residents of Western Visayas, a region comprised of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental provinces as well as the highly urbanized cities of Iloilo and Bacolod.

However, there has been low turnout.

Catalbas said there are plans to reopen the popular island resort to residents from other regions by July, but that will still depend on the status of COVID-19 cases.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/26/tourists-reminded-they-can-only-stay-in-dot-certified-hotels-in-boracay/>

Dayuhang turista posibleng payagan na sa Boracay, Bohol

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

-June 27, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Plano ngayon ng Department of Tourism (DOT) na payagang makapagbakasyon ang mga dayuhang turista sa mga destinasyon na wala o may mababang kaso ng COVID-19.

Tinawag ni Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat na 'travel bubbles o travel corridors' na isa sa kanilang aksyon para unti-unting mapalakas ang industriya ng turismo ng bansa.

Ang travel bubbles ay ang kasunduan ng mga piling bansa na tumanggap ng mga biyahe papasok sa kani-kanilang border. Sa ilalim nito, ang mga biyahero ay 'di na sasailalim sa quarantine o kaya ay dadaan sa maikling panahon lang ng quarantine.

Mga turista buhat sa mga bansa na wala o maliit ang kaso ng COVID ang plano nilang payagan na makapunta ng Pilipinas sa mga lugar na wala o mababa rin ang kaso tulad ng Boracay at Bohol, maging ang Palawan.

Tinitignan ng DOT ang mga bansang Australia at New Zealand na maaaring magtungo sa Boracay at Bohol.

Ilan sa mga bansang matunog sa travel bubbles ay ang Thailand, Singapore, China, South Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Australia at ang New Zealand.

Maynilad resumes work on re-aligning primary pipeline

posted June 26, 2020 at 11:20 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

West zone Maynilad Water Services Inc. has already resumed work on the realignment of a 600mm-diameter primary pipeline along the northbound lane of Commonwealth Avenue from Fairlane Street to Regalado Street in Novaliches, Quezon City to help fast-track completion of the Metro Rail Transit line 7 construction.

It is currently conducting pressure and leakage tests on the newly laid pipe segments. The company aims to complete the pipe realignment by the end of August 2020.

To date, Maynilad has realigned and replaced 85.42 kilometers of pipelines in support of vital government infrastructure projects, such as road upgrades and flood control projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways, Metro Manila Development Authority, and local government units.

The MRT Line 7 is a 22.8-kilometer train line with 14 stations that will run from North Avenue in Quezon City to San Jose del Monte in Bulacan.

Kanlaon still 'no entry zone'

Published 3 hours ago on June 27, 2020 03:00 AM

By **TDI**



The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Friday reiterated that entry to Kanlaon Volcano's danger zone remains prohibited as the volcano is still under Alert Level 1.

"(The) public should strictly follow recommendation not to enter the 4-km. radius Permanent Danger Zone, as the volcano is abnormal," Phivolcs director Renato Solidum Jr. told the Philippine News Agency in a message.

He added that while there was no significant change in the volcano's volcanic activities in the past 24 hours compared to the previous day, the volcano's tectonic earthquakes at the western slope still persist.

There were 25 volcano tectonic earthquakes recorded in the western flanks in the past 24 hours, lower than the 44 volcano tectonic quakes recorded the previous day.

For the past two days, moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes that rose 200 meters before drifting northeast and northwest was observed.

Sulfur dioxide emission was measured at an average of 237 tonnes/day on 24 June.



25 pagyanig, naitala sa Bulkang Kanlaon sa nakalipas sa 24 oras

June 26, 2020 @ 11:35 AM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naitala ang kabuuang 25 volcano-tectonic earthquakes mula sa western flanks ng Bulkang Kanlaon sa nakalipas na 24 oras, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Sa 8 a.m. bulletin nito, nakita ng Phivolcs ang “moderate emission” ng white steam-lateen plumes na tumaas sa 200 metro bago ito tumungo pa-hilagang-silangan at hilagang-kanluran.

Nasuri ang Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission sa average ng 237 tons kada araw noong Hunyo 24.

“Ground deformation data from continuous GPS measurements indicate a slight deflation of the lower and mid slopes since January 2020,” ayon sa Phivolcs.

“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,” dagdag pa nito.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, ito ang mga indikasyon na nagaganap ang hydrothermal o magmatic activity sa ilalim ng paligid.

Nitong Huwebes, naitala ang 44 volcano-tectonic earthquakes mula sa western flanks ng bulkan sa 24-hour observation period.

Nananatiling nakataas ang Alert Level 1 rsa bisinidad ng Kanlaon.

Mahigpit namang ipinagbabawal ang pagpasok sa four-kilometer radius permanent danger zone.

Pinaalalahanan ng Phivolcs ang civil aviation authorities na abisuhan ang mga piloto nito na huwag lumipad ng malapit sa summit ng bulkan dahil sa panganib ng volcanic materials.

“DOST (Department of Science and Technology)-Phivolcs is closely monitoring Kanlaon Volcano’s activity and any new development will be relayed to all concerned,” ayon sa ahensya. **RNT/MM**

Source: https://remate.ph/25-pagyanig-naitala-sa-bulkang-kanlaon-sa-nakalipas-sa-24-oras/?fbclid=IwAR0vUeVj98cGkQAVnxi-ajROUe9ND-K19ixpGqH_JomzTJ9Vhd8HxBQJGm4

Magnitude 5.4 earthquake rocks areas in northern Luzon

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 26, 2020 8:29:19 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 26) — A magnitude 5.4 earthquake shook some areas in the northern part of the country on Friday.

The tremor struck at 7:54 p.m., hitting waters off Calayan town in Cagayan province, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

A "moderately strong" intensity 4 was felt in Calayan.

Intensity 3, described by Phivolcs as "weak" was recorded in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte and Flora, Apayao. Sinit, Ilocos Sur also felt the shaking at Intensity 2.

Phivolcs said the quake was tectonic in origin – or there was a movement in the Earth's crust – with a depth of 45 kilometers. It said aftershocks are expected.

Magnitude-4.4 undersea quake strikes near Philippine Trench

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 27 2020 05:06 AM | Updated as of Jun 27 2020 07:01 AM



Courtesy of the Phivolcs website

MANILA — A 4.4-magnitude undersea earthquake struck off Davao Oriental on early Saturday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The tremor struck at 2:36 a.m., approximately 100 kilometers southeast of Manay town, with a depth of 32 km.

The temblor, which was tectonic in origin, occurred near the Philippine Trench.

Phivolcs said aftershocks and damage to structure are not expected.

Investigators cast doubt on China's ban on the pangolin trade

Experts say pangolin scales are still being legally traded in China based on a loophole in the country's Wildlife Protection Law, which allows the trade of protected species in special circumstances.



A pangolin to be released back into the wild in southern China, after being rescued in Qingdao city, east China's Shandong province.
Image: [Chinalimages, CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

In early June, it was widely reported that the Chinese government had [banned pangolin scales](#) in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), and that all pangolin species now had the highest level of protection within China. This news grabbed headlines around the world, and conservationists hailed the move as a positive step toward halting the illegal trade of pangolins. But some experts say this celebration was premature.

The team at the [Environmental Investigation Agency](#) (EIA) recently obtained a copy of China's 2020 pharmacopoeia, a reference book for TCM practitioners, and found that while pangolin scales had been removed from the list of raw ingredients, pangolin scales were still listed as a key ingredient in various patent medicines.

"We were not surprised to learn that pangolin scales remained in the 2020 pharmacopoeia," Chris Hamley, senior pangolin campaigner at EIA, told Mongabay. "In fact we had warned soon after the reports started to appear in the international media on 9 June that China's widely publicised pangolin protections might not mean a total ban on their use in traditional Chinese medicine. This has happened before with leopard bone and bear bile — both were removed as a key ingredient but maintained as ingredients in patent medicine formulations."

EIA identified eight medicines in the 2020 pharmacopoeia that contain pangolin scales, including *Zaizao Wan*, a pill said to aid blood circulation, and *Awei Huapi Gao*, a medicine used to treat abdominal pain. While patent medicines are processed, ready-made products, Hamley said that licensed hospitals and pharmaceutical companies can legally obtain pangolin scales to produce and sell these medicines.

The drivers of demand associated with the use of pangolin scales in TCM in China still remain.

Chris Hamley, senior pangolin campaigner, Environmental Investigation Agency

There are also 72 additional TCM products containing pangolin scales that aren't listed in the 2020 pharmacopoeia, but that can still be legally sold within China, Hamley said.

Hamley says the trade may be continuing based on an exemption in Article 27 of China's [Wildlife Protection Law](#), which specifies that protected wildlife can be sold, purchased and utilised for scientific research, captive breeding, public exhibition or performances, heritage conservation, and other special purposes.

Investigators cast doubt on China's ban on the

TITLE: pangolin trade

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“There are unlikely to be any major changes in demand for pangolin scales,” Hamley said. “The drivers of demand associated with the use of pangolin scales in TCM in China still remain. With licenced companies and hospitals still able to legally produce TCM medicines containing pangolin scales based on formulae in the pharmacopoeia and other national lists, there will continue to be demand for raw pangolin scales from the TCM industry.”

EIA isn't the only organisation to point out the contradictory nature of China's policy on pangolin scales. TRAFFIC, an NGO that monitors the illegal trade of wild animals and plants, also said pangolin scales were still being promoted as medicinal ingredients.

“The situation is not clear-cut — medicinal use of pangolins is no longer endorsed by the main text of the TCM pharmacopoeia, but pangolin scales are still included in some of the prescriptions listed in the Annex of the printed publication,” TRAFFIC wrote in a [tweet](#) to BBC News after it published an [article](#) on China's removal of pangolins from TCM.

There are also concerns about the current government-held stockpiles of pangolin scales, which can be legally used at approximately 700 licensed hospitals and to produce about 70 patented medicines, according to TRAFFIC. Between 2008 and 2015, about 26.6 tonnes of pangolin scales were used each year.

However, it's not known how many scales are currently in these stockpiles, or the exact source of these stockpiles, and conservationists are worried that pangolin scales will be illegally laundered into these stockpiles if the system isn't properly managed.

“[A]t the very least, every province needs to have a transparent and standardized system to manage pangolin stockpiles to prevent any laundering of illegally sourced pangolin parts into legal channels,” Richard Thomas of TRAFFIC told Mongabay.

“As we have seen in recent years, a number of very large-scale pangolin seizures have been made by Chinese customs, so clearly there is ongoing illegal supply of pangolin products that needs to be shut down. There's a clear need for wildlife protection management departments to co-operate with the traditional Chinese medicine sector to eliminate potential illegal and unsustainable use of pangolin products.”

The eight species of pangolins are the most widely trafficked animal in the world, with [more than a million](#) of these animals poached and illegally traded since the year 2000. In 2016, CITES, an international treaty that protects endangered plants and animals, uplisted pangolins to Appendix I, which bans all international trade. However, CITES regulations do not apply to any domestic trade of the species.

Hamley said the [illegal trade of pangolin scales](#) has not slowed down in recent weeks, despite the apparent removal of pangolin scales from pharmacopoeia.

“EIA is currently monitoring the trans-national trafficking of pangolin scales by criminal networks, and we can confirm that large, multiple ton shipments of pangolin scales continue to be trafficked from Africa to southeast Asia for onward shipment into China,” Hamley said. “Covid-19 has had some logistical consequences that have slowed down wildlife trafficking activity, but traffickers in Africa continue to source pangolin scales in significant quantities for export to Asia.”

This story was published with permission from [Mongabay.com](#).

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/investigators-cast-doubt-on-chinas-ban-on-the-pangolin-trade/>

Gold fueling Congo conflict

The Council's 15 member states also renewed UN sanctions on the country for the period of a year.

Published 4 hours ago on June 27, 2020 02:00 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



UNITED NATIONS, US (AFP) — The UN Security Council called Thursday for “sustained efforts” in preventing the illegal trade of natural resources from the DR Congo, as gold in particular fuels conflict between armed groups in the region.

The Council's 15 member states also renewed UN sanctions on the country for the period of a year, allowing for both individuals and groups to be targeted.

In a statement following a videoconference, the Council expressed concern over “continued illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources” while calling for “sustained efforts to prevent” such practices.

UN experts who monitor implementation of the sanctions detailed multiple cases of trafficking in a recent report, stating that gold from the country was flowing into Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, the United Arab Emirates and Tanzania.

The document specified that the United Arab Emirates promised to tighten controls on the source of gold arriving in the country.

“The group traced Congolese gold to regional refineries and other international destinations and found that some refineries acted as brokers, used cash payments, undertook refiner-to-refiner trading and used corporate networks to obscure ownership, thereby inhibiting supply chain accountability,” the report said.

“Gold traders also avoided the use of formal banking networks,” it noted.

The experts added that “in terms of natural resources, the Congolese gold sector remained vulnerable to exploitation by armed groups and criminal networks and to unregulated trading.”

Miner becomes millionaire after finding biggest

June 27, 2020

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Miner becomes millionaire after finding biggest tanzanite stones

Published June 26, 2020, 9:38 AM

By *Agence France-Presse*

A Tanzanian small-scale miner has become a multi-millionaire after uncovering two of the biggest of the country's precious tanzanite stones ever found and selling them to the government.



Tanzanian small-scale miner Saniniu Kuryan Laizer, 52, found two of the biggest of the country's precious gemstones, Tanzanite (AFP Photo/Filbert RWEYEMAMU)

Saniniu Kuryan Laizer, 52, found the stones weighing 9.27 and 5.1 kilogrammes (20.4 and 11.2 pounds) respectively in the northern Mirerani hills, an area which President John Magufuli had fenced off in 2018 to stop smuggling of the gem.

He sold them to the government for 7.7 billion Tanzanian shillings (nearly \$3.3 million/2.9 million euros)

Tanzanite was first found in the foothills of Kilimanjaro in 1967, and the northern Tanzanian region of Manyara is the only known place where the stones, coveted by jewellers by their remarkable violet-blue sparkle, are found.

At a function celebrating the find in Manyara on Wednesday, mining minister Dotto Biteko said the stones were the biggest ever uncovered in the country.

"Laizer is our (shilling) billionaire and let us make sure that he is safe," he said.

"We are now moving from a situation where the small miners were smuggling tanzanite, and now they are following the procedures and paying government taxes and royalties."

Laizer said he hoped to use the money to develop his community.

"I plan to build a mall in Arusha and a school near my home," he said.

"I thank God for this achievement because it's the first time to get this size. When I found these, I notified government officials who valuated the stones and today they called me for payment." Jewellers Le Vian, which during the 1980s and 1990s acquired half the entire production of Tanzanite, said the amount paid to Laizer was only a fraction of its retail value.

"While the \$3 million paid to the miner has undoubtedly changed his life forever, it is only a twentieth of the potential retail value of the gemstones he discovered," said chief executive Eddie LeVian in a statement.

Miner becomes millionaire after finding biggest

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"The miner Saniniu Laizer defied all odds to unearth these world record-busting gemstones. The artisanal miner dug out these stones by hand and they remained intact. Mining can be a very rough process with enormous amounts of breakages along the way."

However it appears the stones will not be destined for the market, as the government wrote on Twitter they would be placed in the national museum.

Magufuli made a call to Laizer during the ceremony that was broadcast on loudspeakers, to congratulate him.

"This is the benefit to small miners and testifies to the fact that Tanzania is rich," he said.

When the 24km (14-mile) perimeter wall was unveiled around the mining site, Magufuli said that 40 percent of all tanzanite produced at the site was being lost to smugglers.

Magufuli has taken multiple steps to regulate the mining sector, which has faced allegations of fraud and underreporting of production and profits.

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Miner becomes millionaire after finding biggest tanzanite stones

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Jun 26 2020 06:58 AM



Two tanzanite gemstones — the largest ever found, according to the mines ministry — are pictured at a ceremony attended by senior government officials in Simanjiro district, northern Tanzania, June 24, 2020, in this Handout picture. The miner who found them was given a 7.74 billion Tanzanian shilling cheque by the government. *Tanzania Ministry of Minerals/Reuters*

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — A Tanzanian small-scale miner has become a multi-millionaire after uncovering two of the biggest of the country's precious tanzanite stones ever found and selling them to the government.

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Minero sa Tanzania, biglang milyonaryo dahil sa pambihirang bato na kaniyang nahukay

Hunyo 26, 2020 6:27pm GMT+08:00

Isang small scale miner sa Tanzania ang biglang yaman dahil sa pambihirang bato na kaniyang nahukay at nabili sa halagang katumbas ng \$3.3 milyon.

Sa Twitter post ng AFP news agency, sinabing ibinenta ng minerong si Saniniu Kuryan Laizer sa kanilang gobyerno ang nahukay niyang dalawang malaking tipak ng pambihirang tanzanite gemstone.

Ang isang bato ay tumitimbang ng 9.27 kg, habang 5.1kg naman ang isa pa.



Sabi ni Laizer, plano niyang gamitin ang kinita niyang pera upang tulungan ang kaniyang mga kababayan.

"With the money we are getting, we will give back to our community. I personally have set up two schools for children with the money I receive from mining," sabi ni Laizer sa ulat.

Ang nakuhang tipak ng tanzanite gemstone ni Laizer ay kabilang sa mga itinuturing pinakamalaking nakita sa kanilang bansa.--FRJ, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/744362/minero-sa-tanzania-biglang-milyonaryo-dahil-sa-pambihirang-bato-na-kaniyang-nahukay/story/>