



## Cimatu wants Cebu City to remain under ECQ amid rise in COVID-19 cases

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By LLANESCA T. PANTI, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/744763/cimatu-wants-cebu-city-to-remain-under-ecq-amid-rise-in-covid-19-cases/story/>

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the official tasked to oversee Cebu City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has recommended that the city remain under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) after June 30.

“We have to maintain the quarantine level [in Cebu City]. Iyan ang recommendation ko kasi we need to stop the bleeding,” Cimatu, who is in Cebu City, told ANC in an interview Tuesday.

Cebu City is the lone Philippine city under ECQ due to the COVID-19 crisis, with its neighboring city of Talisay under modified ECQ. Under ECQ, mass transport, non-essential work and mass gathering are prohibited.

“Tumataas ang COVID-19 cases, tumataas ang number of deaths. Pinakamalaki nung isang araw, 13 deaths. Saka sa NCR (National Capital Region), 18 out of 100 lang na na-swab test ang positive. Dito, lampas 30%,” Cimatu said of Cebu City.

President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to announce new quarantine protocols for the country within the day.

A retired military general, Cimatu said he traced the spike of COVID-19 cases in Cebu City to poor compliance to ECQ protocols by the residents and the lack of policemen to enforce the quarantine.

Though the residents eventually complied with the protocols, Cimatu said the arrival of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and stranded individuals from Metro Manila overwhelmed the city's quarantine facilities, resulting in more COVID-19 infections.

"Evident reason talaga [ng pagtaas] iyong pagpunta ng OFWs kasi ginawa itong transit area, saka iyong mga [arrival ng] stranded [individuals] from Manila," Cimatu said, adding this prompted officials to use existing facilities to use as isolation areas.

To address this, Cimatu said bigger quarantine facilities will be established to prevent barangays from using its facilities as isolation areas.

“We have to stop this, kaya iyong isolation facility ilalayo natin sa barangays,” he said.



## Cimatu wants Cebu City to remain under ECQ amid rise in COVID-19 cases

At present, 12 barangays in Cebu City are under hard lockdown. Residents in the affected communities will get food ration from the government to prevent them from going out to buy necessities.

Likewise, Cimatu said that the government has also deployed 32 medical personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines to boost the manpower of government hospitals in Cebu City amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“They arrived last Sunday, using C-130 plane. Their team leader is a female major who is a doctor,” Cimatu said.

“Ang instructions namin, tumulong sila sa government hospitals. Sa private hospitals, we are talking with the business sector para masubsidize ang kanilang incentive na hazard pay,” he added. —KBK, GMA News



## ECQ should continue in Cebu City — Cimatú

By: Cathrine Gonzales - Reporter / @cgonzalesINQ

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<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1299435/ecq-should-continue-in-cebu-city-cimatu>



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatú. INQUIRER file photo / LYN RILLON

MANILA, Philippines — The implementation of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) should continue in Cebu City due to continued rise in confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the area, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú said on Tuesday.

“We’ll have to maintain itong [this] quarantine level here,” Cimatú, who was appointed COVID-19 point person in Cebu City by President Rodrigo Duterte, said over ABS-CBN News Channel when asked about his recommendation for the quarantine measures in the city.

“It’s bleeding now. Tumataas nang tumataas ang cases, tumataas din ang number of deaths,” he said.

(It’s bleeding now. The number of cases is increasing as well as the number of deaths.)

The official noted that Cebu City logged 13 additional fatalities due to the respiratory illness just on Monday, which he said is even higher than the average number of daily recorded fatalities in the country at 10 to 12 deaths.



## ECQ should continue in Cebu City — Cimatú

“So compared to the average for the NCR [National Capital Region] and all of the Philippines versus Cebu, mas malaki pa nga ata ang nangyayari sa Cebu,” he said.

(Compared to the average number of deaths in Metro Manila and all of the Philippines, it seems that the situation here in Cebu is even worse.)

Cimatú said he also recommended to the national government the improvement of health facilities in Cebu City, including the setting up of additional hospital rooms and conversion of large facilities into quarantine sites.

The quarantine setup in Cebu City was earlier reverted to the stricter ECQ from June 16 until June 30.

President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to announce new community quarantine measures in the country later on Tuesday.

On Monday, the Cebu City Health Department logged 191 new COVID-19 cases—a new record-high in its daily reporting of additional patients—bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the city to 5,141.

The number of patients who have recovered is now at 2,713, while the death toll was recorded at 169.

A day before the scheduled lapse of ECQ in Cebu City, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said in a television interview that the city is “more likely” the new epicenter of COVID-19 in the country.

National Task Force against COVID-19 chief implementer Carlito Galvez, Jr. later said the city is currently the “main focal point” of the disease in the Philippines.



## Cimatu wants Cebu City to remain under ECQ

Christina Mendez

July 1, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/07/01/2024754/cimatu-wants-cebu-city-remain-under-ecq>

MANILA, Philippines — Cebu City should remain under the strictest enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases – including deaths – have risen sharply in the city, according to the official sent there by President Duterte to oversee the government’s response to the health crisis.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu made the recommendation as he expressed alarm over the sharp rise in the number of fatalities from about six to 13 on Monday. He said the cases were mostly in the densely populated barangays in Cebu City.

As this developed, the Department of Health (DOH) clarified that the redeployment of some Doctors to the Barrios (DTTB) to Cebu City would be on a voluntary basis.

The DOH’s announcement came after a group of physicians denounced what it called an “exploitative order” to reassign the doctors.

“So right now, we will continue the ECQ because to them, this is just a start. Because they did not impose any strict rules when the first ECQ was imposed. Now, we have deployed additional forces, additional police, so we now already have some sense of compliance,” he said.

“We have to maintain the quarantine level here (Cebu City). That’s my recommendation because we need to stop the bleeding,” Cimatu told ANC in an interview.

Most of the cases in Cebu City, Cimatu said, originated from 12 barangays, which he did not identify.

“So, there is an upward trend in the number of deaths and the number of cases – 1,500 cases already for the city of Cebu alone, compared to our highest there in NCR, which is almost double,” Cimatu said.

“So we need to contain this disease before we relax the ECQ,” he said. He said if it’s already possible to ease the quarantine, there should be lockdown in the 12 most affected barangays.

Cebu City is the only Philippine city under ECQ. Neighboring Talisay City is under modified ECQ.

Under ECQ, mass transport, non-essential work and mass gatherings are prohibited.

DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said an earlier plan to redeploy some doctors to the barrios was meant to help Cebu City in its battle with COVID-19.



## Cimatu wants Cebu City to remain under ECQ

“The move of DOH to deploy DTTB (is) because we are trying to exhaust our resources ... Many issues came out. When we had our meeting, it was decided to make it voluntary for now,” she said at a press briefing.

“We had a talk with the doctors and many of them refused. It is quite disheartening because we are now in public health emergency and I hope the commitment of our government workers are there,” she added

On Monday, the DTTB Batches 36 and 37 raised opposition to the reassignment of doctors currently in Western Visayas and Central Visayas to Cebu City.

The doctors claimed the “abrupt exploitative order” of the DOH to put them in private hospitals in Cebu City is simply unacceptable.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros also questioned the DOH’s earlier announcement to redeploy DTTB doctors.

Vergeire said the DTTB doctors would be assigned to government hospitals and possibly private hospitals.

She assured them they would not be assigned in specialized units like operating rooms.

“We are still finalizing the units where they will be assigned to. But of course, we won’t assign them to do the operations... Possibly in the triage areas, in the outpatient department,” she added.

Meanwhile, Senate President Vicente Sotto III suggested yesterday that the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) include a Cebuano in its group in Cebu City to speed up the implementation of lockdown protocols in the province.

“I have to be very blunt about it, we Cebuanos are like that, if the one sent there to issue orders is from Manila, eyebrows would be raised. But if the person is from there (Cebu), they will accept whatever policies that should be implemented there. That is only my opinion,” Sotto told reporters via videoconference.

Sotto’s father hails from Cebu.

He said Cimatu should be accompanied by somebody from Cebu as a “counterpart” from the province. He suggested former councilor Erik Espina, who is also a general in the Army reserve force.

He said that while most Cebuanos follow health protocols, there are a “few thousands who are stubborn, they’re the ones causing problems.” Sheila Crisostomo, Paolo Romero, Cecille Suerte-Felipe, and Rhodina Villanueva





## Cimatu wants Cebu City to remain under ECQ

By CNN Philippines Staff

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<https://cnnphilippines.com/regional/2020/6/30/Roy-Cimatu-Cebu-City-remain-under-ECQ-status.html>



FILE PHOTO

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 30) — Cebu City should remain under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) until COVID-19 cases are contained in the area, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said on Tuesday.

Cimatu, who leads government efforts to fight the coronavirus in the city, also recommended that the lockdown in barangays with high cases be maintained.

"We have to contain cases bago luwagan ang ECQ. Then kung naluwagan ang ECQ, i-concentrate na dito sa lockdown, yung granular na tinatawag natin," he said during a virtual briefing in Malacanang.

[Translation: We have to contain the cases first before easing the ECQ. When the ECQ is relaxed, we can concentrate on areas under lockdown, under what we call granular lockdown.]

Out of 80 barangays in the city, 12 are currently registering high numbers of COVID-19 cases, according to Cimatu. These barangays were placed under hard lockdown and are currently being closely monitored by authorities.

In an interview with CNN Philippines' News.PH on Thursday, Cimatu also bared his plans to tighten preventive measures in the said areas.

"Kung pwede, 'yung ibang mga tao na lang from the barangays ang magdadala ng kanilang ration, mga pagkain, ilagay lang doon sa harapan ng kanilang bahay. Kukunin na lang ng mga tao doon para hindi na sila mamamalengke, hindi na sila pupunta outside of their residence," he said.

[Translation: If possible, other people from the barangays will deliver their ration, their food, in front of their houses. Residents would just have to get the commodities there so they wouldn't have to go to the market or leave their homes.]



## Cimatu wants Cebu City to remain under ECQ

"Ganyan ang pinaplano ko para hindi mag-spread nang mabilis dito," he continued.

[Translation: That's what I'm planning to prevent the spread of the virus here.]

Cimatu has described the statistics as "very alarming," noting that the average number of deaths in Cebu City had been increasing. On Monday alone, 13 deaths were recorded. Of 100 people tested, 30 would turn up positive.

"Pataas 'yung mga namamatay, including cases for Cebu City lang. We have to contain muna ito," Cimatu stressed.

[Translation: Deaths are rising, including cases for Cebu City alone. We have to contain this first.]

Meanwhile, Dr. Tony Leachon, who formerly served as Special Adviser to the National Task Force on COVID-19, said Tuesday the surge of COVID-19 cases in Cebu City could have been avoided.

"When we went to Cebu, the data that I got from the regional director from region 7 is quite far from the data that we got from the doctors, from the medical community, and this is a big problem considering you cannot anticipate problems if the data would not be transparent, open and straight-forward," Leachon said in a media briefing.

"If let's say the data management and transparency were there, and the medical community were apprised together with the political leaders, then we would not right now have an ECQ in Cebu," he added.

Cimatu also said he was thinking of relocating some isolation facilities that are too close to communities. He warned that administrative charges would be filed against local officials who violate quarantine rules.

Fourteen people are facing criminal charges for holding a religious parade in Sitio Alumnos in Barangay Basak San Nicolas — considered a COVID-19 hotspot with at least 90 confirmed cases.

Cebu province, three other areas seek reclassification of quarantine status

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Cebu and and three other provinces are seeking reclassification of their quarantine status.

The local government of Bulacan and Cagayan are reportedly among those who made the appeal. Roque did not identify the provinces, saying only that the majority wanted to have tighter quarantine restrictions.

Two weeks ago, President Rodrigo Duterte placed Cebu City back to ECQ status from the more relaxed general community quarantine due to a spike in cases.

Cimatu attributed the surge to overcrowding in barangays and the return of people stranded in Metro Manila who may have already been infected by the virus.





# Cimatu recommends retaining ECQ status of Cebu City

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By Noreen Jazul

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/30/cimatu-recommends-retaining-ecq-status-of-cebu-city/>

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu said he has recommended to President Duterte for Cebu City to remain under the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).



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

“We have to maintain the quarantine level here,” Cimatu, head of Region 7 COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID), told ANC on Tuesday.

“Kung sa first aid ito, stop the bleeding because it is bleeding now (If this is first aid, what we have to do is stop the bleeding first, because it is bleeding now),” Cimatu added.

Cimatu said he also requested for additional rooms in hospitals, additional quarantine stations for Cebu City, and is eyeing to convert large spaces in the city into isolation facilities like what the government did in Metro Manila.

The DENR chief said part of his recommendation is to send additional health workers in the city.

“If we can have 30 percent more of what we have here,” Cimatu said.

Cimatu also defended the deployment of more military personnel in the city, saying it helped in terms of manning checkpoints and preventing residents from going out of their homes.

“The intention naman talaga (really) is not to actually show force. It’s a way of preventing them from going outside,” Cimatu said.



## Cebu total lockdown next?

July 1, 2020 12:07 AM

By Elmer N. Manuel @tribunephil\_Imer

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/01/cebu-total-lockdown-next/>



Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu on Tuesday gave a hint of Cebu City's fate hours before President Rodrigo Duterte was to announce his next step for the new COVID-19 epicenter: A total lockdown.

The Chief Executive was to face the public via a televised speech after submitting his 14th report under the Bayanihan Law on Tuesday night.

But Cimatu, the President's troubleshooter in Cebu City, disclosed his recommendation to put the Queen City under the strictest lockdown level as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in the region.

Cimatu, the President's pandemic response leader in the area, cited the city as having the highest new coronavirus tally in the country,

It has 4,639 cases on Monday, 987 of which were recorded in the last 14 days, according to the Department of Health (DoH).

It also listed 13 deaths due to the respiratory disease, its highest single-day COVID-19 fatality count. Cimatu noted that the national fatality rate is only at 10 to 12 deaths per day.

He stressed that he would also keep a "hard lockdown" in 12 barangays with the most COVID-19 cases. He does not see a quick improvement on their situations.

Cebu City cases spiked two weeks ago when the restrictions were eased. The arrival of repatriated migrant workers and locally stranded individuals were also blamed for the new spread.



## Cebu total lockdown next?

This led to the President's decision to revert the city to an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

"These travelers used Cebu as a transit area," said Cimatu, noting that the respiratory disease also spread in some of the barangay isolation facilities. He stated that such operations will be stopped and their patients transferred to quarantine centers.

"Many residents also violated quarantine protocols," Cimatu said. "Additional police and soldiers were deployed to Cebu City to help man checkpoints and prevent residents with no official business from going out of their homes."

"The intention really is not actually a show of force. Because of what we have done here in the lockdown, I'm expecting that we will reduce, stop this bleeding," he added.

The DENR chief disclosed that 32 military doctors and some 40 doctors who volunteered for assignment in rural areas were also transferred to Cebu City to help its healthcare system fight the virus.

He also added that private hospitals require their personnel to go on a two-week quarantine after each week of duty. But it reduces the workforce.

"There really is a shortage of personnel because they are on rotation. They are overworked, overburdened," Cimatu said.

The region's COVID response chief noted that the DoH will hire more medical frontliners for the city and disclosed that he was also talking the business sector to provide hazard pay to nurses, the lack of which "demoralizes" them.

The city will also increase hospital rooms and quarantine sites for COVID-19 patients and replicate Metro Manila's conversion of coliseums into isolation facilities, he added.

Cimatu also disclosed the transfer of isolation centers from the barangays to other areas to prevent further transmissions.

"In their anticipation to stop the increase of cases, they put up isolation centers in their barangays. They used schools as isolation centers, and that's how the virus started to spread among themselves, within the barangay," Cimatu said. "That's what happened, so we're going to stop this."

"I have to transfer the isolation structures outside of their respective barangays. They need to be moved farther," he added.



## Cebu total lockdown next?

The Region 7 IATF chief noted that as of 30 June, 12 barangays in Cebu City have been placed under hard lockdown — Basak San Nicolas, Sambag Dos, Kamputhaw, Sambag Uno, Mabolo, Guadalupe, Lahug, Duljo, Tinago, Tisa, Ermita and Tejero.

He added that the 12 barangays have a “special” quarantine classification.

“Unless there will be dramatic improvements in the 12 barangays, all of them will still be placed under hard lockdown even if the quarantine classification in the whole of Cebu City will be lowered,” Cimatú said.



## Cimatu: Keep Cebu City under ECQ

By Jocelyn Montemayor

July 1, 2020

[https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_news/cimatu-keep-cebu-city-under-ecq/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_news/cimatu-keep-cebu-city-under-ecq/)

CEBU City should remain under strict enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) as severe and critical cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including deaths, continue to rise.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who oversees the national government's campaign against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Cebu City, made this recommendation to the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) after a week of observing the Cebu City pandemic situation.

Cimatu, also known as the Cebu COVID -19 Crisis chief, has also recommended maintaining a strict lockdown in 12 barangays in the city where high numbers of COVID-19 cases had been recorded.

“So ito ngayon ang aking ano, i-continue natin ang ECQ because to them, umpisa pa lang ito eh. Kasi noong una na na-announce iyong increase, itong ECQ ay hindi kaagad na naipatupad (So this is my recommendation: to continue the ECQ because to them, this has just started. When the ECQ was announced, it was not immediately implemented),” he said.

He said Cebu City residents only started complying with stay-at-home orders when additional police and military forces were deployed to Cebu City to ensure strict compliance to lockdown rules.

Cimatu said as of June 29, Cebu City saw acceleration in COVID-19 related deaths from six last week to 13 on Tuesday. He said there are also 1,500 active cases in the city.

DOH records show that Cebu City has a cumulative number of 4,639 cases as of June 29. It logged 987 cases over the last 14 days.

“So ito ngayon ang nakikita ko, that we have to ano muna ito, contain muna ito bago luwagan natin itong ECQ. Then kung naluwagan na natin ang ECQ, i-concentrate na natin dito sa lockdown, iyong granular na tawag namin na doon lang, naka-focus lang dito sa 12 na barangay. So iyan lang muna ang aking pinaplano (So this is what I see, we have to contain the rise in cases first before we downgrade from ECQ. When we ease from the ECQ, we will then concentrate on the lockdown, focus it on 12. That is my plan),” Cimatu said.





## Cimatu: Keep Cebu City under ECQ

He added that there is also a need to increase the critical care capacity of the city through an increase in the number of healthcare workers like doctors and nurses, whether in public or private hospitals; increase bed capacity allocated for COVID-19 patients, and put up bigger isolation and quarantine facilities by converting gyms or putting up facilities in areas far from populated barangay or communities.

Cimatu said among the reasons for the increase of COVID-19 cases in the city is the use of the city as transient point for returning overseas Filipino workers and locally stranded persons, the setting up of community quarantines in the middle of populated barangays and the non-compliance of local residents, including local leaders, to medical protocols and minimum health standards.

He cited the case of barangay officials from Basak San Nicholas in Cebu City that held a religious procession despite the prevailing ECQ in the city. He said administrative charges had been filed against the barangay officials led by its barangay captain.

President Duterte, in his 14th report to Congress, said Cebu City has been declared as a “critical COVID-19 zone” and the national government has extended whatever help it can to contain the spread of the coronavirus in the Visaya metropolis.

Duterte said the Center for Health Development (CHD)-Central Visayas had deployed additional health personnel “to cater to patients of Cebu City,” including the monitoring of situation, fast-tracking the accreditation of additional laboratories, capacitating barangay cluster clinics, strengthening contact tracing initiatives with local government units, establishment of a functional referral network to decongest hospitals, and distribution of personal protective equipment sets to both government facilities and private hospitals, among others.

The President is expected to announce last night his decision on whether to sustain or downgrade the ECQ in Cebu City.



## Cebu City should 'remain' under ECQ

By Catherine S. Valente, TMT

July 1, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/07/01/news/regions/cebu-city-should-remain-under-ecq/736707/>

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Tuesday said he recommended to President Rodrigo Duterte to keep Cebu City under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) to contain the increasing cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) in the city.

Cimatu, overseer of the government's Covid-19 response in Cebu, also said the President should extend the ECQ and the continued implementation of granular — sitio- or village-level — lockdowns over continued rise in confirmed cases in the city.

He noted that Cebu City logged 13 additional fatalities caused by the respiratory illness just on Monday, which he said was higher than the average number of daily recorded fatalities in the country at 10 to 12 deaths.

“So, ito ngayon ang aking ano, i-continue natin ang ECQ because to them, umpisa pa lang ito eh (So, for now my recommendation is to continue the ECQ in Cebu City because, for them, this is just the beginning),” Cimatu said during Malacañang’s virtual news briefing.

Four employees of the Cebu City Hall, including a Sangguniang Panlungsod (City Council) member in Cebu City who tested positive for Covid-19, died, according to Rey Gealon, spokesman for the Cebu City Hall during a virtual news briefing also on Tuesday.

The fatalities were identified as Antonio Cuenco, 84, city council member and former lawmaker; Crisanto Amper, 55, sanitary inspector of the Cebu City Health Department; Danilo Gabiana, 62, engineer of the Department of Public Services; and Mommy Lee Garcia, a barangay (village) health worker.

The Philippine flag displayed in front of the Cebu City Hall was flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning.

Gealon said 67 employees (frontliners) of the Cebu City Hall also tested positive for Covid-19.

He said 12 employees who tested positive for Covid-19 are from the Cebu City Health, 19 are from Ambulance Services and 36 are barangay health workers.

He added that the Cebu City Hall employees who tested positive for Covid-19 were the ones who conducted swab testing, rapid testing and contact tracing.

Gealon said the Cebu City government provided P500 per day as hazard pay to employees who are frontliners of Covid-19, compensatory leave to medical frontliners, burial assistance to Covid-19 deaths, and financial assistance to Cebu City residents.

WITH REPORT FROM RHEA RUTH ROSELL



## Cimatu, inirekomendang panatilihin ang Cebu City sa ilalim ng ECQ

June 30, 2020 @ 10:53 AM

<https://remate.ph/cimatu-inirekomendang-panatilihin-ang-cebu-city-sa-ilalim-ng-ecq/>

Manila, Philippines – Inirekomenda ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na manatili ang Cebu City sa ilalim ng enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) pagkatapos ng June 30.

“We have to maintain the quarantine level [in Cebu City]. Iyan ang recommendation ko kasi we need to stop the bleeding,” ani Cimatu sa isang panayam.

“Tumataas ang COVID-19 cases, tumataas ang number of deaths. Pinakamalaki nung isang araw, 13 deaths. Saka sa NCR (National Capital Region), 18 out of 100 lang na na-swab test ang positive. Dito, lampas 30%,” dagdag pa nito.

Sinabi rin ni Cimatu na tutukuyin niya ang pinagmulan ng pagdami ng kaso ng COVID-19 hanggang sa pahirapang pagsunod sa ECQ protocols.

“Evident reason talaga [ng pagtaas] iyong pagpunta ng OFWs kasi ginawa itong transit area, saka iyong mga [arrival ng] stranded [individuals] from Manila,” giit pa ni Cimatu.

Bubuuin aniya ang mas malalaking quarantine facilities.

“We have to stop this, kaya iyong isolation facility ilalayo natin sa barangays,” lahad pa nito. RNT/FGDC



# Cimatu needs Cebuano counterpart in Cebu City's battle vs. COVID-19, says Sotto

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By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/744840/cimatu-needs-cebuano-counterpart-in-cebu-city-s-battle-vs-covid-19-says-sotto/story/>

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu needs to be in tandem with a local counterpart in leading the fight against the spread of COVID-19 in Cebu City, according to Senate President Vicente Sotto III on Tuesday.

Sharing that his father hailed from Cebu, Sotto said Cebuanos have this distant attitude towards outsiders.

"I think they should send or make a representative in Cebu that comes from Cebu. Mayroong mentality kung minsan ang mga Cebuano na pag galing sa Maynila medyo aloof. I have to be very blunt about it. Ganoon talaga kaming mga Cebuano," Sotto said in a virtual interview with reporters.

"Pag galing sa Maynila ang ipinadala mo doon at mag-uutos doon, medyo nakataas ang kilay ng karamihan ng Cebuano pero kapag taga-roon sa kanila, mas madali tanggapin kung anuman 'yung gustong palaganapin doon," he added.

While berating Cebuanos as "hard-headed" people, President Rodrigo Duterte appointed Cimatu as an "adjunct" official of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases to identify the action plan for Cebu City which is seeing a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases.

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

Sotto, meanwhile, underscored that he has nothing against Cimatu—a retired military official—being assigned to Cebu City.

"Secretary Cimatu is doing a good job so there is no problem with that. What I mean is dapat mayroon ding taga-Cebu na parang counterpart or katulong," he said.

He added that former Cebu City councilor Erik Espina could be a good partner of Cimatu, being a "full-blooded Cebuano" who knows the terrains of the city.

Sotto said he will try to get in touch with the executive department regarding his suggestion.

Earlier in the day, Cimatu said he wants Cebu City to remain under an enhanced community quarantine after June 30.



## Cimatu needs Cebuano counterpart in Cebu City's battle vs. COVID-19, says Sotto

'Strong-arm rule'

While saying that a "strong-arm rule" must be enforced to prevent quarantine violations in the country, Sotto said the more visible presence of state security forces in Cebu City is the call of the IATF.

"They know more what's happening. Kung saksakan ang tigas ng ulo, gusto lumabas pa rin, gusto naka-istambay sa labas, siguro ganoon ang naiisip ng IATF para pilitin silang huwag lumabas ng bahay," Sotto said.

Last week, Joint Task Force COVID Shield commander Police Lieutenant General Guillermo Eleazar said two companies of the elite Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police will be deployed to Cebu City to assist in the strict implementation of quarantine protocols.

Over 4,600 cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in the city as of June 29. — BM, GMA News





# Cimatu eyes Cebu Coliseum, other quarantine facilities

Published June 30, 2020, 3:24 PM

By Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/30/cimatu-eyes-cebu-coliseum-other-quarantine-facilities/>

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, who was directed by President Duterte sent to oversee the government's pandemic response in Cebu City, is eyeing the conversion of the Cebu Coliseum into a quarantine facility for coronavirus patients in the city and nearby areas.



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

“Naghahanap ako ng ibang structures or facilities na pwedeng gawing isolation dahil karamihan dito mga eskwelahan na ginawang isolation centers na nasa gitna ng barangay. (I am looking for other structures or facilities that could be used for isolation because most of these are schools used as isolation centers and they are right in the middle of barangays), Cimatu said during the a virtual press briefing in Malacañang on Tuesday.

“Sinususpetsa ko na dito galing ang pagkalat sa mga barangay. (I suspect that this is where the virus has spread),” he added.

Cimatu said the isolation buildings will be relocated away from the communities to prevent the further spread of the disease.

“Tinitignan ko yung Cebu Coliseum baka pwede iconvert ito tulad ng ginawa sa Metro Manila. (I am looking at the Cebu Coliseum maybe it could be converted (into a quarantine facility) like what was done in Metro Manila),” he pointed out.

Cimatu said the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Cebu City remains “steady” for the past week.



## Cimatu eyes Cebu Coliseum, other quarantine facilities

He recommended retaining the enhanced community quarantine status in the city to stop the further spread of the deadly disease.

Read more: Cimatu recommends retaining ECQ status of Cebu City

“After mag-die down ang sudden increase of cases, ma-maintain pa rin ang lockdown sa barangays na matataas ang cases, particularly sa 12 barangays na majority ng cases galing dito. (After the sudden increase in cases dies down, lockdowns in barangays should still be maintained, particularly in the 12 barangays where majority of cases are recorded),” Cimatu said.

“Nakikita ko na kailangan i-contain muna ito bago luwagan itong ECQ. Kapag naluwagan na i-concentrate natin ang lockdown yung granular naka-focus lang sa 12 barangays. (I can see that there is a need to contain the situation before the ECQ will be eased. After we can ease the restriction, that’s when we concentrate the granular lockdown focused on only the 12 barangays),” he explained.

Read more: Cimatu to move isolation centers out of Cebu City barangays to prevent COVID transmission

The DENR chief said he has formed an advisory council, composed of some independent persons including personnel from the Department of Health, military and police, as well as the members of the business sector, to craft specific guidelines for the enforcement of protocols during the ECQ.

He noted that recent violations in compliance to the ECQ protocols led to the sudden increase in COVID-19 cases in Cebu City.

“People came out without following the necessary precautionary measures and health standards that were directed them to do, such as social distancing, washing of hands, and wearing of masks,” he said.

“Naging problema dito nagkaroon ng low morale ang medical practitioners dahil sa sunod sunod, araw-araw, na may casualties. This time medyo nabuhayan naman sila dahil we are doing something about it. (The problem is that medical practitioners had a low morale due to increase in casualties everyday. This time they are pretty much relieved because we are doing something about it),” he added.

Cimatu said they are now augmenting the number of doctors and nurses in Cebu City to help fight the deadly disease.



## After procession in Cebu barangay, Cimatu says quarantine rule breakers to face charges

Published June 30, 2020 4:41pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/744834/after-procession-in-cebu-barangay-cimatu-says-quarantine-rule-breakers-to-face-charges/story/>

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the official tasked to oversee Cebu City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on Wednesday said people who will break quarantine rules on mass gatherings will face charges.

Fourteen people, including a barangay captain, will face criminal complaints over a religious procession in Barangay Basak San Nicolas over the weekend despite the strict prohibition as the city is under enhanced community quarantine.

"Ngayon kung may mga susunod pang gagawa ng mga gano'ng similar actions ay talagang susunod naman silang makasuhan ulit," Cimatu said at a Malacañang press briefing.

He called the June 27 incident a "blatant disregard" of government protocols and said the people involved will have to answer for the offense.

Special Action Force police officers are patrolling the barangay following the incident, in which residents reportedly held a caravan, procession and ceremonial dancing to celebrate the Feast Day of St. John the Baptist and Sto. Niño.

The barangay has one of the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cebu City, according to the city's legal chief.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año earlier said the government will not tolerate violations of quarantine rules.

Cimatu has recommended that Cebu City remain under ECQ after June 30, the strictest quarantine level in the government's COVID-19 response. — Nicole-Anne C. Lagrimas/RSJ, GMA News



# Cimatu to move isolation centers out of Cebu City barangays to prevent COVID transmission

Published June 30, 2020, 11:27 AM

By Noreen Jazul

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/30/cimatu-to-move-isolation-centers-out-of-cebu-city-barangays-to-prevent-covid-transmission/>

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said isolation centers put up inside barangays in Cebu City will be transferred farther to further prevent the local transmission of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu  
(RTVM / MANILA BULLETIN)

In an interview with ANC on Tuesday, Cimatu said the putting up of isolation centers within barangays has contributed to the increase in the number of cases in the city.

“In their anticipation to stop [the increase of cases], nag put up sila ng isolation centers in their barangays, ginamit nila ang eskwelahan. Doon na ngayon nagkaroon ng spread among themselves lang sa barangay. So, ito ang nagyari sa atin. So, we’re going to stop this (They put up isolation centers in their barangays, they used schools as isolation centers, and that’s how the virus started to spread among themselves, within the barangay. That’s what happened, so we’re going to stop this),” Cimatu, head the Region 7 COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID), said.



## Cimatu to move isolation centers out of Cebu City barangays to prevent COVID transmission

“I have to transfer iyong isolation structure nila outside of their respective barangays. Ilalayo ko para di na maulit ito (I have to transfer the isolation structures outside of their respective barangays. They need to be moved farther),” he added.

As of June 30, Cimatu said 12 barangays in Cebu City have been placed under hard lockdown, namely: Basak San Nicolas, Sambag Dos, Kamputhaw, Sambag Uno, Mabolo, Guadalupe, Lahug, Duljo, Tinago, Tisa, Ermita, and Tejero.

Cimatu said the 12 barangays have a “special” quarantine classification. “Kahit nababa na iyong classification in the whole of Cebu City, itong 12 na ito ay [on hard lockdown] pa rin unless very dramatic ang improvement dito, (Unless there will be dramatic improvements in the 12 barangays, all of them will still be placed under hard lockdown even if the quarantine classification in the whole of Cebu City will be lowered),” Cimatu said.

The environment chief said the government will bring food to residents of the 12 barangays to prevent them from going out of their homes.





July 1, 2020 12:30am

<https://www.facebook.com/55431914588/posts/10158903155374589/?app=fbl>

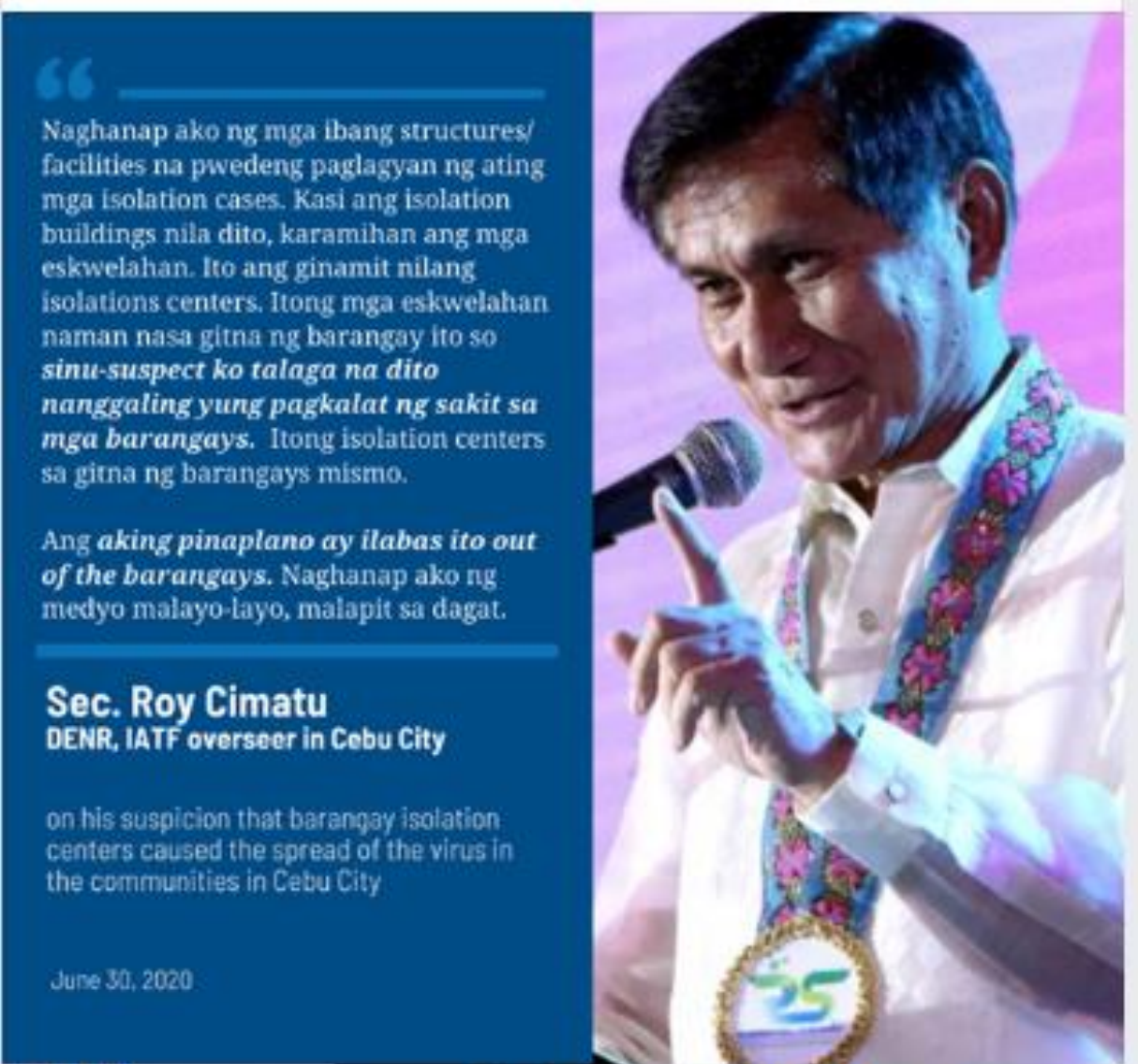


CDN Digital

11 hrs ·



Sec. Roy Cimatu, the IATF overseer in Cebu City, said that he suspects that the barangay isolation centers are the cause of the spread of the virus here. | Rosalie Abatayo #CDNDigital




“  
Naghanap ako ng mga ibang structures/ facilities na pwedeng paglagyan ng ating mga isolation cases. Kasi ang isolation buildings nila dito, karamihan ang mga eskwelahan. Ito ang ginamit nilang isolations centers. Itong mga eskwelahan naman nasa gitna ng barangay Ito so *sinu-suspect ko talaga na dito nanggaling yung pagkalat ng sakit sa mga barangays.* Itong isolation centers sa gitna ng barangays mismo.

*Ang aking pinaplano ay ilabas ito out of the barangays.* Naghanap ako ng medyo malayo-layo, malapit sa dagat.

**Sec. Roy Cimatu**  
DENR, IATF overseer in Cebu City

on his suspicion that barangay isolation centers caused the spread of the virus in the communities in Cebu City

June 30, 2020




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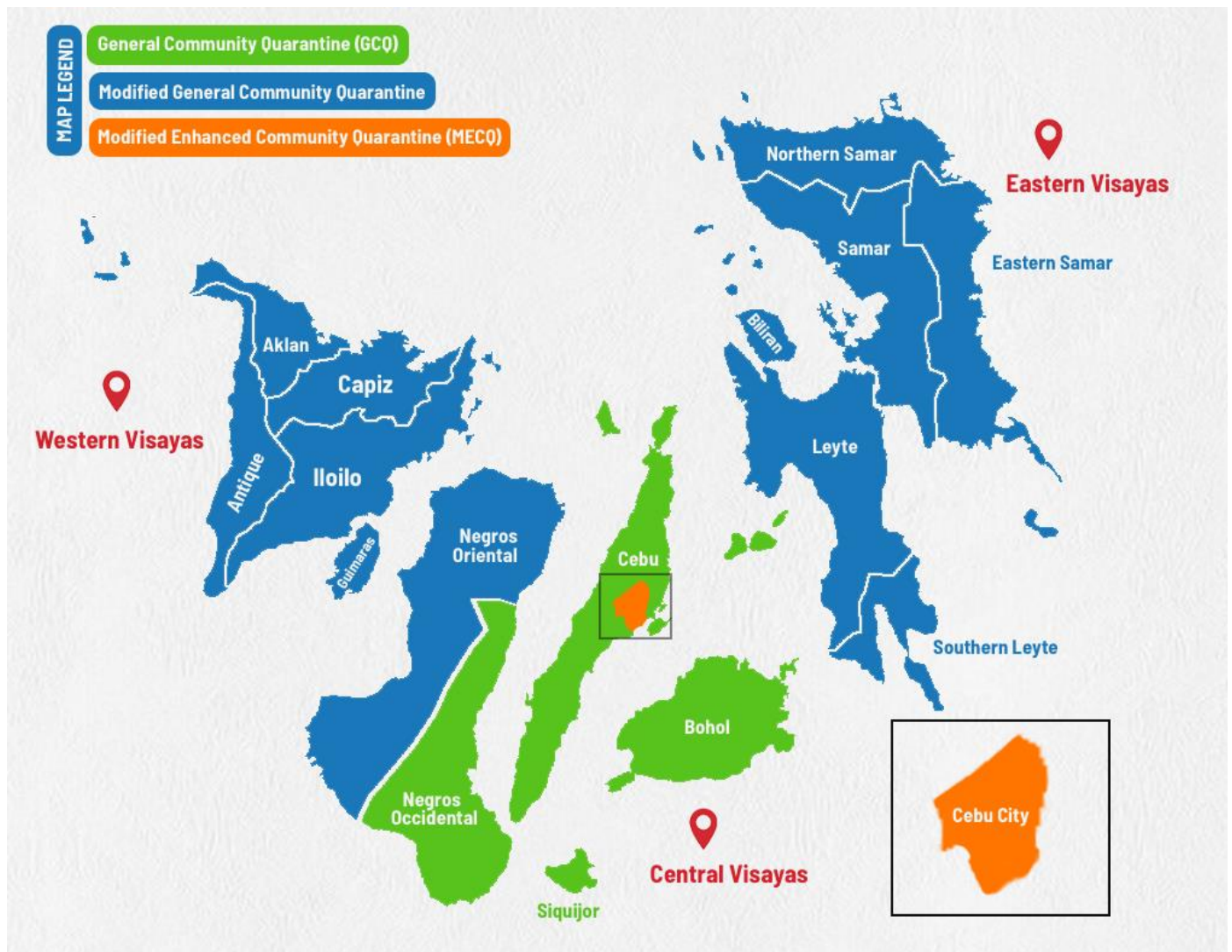
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# More cases surface as Cebu await post-June 30 quarantine status

By: Rosalie O. Abatayo - CDN Digital | June 30, 2020 - 10:11 PM

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/323208/more-cases-surface-as-cebu-await-post-june-30-quarantine-status>



Cebu province, now under general community quarantine, now has 1,158 of COVID-19 cases as of June 30, 2020. Cebu City, which recently gained national attention for its COVID-19 cases, declared that it has 5,494 COVID-19 cases which is over 500 heads lower the DOH-7's data that shows it has 6,024 cases. (CDN Digital File)

CEBU CITY, Philippines — As Cebuanos await President Rodrigo Duterte's announcement of the quarantine control status of the different areas in the country on Tuesday evening, June 30, 2020, local authorities have reported more cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) both in Cebu City and Cebu province.

According to the Department of Health in Central Visayas' (DOH-7) data as of 5 p.m., 38 new cases have been added to the tally under Cebu province, bringing the total number of cases here to 1,158.



# More cases surface as Cebu await post-June 30 quarantine status

Among these new cases is the first COVID-19 patient of the southern Cebu town of Alegria, who recently gave birth in a private hospital here in Cebu City. The patient, as well as her newborn, is asymptomatic.

The Municipality of Daanbantayan also reported four new cases this Tuesday. All four patients belong to one family from barangay Poblacion and are immediate family members of a previously confirmed case in the northernmost town.


The youngest of the new cases in the town is a three-year-old boy.

The four new cases brought the total number of COVID-19 cases in Daanbantayan to 10, which including its Mayor Sun Shimura.

Cordova town on Mactan Island also reported three new cases, one from Barangay Poblacion and two from Barangay Cogon.

## Conflicting figures

In Cebu City, which is now under national attention due to the COVID-19 situation here, the City Health Department announced that it logged on Tuesday a whopping 353 new cases, bringing their total confirmed cases to 5,494.

 <b>Department of Health</b> Central Visayas Center for Health Development		<b>COVID-19 Case Bulletin</b> 30 June 2020 - 5PM					
HUC/ PROVINCE	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	TOTAL ACTIVE CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL RECOVERIES	ADDITIONAL REPORTED RECOVERIES	TOTAL DEATHS	ADDITIONAL REPORTED DEATHS
Cebu City	6,024	3,463	109	2,388	14	173	7
Mandaue City	792	550	20	225	0	17	0
Lapu-Lapu City	618	483	9	112	0	23	1
Cebu	1,158	869	38	216	3	73	0
Negros Oriental	32	13	0	17	0	2	0
Bohol	36	24	0	11	0	1	0
Siquijor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,660</b>	<b>5402</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>8</b>

*NOTE: THE NUMBERS IN THE REPORT MAY CHANGE AFTER VALIDATION AND UPDATING OF DATA BASE.*





# More cases surface as Cebu await post-June 30 quarantine status



The June 30-COVID-19 case update of Cebu City Health Department.

The city's figures on its COVID-19 cases, however, continue to vary with those declared by the DOH-7.

DOH-7's case monitoring as of 5 p.m. already shows that the city has breached the 6,000-mark on its total COVID-19 case.

The DOH-7's bulletin also showed that there are only 109 new cases in the city, bringing its total to 6,024 with 3,463 active cases, 2,388 recoveries, and 173 deaths.



## More cases surface as Cebu await post-June 30 quarantine status

Due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation in Cebu City, Secretary Roy Cimatu, who is the designated overseer of the COVID-19 response here, already said in a press briefing earlier that the ECQ status in the city should continue.

READ: ECQ should continue in Cebu City — Cimatu

In a televised press briefing at noon on Tuesday, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the president will address the nation on Tuesday evening to announce the quarantine control status of the different areas in the country.

Roque also revealed that at least four local government units (LGUs), including Cebu province had appealed to the Interagency Task Force (IATF) for the reclassification of the quarantine control status in their areas of jurisdiction.

READ: Cebu province, 3 other areas appealed for quarantine reclassification

Although the presidential spokesman did not detail on the appeal of each LGU, he said that three of the LGUs were asking for the IATF to heighten their quarantine status while only one requested to be downgraded to a more relaxed status.

/bmjo





# Cebu City logs record-high 353 new COVID-19 cases, no new deaths

Published June 30, 2020 4:34pm

By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/744832/cebu-city-logs-record-high-353-new-covid-19-cases-no-new-deaths/story/>

Cebu City on Tuesday announced 353 new cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the highest number of new cases it reported in a single day, raising the total to 5,494.

The Cebu City Health Department (CHD) also said total recoveries rose to 2,723 after 10 more patients recovered from the respiratory illness, while the death toll remained at 169 with no new fatalities.

The CHD said there are also 2,602 active cases undergoing treatment or quarantine.

Cebu City still has the highest number of infections nationwide, followed by Quezon City with 3,362 cases as of Tuesday morning.

Secretary Roy Cimatu, overseer of the government's COVID-19 response in Cebu City, earlier said he wants the city to remain under the stringent enhanced community quarantine after June 30.

President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to announce his latest directives on quarantine restrictions across the country on Tuesday night. —LDF, GMA News



# Reco ng NTF, DOH ipinatupad sa Cebu City dahil sa mataas na critical care utilization

June 30, 2020 @ 8:20 PM

<https://remate.ph/reco-ng-ntf-doh-ipinatupad-sa-cebu-city-dahil-sa-mataas-na-critical-care-utilization/>

Manila, Philippines – Dahil mataas na ang critical care utilization ng Cebu City, nagpatupad na ang Department of Health ng mga hakbang ayon sa rekomendasyon ng Inter-Agency Task Force ng National Task Force at ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan kasunod ng kanilang pagbisita sa Cebu.

Una, sinabi ni Health Usec Maria Rosario Vergeire na kailangan na patuloy ang pagpapatupad ng minimum health standard sa lugar.

Pangalawa, patuloy din ang paggamit ng temporary treatment and monitoring facilities para sa facility based quarantine at isolation.

Sa paraang ito, mababawasan umano ang bilang ng mga pasyente na mapapadpad sa mga ospital dahil kayang alagaan ang mga mild at asymptomatic cases sa mga community quarantine facilities.

Pangatlo, patuloy din ang pagpapakalat ng impormasyon ukol sa COVID-19 o ang information dissemination.

Panghuli, patuloy din ang pananaliksik ng DOH sa innovations kagaya ng convalescent plasma therapy na maaring magbigay ng lunas para sa mga taong may COVID-19. Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden



## Cebu City new Covid epicenter – Año

By Darwin Pesco

June 30, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/30/news/national/cebu-city-new-covid-epicenter-ano/736348/>

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

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año

Central Visayas’ premier metropolis had outpaced the cities in the National Capital Region (NCR) in Covid cases, he noted.

“Cebu City is more likely the new epicenter, compared to NCR,” Año said in a television interview.

Based on the Department of Health Covid-19 tracker, Cebu City had 4,562 cases, the highest among provinces and cities as of June 28.

Quezon City came next with 3,161 cases, followed by Manila with 2,290.

Cebu province, with 1,036 cases, has fewer infections than Cebu City.

Stricter enhanced community quarantine measures are being enforced in Cebu City. “We are making sure all positive cases in Cebu are in quarantine facilities,” Año said.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Archie Francisco Gamboa said quarantine violators in the city would be promptly arrested.

The local police force had been reinforced with 250 officers who had been shipped in, he added.

Gamboa said the Central Visayas Police Regional Office might have to rotate its frontliners in anticipation of infected personnel who might need to be quarantined.

The National Capital Region Police (NCRPO) has the highest number of infected officers, with 285,450 probable and 89 suspected cases.

The Central Visayas police has 169 confirmed cases, with 694 suspected cases and 156 probable cases.

“Take note that NCRPO has fewer suspect cases than Central Visayas, presumably because of the greater availability of testing in Metro Manila than in Central Visayas,” Gamboa said.



## Cebu City new Covid epicenter – Año

The PNP is preparing to put up another Covid testing laboratory in the Visayas, he noted.

Higher

On Monday, the Health department reported 986 new Covid-19 cases, increasing the total number to 36,438.

270 more people recovered from the disease, bringing the overall total of recoveries to 9,956, while 11 deaths were added to the death toll of 1,255.

Malacañang said there would have been more cases had the government not acted swiftly to curb the spread of the virus.

Palace Spokesman Harry Roque Jr. claimed that the country was winning the war on Covid-19.

“In terms of positivity rate, in terms of case doubling rate, in case of mortality rate — we are winning. In fact, we defied what was predicted by the UP (University of the Philippines) study. We have limited the cases to 35,000 instead of what could have been at least 3 million cases,” he said in a press briefing.

Roque maintained that the country took the right steps in containing the disease amid a report from the World Health Organization (WHO) that the Philippines had the fastest rate of transmission in the Western Pacific region.

“The President (Rodrigo Duterte) did the very best that he can and we are in control of the situation,” he said.

Roque noted that UP had said that without a lockdown, there would have been 3.6 million Covid-19 cases.

The Palace, meanwhile, disagreed with the WHO statement.

WITH RED MENDOZA



# More mega quarantine facilities needed in Cebu City —Angara

Published June 30, 2020 2:21pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/744799/more-mega-quarantine-facilities-needed-in-cebu-city-angara/story/>

More mega quarantine facilities should be established in Cebu City which has recently seen a rise in COVID-19 cases, according to Senator Sonny Angara on Tuesday.

The lawmaker, who is also a COVID-19 survivor, said the Department of Health should step up its game to contain the further spread of the virus.

"We need to put up more mega quarantine facilities in Region 7, especially in Cebu City, which could become the country's next COVID-19 hotspot in the country," Angara said in a statement.

He pointed out that the occupancy rate of hospital beds for the entire Cebu province was already at 67.2% as of June 22.

More than 70% and 58.8% of the isolation and ICU beds in the province are already occupied, respectively, and 60.27% of mechanical ventilators are in use, according to Angara.

In Cebu City alone, the senator said 90% of isolation beds and 93% of ward beds are already occupied.

Last week, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said more isolation facilities will be added in Cebu City.

Testing czar Vince Dizon also acknowledged that the COVID-19 situation in the city is "very alarming."

As of June 29, Cebu City has 4,639 confirmed cases of COVID 19, of which 3,912 are active cases, 646 have recovered, and 81 resulted in death.

Angara urged more hospitals in Cebu City to offer convalescent plasma therapy or transfusion of antibodies for the treatment of severe COVID-19 cases.

After recovering from the virus in April, the senator donated his plasma to help other patients with severe COVID-19 infection. —Dona Magsino/KG, GMA News



# Cebu City still under ECQ; NCR remains under GCQ

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos July 1, 2020, 1:20 am  
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1107574>



President Rodrigo Duterte

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday retained the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) status in Cebu City due to continuing increase in the number of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections in the area.

Duterte made the announcement in a public address, as he acknowledged that Cebu City is having a “hard time” coping with the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 crisis in the country.

“Ito yung ano ha, ECQ, enhanced community quarantine. Ito ‘yung pinakamataas (ECQ or enhanced community quarantine is the highest [community quarantine classification]),” Duterte said. “Ang enhanced community quarantine, Cebu City. Kayo lang (Only Cebu City will be under enhanced community quarantine).”

Based on the presentation of Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Cebu City would remain under ECQ until July 15.

Duterte earlier placed Cebu and Talisay cities in Cebu province under ECQ and MECQ from June 15 to 30 due to the uptick in Covid-19 cases in the areas.

However, the community quarantine classification in Talisay City was downgraded to GCQ on June 22 following the high number of recoveries of Covid-19 patients.

Cebu City now a Covid-19 ‘hotspot’

Duterte expressed dismay that Cebu City is now considered a “hotspot” for Covid-19 because many people living in the area are defying quarantine protocols.





## Cebu City still under ECQ; NCR remains under GCQ

Sad about the current situation in Cebu City, Duterte told residents there to “shape up” to enable the government to effectively fight Covid-19.

“Cebu [City] is now the hotspot for Covid. Bakit? Eh walang sumusunod eh. Marami sa inyo, hindi sumunod (Why? Because no one is following. Many of them are not following),” he said. “Look, I am here to run government. I am not here to stay forever. As a matter of fact, I am on my last two years. But you better shape up.”

Implementation of new quarantine classifications

Duterte, in his latest speech, announced that the more relaxed general community quarantine (GCQ) would be implemented in Metro Manila, Benguet, Cavite, Rizal, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, Ormoc, Leyte, Southern Leyte, and Cebu’s Talisay City, Minglanilla, and Consolacion.

Duterte added that starting July 1, modified GCQ (MGCQ) would be imposed in Abra, Baguio City, Ifugao, Kalinga, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Isabela, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Angeles City, Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Lucena City, Palawan, Puerto Princesa City, Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and Naga City.

He said Capiz, Iloilo City, Negros Occidental, Bacolod City, Cebu province, Bohol, Negros Oriental, Tacloban City, Western Samar, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur, Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro would also be under MGCQ.

MGCQ, Duterte said, would also be implemented in Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao City, Davao de Oro, Cotabato, South Cotabato, Agusan del Norte, Butuan City, Lanao del Sur, and Maguindanao.

MGCQ in the said areas would be imposed with “strict local action,” according to Duque’s presentation.

This means that there should be “localized community quarantine, zoning, strict enforcement of minimum health standards, scale up of health system capacity, and isolation of overseas Filipinos, locally stranded individuals, and close contacts” in areas under MGCQ with “strict local action.”



## Cebu City still under ECQ; NCR remains under GCQ

‘Duterte said the rest of the country would be placed under MGCCQ.

“Yung (The) modified general community quarantine, this applies for the rest of the country,” he said.

Substantial compliance’ in NCR

Duterte noted that while the government has yet to address the problems currently being faced by Cebu City, it has noticed the “substantial compliance” of Metro Manila residents with the government’s quarantine rules.

Thus, there is a “very good” chance to avoid the rising number of Covid-19 cases in Metro Manila, Duterte said.

“Manila and the rest of the greater Manila area, there was a substantial compliance. I wouldn’t say that there was no violation. There were violations but not in a scale I saw in other places,” he said. “Here in Manila, have a very good chance of at least avoiding it (Covid-19).” (PNA)



# Cebu City stays under strictest ECQ, Metro Manila still on GCQ

By CNN Philippines Staff

Published Jun 30, 2020 10:54:05 PM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/6/30/philippines-community-quarantine-post-june-30.html>

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June July 1) — It's status quo for Cebu City and Metro Manila as the enhanced community quarantine and general community quarantine status, respectively, are extended in these areas until July 15.

President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday announced that the existing community quarantine will be extended for 15 more days to better control the health pandemic.

This came after Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella said he hopes the national government will place their city under a more relaxed GCQ, as it is the "gateway" of business and tourism in Central Visayas. He added that the city has a recovery rate of 50 percent — better than the national recovery rate of 25 percent.

In his latest virtual address to the nation, however, Duterte reprimanded Cebuanos anew, citing their supposed noncompliance with quarantine rules and other health measures meant to stem the spread of coronavirus.

“Cebu is now the hotspot for COVID. Bakit? Marami sa inyo hindi sumunod [Why? Many of you did not follow rules],” he said.

He also compared the city to Metro Manila, which he noted showed “substantial compliance.”

National and local government officials on Monday said Cebu City is now the epicenter of the Philippines' coronavirus cases. According to Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, the concentration of COVID-19 cases in the country has shifted from the capital region to Cebu City.

On June 28, out of 653 new cases recorded, 391 were attributed to the 17 cities and municipalities of National Capital Region, while 72 cases were recorded in Cebu City alone.

Areas under GCQ

Along with Metro Manila, areas which will be under general community quarantine starting July 1 include the following:

- Benguet
- Cavite



# Cebu City stays under strictest ECQ, Metro Manila still on GCQ

- Rizal
  - Lapu-Lapu City
  - Mandaue City
  - Leyte
  - Ormoc
  - Southern Leyte
- In Cebu province:
- Talisay City
  - Minglanilla
  - Consolacion
- Areas under MGCQ

Meanwhile, officials have placed the following under modified general community quarantine:

- CAR: Abra, Baguio, Ifugao, Kalinga
- Region I: Ilocos Norte, La Union, Pangasinan
- Region II: Cagayan, Isabela
- Region III: Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Angeles City
- Region IV-A: Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Lucena City
- Region IV-B: Palawan, Puerto Princesa City
- Region V: - Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Naga City
- Region VI: Capiz, Iloilo, Iloilo City, Negros Occidental, Bacolod City
- Region VII: Bohol, Negros Oriental, the rest of Cebu Province not under ECQ or GCQ
- Region VIII: Tacloban, Western Samar\*
- Region IX: Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur
- Region X: Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental\*, Misamis Oriental\*, Cagayan de Oro\*
- Region XI: Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao City, Davao de Oro
- Region XII: Cotabato, South Cotabato
- Region XIII: Agusan del Norte, Butuan



## Cebu City stays under strictest ECQ, Metro Manila still on GCQ

- BARMM: Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao

[NOTE: Areas in asterisk (\*) are those announced by Duque but weren't mentioned by Duterte when he read the list during his virtual address.]

The rest of the country will fall under “low-risk” modified general community quarantine classification, according to Duque.

The nationwide COVID-19 tally has reached 37,514 cases, of which 4,639 were recorded in Cebu City and 18,384 in the entire region of National Capital Region.

As the national government pays more attention to Cebu City, President Rodrigo Duterte on June 22 appointed Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu as the new COVID-19 response chief for Visayas. Cimatu brought in hundreds of security troops to enforce the strict stay-at-home measures.

The Health Department has also ordered the deployment of doctors — including “doctors to the barrios” — to Cebu City to help aid its battle against the COVID-19 crisis. This came after Cebu nurses appealed for hazard pay amid surge in COVID-19 cases.





## Cebu City, ECQ pa rin; MM, mananatili sa GCQ

June 30, 2020 @ 11:59 PM

<https://remate.ph/cebu-city-ecq-pa-rin-mm-mananatili-sa-gcq/>

Manila, Philippines – Inanunsyo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na mananatili sa ilalim ng Enhanced Community Quarantine ang Cebu City habang General Community Quarantine pa rin ang Metro Manila.

Sa public address ng Pangulo ay nauna nang binasa ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque III ang rekomendasyon ng Inter-Agency Task Force na klasipikasyon ng quarantine sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa na inulit naman ng Chief Executive.

“Ang ECQ pinakamataas kasi marami na ang taong may infection sa hospitals. Cebu city. Kayo lang,” ayon sa Pangulo.

Sa kabilang dako, mananatili pa rin ang Metro Manila sa GCQ hanggang Hulyo 15 kasama ang mga lalawigan ng Benguet, Cavite, Rizal, Leyte at Southern Leyte, at ang cities of Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue at Ormoc ay nasa ilalim din ng general community quarantine.

Ang Talisay City, na nauna nang nasa ilalim ng modified enhanced community quarantine, ay isinailalim sa general community quarantine, kasama ang mga bayan ng Minglanilla at Consolacion sa probinsya ng Cebu.

Habang isinailalim naman sa Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) ang mga sumusunod:

CAR: Abra, Baguio City, Ifugao, Kalinga

Region 1: Ilocos Norte, La Union, Pangasinan

Region 2: Cagayan, Isabela

Region 3: Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Angeles City

Region 4A: Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Lucena City

Region 4B: Palawan, Puerto Prinsesa City

Region 5: Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Naga City

Region 6: Capiz, Iloilo, Iloilo City, Negros Occidental, Bacolod City

Region 7: Cebu Province, Bohol, Negros Oriental

Region 8: Tacloban City, Western Samar

Region 9: Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur

Region 10: Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro

Region 11: Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao City, Davao de Oro

Region 12: Cotabato, South Cotabato

Region 13: Agusan del Norte, Butuan City

Kris Jose



## Vista Residences' chopping down of dozens of trees in Baguio is aboveboard, says DENR

Published June 30, 2020 9:39pm

By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/744895/vista-residences-chopping-down-of-dozens-of-trees-in-baguio-is-aboveboard-says-denr/story/>

The permit given to Villar-led Vista Residences Inc. to cut down 54 trees to make way for a subdivision in Baguio City is aboveboard, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

According to DENR undersecretary and spokesperson Benny Antiporda, the cutting activity complied with standards set by the Environment department.

"It is a private land and they were given a tree cutting permit but in exchange, they need to replace 100 seedlings to every cut tree, meaning they need to plant 5,400 seedlings for the 54 trees," he said in a mobile message.

"Additional information says that the local government also obliged them to double up the seedlings so it is 10,800 seedlings now," he elaborated.

He was responding to queries regarding the cutting of 54 trees—53 Benguet Pine and one Norfolk Pine—in Purok 3, Outlook Drive in Baguio City to make way for a project of Vista Residences Inc.

Vista Residences is a subsidiary of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. (VLL), which is chaired by businessman Manuel Villar Jr.—the Philippines' richest man, according to Forbes' Billionaires 2020 list.

Villar is married to Senator Cynthia Villar, who currently chairs the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, as well as the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

VLL, a publicly listed company, posted a net income of P2.439 billion in January to March of 2020, down 7% from P2.622 billion the same quarter in 2019.

For the full-year 2019, the company reported a bottom line of P11.6 billion, up 10% from P10.5 billion in 2018.

The company already earlier said the cutting of the 54 pine trees was in "full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations" and has been issued the necessary permits to do so.

Shares of the company closed Tuesday at P3.69 apiece, down by 2 centavos or 0.54% from Monday's finish of P3.71 per share.



## Vista Residences' chopping down of dozens of trees in Baguio is aboveboard, says DENR

An online petition has since been mounted, urging Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong to stop the cutting activities.

"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," the petition read.

Started by Michael Bengwayan, the petition has already reaped in 6,564 signatures as of this posting, short of its goal of 7,500.

For his part, Magalong—who in his campaign was vocal in imposing a moratorium on cutting trees—expressed his dismay over the felled trees.

"We are saddened because we feel it is a big blow to our Regreening Master Plan amidst our request to the Office of the President for a tree-cutting moratorium," he said in a separate statement.

"While the proposed moratorium has been taken over by this health crisis, we need to follow this up to ensure that our remaining trees will be preserved," added Magalong.

According to Baguio's Public Information Office (PIO), records of the DENR regional office show that the property owner applied for a special land timber permit in 2018, before Magalong's term.

The environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the project was issued in 2017, the barangay certificate in September 2018, and the Mayor's Clearance in October 2018, under then-Mayor Mauricio Domogan.

"Records further showed that the company was required to redesign the original plan to reduce the number of trees to be affected," the PIO said.

"The owner also complied with the compensatory requirement of 100 tree seedlings to each tree felled," it elaborated. — BM, GMA News



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

June 30, 2020 @ 6:56 AM

<https://remate.ph/tree-cutting-activity-sa-baguio-may-denr-permit-vista-residences/>

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



# Enchong Dee laments cutting of ‘old beautiful trees’ in Baguio

By: Ian Biong

INQUIRER.net / 07:56 PM June 30, 2020

<https://entertainment.inquirer.net/381182/enchong-dee-laments-cutting-of-old-beautiful-trees-in-baguio>



Enchong Dee in his podcast, “The Budgetarian”. Image: screenshot from Youtube.com/Enchong Dee

Actor Enchong Dee criticized the cutting of 54 trees this month for the development of a condominium in Baguio City.

Dee, who has been vocal on social issues in the country, said the move goes against the global environmental movement to counter climate change.

## ADVERTISEMENT

“This is what happens when you [allow] backwards leadership rule,” the actor said on Twitter yesterday, June 29.

“While the whole world is trying to fight climate change, here we are cutting old beautiful trees that well... hmmm... [provide] us oxygen to [breathe].”

Dee’s tweet was in response to the developer having secured the necessary permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The developer has since given 10,800 seedlings of Benguet pine to Baguio’s local DENR units to replace the lost trees and to support the city’s regreening program. NVG





# DPWH surrenders logs from road project

BY ELMER RECUERDO

MAASIN CITY – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Southern Leyte turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) several logs and other wood materials from the trees cut due to a road construction project in the province.

The turned over logs were from trees

cut during the road concreting project of the access route to Fatima Hills, a tourist destination located in Ichon village in Macrohon town.

District Engineer Ma. Margarita Junia said DPWH Southern Leyte was granted a permit by the DENR to cut trees intended for infrastructure projects, provided that it will strictly adhere to the imposed conditions and undertake measures during and after

The turned over logs were from trees undertake measures during and after land, and 100 trees in return for each the local government unit of Macrohon.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DPWH

DPWH Southern Leyte turned over to DENR the logs from the trees that were cut in the road concreting project leading to Fatima Hills, a tourist destination in Ichon village in Macrohon town.

cutting operations to mitigate the possible impacts of the tree-cutting to the locality and the environment.

A memorandum of agreement has been entered into between DPWH and the DENR setting mechanisms on the replacement of felled trees wherein based on the agreement, DPWH is obliged to replace 50 trees for each felled tree planted in private or forest land, and 100 trees in return for each

naturally grown tree affected by road works.

“Every time we implement projects, we always consider the environmental impacts. We cannot immediately proceed with the construction without properly addressing them,” Junia said.

The turnover of logs was witnessed by DENR and DPWH personnel, project contractors and representatives from the local government unit of Macrohon.





## APO, PENRO, SK join hands for the environment

📅 June 30, 2020 👤 John Mark G. Forcado

<https://marinduquenews.com/2020/06/30/apo-penro-sk-join-hands-for-the-environment/>



BOAC, Marinduque – Alpha Phi Omega, a scouting based international service oriented fraternity and sorority joins the Marinduque Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO) in celebrating the month of June 2020 as the Philippine Environment Month, with the theme, “Protect Nature, Sustain our Future: #WeHealNature4OurFuture”.

The theme for this year’s celebration is taken from the global theme of World Environment Day, “Time for Nature”. In the Philippines, to complement the celebration of World Environment Day, the month of June every year is also declared the Philippine Environment Month, by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 237 signed in 1988.

Fifty bamboo saplings courtesy of PENRO Marinduque headed by PENR Officer Imee M. Diaz were planted in the riverside portion of Barangay Tabi.

As a hard woody grass that continuously grows at a rapid rate, bamboo is a popular wood-substitute globally, as it is a sustainable and sturdy material. Currently, the Philippines is the sixth top exporter of the crop.

On an interview, PENR Officer Diaz said that there are nearly 60 species of bamboo in the country alone, and they are often utilized in industry for handicrafts, furniture construction, and engineered (or modified) bamboo. She then thanked the Alpha Phi Omega members who initiated the planting also the Sangguniang Kabataan of Barangay Tabi in Boac for participating in the said momentous event.

APO believes that it is their duty as fully participating citizen to move and get involved in the protection of the environment. They said that it is part of their four folds program of service guided by their three cardinal principles of leadership, friendship and service. – Marinduquenews.com



# DENR releases 38 Hawksbill turtles in Zambo Norte

June 28, 2020

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1861763/Zamboanga/Local-News/DENR-releases-38-Hawksbill-turtles-in-Zambo-Norte>



Environment officials lead the recent release of 38 hatchlings of Hawksbill Turtles at the shore of Alegria village in Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte. A photo handout shows the hatchlings that were send back to it natural habitat. (SunStar Zamboanga)

OFFICIALS of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)- Zamboanga Peninsula, through the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Siocon Conservation and Development Section (CDS), recently released 38 hatchlings of Hawksbill Turtle back to its natural habitat.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said that the hatchlings of Hawksbill Turtles were released at the shore of Alegria village in Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte.

Tan said that Alegria Village Chief Cecilia Asani and Amad Maguindan, a local fisherman, joined the CENRO-Siocon officials in releasing the hatchlings to its natural habitat.

Tan said it was Maguindan who discovered the hatchlings at an identified nesting site previously fenced and secured by CENRO-Siocon to protect it from scavengers and stray animals.

Maguindan reported his discovery to Asani, who in turn relayed the information to CENRO-Siocon.



## DENR releases 38 Hawksbill turtles in Zambo Norte

Tan said that the Hawksbill Sea Turtles are classified as “critically endangered” by the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Study shows a crisis category that Hawksbill Sea Turtle, among other things, are characterized by having sustained an observed, estimated, inferred or suspected reduction of at least 80 percent over the last 10 years.

The CENRO-Siocon has intensified the conduct of information, education and communication campaign in coastal communities to mobilize them to help protect and conserve the environment.

The information campaign is in line with the continuing implementation of the 10 priority programs of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, specifically under enhanced biodiversity conservation and scaling up of coastal and marine ecosystems. (SunStar Zamboanga)



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

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

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/28/2024193/bulacan-airport-project-seen-affect-endangered-vulnerable-migratory-birds>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

NewsX: Fed by the waters

Nursery and fishing ground

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



June 20, 2020 11:45PM

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\_fbid=2074914585998618&id=163550757135020&anchor\_composer=false

NEWS 5 News5 6 hrs · 🌐



Fun fact: this is smaller than a five-peso coin!

It was initially documented by Australian botanist Alastair Robinson in Mount Victoria, Palawan in 2007 by the indigenous tribe of Tagbanua.

With the help of Philippine Taxonomic Initiative Inc., a Palawan-based NGO, discovery has been published this year.

NEWS 5 DIGITAL

photos: Jefferson Cernica

## NEW TINY ORCHID SPECIES FOUND IN PALAWAN

Natagpuan ito ng grupo ng mga researcher sa Palawan at may scientific name na *Corybas circinatus* mula sa Latin word na circino or "to make round," dahil nakabilog ang petals nito sa bulaklak. Endemic ang halamang ito sa Palawan.

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

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

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/28/2024204/carpio-cleanliness-manila-bay-affects-health-food-security>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

### Reclamation projects

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

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

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

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

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





# P200-M taxes lost from mining during lockdowns: MGB-13

By Alexander Lopez June 30, 2020, 2:50 pm  
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1107443>

BUTUAN CITY – The government has lost between PHP150 million to PHP200 million in taxes from mining companies in Caraga Region alone, following the lockdown imposed beginning March 15 to May 1 this year to contain the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

“These mining firms temporarily halted their mining operations when the community quarantines were imposed in the provinces of Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur,” said Mines and Geosciences Bureau-13 Director Glenn Marcelo Noble in a press conference here Monday.

Of the 19 mining firms, Noble said only five to six companies were able to continue their mining operations from March 15 to May 1, affecting the government's excise and royalty tax collections.

Noble said a few large-scale mining firms--mostly engaged in nickel extraction--in Agusan del Norte and Dinagat Islands (PDI), managed to operate albeit on a limited scale, including those in Surigao del Norte and Agusan del Sur.

Local governments in these areas, he said, imposed stringent protocols, prompting the mining firms to make adjustments on the number of personnel in their mine sites and slowed down their operations.

“The LGUs, during the lockdowns, required the mining companies that continued their operations to set-up disinfection facilities for the safety of their employees. Strict health protocols were also observed inside the working premises of the companies,” Noble noted.

During the initial period of the community quarantine, Noble said mining firms in the region had laid off around 6,500 workers.

Despite the limited operations, the MGB-13 director said mining companies in the region managed to survive the pandemic, and even made hefty contributions to the government's Covid-19 response.

Aside from using their corporate social responsibility funds, Noble said MGB also asked mining firms in the region to realign their Annual Social Development Fund to help ease the impact of Covid-19 on poor families in the region.





## **P200-M taxes lost from mining during lockdowns: MGB-13**

As of Monday, MGB-13 said it allowed the realignment of some PHP147 million from the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) funds of mining companies to assist local government units (LGUs) in their Covid-19 response and provide food and other basic necessities to thousands of families.

“In the last 12 weeks, a total of PHP125 million were already spent from the total amount of the realigned social development funds of 19 mining companies in the region,” Noble said.

The realigned SDMP funds were earmarked for livelihood projects, distribution of provision of food packs, and the purchase of personal protective equipment for Covid-19 front-liners in the Caraga Region, he added.

He also pointed out that several mining firms in the region pooled their SDMP funds amounting to PHP18 million to establish the first molecular test laboratory for Covid-19 in the region.

“The PHP18 million funding for the laboratory was already handed over to the Philippine Red Cross last June 11 this year,” Noble said.

### Collaborative efforts

Also during Monday's press conference, DENR-13 OIC Regional Executive Director Hadja Didaw Piang-Brahim underscored the importance of sustaining collaboration with the other stakeholders, including the media to protect the environment in Caraga Region.

Piang-Brahim, who assumed her post early this month, also presented the agency's 10 priority areas that include Forest Protection; Biodiversity Management; Land Management; National Greening Program (NGP); Clean Air; Clean Water; Solid Waste Management; Climate Change; Geohazard Assessment, Groundwater Assessment and Responsible Mining; and Ecosystems Research and Development.

“Despite the pandemic we are facing, DENR-13 is committed to continue to implement the 10 priority programs set by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu,” Piang-Brahim said. (PNA)



# 8 arrested for illegal quarrying of lahar sand in Tarlac

Published June 30, 2020, 2:19 PM

By Jeffrey G. Damicog

<https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/30/8-arrested-for-illegal-quarrying-of-lahar-sand-in-tarlac/>

Eight persons have been arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Tarlac for illegal excavation of lahar sand.

NBI Officer-In-Charge Eric Distor identified those arrested as workers of A Sand Quarry, namely, Erwin Feliciano, Renoel Paulino, Eugene Madolid, Rolly Verdeflor, Alex Gato, Rodel De Jesus, Rico Duron, and Gilbert Cubelo.

The eight were arrested last June 24 at the illegal quarry site in Barangay Sta. Lucia in Capas, Tarlac during operations conducted by agents of the NBI's Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD).

"Subjects failed to present documents and permits necessary to conduct quarry operations, prompting the operatives to place them under arrest," the NBI said in a statement.

The NBI also seized at the site heavy equipment amounting to around P10.86 million including six dump trucks, two pay loaders, and one backhoe.

Following their arrest, the eight were presented for inquest proceedings before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor-Tarlac City for theft of minerals in violation of Section 103 of Republic Act 7942, the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Prior the operation, it was found that A Sand Quarry has been selling lahar sand between P5,000 to P6,000 per dump truck.

"Verification revealed that no quarry permits were issued for the whole province of Tarlac by the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board – Tarlac," the NBI said.

"Also, a list of mining and quarry permittees from the Regional Director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Region 3 (DENR MGB III) showed that 'A Sand Quarry' had no existing mining and quarry permit," it added.



# WHO says it did not tag PH as leading in COVID-19 case rise

July 1, 2020

<https://ptvnews.ph/who-says-it-did-not-tag-ph-as-leading-in-covid-19-case-rise/>

The World Health Organization on Tuesday clarified that it did not identify the Philippines as the country with the fastest rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in the Western Pacific region.

“The World Health Organization never made such a comment or an assessment. What happened was a journalist from Inquirer used that dashboard and interpreted it in this way,” WHO Country Representative Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe explained.

He added that the WHO does not compare countries or make such assessments.

The Department of Health (DOH) earlier asserted that it is not appropriate to cherry pick countries to compare with the Philippines. The socioeconomic context, as well as health system capacity, are different from other countries.

For instance, the Philippines has a higher population than Singapore. However, per one million people, Singapore has a higher case count at 7,393 compared with the Philippines at 318.

Although the country’s case fatality rate as of June 28 at 3.55 percent is higher than that of ASEAN at 2.9 percent, it is still lower compared to the global CFR of 5.15 percent.

Meanwhile, the DOH said that Metro Manila is still the country’s COVID-19 epicenter despite the rising number of cases in Cebu City.

It also identified emerging hotspots in Mindanao such as Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao.

As of June 30, the latest case bulletin shows a total of 37,514 confirmed COVID-19 cases after 858 fresh and 222 late cases were added. The death toll rose to 1,266 while recovery count climbed to 10,233. – Report from Mark Fetalco



# Ecotourism in the 'new normal' will mix old methods and 'strong science'

Rosette Adel (Philstar.com) - June 30, 2020 - 8:43pm

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/06/30/2024712/ecotourism-new-normal-will-mix-old-methods-and-strong-science>

MANILA, Philippines — With COVID-19 pandemic changing the landscapes of most industries globally, local and international ecotourism experts recently discussed how they plan on innovating and redesigning the ecotour experience for travelers under the so-called “new normal.”

“For ecotourism, the new normal is actually the old normal. In walking treks and canoeing, for example, you’re dealing with quite small numbers in quite remote areas where the risk [of COVID-19] is very low,” Tony Charters, vice-Chairperson of the Global Ecotourism Network and an international consultant with 25 years of experience based in Australia, said in a webinar hosted by the Masungi Georeserve late May.

This was echoed by John Roberts, group director of sustainability for Minor Hotels which operates more than 500 hospitality properties across the globe.

“We [in ecotourism] have a head start. We should be coming back quicker than mass tourism,” Roberts, also the director of the Conservation and Elephants of Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation in Thailand, said.

## Digital transformation

Boboi Costas, founder of Grassroots Travel and a former tourism officer of Cebu province, said ecotourism under the new normal will be “based on trust paired with strong science,” citing the pivot to digital transformation.

“Local communities must innovate or else they will perish... They have to embrace digital transformation boldly,” Costas said referring to the change in visitor and crowd management.

He is hopeful that the government and private sector partners could explore how to “provide digital skills training to communities to empower them. With the new normal, they’ll be able to promote their sites online.”

He cited that the local government of Alonguisian in Cebu hired community leaders and tour guides as COVID response frontliners and marine sanctuary guards.



## Ecotourism in the 'new normal' will mix old methods and 'strong science'

The former Cebu tourism officer said several options could be explored when it comes to ecotourism as it can be combined with wellness activities, culinary and farm tourism, as well as nature-based activities such as bird watching.

Costas said he sees the need to limit the experience of ecotourists to “day tours” for now unless they have places to stay within the area.

### Camping in the time of COVID-19

Roberts, on the other hand, said “camping might be an ideal way to travel.”

“I was gonna say camping would be ideal because you bring your own room with you. As long as you’re staying away from everyone else it may be the ideal way to travel,” Roberts said, adding that travelers can even bring their own tent.

“Again as long as it’s managed with carrying capacity and you’re not harming the environment, it seems like the ideal way to stay away from catching this thing,” he added, referring to COVID-19.

Costas agreed and said he likewise thinks camping would be allowed under the new normal as long as proper guidelines would be followed.

### COVID-19 safety protocols

The ecotourism experts agreed that its old practices may continue and may even serve as models for other tourism sectors. However, they all concurred the need to add precautionary measures such as incorporation of hygiene standards, social distancing measures.

Costas added that there is a need to coordinate with local health practitioners since there is an ongoing health crisis.

The Department of Tourism, for its part, said it is looking forward to an improved ecotourism industry.

“Ecotourism further instills in visitors the respect and appreciation for the culture of indigenous or local communities, while giving its people a viable form of livelihood. The situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has opened our eyes to the fragile nature of our industry,” Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said in a statement.





## Ecotourism in the 'new normal' will mix old methods and 'strong science'

"As we begin our recovery, this session provides stakeholders the perfect opportunity to discuss how we can strengthen and improve the ecotourism industry, making it more flexible, resilient, and better suited to withstand times of uncertainty and difficulty in the future," she said.

'Boracay 6-month rehab a good model'

Meanwhile, asked how the Philippines can continue to attract foreign travelers to experience ecotourism in the country, Charters said the country must maintain its move to practice sustainability.

"There was a lot of global discussion about Boracay and how that was managed," the international consultant said.

"And I think to keep those sorts of projects at the forefront saying that the Philippines is doing things in a sustainable way to keep that profile," he also said, adding that the infrastructure in the country must also be prioritized.



# Rise in number of Covid-infected LSIs impacts Boracay tourism

By Gail Momblan June 30, 2020, 7:13 pm  
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1107475>



BORACAY ISLAND. The white beach of Boracay Island. Only 73 tourists have visited the island since it reopened on June 16, Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista said on Tuesday (June 30, 2020) (PNA file photo)

ILOILO CITY – The world-renowned Boracay Island in Malay town, Aklan has suffered the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), especially as more cases were recorded among locally stranded individuals (LSIs) in Western Visayas (Region 6).

Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Tuesday the island continues to recoup the losses from its previous closure due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The island was reopened to tourists in Western Visayas last June 16 as approved by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force.

A total of 73 tourists have so far visited the island since it reopened until June 28.

The reopening was messed up when a 26-year-old female employee of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) visited the island on June 12. She was tested positive for Covid-19 on June 14, based on the data of the Department of Health - Center for Health Development 6.

“It (reopening) was spoiled. We expected that many (tourists) will enter the island,” he said.



# SAP SA CANADA: PANGDROGA; SA PINAS: PANG-TONG-ITS AT KORAP

June 30, 2020 @ 12:24 PM

<https://remate.ph/sap-sa-canada-pangdroga-sa-pinas-pang-tong-its-at-korap/>



Natataranta ang bansang Canada sa pagdami ng patay na adik sa droga gamit ang katumbas ng Social Amelioration Program ng Pilipinas na ibinibigay sa mga mamamayang biktima ng Coronavirus Disease-19.

Tinatawag na COVID-19 Aid ang katumbas ng SAP.

Sa Pilipinas, ginagamit din ang SAP ng mga adik para sa droga at ng mga sugarol para sa tong-its, pusoy at iba pa.

## **P75,000 COVID-19 AID**

Sa ulat ng AFP News, nagkakahalaga ng 2,000 Canadian dollars o katumbas ng P75,000 ang ipinamimigay ng pamahalaang Canada sa mga aplikante ng COVID-19 Aid.

Noong una, mahigpit ang pagsala ng gobyerno sa mga benepisyaryo sa nasabing cash aid.

Ang daming tanong at maaaring makwalipay o madiskwalipay ang aplikante.

Pero habang nagtatagal ang COVID-19, niluwagan na ang pamimigay ng ayuda.

Konting tanong lang ang kailangan at bigay agad ang naging patakaran.

At natukso ang mga benepisyaryo sa laki, kasama na ang mga adik.

## **PIYESTA SA DROGA**

Meron namang nabigyan na maayos ang iniisip gaya ng pangungupahan nila sa mga paupahang bahay o hotel.

Pero sa kalaunan, pinalayas o lumayas din sila nang maubos ang kanilang ayuda para sa renta.

Ang masakit ay ang hanay ng mga adik sa droga.

Sa laki ng halaga sa kanilang mga bulsa, nagbuo sila ng mga party para lang maglalak ng droga.

Ang sasaya nila, 'di ba?

Pero marami ang nao-overdose at namamatay.



# SAP SA CANADA: PANGDROGA; SA PINAS: PANG-TONG-ITS AT KORAP

‘Yung iba, ipinambibili ng opioid at nilalalak habang naka-stay-at-home o nananatiling mapag-isa bilang bahagi ng street people.

## WOW MAN, ANG LAKAS NG TAMA!

Natukso rin ang iba na bumili o magpainiksyon ng mga mahal at malakas ang tama na droga o opioid.

May mga injection site kasi para sa mga nangangailangan ng droga.

‘Yung iba, bumili ng iba pang mga droga saka ipinaghahalo sa dati nilang sinisinghot, nilalalak o iniiniksyon.

Ang resulta: patay kang adik ka.

Sa lalawigan ng Ontario, dumami ang bilang ng patay taon-taon ng 20 porsyento dahil sa overdose at iba pang pang-aabuso sa droga.

Dumami rin ng 40 porsyento ang patay sa British Columbia sa pagkamatay ng 170 adik.

Grupo-grupo rin ang mga biktima sa Toronto, Calgary at iba pang mga lalawigan at lungsod.

## GOBYERNO NAGSISISI, PEPRENO

Dahil sa nagaganap na pang-aabuso sa COVID-19 aid, hayun, balak na ng pamahalaang Canada na hindi basta magbibigay ng cash aid sa mga adik sa droga.

Masasayang lang nga naman ang buwis ng bayan para sa ganitong paggasta.

listriktuhan na umano ang pamimigay ng ayuda at babalik ang programa nang may mahigpit na pagsala sa mga benepisyaryo.

Tama lang naman!

## TONG-ITS, DROGA

Sa Pilipinas, hindi mabilang sa daliri ang nahuhuling sangkot sa droga na mga benepisyaryo ng SAP.

May natuksong bumili ng matagalang suplay ng sisinghuting shabu.

May namuhunan naman para sa pagtutulak.

Gayundin ang nagaganap sa mga sugarol.

Nagkaroon sila ng puhunan para maging bangka o maging tayador sa mga tong-its, pusoy, sabong at iba pa.



# SAP SA CANADA: PANGDROGA; SA PINAS: PANG-TONG-ITS AT KORAP

Meron pa ngang mga kapitan ng barangay o kagawad na nasasangkot sa mga sugal na ito.

Karamihan sa mga nahuli ang sinampahan ng kaso sa paglabag ng batas sa COVID-19 na Bayanihan to Heal as One Act na nagbabawal sa sugal.

‘Yung iba, sinasamahan ang kanilang mga kaso ng mga batas naman laban sa droga.

## **800+ KORAP YARI**

Ayon kay Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, mahigit 800 na opisyal ng barangay at kasabwat ng mga ito ang iniimbestigahan o kinasuhan na korapsyon at paglabag sa Bayanihan Act.

Isinasagawa ang imbestigasyon at pagsasampa ng kaso ng Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Sa mahigit 800 na suspek, kulang-kulang na sa 400 ang nasampahan ng kaso habang kinakalapan pa ng mga ebidensya ang mga isinumbong sa korapsyon.

Maparaan ang mga korap.

Ang ilan, pinipili lang ang mga kamag-anak, kaibigan, kumpare, botante, alyado sa mga halalan at pulitika bilang mga benepisyaryo.

‘Yung iba, namomorsyento ng tiyak na halaga gaya ng P500 pataas mula sa mga pinaboran at sinertipikahang kwalipikadong benepisyaryo.

‘Yung iba, hinahati kunyari sa dalawa ang halagang P6,500 pataas na SAP para umano sa iba pang benepisyaryo para makinabang umano ang marami.

Pero sa rami ng mga hinati-hating ayuda, maraming parte ang napasakamay o nakikbak ng mga opisyal o kanilang mga waswit o “kolektor.”

## **BANTAY SARADO NA**

Dahil sa pagsalakay ng mga korap sa pamamahagi ng ayuda, ang susunod umanong ipamimigay na SAP ay idaraan na sa electronics.

‘Yun bang === idaraan na sa mga bangko o ahensya sa padala.

Hindi na umano mauulit ang bahay-bahay na pamamahagi at isasalang na nang husto sa pagsusuri at pagpili ng mga tunay na benepisyaryo bagama’t nariyan pa rin ang mga lokal na opisyal na tutulong sa pagberipika sa mga ito.

Kung meron mang ipamamahagi nang bahay-bahay, may kasama nang mga pulis o kaya’y sundalo.

Putol o basag na ang kaligayahan ninyong mga korap kayo.





## The longest year

posted July 01, 2020 at 12:30 am

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/327441>

Local executives elected in the May 2019 elections mark their first anniversary in office this week.

We are certain that when they campaigned to be elected to their current positions, they had no way of knowing that a global pandemic would accompany the usual challenges and temptations of the job.



In those pre-COVID days, progress, inclusive growth, resilience and good governance were among the aspirations of local government units. Each LGU's chance at success varied greatly, depending on its own history, attributes, baggage left by previous leaders, the culture of its people, and the qualities of its new leader.

It appeared that eschewing traditional practices and restrictive mindsets in the manner of governance could be good predictors of success. Younger executives, adept at technology, appreciative of science, and more inclined to make decisions based on hard data, seemed to be making good first impressions.

And then this pandemic brought the world to its knees. All of a sudden, all plans were put on hold and survival became the name of the game. Each leader grappled with the threat of the virus, and the corresponding economic consequences of the public health emergency, with whatever resources available. Some were lucky to have actual or vicarious experience running an LGU; others had a rude awakening.

While Filipinos look to the national leadership for direction, all policies, directives and assistance is delivered through the local government.

What an ordeal the past months have been—and the crisis is far from over. With the pandemic far from over, our local leaders will continue to be the face of the government, and will be the cause of our confidence in, or abhorrence of it.

The leaders who marked their first year on the job this year will be the ones to see us through as we make a transition to the so-called new normal. May best practices be highlighted, retold and replicated. May blunders and incompetence be rebuked.

These leaders' competence or ineptitude will determine whether we simply pick up from where we left off—or whether we have to work hard to recover after losing the equivalent of many years of progress.



# IATF approves recommendations of economic team

Alexis Romero

July 1, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/07/01/2024739/iatf-approves-recommendations-economic-team>

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MANILA, Philippines — The government’s pandemic task force has approved the economic team’s recommendations to further open up the economy, including expanding the testing capacity to lower the country’s positivity rate.

The Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) adopted the recommendations through Resolution No. 50 issued last Monday.

“After a discussion that lasted for almost seven hours, an agreement was reached and the recommendations of the economic team were approved in principle,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque said at a press briefing yesterday.

“To the armchair analysts who are claiming that the IATF only offers militaristic solutions and economic managers are not part of the task force, that's fake news... It is important to open up the economy and start the recovery from the lockdown,” he added.

Roque said the strategies to fight coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) would be revisited to ensure a balance between health and economics. The strategies seek to strengthen the confidence of people to go back to work and to strengthen consumer demand.

The economic team recommended the expansion of the testing strategy to include other segments of the population as recommended by the National Task Force against COVID-19, the implementing body of the IATF. Local governments would be consulted on the moving up of the economy of Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Metro Manila “towards easing up of community quarantine status,” the IATF resolution said.

Economic managers also proposed the strengthening of mitigating measures including strictly enforcing minimum public health standards, ensuring the protection of vulnerable populations including those with existing illnesses, maximizing the test, trace and isolate and treat infrastructure and using the full support of strategic communications.



## IATF approves recommendations of economic team

The government also aims to “accelerate testing capacity by the end of July 2020 to aid in achieving a positivity rate of three percent.” The Philippines has a positivity rate of about six percent, which means that for every 100 persons who undergo COVID-19 tests, six test positive for the virus.

Roque said the expansion of testing capacity is crucial to avoid the more expensive treatment cost of P333,519 for severe cases, P786,384 for critical cases and “potentially much more for the total cost of care.”

He noted that the proposed extension of the Bayanihan Act seeks to allocate P10 billion for testing subsidy. There is also a proposal to allot P15 billion for cash for work program and to hire 50,000 contact tracers, Roque said.

The economic team recommended gearing towards a more localized quarantine at the municipal or barangay levels “once evidence of steady progress towards meeting the targets is observed.”

It also called for an optimized use of “sufficient and safe public transportation to facilitate the opening up of the economy.” Roque said the economic cluster has specific proposals on public transportation, including providing subsidies to affected drivers.

“The economic team is also considering giving subsidies. It’s not huge, just enough for the public transportation that did not operate at 100 percent capacity to recover. Of course we have to give them subsidies for them to recover their costs, the break even, about 10 percent,” Roque said.

Mass transportation was suspended for about two months after the government imposed a lockdown to contain the virus. Edu Punay



## Recession

posted July 01, 2020 at 12:00 am

by Tony Lopez

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/327435>

"Before this, the Philippines has had 84 consecutive quarters of economic expansion—the longest and richest in our country's history."

The Philippine economy is now in recession. Recession is a slowdown or decline in economic production for two consecutive quarters.

The economy contracted by 0.2 in the first quarter 2020 and is estimated to contract by another 5.7 to 6.7 percent in the second quarter ending June 30, 2020. For the whole year 2020, the contraction could be between 3 percent (government forecast) and 6 percent (economist Ciel Habito's forecast). To me, I think the drop in output could be as deep as 8 percent in 2020.

The last time the country suffered a GDP growth rate decline was in early 1998, 21 years ago. After that 1998 semi-recession, the Philippines has had 84 consecutive quarters of economic expansion, the longest and richest in our country's history. That boom brought Filipinos to low middle class status, with per capita income of \$3,765.

Filipinos were supposed to be upgraded to upper middle income this 2020, with each Filipino making close to \$4,000 per year. With the country enjoying among the world's most robust growth rates, the Philippines was recording among the lowest rates in unemployment, underemployment, and poverty in recent memory. Then, the coronavirus struck.

The milestones would have made Rodrigo Duterte the best president in terms of economic achievement. No wonder, the President was surfing waves after waves of popularity surges, hitting unheard of territory, with eight in every 10 Filipinos giving him the thumbs up.

Why not? His economic managers promised to lift six million Filipinos out of poverty in 2022, at the end of his six-year term. They did it four years early, in 2018 when poverty incidence fell from 23 percent of the population in 2015 to 17 percent by 2018.

It is not as if there was a dramatic increase in real income by the poor. Poverty reduction also benefited from the "redefinition" of poverty.

Statisticians said anybody who drinks beer and smokes cannot be counted as poor, although beer and smoking are staple habits of most Filipinos. Also, statisticians redefined what it means to have a "full time" job. He is anyone who has worked for one hour in the past week. They also redefined what is a labor force. Anyone who is 15 and above who is supposed to work but is not seeking work is not counted as part of the workforce. This definition removes easily 20 million from the workforce, making the



## Recession

universe on which to base unemployment and underemployment ratios much smaller, about 43 million. Based on 43 million, a 5 percent unemployment is just 2.15 million. Based on 63 million, a 5 percent unemployment is 3.15 million, a difference of one million jobless Filipinos.

In the 1970s, statisticians decided that anybody using cosmetics and wearing some fancy jewelry could not be poor. That “improved” the lot of the poor, statistically.

Duterte’s economic managers also claimed that they saved more than 100,000 lives and millions more of possibly infected Filipinos, thanks to Manila’s early lockdown, on March 15, which became the world’s longest lockdown and Asia’s strictest lockdown. I was initially cynical of those claims, made by Finance Secretary Sonny Dominguez and his fair-haired freshly minted economic planning secretary, Karl Kendrick Chua.

Then, by design or negligence or both, Health Secretary Francisco Duque started trying to prove Sonny and Karl were right. The number of COVID-19 cases rose stratospherically to total 36,438 as of yesterday, with 983 new cases per day. On March 15, the day the lockdown began, there were only 140 cases, with 29 new cases per day. Cumulative deaths were 1,255 as of June 29, up from just the 12 total on March 15, 2020. Ever heard of the term “predictive” text in texting or writing? Well, it also applies to COVID reporting.

Bangko Sentral Governor Ben Diokno sent me the following press statement yesterday on the latest economic performance and outlook:

S&P’s forecast that the Philippine economy might contract by 3 percent should be seen in a positive light. This is better than the International Monetary Fund’s -3.6 percent and the Asian Development Bank’s -3.8 percent.

The negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis is harsher than what was originally thought. In fact, the IMF has recently downgraded global growth to -4.9 percent, down from 1.9 percent points from its April forecast.

The S&P forecast for the Philippines falls within the government’s revised projection that the domestic economy will contract at between 2 to 3.4 percent. It is also consistent with the BSP staff’s forecast that Q2 2020 GDP growth would contract at between 5.7 percent to 6.7 percent.

The S&P’s GDP forecast for the Philippines is right in the middle of growth forecasts for ASEAN-5 countries: Indonesia, 0.7 percent; Vietnam, 1.2 percent; Philippines, -3 percent; Singapore, -5 percent; and Thailand, -5.1 percent.

The other good news is that the rating agency sees a strong rebound for the Philippine economy next year, as it forecasts that the economy will bounce back by 9.4 percent as economic activities resume.





## Rise in number of Covid-infected LSIs impacts Boracay tourism

Bautista said that 54 of the 55 traced contacts of the BFP employee have already tested negative for the disease. They included her co-workers, hotel personnel, boat passengers, and crew.

He is hoping the one remaining contact will test negative for Covid-19 so that it won't scare tourists away from visiting the island.

But the rise in the number of Western Visayas' Covid-19 cases involving LSIs is another concern, he said.

Based on the DOH-CHD 6's data on Monday, 201 LSIs and repatriated overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) were found infected.

"The people fear to go out because of the cases. One of our target markets is Iloilo City but it seems that they (Ilonggos) already have the fear of traveling," he said, adding that he understood that people prioritize their safety during this global health emergency.

Iloilo City on Monday has 36 Covid-19 cases involving repatriates and LSIs.

Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores last June 26 signed Executive Order 28 allowing domestic flights that would carry LSIs and returning OFWs through the Kalibo International Airport.

The order, effective July 1 this year, permits the Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific Air and Air Asia to operate two flights per week.

"We are supposed to benefit from allowing the flights but there is another directive from the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government) regarding the suspension of the return of LSIs to Western Visayas," he said.

Bautista assured that minimum health protocols, such as wearing face masks and observing strict physical distancing and proper hygiene, are being practiced in the island since its reopening.

He is also leaving to the national government the decision of the island's direction starting July 1.

"We will wait for the pronouncement of President (Rodrigo) Duterte for our next steps," he said. (PNA)



# Bulalakaw Falls adjudge as the cleanest body of water in La Union

By Joanne Namnama P. DilimPublished on June 30, 2020  
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046253>

Mention La Union and one can easily think of the province's beautiful and welcoming beaches in San Juan town. Undoubtedly, the province capitalizes on the surfing activity in San Juan as it consistently draws tourists.

But aside from the beaches, the province also takes pride of other municipal bodies of water.

In time for the celebration of the Environment Month in June, the provincial government of La Union conducts an annual search dubbed as Cleanest, Greenest, and Safest Municipality and Municipal Bodies of Water.

Under the same search, the cleanest bodies of water were likewise chosen.

After the on-site validation conducted by the members of the Provincial Search Committee, Bulalakaw Falls in Bagulin town emerged as this year's first place winner.

Why did the Bulalakaw Falls win?

The upland municipality of Bagulin indeed rejoices as it gets the top spot for this year's Cleanest Body of Water with Bulalakaw Falls as its entry.

Bulalakaw Falls is located at Balili River at Sitio Santol, Barangay Alibangsay in Bagulin.

According to the La Union Tayo website, there are two routes to get to the waterfalls area either through the road going to Barangay Alibangsay Sitio Santol or on a river route.

If one chooses the latter, he or she will get to enjoy the view of the river while trekking about 500 meters towards the waterfalls area.

For a minimal environmental fee, any visitor will be treated with the water falls which is about 30 to 50 meters high. The beautiful bliss-pool at the bottom has clear cool water and one will surely enjoy swimming through it.

The Pagna-Pagna blog also shares that just above the waterfalls is a small hanging bridge which is used by locals going to their farmlands.

Even on hot summer days, the waterfalls also substantial amount of water.

If one asks how much time is needed for one to dip in the Bulalakaw Falls? Around 20 minutes of trekking is an estimate.

But it is guaranteed, trekking will all be worth it as the falls is one natural beauty worth one's time and visit. (JCR/JND, PIA La Union)



# Bulkang Kanlaon, niyanig ng 15 lindol sa loob ng 24 oras – Phivolcs

June 30, 2020 @ 6:15 PM

<https://remate.ph/bulkang-kanlaon-niyanig-ng-15-lindol-sa-loob-ng-24-oras-philvolcs/>

Manila, Philippines – Nakapagtala ng 15 volcano-tectonic earthquakes ang PHIVOLCS sa western flanks ng Bulkang Kanlaon sa loob ng 24 oras.

Batay sa 8 a.m. bulletin ng PHIVOLCS, inoobserbahan din nito ang 100 metrong white steam-laden plumes.

Makikita rin sa ground deformation data ang bahagyang pagnipis ng lower at mid slopes mula nang magsimula ang taon at pagtaas ng lower hanggang mid slopes na nagsimula noong Hunyo 21.

“These parameters indicate hydrothermal or magmatic processes occurring beneath the edifice,” ayon sa PHIVOLCS.

Nagpaalala rin ang PHIVOLCS sa publiko na nakataas pa rin ang Alert Level 1 sa Bulkang Kanlaon. RNT/MM



## Local virus transmission in PHL a ‘worrying situation’

June 30, 2020 07:57 PM

By Gabbie Parlade

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/30/local-virus-transmission-in-phl-a-worrying-situation/>

Following the steady rise of nationwide COVID-19 cases, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday disclosed that the increase of virus transmission in localities is seen as a worrying situation for the country.

In a televised briefing, WHO representative to the Philippines Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe said that based on their observation COVID-19 cases have recently been reported among ages between 20 to 40 years old.

Abeyasinghe warned that if the situation is not handled it might later affect the elderly population.

“What we are seeing now worryingly is that the increased levels of cases we are seeing is largely in a younger population of, say 20 to 40 years, but eventually this is going to spill over to our elderly and vulnerable groups, and when and if that happens, we may see an increase in the mortality rate,” said Abeyasinghe.

The WHO official also mentioned that emerging hotspots in Visayas and Mindanao along the steady rise of cases among the areas of the National Capital Region and Cebu City have been reported.

With this, he said that the Philippines should strengthen its contact tracing efforts as well as its expansion of testing capacity and despite the reported improvement last month, Abeyasinghe said that the country was not able to sustain it.

“Unfortunately this aspect of the Philippine response needs a little more strengthening, there is an improvement in the last month but it’s not keeping pace with the pace of the expansion of the testing capacity,” said Abeyasinghe.

He also said the need to enhance the local government units’ response to COVID-19 positive patients, mostly on isolation.

“The DoH has come up with very good guidelines on how to manage positive cases how to quarantined them, but the implementation at local government levels in different areas of the country is different so where we see poor compliance with the guidelines we are seeing the numbers of cases increasing, and this is actually becoming a worrying situation,” he said.



# Climate fund targets \$2.5 billion in clean energy investment for Southeast Asia

Michael Taylor, Thomson Reuters Foundation

Posted at Jun 30 2020 05:05 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/06/30/20/climate-fund-targets-25-billion-in-clean-energy-investment-for-southeast-asia>

KUALA LUMPUR - A new climate fund backed by philanthropic donors is aiming to trigger \$2.5 billion of clean energy investment in Southeast Asia and aid the region's green recovery after the coronavirus.

The South East Asia Clean Energy Facility (SEACEF) is managed by Singapore-based Clime Capital, with an initial investment of \$10 million and a focus on getting new projects underway in Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines.

"We need to mobilize billions to make a meaningful impact on climate change," said Mason Wallick, Clime Capital's managing director, who sits on the SEACEF investment committee.

Money is most needed to fill a gap in funding to help early-stage projects get off the ground, he added.

Asia-Pacific, home to two-thirds of the world's people, is experiencing rising urbanization, population and economic growth, leaving nations scrambling to provide enough electric power while keeping promises to cut heat-trapping emissions.

Last year, researchers said Southeast Asian countries must end their reliance on coal power and switch to clean energy, to meet pledges to curb climate change and tackle air pollution.

But the region is struggling to wean itself off abundant, locally produced cheap coal in favor of clean alternatives to burning fossil fuels, the main contributor to climate change.

"Here in Southeast Asia, we have the equivalent of a China in terms of potential emissions," said Wallick.

"It's a big market that should be coming up the curve in a more meaningful way to promote renewables now that (they are) economic and can fit within the (power) supply plans for these countries," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

China is today the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.





## Climate fund targets \$2.5 billion in clean energy investment for Southeast Asia

SEACEF describes itself as a "first-of-its-kind" philanthropic initiative to tackle climate change, focused on the high-risk funding needed to get new clean energy projects up and running.

It will look to invest broadly in projects and businesses that include wind and solar power, mains grid infrastructure, energy efficiency in buildings, and electronic mobility and storage, Wallick said.

Early-stage capital is "in very short supply", a situation exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic pushing investors to reduce their exposure and limit development budgets, he added.

The fund, which hopes to attract an additional \$40 million in capital from foundations and development banks, aims to mobilize more than \$2.5 billion in clean energy investment from the private sector.

So far it is backed by Sea Change Foundation International, Wellspring Climate Initiative, High Tide Foundation, Grantham Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Packard Foundation and Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF).

"The launch of this new fund comes at a critical moment, with the COVID-19 crisis shrinking traditional sources of finance, dedicated towards bending the curve of climate change," said Imraan Mohammed, head of impact investing at CIFF.

Philanthropic organizations and impact investors are "stepping up to bridge the gap, catalyze other sources of funding and ensure the transition to clean energy in Southeast Asia continues to accelerate", he added in a statement.



# Coal reaching ‘tipping point’ vs. renewables — analysis

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<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/744920/coal-reaching-tipping-point-vs-renewables-analysis/story/>

PARIS — Renewable energy such as wind and solar projects are already cheaper to build than it is to continue operating 40 percent of the world's existing coal fleet, according to analysis released Tuesday.

In a report outlining how the world can phase out the most polluting fuel while powering an economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, a group of experts said coal had reached a financial "tipping point" making it uncompetitive in most markets.

The authors estimate that a third of the global coal fleet is already more costly to run than it is to build new renewable power solutions, including battery storage.

That figure is set to rise to 73 percent of the fleet by 2025, said the analysis, which also found that replacing the entire coal fleet with clean energy could be done at a net saving to the global economy as soon as 2022.

"A faster transition from coal to clean energy is within our grasp, and we show how to engineer that transition in ways that will save money for electricity customers around the world while aiding a just transition for workers and communities," said Paul Bodnar, managing director of the Rocky Mountain think tank which co-produced the research.

The 2015 Paris climate deal enjoins nations to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial temperatures through sweeping emissions cuts.

The accord strives for a safer heating cap of 1.5°C.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said that for the 1.5°C goal to remain in reach, global coal use must decline by 80 percent below 2010 levels by 2030.

The analysis found that 81 percent of the European Union's coal fleet was already uncompetitive today—meaning that without state support the plants would cease to be going concerns.

In China that figure stands at 43 percent currently, rising to nearly 100 percent in five years.



## Coal reaching ‘tipping point’ vs. renewables — analysis

The report did not take into account the environmental and health impacts of coal.

"Coal power is quickly facing economic obsolescence, independent of carbon pricing and air pollution policies," said Matt Gray, managing director and co-head of power and utilities at the Carbon Tracker Initiative.

"Closing coal capacity and replacing it with lower cost alternatives will not only save consumers and taxpayers money, but could also play a major role in the upcoming economic recovery." — Agence France-Press



# New swine flu found in China has pandemic potential

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Jun 30 2020 06:38 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/06/30/20/new-swine-flu-found-in-china-has-pandemic-potential>

WASHINGTON — Researchers in China have discovered a new type of swine flu that is capable of triggering a pandemic, according to a study published Monday in the US science journal PNAS.

Named G4, it is genetically descended from the H1N1 strain that caused a pandemic in 2009.

It possesses "all the essential hallmarks of being highly adapted to infect humans," say the authors, scientists at Chinese universities and China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

From 2011 to 2018, researchers took 30,000 nasal swabs from pigs in slaughterhouses in 10 Chinese provinces and in a veterinary hospital, allowing them to isolate 179 swine flu viruses.

The majority were of a new kind which has been dominant among pigs since 2016.

The researchers then carried out various experiments including on ferrets, which are widely used in flu studies because they experience similar symptoms to humans -- principally fever, coughing and sneezing.

G4 was observed to be highly infectious, replicating in human cells and causing more serious symptoms in ferrets than other viruses.

Tests also showed that any immunity humans gain from exposure to seasonal flu does not provide protection from G4.

According to blood tests which showed up antibodies created by exposure to the virus, 10.4 percent of swine workers had already been infected.

The tests showed that as many as 4.4 percent of the general population also appeared to have been exposed.

The virus has therefore already passed from animals to humans but there is no evidence yet that it can be passed from human to human -- the scientists' main worry.



## New swine flu found in China has pandemic potential

"It is of concern that human infection of G4 virus will further human adaptation and increase the risk of a human pandemic," the researchers wrote.

The authors called for urgent measures to monitor people working with pigs. "The work comes as a salutary reminder that we are constantly at risk of new emergence of zoonotic pathogens and that farmed animals, with which humans have greater contact than with wildlife, may act as the source for important pandemic viruses," said James Wood, head of the department of veterinary medicine at Cambridge University.

A zoonotic infection is caused by a pathogen that has jumped from a non-human animal into a human.