

# Facebook posts on Cimatu puts former gov't official in hot water

Published June 27, 2020, 8:09 PM

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Saturday assailed the social media posts of a former Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) official alleging irregularity in Secretary Roy Cimatu's recent trip to Cebu City.



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu  
(DENR / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

"That's nothing but fake news," DENR Undersecretary and spokesman Benny Antiporda said in reaction to the allegations of former CFO chair Imelda Nicolas made on Facebook last June 25.

Antiporda said the DENR is already studying the possibility of filing a case for cyber libel against Nicolas for spreading false information on social media.

In her Facebook post, Nicolas alleged that "70 rooms were reserved at Seda Hotel for Cimatu's team.

She also pointed out that the cheapest room in the said hotel costs P5,000. "That's P300,000 a day. For 1 week, that's 2.240 m (million)," she stated in her post.

"This is just rooms. Cost of accommodation. You still have to factor in food and transportation," Nicolas further said. "How many PPEs (personal protective equipment) and test kits can that buy? How many sacks of rice can that buy? Is this how you rid yourself of blame? Is this how you save lives?"

Antiporda dismissed Nicolas' claims as "utterly baseless, unfounded, untrue, and malicious."

"What 70 rooms she was talking about? Secretary Cimatu went to Cebu with just one aide," Antiporda explained, adding that "Secretary Cimatu is a decent man."

"As a former soldier, he has developed a skill and good judgment in the use of resources. He is known to be prudent, not extravagant," he said.

Cimatu was in Cebu City last June 23-25 as part of his task to oversee the government's pandemic response in the city.

Antiporda pointed out that Cimatu would not be sidetracked by such false allegations that are clearly intended to undermine the government's efforts to fight the coronavirus disease.

Source: [https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/27/facebook-posts-on-cimatu-puts-former-govt-official-in-hot-water/?fbclid=IwAR2FCVLRZigPdPBXMzR8mOcJxm2O7Yke1R3aJoL-J49m7ytMcgV4A\\_3S2nQ](https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/27/facebook-posts-on-cimatu-puts-former-govt-official-in-hot-water/?fbclid=IwAR2FCVLRZigPdPBXMzR8mOcJxm2O7Yke1R3aJoL-J49m7ytMcgV4A_3S2nQ)



Presidential Communications (Government of the Philippines)

June 27 at 8:08 PM · 🌐

PANOORIN: Nilinaw ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na hindi totoo ang alegasyon na 'overspending' ang pagbisita ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu sa Cebu City.

Ayon kay Undersecretary Antiporda, dalawang araw lamang si Secretary Cimatu sa isang hotel, kasama ang kanyang aide, salungat sa maling report na nag-book sila ng 70 rooms para sa isang linggo.

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## DENR: OVERSPENT VISIT IN CEBU 'FAKE NEWS'



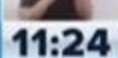
PUBLIC BRIEFING #LagingHandaPH



**Kier Vasquez**  
Pakipagbisita nito po dito sa Alabang Muntinlupa City, madami po kaming mga LSI dito nahihirapan po kaming kumaha ng travel pass. Hirap n po ako dito, wala na po akong pera pra sa pang araw araw ko po. jls. lang po masawa nito po kayo sa amos.

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## Opisina ng DENR sa QC, posibleng buksan na sa Lunes makaraang i-lockdown – Usec. Antiporda

June 28, 2020 @ 4:48 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Posibleng magbukas na sa Lunes (Hunyo 29, 2020) ang tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Visayas Avenue, Quezon City matapos isailalim ito sa lockdown makaraang magpositibo sa COVID-19 ang dalawang kawani nito.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda malamang na magbukas na sa Lunes ang tanggapan ng DENR matapos isailalim ito sa lockdown nitong Biyernes, Hunyo 26, hanggang Sabado, para bigyang daan ang sanitation at disinfection sa apat (4) na gusali ng DENR.

“Malamang sa Monday bukas natin ‘yan,” ayon sa text message ni Usec. Antiporda.

Nauna rito magugunitang isinailalim sa lockdown ang tanggapan ng DENR matapos magpositibo ang dalawang (2) kawani ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) sa COVID-19.

Sinabi pa sa ulat na naisagawa na rin ang sanitation at disinfection sa buong gusali ng DENR nitong Sabado para matiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga kawani ng ahensya.

Nabatid pa sa ulat na nagsasagawa na ng contact tracing upang malaman ang mga nakasalamuha ng 2 empleyado ng ahensya. **Santi Celario**

# AFP medical team flies to Cebu City to help in pandemic response

Published June 28, 2020, 3:25 PM

By **Martin Sadongdong**

A military medical team from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) flew from Metro Manila to Cebu City on Sunday to assist in combatting the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) following the sudden rise in the number of infections.



(AFP VIA MARTIN SADONGDONG / MANILA BULLETIN)

General Felimon Santos Jr., AFP Chief of Staff, said the team, called as "Task Force Central," is composed of nine doctors, 10 nurses, and 13 medical aides.

The team, led by Major Maria Adesitas Sagario, underwent precautionary swab testing and flu vaccination before it left Villamor Air Base in Pasay City at 8 a.m. via a Philippine Air Force (PAF) C130 transport plane.

"This pandemic has erased the limits on how Filipinos could help in this fight and we are glad to be part of this national effort to control and alleviate the impact of COVID-19 in the country," Santos said.

Presidential Peace Adviser Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementer of the National Task Force (NTF) on COVID-19; Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who was designated by President Duterte to lead the efforts in Cebu City, and Vice Admiral Gaudencio Collado Jr., AFP Vice Chief of Staff, led the sendoff of the troops.

Galvez expressed gratitude to the soldiers for answering the call of duty to help the health workers who are in the frontlines against the pandemic in Cebu City.

"We know this is difficult but your dedication, strength, and bravery will boost the morale of your fellow health workers," he said.

Meanwhile, Cimatu reminded the team to take care of themselves and perform their duties diligently as representatives of the AFP.

For his part, Collado boosted the morale of the troops as he urged them to savor the opportunity of being able to serve the country amid the health crisis.

"We are proud of this team for stepping up in this dangerous but very important mission. This is what it means to be a soldier and we know more than anyone that no danger of disease will stop us from accomplishing our mission," he said.

Cebu City remains under an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), the strictest quarantine status, until June 30 following the spike of new infections.

As of Saturday, Cebu City has the most number of cases among cities and provinces nationwide with 4,490.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/28/afp-medical-team-flies-to-cebu-city-to-help-in-pandemic-response/>

# AFP nagpadala ng medical team sa Cebu City

Angel Movido, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 28 2020 04:29 PM | Updated as of Jun 28 2020 09:22 PM

MAYNILA (UPDATE) — Nagpadala ngayong Linggo ang Armed Forces of the Philippines ng medical team para tumulong sa pagtugon sa pagtaas ng mga kaso ng coronavirus disease sa Cebu City.

Ang naturang team ay binubuo ng 9 doktor, 10 nurse, at 13 medical aide, ayon kay National Task Force Against COVID-19 chief implementer Carlito Galvez Jr.

"I believe more or less mga one to 2 months sila [sa Cebu]. Kasi malaki ang kanilang experience when they manned WTC (World Trade Center), PICC (Philippine International Convention Center)," ani Galvez, na binanggit ang ilan sa mga COVID-19 facilities sa Metro Manila.



"Marunong po sila sa testing, quarantine and treatment and sinusunod talaga nila 'yong protocols," aniya.

Ayon kay Galvez, kailangan na ng temporary quarantine facilities sa Cebu City dahil halos puno na ang mga ospital doon.

Nag-alok naman si Philippine Red Cross Chairman Richard Gordon ng mga tent para sa mga pasyente at medical workers, ani Galvez.

Magtatayo din umano ang Department of Public Works and Highways ng modular dormitories sa 11 lugar sa Cebu para sa medical workers.

Ayon naman kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, ang namumuno sa COVID-19 response sa Cebu City, ipinadala ang military medical team para pataasin ang kumpiyansa ng medical workers sa lungsod.

"They will also provide leadership. I believe in the leadership of our military doctors to help our personnel there," ani Cimatu.

May team din mula Iloilo na dadating para tulungan ang mga medical team sa Cebu City, sabi ni Cimatu.

## SITIO NA-LOCKDOWN DAHIL SA PAGTITIPON

Samantala, iniulat ni Cimatú ang isang **insidente** noong gabi ng Sabado sa Barangay Basak San Nicolas, Cebu City, kung saan nagdiwang umano ng pista at nagdaos ng prusisyon ang mga residente kahit naka-enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) ang lungsod.

"I am going there tomorrow and I will summon this barangay captain na hindi in-exercise yung leadership niya," ani Cimatú.

"I was alarmed, nakita sa Facebook 'yong prusisyon. Ipinagbabawal ang mass procession, hindi pwede magprusisyon diyan," ani Cimatú.

Isinailalim na sa calibrated lockdown ang Sitio Alumnus sa barangay dahil sa idinaos na prusisyon.

Ayon kay Norman Navarro, kagawad sa barangay, hindi nila alam na ganoon ang mangyayari.

Ang ipinagpaalam lang umano sa barangay ay mga imahen lang ng santo ang iikot ng mga volunteer sa kapilya.

Pero sa mga retratong kumalat sa social media, makikitang may sayawan pang nangyari sa pagdiriwang ng pista ng patron sa barangay.

Tiniyak din ng Central Visayas police na mananagot ang nagpasimuno ng relihiyosong pagtitipon.

Sa tala noong Sabado, umabot na sa 5,598 ang kumpirmadong COVID-19 infections sa Cebu City, kung saan 3,116 ang aktibo, ayon sa regional health office.

-- May ulat ni Annie Perez, ABS-CBN News

# Military in Cebu City to deter 'pasaway', enforce ECQ measures

Published June 28, 2020, 10:59 AM

By Genalyn Kabiling

The presence of the military in Cebu City will help deter stubborn or "pasaway" people from breaking the quarantine protocols imposed to stem the spread of the new coronavirus disease, according to Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo.



Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo  
(OPS / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Panelo has defended the troop deployment in the virus-hit city following concerns raised by Vice President Leni Robredo, saying soldiers can aid the policemen in implementing the strict quarantine measures and keep the people safe and protected.

"Alam mo yung tangke, inilagay 'yun para sa security ng mga kababayan natin hindi para laban sa kanila. Kaya nga sila Army yun ang trabaho nila, to protect the Filipino people (You know, the tanks were placed there for the security of the people and not against them. The job of the army is to protect the Filipino people)," he said during his "Counterpoint" program last Friday.

"Kaya lang naman hinihingi ang tulong ng military para pairalin 'yung mga protocols, para yung mga pasaway ay medyo magkaroon naman ng konting takot na huwag na suwayin ang batas kasi para sa kaligtasan din naman nila yun (We only asked the help of the military so the protocols can be enforced, so the stubborn will have some fear not to disobey the law because it is for their own safety)," he added.

Robredo earlier questioned the presence of military tanks and personnel in Cebu City, saying the government ought to adopt a public health approach to address the pandemic instead. She said the health emergency cannot be solved by sowing fear among the people.

Panelo explained that the military and police have been deployed to Cebu City not to make life difficult for the residents.

He echoed President Duterte's remarks that cases of infections in Cebu City surged due to the complacency of some residents. After 250,000 quarantine passes were cancelled, he noted that the distribution of new passes to households will be reduced to curb the outbreak.



Military in Cebu City to deter 'pasaway' enforce ECQ  
measures

June 29, 2020

DATE

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"Hindi dinadala ang mga military at police para pahirapan tayo sa ating paglabas o paglalakabay kung hindi para bigyan tayo ng kaligtasan sa pamamagitan ng pagpapairal ng safety protocols (The military and the police are not deployed to make it difficult for us to travel outside but to give us protection by enforcing the safety protocols)," he said.

President Duterte recently sent Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to Cebu City to oversee the government's coronavirus response. He also disclosed plans to visit Cebu City just to remind its residents to follow the health protocols, after lamenting they became "too confident and too complacent."

Cebu City has been put back under strict enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) from June 16 to June 30 due to the sharp rise in coronavirus cases and high critical care utilization rate. The strict lockdown includes home quarantine for all households except for essential activities, suspension of public transportation, ban on mass gatherings except for those related to government services or humanitarian activities, and limited operations of certain industries.



# Eleazar: Deployment of more cops raises Cebu City citizens' compliance

**Published** June 28, 2020 6:36pm

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Joint Task Force COVID-19 Shield chief Police Lieutenant General Guillermo Eleazar said Sunday that the deployment of additional cops and members of Special Action Force has made the residents of Cebu City more compliant with health protocols.

Interviewed on Dobol B sa News TV on Sunday, Eleazar said that he and other police officials conducted an inspection in Cebu City, which is currently under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

Through our ground and ocular inspection, nakita po namin 'yung significant improvement doon sa compliance ng ating mga kababayan doon sa mga protocol natin under ECQ," he said.

According to him, they observed better compliance during the inspection mainly because of the interventions put in place by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who was designated to supervise the city.

"Meaning, dahil pos a kanilang mga intervention na ginawa at pati na rin po sa pagpapadala natin ng ating troops to augment the Police Regional Office 7, galing PRO 6 and 8, at 'yung SAF," he added.

Eleazar, who is also the PNP Deputy Chief for Operations of the Philippine National Police, said the full deployment of SAF was set on Sunday.

He clarified that the augmentation of more troops is not "militarization" but simply for maintenance of "police visibility."

"Hindi po militarization na sinasabi ng iilan-ilan. This is just plain police visibility. Itong paged-deploy natin ng SAF is tried and tested formula na nagiung epektibo..." he said.

Cebu City has reported more than 4,700 COVID-19 cases with over 2,000 remaining active. Due to the increasing cases, the government deployed more troops to support the enforcement of community quarantine measures. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/744547/eleazar-deployment-of-more-cops-raises-cebu-city-citizens-compliance/story/?fbclid=IwAR2AmmSGJEOZAFJOf0JOz5tK0zamw69JmK9qUfEd7G6n3bPioghQqY7pEGQ>

# Tambalang Cimatu- Eleazar masusubok sa Cebu

By Efraimseth Corpuz — Last updated Jun 28, 2020

OPINION



Ipinadala nakaraang linggo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Cebu si Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu para pangasiwaan ang giyera sa COVID 19 dahil sa patuloy na paglobo ng kaso sa nasabing lalawigan.

Sa ngayon ay mahigit sa 5,000 ang naitatalang positibong kaso ng COVID sa buong Cebu dahilan para maalarma ang Pangulo at ipadala ang isa sa matikas na opisyal ng administrasyon sa katauhan ni Cimatu.

Katulad ng inaasahan matinding pagbabago ang naramdaman ng mga taga-Cebu dahil sa presensya ni Cimatu na sinundan pa ng dagdag puwersa mula sa Philippine National Police (PNP).

Speaking of PNP, mawawala ba naman sa giyera kontra COVID si Joint Task Force Covid Shield Commander PLT GEN Guillermo Eleazar?

Siyempre hindi, dahil matapos na lumipad ni Sec Cimatu sa Cebu ay sumunod si Gen. Eleazar para galugarin ang mga lugar sa Cebu na may mga kaso ng COVID at tulungan ang mga kababayan sa lalawigan para masugpo ang pagkalat ng virus.

Maraming health protocol ang ipinatupad sa Cebu bilang pagtalima sa direktiba ni Pangulong Duterte na agapan ang pagkalat ng virus lalo na't sa pagtataya ng UP experts ay hindi malayong umakyat sa 11K sa katapusan ng Hunyo ang tatamaan ng COVID sa Cebu kapag pinabayaan ito.

Kaya naman dahil sa expertise ni Sec Cimatu na isa sa katuwang ng gobyerno sa pagsugpo sa COVID 19 nitong nakalipas na tatlong buwan ay hindi malayong maipatupad din sa Cebu ang mga hakbang na ginawa sa Metro Manila at iba pang kalapit lalawigan nito partikular ang tamang quarantine protocol.

Kung may naglatag ng mga health protocol si Sec Cimatu, nariyan naman si Gen. Eleazar para i-supervise ang implementasyon nito lalo na ang walang patumanggang paglabas ng mga tao sa Cebu na tila walang takot sa hindi nakikitang virus.

Sa presensya ni Gen. Eleazar at tropa ay agad naman nating napansin ang pagbabago sa Cebu base sa mga napapanood natin sa telebisyon.

Unti-unting naipatupad ang social distancing at pagsuot ng face mask ng karamihan at higit sa lahat ay ang paglabas ng mga hindi naman dapat lumabas.

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Hindi nga ba't sinuspendi rin ang quarantine pass ng maraming residente sa Cebu upang tuluyang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng virus.

Sa ganitong sistema ay madaling natutukan ng mga itinalagang PNP sa pamumuno ni Gen. Eleazar ang galaw ng mga tao na siyang kailangan gawin sa ganito kalaking lugar na marami ng positibong kaso.

Kaya kay Sec Cimatu at Gen. Eleazar hangad namin ang tagumpay nyo sa

Cebu.

Hindi naman kayo ipapadala dyan ng Pangulo kung hindi bilib sa inyong kakayahan.

Speaking of kakayahan alam nyo bang sa panahon ng lockdown sa Metro Manila ay sa ilalim ng pangangasiwa ni Gen. Eleazar bilang Joint Task Force Covid Shield Commander ay umabot sa

207,528 pasaway sa quarantine ang naaresto.

Aminin man natin o hindi ay malaki ang naitulong ng task force COVID kaya hindi kumalat ang virus noong mga panahong naka-lockdown ang National Capital Region (NCR).

Sumasakit na nga malamang ang tenga ng karamihan dahil sa paulit-ulit na paalala ni Gen. Eleazar na huwag lumabas ng bahay kung hindi kailangan.

Kaya katulad ng naging papel ng task force COVID sa Metro Manila noong Marso hanggang katapusan ng Mayo hangad nating tuluyang masugpo ang virus sa Cebu.

Kanya nga lamang mga tagapangasiwa lamang sina Sec Cimatu at Gen. Eleazar diyan. Sa inyo pa ring mga taga-Cebu nakasalalay ang kaligtasan ninyong lahat para tuluyan nang huminto ang pagkalat ng virus.

# Bubbles

posted June 29, 2020 at 12:50 am

by [Lito Banayo](#)

## "The bubble concept is indeed workable, but will remain a bubble for as long as the country's health management is deemed unacceptable."

Australia and New Zealand will be exchanging flights to and from their countries in order to re-charge their tourism sector. The concept is to create a travel "bubble" for two countries which did well, and in the case of NZ, exceedingly well, in managing the ill effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Taiwan for its part will begin welcoming citizens coming in for mainly business purposes, as well as students enrolled in their universities. The countries in the first tier, which are considered "low-risk" because they managed their COVID-19 responses pretty well are: Vietnam, Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Fiji, Mongolia and Bhutan.

Citizens from these countries coming to Taiwan will only be required four-day self-quarantine after health checks at the airport. In time, even these would be ruled out as the pandemic remains controlled in the island.

\* \* \*

Our tourism secretary announced last week the possibility of creating a similar travel bubble between some island destinations in the Philippines, such as Bohol, Boracay and possibly some parts of Palawan. The incidence of COVID contagion in these islands have been few and far between. Bohol has a new Panglao International Airport and so does Boracay, both from Caticlan and Kalibo, capable of accepting charter flights.

The bubble concept is indeed workable, but will remain a bubble for as long as the country's health management is deemed unacceptable, not only by governments elsewhere in the world, but by their citizens as well who keep tab of the numbers that keep rising.

\* \* \*

In Taiwan however, domestic tourism has considerably perked up. And I have seen more and more people, especially the young, do away with the ubiquitous utilization of face masks wherever they go.

Last Thursday, the beginning of the four-day Dragon Boat holiday in celebration of the change of seasons from spring to summer, I went to Ruifang in New Taipei City, where we went up to a relatively low but steep 100 meter climb, through some 5 kilometers to reach a peak from whence one gets a majestic view of the Pacific Ocean.

Domestic tourism seems to have been re-energized. Even the remote Green Island in Taitung received thousands of visitors that kept dozens of ferries busy the whole long week-end.

Ruifang in New Taipei City is just less than a leisurely 40-minute drive from downtown Taipei City, where one could climb its low but very well-maintained mountains, and swim and snorkel in the clear waters of the currently calm sea. And later gorge on excellent locally-produced seafood, such as lobsters, crabs, abalone and groupers. At very affordable prices, I might add.

\* \* \*

The key to the workability of the travel bubbles, as well as enhancing domestic tourism is safety and security, especially peace of mind on questions of health. So Sec. Berna's hopes are really a function of how long it will take the country to reverse the current trends of health mismanagement.

One is relieved to know that Sec. Cimatu has been charged to take over the pandemic management in Cebu City as earlier requested by the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas from the President, who is himself considered a Cebuano, his father having been a Mindanao migrant from Danao.

Now it has been discovered that regional health officials based in Cebu City were "managing" reports on the number of Covid infections in their public hospitals, creating an earlier atmosphere of false complacency.

Now the “bubble” has burst, and Cimatú comes to the rescue. Still, the toxic nature of Cebu politics has reared its ugly head once more, indulging in fake news and recriminatory accusations against both local and national government officials. Even Sec. Cimatú, an Ilocano with frugal habits, has been falsely accused of having taken 40 rooms at the Seda Hotel in Lahug, when all he brought with him was an assistant.

Slay the toxicity, Cebuanos, and just follow the quarantine rules strictly.

\* \* \*

Here in Taiwan, a returning Japanese student who was asymptomatic but upon testing was found to be positive for the virus last June 22 raised quite a furor. But within the next three days, government traced 123 persons with whom the student interacted upon his arrival, from airport to eateries. Fortunately, all 123 tested negative, thanks to face masks and other precautionary measures ingrained as habit in the population. By June 26, all fears were laid to rest.

Just one case added to 446, since the virus spread out in January in this supposedly “lucky” Year of the Rat.

\* \* \*

And as we write this article on a hot Sunday morning here in Taipei, we read about the departure to a “safer” beyond of three persons, to whose families we would like to extend our profound condolences.

To Sen. Bong and Mayor Lani, on the demise of their father, Ramon Sr., after a long and lingering illness;

To Ma’am Nancy and the children and grandchildren of our good Cebuano friend Congressman Tony Cuenco, who was once Presidential Assistant on Political Affairs, and thus a predecessor in office;

And finally, to my immediate predecessor as Chairman of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, Congressman Amadito Perez Jr. of Urdaneta City in Pangasinan.

Their departure from earthly life, days after Ambassador Danding, sends intimations of mortality upon us all.

# CENRO Nagtipunan donates P99,000 worth of common hard lumber, food packs

By Thelma C. BicarmePublished on June 28, 2020



CENRO Nagtipunan

NAGTIPUNAN, Quirino, June 28 (PIA)—The Community Environment and natural Resources (CENRO) here reported that a total of Php 99,480.00 common hard lumber and food packs had been donated for the construction of COVID-19 isolation units and as assistance for the frontliners manning the inter-agency checkpoints.

Reporting to the media practitioners during the press briefing via zoom this morning, CENR Officer Taripato Sagun said some 48 pieces of Common Hard Lumber with a total of 1,012 bdf/2.38cu.m amounting to P37,444.00 were donated to Maddela District Hospital for construction of Covid-19 isolation room last month.

"We again donated 81 pieces Common Hardwood Lumber with a volume of 1,481.67 or bd.ft./3.49 cu.m. and worth of Php 54,821.00 to MDH for the construction of additional isolation rooms," Sagun said.

Furthermore, CENRO Nagtipunan donated 23 pieces CHL with a total volume of 325 bdf/0.76 cubic meter to Delta company, 86IB, 5ID Philippine Army stationed at Masaya Sur, San Agustin, Isabela and in Maddela.

Aside from these, Sagun also said they distributed some food packs to the frontliners manning the checkpoints at Villa Norte, Abbag, Divisoria Norte in maddela; Dipantan Checkpoint in Nagtipunan and Maddela District Hospital in Diduyon.

Sagun said this is part of their efforts to help sustain the COVID-free status of the province and in compliance to Republic Act 11469 "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act." (MDCT/TCB/PIA 2-Quirino)

# Paths to green economic recovery

posted June 29, 2020 at 12:40 am

by [Orlando Oxales](#)

## "Let us not repeat the mistakes that have led us to this planetary mess."

We are facing the most difficult challenge to humanity that many sage observers say has never been seen in modern history. As of this writing, World Health Organization COVID-19 data reports confirmed cases about to breach 9.6 million and deaths approaching 500 thousand worldwide.

This is a global crisis that is now teaching its inhabitants that tipping the fragile balance of human and environmental health will have catastrophic consequences. The symbiosis of our health, the environment, and economic security is no longer a quixotic cause of tree-hugging fanatics but a reality essential to our existence.

As the country starts to make tentative steps to restart economic activities, alarming spikes in new cases further feed the anxiety of the people who must now venture out of their quarantine domiciles and adjust to the myriad of safety protocols to shield themselves from the deadly Wuhan virus.

We must move forward and get the economy going. But we must first accept that this global crisis is the consequence of our civilization's committed or omitted mistakes, always biased to feed our insatiable need to have more of everything in the name of development.

In the latest online forum hosted by Stratbase ADR Institute and Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST), over 200 stakeholders from government, civil society, academe and the private sector were in consensus in seriously pursuing paths towards a "Green Economic Recovery" in the context of environmental stewardship.

The institute's President, Prof. Dindo Manhit in his opening remarks said, "We must push for a more circular economy, one wherein we all efficiently manage our solid wastes as well as our mineral and forest resources. After all, we will have to revisit policies on underutilized industries such as the mining industry in order to stop the country's economic hemorrhaging. However, we must only proceed if we uphold the responsible and sustainable practices under an environmental stewardship-centered economic agenda."

Rep. Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr., Chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives underscored the need for the government to act and look for solutions to the internet connection in the country, as it is has become indispensable technology and a key component in our post pandemic economy. He further highlighted the need to expand and upgrade the country's digital infrastructure as it will be necessary for government, as well as corporate transactions.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs, Juan Miguel Cuna will push the National Greening Program, where 16,000 families will benefit from the seedling production, plantation maintenance and protection. The department is also fast tracking the assessment of large-scale mining operations, to determine if they are compliant to resume operations to provide employment and revenue to the national government and host communities. Minahang Bayan for small scale miners will be allowed to operate legally in different provinces under strict monitoring to ensure their extractive activities comply with environmental regulations. Multi-stakeholder approaches to revive tourism, build treatment storage and disposal facilities, strengthen water security and the implementation of wildlife handling protocols are among the DENR's flagship programs to support the government's financial and social reconstruction in the wake of the pandemic.

DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change Analiza Teh recommended policies that would contribute to achieving economic and climate goals, clean physical infrastructure investment, building efficiency with long overdue renovations and retrofits, investment in education and training, natural capital investment for ecosystem resilience and regeneration, and clean Research and Development investments.

Usec. Teh pointed out that dealing with the long-term climate emergency will not come from shutting down the economy, rather, it will come from structuring systems enabling people to live in a low carbon way, such as investing in sustainable infrastructure to ensure long term impacts and sustainability. She further underscored the need for private sector's support, more policy reforms, and called for a shift in cultural behavior in how people treat the environment.

Mr. Ludwig Federigan, Executive Director of the Young Environmental Forum and Stratbase ADRI Non-Resident Fellow called for an aggressive push for a 'green' recovery plan that sets the economy on a pathway towards a low-carbon development that focuses on: (1) healthcare investments in national laboratory system, real-time surveillance, workforce development, preparedness, emergency response operations, risk communication, and national legislation, policy and financing; (2) strengthening our disaster preparedness; (3) allotting more funding for clean research and development spending; and (4) clean/renewable energy infrastructure investments.

I highly recommend that you check out the entire recording posted at the PBEST Facebook page to appreciate the enlightening discussions of the other speakers, reactors, and participants.

Let us not repeat the mistakes that have led us to this planetary mess. It must not be business as usual.



# Real estate firm wields tree-cutting permit

Published 1 day ago on June 28, 2020 03:30 AM

By [Aldwin Quitasol](#)



VISTA Land says it has also turned over 5,400 seedlings of Benguet pine to the DENR.

**BAGUIO CITY** — A real estate firm stressed that the proper clearances were granted to them before the company undertook the cutting of more than 50 trees in a private property for a future development project in Baguio City.

Vista Residences Inc., which is developing a private property in Barangay Outlook Drive into a multi-level condominium, said it was granted a Special Private Land Timber Permit on 18 June by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“To reiterate, the cutting of the pine trees is covered by a permit duly issued by the DENR and was undertaken in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations,” Vista Land said in a statement.

In addition to the permit, Vista Land also turned over 5,400 seedlings of Benguet pine to the DENR local units and pledged an additional 5,400 seedlings more during a dialogue with Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong on 25 June in replacement of the felled trees.

Incidentally, the meeting with the mayor coincided with the country’s observance of Arbor Day, or a day of tribute to trees.

Magalong earlier expressed disappointment over the tree-cutting activity, which took place amidst his administration’s efforts in passing the moratorium on tree-cutting and building of commercial establishments.

An online signature campaign addressed to Magalong was launched by environmental activists led by tree expert Dr. Michael Bengwayan to halt the firm’s cutting of the 54 trees, 53 of which are Benguet pine and one Norfolk fir, in the property despite having a DENR permit.

The petition proponent called for efforts to prevent the further “massacre” of trees in the city and noted trees’ benefits to the environment and human oxygen needs.

“While we plant and teach the young of intergenerational responsibility, some cut, even our government agencies. Their acts, when seen by the youth, confuses the children. Some are made to think that tree-cutting is okay. Is that what our government wants?” Bengwayan lamented.

Bengwayan was also behind the protest of the cutting of trees to make way for the expansion of a large mall in the city.

# Baguio bishop tutol sa pagputol ng mga puno sa lungsod

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 28 2020 01:09 PM



Pinuputol ang mga puno sa Outlook Drive, Baguio City para bigyang-daan ang pagpapatayo ng gusali ng Vista Residences. *Retrato mula kay Jaja Marquez*

Nagpahayag ng pagtutol nitong Sabado ang Diocese of Baguio sa anila'y patuloy na pagpatay sa mga puno sa lungsod kasunod ng naiulat na pagputol sa 54 na puno sa Outlook Drive para bigyang-daan ang pagtatayo ng gusali ng isang real estate developer.

"The Diocese of Baguio strongly opposes and considers as unacceptable the continuing mass killing of full grown and healthy trees," sabi ni Baguio Bishop Victor Bendico sa isang pahayag.

Ayon kay Bendico, ang pagputol sa mga buno ay labag sa doktrina ng Simbahang Katoliko ukol sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan.

May kapangyarihan naman ang tao na maisalba ang kalikasan kung ito ay kaniyang nanaisin, sabi ng obispo.

Ang pagputol sa mga puno sa Outlook Drive ay pagbabalewala rin sa mga ginawa ni Bishop Emeritus Carlito Cenzon, isang religious leader na lumaban para mapangalagaan ang mga pine tree ng Baguio.

Ayon kay Bendico, suportado nila ang ibang mga ikinakasang petisyon laban sa pamumutol ng mga puno.

Suportado rin ng Diocese of Baguio ang isinusulong na moratorium ni Mayor Benjamin Magalong sa pamumutol ng mga puno.

Noong Hunyo 24, nag-post sa social media ang residenteng si Jaja Marquez ng mga video at retrato ng mga punong pinutol sa Outlook Drive, na tatayuan ng gusali ng Vista Residences.

Nauna nang sinabi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na dumaan sa tama at mahigpit na proseso ang pagkuha ng mga dokumento ng kompanya.

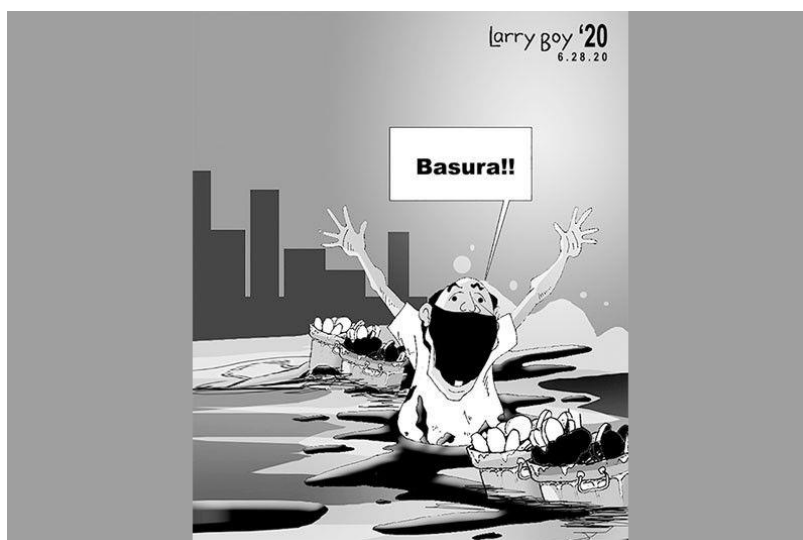
Hindi masabi ng DENR kung naputol na ang lahat ng 54 na puno.

Ipinag-utos naman ni Magalong na gawing 200 puno sa halip na 100 ang ipapalit sa kada isang pinutol.

Sinubukan ng ABS-CBN News na humingi ng pahayag sa Vista Residences sa pamamagitan ni Engr. Ferdinand Salcedo, pero hindi pa ito sumasagot hanggang sa paglalathala ng ulat na ito.

Ang Vista Residences ay condominium development arm ng property developer na Vista Land, kung saan si dating Sen. Manny Villar ang Chairman of the Board. -- **Ulat ni Maira Wallis, ABS-CBN News**

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/28/20/baguio-bishop-tutol-sa-pagputol-ng-mga-puno-sa-lungsod?fbclid=IwAR1UfoEu8uwviNRkO9ctrVst14wHVbM871B7mYxh5\\_JZirnw1ZHjHV2bZiU](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/28/20/baguio-bishop-tutol-sa-pagputol-ng-mga-puno-sa-lungsod?fbclid=IwAR1UfoEu8uwviNRkO9ctrVst14wHVbM871B7mYxh5_JZirnw1ZHjHV2bZiU)



## EDITORIAL - Naglutangan na naman ang plastic na basura

(Pang-masa) - June 28, 2020 - 12:00am

PANSININ ngayon ang mga estero sa Metro Manila. Namumulaklak na naman sa plastic na basura. Maaaring ang mga plastic ay naipon habang naka-lockdown ang Metro Manila at ang mga tao ay walang ginawa kundi magluto. Dahil palaging nagluluto, marami rin ang basura at pawang plastic. Ang masakit, karamihan sa kanila ay walang disiplina sa pagtatapon ng kanilang basura. Tapon dito, tapon doon ang kanilang ginagawa. Wala nang pakialam. Halimbawa ay ang informal settlers o mga iskuwater, deretso sa tubig ang kanilang basura --- supot na plastic, grocery bags, sachet ng 3-in-1 coffee, catsup, shampoo, toothpaste, at iba pang plastic na basura.

Lahat nang itinapon sa kanal, estero o sapa, aanurin patungong Manila Bay. Kawawang Manila Bay na inumpisahan nang linisin noong nakaraang taon pero hindi matapus-tapos at eto na naman ang panibagong basura ng mga plastic. Mas marami pa kaysa rati ang basura at ito ay sa kabila na marami ang umaarap dahil wala na raw makain dahil sa pandemia.

Noong nakaraang taon (Pebrero 2019) nagbabala si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu sa mga walang disiplinang nagtatapon ng basura. Nang magsalita siya sa isang forum, sinabi niyang tapos na ang araw ng mga gumagawa ng krimen laban sa Inang Kalikasan. Ang pag-abuso sa kalikasan ay tutuldukan na sapagkat mahigpit niyang ipatutupad ang environmental laws at mga ordinansa.

Pero makalipas ang pagbabanta niyang iyon, wala pa ring nakitang pagbabago at lalo pang dumami ang mga nagsasalaula sa kapaligiran. Nakakatuwa na sana dahil masidhi ang hangarin ni Cimatu na puksain ang mga sumisira sa kalikasan. Sana ang kasunod ng kanyang pagbabanta ay pagpapakita na ng kamay na bakal laban sa mga iresponsableng mamamayan na walang pakundangan kung magtapon ng plastic sa mga kanal, estero at sapa.

Kailangang maipamulat sa mga iresponsable na ang mga basurang plastic na kanilang itinapon ay humahantong sa Manila Bay at hindi lamang tao ang napipinsala kundi pati mga lamandagat. Mawawalan ng silbi ang kampanya sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay kung parati na lamang na may magtatapon ng basurang plastic sa water ways.

Kapag natapos ang problema sa pandemia, mga iresponsableng nagtatapon naman ng basura ang harapin ng DENR.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2020/06/28/2024065/editorial-naglutangan-na-naman-ang-plastic-na-basura>

Carpio: Cleanliness of Manila Bay affects health, food

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The usual brackish water of Manila Bay turned turquoise in March, which some social media users attributed to lower human activity due to quarantine measures.

The STAR/KJ Rosales, File

## Carpio: Cleanliness of Manila Bay affects health, food security

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - June 28, 2020 - 7:02pm

MANILA, Philippines — Letting Manila Bay further deteriorate will seriously harm the health of residents in Metro Manila, retired Supreme Court associate justice Antonio Carpio said as he urged the public to “clean up” the heavily-polluted body of water.

In an online forum Saturday, Carpio stressed that it is necessary to rehabilitate Manila Bay because majority of the fish consumed by Metro Manila residents come from it and from fish ponds adjacent to the bay.

Manila Bay—which spans Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila and Cavite—is a principal fishing ground for sardines, mackerel, mullet, threadfin, bream squid, blue crab, round scad and fusilier.

“Manila Bay is our fish pond, our garbage dump and our sewerage tank rolled into one. The residents of Metro Manila throw their human waste into Manila Bay. The fish eat on this human waste, the fishermen catch the fish and sell them to vendors and markets all over Metro Manila. The residents of Metro Manila buy the fish and eat them then the cycle starts all over again,” Carpio said.

“The fish that Metro Manila resident consume from Manila Bay may become so laden with diseases that the next epidemic could come from fish taken from Manila Bay or the fish from Manila Bay may become toxic from chemicals that they could spawn various illnesses. The diseases and illnesses may even rival the destruction being inflicted now on residents of Metro Manila by the coronavirus,” he added.

The retired Supreme Court justice said there is a need for residents of the capital region to demand that their mayors ensure that waste is disposed in sanitary landfills and not in ravines or open dumpsites and to treat sewage before waste water is pumped in the bay.

The government began rehabilitation of Manila Bay in January 2019. The rehabilitation is still in the first phase or the cleanup and water quality monitoring phase.

Carpio: Cleanliness of Manila Bay affects health, food

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The next two phases will involve the relocation of informal settlers and more rehabilitation works, and the protection and sustainment aspect of the project.

“We must educate people who live along esteros and all residents of Metro Manila that they’re poisoning themselves with their own garbage, their own sewage and with toxic chemicals from industrial plants,” Carpio said.

### Reclamation projects

At the same forum, Carpio also warned of the effects of reclamation in Manila Bay, saying coastal development projects will adversely affect the habitat of endangered species and wetlands and will destroy a major source of fish catch for residents.

Reclamation projects will also make coastal areas susceptible to liquefaction during earthquakes and aggravate flooding in low-lying areas.

One of the biggest reclamation projects in Manila Bay is the proposed New Manila International Airport in Bulacan province, which will reclaim 2,500 hectares of fishing and mangrove areas.

In February 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte said he would not allow any private-sector initiated reclamation projects in Manila Bay due to potential environmental impacts. According to a BusinessWorld report, there were around 25 proposed projects to reclaim 30,000 hectares of Manila Bay from Navotas City to Cavite.

Fishers group Pamalakaya said on June 19 that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources granted the 320-hectare Bacoor and Reclamation and Development Project proposed by Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla an environmental compliance certificate. The group said the project will threaten to displace at least 700 fishing and urban poor communities.

Waste management, recycling a priority during  
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“We all know that a clean environment is a healthy environment. Improperly disposed wastes can cause infection and contamination. So we should take proper waste disposal and management even more seriously,” said Sen. Cynthia Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on environment and natural resources.

Jeremy Pintolo, file

## Waste management, recycling a priority during pandemic — Villar

[Paolo Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 29, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Waste management and recycling should not take a backseat during the pandemic but should be prioritized to prevent the spread of diseases, Sen. Cynthia Villar said yesterday.

“We all know that a clean environment is a healthy environment. Improperly disposed wastes can cause infection and contamination. So we should take proper waste disposal and management even more seriously,” said Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on environment and natural resources.

She cited the World Health Organization (WHO)’s warning that “if solid waste is not dealt with quickly, serious health risks will develop which will further demoralize the community already traumatized” by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The senator referred to the International Solid Waste Association’s advice that waste management is one of the most important sanitary barriers to prevent the spread of illnesses and diseases.

Recycling can also help manage the amount of wastes accumulated even during community quarantine, Villar said.

She said experts themselves cite that continuity of recycling efforts is important during and after the pandemic.

“Proper waste management becomes even more crucial now during quarantine or lockdown because some waste collection services are discontinued or disrupted. But the amount of wastes produced continues to increase,” Villar said.

The senator, through the Villar SIPAG foundation, has established 3,000 livelihood projects nationwide, which help process solid wastes by using them as raw materials.

Waste management, recycling a priority during

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These are water hyacinths for the waterlily handicraft-weaving enterprise and the handmade paper factory; waste coconut husks for the coconet-weaving enterprise and the charcoal-making factory; kitchen and garden wastes for the organic fertilizer composting facility; and plastic wastes for the waste plastic recycling factory that produces school chairs.

The foundation also facilitated the establishment of composting centers in barangays to collect kitchen and garden wastes from households to be brought to the composting facility. It now has 80 composters utilized by 80,000 households.

The senator has put up a waste plastic recycling factory in 2013 in Barangay Ilaya, Las Piñas City. The facility converts waste plastics into chairs, which is the solution to another perennial problem – lack of school chairs.

One school chair can be produced out of 20 kilos of waste plastics such as sachets and wrappers. Since 2013, the Las Piñas factory has produced over 30,000 chairs. Two more plastic factories were built in San Miguel, Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro City to cover the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

Villar noted that the Philippines, based on a University of Georgia study, ranked third, next to China and Indonesia (among 192 countries surveyed), in terms of volume of plastic waste produced by the population.

# Anti-plastic pollution group welcomes adoption of reusable packaging system

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

June 29, 2020

A group advocating against pollution from disposable plastic lauded the position of 115 health experts from 18 countries vouching for the safety of the reusable packaging system by employing basic hygiene.

Health and environmental groups under the Break Free From Plastic (BFFP) movement welcomed the statement, which addresses the safe use of reusable bags, containers and refill systems amid the ongoing coronavirus disease (Covid-19) crisis.

BFFP Philippines's Riedo Panaligan said it was a "very timely statement made by the global scientific community."

"Plastic pollution should not be a part of our efforts towards a 'Better Normal' future. Unless we turn off the tap and regulate the production, plastic will continue to contaminate our food supply and impact our ecosystems," Panaligan said.

He said they are urging the public not to "allow chemical and plastic industries to capitalize on the Covid-19 crisis and continue their business-as-usual operations."

"It is time for nations to hold them accountable for the plastic pollution crisis," Panaligan added.

According to the BFFP, the experts' joint statement also builds on the movement's "Just Recovery" principles as it highlights the need to take a holistic approach to shifting to reusables, such as employing contactless systems and ensuring employee and worker safety and health.

In their statement, the health experts said reusable and refill systems can still be used safely by employing basic and stringent hygiene practices.

"Reusables offer more sustainable packaging solutions and are easier to clean with soap and water or even with commonly approved household disinfectants. Single-use plastics are not inherently safer than reusables; and not only do they contribute to environmental pollution, they have also been found to cause additional public health concerns once they are discarded," according to Geminn Louis C. Apostol, one of the signatories to the statement.

Nevertheless, Apostol said observing physical distancing and limiting outdoor activities remain to be the most cost-effective measure to avoid transmission of Covid-19. He added these also minimize the need to use disposable personal protective equipment (PPE).

"Moreover, we must advocate for evidence-based, and well-enforced waste management policies and practices," said Apostol, who is lead environmental health specialist at the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health. He also emphasized the need for a concerted effort in addressing the problem.



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While there are safe disposal solutions to Covid-related waste such as medical waste autoclaves, the best way to ensure personal and environmental health is the rational use of PPEs and a shift to reusable, the BFFP said.

The health experts' statement stressed that available evidence indicates that the virus spreads primarily from inhaling aerosolized droplets, rather than through contact with surfaces and that disposable products present similar issues as reusable ones.

The health experts argued that reusable products are easily cleaned.

The health experts offer the "Best Practices for Reusable Products in the Retail Space," which include compliance with food safety, use of additional hygienic practices against the spread of Covid-19, employing contact-free systems for customers' personal bags and cups and ensuring that workers are protected.

In addition to investing in safe and accessible reusable systems, other steps retailers can take to protect workers include providing PPE, paid sick leave, reduced occupancy in stores and requiring customers to wear masks and practice social distancing, the health experts said.

Customers should handle their own reusable items when going to shops and stores, they added.

Bulacan airport project seen to affect endangered,  
vulnerable migratory birds

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This January 13, 2019 photo shows birds spotted flying over Manila Bay  
The STAR/KJ Rosales, File

## Bulacan airport project seen to affect endangered, vulnerable migratory birds

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - June 28, 2020 - 5:37pm

MANILA, Philippines — The proposed international airport in Bulacan province may adversely affect thousands of waterbirds, including several endangered and vulnerable species, a bird-watching group said.

The New Manila International Airport will be built in a “key bird area” in Manila Bay, Wild Bird Club of the Philippines vice president Cristina Cinco said in an online forum Saturday.

The airport project will reclaim some 2,500 hectares of fishing and mangrove areas in Barangay Taliptip in Bulakan, Bulacan and nearby Sitio Baluarte in Obando, Bulacan.

As many as 200,000 migratory birds congregate in Manila Bay during mid-winter months, Cinco said. The Philippines is part of the flight path of some 50 million migratory birds that travel through the East Asian-Australian Flyway, which stretches from Russia to Alaska in the United States at the northern end and Australia and New Zealand at the southern end.

Cinco said 16 waterbird species are found in Manila Bay and at least nine threatened or near-threatened bird species would be affected by the airport project. These include the endangered Far Eastern Curlew, Chinese Egret and Great Knot.

Near threatened Asian Dowitchers, Bar-tailed Godwits and Red-necked Stints also stop over in Manila Bay during winter months.

Northern Manila Bay—where Bulacan is located—has been declared an important bird and biodiversity area by Bird Life International. An average of 47,000 waterbirds flock in the province's wetlands daily from January to March, WBCP said.

In January, 24 black-faced spoonbills—classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature—were spotted along the tidal flats and mangrove areas in Taliptip. Cinco called it a “rare opportunity.”

Bulacan airport project seen to affect endangered,  
vulnerable migratory birds

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The WBCP official said the endangered and vulnerable bird species in Manila Bay can be a “rallying point” for the conservation in the area.

“Birds are the Number One indicator of a good environment. If you have good air, clean water, people will truly survive because they can eat and breathe the air and of course, if there’s freshwater, there’s fish,” Cinco said.

### Nursery and fishing ground

San Miguel Corp.’s airport project is among the coastal development projects in Manila Bay that the government has approved. Scientists and environmentalists said the reclamation will bring intense flooding in coastal and low-lying areas of Bulacan and other provinces. The area will be also highly-susceptible to liquefactions or when loosely-packed land loses strength and integrity during earthquakes.

The proposed aerotropolis will also destroy an environment important to the sustainability of fish production in the entire Manila Bay.

A 2017 fisheries resources and ecological assessment of Manila Bay found that fish eggs and crustacean larvae were abundant in the eastern portions of Manila Bay, particularly along Bulacan, Metro Manila and Cavite from 2012 to 2015.

Raymund Fantonalgo, a marine scientist, told **Philstar.com** in 2019 that the area where the aerotropolis will be built is a productive nursery and feeding ground because of the rich mangrove ecosystem in the area.

According to preliminary research by the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM) in April 2019, there were at least five species of fish and at least five species of crustaceans found in the waters of Sitio Kinse in Taliptip.

Taliptip is also home to at least three species of mangroves.

“Once the fish are displaced, they will migrate to a new place. Of course, if you migrate and you are not used to the new environmental conditions, you will die,” Fantonalgo said then.

In mid-June, some residents of Taliptip were forced to demolish their homes after they were allegedly given P250,000. Environmental groups slammed the move to uproot fisher, saying the company took advantage of them growing hungry and jobless amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Source: [https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/28/2024193/bulacan-airport-project-seen-affect-endangered-vulnerable-migratory-birds?fbclid=IwAR1o2W7yP9JVKUoM\\_pirtNiLyMt5gFfl4lns1JpUQmDCSANCb59RLOr\\_qk&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook](https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/28/2024193/bulacan-airport-project-seen-affect-endangered-vulnerable-migratory-birds?fbclid=IwAR1o2W7yP9JVKUoM_pirtNiLyMt5gFfl4lns1JpUQmDCSANCb59RLOr_qk&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook)

Gov't agencies respond to soil erosion in Boganga

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# Gov't agencies respond to soil erosion in Boganga Transitory Shelter Site

By Lou Ellen L. Antonio Published on June 28, 2020

MARAWI CITY, June 28 (PIA) -- Various national and local government agencies responded to the soil erosion due to heavy rainfall in Lakeview Transitional Shelter Site (TSS) in Barangay Boganga, this city.

At around 7:00pm on Friday, the soil erosion caused mud flood estimated to be knee level high.

The City's Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) together with Vice Mayor Anouar Abdulrauf, Marawi City Police, 82nd Infantry Battalion (IB) under 103rd Infantry Brigade and 55th Engineer Brigade (EB) of the Philippine Army and Barangay emergency teams immediately responded and controlled the soil erosion and mud flood situation.

Identified heavenly-affected areas are Block 53 to 54, Division 7 of the TSS. No casualty was recorded but eight families were affected. The families were immediately moved to non-affected shelter units. The Marawi City Health Office (CHO) also provided them with hygiene kits.

The troops from the 82nd IB and 55th EB and personnel from the Department of Public Works and Highways continued to remove the mud deposits caused by soil erosion.



*A personnel from the Department of Public Works and Highways continues removing the mud deposits caused by soil erosion in Lakeview Transitional Shelter Site (TSS) in Barangay Boganga on Friday evening. (TFBM Field Office)*

The National Housing Authority (NHA), City Environment and Natural Resources Office, CDRRMO, CSWO, CHO, Task Force Bangon Marawi, Action Against Hunger (AAH), Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits, Inc. (ECOWEB), and Community and Family Services International (CFSI) conducted an assessment on Saturday morning.

"Nag drone na tayo para ma assess ang tributary area para sa ulan or rainwater runoff. Ipadivert natin ang ulan sa pinakamalapit na galley or daanan ng ulan," said NHA-Marawi Project Management Office head, Engr. Clemente Dayot.

[We already have conducted drone shots to assess the tributary area for the rainwater runoff. We will divert the rainfall to the nearest galley.]

Gov't agencies respond to soil erosion in Boganga

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Dayot also said that a gabion - a cage, cylinder or box filled with rocks or concrete will be recommended to be built. He also shared that there will be a meeting between NHA, TFBM and LGU Marawi on Monday to further discuss the mitigation of the said soil erosion.

CSWDO also provided preparedness orientation if the same situation will occur. They also reminded the parents to monitor their children. (LELA/ PIA ICIC)

## NBI arrests 8 illegal quarrying suspects

*posted* June 28, 2020 at 10:50 pm

by [Willie Casas](#)

The National Bureau of Investigation on Sunday announced the arrest of eight persons in Capas, Tarlac for excavating lahar sand and loading in a dump truck for disposition without necessary permits from the authorities, as authorities seized more than P10 million worth of equipment.

NBI Officer-In-Charge Eric Distor identified the suspects as Erwin Feliciano, Renoel Paulino, Eugene Madolid, Rolly Verdeflor, Alex Gato, Rodel de Jesus , Rico Duron, and Gilbert Cubelo.

Seized from them were six dump trucks and two pay loader and one backhoe with an estimated value of P 10,860,000.00.

On June 25, 2020, the eight suspects were presented for inquest proceedings before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor-Tarlac City for violation of Section 103 (Theft of Minerals) of R.A. 7942, otherwise known as the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995".

Intelligence information received by NBI- Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) that illegal quarrying activities are being conducted in Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Capas, Tarlac. Verification and surveillance operations conducted by NBI-EnCD revealed the presence of a group of heavy equipment extracting minerals (lahar materials) from the river and directly loading the same in the queuing trucks.

# Tribe seeks PRRD's intervention to protect Limunsudan Falls

By Prexx Marnie Kate Trozo June 28, 2020, 3:30 pm



**PROTECTION.** Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Secretary Emmanuel Piñol visits the Limunsudan Falls on Tuesday. Mindanao's Higaonon tribesmen are appealing to President Rodrigo Duterte to help them protect and preserve the hidden giant waterfalls in the boundaries of Bukidnon, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. *(Photo from Sec. Piñol's Facebook page)*

**DAVAO CITY** – Mindanao's Higaonon tribesmen are appealing to President Rodrigo Duterte to help them protect and preserve the hidden giant waterfalls in the boundaries of Bukidnon, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Secretary Emmanuel Piñol said Saturday the tribesmen considered the Limunsudan Falls as a sacred place but worries mounted as the waterfalls are reportedly eyed as a potential hydropower generation resource.

"Tribal leader Julius Dimdim, who guided us as we explored the waterfalls, said that it scares the Higaonon tribe as reports that big companies are eyeing the Limunsudan Falls for hydropower generation," he said.

The Higaonons, a tribe in Northern Mindanao, have lived in the area for hundreds of years and the area around the majestic waterfalls is a sacred place for them.

The Limunsudan Falls is a two-tiered waterfall in the Bayug River which flows down from Bukidnon to Lanao del Norte.

"In fact, before we started taking photos of the falls last Tuesday, the Higaonon religious leader performed a ritual which they said was their way of seeking permission of the spirits," Piñol said.

He added that Dimdim, who was born in the area, said an American explorer who ignored the tribal belief died soon after visiting the area.

"He said destroying the waterfalls would displease the spirits and it could bring untold miseries of the tribe. Whether this tribal belief is true or not, as chairman of MinDA, I support the position of the Higaonons," Piñol added.

"We should preserve and protect this wonder of nature so that the next generation of Filipinos will appreciate the blessings that God has given this country. There are more sustainable ways of generating the power needed for development other than destroying this wonder of Nature," he added. **(PNA)**

# LWUA on the move as pandemic proves water management essential amid crisis

posted June 29, 2020 at 12:10 am

by [Peter Paul Duran](#)

From taking care of its employees to ensuring water sustainability amid rising demand, the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), the country's governing body addressing water development in the countryside, is keeping busy as the COVID-19 pandemic heightens the need for the vital resource.



LWUA administrator Jeci Lapus said there is an urgent need to address the shortage of water supply in the Philippines, also considering that it currently only caters to 23 percent of the population outside of Metro Manila.

For one, Lapus said funding water supply projects should be among the priorities of the national government to improve access to safe water.

"Water demand has significantly increased during the ECQ (enhanced community quarantine) period. Also, because the ECQ/lockdown was implemented during the summer period, water consumption has significantly increased per household," Lapus said in an interview with Manila Standard.

Moreover, the pandemic has prompted LWUA to seriously consider surface water as an alternative source.

"But we are also aware of the impact of rainfall on the reliability and sustainability of surface water sources. (We are also endorsing) for funding of priority projects that will significantly increase (the) proportion of households with access to safe water," Lapus said.

This comes as vital as many Filipinos still struggle to secure access to improved water sources particularly in rural communities, the World Health Organization said in 2019. It said that in 2016, acute watery diarrhea was one of the top 10 leading causes of death in the Philippines with 139,000 deaths.

During the ECQ, LWUA ensured that the water districts provide uninterrupted water supply to hospitals and quarantine facilities in their respective areas, making them a top priority. Hand washing stations were also installed by the water districts in different strategic locations. For this, it also established an Emergency Response Teams for Repairs and provided water for public disinfection.

LWUA also strictly monitored the operations of water districts to ensure continuous water supply.

Lapus said the COVID-19 outbreak primarily affected category D, or small water districts as their finances dwindled due to the suspension of consumer payments for basic utility services.

"Operations-wise, all water districts ensured the continuity of water supply to their coverage area despite the implementation of skeleton workforce schedule."

As a response to the situation of water districts, LWUA allowed debt relief by suspending billings and amortization during the ECQ. It also allowed underprivileged water districts to tap into their mandatory reserves to pay for essential operational expenses during the quarantine.



LWUA on the move as pandemic proves water

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Meanwhile, as the pandemic slowed down economic activities, LWUA moved to ensure that its employees are properly compensated. This has allowed LWUA to continue its operations even amid the ECQ.



It implemented a work-from-home scheme and a skeleton workforce arrangement to continue its operations and gave out hazard pay to employees who reported for work during the ECQ.

In celebration of World Water Day last March amid the lockdown, LWUA reminded their water districts to continue campaign to conserve water and raise awareness that access to safe water will protect health and save lives.

## SMC continues drive for water conservation

posted June 29, 2020 at 12:00 am

by [Peter Paul Duran](#)

We've been bombarded with terms like physical distancing, quarantine, and "new normals" as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to wreak havoc all over the globe.



But in these bleak and trying times, indeed the new normal activities for us seem to revolve around heightened consciousness of our hygiene, limiting our exposure to the outside world, and acceptance of the fact that these restrictions would be part of our lives for years to come.

Big corporations aren't spared as well. Conglomerates in various industries have reeled from the effects of government-imposed lockdowns. Forecasts paint a grim outlook on the world economy, making bouncing back after this pandemic a seemingly insurmountable uphill climb.

Indeed these are the "new normals" of our society but these did not stop companies from pioneering another new normal in these times: we are all affected, but helping others in need is still a top priority.

San Miguel Corporation or SMC, led by its President and COO Ramon S. Ang, is one such conglomerate. It has have been spearheading monumental initiatives to fight the effects of this pandemic since the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon was imposed back in March.



Banking on its "Walang Iwanan" campaign, SMC's COVID-19 effort has produced billions of pesos worth in relief projects and has helped hundreds of thousands of people not only in Metro Manila but also in other parts of the country.

Though truth be told, selfless acts are nothing new for one of the Philippines' largest and most diversified conglomerates.

In fact, by 2025, SMC commits to reduce its use of water in all processes across the San Miguel group by 50 percent as part of its 50 x 2025 campaign.

While their water management efficiency level is among the highest in the Philippines, and while water conservation and protection has always been a key component of its operations, they are challenging themselves to do more.

How they will do so is based on a 4-point agenda aimed at reducing their water consumption and protection of vital water resources.

#### Eliminate wastage of water across operations

SMC says it will adopt new and stricter measures to improve the efficiency of their water use as well as utilize water-saving technologies and implement conservation programs.

#### Reuse and Recycle more water

The company also stressed that it will optimize all its wastewater treatment facilities to further lessen their water footprint. It also commits to make greater use of treated greywater for non-essential processes.

#### Reduce the use of ground and surface water and protect vital water resources

SMC will continue to lessen its use of ground and surface water, protect these water resources, and empower their communities to do the same.

#### Harvest rainwater

It will harvest rainwater and runoff water from creeks and rivers which includes collecting, filtering, and storing rainwater for irrigation and for various other purposes in its facilities in the hopes that others will follow in their example.

It is equally committed to providing water-challenged communities not just with access to safe, potable water, but also the ability to be self-sustaining when it comes to water management.

Asked why SMC is doing all of these, the conglomerate says, "Why do we care? Because it's everyone's water."

**LATEST**

# Improved Test, Trace, Treat urged

Published 12 hours ago on June 28, 2020 06:00 PM

By **TDI**



SENATOR Bong Go (foreground) says unless a vaccine is developed, nobody really knows when the 2019 novel coronavirus will subside.

Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go urged the government on Sunday to improve its Test, Trace and Treat strategy to stem the spread of the coronavirus disease in the country.

Go issued the statement in reaction to the latest World Health Organization (WHO) data showing that the Philippines has the fastest surge in COVID-19 infections in the entire Western Pacific Region.

"There is no vaccine or cure for this disease. That is why strict enforcement of existing measures and the proper compliance of everyone are crucial," he said in a mix of Filipino and English.

The chair of the Senate Committee on Health said if people will follow regulations and continue to help stop the spread of the virus, along with improvements on the country's health facilities, the virus will eventually be contained.

"As a legislator, I am also committed to push and support necessary legislative measures that can address the most immediate needs of our people at this time of crisis," he said.

"Among others, we need to immediately pass the Bayanihan to Recover as One bill," he said. The measure needs to be certified as urgent by the President so Congress can cut short its recess to pass it.

# Go: No better time to implement UHC than now

Published 17 hours ago on June 28, 2020 12:46 PM

By [TDT](#)



The implementation of the Universal Health Care is a must as the country takes on the coronavirus pandemic, Senator Bong Go stressed.

Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go will fight for the implementation of the Universal Health Care amid concerns surrounding the landmark law.

The UHC automatically enrolls all Filipinos in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's National Health Insurance Program.

Healthcare should be top priority amid the coronavirus pandemic, Go stressed.

During a meeting of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the UHC Law weeks ago, Go also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the PhilHealth has enough budget to cover the healthcare needs of Filipinos, especially the vulnerable sectors.

"Napakaimportante po ng PhilHealth sa atin at iyong health care system natin. We cannot afford na mag-falter o mag-fail dito sa mga succeeding years pa po. Dahil nangako tayo. Inaprubahan po ito ng Kongreso, iyong UHC Law, at iyon—lalung-lalo na po sa mga mahihirap nating mga kababayan na wala pong pambayad talaga," Go said.

Go likewise assured senior citizens the government will have a budget for six million of them.

"Meron po kaming pina-follow up na ma-release kaagad, 'yung dagdag pondo na P4 billion para sa 800,000 na senior citizens natin, para covered po sila sa kanilang PhilHealth," said Go.

Go referred to the additional P4 billion worth of funds for PhilHealth to cover the one-year health insurance premium contribution of 800,000 senior citizens.

The Congress-introduced increase is chargeable against the PhilHealth's appropriation under the Fiscal Year 2020 Budgetary Support to Government Corporations under Republic Act No. 11465 or the General Appropriations Act for FY 2020.

"Malaking ginhawa po ito sa kanila lalo na sa kasalukuyang pandemic na nagbabanta sa kanilang kalusugan," Go added.

As one of the high risk groups who need adequate safeguards against COVID-19, Go said the government should continue promoting the welfare of senior citizens.

"Malaki po ang kontribusyon ng ating senior citizens sa ating lipunan. Panahon naman po para ibalik natin ito sa kanila sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng serbisyong may malasakit at maaasahan," Go said.

Pursuant to RA No. 10645, all senior citizens are covered by PhilHealth. Funds necessary to ensure the enrollment of senior citizens not currently covered by any existing category will be sourced from the National Health Insurance Fund of PhilHealth from the proceeds of the Sin Tax Reform Act.

PhilHealth has an authorized appropriation of P71.353 billion to implement the National Health Insurance Program, of which P31.177 billion is allocated for the senior citizens, pursuant to RA No. 10645.

Previously, Go appealed to the Department of Health to ensure the availability of medicines and other supplements needed by the elderly population amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the provision of a 20 percent discount for vitamins and mineral supplements prescribed by doctors.

“Patuloy natin na ipinaglalaman ang kapakanan at kabutihan ng ating senior citizens. May 20% discount ang vitamins and minerals supplements na kailangan nilang bilhin,” he said

Go explained that due to the impact of the current pandemic on the implementation of the UHC Law, premium collection of the PhilHealth dropped significantly.

“Sabi nga ng presidente nila (PhilHealth), si Gen. Morales, as of this date ay 10 percent pa lang ang kanilang nakokolekta kasi direct contributors are not able to pay their premium,” Go said.

On top of PhilHealth’s coverage, Go mentioned that 71 Malasakit Centers all over the country remain functional to assist indigent patients.

Three more in the provinces of Aurora, Sorsogon and Romblon will open soon after it was delayed by the current health crisis.



Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, kahit tapos na ang Bayanihan Act, hindi maaring huminto ang National Government na tugunan ang problema ng COVID-19.

Facebook screengrab/Presidential Communications

## Curfew tuloy kahit tapos na ang Bayanihan Act - Malacañang

[Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 29, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Tuloy pa rin ang ipinatutupad na mga curfew kahit tapos na ang Republic Act 11469 o Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, kahit tapos na ang Bayanihan Act, hindi maaring huminto ang National Government na tugunan ang problema ng COVID-19.

Inihayag ito ni Roque kasunod ng komento ni Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon na hindi na maaring ipatupad ng gobyerno ang mga curfews at pagbabawal sa mass gatherings dahil nagtapos na ang Bayanihan Act.

Muling binanggit ni Roque na ang mga ordinansa na ipinalabas ng mga local government units tungkol sa curfews ay epektibo pa rin.

Sinabi rin ni Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo na ang pahayag ni Drilon ay mapanganib at humihikayat sa mga mamamayan na manggulo at sirain ang katahimikan ng bansa.

“Senator Drilon’s comments with respect thereto, and with due respect to him, are not only misplaced but it dangerously encourages citizens to engage in acts detrimental to the safety and security of the populace, as well as the peace and order of the nation,” ani Panelo.

# Panelo spars with Drilon on Bayanihan

Published 5 hours ago on June 29, 2020 01:00 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



The expiration of Republic Act 11469, otherwise known as the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act,” has not affected the state’s authority or the local government’s power to enforce the laws on curfew, mass gathering and the spread of fake news, Malacañang underlined yesterday.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo made the remark as he contradicted Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon’s recent comment that quarantine violators can no longer be arrested, once the Bayanihan law expires.

Panelo insisted that Drilon’s comments were not only misplaced but it dangerously encourages citizens to engage in acts detrimental to the safety and security of the populace, as well as the peace and order of the nation.

“We remind the good senator, as well as the public, that there are existing laws in place, such as Republic Act 11332 or the “Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act” and even Republic Act 10175 or the “Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012,” which penalize violations thereof with a fine, imprisonment or both,” Panelo said.

## Duty not temporary

“Similarly, there are ordinances which local government units have enacted that sanction transgressions of their policies which are designed to secure the general welfare of their constituents,” he added.

Panelo, at the same time, said the preservation of the safety and lives of the Filipino people is not a temporary emergency measure but also a solemn duty of the government and those who act on its behalf, including Senator Drilon.

“Even before the enactment of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, the President has been swift and decisive in fulfilling his commitment to serve and protect our citizens. The expiration of the said act does not in any way affect that,” Panelo said.

“The local governments in Metro Manila, as well as other cities, have similar ordinances on curfew. Violators necessarily are subject to arrest and prosecution. Likewise, there are also ordinances that regulate rallies and demonstrations. Violation of such is likewise subject to arrest and prosecution,” he added.

## Defective views

Senator Drilon previously stated that quarantine violators can no longer be arrested with the expiration of the Bayanihan law.



Under RA 11469, those who commit violations amid the community quarantine imposed in provinces and cities around the country will face a two-month jail sentence or a fine ranging from P10,000 to P1 million or both.

The validity of Bayanihan law, which gave President Rodrigo Duterte temporary special powers to address the COVID-19 health crisis expired 25 June 2020.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque also reacted to Drilon's comment on the effect of the sunset clause in the Bayanihan law.

WHO: PH has fastest rise in virus cases in Western

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# WHO: PH has fastest rise in virus cases in Western Pacific

By: [Jovic Yee](#) - Reporter / [@jovicveeINO](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:22 AM June 28, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — In nearly two weeks, the Philippines had the fastest rise in coronavirus cases in the Western Pacific region, more than three times that of Singapore which is battling a second wave of infection.

Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) showed that the country has logged 8,143 new cases since June 16, the highest among 22 countries in the region.

Singapore was a far second with 2,351 new cases during the same period, while China, where the SARS-COV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 originated, had 302.

Since the Philippines began easing restrictions on May 15, there has been a total of 22,935 new cases, including 738 new infections on Saturday. This represents almost 66 percent of the nationwide total of 34,803.

Among the WHO's Western Pacific members, the spread of the virus is most notable in the Philippines and Singapore.

Singapore has seen 17,609 new cases since May 15.

Unlike the Philippines, the city state is addressing a second wave of infections, after being praised worldwide for its efforts early this year in controlling the spread of the virus.



Maria Rosario Vergeire

## 'Second peak'

Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, earlier said it's possible that some countries may see a "second peak" of cases in its first wave "because the disease has not been brought under control."

"If you start to experience a second peak, then the chances are that the disease is spreading in a way that you have not got full control over that," he said.

The Department of Health (DOH) said the recent increase in coronavirus cases "could be mitigated through continued behavior change."

"We all know what everyone should do, as well as our local government units who are our leaders in our response," said Beverly Ho, head of the DOH health promotion and communication service.

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## 'Grateful'

"We are grateful for our local officials who serve as examples to our citizens in wearing masks, practicing physical distancing. You are role models to your constituents," she added.

Of the 738 new cases in the country, 560 tested positive in the last three days. Metro Manila accounted for the most number of these cases at 212, followed closely by Central Visayas with 184.

The remainder of the additional cases, or 178, are patients who tested positive four days ago or earlier. Metro Manila topped this list at 85.

There are now a total of 9,430 patients who have recovered from COVID-19 with the addition of 249 recovered patients.

The death toll climbed to 1,236 as 12 patients died from the disease. Of the 12, nine died between June 2 and June 15.

## Infection after testing

The DOH on Saturday said it stands by the integrity of the tests done on persons stranded in Metro Manila who turned out positive for the coronavirus upon returning to their home provinces, as it stressed that these individuals may have been infected after they were tested.

"Whenever we do testing, it's a one-time event. This means that if your results are negative, then you went out, for example to do groceries, you may have been exposed again. That's why we can't give an assurance to a person who is negative [for the virus] that he will remain so until he gets home," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said.

In the case of locally stranded individuals (LSI) — as the government classifies travelers who are unable to return to their home provinces — Vergeire said some of them waited for around five days for their test results.

## No mass testing

There is the possibility that they may have interacted with an infected person during that time, she said.

This may explain why, when the receiving local government tested the person anew, his results came back positive.

"This is why we do not want to do mass testing because even if you test the entire population today, tomorrow everyone will be subjected to exposures again. Not unless everybody stays home and no exposure will happen. But that is not the case," Vergeire said.

In the case of Cebu City, Vergeire earlier said that a team of epidemiologists sent there last week would verify if the returnees somehow helped drive infection in the city just after it eased quarantine restrictions early this month.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1298503/who-ph-has-fastest-rise-in-virus-cases-in-western-pacific>

# Cebu City logs 131 new COVID-19 cases, 157 new recoveries

**Published** June 28, 2020 6:08pm

By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

Cebu City on Sunday announced that 157 more patients recovered from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), higher than the 131 new cases recorded on the same day.

The Cebu City Health Department (CHD) said total recoveries rose to 2,596 while the total tally of infections was now at 4,962.

Meanwhile, the death toll climbed to 156 with six new fatalities.

The CHD said there are also 2,210 active cases undergoing treatment or quarantine.

Cebu City still has the highest number of infections nationwide, followed by Quezon City with 3,255 cases as of Sunday.

The Department of Health (DOH) earlier announced that Health Secretary Francisco Duque III ordered the temporary deployment of Doctors to the Barrios to Cebu City to help cope with the city's heavy patient load.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines also [deployed a 32-man medical team](#) to Cebu City to aid in COVID-19 response. — **DVM, GMA News**

Doctors to the Barrios slams DOH's Cebu City

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## ORDER 'ABRUPT, EXPLOITATIVE'

# Doctors to the Barrios slams DOH's Cebu City transfer order

**Published** June 28, 2020 8:56pm

By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

Doctors to the Barrios (DTTB) on Sunday slammed a Department of Health (DOH) order temporarily transferring rural health physicians in Regions VI and VII to private hospitals in Cebu City to bolster its coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response.

In a joint position paper, they urged the DOH to desist its "abrupt exploitative order" issued on June 26 stating that DTTBs from Region VI should report to Cebu from June 30 to September 5 while those from Region VII must report from June 26 to July 30.

The DTTB "strongly condemned" the order, saying that the doctors involved were not informed through writing, no consultation with stakeholders was held prior to the issuance of the directive, and no specific guidelines and protocols were given.

"The DTTBs and the local chief executives should have been represented in decision-making involving this temporary reassignment. Failing to do so makes such directives exploitative for doctors and inconsiderate for the communities that they serve," they said.

"No clear information regarding the DTTBs' safety, protection, lodging, insurance, and specific duties have been provided. The likelihood that the services rendered by public servants will be abused by private institutions increases because of the lack of clear guidelines for their protection," they added.

The DTTBs also said that the order "contradicts the thrust of the DTTB Program" which was created in 1993 to address the need for doctors in rural communities.

They added that DTTBs, "gatekeepers in the barrios," can help the DOH meet its goal to decongest hospitals by providing primary care in their respective communities.

"Let us not allow the disadvantaged communities to suffer from the loss of their rural health physicians at a time when they are needed the most," they said.

"We, the currently deployed DTTBs... are calling on to the DOH to rethink this directive. We demand the DOH Regional Offices in Regions VI and VII to hold an inclusive dialogue with our rural health physicians and their affected municipalities," they added.

### DOH response

Earlier on Sunday, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire announced that Health Secretary Francisco Duque III had [ordered the deployment of doctors](#), including DTTBs, to Cebu City to address the continued rise in COVID-19 cases in the area.

Doctors to the Barrios slams DOH's Cebu City

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“The assigned doctors are rural health physicians and not municipal health officers. Meaning the municipality they serve already has a municipal-hired doctor ensuring that the municipalities they serve will not be left doctorless during their assignment,” she said in a statement.

Vergeire also noted that the nature of the DTTB Program is to post doctors in remote areas and where quality health care service is needed the most.

“COVID-19 cases have reached a critical point in Cebu City and the Department is grateful to those who have risen to this patriotic call,” she said.

Cebu City has the highest number of COVID-19 infections nationwide with [4,962 cases](#) including 2,596 recoveries and 156 deaths as of Sunday.

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

Cebu City is also the only area nationwide that is under the stringent [enhanced community quarantine](#), which was reimposed by Malacañang on June 15. — **DVM, GMA News**

Under ECQ lockdown, Cebu City brgy holds religious

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# Under ECQ lockdown, Cebu City brgy holds religious procession

By: [Ador Vincent Mayol](#), [Nestle Semilla](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 09:30 PM June 28, 2020



People gathered for a procession in Sitio Alumnos, Barangay Basak San Nicolas, Cebu City to celebrate the feast of Señor Sto. Niño on Saturday night, June 27, 2020. Contributed Photo

**CEBU CITY, Philippines** – Throngs of devotees converged on the streets on late Saturday afternoon to join the procession and Sinulog street presentation in honor of the Holy Child Jesus.

The problem, however, is that the city is under an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) and the activity happened in a village that was included among the 12 barangays where cases of COVID-19 were high.

Police officials here have launched an investigation to find out who authorized the fiesta activities in Sitio Alumnos, Barangay Basak San Nicolas on Saturday despite the strict lockdown imposed by authorities to contain the spread of the new coronavirus.

Brigadier General Albert Ignatius Ferro, director of the Police Regional Office in Central Visayas (PRO-7), said he instructed the Cebu City Police Office (CCPO) to closely look into the incident that caught the village officials and policemen by surprise.

“We want to know how this incident happened,” the police general said.

Barangay San Nicolas is 2nd on the list of 12 villages in Cebu City and has been on strict lockdown due to high cases of COVID-19. The barangay has 130 COVID-19 cases – 109 of these were considered active, as of June 26, according to the CCPO.

Yet, hundreds of people gathered on the streets on June 27 in Sitio Alumnos on Saturday, to celebrate the fiesta that included a procession and street dancing in honor of Señor Sto. Niño.

Barangay Basak San Nicolas officials ordered a probe to find out who was behind the activities and how it happened when residents were supposed to stay inside their village.

In a statement posted on their Facebook page, village officials said they, including Barangay Basak San Nicolas Captain Norman Navarro, did not authorize any public activity, including a procession and Sinulog dance presentation.

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“We will summon the organizers since what they did violate the ECQ. They risked the lives of their neighbors who complied with the regulations and those who have made sacrifices not to leave their homes for months now,” they said in Cebuano.

“We know that the activity was for the Sto. Niño but we try to avoid any mass gathering especially that the COVID-19 cases are rising. We should just pray inside our homes. We are in the midst of a pandemic and we are appealing for your understanding, help, and cooperation because all of us are part of the solution,” they added.

Cebu City south district Councilor Eduardo Rama Jr. denounced the gathering and called on authorities to take appropriate legal actions against those who organized the fiesta activities.

“This (activity) is completely unacceptable. Cases should be filed against the organizers of the dance performance that caused the gathering of residents in the area. To the organizers, because of what you did, a lot of lives were put at risk,” he said in a post on Facebook.

Last June 15, President Duterte decided to put Cebu City under ECQ again due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases as well as the city’s problem to provide critical healthcare assistance to patients.

In a televised address to the nation, the President called out Cebuanos for not heeding the health protocols aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19, saying people here were “hard-headed” and “too complacent.”

As of June 27, the Department of Health recorded 5,598 COVID-19 cases in Cebu City where 3,116 were “active,” 2,326 recoveries, and 156 deaths.

At least 1,539 persons were admitted in the different hospitals while 1,577 were isolated in the different quarantine facilities.

/MUF



# Police to file charges vs. organizers of procession in Cebu City barangay amid ECQ

Published June 28, 2020 9:45pm



Central Visayas Police will file complaints against the organizers of a procession in Barangay Basak San Nicolas, Cebu City amid the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), Police Brigadier General Albert Ignatius Ferro said Sunday.

According to GMA News' Ian Cruz, [the barangay was among the areas locked down](#) after being identified as a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) hotspot in the city.

Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella said the City Legal Office has ordered Basak San Nicolas officials to explain the violation within 24 hours.

"I have tasked Atty. Rey Gealon, our City Legal Chief, to investigate the holding of a fiesta celebration in Sitio Alumnos despite a directive strictly prohibiting mass gatherings," [he said on Facebook](#). Labella also said a show cause order has been issued to Barangay Captain Norman Navarro and Sangguniang Pambarangay members.

The order by the City Legal Office stated that a religious gathering took place in Sitio Alumnos in Barangay Basak San Nicolas on Saturday night to celebrate the Feast Day of St. John the Baptist and Sto. Niño "There was a caravan, a foot procession and ceremonial dancing... The public gathering of the masses was allowed to proceed without any opposition from the barangay officials," Gealon said.

"It is apparent from the occurrence that the barangay has been too complacent in implementing the clear mandate of the law and has been negligent in its duty," he added.

The barangay captain denied knowledge of the festivities.

"Captain Norman Navarro is unaware of this Sinulog dance during the Sitio Alumnos festival. He is against this activity," Barangay San Nicolas [said in a statement](#).

"Today (Sunday), we are calling all the organizers or the people who initiated this event because this violated the ECQ," it added.

The barangay also [posted photos of security forces scattered on the streets of Basak San Nicolas on Sunday morning](#).

Basak San Nicolas has so far recorded 90 cases "and is one of the barangays with the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the city which is considered by the authorities to be placed on hard lockdown," according to Gealon. — **Julia Mari Ornedo/BM, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/744557/police-to-file-charges-vs-organizers-of-procession-in-cebu-city-barangay-amid-ecq/story/?fbclid=IwAR2yrTvaJcILwX6A3vI-fODLua\\_cAmNIdd1lGwxkspC1k\\_RBj\\_sUb439fQo](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/744557/police-to-file-charges-vs-organizers-of-procession-in-cebu-city-barangay-amid-ecq/story/?fbclid=IwAR2yrTvaJcILwX6A3vI-fODLua_cAmNIdd1lGwxkspC1k_RBj_sUb439fQo)

# Cebu City mayor issues show cause order vs. barangay officials after sitio holds street festival in violation of ECQ

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 28, 2020 4:20:30 PM



Barangay officials are in hot water after photos of a street festival in Basak San Nicolas, a clear violation of the enhanced community quarantine in Cebu City, surfaced online.

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 28)** — Barangay officials are in hot water after photos showing residents performing a festival parade in Basak San Nicolas, a clear violation of the enhanced community quarantine in Cebu City, surfaced online.

Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella issued a show cause order to barangay officials of Basak San Nicolas on Sunday.

"It is apparent from the occurrence that the barangay has been too complacent in implementing the clear mandate of the law and has been negligent in its duty to enforce the Executive Order," the show cause order said.

"This office sternly warns you that these violations are not taken lightly and we will be referring these acts to the appropriate authorities who can impose the sanctions that may be called for after due investigation," it added.

According to the local government, Basak San Nicolas is considered a COVID-19 hotspot, with at least 90 confirmed cases.

The officials have 24 hours from receipt of the notice to explain why they should not be held administratively liable for gross negligence and dereliction of duty.

Basak San Nicolas barangay captain Norman Navarro said he was not aware that Sitio Alumnos held festivities on Saturday afternoon. The festival was held in honor of the Holy Child Jesus.

Navarro and the barangay council said they were against the activity, adding that they did not give their approval for the event.

The village chairman said Sunday they summoned the organizers of the festival parade to question them regarding violations committed during the enhanced community quarantine.

Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella said he has also instructed the City Attorney's Office to conduct a probe into the incident. He added that he might advise City Attorney Rey Gealon to coordinate with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police, which is likewise looking into the violation.



Cebu City Councilor Edu Rama, meanwhile, described the incident as "completely unacceptable." Rama said further he wanted the organizers charged because the event led to the crowding of people in Alumnos, putting everyone present at risk.

Photos of the festival have been circulating on social media since Saturday, showing people in a street parade with the image of the Santo Nino and several others on bicycles.

The photos showed there were festival dancers donning Filipiniana outfits dancing to the Sinulog, and people crowding on the sides of the interior roads in Alumnos watching the procession.

Netizens and residents of Alumnos said there were no police personnel in the area that prevented the parade.

*Cebu stringer Dale Israel contributed to this report.*



## EDITORIAL - Hardheaded and stubborn

(The Freeman) - June 29, 2020 - 12:00am

Many people went up in arms, metaphorically speaking, after the president referred to Cebuanos as being hardheaded and stubborn.

They insisted that the rise of COVID-19 cases was due to weak local government leadership and that the national government was not formulating policies that were good enough for the situation.

However, an incident recently showed that there are some Cebuanos who just can't seem to get a hint of what is going on, don't understand how serious things are, or plain just don't care about the situation.

Of course, many people will likely have heard about this incident by now; the festivities, including a Sinulog dance, that were held recently in sitio Alumnos in Barangay Basak-San Nicolas in Cebu City.

Barangay officials have denied any involvement or knowledge of the event. As unlikely as this may seem, let's give them the benefit of the doubt pending further investigation. That also doesn't mean they are off the hook, considering their barangay is one of the most watched under the present conditions.

We understand that many people are sick of staying in their homes, of not being able to hang out with friends, of not being able to go where they want to. It's a weariness being felt all around the world, not just here in our country or our city. But they must understand that we are still under quarantine.

The way the virus is spread is human interaction. The more people in a certain location, the more chances for the virus to ... wait, doesn't everybody know this by now? Including those who initiated, participated, and joined in the activity?

We are not saying those people who initiated, participated, and joined in the activity are stupid or misinformed. Most likely they already know how the virus is spread, considering how much information has been shared and spread by the government and how often.

However, they still decided to hold the activity anyway. So there.

Considering this latest incident, maybe we do deserve to be called hardheaded and stubborn...at least some of us, anyway.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/opinion/2020/06/29/2024231/editorial-hardheaded-and-stubborn>

# Senate bill requires employers to offer work-from-home arrangement

Published June 28, 2020, 8:13 PM

By **Hannah Torregoza**

Senator Imelda "Imee" Marcos is pushing for a bill that seeks to make the work-from-home arrangement a mandatory option offered to employees.



Senator Imee Marcos (Senator Imee Marcos Official Facebook Page / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Marcos noted that since alternative working arrangements are becoming a new normal in offices due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, it is time to amend the law that allows telecommuting an alternative work arrangement.

The senator is referring to Republic Act No. 11165 or the "Telecommuting Act" that allows an employee to perform tasks from an alternative workplace, with the use of telecommunication and/or computer technologies.

In filing Senate Bill No. 1448, Marcos said working from home is a feasible mandatory option offered to employees whose physical presence in the workplace is not necessary for the completion of his or her job, and who have been with the company for at least one year.

"Various sectors, including the labor sector, have to make major modifications in their policy to ensure compliance with social distancing measures," Marcos said in the explanatory note of the bill.

"This bill, thus, seeks to strengthen the Telecommuting Law by making it mandatory, and not merely optional, for employers to offer telecommuting as an alternative to employees whose physical presence in the workplace is not absolutely essential to the performance of their functions," she further said.

Under the bill, a contract of employment should clearly indicate the eligibility of a given position for telecommuting.

Should the physical presence of the employee be necessary for a particular task, the employer may require his or her attendance in the workplace, within office hours and during weekdays, but not more than twice a week.

Duterte signed the Telecommuting Act in December 2018, after Sen. Joel Villanueva steered its passage during the previous Congress.

The law gives employers an option to allow their workers to work remotely but still entitled to overtime pay, leaves, and other benefits.

Marcos said data from the Department of Health (DOH) show that as of June 23, there are 31,825 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection, with 1,186 deaths recorded.

"Clearly, a 'new normal' of social distancing, new hygiene standards, and limited physical contact shall prevail into the future," Marcos said.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/28/senate-bill-requires-employers-to-offer-work-from-home-arrangement/>

# Cusi: Time to invigorate hydro resources

Published 21 hours ago on June 28, 2020 09:20 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



Palinpinon geothermal plant in Leyte (Photo: First Holdings)

The development of geothermal power among the country's renewable resources will help the country attain energy security.

They may be expensive to develop and take a longer time to build, but it would be able to generate the kind of power that will help sustain the energy security of the Philippines in the long-term.

It will also boost Republic Act 9513, also known as the Renewable Energy (RE) Act of 2008, according to Department of Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi.

Cusi has ordered his team to prepare a formal directive containing initiatives and guidelines on how to promote geothermal energy development and increase its utilization, as said resource is indigenous to the country.

"I would like to issue an order to really look deeply and comprehensively into how we can develop geothermal. I have been really thinking about it, assessing how we are addressing RE," Cusi told DOE officials during their meeting on Wednesday via videoconferencing,

DOE Senior Undersecretary Jesus Cristino Posadas, Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella, Undersecretary Emmanuel Juaneza, DOE-Renewable Energy Management Bureau Director Mylene Capongcol and Electric Power Industry Management Bureau Director Mario Marasigan joined the meeting.

Cusi said it is best for the country to focus on the resources that are abundant available, and extend all the necessary support to encourage its development through innovative policies and strategies.

He cited Vietnam as an example, a country focused on developing the strength of its hydro resources.

"They are very strong on hydro and that's what they are developing. They are giving priority to their hydro. It doesn't mean that they don't have the other sources, but they focused on the strength of this particular resource," he noted.

"This is the time to sit down and explore ways to support geothermal, because one installation will easily wipe out the 1,000MW installation of solar. I am for RE that would help improve the energy security of the country."

To date, the Philippines has the highest RE generation mix within the Southeast Asian region.

In 2018, RE accounted for about 33.2 percent of the country's total primary energy supply. The figure is already 10 percent ahead of the regional target set forth in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation, which seeks to increase the RE component on the ASEAN total primary energy mix to 23 percent by the year 2025.

"Let us break our head, think on how we can promote this source of energy, renewable that is really indigenous to us," Cusi said. "Let's go for it and regain our previous global standing as one of the top countries in geothermal development."

# Cusi pushes geothermal dev't

Published 3 hours ago on June 29, 2020 03:10 AM

By [Jun Vallecera](#)



Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi is pushing for the development of geothermal power to help attain energy security in the country and boost Republic Act 9513, more known as the Renewable Energy (RE) Act of 2008.

In meeting with key Department of Energy (DoE) officials via videoconferencing, Cusi told his team to prepare a formal directive with initiatives and guidelines promoting geothermal energy development and increase its utilization. Geothermal energy is an indigenous power source.

“I would like to issue an order to really look deeply and comprehensively into how we can develop geothermal. I have been really thinking about it, assessing how we are addressing RE,” Cusi told the officials.

Present at the meeting were DoE senior undersecretary Jesus Cristino P. Posadas, undersecretary Felix William B. Fuentebella, undersecretary Emmanuel P. Juaneza, DoE-Renewable Energy Management Bureau director Mylene C. Capongcol, and Electric Power Industry Management Bureau director Mario C. Marasigan.



## PHL secures P18.5-B loan from WB to process individual farm titling

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

June 29, 2020

THE Philippines secured the World Bank's approval for a \$370-million (around P18.5 billion) loan for a project that would award individual titles to farmers covered by the collective land ownership awards (CLOAs) previously issued to agrarian reform beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp).

In a statement, the World Bank said around 750,000 people are expected to gain improved land tenure security and stable property rights through the project it calls "Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling" or Split.

According to the lender of last resort, Split will facilitate land titles for over 1.3 million hectares of land that was granted as part of Carp. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the lead implementing agency of Carp, was designated project head.

"Many farmers who were granted lands under the country's agrarian reform program have been waiting for individual titles, sometimes for decades," Achim Fock, World Bank acting country director for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, was quoted in the statement as saying.

"This project will provide them the opportunity, on a voluntary basis, to get legal proof and the security of individual land rights," Fock added. "We expect that this will encourage them to invest in their property and adopt better technologies for greater productivity and higher incomes."

He explained that improved land tenure security would contribute to poverty reduction and rural economic growth and strengthen farmers' resilience against impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Due to the economic slowdown, subsistence farmers are at significant risk of falling deeper into poverty," Fock said. "Many of them lack social security, savings, and access to formal financing. With individual land titles, beneficiaries will have greater access to credit and financing, as well as government assistance."

In the past three decades, the Philippine government through Carp distributed 4.8 million hectares "16 percent of the nation's land" to almost 3 million beneficiaries. Approximately 53 percent of the land distributed was in the form of individual titles. Especially in the 1990s, the government issued mostly CLOAs to speed up land distribution, with the intention of subdividing and titling them individually at a future time.

Recently, the Philippine government has embarked on a renewed push for individual titling to hasten transformation in rural areas.

The Split Project will support the government's ongoing efforts for parcelization and individual titling through the adoption of improved technologies and digital platforms, improvements in regulations, streamlining of procedures in the titling process and enhanced consultations with beneficiaries, the World Bank said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/29/phl-secures-p18-5-b-loan-from-wb-to-process-individual-farm-titling/>

# World Bank OKs \$370 million land title facilitation loan

[Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 29, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The World Bank Group has approved a \$370 million loan for the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)'s Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling Project (SPLIT), which is expected to help 750,000 individuals gain improved land tenure security and stable property rights.

In a statement, the World Bank said its board of executive directors has approved the \$370 million for the DAR's SPLIT program, which is designed to accelerate the subdivision of collective certificates of land ownership award and generate individual titles for over 1.3 million awarded under Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

"Many farmers who were granted lands under the country's agrarian reform program have been waiting for individual titles, sometimes for decades," said Achim Fock, World Bank acting country director for Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

"This project will provide them the opportunity, on a voluntary basis, to get legal proof and the security of individual land rights. We expect that this will encourage them to invest in their property and adopt better technologies for greater productivity and higher incomes," he said.

Fock emphasized that improved land tenure security would contribute to poverty reduction and rural economic growth and strengthen farmers' resilience against the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 outbreak.

"Due to the economic slowdown, subsistence farmers are at a significant risk of falling deeper into poverty," Fock said, adding that "many of them lack social security, savings, and access to formal financing. With individual land titles, beneficiaries will have greater access to credit and financing, as well as government assistance."

The Philippines has an extensive history of inequitable land tenure beginning in the Spanish colonial period from 1565-1898, wherein large private estates dominated the rural landscape. Farmers cultivated the land under share-cropping arrangements, with neither freedom to choose the crops they grew, nor the option to own the land they tilled.

By 1980, 60 percent of the agricultural population was landless, many of them poor. To rectify this pervasive land tenure inequality, Congress passed the agrarian reform law in 1988 and implemented the CARP to improve the lives of small farmers by offering them land tenure security and support services.

# Imee to utility firms: Suspend disconnection for unpaid power, water bills

**Published** June 28, 2020 10:30am

By ERWIN COLCOL, GMA News

Senator Imee Marcos on Sunday urged public utility companies to suspend disconnection for unpaid electric and water bills while the COVID-19 crisis is still affecting the country.

In a Dabol B sa News TV, Marcos lamented what she described as "shocks" in the electric and water bills of consumers around the country.

"Na-electric shock tayo sa ating bill ng kuryente noong nakaraang buwan, tapos sinabi nila na hindi naman daw ganun, automatically generated daw," she said.

"In the meantime, double whammy kasi sinabayan pa yung kuryente ng tubig. Meron na ngang COVID, meron pang Meralco at yung tubig nga na nagtaasan," she added.

While public utility companies offered consumers to pay their bills on an installment basis, Marcos appealed to them not to disconnect the electric and water services of those who cannot pay on time.

"Suspension muna sa pagdi-disconnect kasi bawal naman yung ganun, bakit naman magdi-disconnect? So i-suspend muna during COVID, walang putul-putol ng kuryente o ng tubig," she said.

According to Marcos, public utility companies complained of losses after many businesses and factories halted their operations due to quarantine restrictions imposed against the spread of COVID-19.

But she said these electric and water utility companies will still be able to recoup their losses from residential consumers.

"Labis-labis naman ang kinita nila sa mga bahay-bahay kasi naman lahat ng tao ay na-stuck up sa bahay, talaga namang marerekupo ano man ang nalugi nila sa mga pabrika, kikitain naman nila sa mga bahay yun," she said.

Last month, customers of Manila Electric Company (Meralco) complained of huge spikes in their electric bills, some of which were double or even triple of the usual amount.

In an earlier interview on Dabol B sa News TV, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, reiterated his [plan of calling for a hearing if he would not receive a clear explanation from Meralco](#) about the huge spikes in electric bills.

Imee to utility firms: Suspension disconnection for  
TITLE: unpaid power, water bills

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Marcos agreed with Gatchalian, saying Meralco has to explain why the electric bills of its customers significantly increased in the past months.

"Alam natin summer rates. Pero pinaghandaan naman nila yang summer rates na yan, at talaga namang alam natin tuwing tag-init, nagtataasan talaga yung konsumo. Pero hindi naman kaakibat nun yung pagtaas ng presyo. Kaya wala talagang paliwanag yan na maayos," she said.

"Si Chairman [Agnes] Devanadera ng ERC (Energy Regulatory Commission), very cooperative naman sa amin ni Senator Gatchalian na maimbestigahan yan nang todo-todo dahil nga ang laking hassle sa tao," Marcos added. —**LBG, GMA News**



# Kanlaon volcano still on alert level 1

Published June 28, 2020, 11:38 AM

**By Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz**

Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island remains under Alert Level 1 amid an ongoing volcanic activity-triggered earthquakes occurring since last week.

During the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology's (Phivolcs) 24-hour monitoring from 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 27 to 8 a.m. on Sunday, June 28, Kanlaon Volcano's seismic monitoring network recorded 30 volcano-tectonic earthquakes on the western flanks and one volcanic earthquake in the summit area.

However, these earthquakes were too small to be felt.

Phivolcs said a moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes that rose 300 meters before drifting northwest was also observed from the volcano summit.

It also noted that the sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emission was measured at an average of 116 tonnes per day. The presence of significant sulfur dioxide from a volcano could indicate that magma is still getting closer to the surface.

According to Phivolcs, ground deformation data from continuous GPS measurements indicate a slight deflation of the lower and mid-slopes since January this year.

"Short-term electronic tilt monitoring on the southeastern flanks recorded continuing deflation on the lower slopes but inflation on the mid slopes since April 2020," it said.

"These parameters indicate that hydrothermal or magmatic activity is occurring beneath the edifice," it pointed out.

Kanlaon Volcano has been under Alert Level 1, the lowest on a five-tier scale, since March 11, 2020. It means the active volcano is at an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest.

Phivolcs warned the public that entry into the four-kilometer permanent danger zone is strictly prohibited due to possible sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions.

Furthermore, civil aviation authorities were asked to advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden phreatic eruption may pose hazards to aircrafts.

# Phivolcs: Magnitude 4.1 quake jolts parts of Davao Oriental

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:59 AM June 28, 2020

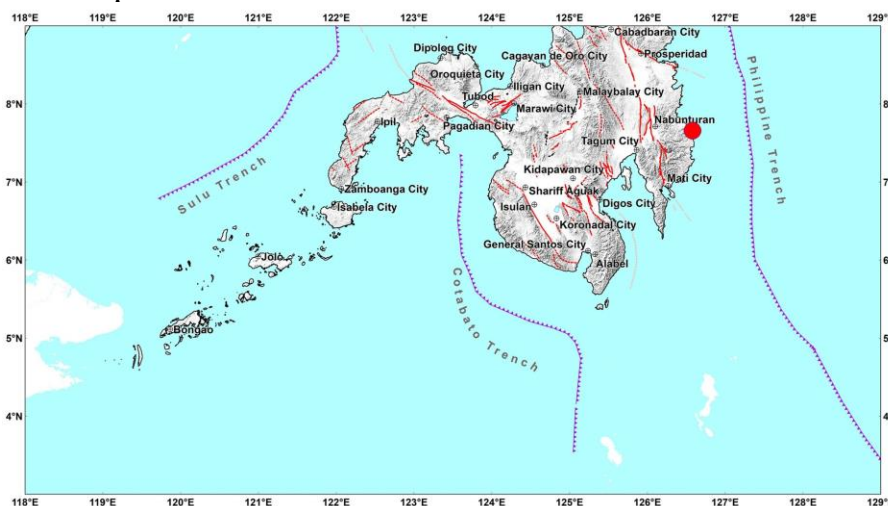
MANILA, Philippines — A 4.1 magnitude earthquake struck Davao Oriental Sunday morning, state seismologists said.

The earthquake's epicenter was traced nine kilometers east of Baganga, Davao Oriental, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Instrumental Intensity I was recorded in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, Phivolcs added.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injury from the tremor that struck at 8:33 a.m at a depth of 33 kilometers.

The Philippines lies in the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of faults around the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur.



Courtesy of Phivolcs

gsg

# Investigators probe reported Russian tundra pollution

*Associated Press* / 08:46 PM June 28, 2020



FILE – In this handout file photo dated Tuesday, June 2, 2020, provided by the Russian Marine Rescue Service, rescuers work to prevent the spread from an oil spill outside Norilsk, 2,900 kilometers (1,800 miles) northeast of Moscow, Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday June 19, 2020, has ordered his government to fully repair environmental damage from a massive fuel leak in the Arctic. A power plant in the Siberian city of Norilsk leaked 20,000 tons of diesel fuel into the ecologically fragile region when a storage tank collapsed on May 29. (Russian Marine Rescue Service via AP, File)

**MOSCOW** — Russia's main criminal investigation body has launched a probe after a report that a nickel-processing plant was pumping water contaminated with heavy metals into the Arctic tundra.

The reported pollution detailed Sunday by the Novaya Gazeta newspaper was in the same region where a massive spill of diesel fuel last month entered Lake Pyasino,, which feeds a branch of the Arctic Sea.

The newspaper released a video of what it said was water from a Norilsk Nickel enrichment plant gushing out of a pipe and into a river that also runs into the lake. The Investigative Committee branch for the region said it has sent investigators.

Norilsk Nickel, one of Russia's biggest companies, also owns the power plant from which some 21,000 tons of diesel fuel leaked in May when a storage reservoir collapsed, possibly due to melting permafrost.

Both facilities are north of the Arctic Circle, 2,900 kilometers (1,800 miles) northeast of Moscow, the Russian capital.

/MUF

# Shooting of Zimbabwe workers by Chinese mine owner shows 'systemic' abuse, watchdog says

By Nyasha Chingono, CNN

Published Jun 28, 2020 10:56:56 AM



**(CNN)** — The shooting of two Zimbabwean workers by a Chinese boss shows the "systematic and widespread" abuse that locals face in Chinese mining operations, says the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Society (ZELA).

In a court affidavit, police said Zhang Xuen shot an employee five times and wounded another at the mine he runs in Gweru province, in central Zimbabwe, during a row with workers over outstanding pay.

Zhang has been charged him with attempted murder, said Zimbabwe police spokesman Paul Nyathi.

According to local media reports, Zhang did not enter a plea because there was no approved interpreter in court. He will remain in custody until at least July 7, the report said.

The shooting happened on Sunday morning, when miner Kenneth Tachiona confronted Zhang after he allegedly refused to pay his wages in US dollars, as agreed, according to the affidavit.

Tachiona charged toward Zhang, who then drew his gun, shooting the worker three times on his right thigh and twice on the left, according to the affidavit.

Police said Zhang fired another shot at workers, and one of the bullets grazed the chin of a member of staff. The wounded workers are being treated at a private hospital.

A video that many alleged to be of the incident has circulated on social media in Zimbabwe, provoking public anger and calls from a local watchdog for a re-evaluation of Chinese mining operations in the country.

CNN has not been able to verify the video independently.

The Chinese Embassy in Zimbabwe described the shooting as an isolated incident and said it was in support of an open and transparent probe by local authorities.

"Any possible illegal acts and persons who violate the law should not be shielded. China and Zimbabwe have a long-standing friendship and cooperation. We call upon all relevant sides to safeguard it jealousy and carefully," the Chinese Embassy said in a statement on Twitter.

## Dangerous conditions

China is Zimbabwe's largest foreign investor with significant interests in the country's extractive sector.

Last year, Chinese firm Tsignchan signed a \$2 billion deal with the Zimbabwean Ministry of Mines to extract chrome, iron ore, nickel and coal, vital resources for China.

At least 10,000 Chinese people are in Zimbabwe, and many are working on in the country's mining, telecoms, and construction sectors on a contractual basis, according to a 2016 Brookings Institution report.

But their presence in the country has sometimes been controversial.



Shooting of Zimbabwe workers by Chinese mine  
owner shows 'systematic' abuse, watchdog says

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Both Chinese-run mines in the country and state mining operations have been dogged with allegations of human rights violations and poor safety measures for staff.

In February, a group of local miners in Matabeleland South province petitioned a labor court to protest their firing by their Chinese employer.

Last April, workers at another Chinese mining operation in the province complained of being underpaid and working without protective clothing.

Several cases of Chinese miners refusing to pay salaries or provide their workers with protective clothing, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, are currently being investigated by ZELA, according to its deputy director Shamiso Mutisi

"It has become a pattern and a system. We have cases where miners are abused, beaten, and discriminated against by Chinese miners," Mutisi said.

In a statement on Wednesday, ZELA said locals in some Chinese-owned mines often operate "dangerous, harsh, and life-threatening" conditions, while being paid poorly for their time.

Sunday's shooting is another reason for the government to rethink its political and economic engagements with China, the group said.

"In many parts of Africa, including Zimbabwe, Chinese mining investors have exhibited a history of bad safety, health, environmental, labor, and human rights standards," the statement said.

CNN has contacted China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for comment.

The Chinese community in Gweru has distanced itself from the recent incident and promised to pay for injured workers' medical bills and support their families as they deal with the issue.

The Chinese community said in a statement the incident does not reflect the behavior of its members, and they have engaged the company to compensate the workers.

"We sincerely hope that our friendship and cooperation between the two countries and two peoples will not be sullied by this isolated incident, which does not reflect the behavior of us all as the Chinese community," the statement read.

*This story was first published on CNN.com, "[Shooting of Zimbabwe workers by Chinese mine owner shows 'systemic' abuse, watchdog says.](https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/28/zimbabwe-mine-shooting-chinese-owner.shtml)"*

Source: [https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/6/28/Zimbabwe-mine-shooting-Chinese-owner.html?fbclid=IwAR05pjSvwNpqA8aENbn193kDStfsS-4bhO9BZeF5Zdjw\\_1o0vEjNt1ZP6w](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/6/28/Zimbabwe-mine-shooting-Chinese-owner.html?fbclid=IwAR05pjSvwNpqA8aENbn193kDStfsS-4bhO9BZeF5Zdjw_1o0vEjNt1ZP6w)

# A bear in Italy has been sentenced to death after attacking hikers. Activists want a stay of execution

By Barbie Latza Nadeau, Nicola Ruotolo and Sara Spary, CNN

Published Jun 28, 2020 9:14:49 AM



**(CNN)**— Animal rights groups in Italy are calling on authorities to lift a death sentence on a brown bear that attacked a father and son last week on a hiking trail in the northern region of Trentino.

Fabio Misseroni, 59, and his son Christian Misseroni, 28, were hiking Monday on a path on Mount Peller when they say the bear leaped into their path.

The bear bit Misseroni's leg before his father jumped on the animal's back so he could escape, the son told CNN. The bear then bit and swiped at the older man, breaking his leg in three places. Misseroni jumped up and down and clapped his hands to distract the bear from his father before the animal ran off into the woods, he recalled.

Italy's National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research regulations call for bears that attack humans to be euthanized.

After the attack, Trentino governor Maurizio Fugatti signed a cull order allowing for the capture and kill of the bear, which authorities are trying to identify through DNA garnered from saliva and fur left in the claw and bite wounds and on the father's and son's clothing.

There have been a number of bear attacks in the region in recent years, and local authorities have a database of bear DNA collected from feces, fur and saliva. Surveillance cameras are used to match the DNA to the animals.

But calls are growing for the bear in this latest attack to be left alone -- at least until the circumstances of the case become clearer. The Italian animal rights groups [Animalisti Italiani](#) and the [World Wide Fund for Nature](#) have called on the local government to stop the cull order until a full investigation has been carried out, including whether the father or son did anything to taunt the bear, which the men deny.

Nearly 15,000 people by Saturday had signed a World Wide Fund for Nature petition to save the bear, calling for an immediate ban on the death sentence.

The [Italian environment minister](#) also wrote a letter saying he is against the culling of the bear which, he said, may have been a female protecting cubs.

"Only after collecting certain scientific information on the animal involved in the accident with the two citizens we will be able to evaluate technical solutions that, in my opinion, must not result in killing the animal," Sergio Costa wrote to Fugatti.

A family last month filmed an unusual encounter with a brown bear in northern Italy. In a video of the nail-biting encounter, 12-year-old Alessandro can be seen walking slowly toward his stepfather as brown bear follows closely behind him.

The boy's stepfather can be heard trying to coax the boy to keep moving toward him, calling "come, come, Ale" as they move slowly through the bushes and down the path while the bear creeps behind the boy before losing interest.

*This story was first published on CNN.com, ["A bear in Italy has been sentenced to death after attacking hikers. Activists want a stay of execution."](#)*

Source: [https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/6/28/bear-sentenced-to-death-Italy.html?fbclid=IwAR0yDboOrfzOHweczeKTBdo\\_G2EVcuCaicymvgkuoU8b5zG4eX5HISMDd2I](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/6/28/bear-sentenced-to-death-Italy.html?fbclid=IwAR0yDboOrfzOHweczeKTBdo_G2EVcuCaicymvgkuoU8b5zG4eX5HISMDd2I)

# South East Asian countries seen importing more coal

[Danessa Rivera](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 29, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Despite the push in renewable energy development, Southeast Asian countries are expected to continue increasing their coal imports amid coal power plant investments in the region.

In last week's Philippines Commodity Market Insights forum, S&P Global Platts said the burgeoning coal demand in the Southeast Asian region has captured investors' attention with huge growth potential.

The region imported 115 million metric tons (MT) of coal last year, which is expected to further increase to 128 million MT this year, S&P Global Platts Asia thermal coal editor Fred Wang said in his presentation.

This as Southeast Asian region countries still work on long term contracts, as well as spot purchases, he said.

"Southeast Asia is looking to import 128 million MT this year on the back of power investments in the region," Wang said.

In particular, the Philippines is seen to import 27 million MT tons of coal this year, with Indonesia remaining as its predominant supplier, Wang said.

The figure was slightly higher than last year's import of 26.98 million MT, based on data from the Department of Energy (DOE).

"The Philippine coal demand is expected to rise due to more power plants being built," Wang said.

S&P Global Platts said the Philippines has been a net importer of coal since 2005 as coal corners a significant chunk in the energy mix.

The Luzon grid has the largest power demand at 74 percent of the total.

DOE data showed the Philippines continued to rely heavily on coal imports as it has consumed more imported coal than it produced last year.

Government data showed the country used 33.12 million metric tons (MT) of coal last year. Of the total consumption, 26.98 million MT were from imports, while 5.03 million MT were from local production.

In terms of usage, the power sector was the biggest coal user with 28.65 million metric tons, followed by the cement industry with 2.75 million MT.

The country also produced 15.27 million MT of coal – majority of which came from the coal mines of Semirara Mining and Power Corp.

Indonesia was the country's largest source of coal imports at 90.2 percent or 24.98 million MT, and these were mostly used in the power sector.

While coal production reached 15.27 million MT, 10.24 million MT were exported to other countries, while the rest were consumed locally.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/06/29/2024232/south-east-asian-countries-seen-importing-more-coal>

# New Delhi on high alert after desert locusts swarm through neighboring Gurgaon

By Tara John, CNN

Updated 1933 GMT (0333 HKT) June 27, 2020

**(CNN)** A swarm of desert locusts clouded the skies in the [Indian city](#) of Gurgaon on Saturday, prompting the government of the Indian capital New Delhi to issue an advisory informing officials to remain on high alert.

The insects swept through the city at 11.30 a.m. local time (2 a.m. ET), Atul Kapur, the founder of a social enterprise who lives in Gurgaon, told CNN. After 15 minutes, thousands of locusts settled on the terraces and roofs of homes before being swept away by high winds.

The last time Kapur saw a swarm in the city was at least 40 years ago, he said. "As kids we used to call them "tiddi" and [we] would scare them away with loud sounds," Kapur, 56, told CNN.

In neighboring New Delhi, the city's Labor and Development Minister, Gopal Rai, [shared an advisory on Twitter](#), stating that all district magistrates in New Delhi are advised "to remain on high alert" as they scale up efforts to contain the migratory pest.

It added that staff will be deployed to help guide residents and villagers on how to disperse the locusts --perhaps through setting off fire crackers, "making high decibel sound through beating of drum [or] utensil, playing high volume music on music system," the advisory wrote.

## Search for food

This comes weeks after waves of desert locusts -- millions strong and stretching up to 7 kilometers (4 miles) long -- crossed into India's western state of Rajasthan from neighboring Pakistan in early May. Swarms have since pushed into five different states in search of food.

The locusts had flown into India from their breeding areas in Pakistan, Om Prakash, a Rajasthan-based plant protection officer for the Locust Warning Organization, said [earlier in June](#).

On June 20, [the Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) of the United Nations said that India should remain on high alert during the next four weeks as "spring-bred adult groups and swarms continue to appear along the Indo-Pakistan border, many of which have continued further east into several states of northern India because the monsoon rains have not yet arrived in Rajasthan, India."

The desert locust is among the most destructive of migratory pests because of its speed and ability [to multiply rapidly](#). Adult locusts can fly up to 150 kilometers (93 miles) a day and eat their own body weight -- equal to 2 grams -- worth of fresh vegetation in that period.

East Africa is seeing [the worst locust outbreak in decades](#), after climate change and conflict helped cause the resurgence of the biblical pest. Spraying pesticide is the most effective way of killing locusts, but the coronavirus pandemic has slowed efforts to tackle the outbreak on the African continent.

# Can mosquitoes, flies transmit novel coronavirus?

China Daily/Asia News Network / 05:53 PM June 28, 2020



FILE PHOTO

BEIJING — With the arrival of summer, many people are worried about contracting COVID-19 through mosquitoes or flies.

In response to the concern, Wang Liping, a researcher from the Beijing Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said there is not yet evidence of people getting infected with the novel coronavirus through a mosquito or fly. She made her remarks at a news conference on Saturday.

She said the virus is mainly spread through respiratory droplets and physical contact – the virus can infect a person through the respiratory droplets of a patient, or touching contaminated objects used by a virus carrier and touching one's eyes, mouth or nasal mucous membranes.

However, Wang said mosquitoes and flies could transmit other contagious diseases, such as malaria and dengue fever. She reminded people to guard against mosquito bites and keep food from flies in summer.