

# DENR denies claims on Cimatu's "expensive" trip to Cebu

June 29, 2020 2:45 PM by [Christhel Cuazon](#)



*Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu | Photo courtesy: Cebu Public Information Office*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has denied claims that Secretary Roy Cimatu's reservation in a high-end hotel in Cebu has incurred large expenses.

In a Facebook post, former Commission on Filipinos Overseas chairperson Imelda Nicolas questioned the hotel accommodation expenses of Cimatu and his team, who recently had a trip in Cebu to meet with its officials following the spike of COVID-19 cases in the region.

"70 rooms reserved @ Seda hotel for Cimatu's team. Cheapest room is @5k. That's 350,000 a day. For 1 week that's 2.240m. This is just rooms. Cost of accommodation," the post reads.

Nicolas further noted how the food and transportation expenses have yet to be factored in aside from accommodation costs.

"How many PPEs 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?"



In a statement, DENR Spokesperson Benny Antiporda clarified that Cimatu only stayed in Cebu for two days. He also called the claims that the number of reserved rooms reached 70 as nonsense, saying that the DENR chief was only accompanied by his aide.

"Hindi po totoo iyan at hindi po marangyang tao si Secretary Cimatu, dati po itong sundalo at kung ano po iyong matitipid ng taumbayan ay ginagawa po niya para po magamit sa tama ang pondo po ng kaban ng bayan," Antiporda said during a Laging Handa virtual press briefing over the weekend.

He also stated that the agency is currently looking into filing a cyber libel against Nicolas for spreading false information on social media.

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/denr-denies-claims-on-expensive-trip-of-cimatu-to-cebu/>

# Cimatu calls out Cebu officials' 'lack of coordination' in reporting COVID-19 cases

Aileen Cerrudo • June 29, 2020



There is a lack of coordination from the local officials of Cebu City which led to the discrepancy in reporting coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the area, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu.

DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda said this is one of the issues Cimatu wants to resolve in Cebu City.

"You can see the situation in Cebu, walang coordination. Walang buong pagkilos mula sa barangay level to the local government units to the provincial government. Hindi buo (*You can see the situation in Cebu, there is no coordination. No action from the barangay level to the local government units, up to the provincial government. It is not organized*)," he said.

Cimatu will meet with officials from the barangay level to determine the problem in the COVID-19 response.

The Environment Secretary will submit a recommendation to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) regarding possible measures to ease the surge of COVID-19 cases.

President Rodrigo Duterte has directed Cimatu to fix the situation in Cebu City amid the surge of COVID-19 cases in the province.

Cimatu said all records should match in order to implement a better COVID-19 response. —**AAC (with reports from Vincent Arboleda)**

# DOH, AFP sending doctors to Cebu

By: [Jeannette I. Andrade](#), [Nestor P. Burgos Jr.](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:56 AM June 29, 2020



**MILITARY SOLUTION** An armored personnel carrier and Army trucks on Sunday rumble down the streets of Cebu City, which grapples with rising COVID-19 cases. At right, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Carlito Galvez Jr., key officials enforcing the government's response to the pandemic, field questions at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. —PHOTOS BY NESTLE SEMILLA AND NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

A desperate cry for help from overburdened medical front-liners battling a surge in new coronavirus cases in Cebu City has been answered — partly.

The Department of Health (DOH) is sending doctors from rural areas in Western Visayas to the capital city of Cebu province to augment its COVID-19 response efforts. But some of the doctors do not appear to be enthusiastic about the new assignment, claiming, among other reasons, that they had not been properly informed.

Forty doctors under the DOH's Doctor to the Barrios program (DTTB) and Post-Residency Deployment Program (PRDP) will be pulled out from their assignments and sent to Cebu City, said Marlyn Convocar, DOH director for Western Visayas, in a letter of compliance to Health Undersecretary Abdullah Dumama Jr.

The doctors—29 under the DTTB and 11 under the PRDP—will be fielded in four batches from June 30 to Sept. 15, inclusive of the 14-day quarantine periods.

## Military team

"The doctors will not be permanently deployed in Cebu City but will only provide relief," said Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines is also extending help, sending on Sunday 32 health workers to Cebu City.

A medical team of nine doctors, 10 nurses and 13 medical aides who would make up "Task Group Central" was flown to the city on a C130 aircraft.

The Joint Task Force COVID Shield earlier drew flak for deploying 150 members of the police Special Action Force (SAF) to the Queen City of the South, which desperately needed health workers instead of policemen.

The SAF contingent brought to about a thousand the number of police personnel sent to the city to help enforce the enhanced community quarantine, which President Duterte reimposed on Cebu City due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

In a bulletin on June 27, the DOH recorded 5,598 cases in Cebu City, of which 3,116 were “active,” 2,326 were recoveries, and 156 were deaths.

At least 1,539 people were admitted to different hospitals that were filled beyond capacity, while 1,577 were in quarantine centers.

The DOH Central Visayas had to tap the services of at least 100 “underboard physicians,” or medical graduates who are not yet licensed practitioners, because it lacked doctors and nurses.

### Grateful

The Cebu Medical Society, a group of more than 3,000 physicians and medical specialists, welcomed the deployment of more doctors, saying this would help raise the limited manpower in hospitals.

“Thank you,” said Dr. Peter Mancao, public relations officer of the group. “I hope their deployment here will be properly arranged.”

A top concern now is how to “boost [the] morale and stomach” of doctors and nurses in the city, Mancao told the Inquirer.

Some of the government doctors, however, are not keen about going to Cebu.

In a joint statement posted on Facebook, DTTB Batches 36 (Alab) and 37 (Mandala) decried the DOH decision to deploy their members, calling it “abrupt” and “exploitative.”

They said the doctors had not been properly informed and that no proper consultation with the local governments was held.

Detailed guidelines and protocols to protect the doctors were absent, they added.

### ‘Exploitative’

“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. There is complete disregard [for] the concerns of the doctors and the local chief executives,” said the online statement.

Their duty, they said, was “crucial if we, as a nation, truly intend to heal as one. 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.”

COVID-19 cases are rising in rural communities due to the return of overseas Filipino workers and residents who had been stranded in Metro Manila to their communities, they noted.

The DTTB program, started by the DOH in 1993, aims to respond to the lack of doctors in rural and depressed areas.

### DOH directive

Dr. Sophia Pulmones, head of the Local Health Support Division of the DOH in Western Visayas, on Sunday said the deployment was in line with a directive from the DOH central office for its offices in the Visayas to augment doctors in Cebu City.

Pulmones said doctors under the DTTB program, who would be sent to Cebu City, were from areas where there were municipal health officers to ensure that communities they served would still have the services of government physicians.

“We did not send those four doctors who are serving as municipal health officers,” she told the Inquirer.

She said part of the DTTB program was to deploy doctors to areas affected by disasters and health emergencies.

### Police not enemy

Police Maj. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, chief of the Joint Task Force COVID Shield, on Saturday defended the deployment of hundreds of policemen and soldiers to Cebu City, saying they would ensure that the people there follow health protocols.

“We are not your enemy. We are on the same side in fighting the real enemy, which is the coronavirus,” Eleazar said in a radio interview on Sunday.

At a sendoff for the medical team at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, Vice Adm. Gaudencio Collado Jr., the AFP vice chief of staff, said the military was proud of the group for stepping up in a 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,” Collado said.

For his part, Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementer of the national task force against COVID-19, said he was grateful to the members of the team for answering Cebu City’s call for help.

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

—With reports from Tina G. Santos, Nestle Semilla, Dale G. Israel and Ador Vincent Mayol

# Another quarantine facility opened in Cebu City

Published June 29, 2020, 12:22 PM

By **Minerva Newman**

CEBU CITY – A newly-built quarantine facility, the New Normal Oasis for Adaptation and a Home (NOAH) Complex, located at the South Road Properties (SRP) here opened on Monday to accept patients manifesting mild to moderate symptoms of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).



Photo via Minerva Newman/ MANILA BULLETIN

The NOAH Complex, which can accommodate more than 300 patients, was a joint project of the Cebu City Council, SM Foundation, Beautiful Cebu Movement Foundation, San Miguel Corporation, Cebu Holdings, Inc., Gokongwei Brothers Foundation, United Architects of the Philippines, Visayas Electric Company (VECO), and Mandaue Foam.

The local government and its private partners pooled their resources, manpower and expertise to build the temporary isolation facility that will assist the government and the health services sector curb the spread of the COVID-19.

As of June 28, there are 8,230 confirmed COVID-19 cases here.

According to Melquiades Feliciano, who is assisting Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu at the Task Force Region 7 COVID-19, the creation of NOAH Complex was only one of the many testaments of the true "bayanihan" spirit brought out by the pandemic, especially in Cebu City.

"We have seen so many acts of helping one another during our toughest times, and this only proves that we will rise above this challenge when we work together," Feliciano added.

Feliciano hopes that more companies and individuals will join in the fight against COVID-19. "This, after all, is a battle we collectively want to win. Together, we will heal as one," Feliciano said

The NOAH Complex was constructed on a 6,600-square-meter lot leased by Bigfoot Productions. It is designed to ensure the safety of medical front liners, as they have dedicated donning and doffing rooms for personal protective equipment (PPE) and ultraviolet disinfection equipment for their PPEs.

The quarantine facility also provides lodging for doctors, nurses, and barangay health workers who will be assigned at the complex. It also includes birthing areas for expectant mothers. A wing of the complex was retrofitted to create space for a labor room, delivery room, and a nursery room.

"The NOAH Complex is compliant with all the requirements of the Department of Health, and we made sure that this is a place where our patients can feel that they are safe and well taken care of," said Atty. Joy Pesquera, manager of the facility.

The daily meals of the patients, front liners, and support staff will also be provided by the city government, she added.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/29/another-quarantine-facility-opened-in-cebu-city/>

# More COVID-19 quarantine facilities eyed in Cebu City

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 10:22 AM June 29, 2020

MANILA, Philippines— The government is planning to put up more quarantine facilities in Cebu City due to the rising number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said Monday.

“This Wednesday, several members of the IATF [Inter-Agency Task Force for the Managing of Emerging Infectious Diseases] will be going to Cebu City again together with [Department of Public Works and Highways] Secretary Mark Villar to look for more sites where we can put isolation or quarantine facilities,” DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said in an interview on ANC.

Año noted that many of the COVID-19 infections in Cebu City were caused by patients positive of the virus under home quarantine.

“We took note that most of the infection in the community was because many of our positive patients are undergoing just home quarantine,” Año said.

“You cannot be assured of those patients if they are observing the proper protocols of home quarantine. Better to extract them out of the community to ensure the safety of the families and of the neighborhood,” added Año.

“Just like what we are doing here in Metro Manila, we built a lot of mega treatment and isolation facilities so we are able to separate immediately those who are positive, mild and asymptomatic patients.”

Cebu City is under the strictest lockdown measure or enhanced community quarantine until June 30.

The city has so far recorded at least 4,900 COVID-19 cases.

Nationwide, there are over [35,000 COVID-19 cases](#).

One thousand two hundred forty four patients have died while 9,686 others have recovered.

gsg

# Cebu City looming as new COVID-19 epicenter – DILG

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:42 AM June 29, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Cebu City is “more likely” the new epicenter of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases in the country, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said Monday.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año cited the number of cases being logged in Cebu City, compared to Metro Manila which is composed of 17 local government units (LGUs).

“Yes, more likely because of the rate of infection in Cebu City,” Año said in an interview on ANC, when asked if Cebu City is now the COVID-19 epicenter of the country.

“If you compare it to the National Capital Region where we have 17 LGUs, in Metro Manila, we have 356 [cases compared] by 131 in Cebu City. You can just see the number,” Año added.

Last week, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered Environment [Secretary Roy Cimatu to oversee the government’s COVID-19 response](#) in Cebu City amid the steady increase in its coronavirus infections.

There are at least 4,900 COVID-19 cases in Cebu City with about 150 deaths and at least 2,300 recoveries.

Nationwide, there are [35,455 COVID-19 cases](#) as of Sunday afternoon, with 1,244 deaths and 9,686 recoveries.

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# Año says Cebu City more likely the epicenter of COVID-19

**Published** June 29, 2020 8:43am

By ANNA FELICIA BAJO, GMA News

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on Monday said Cebu City is more likely the epicenter of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in the country.

"Yes, more likely because of the rate of infection... In Cebu City, just one city, so if you compare it to the National Capital Region where we have 17 LGUs... in Metro Manila we have 356 (new cases) while we have 131 in Cebu City, so you can just see the number," Año explained in an interview on ANC.

"Cebu City is taking a lot of new cases. We are worried with the number of deaths also. That's why we put up a task force in Cebu led by Secretary [Roy] Cimatu as directed by President Rodrigo Duterte," he added.

So far, Cebu City, which has been placed under lockdown, has 4,962 COVID-19 infections, with 2,596 recoveries and 156 deaths.

Año has been saying that the number of COVID-19 cases in the city increased because more or less half of it are just doing home quarantine which resulted in the local transmission of the disease.

He said government officials will go to Cebu City by Wednesday to check the situation.

More government troops have been deployed in the city to assist in the strict implementation of the enhanced community quarantine in the area.

Joint Task Force COVID Shield Police Lieutenant General Guillermo Eleazar said the augmentation of more troops is not "militarization" but simply for maintenance of "police visibility."

Experts said the [number of COVID-19 cases in Cebu City may reach 20,000](#) by July 31. —**KG, GMA News**

# Apocalyptic

[FIRST PERSON](#) - [Alex Magno](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 30, 2020 - 12:00am

This is what happens when the effort to fight the pandemic becomes politicized.

As of this weekend, only two of America's 50 states were showing declining rates of COVID-19 infection. In several southern states, the surge in cases has been explosive and will likely get worse in the coming days. One public health official aptly described the frightening surge in cases "apocalyptic."

Epidemiologists are forecasting Florida will be the new US epicenter of infections. As of Saturday, the state, home to many American retirees, reported 9,585 new cases. That is about the number being reported by New York and Italy during the hellish month of April.

The surge in infections cuts a wide swathe from Florida to Oklahoma to Arizona and Texas. It is not coincidental that these are Republican-dominated states that opened up early at the encouragement of Donald Trump. They did so in defiance of guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control.

Trump rushed the Republican-controlled states to reopen in the hope their economies would snap back to normal, thereby helping his reelection bid. He seems completely unconcerned about public health or the lives of his own voters.

Several days ago, Trump organized an indoor rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma even if cases were rising in that area. His campaign aides tore off stickers on seats intended to encourage social distancing.

Although the actual turnout at this rally was disappointing, several campaign workers tested positive for COVID-19. About two dozen Secret Service personnel had to be isolated. Experts are nearly sure that mindless campaign event would be a super-spreader for the virus.

Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and loyalists such as Florida Governor Ron DeSantis have been trying to play down the frightening surge in infections. They were the ones two months ago encouraging supporters to protest the quarantine restrictions in their states. They goaded state governors to hurry in opening up against the judgment of scientists.

This gang of anti-science politicians is in denial. They will reap the whirlwind.

According to the latest data, the actual number of infections in the US could be as much as 24 times the reported number. That means there are a lot of virus carriers out there, many of them walking the streets without masks.

Trump, refusing to wear a mask, had made doing so a political issue. His followers have vociferously resisted local authorities mandating the use of this cheap but effective method for slowing the spread of the virus.

Trump's politicization of mask wearing puzzles the rest of the world. Since an infection anywhere is an infection everywhere, people around the world are worried the incompetence and sheer stupidity of the administration will make the pandemic more difficult for the world to defeat.

The spike in infection in America's southern states threatens to spin out of control.

## Cebu

We have our own southern surge in infections. Cebu City and environs have been put under enhanced community quarantine. Troops have been sent in to enforce the lockdown. The DOH corralled participants in the Doctors to the Barrios Program to support the medical personnel in the beleaguered city.

At the moment, the rapid rise in infections threatens to overwhelm public health capacity in Region 7. Additional bed capacity needs to be installed. The military sent in a medical team as part of the emergency response.

As a signal of the seriousness of the situation, President Duterte assigned his chief troubleshooter DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu to oversee the situation in Cebu. The IATF deployed to the city to make an assessment.

The peril of any worsening of the infections in Cebu is that it could spill over to the Eastern Visayas provinces. We can expect strict restrictions in movement over at least the next two weeks.

Because of the outbreak in Cebu, the World Health Organization has identified the Philippines as the country with the highest rate of infection in the Western Pacific. Among the ASEAN countries, we have the third largest caseload after Indonesia and Singapore – and the second highest death toll.

The spike in infections in Cebu is nothing compared to what is happening in the southern US. It nevertheless demonstrates what could happen if the fight against the virus slackens and if we allow complacency to set in.

No one accused our government's response to the pandemic to be the best in the region. We did not have the thoroughness of the Vietnamese and the Taiwanese. We certainly did not have the immense resources of the South Koreans and firm determination of China in stamping out the virus.

We did manage, however, to prevent infections from overwhelming our health system. We certainly failed in closing out the effort. It is reasonable to expect that infection outbreaks will pop up here and there over the coming months.

The magnitude of the outbreak in the southern US makes impossible to do any sort of contact tracing. In our case, we never really put a sufficient contact tracing effort in place. This should be high among the things we have to do if we are to defeat this virus.

There need not be a second wave of infections if we do not let down our guard. Instead, we should expect many long months of playing cat and mouse with the virus, chasing it down to wherever an infection happens. We should not tire.

Unlike in the US, we have prevented effort against COVID-19 from becoming politicized. This is not because our politicians and the street protest industry have wanted for trying.

# Tree-cutting permit for Baguio dev't project above board: DENR

June 29, 2020, 4:39 pm



**MANILA** – Vista Residences Inc. passed the most rigid scrutiny before it was granted a permit to cut 54 Benguet and Norfolk pine trees within its property in Baguio City, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Monday.

DENR Cordillera Administrative Region Executive Director Ralph Pablo said the Villar-led property developer met all the requirements for a special private land timber permit (SPLTP), including endorsements from concerned local government units.

“The grant of SPLTP to Vista Residences was above board,” Pablo said. “The application for this permit was filed in 2018 and before that, the company went through the tedious and lengthy process of getting the environmental clearance certificate (ECC), mayor’s permit, and barangay certificate.”

Pablo noted that ample public consultation and investigations were made before Vista Residences was allowed to begin the construction work on its development project located at Barangay Outlook Drive.

Records show that Vista Residences was issued an ECC in 2017 and secured its barangay and mayor clearances in September and October 2018, respectively.

Pablo added that the SPLTP issued by the DENR to Vista Residences was “subject to stringent conditions”.

He said the SPLTP carries “eight conditionalities” that must be fulfilled by the developer, including reducing to the minimum the number of trees to be cut and mandatory replacement of affected trees.

Pablo said it was stipulated in the SPLTP that each felled tree must be replaced with 100 Benguet pine tree seedlings or a total of 5,400 seedlings.

The developer should also pay for forest charges and secure a DENR transport permit in case the trees or its by-products would be removed from the project site.

Pablo said the developer committed to double the tree seedlings to 10,800 during the June 25 meeting called by Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong with DENR regional officials and Vista Residences executives.

Vista Residences had already turned over 5,400 tree seedlings to the city’s Community Environment and Natural Resources Office. Most of these seedlings were planted within the Wright Park, The Mansion, Pacdal Circle Park, and Barangay Happy Hollow during the Arbor Day celebration on June 25.

The developer was given 50 days from May 4 to conduct tree-cutting activities within the project site.

Pablo assured the DENR regional office is closely monitoring the tree-cutting activities to ensure that all conditions in the SPLTP are followed by Vista Residences. **(DENR PR)**

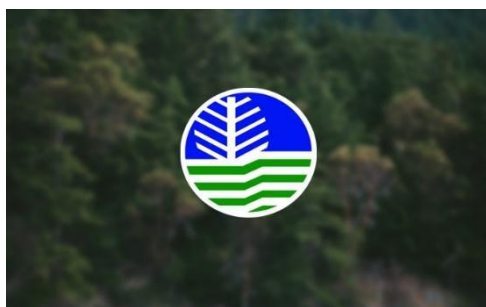
Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1107387>

# Vista's cutting down of trees in Baguio in order — DENR

Published June 29, 2020, 4:03 PM

By **Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Monday said the issuance of a permit to Vista Residences Inc. to cut down 53 Benguet pine trees and one Norfolk fir tree in its property in Baguio City was done in an open and "aboveboard" manner.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (MANILA BULLETIN)

DENR Regional Director in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Ralph Pablo assured that the Villar-led property developer had met all the requirements for a special private land timber permit (SPLTP), including endorsements from concerned local government units. It had passed the most rigid scrutiny before it was granted a permit to specifically cut the 54 trees at Barangay Outlook Drive, he said.

"The grant of SPLTP to Vista Residences was aboveboard. The application for this permit was filed in 2018 and before that the company went through the tedious and lengthy process of getting the environmental clearance certificate (ECC), mayor's permit and barangay certificate," Pablo explained.

The DENR regional official noted that ample public consultation and investigations were made before Vista Residences was allowed to begin the construction work on its development project located at Barangay Outlook Drive.

Records show that Vista Residences was issued an ECC in 2017 and secured its barangay and mayor clearances in September and October 2018, respectively.

Pablo also clarified that the SPLTP issued by the DENR to Vista Residences was "subject to stringent conditions."

He said the SPLTP carries "eight conditionalities" that must be fulfilled by the developer, including reducing to the minimum the number of trees to be cut and mandatory replacement of affected trees.

Pablo explained that the SPLTP clearly stipulated that with each felled tree, it must be replaced with 100 Benguet pine tree seedlings, for a total of 5,400 seedlings.

The developer should also pay for forest charges and secure a DENR transport permit in case the trees or its by-products would be removed from the project site, he added.

Pablo said the developer committed to double the tree seedlings to 10,800 during the June 25 meeting called by Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong with DENR regional officials and Vista Residences executives.

Vista Residences had already turned over 5,400 tree seedlings to the city's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office.

Most of these seedlings were planted within the Wright Park, The Mansion, Pacdal Circle Park and Barangay Happy Hallow during the Arbor Day celebration on June 25, he said.

The developer has been given 50 days from May 4 to conduct tree-cutting activities within the project site.

Pablo assured the DENR regional office is closely monitoring the tree-cutting activities to ensure that all conditions in the SPLTP are followed by Vista Residences.

Tree-cutting permit sa Baguio dev't project, masusing  
pinag-aralan

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## Tree-cutting permit sa Baguio dev't project, masusing pinag-aralan

June 29, 2020 @ 4:54 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ng regional director ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na pinag-aralan mabuti bago nabigyan ng tree-cutting permit ang Vista Residences Inc. para makapagputol ng 54 pine trees sa isang property sa Baguio City.

Ayon kay DENR Cordillera Administrative Region Executive Director Raplh Pablo, nakapagpasa ng mga kinauukulang dokumento ang Villar-led property developer para sa special private land timber permit (SPLTP) bukod pa sa endorsement mula sa local government unit.

“The grant of SPLTP to Vista Residences was above board,” sabi pa ni Pablo. “The application for this permit was filed in 2018 and before that the company went through the tedious and lengthy process of getting the environmental clearance certificate (ECC), mayor’s permit and barangay certificate” dagdag pa nito.

Aniya, dumaan din sa public consultation ang imbestigasyon ang Vista Residences bago ito payagang makapagsimula sa kanilang konstruksiyon para sa kanilang development project na matatagpuan sa Barangay Outlook Drive.

Base sa rekord, nabigyan ang Vista Residences ng ECC noong 2017 at nakakuha ito ng barangay permit noong Setyembre 2018 at mayor clearance naman noong Oktubre ng parehas na taon.

Sinabi pa nito, ang SPLTP na ipinagkaloob sa Vista Residences ay may mga kaukulang kondisyon.

Kabilang sa mga kondisyon ng SPLTP ay ang pagbawas sa mga punong puputulin at ang pagtanim ng kapalit ng mga maaapektuhang puno.

Sa isang punong puputulin ay may kapalit itong 100 Benguet pine tree seedlings o katumbas ng 5,400 seedlings.

Magbabayad din ang developer ng forest charges at kinakailangang kumuha ng DENR transport permit sakaling dadalhin nito sa ibang lugar ang punong puputulin.

Nabatid pa kay Pablo, nangako din ang developer na gagawing 10,800 seedlings ang kanilang itatanim ito ay base na rin sa naging resulta ng pulong nina Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, Vista Residences executives at DENR officials.

Tree-cutting permit sa Baguio dev't project, masusing

June 30, 2020

TITLE: pinag-aralan

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Naibigay na rin ng Vista Residences ang 5,400 tree seedlings sa city's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO). Karamihan sa mga ito ay naitanim na sa Wright Park, The Mansion, Pacdal Circle Park at Barangay Happy Hallow noong Hunyo 25 kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Arbor Day.

Binibigyan din ang developer ng 50 days na nagsimula noong Mayo 4 sa pagpuputol ng puno sa kanilang project site.

Siniguro din ni Pablo na patuloy ang ginagawang pagmonitor ng DENR regional office sa tree-cutting activities upang matiyak na sinusunod ng Vista Residences ang mga nakasaad sa SPLTP. **Santi Celario**





## Tree cutting activity sa Baguio, may DENR permit: Vista Residences

June 30, 2020 @ 6:56 AM

Manila, Philippines – Dumepensa ang Vista Residences, Inc. na ang kanilang Outlook Drive sa Baguio ay may permit na inisyu ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sa kanilang pahayag, ang 54 pine tree na pinutol ay “full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations.”

“Pinehill Baguio has been duly issued a Special Private Land Timber Permit (SPLTP No. CAR-58-2020) on 18 June 2020 by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),” saad sa pahayag.

“As resolved in a meeting on 25 June 2020, we agreed to turn over an additional 5,400 seedlings to the city government which was completely delivered on 28 June 2020. Thus, in replacement of the 54 pine trees, we turned over a total of 10,800 seedlings.”

Samantala, kaugnay naman ng tree-cutting activity, inilunsad naman ni Michael Bengwayan ang online petition kay Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong.

“Please stop the intended cutting of fifty four trees at Outlook Drive. The trees supply oxygen needs of at least two hundred sixteen people, sequester more than 10 tons of carbon dioxide, help reduce global warming, recharge brooks and springs ,help prevent water run-off and act a buffer zone against strong typhoons and winds,” lahad sa petisyon.

“The importance of the trees is priceless.”

“We are appealing to you because we know you also recognize the importance of trees in our beloved city and also because the company has already acquired a tree-cutting permit from DENR,” dagdag pa rito.

Kasalukuyang mayroong higit limang libong supporters na ang naturang petisyon. **RNT/FGDC**

# Vista Residences says tree-cutting in Baguio covered by DENR permit

**Published** June 30, 2020 1:00am

Vista Residences, Inc. on Monday defended its tree-cutting activity in Baguio City, saying the operation at Outlook Drive is covered by a permit duly issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

In a statement, Vista Residences, Inc. also said the cutting of the 54 pine trees was undertaken in “full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations.”

“Pinehill Baguio has been duly issued a Special Private Land Timber Permit (SPLTP No. CAR-58-2020) on 18 June 2020 by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),” it said.

“As resolved in a meeting on 25 June 2020, we agreed to turn over an additional 5,400 seedlings to the city government which was completely delivered on 28 June 2020. Thus, in replacement of the 54 pine trees, we turned over a total of 10,800 seedlings.”

Following the tree-cutting activity, an online petition to Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong was launched by Michael Bengwayan to save the trees.

“Please stop the intended cutting of fifty four trees at Outlook Drive. The trees supply oxygen needs of at least two hundred sixteen people, sequester more than 10 tons of carbon dioxide, help reduce global warming, recharge brooks and springs, help prevent water run-off and act a buffer zone against strong typhoons and winds,” the petition to Magalong read.

“The importance of the trees is priceless,” it said. “We are appealing to you because we know you also recognize the importance of trees in our beloved city and also because the company has already acquired a tree-cutting permit from DENR.”

As of Monday night, 5,350 supporters had signed the Change.org petition. **-Ma. Angelica Garcia/NB, GMA News**

# Cutting of Baguio trees allowed by DENR: Vista Residences

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 29 2020 09:58 AM



Condominium developer Vista Residences, Incorporated defended Monday its tree-cutting operation in Baguio, saying it was granted a special private land timber permit by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

In a statement, Vista Residences said the company is also turning over 10,800 Benguet Pine seedlings to local DENR units in replacement of the 54 pine trees that will be cut down.

"In support of the National Greening Program, we turned over 5,400 seedlings of Benguet Pine to the local units of DENR. Further, as resolved in a meeting with Mayor Benjamin Magalong on 25 June 2020, we agreed to turn over an additional 5,400 seedlings," it said.

"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."

Bishop Victor Bendico of the Diocese of Baguio earlier criticized the cutting of the pine trees to give way for the construction of a new residential condominium on Barangay Outlook Drive.

"The Diocese of Baguio strongly opposes and considers as unacceptable the continuing mass killing of full grown and healthy trees," Benedicto said in a statement.

## Billionaire gets notice to vacate Palawan site

posted June 29, 2020 at 08:55 pm

by [Manila Standard Business](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Palawan province ordered the group of billionaire Beatriz Zobel de Ayala to vacate a timberland they occupied in Taytay town, which is covered by the Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape.

Eriberto Saños, officer-in-charge of Palawan's Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), said community environment and natural resources officer Allan Valle on March 9 issued a notice to vacate to the group of Zobel de Ayala for alleged violation of Republic Act No. 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System or E-NIPAS Act of 2018.

"There was an investigation made by CENRO, and we received reports and communication about the case. Based on the investigation, it was found out that the property they occupied was in conflict [with the law], which means not all of the property was agricultural, or we can say alienable and disposable. A large portion is timberland," Saños said.

The investigation stemmed from a complaint filed by a tribal group about the alleged illegal occupation of and construction of structures by the group of Zobel de Ayala in Sitio Maypa, Barangay Pancol, Taytay, Palawan. The property is a part of Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape which covers 200,115 hectares of both aquatic and terrestrial environment with diverse ecosystems in Palawan. It was declared a marine protected area in 2000.

Christopher Louie Ocampo, the legal counsel of Zobel de Ayala, said the original complainant "has withdrawn that complaint and the Council of Elders of NTTPB (Nagkakaisang Tribu Tandolanon Barangay Pancol) issued Resolution No. 37, Series of 2020 disowning the complaint for having been filed without its knowledge and authority".

"Ms. Zobel de Ayala is a law-abiding citizen and respects the people of Taytay, Palawan, which is evident from her dealings with them. She will continue her endeavors in supporting the community. She is ensuring that all permits, clearances or applications for her lawful use of the property are in order. Ms. Zobel de Ayala has engaged counsel to advise and assist her on this matter and to coordinate with the authorities," Ocampo said.

Saños said that after issuing the notice to vacate, his agency is observing the due process. He said a final notice to vacate would be issued to Zobel de Ayala in observance of the administrative procedure required by the Prosecutor's Office.

"Based on our experience, the Prosecutor's Office usually determines if the administrative procedures have been exhausted. So we issued the notice to vacate, before the case of illegal occupation can be filed," he said.

He said the next step is to wait for applications from the Zobel de Ayala camp such as tenurial instruments for the timberland and public clearance for the alienable and disposable land. "What we can do is to complete the process. On our part, we issued the stop work order. Our higher office will then decide," he said.

While the Nagkakaisang Tribu Tandolanon Barangay Pancol, an indigenous group, reportedly withdrew its complaint against the group of Zobel de Ayala, Puerto Princesa City-Environmental Legal Assistance Center Inc. asked the DENR to dig deeper into the alleged use and occupation of untitled lands in the area.

"We respectfully request the DENR to look into reclamation activities and tourism-related construction activities in El Nido and Coron, Palawan which apparently have not undergone the appropriate consultations, environmental impact assessments/studies and have led, among others, the destruction of mangrove areas [particularly in El Nido]," Environmental Legal Assistance Center Inc. (ELAC) executive director Grizela Mayo-Anda said in a letter to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu on June 5.

Mayo-Anda said ELAC was in possession of two letters signed by a leader of Nagkakaisang Tribu Tandolanon Barangay Pancol. A certain Felipe Valones, chieftain of NTTBP and a member of the Protected Area Management Board, asked the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Taytay to look into the alleged permanent concrete buildings erected in Sitio Maypa upon the orders of Zobel de Ayala.

ELAC expressed concern that the entry and occupation of untitled properties in protected areas and in ancestral domains in Palawan would continue unless the DENR began to intervene and initiate the appropriate legal actions.

“We initially gathered information from concerned community leaders and other citizens that the concerned DENR-CENRO and PAMB offices were aware of these developments but have not done any concrete actions to address these problems,” the NGO said.

# DENR seeks partnerships to provide livelihood to POs

Published June 29, 2020, 12:12 PM

*By Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Cagayan Valley is working to strengthen its partnership with other government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and academe to sustain the livelihood enterprises provided to people's organizations (POs) even after the completion of the Forestland Management Project (FMP) in 2022.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

DENR-Cagayan Valley Regional Director Gwendolyn Bambalan has recently instructed Assistant Regional Director Marcos Dacanay and FMP regional focal person Edmund Malupeng to coordinate with the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry for the provision of assistance and funding for technology development, product packaging, and marketing.

The FMP is a 10-year partnership agreement between the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Philippine government that aims to strengthen forestland management in critical river basins through the implementation of collaborative and comprehensive community-based forest management strategies.

It has provided its partner-POs 45 enterprise development projects, which include farm implements and agricultural supply trading; bamboo furniture and craft making and marketing; pandan leaves weaving and bayong making and trading; and organic fertilizer production and trading, among others.

To intensify forest conservation and to contribute to disaster risk mitigation efforts in vulnerable areas, 25,378 hectares of agroforestry plantations were established under FMP.

Five agroforestry support facilities that include farm-to-market roads, bridges, tire paths, and irrigation pipeline systems have been established.

These facilities were turned over to the local government units and partner POs through tripartite memoranda of agreement for their operation and maintenance.

The FMP in Cagayan Valley is implemented within the 88,094 hectares sub-watersheds of Upper Magat and Cagayan River Basin, namely Bukig, Lower Matuno, Upper Matuno, Sta. Cruz-Cabanglasan, Benay, Dupax and Manga in Nueva Vizcaya; and Ganano in Quirino province.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/29/denr-seeks-partnerships-to-provide-livelihood-to-pos/>

# Tagalog News: PENRO, pinangunahan ang pagtatanim ng kawayan sa Boac river bank

By Romeo A. Mataac, Jr. Published on June 29, 2020

BOAC, Marinduque, Hun. 29 (PIA) – Kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng ika-33 taong anibersaryo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at selebrasyon ng World Environment Month, nakiisa ang Marinduque Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) sa pamamagitan ng muling pagtatanim ng punlang kawayan sa Boac river bank, Barangay Tabi, Boac kamakailan.



Pinangunahan ni Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Imee Diaz ang pagtatanim ng punlang kawayan sa Boac river bank, Barangay Tabi, Boac, Marinduque. (Larawang kuha ni Romeo A. Mataac, Jr./PIA-Marinduque)

Ang gawain ay pinangunahan ni PENR Officer Imee Diaz kasama ang ilang mga kawani ng ahensya.

Ayon kay Diaz, layunin ng programa na ipagtuloy ang pagtatanim ng punlang kawayan sa nasabing lugar na sinimulan nilang gawin noong 2017.

"Ang Boac river bank sa Barangay Tabi ay tinatawag nating National Greening Program (NGP) site. Isinagawa natin ang muling pagtatanim ng kawayan sapagkat 'yong mga itinanim natin noong nakaraang taon ay nasira ng Bagyong Tisoy," pahayag ni Diaz.

Umabot sa 50 punlang kawayan ang naitanim ng PENRO sa NGP site na may tatlong ektarya ang laki.

Ang pagtatanim ng kawayan sa mga river banks ay bahagi rin ng kanilang programang proteksyonan at pangalagaan ang kalikasan upang makatulong sa pag-iwas ng pagguho ng lupa at pagkasira ng Ozone layer.

Dagdag ni Diaz, ang kawayan ay napakaraming gamit o benepisyo kaya hinihikayat ng PENRO ang mga mamamayan na magtanim nito. (RAMJR/PIA-MIMAROPA)

# NBI nabs 8 for illegal quarrying in Tarlac

June 29, 2020

People's Tonight

**AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have arrested eight individuals for illegal lahar sand excavation in Capas, Tarlac.**

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

Information received by the NBI-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) revealed the alleged illegal quarrying activities in Bgy. Sta. Lucia, Capas.

During surveillance operations, heavy-equipment machines were seen extracting lahar from a river and directly loading the same in the queuing trucks.

The surveillance team observed that there are no indicated location map, flagship, boundaries, area clearance, Environmental Compliance Certificate, and mining permit showing the meters and bounds of the quarry site displayed therein.

Also, NBI verification revealed that no quarry permits were issued for the whole province of Tarlac by the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board. Also, a list of mining and quarry permittees from the Regional Director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Region 3 (DENR MGB III) showed that extracting company "A SAND QUARRY" had no existing mining and quarry permit.

Just recently, joint operatives of NBI-EnCD and DENR MGB III raided the quarry location in Bgy. Sta. Lucia, Capas, and arrested the suspects who were brought for inquest 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".



# PH hawk eagle taken in as a pet rescued Samar

Published June 29, 2020, 10:23 AM

By **Marie Tonette Marticio**

TACLOBAN City – A juvenile Philippine hawk-eagle (Lawin) will soon be released after being turned over by a resident to the police in Marabut, Samar recently.



Photo via Marie Tonette Marticio/ MANILA BULLETIN

Marabut Police Chief Capt. Charmaine Cartalla said they received a report about the captive raptor in Barangay Veloso, showing that the eagle was under the custody of a certain Joseph Padullon.

According to Padullon, the eagle has been under his custody for about 10 months already.

He added the eagle was still young when he found it in a nearby village, and has taken care of it since then as a pet.

The Marabut police then coordinated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Forester Glenn Garciano of the Community Environment and Natural Resources-Sta. Rita, Samar, said while the eagle seemed to be in a good condition, it will still be subjected to further examination and rehabilitation before it could be released back to its natural habitat.

“The Philippine hawk-eagle has been tamed so a team from our regional office needs to check it before it is released in the wild because it might just go back to where it came from,” the official explained.

The Philippine hawk-eagle is considered as one of the endangered species. Garciano added that its mere possession was punishable under the Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Conservation Act.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/29/ph-hawk-eagle-taken-in-as-a-pet-rescued-samar/>

# Tagalog News: Malkoha, nasagip ng Marinduque Animal and Wildlife Rescue Team

By Romeo A. Mataac, Jr. Published on June 29, 2020

BOAC, Marinduque, Hun. 29 (PIA) -- Nasagip ng mga tauhan ng Marinduque Animal and Wildlife Rescue Emergency Response Team (MAWRET) ang isang 'endemic' na ibon na kung tawagin ay Scale-Feathered Malkoha sa Barangay Malbog, Buenavista kamakailan.

Ayon kay Dr. Josue M. Victoria, Provincial Veterinary Officer, natagpuan ng binatilyong si Jherick Matining ang ibon na may scientific name na Phaenicophaeus Cumingi sa tabing sapa, bulubunduking bahagi ng Sitio Haynon, Barangay Malbog sa nabanggit na bayan.

Sa pamamagitan ng isang Facebook post ay ipinarating sa Tanggapan ng Panlalawigang Beterinaryo ang pangyayari na agad namang umaksyon upang sagipin ang ibon.



Ang Scale-Feathered Malkoha na natagpuan sa bulubunduking bahagi ng Sitio Haynon, Barangay Malbog, Buenavista. Ito ay kabilang sa species ng cuckoo na endemic sa hilagang bahagi ng Pilipinas. (Larawang kuha ni Romeo A. Mataac, Jr./PIA-Marinduque)

Sa ginawang pagsusuri ni Dr. Victoria ay napag-alaman na maysakit, payat at matanda na ang ibon. Matagal-tagal na rin umanong hindi kumakain ang Malkoha kaya nanghihina. Wala ring bali o sugat sa katawan ang ibon maliban sa mga balahibo sa buntot at pakpak na nawala o nalagas na kaya hindi ito makalipad.

Aniya, dahil nanghihina ang ibon ay sisikapin ng Provincial Veterinary Office na mabigyan ito ng agarang lunas.

"Ire-rehabilitate, pakakainin at bibigyan natin ng vitamin supplementation ang ibon sapagkat mukhang matatagalan pa ang kanyang paggaling," pahayag ni Victoria.

Samantala, sakaling gumaling ang ibon ay agad itong ibabalik at pakakawalan sa kanyang natural habitat katulad ng karaniwang ginagawa ng MAWRET sa mga hayop na kanilang nasasagip.

"Ibabalik at pakakawalan namin ang Malkoha sa lugar kung saan ito unang natagpuan sapagkat ito ang aming protocol," sabi ni Dr. Victoria.

Dagdag pa ng panlalawigang beterinaryo, ang Marinduque ay bahagi ng tirahan ng mga Scale-Feathered Malkoha na kabilang sa species ng cuckoo na endemic sa mga lalawigan ng Luzon. Karaniwan itong matatagpuan sa mga pangunahing kagubatan at low land areas. Kadalasang kinakain ng Malkoha ay mga prutas, maliliit na reptilya at mga insekto. (RAMJR/PIA-MIMAROPA)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046080>

# Priest endeavors to save planet besides saving souls

By: [Cyrain Cabuenas](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 04:55 AM June 29, 2020



‘BAROMETERS OF THE EARTH’ The Philippine frogmouth bird, photographed by Roneil Canillas, a Catholic priest contributing to environmental awareness by taking photos of birds, which he also calls “indicators of our environment’s integrity.”

BORONGAN CITY, Eastern Samar, Philippines — When he is not busy saving souls for God, Fr. Roneil Canillas travels around Eastern Samar province to shoot images of his favorite subject: birds.

He believes that walking into the deep forest to take photographs of different bird species is an extension of his vocation as a Roman Catholic priest in the diocese of Borongan.

“Birds are barometers of the earth. They are indicators of our environment’s integrity or the lack of it,” said the 44-year-old Canillas.

The lone member of the Wild Birds Photographers of the Philippines from Eastern Samar, Canillas finds photography a perfect diversion for those who wish to venture beyond traditional leisure activities and travel destinations, as it also allows people to commune with nature without distraction.

Canillas developed his love for the outdoors when he was a young boy, roaming the forests with his father beyond their farm in Giporlos town, Eastern Samar.

But his love for birdwatching started a decade ago and five years into the priesthood, when he came across an article that featured Canon Ambassador and birdwatcher Ely Teehankee.

“I was touched by how a lay person can be awed by God’s lowly creatures like birds and their habitat that we usually take for granted,” Canillas said.

## Sanctuary

From the backroads and wetlands of his parish assignments, his hobby brought him to the wildlife sanctuary and marshland of Agusan del Sur province to the mountain ranges of Kitanglad in Bukidnon province.

But the canopy forest of Samar Island challenges him the most, especially with the confirmed sightings of the endangered Philippine eagle and Philippine cockatoo.

The island (divided into three provinces) is known for its biodiversity. It holds one of the largest remaining areas of intact forest in the Philippines and is home to the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) and red-vented cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*).

The World Wide Fund for Nature included Samar in its Global 200 list of ecoregions needing protection, because of the island’s large tract of tropical rainforest that supports highly diversified populations of rare, endemic species.

Ornithophiles have recorded on Birding Asia magazine at least 164 bird species, including 16 migratory birds, in Samar. Some of these are the yellow-breasted tailorbird (*Orthotomus samarensis*), Visayan wattled broadbill (*Sarcophanops samarensis*), scops owl (*Otus everetti*), bay owl (*Phodilus badius riverae*), bleeding heart (*Gallicolumba crinigera*), Samar hornbill (*Penelopides samarensis*), sooty woodpecker (*Mulleripicus funebris*), yellowish bulbul (*Hypsipetes everetti*), yellow-breasted tailorbird (*Orthotomus samarensis*), slaty flycatcher (*Ficedula basilanica*), Visayan blue fantail (*Rhipidura samarensis*) and slender-billed crow (*Corvus enca*).

### 'Laudato Si'

When Pope Francis issued in 2015 his landmark "Laudato Si" ("Praise be to You: Care of our Common Home") encyclical on the environment, Canillas decided to make his pastime an advocacy.

In his Facebook and YouTube accounts, he would repeatedly remind backpackers and mountaineers to observe the "leave-no-trace-behind" norm when it comes to disposing garbage properly.



**THE PERFECT SUBJECT**  
Catholic priest Roneil Canillas sits on the edge of a cliff to take pictures of birds he has spotted in Hernani town, Eastern Samar. Among these birds are the Philippine hanging parrot, the migratory Malaysian plover (above) and the little grebe (left).

While he seldom tackles the more complex issues of mining and illegal logging, Canillas believes that policymakers should tackle poverty to help ensure environmental conservation.

Many impoverished folk resort to kaingin or the still unchecked slash-and-burn method of clearing forests to sell coal and firewood. Some also trap birds and destroy nestling sites as a way to augment their income.

### Witness

Canillas believes his hobby is crucial to ecological issues, with the camera a silent but potent witness to open the public's eyes and stir up discussion leading to positive change.

Some of his photos have been featured in avian magazines. His photographs hold greater significance in June, which is Philippine Environment Month.

The long hours of waiting for the perfect subject and angle leads Canillas to meditation and to the practice of that much-needed virtue, patience.

When not documenting rare species of birds and taking snapshots of landscapes, he sells his picture frames and wall photos of birds online.

Just recently, he sold his collection to benefit the Mother Butler's Guild of the Cathedral parish, as well as church workers whose homes were damaged by Typhoon "Ambo" in May.

A photographer, he said, must accept the possibility that every trip is rewarding, however it turns out. "We can't have control of everything in life," he said.

# Pangulong Duterte, magbibigay ng bagong quarantine classification sa June 30

By Angellic Jordan June 29, 2020 - 02:08 PM



Nakatakdang ianunsiyo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang bagong quarantine classification sa araw ng Martes, June 30.

Kinumpirma ito ni Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque.

Sa ngayon, nakasailalim sa enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) sa Cebu City.

Umiiral din ang general community quarantine sa Metro Manila at iba pang lugar sa bansa.

## No lifting of restrictions just yet

posted June 30, 2020 at 01:40 am

by [Vito Barcelo and Willie Casas, Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

The national task force against the coronavirus pandemic is not recommending the lifting of community quarantine restrictions in any part of the country anytime soon, even as the situation is driving the Philippines to an economic recession, according to its chief implementer on Monday.



**NEW COMMUTING 'NORMAL'.** Photo shows passengers of a traditional jeepney put their fares on a moving tray operated by a pulley system to help observe physical distancing, in a pilot test ahead of the expected lifting of the ban on public utility jeepneys next week. Norman Cruz

In a televised briefing, Secretary Carlito Galvez, National Task Force Against COVID-19 chief, said there was a need to gradually lift quarantine controls as “there will be a possibility the vigilance of adjacent provinces will disappear.”

“That’s why we (in the task force) have decided that our threshold is the MGCQ (modified general community quarantine) so we can all go forward to the new normal,” Galvez added.

President Rodrigo Duterte will announce today (Tuesday) the quarantine classifications that will be implemented starting next month, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said at the same briefing.

The Philippines’ tally of COVID-19 cases topped 36,000 on Monday after the Department of Health (DOH) reported 985 more infections—643 “fresh” and 342 “late,” bringing the total to 36,438.

It is the third highest number of fresh cases reported in a single day since the DOH re-classified new cases on May 29.

Meanwhile, Galvez also said “stringent” coronavirus restrictions need to be enforced in Cebu City following a spike in infections in the key Visayas metropolis, which has become the country’s new emerging COVID-19 hotspot along with Cebu province, Southern Leyte, Leyte and Samar provinces.

“We found out that stringent restrictions are still needed because the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) was not properly implemented,” he said.

The Philippines has not been spared from the worldwide downturn owing to COVID-19—and if current forecasts hold up, the country will plunge into a recession for the first time in over two decades.

The economy logged a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of minus-0.2% in the first quarter of 2020, for the first time in 22 years or since 1998. If GDP growth worsens, economists and experts say the country will enter a recession, the first time the Asian financial crisis, also in 1998.

This developed as Malacanang on Monday said the Philippines is winning the war against COVID-19, disputing the observation of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) that the country has the fastest growing rate of infection in the Western Pacific region.

Spokesman Roque said the Philippines should not be compared with other countries without considering socioeconomic context like population, living conditions, and health system capacity.

“Please take that into account when we do our analysis. Let us not cherry pick the countries we want to compare ourselves to,” he said.

The Philippines only ranked sixth in the Western Pacific region, if the number of cases is divided on a per million population basis.

By this calculation, he said, India topped the list followed by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Singapore. "When we declared an ECQ, the number of cases went down and we were really able to take care of those who got sick," Roque said.



*NEW COMMUTING 'NORMAL'. A dispatcher at a UV Express terminal in Brgy. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite asks a passenger to step on a foot bath before allowing her to board the vehicle, while a cashier with gloves and personal protective equipment collects fares from other passengers at her booth on Monday. JR Josue*

The Palace official said the country is winning against the deadly virus "in terms of positivity rate, case-doubling rate, [and] mortality rate."

"Did the government take the correct steps? Our answer is yes. We are not perfect. Perhaps, we could have done better. But we're here now. And one thing I can assure you: The President did the very best that he can and we are in control of the situation," he added.

Of the 643 fresh cases, which refer to those whose test results were released within the last three days, 223 are from the National Capital Region, 106 are from Region 7 or Central Visayas and 314 come from other regions.

Of the 342 late cases, or those whose results were released at least four days ago, 96 are from NCR, 29 are from Region 7 and 217 are from other regions.

While NCR has long been the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in the Philippines, Cebu City and Cebu Province are now among the emerging hotspots because of the recent spike in cases.

The DOH also reported 270 new recovered patients or a total of 9,956 recoveries. Recoveries have been at more than 200 a day since June 11.

There were 11 new COVID-related deaths, bringing total fatalities to 1,255.

There are also 24,525 active cases undergoing treatment or quarantine.

Of the active cases, 23,451 (95.6 percent) are considered mild cases, 126 (0.5 percent) severe cases, 26 (0.1 percent) critical cases and 922 (3.8 percent) asymptomatic cases.

The DOH also said it removed two duplicate cases from the total tally of infections.

As of June 28, the Philippines has 53 certified polymerase chain reaction facilities and 19 GeneXpert laboratories that have tested a total of 636,291 individuals.

Some 1,313 or 36.63 percent of intensive care unit beds for COVID-19 patients are occupied while 1,883 or 22.89 percent of mechanical ventilators are in use.

President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to announce his latest directives regarding quarantine measures on Tuesday.

Earlier, a group of experts forecast that COVID-19 cases in the country could possibly reach 60,000 by July 1.

The DOH said the recent increase in cases was due to expanded testing and increased mobility in different regions after quarantine restrictions were eased.

Dr. Beverly Lorraine Ho, Director of the DOH Health Promotion and Communication Service, said the situation could be mitigated through continued behavioral change.

With the increase in cases in different regions, she said the public must follow infection control and prevention measures.

"According to studies, wearing a mask will reduce the chances of infection by 8 percent. If you observe physical distancing, the chance of infection drops by 80 percent. If you are wearing a face shield, the chance of infection falls by 78 percent," Ho said.

DOH also reiterated its advice to avoid congested spaces with poor ventilation. Meanwhile, those who have mild symptoms and lower risk are instructed to always opt to receive treatment, rest, and recover in community isolation facilities especially if the patient shares a room with other members of the household.

Meanwhile, the DOH said Sunday the number of health care workers who have contracted COVID-19 climbed to 3,360 as of June 27.

In its daily COVID-19 report, the DOH said 2,515 of these health workers have recovered from the respiratory illness, while the death toll has remained at 33 since June 10.

The other 812 medical workers are active cases undergoing treatment or quarantine.

Of all the confirmed cases, 1,207 are nurses, 842 are doctors, 230 are nursing assistants, 135 are medical technologists, 52 are midwives, 33 are respiratory therapists, 21 are pharmacists. There are also 218 administrative staff working in health facilities, 97 utility workers, 53 dietary staff, 37 drivers, 34 barangay health workers, 19 security guards and 12 caregivers.



*NEW COMMUTING 'NORMAL': A dispatcher at a UV Express terminal in Brgy. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite asks a passenger to step on a foot bath before allowing her to board the vehicle, while a cashier with gloves and personal protective equipment collects fares from other passengers at her booth on Monday. JR Josue*

Also on Monday, Senate President Vicente Sotto III said he believes the delay in actions and responses by the DOH has put the Philippines among the countries in Southeast Asia that have failed to contain the coronavirus.

"Something is very wrong," added the Senate leader who was among the signatories to the Senate resolution calling for the resignation of Duque over the slow response to the pandemic.

On Sunday, the DOH said there are now 69 laboratories nationwide licensed to conduct COVID-19 testing, after five more received accreditation.

The latest PCR laboratories to be certified were the San Miguel Foundation Testing Laboratory, Qualimed Hospital Sta. Rosa, and the Prime Care Alpha COVID-19 Testing Laboratory.

The GeneXpert facilities recently accredited were those of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute and the Sta. Ana Hospital.

There are also 166 other laboratories undergoing the five-step accreditation process, 147 or 89 percent of which are already on Stage 3 or above.

The licensed laboratories have tested 635,395 individuals as of June 27, yielding a positivity rate of 7.05 percent.

Meanwhile, an average of 13,514 samples were processed by 63 laboratories in the past week, 6,947 of which tested positive for COVID-19 for a weekly positivity rate of 7.91 percent.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/327366>



## HEADLINES

# Roque blasts faulty WHO view

Published 6 hours ago on June 30, 2020 12:05 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Malacañang on Monday disproved the World Health Organization's (WHO) claim that Philippines has the highest COVID-19 cases in the Western Pacific Region.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, called it unfair for the WHO to compare the Philippines to a country such as Singapore, considering its smaller population.

He said the rise in COVID-19 cases should be in relation to the country's population.

"The WHO claimed that we are the country with the fastest (rising) number of COVID-19 cases in the Western Pacific Region. Is it true? We beg to disagree," he said.

"Of course, if we look at the increase in cases, it should be related to your population. Why would we be compared to Singapore considering that it has only a population of five million. It's only one city, it cannot even be compared to Quezon City or Manila," he added.

Roque said that if one will divide the cases per a million population, Western Pacific India would show 549,197 cases followed by Pakistan with 202,955. Bangladesh has 137,787, Indonesia has 54,010, Singapore with 43,459 and the Philippines with only 35,455.

"Divide the cases per million population. It's clear, the data do not lie. We are not the one with the fastest number of cases in the Western Pacific Region. We will let data answer the report of WHO)," Roque said.

"We always balance the health and the right to have livelihood. What we are looking at is case-doubling rate and critical care capacity. We know that if we cannot prevent the multiplication of the cases we will ensure that we have enough ability to give assistance those that will get sick especially those who are critical," he added.

"To reiterate, there's nothing to be ashamed off in terms of density. We are not number one in the Western Pacific because this is not a contest. And I will return that to the projection of UP if we didn't make the steps that we made, we have more than three million COVID-19 cases already," the palace official stated.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/30/roque-blasts-faulty-who-view/>

# PALASYO UMALMA SA NAGING PAHAYAG NG WHO UKOL SA COVID-19 SITUATION SA BANSA

written by Judith Estrada-Larino June 29, 2020



Umalma ang Malakaniyang sa pahayag ng World Health Organization (WHO) na ang Pilipinas ang nakapagtala ng pinakamabilis na bilang ng mga bagong COVID-19 cases sa 20 bansa at teritoryo sa Western Pacific Region.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque nasa ika-anim na puwesto lamang ang Pilipinas sa Western Pacific Region kung hahatiin ang bilang ng mga kaso sa kada milyong populasyon.

Sa katunayan sinabi ni Roque na nangunguna ang India sa mayruong pinakamaraming confirmed COVID-19 cases sunod ang Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia at Singapore

Sinagot din ni Roque ang puna ng ilang social media users na ang India, Pakistan at Bangladesh ay hindi sakop ng Western Pacific Region dahil ang mga nasabing bansa aniya ay nasa record ng WHO bilang Western Pacific Countries at pawang asian countries.

Binigyang diin pa ni Roque na hindi makatuwirang ikumpara ang Pilipinas sa Singapore na ang populasyon ay nasa limang milyon lamang o halos kasinglaki lamang ng Quezon City o lungsod ng Maynila

Una nang inihayag ng who na mula June 16 hanggang 28 ang naitalang kabuuang kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas ay nasa mahigit 9,000 na sinundan ng Singapore na mayruong mahigit dalawang libong bagong kaso ng COVID-19.

# Senators: Gov't 'mishandling' led to fast rise in PH virus cases

By: Marlon Ramos - Philippine Daily Inquirer June 29, 2020 - 08:11 AM



MANILA, Philippines — The World Health Organization (WHO) report that the Philippines had the fastest rise in new coronavirus cases in the Western Pacific region in the past two weeks was the result of the government's "mishandling" of the pandemic, several senators said on Sunday.

"Something is very wrong," Senate President Vicente Sotto III said in a Viber message to the Inquirer.

## Highest among 22 countries

Asked to elaborate, Sotto cited "delays in actions and responses" of the government in tackling the virus, which first hit the country when a Chinese couple arrived on Jan. 21 from the city of Wuhan, in central China, where SARS-CoV-2, the infectious agent that causes COVID-19, emerged late last year.

"That includes contact tracing and aggressive research on medications," he added.

Data released by the WHO late last week showed the Philippines had logged 8,143 new cases since June 16, the highest among 22 countries in the Western Pacific.

Singapore was a far second, with 2,351 cases during the same period, while China had 302. Opposition Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the WHO report did not only prove that the Philippines had the worst record in dealing with the coronavirus crisis but also reiterated the importance of mass testing and accurate contact tracing.

"Care, not scare, for Filipinos during pandemic," Pangilinan said, alluding to the deployment of hundreds of police commandos and military troops to Cebu City, which is battling a resurgence of the coronavirus.

"It's embarrassing not just to our neighboring countries, but more so to fellow Filipinos, doctors, nurses and those who died to combat this disease," Pangilinan said.

Sen. Joel Villanueva was more blunt, saying the unsettling figures were a result of the government's decision to reopen the "economy drastically even for nonessential sectors" like Philippine offshore gaming operators, or Pogos.

Villanueva said the government should have focused on strengthening the country's health-care system and continued providing assistance to encourage people to stay at home.

## Lost focus

"I have always stated that we should be conservative in our approach in reviving the economy. For the past weeks, we lost focus on our primary goal of containing the virus," Villanueva said.

“We did not prohibit [shopping] malls from extending their operating hours. We terminated social assistance, sent people back to work even without sufficient modes of public transportation ... The current statistics are obviously consequences of these actions,” he said.

More than 100 days after President Duterte imposed strict quarantine measures, Villanueva said there was still “no clear guidance on surveillance and epidemiological monitoring.”

“We urge the government to put in place a methodologically sound epidemiological surveillance so that we can make informed decisions on our policy approach regarding [this pandemic],” he said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the WHO report was expected as the Department of Health (DOH) had mishandled the government’s coronavirus response and that it even “mised” the public into believing “that everything has been under control from the start.”

Lacson assailed Mr. Duterte’s continued defense of Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, who had been blamed for the missteps in the coronavirus response as chair of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, which the senator said was “performing fairly well” despite the DOH’s “shortcomings.”

“[This is] further worsened by the President’s almost blanket trust and confidence [in] Duque, the latest of which was the ridiculous theory that he is incapable of cheating on government funds since he is too wealthy to even think of further enriching himself,” Lacson said.

#### Population-cases ratio

Commenting on the WHO report on Sunday, the DOH advised the public to be cautious in analyzing COVID-19 data and in comparing it between and among countries, saying several factors should be considered in data analysis.

“Let us not cherry-pick the countries we want to compare ourselves to,” the DOH said in a statement. It said the comparison with Singapore and other countries required deeper understanding of population ratio against number of cases.

“Our socioeconomic context, particularly living conditions, as well as health system capacity, even prior to COVID-19, is different from Singapore. Please take note of that when we do our analysis,” the DOH said.

It pointed out that as of Saturday, Singapore had 43,246 coronavirus cases and a population of 5.9 million compared with the Philippines’ 34,803 cases and population of 109 million.

“Per 1 million people, Singapore has [more cases, 7,393] compared with the Philippines’ 318 cases per 1 million [people],” the DOH said.

As of Sunday, the Philippines had 35,455 infections, including 653 newly reported cases. Of the new cases, 485 were fresh cases, or patients who tested positive for the new coronavirus in the past three days, and 168 were late cases, or patients who tested positive four days ago or earlier.

Of the fresh cases, 245 were from Metro Manila, 120 from Central Visayas, 112 spread across the country, and eight were repatriated overseas workers.

Of the late cases, 111 were from Metro Manila, 11 from Central Visayas, 25 from different parts of the country, and 21 were repatriates. —With a report from Tina G. Santos

**NATION**

# Sotto urges IATF health protocols review

Published 1 day ago on June 29, 2020 03:30 AM

By [Hananeel Bordey](#)



The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) should review the country's health protocols after World Health Organization (WHO) data showed that the Philippines has the fastest rise in cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the Western Pacific Region.

This was the suggestion of Senate President Vicente Sotto III, who urged the Department of Health (DoH), the lead agency of the IATF, to look into their response against the spread of the virus.

"IATF must address the health protocols and programs being done by the DoH. Something is very wrong!" Sotto said.

Senate Committee on Health Chairman Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go pointed out that strict enforcement of quarantine measures and the public's compliance is very crucial while the vaccine and anti-COVID-19 medicines are not available.

He asked the IATF to intensify the government's Test, Trace, Treat strategy as COVID-19 cases are increasing.

"If we will follow the guidelines and if we continue to cooperate to prevent the spread of the disease, if we can improve our health facilities and capabilities, then we can determine when we are going to overcome and end the crisis brought by COVID-19," Go said.

"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. Among others, we need to immediately pass the Bayanihan to Recover as One bill," he added.

Go also urged the Executive Department to find ways to fund the programs needed to respond to the spread of the disease and help the Filipinos suffering from the economic effects of the pandemic.

For Sen. Francis Pangilinan, the WHO data showed that the Philippines has the worst situation in the Western Pacific Region — an indication that the government implements a failed response against the pandemic.

"It's such a shame to our neighbor countries but it is more embarrassing to our fellow Filipinos, the nurses and med techs, those who sacrifice their lives to control the disease, and all those who followed the often confusing guidelines (of the government)," he said in a statement.

Pangilinan reiterated his call to conduct mass testing and contact tracing in the country which he noted as something that cannot be done through police and military approaches.

“Lockdown, mass testing, and contact tracing should be done simultaneously.... Taking care [of our people] is the most essential thing that any government should do in times of pandemic. Let us take care of the welfare of everyone, especially the most vulnerable, those who have nothing,” he pointed out.

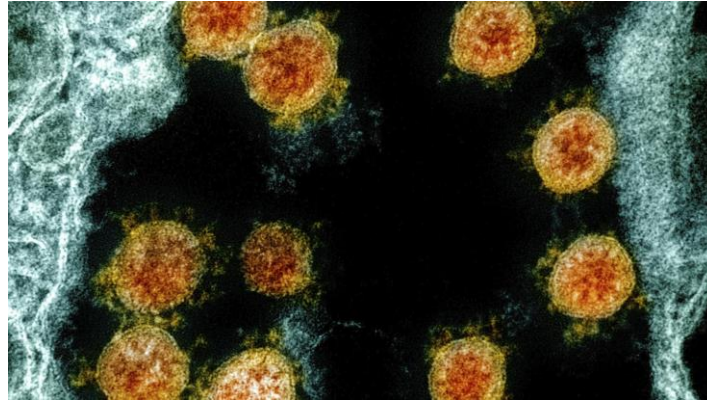
Since 16 June, data from the WHO has shown that the Philippines has recorded 8,143 cases which is the highest number among the 22 countries in the Western Pacific region.

The Philippines was followed by Singapore with only 2,351 reported cases since 16 June and China with only 302 cases.

# Phl COVID cases now at 36,438

Published 13 hours ago on June 29, 2020 05:20 PM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#)



The Department of Health (DoH) reported 985 additional cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Monday, raising the nationwide total to 36,438.

In its latest bulletin, the DoH logged 643 “fresh” and 342 “late” cases, majority of which were in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Central Visayas.

The fresh cases were composed of 223 infections from Metro Manila, 106 from Central Visayas and 314 from other regions.

Meanwhile, the 342 late cases were composed of 96 infections from NCR, 29 from Central Visayas, and 217 from other regions.

The DoH also reported that the number of recoveries increased to 9,956 after the health department saw 270 additional survivors, while the death toll rose to 1,255 after 11 more patients died.

So far, the country ranks third behind Indonesia and Singapore with the highest number of infections in Southeast Asia, while it ranks second behind its Indonesian neighbor in terms of total number of deaths.

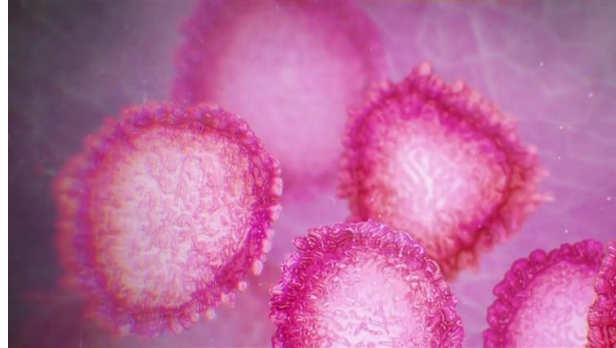
President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to announce the adjustments in quarantine measures tomorrow.

The number of infections went beyond a thousand twice last week with a peak of 1,150 on Tuesday and 1,006 on Friday.

# 70k 'corona' cases by July

Published 6 hours ago on June 30, 2020 12:07 AM

By [Gabbie Parlade](#)



A still steady rise in COVID-19 cases in the Philippines is seen to peak at 60,000 to 70,000 by the end of July, OCTA Research — composed mostly of experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) — said on Monday.

The new coronavirus cases are still consistently upward, said Dr. Guido David of the University of the Philippines Institute of Mathematics, attributing the rise or “R-naught” to the shift to more relaxed protocols.

He said that if the R-naught is more than one, it means a faster spread of the pandemic.

“Our R-naught now is at 1.28 in the whole Philippines. As long as it is more than one, it means that the pandemic is still spreading,” he stated.

David emphasized that the goal of decreasing the R-naught should be sustained in various areas nationwide.

“There are areas that are less than one (R-naught), but it doesn’t last long — usually only about two days,” he said. “But if it’s greater like in Cebu where its R-naught reached two, then it decreased again by 1.8 and still decreasing, that means there is a fast-paced spread of the virus,” he said.

David disclosed that the group had asked to extend the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) when after some experts saw an initial flattening of the virus curve.

“We wanted to extend for a little bit. Because instead of initially enduring just two more weeks of ECQ, we opened our economy and we are suffering longer with the pandemic,” he said.

This has put much weight on the country’s hospital resources, especially in high-risk areas like Cebu, the group said.

The Department of Health (DoH) had announced that the hospital utilization rate of Cebu City is already nearing its critical level. Hospitals and health professionals in the area are now struggling to cater to all the patients.

“We’re concerned about our hospital resource utilization because NCR (National Capital Region) now has 50 percent utilization. So they’re still not full, but in Cebu it is increasing with their occupancy now at 70 percent. It means the beds are almost full,” he said.

David also emphasized that only about three percent of asymptomatic cases are being reported compared to other countries with 40 percent as experts fear that more cases remain undetected.

“It could be possible that many are asymptomatic but have not been detected because we haven’t tested them yet. As what I understand with DoH protocol, due to limited testing only those with symptoms are tested first,” he said.



Estimates reveal that about 8,000 additional asymptomatic cases are still unreported. If added to the tally, these will increase the data by 30 percent.

“They (asymptomatic) won’t ask for any tests because they are not aware about their cases. That’s riskier since our estimate is that there are around 8,000 additional cases scattered and whom we don’t know are asymptomatic,” he added.

He, however, cited a few good points in their projection, like the minimal increase in projected fatalities by only about a hundred and the increase of hospital recoveries.

“There are a few good indicators that even if we reach 60,000 (cases), our projected death total is at 1,300 only. So it seems like only about 100 will be added,” he said.

The expert suggested to increase the testing capacity in order to conduct randomized testing among the population. More workers should also be tested.

Latest data from the DoH says the nationwide number of cases is now at over 35,000 with recoveries at 9,686 and a death toll of 1,244.

# 61% of coronavirus cases in C. Visayas 'active': DOH-7

By John Rey Saavedra June 29, 2020, 10:04 pm



**RECOVERIES.** Two patients who have recovered from Covid-19 at a patient care center inside the Sacred Heart School old campus in Cebu City pose with the healthcare front-liners before their discharge on Saturday (June 27, 2020). Mayor Edgardo Labella said 22 other patients reported to have also fully recovered were released on Saturday from the Cebu City Quarantine Center (CCQC). *(Photo courtesy of Mayor Edgardo Labella)*

**CEBU CITY** – At least 61 percent of the total number of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases in Central Visayas are considered “active cases”, the Department of Health (DOH)-Region 7 said.

In a Covid-19 case bulletin, the DOH-7 said 5,044 or 61 percent of the 8,230 confirmed cases are active cases being monitored in patient care centers and hospitals in the region due to coronavirus infections. Also recorded are 2,924 total recoveries and 262 deaths.

Of the 8,230 confirmed cases in the region, Cebu City still has the highest number of infections at 5,794. However, out of this number, only 57 percent or 3,278 patients have active coronavirus in their system.

The neighboring cities of Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu have 748 and 567, respectively. Mandaue has 508 active cases and Lapu-Lapu, 436.

Of the four provinces in the Central Visayas region, Cebu province (except highly urbanized cities) has the highest number of registered Covid-19 cases at 1,054, but 74 percent or 783 patients are considered to be active cases in 44 towns and six component cities.

In Bohol, at least 71 percent or 25 of the 35 total confirmed cases are considered to be active infections.

In Negros Oriental, about half or 14 cases of the 32 are still active cases, the DOH-7 said.

To date, Siquijor remains a Covid-19-free province.

The total number of confirmed cases went up in the region after the health agency registered 442 new patients tested positive of coronavirus and 59 additional reported recoveries from five local government units, as of 5 p.m. of Sunday.

Dr. Jaime Bernadas, DOH-7 regional director, said 45 percent of the new confirmed Covid-19 cases in the region are from this city with 197, followed by the Cebu province with 102 cases, Lapu-Lapu City with 99, Mandaue City with 38.

The provinces of Negros Oriental and Bohol have four and two new cases, respectively.

At least 81 percent or 2,359 patients who have recovered from the deadly disease are from Cebu City, 225 from Mandaue City, 203 from Cebu province (except highly urbanized cities), and 112 from Lapu-Lapu City.

Negros Oriental registered 16 recoveries out of the 32 infections while Bohol nine out of 35 cases.

Of the 59 new recoveries reported as of Sunday, 33 are from this city, 16 from Cebu province (except highly urbanized cities), four from Mandaue City, and three from Lapu-Lapu City. No new recovery was recorded in Negros Oriental but three patients have recovered in Bohol.

Cebu City topped the region's fatality record of 252 at 157, followed by the Cebu province, minus highly urbanized cities, with 68 while the cities of Lapu-Lapu and Mandaue have 19 and 15 deaths, respectively.

Negros Oriental and Bohol have two and one deaths, respectively, due to Covid-19.

On Sunday, three were recorded as additional fatalities-one from this city and two from the province. **(PNA)**

# Bong Go nilinaw kaibahan ng Hatid Tulong, Balik Probinsya

June 29, 2020

People's Tonight



**DAHIL sa nangyayaring kalituhan, nilinaw ni Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go ang pagkakaiba ng "Hatid Tulong" initiatives at ng "Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa" (BP2) program ng pamahalaan.**

"Ito pong Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program, pinirmahan na po ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte 'yung EO nito (creating a council) composed of more than seventeen departments. Meron po itong short-term at long-term. 'Yung short-term, papauwiin sa probinsya, bibigyan ng tulong, pangkabuhayan, trabaho," ayon kay Go.

"'Yung long-term naman, paplanuhin ang probinsyang uuwian nila na bibigyan ng insentibo 'yung mga negosyo para doon na mag-invest, para kung may negosyo roon, meron silang trabaho. Ito po 'yung Balik Probinsya," ang paglilinaw ng senador.

Ayon kay Go, ang BP2 program ay suspendido sa kasalukuyan para bigyang daan ang "Hatid Tulong" initiatives na nag-aasiste sa mga stranded overseas Filipino workers at locally stranded individuals (LSIs).

"Sa kasalukuyan, suspendido po ito (BP2). Dahil inatasan ni Pangulong Duterte ang gobyerno na iuwi muna ang mga stranded tulad ng OFWs. Ayaw naman nating mag-mix itong dalawa," paliwanag niya.

Nilinaw ni Go na ang BP2 program ay para sa mga taga- Metro Manila na gustong mag-relocate sa kanilang mga probinsya pagkatapos ng krisis.

Nakasaad aniya sa EO 114 na may long-term at whole-of-nation approach ito na ang layunin ay i-decongest ang Metro Manila at mapabilis ang pag-unlad ng iba't ibang parte ng bansa.

Iba naman ang "Hatid Tulong" initiatives na para sa mga OFWs, LSIs at iba pang apektadong Pilipino na naipit dahil sa community quarantine measures at kailangang matulungang makauwi sa kanilang probinsya.

Ibabalik lamang ng gobyerno ang implementasyon ng BP2 program kapag handa na ang local government units na tanggapin ang mga benepisyaryo nito.

"Babalikan po natin ito kapag pwede nang mag-rollout at maaasikaso na ng LGUs ang lahat (ng nais bumalik)," ani Go.

Bong Go nilinaw kaibahan ng hatid Tulong, Balik

June 30, 2020

TITLE: Probinsya

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DATE

Iginiit naman ng mambabatas sa executive branch na magsagawa ng masusing rebyu sa implementasyon ng "Hatid Tulong".

"Since Hatid Tulong is a directive from the President, it is important to make sure that proper health and safety protocols are in place in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Proper coordination must also be conducted to make sure that receiving LGUs are willing and ready to accept their constituents," ani Go.

Umapela rin siya sa Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Emerging Infectious Diseases na imbestigahan ang unauthorized travels at unsanctioned initiatives na ginagawa ng ilang LGUs at grupo na hindi nakasusunod sa health protocols.

"Dapat higpitan dahil delikado makahawa ito. Unahin natin ang kalusugan ng bawat Pilipino. Kahit niluwagan na ang community quarantine measures sa ilang lugar, higpitan pa rin po natin ang mga patakaran na kaugnay ng pagbyahe patungo sa mga probinsya para maiwasan ang lalong pagkalat ng sakit," ayon sa senador.

# Red Cross rushes Cebu City labs

Published 6 hours ago on June 30, 2020 12:05 AM

By [Michelle R. Guillang](#)



The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) will rush the start of a new COVID-19 laboratory in Cebu which is now the new epicenter of the virus.

Four polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines, two RNA extractor machines and other equipment have been delivered on Friday via a Philippine Air Force C-130 craft.

PRC chairman and Senator Richard Gordon, the architect of the plan to put up COVID-19 testing laboratories in the country, said the endeavor will bring people back to their sources of income and jump-start the declining economy.

Preventing the spread of COVID-19 will remain the priority.

“In the Philippine Red Cross, our goal is to have everyone tested so we can separate the people who are sick from the people who are not sick so they won’t contaminate,” Gordon said.

The new PRC lab in Mandaue City, northeastern part of Cebu, will be added to the three existing accredited laboratories in the city and increase the city’s daily testing capacity to 4,000 more.

PRC Cebu chapter administrator Atty. Maria Vera de Jesus said that the laboratory staff members including the medical technologists, pathologies, laboratory manager, and encoders have already completed their training.

“If we pass the proficiency test, then we’re good to go,” De Jesus said.

Specimen samples coming from the local government units and private companies, mostly business establishments, will be tested here.

“In fact, many private companies have already signed up for the testing. We will also accommodate samples from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and travel agencies,” the chapter administrator disclosed.

De Jesus shared that mass testing in barangays with reported high COVID-19 cases was done as early in April in Cebu.

The humanitarian group also sent 14 medical tents to solve the overcapacity and be able to accommodate more patients in Cebu hospitals.

Gordon said the tents will allow the medical health workers to attend to patients suffering from non-COVID-19 illnesses.

Because of the urgent response needed to control the COVID-19 cases, individuals dealing with other deadly diseases like cancer and tuberculosis and those undergoing dialysis sessions sometimes get less prioritized.

About 200 cadaver bags were provided as well to address the reported COVID-19 mortalities.

In addition, the PRC Cebu chapter conducts online art therapy under its psychosocial support program, De Jesus said.

This caters to patients aged 8 to 17 years old staying in isolation areas who are provided with drawing kits that they can use while the therapy is ongoing.

National Action Plan against COVID-19 deputy chief implementer Vince Dizon cited the PRC for stepping up at the time when the country had a very low testing capacity.

“A very difficult challenge: hundreds of thousands of our countrymen and women returning from abroad which obviously posed a very great risk. During this time there was no laboratory that could take in the kind of volume that we had to go through. It was only the Philippine Red Cross that took on this challenge,” Dizon said.

# Rural doctors buck transfer to Cebu City

posted June 30, 2020 at 01:20 am

by [Willie Casas](#)

Physicians working in the Doctors to the Barrios (DTTB) program on Sunday denounced a Department of Health (DOH) plan to transfer them from their assigned rural municipalities in Central and Western Visayas to private hospitals in Cebu City, where the COVID-19 pandemic is raging.

Rural health physicians in those regions were told on June 26 they would be pulled out of their respective municipalities to report for duty in unspecified private hospitals in Cebu City as part of the government's COVID-19 response. Those from Western Visayas were to report for work in Cebu from June 30 to Sept. 5, while those from Central Visayas were expected to report from June 26 to July 30.

This order was only supported by a request letter addressed to the Undersecretary of Health for Field Implementation and Coordination Team (FICT) for Visayas and Mindanao and an unsigned advanced copy of an Office Order, respectively.

"We, the Doctors to the Barrios Batches 36-ALAB and 37-MANDALA strongly condemn this directive because: 1) the involved doctors have not been suitably informed through writing, 2) no proper consultation with the stakeholders was done prior to this directive, 3) detailed guidelines and protocols to protect the doctors in this temporary reassignment are not provided, and 4) it contradicts the thrust of the DTTB Program," said the group in a statement posted on Facebook.

The absence of proper communication to justify the temporary reassignment of rural health physicians serving in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas to serve in private hospitals in Cebu City is a clear violation of the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, they said.

As the reassignment also involves the Doctors to the Barrios and the local government units that they serve, it is only appropriate to conduct proper consultation with all stakeholders before the directive was issued, they said. "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. There is complete disregard [of] the concerns of the doctors and the local chief executives," the group said.

"And in the absence of such consultation, the Department of Health fails to provide clear protocols to safeguard and protect the Doctors to the Barrios who will temporarily render service in private hospitals. No clear information regarding the DTTB's 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. No proof of agreement between private institutions and the DOH were made available for discussion among all parties involved," they said.

"Lastly, lest we forget, the Doctors to the Barrios Program of the Department of Health was created in 1993, primarily, to address the need for doctors in rural communities, especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. Removing a DTTB from a municipality, albeit temporarily, will deprive health care to thousands of Filipinos in already marginalized communities. If we further clip the already short human resources for health in GIDAs, we perpetuate the existing inequities in access to health care that the DTTB program wishes to address," the group said.

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.

"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 doctor-less during their assignment," she said in a statement.

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 cluster of infection in 13 barangays in Cebu City.

Cebu City is also the only area nationwide that is under the stringent enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), which was reimposed by Malacañang on June 15.



In a TV interview, Vergeire said the redeployment of doctors who volunteered to serve in rural areas to Cebu City would definitely push through because of the public health emergency there.

She said the temporary assignment is not new as DTTBs have been temporarily redeployed in the past under similar emergency situations such as the Marawi siege and the Super Typhoon Yolanda response.

She said a pre-deployment orientation will be conducted and the DTTBs will be provided roundtrip transportation, statutory allowances, actual hazard duty pay, accommodations, and other incidental expenses during their deployment period in Cebu City, including post-deployment quarantine.

But the Kabataan Party-list threw its support behind the Doctors to the Barrios, calling the DOH order exploitative. "Instead of ordering the transfer of DTTBs, DOH must step up its massive emergency hiring of health personnel with proper compensation, protection, and security of tenure to encourage our health workers to apply, and to effectively combat COVID-19 and ensure health for all," Kabataan Party-list Rep. Sarah Elago said in a statement. A multi-sector group on the COVID-19 response also criticized the DOH, saying the redeployment was "highly irregular and contentious."

"We need to hire more doctors, not just re-assign those already serving underserved areas," the Citizens' Urgent Response to End COVID-19 said.

"Pulling out doctors from these areas will disenfranchise patients who equally need care. As one doctor puts it, they are also facing an important battle in our own front, looking after non-COVID and COVID patients alike including those who are going home because of the untimely Balik Probinsya Program," the group said.

Cebu City on Sunday reported an increase of 131 new cases of COVID-19, bringing total infections there to 4,962. The Cebu City Health Department (CHD) said total recoveries rose to 2,596, with 157 more patients recovering from the disease.

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 Filipino Nurses United – Cebu chapter on Monday appealed to government officials to urgently address the severe problem of overworked nurses in the city's hospitals which are struggling with the overflow of COVID-19 patients.

The FNU called for the mass hiring of nurses with minimum entry salary of P32,000, just benefits including hazard pay, adequate personal protective equipment (PPEs), and safe nurse to patient ratio as necessary solutions to solve the severe understaffing of nurses in the hospitals.

The Cebu Medical Society, in a statement early last week, raised concerns over the city's "exhausted and overwhelmed health system." It said hospitals were undermanned, essential medical equipment were scarce, while doctors and nurses were getting sick or exhausted. Since hospital beds for COVID-19 patients in Cebu City were full, many patients were waiting in the emergency room while others were refused admission. There were also doctors, nurses and other hospital staff who were on quarantine, compounding the shortage of medical personnel.

In related developments:

\* Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said violators of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Cebu City will be immediately arrested as the area is emerging as the new epicenter of COVID-19 in the country as new infections surpass those in the National Capital Region. He also said he would issue a show cause order against barangay officials who were involved in a Sinulog street dance and procession that drew a crowd in one of the city's hotspots. "We will not tolerate any violation of our quarantine protocols. Those responsible will be made to account," Año said.

\* Data from the DOH showed the positivity rate for COVID-19 tests in Central Visayas almost doubled last week, from 18.2 percent on June 18 to 33 percent on June 27. The rate measures the percentage of those tested who are found to be positive for COVID-19.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/327364>

# Cebu fiesta, motocross event break quarantine rules

Published 17 hours ago on June 29, 2020 01:08 PM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



Police aborted a motocross event in Consolacion, Cebu, for violation of quarantine protocols and absence of permits. (Photo: LGU Consolacion Facebook)

A village chair and an events organizer in Cebu City are facing charges for violation of quarantine protocols while a motocross event in the Municipality of Consolacion did not push through after police received complaints regarding physical distancing.

Brig. Gen. Albert Ignatius Ferro, Regional Director of Police Regional Office-7, said cases have been filed against Barangay Basak San Nicolas Captain Norman Navarro, event organizer Nicolas Tabar and 13 others for violating mass gathering rules.

Tabar organized a Sinulog parade dance for their fiesta celebration in Sitio Alumnos in Basak San Nicolas on Saturday night. Residents went out the streets and disregarded physical distancing.

Navarro denied involvement in the activities but admitted Tabar asked permission for the event.

Ferro said the gathering was a failure on the part of barangay officials to enforce enhanced community quarantine protocols.

“We should pray often but we should also do our part in this time of pandemic. like staying at home,” Ferro said.

Basak San Nicolas is one of 12 barangays in Cebu City identified as COVID hotspots. As of 29 June, it has 118 confirmed cases with 82 active, 45 recoveries and 11 deaths.

Over at Tabogon town, 53 men were caught in Sitio Esi, Barangay Kal-anan gathered for an illegal cockfight (tigbakay).

In Barangay Pulpogan in Consolacion, police stopped a motocross event even before gunstart when they received complaints about the gathering. It was later revealed the event did not have a permit.

Consolacion Mayor Joannes Alegado said the organizer, identified as Richard Latos, has been declared a persona non grata and is perpetually banned from holding events in their town.

In Barangay Pasil in Cebu City, people were also seen huddled close to each other while receiving their water rations.

As of Sunday, 28 June 2020, Cebu City has a total of 4,962 coronavirus disease 2019 cases, 2,210 of which are active ones. There have been 2,596 recoveries and 156 deaths so far.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/29/cebu-fiesta-motocross-event-break-quarantine-rules/>

# MGA BANSANG KASAPI SA ASEAN NAGKAISA PARA LABANAN ANG COVID-19

written by Judith Estrada-Larino June 29, 2020



Nagkaisa ang mga bansang kasapi ng Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) na paigtingin pa ang economic integration.

Ito ay para mapabilis ang pagbangon ng ekonomiya ng mga bansa sa timog silangang Asya sa gitna na rin ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque na hindi lang mas magandang supply chain ang mabubuo kundi mas mapapabilis pa ang pag-recover sa ekonomiya kung kapit bisig at magkakaisa sa pagbangon ang ASEAN countries.

Mayroon na rin aniyang mga tratado ang ASEAN countries para sa mga manggagawa na isa sa mga magiging sandalan ng ekonomiya.

Ipinabatid pa ni Roque na inilunsad na rin ng ASEAN ang ASEAN COVID-19 fund na ang pangunahing layunin ay labanan ang COVID-19.

Nakabuo na rin ng consensus ang ASEAN heads of state na dapat magkaisa sa paghanap o pag-develop ng bakuna para matiyak na hindi lamang mayayamang mga bansa ang makikinabang kundi ang lahat.



## **BASAGIN ANG ABNORMAL NA NEW NORMAL**

June 29, 2020 @ 11:12 AM

Maraming nagaganap sa new normal na sitwasyon ng mahal kong Pinas.

'Yun bang === maraming abnormal na nangyayari.

Tingnan natin, mga Bro.

### **TRANSPORTASYON**

May mga bukas nang ruta para sa mga pampublikong sasakyan na pangmaramihan.

Klaro ito sa mga bus, modern jeep at uv express, maliban sa mga lumang jeepney, bagama't may mga lumang jeepney na pinapayagan na sa mga hangganan ng mga munisipyo.

Ang mga bus na galing sa mga lalawigan sa paligid ng Metro Manila, hindi na basta makadiretso ang mga ito sa dati nilang biyahe.

Sampol ang ilang galing sa Bulacan na dating nakabibiyahang hanggang Cubao.

Ngayon, hanggang Monumento na lang sila.

Doble sakay na ang mga pasahero at doble pamasahang pa.

Ang problema, walang nagtataas ng sahod na kompanya.

Ang maraming kompanya pa nga, nagbabawas ng mga trabahador kung hindi man nagsasara.

Itong mga lumang jeep naman, may mga special permit na nakuha ang iba.

Pero nang bumiyahang sila, biglang tumigil dahil sa social distancing at walang umento sa pasahero.

Sa social distancing, ang siyaman kung tawagin o katumbas ng 18 pasahero sa loob at dalawa sa harap ay siyam na pasahero na lang ang pupwede at abnormal ang bilang ng mga pumaparang pasahero na pumipigil sa kanila na magsakay, halimbawa, kung pares-pares ang mga pasahero.

Kung nagsakay naman sila nang sobra, ang mga pulis sa checkpoint naman ang pumapara sa kanila at pinabababa ang mga pasaherong sobra.

Eh paano iiwanan, halimbawa, ng senior citizen ang kanyang apo dahil sa sumobrang pasahero o ang misis ng kanyang mister?

## RAPID TEST

Magkano ba talaga ang rapid test na isinasagawa para sa mga obrero o empleyado?

Para sa mga local government unit, lalo na sa Metro Manila, hindi problema ang para sa kanilang mga pasok na empleyado.

Libre, 'di ba, Mayor Kois ng Maynila?

Pero sa labas ng Metro Manila at lalo na sa hanay ng pribadong sektor, mapapalundag ka sa gulat.

Ang kumakalat na balita, kung sa Philippine General Hospital ka magpa-rapid test, mura lang, P600.

Pero sa iba?

May nagsasabing P1,500-P2,000 ang pinakamura.

Kung datihan ka sa isang kompanya, malamang na pasok ka sa kautusan ni Labor Department Secretary Manong Silvestre Bello III na papasanin ng mga kompanya ang rapid test mo.

Pero kung aplikante ka at tinanggap ka ng kompanya, ikaw mismo ang magpapa-rapid test sa mga ospital malapit sa iyo.

Kasi naman, kasama na ang rapid test result sa isusumite mong mga dokumento para makapasok ka.

Hindi na pupwede ang mga ordinaryong sertipikasyon ng doktor na nagsasabing "fit to work."

## ANTI-PNEUMONIA VACCINE

Magkano ba talaga ang bakuna laban sa pneumonia?

Malaking katanungan ito ngayon sa marami sa atin dahil gusto nating magpabakuna laban sa sakit na ito na kung tawagin ay pulmonya.

Anak ng tokwa, itong sakit kasi na ito ang isa sa mga sinasakyan ng coronavirus disease-19 para pumatay.

Sakit sa baga ang pulmonya at kung pinasok ang baga ng COVID-19, magdasal-dasal ka na kung hindi ka makahinga.

Magdasal-dasal na pupunta ka sa langit kung tutuluyan ka ng COVID-19 o kaya'y gagaling.

Lumilitaw kasing may mga pribadong doktor na naniningil ng P1,000 sa bawat shot at kailangan pang marami ang magpaturok para hindi naman daw sila malugi.

Kinukuha umano ang suplay ng bakuna sa Maynila kaya nagmamahal.

Maalala nating may kampanya noon pa na humiling na gawing \$5 o P250 ang bawat shot dahil sobrang maningil ang mga kompanya ng gamot sa pagbebenta ng \$45 para sa isang shot.

Sa \$45 na presyo, lumalabas na bilyon-bilyong dolyar ang kita ng mga kompanya ng gamot.

Para sa DOH, magkano ba talaga ang halaga ng isang shot ng anti-pneumonia vaccine na dapat singilin ng mga doktor o ospital?

Lumalabas kasing madalas na walang sapat na suplay ang mga barangay health center kung maramihan ang pagbabakuna sa mga bata at senior citizen.

Ang pinairal ngayon, mga Bro, sa mga barangay ay ito: "walang reseta, walang bakuna!"

Kung hindi nila gagawin ito, tiyak umanong kulang na kulang ang bakuna.

## **FACE MASK**

Itong face mask ang puno ng abnormalidad.

Kauna-unahan ang pagsirit ng presyo mula sa P1 kada piraso sa P25 bawat isa para sa surgical mask at mula P60-P80 sa mahigit P1,000 ang N95.

Dahil sa mahal na face mask, heto ngayon at gumawa na ng sariling face mask ang mga mamamayan habang ang mga mananahi ay gumawa na at may presyo ang mga ito mula P25 bawat piraso hanggang P70 kung personalized o may design gaya ng mukha ng magsusuot nito.

Heto pa ang isang abnormal, mga Bro.

Medyo nagkakaroon na nga ng suplay ng surgical mask pero may ilang brand sa mga ito ang napakakati kung isuot.

Tiyak na magpapadoktor ka naman kung magtatagal ang pagsuot mo dahil sa kati at ang pinakamurang konsultasyon ngayon sa doktor ay P500.

Bale P1,000 ang madidisgrasya sa bulsa mo sa P500 na isang karton na surgical mask at P500 para sa consultation fee.

Ang mismong mga health worker sa barangay ay napipilitang magsuot ng homemade na washable na face mask dahil sa mahal.

Heto naman ang isang problema sa homemade na face mask na mura.

Kung huminga ka palabas o exhale, okey.

Pero kapag huminga ng papasok o inhale, anak ng tokwa, papasok sa butas ng ilong ang tela.

Kailan at paano kaya babalik sa totoong normal ang mga abnormal sa new normal ngayon?

## **BASAGIN ANG ABNORMAL**

Kabilang sa mahalalagang hakbang ng pamahalaan upang mabasag ang abnormal sa new normal ang pagsali nito sa mga clinical trial sa paggamot sa mga maysakit sa pamamagitan ng paglapat ng mga posibleng gamot at tamang pamamaraan.

Umaasa ang pamahalaan na madidiskubre ang saktong bakuna laban sa COVID-19 sa pamamagitan ng mga clinical trial.

Kasama rin ang paglalapat ng tamang community quarantine batay sa mga sitwasyong pangkalusugan.

May mga pagkilos din upang hanapin at panagutin sa batas ang mga sangkot sa overpricing ng mga gamot, face mask at iba pang uri ng personal protective equipment.

Ang mga pagbabago sa sistema sa transportasyon ay paraan din para makontrol ang sakit at abnormal na kalagayan dito para muling sisigla ang ekonomiya ng Pilipinas at buhay ng mga Filipino.

Sa ating hanay bilang mamamayan, ano-ano naman ang pupwede nating maitulong upang mapagtagumpayan nating basagin ang mga abnormal sa new normal?

# Waiting for vaccine or herd immunity?

[POSTSCRIPT](#) - [Federico D. Pascual Jr.](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 30, 2020 - 12:00am

How many lives are we willing to lose to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) to achieve “herd immunity” which sets in when a large number (50-67 percent) of patients left standing have developed resistance from their exposure to the virus?

By that time, those who were high-risk because their immune systems were weak and could not fight back on their own have died. But the remaining members of the herd would have gained immunity and a better chance of surviving as the virus petered out.

The body exposed to a virus makes antibodies to fight back. When it recovers, it keeps the antibodies to repel a new attack. Two years after the 2015 Zika virus outbreak in Brazil, an estimated 63 percent of the population had had the exposure that gave them immunity.

As of Sunday, the COVID-19 pandemic had infected more than 10.3 million people worldwide, killing at least 504,000. Spikes were noted where officials were tempting the fates with their politicized actions and disregard of accepted quarantine rules.

Our local COVID-19 scoreboard showed 35,455 cases as of Sunday, 653 of them new infections, and 1,244 total deaths, eight of them reported that day. It was not clear if the apparent rise in cases was due to better testing or the relaxation of quarantine protocols.

To answer our question in the head, nobody is waiting for herd immunity to set in.

While sending his generals and “civilians in white gowns” to fight the contagion, President Duterte looks more like he is anxiously waiting for an anti-COVID vaccine to be developed by friends. It may be a long wait, however, with experts saying it could take about a year.

The Department of Health said on Friday, meanwhile, that doctors may send home patients who do not show COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days. The advice was based on what the DOH said were medical studies and scientific articles.

This protocol jibes with the World Health Organization’s criteria announced June 17 for discharging asymptomatic patients without requiring testing 10 days after being diagnosed positive for COVID-19.

## • COVID recovery chances have improved

WE share below encouraging COVID-19 notes of our brod Ernie Salas posted on the Pinoy '55 chat site.

In the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there is a greater chance of survival for those getting infected now, in June, than those who got it earlier in February. Doctors and scientists know more about COVID-19 now than four months ago and hence are able to treat patients better.

These are some of the important things that we know now that we did not know in February:

1. COVID-19 was initially thought to cause deaths due to pneumonia, a lung infection, and so ventilators were used to treat patients who could not breathe. Now we are realizing that the virus causes clots in the blood vessels of the lungs and other parts of the body, causing reduced oxygenation.

Now we know that just providing oxygen by ventilators will not help but that we have to prevent and dissolve the micro clots in the lungs. This is why we are using drugs like Aspirin and Heparin (blood thinners that prevent clotting) as a protocol in treatment regimens now.



2. Patients used to drop dead on the way to the hospital due to reduced oxygen in their blood – oxygen saturation. This was because of Happy Hypoxia (more properly called “silent hypoxia”) where even though the oxygen saturation was gradually reducing, the patient did not have symptoms until it became critically less like sometimes even 70 percent.

Normally we become breathless if oxygen saturation drops below 90 percent. This breathlessness is not triggered in COVID patients and so we were getting the patients very late to the hospitals in February. Now since knowing about Happy Hypoxia we are monitoring oxygen saturation of all COVID patients with a simple home-use pulse oximeter and getting them to the hospital if their oxygen saturation drops to 93 percent or lower. This gives more time for doctors to correct the oxygen deficiency in the blood and a better survival chance.

3. We did not have drugs to fight the coronavirus in February. We were only treating the complications caused by it... hypoxia. Hence most patients became severely infected. Now we have two important medicines – Favipiravir and Remdesivir – which are antivirals that can kill the coronavirus.

By using these two medicines we can prevent patients from becoming severely infected and therefore cure them before they go to hypoxia. This knowledge we have this June, not in February.

4. Many COVID-19 patients die not just because of the virus but also because of their own immune system responding in an exaggerated manner called Cytokine Storm. This stormy strong immune response not only kills the virus but also kills the patient.

In February we did not know how to prevent this. Now we know that easily available medicines called Steroids, that doctors around the world have been using for almost 80 years, can be used to prevent the Cytokine Storm in some patients.

5. Now we also know that people with hypoxia became better just by making them lie down on their belly, in prone position. Apart from this, a few days ago Israeli scientists discovered that a chemical known as Alpha Defensin produced by the patient’s white blood cells can cause the micro clots in blood vessels of the lungs and that this could possibly be prevented by a drug called Colchicine used over many decades in the treatment of gout.

Going forward, there’s nothing to panic about COVID-19 if we remember that a person who gets infected later has a better chance at survival than one who got infected much earlier.

\* \* \*

Nota Bene: All Postscripts are archived at [manilamail.com](http://manilamail.com). Author is on Twitter as [@FDPascual](https://twitter.com/FDPascual). Feedback can be emailed to [fdp333@yahoo.com](mailto:fdp333@yahoo.com)

# Gov't workers reminded to file SALN as CSC extends deadline

By Marita Moaje June 29, 2020, 4:38 pm



CSC Commissioner Aileen Lizada

**MANILA** – Civil Service Commission (CSC) Commissioner Aileen Lizada on Monday reminded government officials and employees to file their Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) after the commission extended its filing anew to August 31 due to voluminous requests.

“We have received several requests to extend the filing of SALN, considering that the declaration of the national calamity came within the month of March and the deadline po ay April, so in the interest po of the (public), for fairness, we are extending the filing of the SALN, instead of June 30 *na-extend na po ito* (this is extended) another 60 days to August 31 for the official and employees to file to their respective HR,” Lizada said in an interview.

Memorandum Circular No. 13, s. 2020, dated June 22, issued by CSC Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala states that SALNs “may be filed either through electronic files or physical files, but not a combination of both”.

Online oath-taking of the SALNs shall also be allowed between the administering officer and the declarant through an electronic meeting using “communication technology”.

The memorandum added that “online filing or transmission of a duly executed SALN shall be allowed,” subject to guidelines, and that “submission of electronic SALNs shall be deemed substantial compliance for the year 2020”.

Meanwhile, Lizada said that the transmittal “for the respective government agency to the corresponding repository agency”, was also extended “from August to October, another 60 days”.

The memorandum states that for the CSC, “the submission of electronic SALNs may be made by transmitting the USB flash drive or CD with the CSCFO (CSC Field Office) or CSCRO (CSC Regional Office) having jurisdiction over them. The CSCFO or CSCRO will then transmit the same to the CSC CO (CSC Central Office)”.

The new extension and other guidelines imposed by the CSC are in compliance with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19). **(PNA)**



## Deadline sa paghahain ng SALN, pinalawig ng CSC

June 29, 2020 @ 6:30 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinalawig ng Civil Service Commission (CSC) hanggang Agosto 31 ang paghahain ng Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) ng mga opisyal at kawani ng pamahalaan.

“We have received several requests to extend the filing of SALN, considering that the declaration of the national calamity came within the month of March and the deadline po ay April, so in the interest po of the (public), for fairness, we are extending the filing of the SALN, instead of June 30 na-extend na po ito another 60 days to August 31 for the official and employees to file to their respective HR,” ayon kay CSC Commissioner Aileen Lizada.

Nakasaad sa Memorandum Circular No. 13, s. 2020, na inilabas ni CSC Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala na ang mga SALN “may be filed either through electronic files or physical files, but not a combination of both”.

Papayagan din ang online oath-taking ng mga SALN sa pagitan ng administering officer at declarant sa pamamagitan ng electronic meeting gamit ang “communication technology”.

Dagdag pa sa memorandum na “online filing or transmission of a duly executed SALN shall be allowed,” subject to guidelines, and that “submission of electronic SALNs shall be deemed substantial compliance for the year 2020”.

Samantala, sinabi ni Lizada na ang transmittal “for the respective government agency to the corresponding repository agency”, was also extended “from August to October, another 60 days”.

Ayon sa nakasaad sa memorandum, para sa CSC, “the submission of electronic SALNs may be made by transmitting the USB flash drive or CD with the CSCFO (CSC Field Office) or CSCRO (CSC Regional Office) having jurisdiction over them. The CSCFO or CSCRO will then transmit the same to the CSC CO (CSC Central Office)”. **RNT/MM**

Source: <https://remate.ph/deadline-sa-paghahain-ng-saln-pinalawig-ng-csc/>

# No disconnection until August — Meralco

Published 15 hours ago on June 29, 2020 04:01 PM

By [Maria Romero](#)



MERALCO said the June bill was higher as it will reflect the customers' actual consumption during the four months of the lockdown period.

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco), the country's biggest distribution utility, on Monday said it will not issue disconnection notices until the end of August to provide economic relief to customers.

In a virtual briefing, Meralco spokesperson Joe Zaldarriaga said they are also looking at extending the moratorium on disconnection after August to help their clients recover from the pandemic.

"We will not issue any disconnection notice until the end of August. The notices might come out by the first week of September but we are studying if it can be extended further," Zaldarriaga said.

He reiterated that there is a payment plan of four to six months for the four unpaid bills incurred during the quarantine period depending on the customers' electricity consumption.

In the same press briefing, Meralco Head of Commercial Operations Agnes R. Macob clarified that the June bill was higher as it will reflect the customers' actual consumption during the four months of the lockdown period.

Meralco had billed customers based on average consumption from December to February because meter reading could not be done in March and April due to the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon that was aimed at preventing the spread of the new coronavirus.

Averaging the consumption was upon the orders of regulators, who said the difference with actual consumption would be settled in future bills.

Macob noted that around 2.8 million customers representing 40 percent of its customer base have yet to receive their bills during the quarantine period this June as the utility restarted reading their meters with the easing of lockdown measures.

She said those who already received their bills in May can settle their unpaid dues starting mid-June, while those who are yet to be billed this month will start paying their installment bills on 15 July.

# KKR acquiring stake in First Gen

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 29 2020 05:04 PM | Updated as of Jun 29 2020 05:50 PM



A First Gen Corp natural gas plant is shown in this photo from the company's website. *Handout photo*

MANILA – Global investment firm KKR said Monday it is acquiring 11.9 percent stake of independent power producer First Gen Corp.

KKR, through Valorous Asia Holdings an entity owned by its investment funds, will pay P22.50 per share to buy 427,041,291 million shares in First Gen on July 1, representing a total investment of P9.6 billion or \$192.2 million.

First Gen, which is one of the Philippines' largest power firms, produces renewable energy through its geothermal, hydroelectric, wind and solar power plants and uses indigenous fuel sources such as natural gas.

It is a subsidiary of First Philippine Holdings Corp, which is controlled by the Lopez family.

David Luboff, Partner and Head of Asia Pacific Infrastructure at KKR, said the company was "thrilled to make this infrastructure investment in the Philippines in First Gen."

"We have long viewed First Gen as an exceptional business with a high-caliber leadership team, and we have great respect for the Lopez family for building this strong, well-established company. This is an exciting and further milestone for KKR's Asia Pacific infrastructure business, and we are pleased to have this opportunity to be an investor in First Gen able to positively engage with the company's management team and the Lopez family as helpful in the future," Luboff said.

Federico Lopez, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of First Gen, said, the power firm welcomes "the news of KKR's successful tender for First Gen shares."

"It's especially exciting given the accelerating transition we all need to make toward a decarbonized future and we look forward to engaging with a world class global investor, such as KKR, as we navigate the journey ahead as partners," Lopez said.

First Gen has 3,492 megawatts of installed capacity in its portfolio, which accounted for 21 percent of the Philippines' gross power generation in 2019, the company said.

KKR had earlier invested in [Metro Pacific Hospitals](#) and in [Voyager Innovations](#).

Shares of First Gen rose 1.78 percent to close at P22.90 on Monday.

news. abs-cbn.com is the general news website of ABS-CBN Corp, which is part of the Lopez Group of Companies.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/06/29/20/kkr-acquiring-stake-in-first-gen?fbclid=IwAR3h9rFRyBMudRnWjShkZeO\\_3W9OAIpN7DjQy1ywP\\_trcVzYEjdTrwIXeY](https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/06/29/20/kkr-acquiring-stake-in-first-gen?fbclid=IwAR3h9rFRyBMudRnWjShkZeO_3W9OAIpN7DjQy1ywP_trcVzYEjdTrwIXeY)

## 20 VOLCANIC EARTHQUAKE SA BULKANG KANLAON NAITALA

written by Judith Estrada-Larino June 29, 2020



20 volcanic earthquake ang naitala sa Kanlaon Volcano sa nakalipas na magdamag.

Ayon sa volcano bulletin ng PHIVOLCS nakapagtala rin ng moderate emission ng kulay puting steam laden plumes mula sa crater ng bulkan na ang taas ay umabot ng hanggang 300 metro.

June 26 nang magbuga ang bulkang kanlaon ng sulfur dioxide na nasa average na 116 tones kada araw.

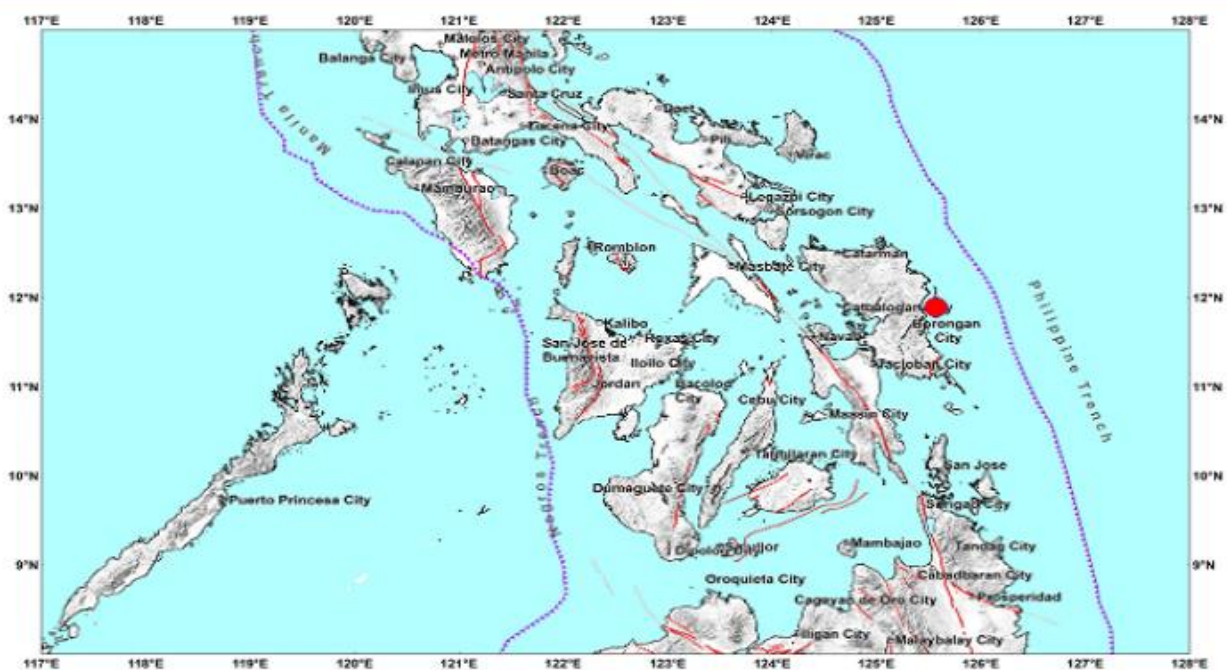
Nananatili naman sa alert level 1 ang Bulkang Kanlaon na nangangahulugang hindi pa rin normal ang kondisyon nito.

Ipinaalala ng PHIVOLCS sa lokal na pamahalaan na hindi pa rin uubrang makapasok sa 4 kilometer radius permanent danger zone ng nasabing bulkan.

# San Julian, Eastern Samar niyanig ng magnitude 3.5 na lindol

By Mary Rose Cabrales June 29, 2020 - 11:32 AM

<b>Date/Time</b>	: 29 Jun 2020 - 10:20:36 AM
<b>Location</b>	: 11.88°N, 125.57°E - 019 km N 41° E of San Julian (Eastern Samar)
<b>Depth of Focus (Km)</b>	: 015
<b>Origin</b>	: TECTONIC
<b>Magnitude</b>	: Ms 3.5



**Reported Intensities** : Intensity III - San Julian and Borongan, Eastern Samar  
Intensity II -Sulat, Eastern Samar

Niyanig ng magnitude 3.5 na lindol ang lalawigan ng Eastern Samar.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, naitala ang pagyanig sa 19 kilometers northeast ng bayan ng San Julian, alas-10:20 umaga ng Lunes (June 29).

May lalim na 15 kilometers at tectonic ang origin ng pagyanig.

Naitala ang sumusunod na intensities:

Intensity III – San Julian and Borongan, Eastern Samar  
Intensity II -Sulat, Eastern Samar

Hindi naman ito inaasahang magdudulot ng pinsala at aftershocks.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/251305/san-julian-eastern-samar-niyanig-ng-magnitude-3-2-na-lindol>

# Panda gifted by China gives birth to second cub in Taiwan

Published June 29, 2020, 3:59 PM

By *Agence France-Presse*

A giant panda gifted by China to Taiwan has given birth to a second female cub after being artificially inseminated, Taipei Zoo announced Monday.



The unnamed cub was born on Sunday, the zoo said. (AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

Yuan Yuan and her partner Tuan Tuan have been top attractions since arriving from China in 2008 as a symbol of what were then warm relations between the two sides.

The unnamed cub, weighing 186 grammes, was born on Sunday after a five-hour labour, the zoo said. "We were hoping the mother could look after the cub. But Yuan Yuan was probably very tired from the birth... so after evaluation we decided to remove the cub" to be fed by caretakers, the zoo said in a statement.

It added that the newborn cub was in stable condition after being treated for a minor injury to its back. Yuan Yuan gave birth to a daughter Yuan Zai in 2013 — the first giant panda born in Taiwan. Beijing usually only loans its pandas, and any progeny must be sent to China.

But in a rare departure from that protocol, Taiwan was allowed to keep Yuan Zai as her parents were a gift, according to Taipei officials.

China's decision to give Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan to Taiwan was a symbolic gesture when the self-ruled island was run by a Beijing-friendly Kuomintang administration.

"Tuanyuan" — a combination of the Chinese characters of the pandas' names — means "reunion" or "unity".

The pair's arrival sparked a panda mania on the island, especially after Yuan Zai's birth.

Taiwan and China have been ruled separately since the end of a civil war in 1949 and Beijing has vowed to one day bring the island back into the fold, by force if necessary.

Since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen — who views Taiwan as a de facto sovereign state and not part of "One China" — Beijing has ramped up military, economic and diplomatic pressure.

Fewer than 1,600 pandas remain in the wild, mainly in Sichuan province, with about 300 in captivity around the world.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/29/panda-gifted-by-china-gives-birth-to-second-cub-in-taiwan/>



Experience of a lifetime: 2 months 'layover' in Arctic

June 30, 2020

TITLE: Circle due to COVID-19

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# Experience of a lifetime: 2 months 'layover' in Arctic Circle due to COVID-19

[Viet Nam News/Asia News Network](#) / 12:14 PM June 29, 2020



Hoàng Lê Giang learns how to drive a snowmobile to herd the reindeer with Sami people. Photo courtesy of Hoàng Lê Giang via Viet Nam News/Asia News Network

HANOI — The outbreak of the novel coronavirus pandemic forced Hoàng Lê Giang to stay in Kautokeino village and Soroya Island in Norway, one of the northernmost places on Earth.

Spending two months more than he planned for a trip to the Arctic Circle turned out to be the experience of a lifetime, with so many memories of the affection and kindness of local people during times that were trying for all and which thoroughly changed his view on life.

“I have never stayed in someone else’s house for more than three or four days, but this time I stayed with new friends in a faraway land for a couple of months,” he recalled.

“Nils Sara, the head of the family, treated me as one of his own and watched out for me. He made sure I tried new things while there, like eating freshly caught trout and smoked reindeer.”



Nils Sara, the head of the Sami family, offers Giang to live with his family when he got stranded in Kautokeino Village. Photo courtesy of Hoàng Lê Giang via Viet Nam News/Asia News Network

A man of adventure, 32-year-old Giang left HCM City on February 22, bound for Mongolia and the city of Olgii in its west, where eagle hunters live.

He was put into quarantine after flying from the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar to Olgii, however, as another passenger onboard was returning from South Korea and others had a high temperature.

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His initial plan was to return to Vietnam when his period of quarantine ended and then head to Norway, to escort a group of clients to the Arctic Circle to see the Aurora Borealis, experience life with reindeer herders, and have some fun dog sledding.

But people returning to Vietnam had to be quarantined for 14 days, which didn't appeal to Giang at all. So, he decided to travel from Mongolia through Russia and onwards, reaching Kautokeino village, near the city of Alta, in Norway on March 9.

He planned to follow the Sami people until March 17 and then visit his old school in Sweden before returning to Vietnam at the end of the month.

Then international flights came to a standstill, and he found himself stranded in a faraway land thousands of miles from home.

What occupied his mind at first were his ever-dwindling finances in a country where the cost of living is particularly high, with the uncertainty of when he may leave added to the mix.

It was also cold, with night-time temperatures dropping to -20 degrees Celsius at times.

Though alone and stranded, good fortune came his way in Kautokeino, as a family of Sami people invited him to stay with them in their wooden cabin in the mountains.

There was no electricity, water, or phone signal, so he had to adapt to new living conditions.

"No two days were the same," he remembers. "One day may be spent relaxing and listening to music, or riding snowmobiles to check on the reindeer, or driving for hours in the mist ferrying equipment and gasoline somewhere. We may head out to cut firewood or to fix one of the snowmobiles. On other days we stayed indoors eating reindeer stew waiting for a storm to pass."

Every two weeks or so he would go to the nearby town to buy food and other necessities, and make a call home to let his family know he was still okay.

As the end of winter approached and spring neared, the Sami people moved their reindeer from the mainland to the islands and Giang followed them to Soroya, one of the most beautiful islands in Norway.

There he witnessed days of spring without sunsets, enjoyed the freshest of air, and explored the stunning natural scenery in a place he now thinks of as heaven.



A photo of the aurora appears on the Arctic sky taken by Hoàng Lê Giang. Photo courtesy of Hoàng Lê Giang via Viet Nam News/Asia News Network

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“Everything was so memorable, from the beautiful aurora I saw at the winter cabin to the migration of reindeer to the island, and all of the trips back and forth on snowmobiles, surviving in the wilderness,” he said.

“The weather was harsh, but the natural surroundings were like being in a fairytale. Best of all, though, was the kindness of my hosts.”

After he was interviewed on national TV – as a Vietnamese stranded in the Arctic Circle herding reindeer was a novelty in Norway – many people also offered to help. Acquaintances he had met just once in the country didn't hesitate to invite him to stay with them if he encountered any trouble whatsoever.

On his first day on the island, an elderly neighbor brought him noodles, vermicelli, oyster sauce, and some other Asian food, as she was worried he felt homesick.

“Nils's mother knitted a pair of woolen socks and mittens for me, and he gave me a Sami knife as a token of our friendship,” he remembered fondly.

### Heading home



When the winter was coming to an end, the Sami people moved their reindeer from the mainland to the Soroya Island for spring. Photo courtesy of Hoàng Lê Giang via Viet Nam News/Asia News Network During his days stranded in Norway he contacted the Embassy of Vietnam in the country as well as in Germany, France, Sweden, and Portugal, where many Vietnamese lived, thinking his chances of getting back home were higher.

As soon as there was a flight to Vietnam from Frankfurt, he asked for an official letter from the embassy to get to Germany and fly out.

“The flight back home was quite expensive,” he said.

After five legs in total, he arrived in Vietnam on May 16 and was placed in quarantine in Đà Nẵng for 14 days.

He felt lucky to be home, to continue with his work and spare his family any further concern. But he yearns to once again catch cod with his Sami friends, who have kept in touch since he left the Arctic Circle.

“Be calm, contact the embassy, and make the most of your time in the country where you find yourself,” was Giang's advice to anyone in a similar situation to his.

“It was definitely the experience of a lifetime. I learned so much about life, kindness, and culture in Norway. I will be back there as soon as I can.”

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1299006/experience-of-a-lifetime-2-months-layover-in-arctic-circle-due-to-covid-19>

# Crowds pack Arizona river as US posts record COVID-19 cases for 3 days running

Lisa Shumaker, Reuters

Posted at Jun 29 2020 01:08 PM | Updated as of Jun 29 2020 01:18 PM



People go tubing on Salt River amid the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Arizona, US, June 27, 2020. *Cheney Orr, Reuters*

Hot and sunny weather in Arizona led to crowds tubing on at least one river this weekend as that state and a dozen others face the worst surge in coronavirus cases since the pandemic started.

Temperatures were expected to rise to over 100 Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) on Sunday along the Salt River east of Phoenix. On Saturday, dozens of people climbed into inflatable inner tubes with coolers and took to the water to escape the heat. Very few wore masks.

Texas shuttered tubing and rafting business on Friday and some beaches in Florida are closing again ahead of next weekend's Fourth of July holiday to try to curb the rising outbreak in those states.

The surge in COVID-19 cases has been most pronounced in a handful of Southern and Western states that reopened earlier and more aggressively, despite warnings by health officials to wait to see a steady decline in cases.

For a third consecutive day on Saturday, the number of confirmed US cases rose by more than 40,000, one of the largest surges in the world. In Arizona, cases have risen by 250 percent so far in June and have set record daily increases seven times.

Even in states where cases have been declining for weeks, outbreaks are happening. One bar in East Lansing, Michigan has been linked to more than 76 cases, according to the Ingham County Health Department. That number is likely to rise, officials cautioned.

Just a day after he sounded a note of optimism about the U.S. response to the pandemic and said the country was in "a much better place," Vice President Mike Pence canceled events to campaign for Republican President Donald Trump's re-election in Florida and Arizona due to the outbreak, campaign officials said on Saturday.

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, has criticized the administration's response to the pandemic that has killed more than 125,000 Americans. She told ABC News on Sunday that mandating the use of masks across the country was long overdue.

Global coronavirus cases exceeded 10 million on Sunday according to a Reuters tally, marking a major milestone in the spread of the respiratory disease that has so far killed almost half a million people in seven months.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/06/29/20/crowds-pack-arizona-river-as-us-posts-record-covid-cases-for-3-days-running?fbclid=IwAR3zPXG4G71TQbMJ1xjab0b5oEy0Bn4XkZ9579nPcUpBjalnUm9IfL-Jtp0>

# Greece launches virus questionnaire for tourists

Published 11 hours ago on June 29, 2020 07:57 PM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



The measure is to clear up some confusion for arriving tourists. (AFP)

Tourists travelling to Greece will be required from Wednesday to complete an online questionnaire 48 hours in advance to determine whether they need to be tested for coronavirus on arrival.

Over the weekend the Greek government ended random testing of travelers according to their country of origin, which had confused tourists who did not know whether they should spend a night in a hotel to be tested after landing in Athens and Thessaloniki, or go directly into quarantine.

Greece, which has a relatively low coronavirus death toll at 191, has launched a promotional campaign to revive tourism — which accounts for a quarter of its gross domestic product — and hopes to reassure potential travelers as well as Greeks who fear a resurgence of the pandemic with the return of tourists.

Under the new protocol, travelers are given scannable bar codes after they fill out a questionnaire with personal details such as their country of origin and the countries they have traveled through in the last 15 days.

The questionnaire is mandatory until August 31.

Bar codes will be scanned from printed paper or mobile devices at ports of arrival, which will determine whether travelers will be directed to the exit or to a screening area.

Those who are tested will be told to isolate at the address provided on the questionnaire while waiting for the results.

The new protocol “is most likely to be able to detect the majority of imported cases”, Dimitris Paraskevis, a member of the health ministry’s expert committee, told Skai TV.

All airports in the country will reopen to international flights by Wednesday and the ports of Patras and Igoumenista will again receive ferries from Italy, while other ports will be reopened to cruise ships.

# Chinese coronavirus vaccine approved for military use

Published 9 hours ago on June 29, 2020 10:00 PM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



China's Central Military Commission approved the use of the vaccine on June 25, for one year. (c&en image)

BEIJING, China — China's military has approved a coronavirus vaccine for use within its ranks that has been developed by its research unit and a biotech firm, the company said Monday. Organizations around the world are racing to find ways to treat and prevent the deadly pathogen, which first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan and has since killed over half a million people worldwide.

More than half of 17 candidate vaccines identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) that are in clinical evaluation involve Chinese companies or institutes.

Hong Kong-listed CanSino Biologics said in a filing to the stock exchange that data from clinical trials showed the Chinese military vaccine had a "good safety profile" and potential to prevent disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

CanSino said Monday that China's Central Military Commission approved the use of the vaccine on June 25, for one year.

The vaccine was jointly developed by CanSino and the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology, part of the Academy of Military Medical Sciences.

Its use cannot be expanded without further approvals, the listing said.

It was not clear how widely it would be used within China's enormous military forces, and the ministry of defence did not reply to an AFP request for further information.

CanSino added that it cannot guarantee the vaccine — which had its phase one and two clinical trials done in China — will ultimately be commercialised.

Another 131 candidate vaccines listed by the WHO are in the pre-clinical phase.

None have yet been approved for commercial use against the coronavirus.

According to medical journal The Lancet there have already been more than 1,000 clinical trials on dozens of pharmaceutical treatments for the virus but no totally effective medical intervention has been found.

*p: wjg*

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/29/chinese-coronavirus-vaccine-approved-for-military-use/>