



DENR's LMB to go digital soon

posted July 06, 2020 at 11:10 pm by Rio N. Araja

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/327933/denr-s-lmb-to-go-digital-soon.html>

The Land Management Bureau under the Department of Environment is moving to fast track its digital transformation to ensure safe, fast and efficient delivery of land-related services to the public under the so-called “new normal” triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Its director—Emelyne Talabis—said the bureau eyes the completion of the migration of all its land records from the manual system to the computerized Land Administration and Management System (LAMS) this year.

She said the agency is also working to digitize the processing of public land application, verification and approval of survey plans, and access to land information in order to minimize physical presence of clients and stakeholders at LMB offices nationwide.

“Even before the pandemic, the LMB is already revisiting the processes and procedures under LAMS since its launch in 2016. This new normal all the more showed the urgency of our development plans for LAMS,” she added.

LAMS is a computerized information system that consolidates land data and records in the country for quick and easy processing, tracking and retrieval of land information.

Warlito Quirimit, the head of both the LMB Information and Communication Technology Section and LAMS National Coordinating Desk, said the bureau looks forward to the full implementation of the inspection, verification and approval of surveys under the LAMS.

According to Quirimit, LMB also plans to provide the public online access to spatial data with plotting features overlaid on satellite imagery or Google Earth, including adjoining lots, if available.

“An online payment mechanism for the implementation of cashless transactions is also in the work,” he disclosed.

“We aim to hasten these modernization plans brought by the new normal requirements,” he said.



Serbisyo ng LMB pinabilis

July 6, 2020 @ 7:57 PM

<https://remate.ph/serbisyo-ng-lmb-pinabilis/>

Manila, Philippines – Upang matiyak na maayos at ligtas ang pagbibigay ng “land-related-services” sa publiko habang ipinatutupad ang “new normal” dahil na rin sa epekto ng coronavirus pandemic ay mas pabibilisin pa ng Land Management Bureau (LMB) ang kanilang serbisyo sa pamamagitan ng “digital transformation”.

Ang LMB ay ang ahensya na nasa ilalim ng Department of Environment ang Natural Resources (DENR) na responsable sa pamamahala, survey, at iba pang serbisyo na may kinalaman sa lupa na hindi saklaw ng ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno.

Ayon kay LMB Director Emelyne Talabis, target ng bureau na makumpleto ngayong taon ang “migration” ng lahat ng “land records” mula sa “manual system” patungo sa computerized Land Administration and Management System (LAMS).

Sinabi ng DENR na tinatrabaho na rin ng ahensiya na maging “digitize” ang pagproseso ng public land application, beripikasyon, approval at survey plans upang malimitahan ang pagpunta ng mga kliyente at stakeholders sa mga tanggapan ng LMB sa buong bansa.

“Even before the pandemic, the LMB is already revisiting the processes and procedures under LAMS since its launch in 2016,” paliwanag pa ni Talabis. “This new normal all the more showed the urgency of our development plans for LAMS.”

Ang LAMS ay ang “computerized information system” na siyang umiipon ng land data at records sa buong bansa. Ang sistemang ito ay ginawa upang mapabilis ang processing, tracking at retrieval ng land information.

Ayon naman kay Warlito Quirimit, hepe ng LMB Information and Communication Technology Section at LAMS National Coordinating Desk, target ng bureau ang pagpapatupad ng Inspection, Verification and Approval of Surveys (IVAS) sa ilalim ng LAMS.

Sinabi pa nito, sa pamamagitan ng IVAS, sa pangangasiwa na rin ng geodetic engineers, papayagan ang mga kliyente ng magsumite ng e-survey returns online sa halip na magtungo sa tanggapan ng LMB na matatagpuan sa mga regional offices.



Serbisyo ng LMB pinabilis

Sa pamamagitan na rin ng geodetic engineers, maaaring makapag-download ng survey records kabilang na ang “textual at scanned documents” ng land information sa LAMS policy ng digital land data sharing at security measures ngunit hindi dito kasama ang mga confidential records.

Dagdag pa ni Quirimit, plano din ng LMB na magkaroon ng public online access “spatial data” na mayroong satellite imagery na makikita sa Google Earth kabilang na dito ang “adjoining lots”.

Kinukumpleto na rin ng bureau ang database na naglalaman ng “authoritative information” ng land survey records, parcel information at titling process ng DENR.

“An online payment mechanism for the implementation of cashless transactions is also in the works”, dagdag pa ni Quirimit.

“We aim to hasten these modernization plans brought by the new normal requirements,” sabi pa ni Quirimit. “Step-by-step, enhancement plans will be implemented this year until 2021.”

Bagama’t nahihirapan pa ang mga field officers ng DENR dahil na rin sa “internet limitation”, tiniyak naman ni Quirimit sa publiko na ipagpapatuloy ng LMB ang mga pagbabago upang mapadali ang pagbibigay ng serbisyo sa pamamagitan ng internet. Santi Celario



DENR to fine AC Energy for Iloilo oil spill

By Marita Moaje July 6, 2020, 9:32 am
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1108022>

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will fine AC Energy Corporation for the oil spill incident in Iloilo City over the weekend.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Sunday said the agency would issue a Notice of Violation of Republic Act 9275 or the Clean Water Act, to AC Energy Corp.

He added that a technical conference would be called to immediately address the clean-up operation of the July 4 oil spill.

Antiporda said it is the responsibility of AC Energy to conduct the clean-up operation, as they are the owner of the barge that exploded from Power Barge 102.

The company is now coordinating with Harbor Star Shipping Services, a third party, for the oil spill clean-up in the affected areas.

The explosion caused a one-foot wide hole in the hull of the power barge leading to the oil spill.

No one was reported injured in the incident.

The DENR said the clean up must be conducted following the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and that the operation must be supervised by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

The Regional Incident Management Team was created for the monitoring of all aspects of the clean-up — affected community, its health and environmental impact, and waste management.

DENR is also recommending the clean up of heavy bunker fuel in mangrove areas to allow wave action and disperse the oil and collect them from the sea.

Sorbents and manual clean-up are also recommended by the DENR, to be done under strict monitoring to ensure that mangroves in the area will not be disturbed, because doing so may cause more harm than good.

Antiporda said a meeting was held on July 4 with AC Energy Inc. and the Philippine Coast Guard, which is supervising the clean-up.

AC Energy, in a statement, said the containment stage has been completed Saturday evening, through the use of multilayered spill booms from PB 102, and additional layers from the PCG and Petron.

Skimming operations were also started on the same day.

AC Energy is currently conducting a thorough investigation of the incident, engaging a third-party firm on the cause of the incident to prevent a similar mishap.

Aside from the immediate clean up of the oil spill, the company also promised to support the affected communities. (PNA)



People affected by oil spill should be paid—solon

posted July 06, 2020 at 11:40 pm by Maricel Cruz

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/327938/people-affected-by-oil-spill-should-be-paid-solon.html>

A party-list lawmaker on Monday said the owner of the barge carrying petroleum products that blew up off Iloilo City should pay for the environmental degradation caused by the spill and the economic losses that it caused on coastal communities.

Rep. Michael Defensor of Anakalusugan, also a former Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, said: “We are also counting on the operator of the power barge – AC Energy Corp. – to pay for the cleanup of the spill.”

“The Oil Pollution Compensation Law of 2007, or Republic Act 9483, imposes strict liability for oil pollution damage and guarantees adequate reparation for adversely affected populations, especially those that depend on fishing and seashell harvesting,” Defensor said.

Under the law, Defensor said owners of vessels that “cause pollution damage or create a grave and imminent threat of causing such damage,” are liable for several offenses.

These include, he said, expenses actually incurred in clean-up operations at sea or on shore; costs incurred for preventive measures and further loss or damage caused by such preventive measures; consequential loss or loss of earnings suffered by owners or users of property contaminated or damaged as a direct result of the spill; pure economic loss or loss of earnings sustained by people, even if the property tainted or spoiled by the slick does not belong to them; damage to human health or loss of life as a direct result of the incident; and environmental damage and other reasonable measures of restoration.

“These liabilities are apart from whatever fines may be imposed by the Pollution Adjudication Board on AC Energy for violations of the Clean Water Act of 2004,” Defensor said.

After the cleanup, AC Energy is also expected to rehabilitate the coastal ecosystem ravaged by the spill, Defensor said.

A blast ruptured Power Barge 102’s fuel oil storage tank Friday, spilling some 251,000 liters of petroleum by Saturday morning in the waters off Iloilo’s Barangay Barrio Obrero, according to the Philippine Coast Guard.

Private suppliers like AC Energy have been deploying power barges –self-contained, floating power plants – to help address recurring electricity shortages in the Visayas grid.



Oil spill from Iloilo power barge probed

Danessa Rivera July 6, 2020

<https://www.philstar.com/the-philippine-star>

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MANILA, Philippines — A third party has been tapped to investigate an oil spill from one of the power barges of AC Energy Inc. in Iloilo City.

In a statement released over the weekend, the power firm said it is investigating the spill that resulted from an explosion in its Power Barge 102 (PB102) on Saturday afternoon.

The explosion reportedly ignited the fuel inside the barge's tank.

The Ayala-owned firm said containment procedures and skimming operations have been ongoing since the spill was reported.

"The containment stage was completed last night through the use of multilayered spill booms from PB 102 and additional layers from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Petron," AC Energy said.

It said that yesterday morning, more oil skimmer equipment from Shell Philippines arrived and another set from the company's Power Barge 103 will arrive tomorrow.

The spill displaced 105 families composed of 375 individuals from Barangay Obrero in Lapuz district and Mansaya in La Paz due to fumes emanating from the area. Company officials met with the regional risk reduction and management council to discuss the ongoing response operations and activate an oil-spill team that would handle the management of the incident.

AC Energy established a team to coordinate with barangay leaders for the needs of affected residents.

Meanwhile, the oil spill has reached the shores of Dumangas in Iloilo and Jordan in Guimaras.

At least 189 liters of bunker fuel have been retrieved as of yesterday afternoon, according to Lt. Cmdr. Joe Luviz Mercurio, chief of the Philippine Coast Guard-Iloilo Station.

Of the 268,000 liters of fuel contained in the barge's tank, 251,000 liters have leaked out.

The PCG has yet to assess the amount of damage caused by the incident, although it said it saw some damage to mangroves. Jennifer Rendon



Iloilo oil spill a big threat to marine life and fishers' livelihood in Visayas — groups

Gaea Katreena Cabico (Philstar.com) - July 6, 2020 - 4:19pm

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/07/06/2026051/iloilo-oil-spill-big-threat-marine-life-and-fishers-livelihood-visayas-groups>

MANILA, Philippines — The oil spill incident off the waters of Iloilo City threatens to devastate the marine life in the area and the livelihood of communities in some parts of Visayas, groups warned Monday.

Around 48,000 liters of oil spilled into the waters last Friday following an explosion at a power barge of Ayala's AC Energy Inc. in the city's Lapuz district.

In a statement, fishers group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas warned the oil spill might reach the Guimaras Strait and the Visayan Sea due to water current and wind direction. PAMALAKAYA said this might affect fisherfolk from Guimaras Island, Negros Occidental, Masbate, and Eastern and Western Visayas.

"We call on the urgent government agencies to implement urgent measures to contain the oil spill and prevent it from spreading across the major fishing grounds in Visayas," Fernando Hicap, PAMALAKAYA national chairperson, said.

"Oil spill poses serious injury and loss of life and/or irreversible water contamination of surface, ground, coastal and marine waters," he added.

The oil spill reportedly displaced 105 families composed of 375 individuals from Brgy. Obrero in Lapuz district and Brgy. Mansaya in La Paz due to fumes emanating from the area.

The power firm said it has tapped a third party to investigate the oil spill from one of its power barges.

Shift to renewable energy

Greenpeace said the incident shows how oil and other sources of fossil fuel—main contributor to the climate crisis—are dangerous to the environment and communities.

"Beyond a cleanup, we are asking power companies to rethink their businesses to immediately shift to renewable energy sources and phase out their oil and coal facilities," Khevin Yu, Greenpeace campaigner, said.

A report by Greenpeace released in November 2019 showed that coal remains the country's dominant energy source in 2018. It had a 52.05% share in gross power generation by source in gigawatt hours.



Iloilo oil spill a big threat to marine life and fishers' livelihood in Visayas — groups

The share of renewable energy sources, meanwhile, was at 22.27% as of December 2018.

“This oil spill will have lasting effects on the marine environment and communities. As a response, the government should ensure that the centerpiece of the country’s post-pandemic recovery plan is an urgent and just transition to 100% RE power generation,” Yu said.

In 2006, an oil tanker chartered by Petron Corporation sank off the coast of Guimaras, spilling more than two million liters of bunker fuel. This was considered the worst oil spill in the country.

“We don’t want the repeat of the Guimaras oil spill that did not only literally painted the waters black, but devastated the marine environment and economic lives of thousands of fisherfolk,” Hicap said.



Iloilo oil spill sparks calls to limit use of fossil fuels

By Jonathan L. Mayuga July 7, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/07/07/iloilo-oil-spill-sparks-calls-to-limit-use-of-fossil-fuels/>

AC Energy is facing severe penalty and fine for the Iloilo oil spill under Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

This, as several groups have expressed fear that failure to contain the oil spill may lead to an environmental disaster damaging coastal communities in Iloilo and nearby provinces.

An oil spill is one of the worst man-made disasters. Aside from exposing communities to serious health risks and potentially causing long-term job loss or livelihood, its impact on the environment is severe as it threatens not only marine life but marine and coastal habitats.

Under the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, upon the recommendation of the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB), the fine for causing water pollution is computed for every day of violation range from P10,000 to P200,000.

DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda, the deputy spokesman of Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, earlier said a notice of violation will be issued to AC Energy, a unit of the Ayala Corp., for the oil spill. Nevertheless, he said via text message on Tuesday that the computation of the fine to be slapped against the company begins on July 3, Day 1 of the spill.

AC Energy is now stepping up to contain the oil spill. Around 48,000 liters of its Power Barge 102 in Lapuz, Iloilo, was spilled following an explosion.

AC Energy said 63 families were relocated to safer ground as they moved to put in place an oil boom to prevent the oil from reaching the shores.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) warned that if not contained immediately, the oil spill may reach major fishing grounds in the Visayas, threatening the livelihood of hundreds, if not thousands of small fishermen.

In particular, Pamalakaya said the oil spill should not reach the Guimaras Strait and the Visayan Sea where small fishermen from the Guimaras Island, Negros Occidental, Masbate, and Eastern and Western Visayas sail to catch fish.

Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya national chairman said in a statement: "We don't want the repeat of the Guimaras oil spill that did not only literally paint the waters black, but devastated the marine environment and economic lives of thousands of



Iloilo oil spill sparks calls to limit use of fossil fuels

fisherfolk,” referring to the Guimaras oil spill of 2006, which was considered as the worst oil spill in the country’s history.

Last, Hicap said AC Energy should pay for the damage and shoulder the cleanup cost of the massive oil spill.

Greenpeace, Kalikasan-People’s Network for the Environment and Power for the People Coalition (P4P) have expressed grave concern over the incident.

Khevin Yu, Greenpeace Philippines campaigner, said communities shouldn’t have to suffer from fossil-fuel-based energy and its local impacts.

“Beyond a cleanup, we are asking power companies to rethink their businesses to immediately shift to RE sources and phase out their oil and coal facilities,” said Yu.

According to Yu, RE sources, such as solar and wind, have already been shown to be safer and cheaper and are the solution to the climate emergency.

These are also readily available, abundant, and do not require importation. Replacing fossil fuels with RE will lead us to a low-carbon future and a better normal.

“This oil spill will have lasting effects on the marine environment and communities. As a response, the government should ensure that the centerpiece of the country’s post-pandemic recovery plan is an urgent and just transition to 100-percent renewable energy power generation,” he said.

For his part, Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-PNE said “the oil spill in Iloilo is the latest evidence of how fossil fuel energy sources bear too much risk of ecological damages in a disaster-prone country such as the Philippines.”

“Immediately, the DENR should impose stricter regulations and stiffer penalties on fossil fuel power facilities. In the long run, they should be serious in weaning away our economy from dirty fossil fuels towards cleaner and renewable energy systems,” he said.



Iloilo oil spill big threat to health, marine life — Greenpeace

Published July 6, 2020, 2:38 PM

by Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/06/iloilo-oil-spill-big-threat-to-health-marine-life-greenpeace/>

An environmental group on Monday lamented that the oil spill off the waters of Iloilo has caused a big threat to marine life and on the health and livelihood of communities in Iloilo and Guimaras.



(PIXABAY / MANILA BULLETIN)

“Fisherfolk and coastal communities are already struggling to adjust to the logistic and economic impacts of the pandemic that have caused big losses in their sources of income and food security. Our thoughts are with these communities who are now suffering an additional blow to their health and livelihood,” Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Khevin Yu said.

Around 48,000 liters of oil spilled into waters off Iloilo on July 3, after an explosion at a power barge owned by AC Energy Corporation.

The authorities estimated an area of around 1,200 square meters had been affected by the oil spill.

“This latest incident shows how oil and other fossil fuel sources are dirty and dangerous to the environment and communities hosting these power plants,” Yu said.

He pointed out that communities should not have to suffer for fossil fuel-based energy and its local impacts.

“The burning of fossil fuels is also the main contributor to the climate crisis. Beyond a clean-up, we are asking power companies to rethink their businesses to



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Iloilo oil spill big threat to health, marine life — Greenpeace

immediately shift to renewable energy (RE) sources and phase out their oil and coal facilities,” Yu said.

“RE sources, such as solar and wind, have already been shown to be safer and cheaper and are the solution to the climate emergency. These are also readily available, abundant and do not require importation. Replacing fossil fuels with RE will lead us to a low-carbon future and a better normal,” he cited.

Yu said the oil spill will have lasting effects on the marine environment and communities.



AC Energy says Iloilo oil spill caused by ignition that ruptured fuel tank

Published July 6, 2020 7:04pm By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/745710/ac-energy-says-iloilo-oil-spill-caused-by-ignition-that-ruptured-fuel-tank/story/>

The Iloilo oil spill last week was caused by a rupture in the barge's fuel tank, initial investigation of Ayala-led AC Energy Philippines Inc. revealed.

In a regulatory filing, AC Energy said the company's power barge 102 discharged fuel oil at around 3:00 p.m. last Friday, July 3.

"The root cause is yet to be determined, but initial findings reveal that the discharge is attributable to ignition of fuel oil in storage which ruptured the barge's fuel tank," the disclosure read.

"The Company immediately activated containment protocols through containment booms but due to strong ocean waves, some of the fuel oil escaped the confinement area," it added.

AC Energy said the leakage was contained at around 10:00 p.m. the same day, after 170 combined personnel of the company the Coast Guard were deployed.

"After containment, the Company and the Coast Guard immediately started recovery of the remaining floating residue," it said.

The company said recovery capacity was also increased with additional oil skimming equipment from Shell Philippines the following morning, as well as another from the Company's Power Barge 103 the next day.

AC Energy said it has also tapped Harbor Star, a leading maritime services provider, to finish the clean-up of both the waters and the coastline estimated to take 10 to 15 days.

It will begin with the inlet areas, followed by the coast, and then any offshore areas to recover and safely disperse any remaining oil residue.

AC Energy said some 120 households within the neighboring area have been relocated to the Barangay Obrero Elementary School as protection against the fumes brought about by the prevailing winds.

"The Company continues to provide these families with food, health care, PPEs and other necessities, and is working on further relocation to other nearby schools to observe social distancing," it said.

"The Company will also engage third-party experts to determine the cause of the explosion in order to avoid similar situations in the future," the company said.

For its part, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it will impose fines on AC Energy.

"We are committed to exert all available means to clean-up any remaining residue as soon as possible and support the affected communities," the company said.

Shares of AC Energy closed Monday at P2.24 apiece, down by 7 centavos or 3.03% from last Friday's finish of P2.31 per share. —LDF, GMA News



AC Energy taps Harbor Star to complete Iloilo oil spill clean-up

posted July 06, 2020 at 08:05 pm by Alena Mae S. Flores

<https://manilastandard.net/business/business-stocks/327899/ac-energy-taps-harbor-star-to-complete-iloilo-oil-spill-clean-up.html>

AC Energy Philippines of the Ayala Group said the clean-up of the oil spill from Power Barge 102 in Barrio Obrero, Iloilo City is expected to be completed in the next 10 to 15 days.

“The company has engaged Harbor Star, a leading maritime services provider, to finish the clean-up of both the waters and the coastline, beginning with the inlet areas, followed by the coast, and then any offshore areas to recover and safely disperse any remaining oil residue,” AC Energy Philippines said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

It said PB 102 discharged fuel oil at 3 p.m. on July 3.

“The root cause is yet to be determined, but initial findings reveal that the discharge is attributable to ignition of fuel oil in storage which ruptured the barge’s fuel tank,” AC Energy Philippines said.

The company said it would also engage third-party experts to determine the cause of the explosion to avoid similar situations in the future.

Some 120 households in the neighboring area were relocated to Barangay Obrero Elementary School in coordination with local government officials, while their surroundings are undergoing clean-up and as protection against fumes brought by the prevailing winds.

The company said it continued to provide the affected families with food, healthcare, PPEs and other necessities, and was working on further relocation to other nearby schools to observe social distancing.

AC Energy Philippines said it immediately activated containment protocols through containment booms but due to strong ocean waves, some of the fuel oil escaped the confinement area.

The leakage was contained at around 10 p.m. on July 3 with the rapid deployment of more than 170 combined personnel of the company and the Philippine Coast Guard with 14 boats and multilayered spill booms from the AC Energy Philippines, the Coast Guard, Petron Corp. and Global Business Power Corp.

“After containment, the company and the Coast Guard immediately started recovery of the remaining floating residue. Recovery capacity was increased with additional oil skimming equipment from Shell Philippines the following morning and another from the Company’s Power Barge 103 the next day,” it said.



120 families in Iloilo relocated as oil spill cleanup seen to last 15 days

By CNN Philippines Staff Published Jul 6, 2020 10:31:32 AM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/7/6/Iloilo-oil-spill-AC-Energy-cleanup.html>

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 6) – About 120 households have been relocated from the area surrounding Iloilo Strait where thousands of liters of bunker fuel spilled last week, with barge owner AC Energy Philippines on cleanup mode for the next two weeks.

The Ayala-led firm told the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday that it has contained the oil spill at 10 p.m. of Friday, July 3, about seven hours after the incident occurred off the waters of Barrio Obrero in Iloilo City.

AC Energy's power barge 102 was the source of the oil spill. The Philippine Coast Guard said last week that more than 40,000 liters of oil were discharged into open waters due to an explosion of the barge at sea. The barge can carry up to 200,000 liters of fuel at full capacity.

AC Energy said initial findings showed that oil spill was triggered by the ignition of fuel stored in the barge, which damaged the tank. The company added that strong ocean waves initially made it hard to contain the spillage. It took 170 personnel of the firm and the Coast Guard, assisted by multilayered spill booms from Petron and Global Business Power Corporation to contain the leakage, while additional skimming equipment was brought in from another AC Energy barge and from Shell Philippines to fast-track the recovery of floating residue.

Maritime services firm Harbor Star has been tapped to complete the cleansing of the waters and the coastline.

"Clean-up is estimated to be completed in 10 to 15 days," the firm said in a disclosure. "We are committed to exert all available means to clean-up any remaining residue as soon as possible and support the affected communities."

AC Energy added that families residing near the site of the spill have been temporarily transferred to the Barangay Obrero Elementary School to protect them from possible fumes, with provisions for food, healthcare, protective gear, and other necessities amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PCG said Sunday that it will investigate the incident and will file criminal charges against the owner of the power barge if necessary.



20 pamilya, inilikas dahil sa Iloilo oil spill

July 6, 2020 @ 4:33 PM

<https://remate.ph/120-pamilya-inilikas-dahil-sa-iloilo-oil-spill/>

Manila, Philippines – Inilikas ang mga pamilya mula sa 120 kabahayan na nakapalibot sa Iloilo Straight na sapul ng oil spill.

Ito ay para masiguro ang kanilang kapakanan maging ang pagbibigay daan na rin sa isasagawang cleanup ng may-ari ng barge na AC Energy Philippines.

Nauna nang sinabi ng Ayala-led firm sa Philippine Stock Exchange nitong Lunes na agad umanong nakontrol ng kompanya ang oil spill bandang alas-10 ng gabi nitong Biyernes, Hulyo 3, pitong oras matapos mangyari ang insidente sa Barrio Obrero sa Iloilo City.

Paliwanag ng AC Energy na ang pagkasira ng tangke dahil sa “ignition” nito ang naging dahilan ng pagtagas ng nasa 40,000 litro ng langis sa karagatan.

“Clean-up is estimated to be completed in 10 to 15 days,” anang kompanya. “We are committed to exert all available means to clean-up any remaining residue as soon as possible and support the affected communities.”

Inilikas naman sa Barangay Obrero Elementary School ang mga naapektuhan mga residente para sa kanilang proteksyon sa gagawing cleanup.

Aayudahan naman ito ng mga pagkain, paunang pangangailangan, at protective gear pangontra na rin sa COVID-19. RNT



Rama: Cimatu challenges Cebu City Council to be more involved in COVID-19 fight

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital | July 06, 2020 - 07:34 PM

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/324600/rama-cimatu-challenges-cebu-city-council-to-be-more-involved-in-covid-19-fight>



Cebu City Councilor David Tumalak (left) and Vice Mayor Michael Rama | CDND file photo

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu challenged the City Council to be more directly involved in the fight against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

In a phone interview with CDN Digital, Rama said that the meeting with the overseer of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) in Cebu, with the members of the City Council on July 6, 2020, went well.

“We were challenged to be more involved in the COVID-19 fight, share the responsibilities, a division of labor,” said the vice mayor.

The councilors were given a chance to air their various concerns to the Secretary including their concerns on the rising cases of the city, the lack of coordination between the city government and the barangay, and solutions to the overwhelmed hospital facilities.

Rama said the councilors from the opposing party, Bando Osmeña Pundok-Kauswagan, proposed that the Barangay Isolation Centers be minimized and the Abellana National High School be turned into an isolation center similar to that of the NOAH Complex at the South Road Properties.



Rama: Cimatu challenges Cebu City Council to be more involved in COVID-19 fight

Councilor Franklyn Ong, the president of the Association of Barangay Councils (ABC) in the city, raised his concerns on behalf of the barangays as well.

“I was very satisfied with our talk with Secretary Cimatu, he presented a bottom-to-top approach in handling the COVID-19 situation, which means the barangays will be very involved,” said Rama.

Aside from that, Vice Mayor Rama also said that Cimatu had challenged the city government to empower the barangays more as they were the real front-lines of the COVID-19 war.

As for the City Council, they were urged by Cimatu to enact ordinances consistent with the National IATF policies and guidelines without confusing the people.

The councilors were also challenged to be involved in the barangays through coordination, which Rama said has been happening since April 2020, as the councilors have been assigned barangays to monitor.

Finally, Rama said that the council would play a big role in what would happen next to Cebu City, whether it would be a general community quarantine or an enhanced community quarantine, as they would help determine the protocols for each.

They already submitted 132 COVID-19 resolutions to the IATF so the agency could review them and encourage Mayor Edgardo Labella to implement them.

The vice mayor said the City Council was grateful for the Secretary’s willingness to listen to them, who represent the city residents.

He assured the public that the IATF was here to help gear up the city for an intensified campaign against the COVID-19./dbs



Caraganons support NGP implementation amid COVID-19 pandemic

By Jennifer P. Gaitano Published on July 6, 2020
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046581>

BUTUAN CITY, July 6 (PIA) -- While Caraganons maximize their time during the community quarantine by maintaining a communal garden in their respective barangays, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Caraga also urged locals to help protect the region's rich bounty of natural resources by planting more trees in support to the National Greening Program (NGP).

Based on the department's record, more than 5.7 million seedlings were already planted in the NGP areas in Caraga last year. The province of Agusan del Sur has the highest number of seedlings planted among other provinces in the region.

According to Forester Samuel Danganan, assistant regional director for Technical Services of DENR-Caraga, over the years, the region remains to have high-performance rating in the implementation of the national greening program.

The official added that local communities continue to express their support for the said program, however, illegal logging still remains to be a problem in the region.

With this, the DENR was able to accomplish 98 percent from their operations against violators of forest protection laws.

Meanwhile, the newly installed regional executive director of DENR-Caraga called on all Caraganons to take part in the government's campaign against illegal activities that are harmful to the environment and to actively participate in its initiatives for the conservation and protection of the region's natural resources.

"Not any sector of society can do that alone, not the government or private sector alone. Everybody, every sector of society has to collaborate so that protect the nature and sustain it for the future generations," said Dir. Hadja Didaw Piangbrahim of DENR-Caraga. (JPG/PIA-Caraga)



P118-K hot logs, lumber seized in Agusan Norte

By Alexander Lopez July 6, 2020, 10:23 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1108026>



HOT LOGS. Some PHP118,000 worth of illegally-gathered forest products were seized by the joint operatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Police Regional Office in Caraga Region. The operations were conducted in the first week of July 2020 in the Agusan del Norte towns of Santiago, Jabonga, and Kitcharao. (Photo courtesy of DENR-13 Info Office)

BUTUAN CITY – Police and personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Caraga Region (DENR-13) have seized some PHP118,000 worth of illegal forest products in series of operations conducted in the first five days of the month.

In a statement Monday (July 6), Maj. Renel Serrano, Police Regional Office-13 information officer, said a raid on an illegal sawmill in Barangay Tagbuyacan, Santiago town, Agusan del Norte, was conducted on July 4, 2020 resulting in the confiscation of 24 logs, and 710 pieces of wood fitches.

Serrano said the seized illegal lumber products consisted of "anangilan, bakan and bay-ang" species with an estimated market value of PHP45,000.

Authorities also arrested during the operation Bernardo P. Salvaria, 67, the alleged owner of the sawmill.

Serrano said authorities also confiscated from the sawmill a number of assorted equipment worth PHP35,000.

“During the raid, Salvaria failed to show to authorities the required documents to prove the legality of his sawmill operation,” he said.



P118-K hot logs, lumber seized in Agusan Norte

Brig. Gen. Joselito Esquivel Jr., PRO-13 director, lauded the efforts of the police and DENR personnel in Agusan del Norte.

“The police force in Caraga Region is stepping up its campaign to go after and arrest those persons involved in illegal logging activities amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic,” Esquivel said.

Esquivel said Salvaria will be charged for violating Republic Act 460 that regulates the operation of sawmills in the country, and Presidential Decree No. 705, or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

In a separate interview on Monday, DENR-13 Information Officer Heron Gallego told the Philippine News Agency that two more operations conducted by DENR early this month in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte, resulted in the confiscation of 160 pieces of "angilan and bakan" species of lumber worth PHP4,900.

Gallego said the DENR was still trying to determine the owner of the sawmill.

“The owners of these illegal sawmills in Barangay Tagbuyacan, Santiago and Bangonay in Jabonga are engaged in buying illegally-gathered forest products and lumber from government timberlands,” he said.

Gallego added that the police and DENR personnel in the Agusan del Norte town of Tubay confiscated 775 pieces of illegally-cut lumber in an upland village in Kitcharao.

The confiscated lumber products consisted of "lauan, bagras, baying and ulayan" with a total market value of PHP69,000, he said.

Gallego said the continued anti-illegal logging operations in Agusan del Norte and the rest of the provinces of Caraga Region are among the top priorities of Executive Director Didaw Piang-Brahim, the newly-designated officer-in-charge of DENR-13.

He also commended the support of the PNP in the drive against illegal logging activities in the region, as well as the support of residents who provided vital information to DENR field offices. (PNA)



Hot lumber seized in Agusan del Norte

Published July 6, 2020, 10:24 AM

by Mike Crismundo

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/06/hot-lumber-seized-in-agusan-del-norte/>

BUTUAN CITY – A joint operation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Caraga Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) seized around P45,000-worth of illegally-cut lumbers during anti-illegal logging operation in Barangay Tagbuyacan, Santiago, Agusan del Norte province, PRO 13 and DENR reported on Monday.

PRO 13 and DENR anti-illegal logging task force also seized sawmill equipment and ordered padlocked a mini-sawmilling plant in that same barangay and town.

DENR 13 Regional Executive Director (RED) Hadja Didaw D. Piang-Brahim commended the anti-illegal logging task force, particularly the police, for the successful operation in Barangay Tagbuyacan.

The operation was carried out by the DENR Caraga Region 13, Santiago Municipal Police Station (MPS) 15th PNP Special Action Company, and Second Agusan del Norte Provincial Mobile Force Company around 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, July 4.

The operatives swooped down at the targeted area after the suspect was caught in the act of engaging in illegal logging activity.

Upon verification, the suspect could not show the required documents to prove the legality of his business operation.

Identity of the suspect was temporarily withheld pending the arrest of some companions in the operation.

The suspect will be charged with the violation of RA 460 (an act regulating the operation of sawmills) and PD 705 (the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines) which also cited the cutting, gathering and /or collecting timber or other forest products without license and permits, police said.

PRO13 Regional Director Brig. Gen. Joselito T. Esquivel, Jr. told The Manila Bulletin on Monday that the police force steps up the campaign to go after and arrest those persons involved in illegal logging activities amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

“Our support of forest protection and environment preservation is also ongoing despite of the COVID-19 crisis,” the region’s top cop added.



SLDEO turns over cut trees to DENR

By Marcelo M. Pedalino Published on July 6, 2020
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046771>

MAASIN CITY, July 6 (PIA) -- Logs and wood materials derived from trees that were felled because of a road construction project implemented by the Southern Leyte District Engineering Office (SLDEO) were given recently to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) provincial office.

According to a report by the government's construction agency, the turned-over logs were "from the trees cut for the road concreting project leading to Fatima Hills, a tourist destination, located in Ichon village in Macrohon town."

The turn-over activity was attended by DENR and DPWH personnel, project contractor, and representatives from the local government unit of Macrohon, the DPWH report stated.

It will be up to DENR on how to dispose properly the logs and other materials, the report said.

"We were granted permit by the DENR to cut trees intended for our infrastructure projects provided that we strictly adhere to the conditions imposed and undertake measures during and after cutting operations in order to mitigate the possible impacts of the cutting of trees to the locality and the environment," said District Engineer Ma. Margarita Junia as quoted in the report.

As agreed with the DENR, stipulated in a memorandum of agreement signed by the two agencies, "the DPWH is bound to replace 50 trees for each felled tree planted in private or forest land and 100 trees 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, adding that she vowed to push her office's active involvement in DENR-led activities, like tree planting and clean-up drive. (mmp/PIA8-Southern Leyte)



JULY 7, 2020 7:45am

<https://www.facebook.com/142802334452/posts/10159340977044453/?app=fbl>



INQUIRER.net

10 hrs · 🌐

LOOK: Ninety Hawksbill Turtle hatchlings were released at the shores of Tukuran town, Zamboanga del Sur province on Sunday. (📷:

DENR Zamboanga Peninsula

/Facebook)



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12 Shares



NWRB MAGBUBUKAS MULI ANG TANGGAPAN SA JULY 8

July 6, 2020 @ 2:46 PM

<https://remate.ph/nwrbs-magbubukas-muli-ang-tanggapan-sa-july-8/>

Ipinagbigay-alam ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa pamumuno ni Executive Director Seville David, Jr. na magbubukas muli sa publiko ang tanggapan ng ahensya simula July 8, 2020.

Noong nakaraang July 1 hanggang 3, 2020, nagsara ng tatlong araw ang ahensya para sa pag-disinfect at paglilinis sa buong lugar bilang bahagi ng pag-iingat sa coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

Ang opisina ng NWRB ay matatagpuan sa 8th floor, National Irrigation Authority Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Pero para sa urgent concerns ng ating mga kliyente, maaari kayong magpadala ng inyong mensahe sa mga sumusunod na email address

1. nwrbsphil@gmail.com para sa general NWRB concerns and queries;
2. wrd@nwrbs.gov.ph para sa issuance of conditional water permit, resolution of cases, resolution of petitions, issuance of permit to drill for observatory monitoring wells, registration of water use for domestic, at issuance of NWRB endorsement as requirement for registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
3. wud@nwrbs.gov.ph para sa issuance of provisional authority for Certificate of Public Convenience and other related applications and petitioners;
4. ppd@nwrbs.gov.ph para sa Certificate of Water Availability at issuance of NWRB certification to the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA);
5. med@nwrbs.gov.ph, billing@nwrbs.gov.ph at afd@nwrbs.gov.ph para sa application or renewal of registration of well driller, issuance of groundwater table depth for proposed memorial park, calibration of water meter, issuance of Statement of Accounts at other administrative concerns at
6. foi@nwrbs.gov.ph at 8888@nwrbs.gov.ph para sa Freedom of Information (FOI) at complaints.

Sasagutin at paglingkuran ang mga inquiry ng Office of the Executive Director, Water Right Division, Water Utilities Division, Policy and Program Division, Monitoring and Enforcement Division, Administrative and Financial Division.

Balik-regular ang opisina ng NWRB simula sa July 8, 2020, araw ng Miyerkoles.



Cebu solon seeks to regulate use of treatment technology for hazardous wastes

Published July 6, 2020, 9:28 AM by Charissa Luci-Atienza

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/06/cebu-solon-seeks-to-regulate-use-of-treatment-technology-for-hazardous-wastes/>

Cebu City 2nd District Rep. Rodrigo Abellanosa wants to regulate the use of treatment technology for municipal and hazardous wastes.

He filed House Bill No. 7045 seeking to repeal of Section 20 of Republic Act No. 8749, the “Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999,” and amend certain sections of Republic Act No. 9003, the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000,” to allow the use of incineration technologies for waste treatment and management.

Abellanosa explained that the provisions in the two laws were grounded on the assumption that incineration methods are harmful to the environment with the emissions that they produce.

“The advent of technology, however, has rendered such generalization inapplicable. Many of the incineration equipment available in the market nowadays prove to be less harmful to the atmosphere than coal power plants, an apt comparison given the proliferation of waste-to-energy (WTE) technology,” he said in his bill’s explanatory note.

The lawmaker cited the need for the government to find “more economical and sustainable means” of managing solid wastes, as the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has projected that solid wastes in 2020 will be about 17 million metric tons given an average waste generation rate of .4kg/capita/day.

“Without alternative methods of waste disposal, all of these will end up in landfills, and soon, we will be running out of areas to use for such purpose,” Abellanosa said.

HB 7045, the proposed “Regulation of Waste Treatment Technology Act,” provides that thermal and other treatment technologies for the disposal of municipal and hazardous wastes, or for the processing of any material for fuel, whether for commercial use or not, shall be designed and operated to meet the standards established in the proposed Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

These technologies shall be fitted with equipment that will continuously monitor, record, and make public the reported data on their emissions or air pollutant concentrations, the bill provides.

The units that recover energy shall be prioritized, and entities utilizing units shall incorporate in their facilities or operations proper materials recovery program, it said.

“This bill recognizes the immediate need for more efficient solid waste management systems and the employment of eco-friendly incineration technologies as a promising



Cebu solon seeks to regulate use of treatment technology for hazardous wastes

approach. That waste combustion facilities may now be equipped with waste-to-energy technologies makes the prospect even more attractive,” Abellanosa said.

HB 7045 tasks the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to be the major implementing arm of the proposed Act. It is mandated to promote the use of state-of-the-art, environmentally-sound, and safe technologies for the handling, treatment, thermal or non-thermal destruction, utilization, and disposal of residual wastes.

Under the bill, the local government units (LGUs) are mandated to promote, encourage, and implement in their respective jurisdiction a comprehensive solid waste management plan that includes waste segregation, recycling, and composting.

The measure tasks the LGUs to facilitate the establishment of treatment facilities within a region, province, or strategically clustered LGUs in consonance with their respective 10-year solid waste management plans made consistent with the national solid waste management framework pursuant to RA 9003.

The solid waste management plans of LGUs shall be subjected to the approval of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), it said.

HB 7045 provides that the responsibility for compliance with the standards promulgated for the establishment and operation of waste treatment shall rest with the owner and/or operator of a waste treatment facility.

Among the fiscal tax incentives granted to registered enterprises which shall invest in waste treatment facilities are income tax holiday within the first seven years of its operations; tax and duty exemption on imported capital equipment and vehicles within the first 10 years of operation; tax credit on domestic equipment; and tax and duty exemption of donations, legacies and gifts.

Non-fiscal incentives shall also be given to those who will invest in waste treatment facilities. These include financial assistance program provided by government financial institutions such as Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and others; allocation of five percent of their loan portfolio to waste treatment projects; extension of grants to LGUs; and incentives to host LGUs.



Govt urged to ban e-waste imports

By Eireene Jairee Gomez July 7, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/07/07/business/business-top/govt-urged-to-ban-e-waste-imports/738935/>

A waste and pollution watchdog group has urged the government to ban the importation of electronic waste as the production of such waste across the world soared to 53.6 million tons in 2019 due to higher consumption rates of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), according to a newly-released United Nations' Global E-waste Monitor 2020.

The global generation of e-waste, which is classified as hazardous waste under the Basel Convention due to the presence of brominated flame retardants, lead, mercury and other toxic substances, is projected to reach 74.7 million tons by 2030.

"The global surge in the production of e-waste is deeply concerning for developing countries like the Philippines that still allow the importation of electronic junks. End-of-life computers, TVs, mobile phones and other unwanted EEE from overseas might end up flooding our ports if no preventive action is taken," said Roxanne Figueroa, electronic waste campaigner of EcoWaste Coalition.

"As the demand for computers and other e-gadgets grows with their increased use in online activities amid the Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic, we need to be extra vigilant against the potential rise in shipments of pre-owned electronics nearing or at the end of their useful lives, which can only add to our toxic waste woes," she said.

As stated in the latest Global E-Waste Monitor, "a considerable amount of e-waste is still exported illegally or under the guise of being for reuse or pretending to be scrap metal."

"In middle- and low-income countries, the e-waste management infrastructure is not yet fully developed or, in some cases, is entirely absent. Hence, e-waste is managed mostly by the informal sector. In this case, e-waste is often handled under inferior conditions, causing severe health effects to workers as well as to the children who often live, work and play near e-waste management activities," the report said.

"Informal and improper e-waste recycling is a major emerging hazard silently affecting our health and that of future generations. One in four children are dying from avoidable environmental exposures. One in four children could be saved, if we take action to protect their health and ensure a safe environment," noted



Govt urged to ban e-waste imports

Maria Neira, director of Environment, Climate Change and Health Department of the World Health Organization.

For his part, Thony Dizon, chemical safety campaigner of the EcoWaste Coalition, said: “To put a stop to the entry of e-waste and other wastes into our country and to protect public health and the environment, we need to plug loopholes in regulation and ratify the Basel Ban Amendment, an international law prohibiting all hazardous waste exports from developed to developing countries.”

Such a bold action, he pointed out, will encourage developed countries not to transfer their unwanted e-waste here, as well as drive the electronic industry to shift to clean production and take full responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products throughout the product life-cycle, including their reuse, buyback or recycling.

Last year, the group wrote to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu proposing a comprehensive ban on the importation of wastes, including plastic and electronic wastes, which is still permitted by the agency under Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order (DENR AO) 2013-22.

DENR AO 2013-22 allows the importation of “recyclable materials” such as scrap metals, scrap plastics, electronic assemblies and scrap, used oil and fly ash subject to certain limiting conditions and compliance to the requirements set by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the department.

EMB, which is currently reviewing and revising the said administrative order to update the requirements and address emerging issues, has drafted the “Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment,” which is yet to be issued.



PH logs over 2K new COVID-19 cases anew, as total hits 46,333

By: Darryl John Esguerra - Reporter / @DJEsguerraINQ

INQUIRER.net / 04:45 PM July 06, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1302653/for-2nd-straight-day-ph-logs-over-2000-new-covid-19-cases-as-total-hits-46333>

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines logged over 2,000 additional COVID-19 cases for the second straight day, as the Department of Health (DOH) reported 2,099 new infections on Monday, bringing the nationwide tally to 46,333.

Of the additional cases, 1,258 cases were “fresh” cases or those that were validated and released within three days, while 841 are considered “late” cases.

The agency also reported 243 new recoveries and 6 new deaths, pushing their totals to 12,185 and 1,303 respectively.

Currently, there are 32,845 active COVID-19 cases nationwide.

The DOH’s latest case bulletin showed that 998 or nearly half of the new cases were recorded in Metro Manila, 466 came from Central Visayas, 541 were spread across other regions in the country, while the remaining 94 are overseas Filipinos who recently returned to the country.

The DOH has attributed the recent surge in new coronavirus cases in the country to increased contact among the population as a result of the relaxation of quarantine measures.

It then reiterated its appeal to the public to help stem the rise in infections by observing preventive measures such as wearing protective masks, physical distancing, and frequent hand-washing.

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, over 11.4 million people worldwide have been infected by SARS-CoV-2, the new coronavirus strain that causes COVID-19, since it was first reported in Hubei, China late last year.

EDV

For more news about the novel coronavirus click [here](#).

What you need to know about Coronavirus.

For more information on COVID-19, call the DOH Hotline: (02) 86517800 local 1149/1150.

The Inquirer Foundation supports our healthcare frontliners and is still accepting cash donations to be deposited at Banco de Oro (BDO) current account #007960018860 or donate through PayMaya using this [link](#) .



LSIs, RETURNING OFWs TOO Eased restrictions 'somehow' resulted in increased COVID-19 cases, Año says

Published July 6, 2020 12:31pm Updated July 6, 2020 3:27pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/745632/eased-restrictions-somehow-resulted-in-increased-covid-19-cases-ano-says/story/>

The recent increases in COVID-19 cases in the country may be linked to the government's decision to ease quarantine restrictions for the sake of economy, according to Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on Monday.

“Somehow, ito ang resulta ng pag-open up natin, pag-downgrade ng classification, pagbukas ng ibang business sectors na kailangan naman,” he said in an interview on CNN-Philippines.

Año said whether or not the total number of COVID-19 cases would increase dramatically boils down to the compliance of the public to the safety and health protocols being implemented amid the pandemic.

“In the coming days, because of our intention to open up the economy, it will really boil down to the individual persons on how they will adhere, comply, obey, with the minimum health standards,” he said.

During lockdowns, Año — a member of the government task force addressing the COVID-19 problem — highlighted that the government was able to improve the testing capacity and health care facilities.

“We can say na we are ready, but the people must cooperate,” he said.

As of Sunday, the total number of cases in the Philippines was at 44,254 with 11,942 recoveries and 1,297 fatalities, according to the DOH.

The new reported cases of 2,434 infections were composed of 1,147 fresh cases and 1,287 late reported cases.

LSIs, returning OFWs

Año also said locally stranded individuals (LSIs) and returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) contributed to the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

In the same interview, Año pointed out that LSIs and returning OFWs are unique from other countries that are also experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic.

“These OFWs and LSIs ay isa mga mga pinagmumulan ng transmission. So, sabihin natin na iba talaga, very peculiar ang Pilipinas,” he said.



LSIs, RETURNING OFWs TOO Eased restrictions 'somehow' resulted in increased COVID-19 cases, Año says

Malacañang, an official partly blamed the increase in COVID-19 cases in the provinces on “unsupervised and unmonitored” transport of LSIs.

Presidential Management Staff Assistant Secretary and Hatid Tulong program head Joseph Encabo said he informed Año and some Philippine National Police officials of their “frustration” over the “colorum” transportation activities involving LSIs.

He disclosed that these LSIs bypassed necessary processes including the COVID-19 rapid test.

“May mga organisasyon o grupo o indibidwal na talagang kusang pumupuslit ng mga LSIs papasok,” Encabo said in a televised briefing.

“Halimbawa po, meron po kaming nakuhang report na may dalawang vans na papasok sa Samar na mga LSIs only to find out ay nagkaroon nga sila ng rapid test pero medyo matagal tagal na at paso na rin 'yung kanilang travel authority.”

Encabo urged the PNP to strengthen its monitoring on the movement of LSIs.

“Dapat matigil po ‘yan kasi naniniwala po ako na ang mga colorum activities na ‘yan ang isa sa mga main na rason o dahilan kung bakit tumataas po ang COVID cases sa isang lugar,” he said.

“Kaya ‘yung mga LGUs [local government units] ay nagkakaroon ng misconception na kapag may mga transport ng LSIs, y’ung COVID cases agad ang nakikita nila na posibleng mag-increase.”

As of July 2, the program had provided assistance to 62,762 individuals, which included overseas Filipino workers and other stranded individuals according to government data.

Encabo said some 13,000 LSIs have yet to return to the provinces as the government suspended the travel of LSIs to Western Visayas, Cebu Island including Mactan, Eastern Visayas, and the Caraga region.— Joviland Rita and Virgil Lopez/KBK/RSJ, GMA News



PH now 2nd in Southeast Asia's COVID-19 count

By: Darryl John Esguerra - Reporter / @DJEsguerraINQ

INQUIRER.net / 03:27 AM July 07, 2020

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/189278/ph-now-2nd-in-southeast-asias-covid-19-count>

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has the second most COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia as of Monday night with a total of 46,333 infections.

This developed after the country logged 2,099 additional cases, enough to surpass Singapore which currently has 44,983, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

Indonesia continues to top the region with 64,958 cases.

However, it was the Philippines that has the most active cases with 32,845, followed by Indonesia's 31,798 and Singapore's 4,516.

In terms of fatalities, Indonesia is currently first with 3,241, while the Philippines has 1,303 at second, followed by Malaysia with only 121.

With 12,185 total recoveries, the Philippines is third behind Singapore (40,441) and Indonesia (29,919).

The Department of Health attributed the recent surge in new coronavirus infections in the Philippines to the increased contact among the population as a result of the relaxation of quarantine measures.

The bulk of the Philippines' cases were recorded in Metro Manila, the country's economic center, where movement restrictions have been eased for over a month now to restart the pandemic-hit economy.

Over 11.4 million people worldwide have already been infected by SARS-CoV-2—the new coronavirus strain that causes COVID-19—since it was first reported in Hubei, China late last year.



HUMANGO NG LEKSYON SA IBA SA COVID-19; 'WAG MATIGAS ANG ULO

July 6, 2020 @ 1:14 PM

<https://remate.ph/humango-ng-leksyon-sa-iba-sa-covid-19-wag-matigas-ang-ulo/>

Sinasabi ng World Health Organization na mabilis na lumalala ang coronavirus disease-19 sa pangkalahatan bagama't may paghupa sa iba.

Sa datos ng WHO, mahigit kalahati ng kabuuang bilang ng mga biktima sa nakalipas na anim na buwan ang naitala sa buwan ng Hunyo 2020.

Sinabi pa ng WHO na araw-araw nang may 160,000 naiimpeksyon sa buong mundo at pinakamalala ang nagaganap sa United States hanggang sa South America, lalo na ang bansang Brazil na mabilis na sumegunda sa Amerika sa may pinakamaraming biktima.

Mabilis na naungusan ng Brazil ang mga bansang dating nangunguna sa mga may impeksyon at patay.

Heto ang rekord habang tinitipa ito ng Ultimatum.

May 11,556,788 naimpeksyon, may 536,776 patay at may 6,535,492 gumaling.

Mula sa mangilan-ngilan at nasa mahigit 60,000 lang araw-araw noong Disyembre 2019 hanggang katapusan ng Marso 2020, biglang lumobo ang mga biktima sa bilang na nasa 70,000 hanggang sa halos 130,000 mula Abril hanggang Mayo, 2020.

Mula sa ikalawang linggo ng Hunyo 2020, anak ng tokwa, umakyat na ang bilang ng mga biktima araw-araw sa 160,000 hanggang 180,000.

Kaya gayun na lang ang laki ng bilang mga naiimpeksyon at patay sa mga araw na ito mula sa mahigit 200 bansa at teritoryo.

ANG PINAS

Mabilis na umakyat ang Pilipinas sa pwestong pang-38 ng mga bansa na may pinakamaraming COVID-19 mula sa nasabing mahigit 200 bansa.

Pangatlo naman tayo sa South East Asia mula sa nangunguna ang Indonesia na may 63,749 naimpeksyon at 3,171 patay. Bagama't sumusunod tayo na may



HUMANGO NG LEKSYON SA IBA SA COVID-19; 'WAG MATIGAS ANG ULO

44,254 naimpeksyon sa Singapore na may 44,800 naimpeksyon, pangalawa naman tayo sa Indonesia na may 3,171 patay kumpara sa 1,297 patay natin.

Nitong Hunyo 29 lamang, may impeksyon tayong 36,438 habang 43,661 ang sa Singapore at may diperensyang 7,223.

Ngayon, nakadikit na tayo sa Singapore na may 44,800 impeksyon kumpara sa 44,254 impeksyon natin.

Halimbawang magpapatuloy ang rekord natin na 2,434 araw-araw na impeksyon, konting kendeng na lang, malalampasan na natin ang Singapore rito at ganap na tayong pangalawa sa Indonesia sa bilang ng mga may impeksyon at patay.

BRITANYA, EUROPEAN UNION PINALULUWAG NA

Unti-unting humuhupa ang COVID-19 sa Britanya at European Union.

Kaya naman, unti-unti na rin silang nagbubukas ng pintuan sa mga nagmumula sa iba't ibang bansa.

'Yun bang === tumatanggap na ang isang bansa ng mga dayuhan na magpasok ng mga serbisyo at produkto, kasama ang mga turista.

Sa Britanya, bukas na ito sa ilang manggagaling sa Europa ngunit mahigpit nilang ipinagbabawal ang sinomang nanggagaling sa Amerika, Brazil at Russia.

Sa European Union, mga taong galing sa 14 ligtas na bansa ay pinapayagan nang makapasok at kabilang sa mga bansang ito ang Australia, Japan, South Korea, Canada, Morocco, New Zealand, Thailand, Uruguay, Tunisia, Georgia, Montenegro, Serbia, Algeria at Rwanda.

Gaya ng ginawa ng Britanya, bawal ang manggagaling sa Amerika at Brazil, habang pwede ang Chinese na pumasok basta papasukin din nila ang mga Europeo sa China.

PILIPINAS ITSAPWERA

Ang Pilipinas, hindi kasali sa safe countries na nasa listahan ng Britanya at European Union.

Kung makikita ninyo, wala ring pila sa US Embassy sa Manila bilang palatandaan na bawal ang mga Pinoy sa Amerika.



HUMANGO NG LEKSYON SA IBA SA COVID-19; 'WAG MATIGAS ANG ULO

Kung meron mang pinapapasok na mga Pinoy, mangilan-ngilan lang gaya ng mga Pinoy na ligal na asawa ng mga taga-Britanya, European Union at Amerika at may mahahalagang dahilan.

Pero patas lang dahil halos ganito rin ang patakaran natin na bawal pa rin ang pagpasok ng mga dayuhan na walang mahalagang gagawin sa Pilipinas.

MGA REMEDYO

Sa kabuuan, mga Bro, ano-ano ba ang mga dapat na malaman at gagawin upang maiwasan natin ang paglobo ng COVID-19 sa ating bansa, kasama na ang kamatayan?

Isa sa mahahalagang usapin ang napakaliit na bilang ng patay sa Singapore.

Napakahalagang silipin ng ating mga awtoridad kung ano-ano ang mga programa ng bansang ito.

Pero huwag nating kalimutan ang kontribusyon ng mga mamamayan sa pagiging masunurin sa mga batas na nagbabawal sa pagkalat ng sakit.

Sinusunod ng mga nasa Singapore, kabilang na ang mga overseas Filipino worker, ang mga patakaran sa stay-at-home, social distancing, pagsusuot ng face mask at hindi pagtitipon-tipon ng mga tao nang maramihan.

Isinasagad din ng Singapore ang pagsasagawa ng mga pagsusuri sa mga mamamayan upang maihiwalay ang mga may tama ng COVID-19 at wala.

Sa Amerika at Brazil, ang titigas ng ulo ng mga mamamayan at hindi gaanong sumusunod sa nasabing mga patakaran ng Singapore na patakaran ding pinaiiral ng WHO.

Gusto nilang maging malaya lagi na magtipon-tipon sa mga club, beach, party, hotel at iba pa.

Pero sinasabayan ito ng urong-sulong na paghihigpit at pagluluwag ng mga patakaran laban sa COVID-19.

Sa huli, mga Bro, nasa bawat Filipino ang mga kasagutan para sa epektibong laban sa COVID-19.

Palagay natin, sapat na ang mga impormasyong ipinakakalat ng pamahalaan, kasama ang media, laban sa sakit.

Kung ipababalikat natin lahat sa pamahalaan ang laban, anak ng tokwa, walang ibang mabibiktima at mahihirapan kundi tayo ring lahat.



Staying safe amid the pandemic

posted July 07, 2020 at 12:20 am by Ernesto M. Hilario
<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/327882>

"This app will be useful during this dangerous phase."

What did the World Health Organization prescribe at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as an integral part of the containment protocol?

Aggressive contact tracing, that's what. And it's the component that our overburdened health care system apparently has not been able to implement in an aggressive manner, for one reason or another.

But help is on the way. Staysafe.ph is an online-based contact tracing app for the highly infectious disease.

The app was launched in April this year and will be turned over to the Department of Health (DOH) by its developer, Multisys Technologies Corp., next month.

The app, according to Malacañang, is the country's "official social distancing, health condition reporting, and contact tracing system." Online-based apps like Staysafe will help the government augment its human contact tracing efforts to save lives. The app's function will be limited to the collection of data, which will be stored in DOH's "Covid Kaya," a case and contact tracing reporting system for epidemiology and surveillance officers.

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) has indicated that the DOH would accept the StaySafe.PH application upon issuance by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the National Privacy Commission (NPC) of a certification that the donation is technically feasible and secure, that systems are compatible, and that the arrangement is compliant with data privacy laws.

The WHO warned recently that a "new and dangerous phase" of the pandemic is likely to take place as people grow tired of lockdowns and social distancing. Staysafe would prove highly useful amid this "dangerous phase" of the pandemic as the government gradually reopens the economy in Metro Manila under a General Community Quarantine (GCQ) situation since most workers have a smartphone with 3G capabilities or higher. Staysafe, therefore, can assist the government in carrying out its Test-Trace-Treat or T-3 strategy.

Staysafe, however, has been criticized by former DICT Undersecretary Eliseo Rio, who says he was eased out of government after raising questions over the app's supposed limitations.

The DICT had formed a technical working group (TWG) to check on the technical specs of Staysafe. The TWG also included the DOH and the Department of the Interior and Local Government along with multiple groups of experts from the private sector.

Staysafe was analyzed by technical experts, and several technical workshops and meetings were held to discuss and evaluate its capabilities. These meetings included highly skilled professionals who were fair and objective in coming up with their evaluation of Staysafe.



4 NCR cities among emerging COVID-19 hotspots – DOH

By: Darryl John Esguerra - Reporter / @DJEsguerraINQ

INQUIRER.net / 08:15 PM July 06, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1302770/doh-4-ncr-cities-among-emerging-covid-19-hotspots>

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday identified four emerging COVID-19 hotspots in Metro Manila following the continued rise in coronavirus infections in the country.

In a televised press briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said Metro Manila and its neighboring regions showed a “notable” increase in COVID-19 cases in the past two weeks.

Vergeire said emerging hotspots include the cities of Marikina with 51 new cases and 41.43% growth rate; Muntinlupa with 30 cases and 35.16% growth rate; Quezon City with 406 cases and 34.5% growth rate; and Makati City with 135 cases and 30.18% growth rate.

Cases in the Visayas are “seen to be slowly decreasing,” Vergeire said.

“But we must continue to monitor the area if the decrease will be sustained,” she added.

Clustering of cases

The Health official likewise announced that they are monitoring the clustering of COVID-19 cases in 64 barangays in Cebu and in 314 barangays in the National Capital Region.

Aside from these barangays, there were also three “closed-setting facilities” with clustering of cases in Metro Manila including the cases in the MRT-3, which has been placed under a temporary shutdown after over 180 of its personnel tested positive for the respiratory disease.

There are currently 46,333 COVID-19 cases nationwide, including 12,185 recoveries and 1,303 deaths.

For more news about the novel coronavirus click [here](#).

[What you need to know about Coronavirus.](#)

For more information on COVID-19, call the DOH Hotline: (02) 86517800 local 1149/1150.

The Inquirer Foundation supports our healthcare frontliners and is still accepting cash donations to be deposited at Banco de Oro (BDO) current account #007960018860 or donate through PayMaya using this [link](#).



Cebu NGO band together for COVID-19 awareness

July 6, 2020 03:30 AM By [Rico Osmeña](#)

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/06/cebu-ngo-band-together-for-covid-19-awareness/>

Organizations from the medical, academe, business, media and civic fields in Cebu City have joined together to help government in its information awareness campaign against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Called the Cebu COVID-19 Citizens Initiative (CCI Initiative), it aims to help raise consciousness and shape public behavior to contribute in containing and managing the health and economic crisis.

“We are wary that the enhanced community quarantine has been extended in Cebu City with the rest of Cebu still in general community quarantine until 15 July. We are anxious the quarantine will continue beyond if everyone will not shape up,” the group said in a statement.

The CCI Initiative is composed of Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cebu Medical Society, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP)-Cebu Chapter, Rotary International District 3860, JCI Senate Cebu, University of San Carlos (USC), Chamber of Real Estate and Builders’ Association and Professionals for Active Citizenship and Transformation.

“We have suffered so much over the past four months. Jobs and business opportunities have been lost. People are suffering, especially those who need to work every day to feed their families. No one is spared,” the statement added.

It urged Cebuanos to take the situation seriously by following the anti-COVID-19 rules and guidelines in place.

“We are in a war. Let us all rise and fight. Our lives and those of our loved ones depend on how we battle this unseen force. This is our fight. The best way to fight is for us to stay home and we need to sacrifice in unison, in the spirit of cooperation. We can do what people power truly is,” the group reiterated.

Fr. Narciso Cellan Jr. SVD, USC president, said many Cebuanos are experiencing anxiety and fear, which is a concern everyone is dealing with.



U.P. study: Cebu may have 30 thousand cases by July 31

July 7, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2020/07/07/2026248/up-study-cebu-may-have-30-thousand-cases-july-31>

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

CEBU, Philippines — If quarantine measures are relaxed, the number of coronavirus cases in Cebu will surge to 20,000 to 30,000 by end-July, projections of the University of Philippines Research team showed.

UP Research said Cebu City had about 3,400 cases as of June 8. That number nearly doubled to more than 6,400 by June 25.

The implementation of enhanced community quarantine in Cebu City since June 16 has slowed down the cases that by June 30, the city was able to beat UP projection of 11,000. Data from the Department of Health-7 showed only 8,660 cases as of the end of last month.

“Assuming a continued decrease in transmissions due to ECQ, this projects to 15,000 cases in the province of Cebu (including Cebu City) by July 31,” UP’s latest forecast said. However, “if quarantine measures are relaxed, we could see a surge of 20,000 to 30,000 cases in Cebu by July 31.”

Although the reproduction number (Rt) in Cebu province has decreased from 2.0 since the previous report, the value of Rt in Cebu from June 16 has been decreasing, indicating that transmissions remain high but the pandemic is slowing down.

‘High-Risk’ still

UP Research said with an average reproduction number Rt during the ECQ of 1.8, Cebu province remains a high-risk area.

The implementation of interventions by the national and local government in Cebu from June 16 has reduced the rate of transmission and the value of the reproduction number Rt.

In UP’s view, the national and local projections represent a significant increase in transmissions and is a serious cause for concern that needs to be examined and given appropriate and immediate response by the government and they recommend that the government review its national strategy to combat COVID-19 in the country.

The government, it said, must re-examine and re-calibrate its strategies to ensure that the transmission of SARS-CoV2 virus does not further increase beyond the capacity of the health care system to respond.

This requires having clear targets to measure whether the strategies are working, such as keeping positivity rates low (below 7%), and active cases trending down.

“Furthermore, the easing of quarantine restrictions must be matched with more pandemic surveillance, effective strategies for social distancing, and compliance with other health



U.P. study: Cebu may have 30 thousand cases by July 31

protocols including vigorous promotion of personal hygiene practices, wearing of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) and increased testing, tracing, and isolation as the working population increases their exposure especially in high risk areas such as NCR and Cebu.”

Earlier, Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases chief implementer Sec. Carlito Galvez said stringent measures are still needed in Cebu City, prompting an extension of the ECQ status up to this time.

‘Somehow Stabilized’

In yesterday’s weekly presser, DOH-7 spokesperson Dr. Mary Jean Loreche said the critical care utilization rate here has somehow stabilized.

In their monitoring, government hospitals’ isolation bed utilization is 59.2%; severe cases, 52.6%; COVID ICU beds, 50%; COVID ward, 5.9%; and none for mechanical ventilators.

In private hospitals, isolation bed utilization is 74.3%; severe cases, 67.5%; severe and critically ill, 65.8%; COVID ward, 56.3%; COVID ICU, 51.5%; and those on mechanical ventilators, 45.2%.

“Di ta kaingon nga atong CCU has improved or has worsened. Murag nag-stabilize siya. If you notice, the figures I was mentioning are a lot better than previous weeks,” said Loreche.

Rising Deaths

In an online meeting with Cebu City Council yesterday, IATF Cebu overseer Secretary Roy Cimatu expressed concern on the rising number of deaths recorded in Cebu City.

He also urged city government to prepare for the quarantine category by July 16 and forecast on what actions or measures to take if the city’s status will be downgraded from ECQ to GCQ.

He asked the councilors to prepare the necessary protocols and other safety and health measures and the ordinances to be passed.

Cimatu also urged the city to continue to implement the zonal or granular lockdowns even if the rest of the city gets a GCQ status.

He posed a challenge to the City Council to enact ordinances consistent with the National IATF policies and guidelines without confusing the people as he said barangays should be empowered to take on the responsibility and accountability/

He said he did not want a similar situation happening in Metro Manila on the sudden surge of new cases during GCQ. JMD (FREEMAN)



Cebu City Health ceases release of COVID-19 info

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital | July 06,2020 - 09:33 PM

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/324621/cebu-city-health-ceases-release-of-covid-19-info>

This is the statement of the IATF with regards to the harmonizing of data between the DOH and the Cebu City Health Department.

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Cebu City Health Department (CCHD) will no longer post the number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases on their Facebook page as mandated by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF).

In an advisory, the CCHD said that they had been advised by the IATF to cease the publishing of the cases until their data had been harmonized with that of the Department of Health (DOH).

“We will no longer be posting daily reports on our page for the Cebu City COVID-19 Monitoring. This was recommended by the IATF to avoid confusion with the public as we are still harmonizing data with other health departments,” said CCHD.

The city’s health department said that the cases they post daily are actual cases validated by the contact tracing teams, but this may have caused confusion to the public.

They urged the residents to check the postings of Regional DOH in Central Visayas (DOH-7) for updates on the cases in the city.

Recently, DOH-7 has asked the LGUs to publish data that have been verified by the Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (RESU) and avoid publishing raw data.

DOH-7 said the raw data were only for contact tracing, not for public consumption.

Read more: [Cebu City breaches 6K mark in COVID-19 cases on July 5](#)

There were discrepancies in the reported cases of the city that have reached 620 cases on July 5 when DOH-7 released the number of cases in the city to be actually 6,761, far from the reported number by the CCHD, which is 6,141

This prompted the DOH-7 to harmonize the data released by the agency and of the LGU.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque, III, recently instructed the health agencies to harmonize their data and release only validated information. /dbs



Filipinos should adapt to 'changed' environment amid pandemic

By Priam Nepomuceno July 6, 2020, 1:00 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1108032>



NEW NORMAL. A staff of the Metro Rail Transit line 3 (MRT-3) wears a protective personal equipment on Monday (July 6, 2020). The Department of Transportation reported that some MRT-3 personnel have tested positive for Covid-19. (PNA photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

MANILA – As the country observes national disaster resilience month, Filipinos should adapt to a "changed" environment under the new normal brought by the coronavirus pandemic.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) spokesperson Mark Cashean Timbal said disaster resiliency also refers to the ability to survive threats caused by pandemics.

"Our national goal of resilience covers not just hazards but pandemics as well. We are in the 'new normal' now and we must skillfully adapt to this changing environment to protect ourselves while doing our work as productive citizens; to work together to overcome the challenges of Covid-19 and other disasters," he said.

Timbal said the support and cooperation of everyone are crucial in defeating these challenges.

"We continue to build preparedness and resilience. With the support and cooperation of our people, we can surmount these challenges," he added.

Executive Order No. 29 signed on June 28, 2017, by President Rodrigo Duterte on June 28, 2017 mandates the observance of national disaster resilience month nationwide every July through activities related to the building of disaster resilience covering the four thematic areas: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation, and recovery.

Through disaster resilience month, the public would know the importance of understanding disaster risks and governance, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, enhancing preparedness for effective response, and implementing "Build Back Better" in rehabilitation and recovery. (PNA)



NDRRMC, DOH go online for National Disaster Resilience Month

Bettina Magsaysay, ABS-CBN News Posted at Jul 06 2020 11:18 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/06/20/ndrrmc-doh-go-online-for-national-disaster-resilience-month>

MANILA - The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Department of Health are going online for National Disaster Resilience Month.

July is National Disaster Resilience Month in the country.

Executive Order No. 29 issued by President Rodrigo Duterte on June 28, 2017 mandates the observance of national disaster resilience month nationwide every July through activities related to the building of disaster resilience covering the four thematic areas: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation, and recovery.

Typhoons, earthquakes, floods and landslides are no longer just the hazards that Filipinos face. The current coronavirus crisis has shed light on the dangers of global pandemics.

This year's theme "Sama-samang Pagsulong sa Katagan sa Gitna ng Bagong Normal," will focus not only on the importance of understanding and investing in disaster preparedness and effective response but also disaster resiliency with regards to the threats caused by pandemics.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council spokesperson Mark Timbal said due to the certain restrictions, activities for will be done online through webinars, zoom and other social media platforms to engage the public on disaster awareness.

Among those lined up is the Facebook video Resilience Challenge. Similar to a TikTok clip, participants would have to make a video on any of these four categories:

1. What's inside your Go Bag? #GoBagChallenge
2. Dress up your Personal Protective Gear or Equipment. #PPEChallenge
3. Do your Duck, Cover and Hold technique. #BidaAngHanda
4. Show your COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Measure. #BeatCOVID19

Through this, the NDRRMC hopes to get the community as well as the youth involved.

Aside from this, there will also be a spoken poetry contest.

The winner will receive prize money.



NDRRMC, DOH go online for National Disaster Resilience Month

Online discussion will also be conducted by the regional offices of the Office of the Civil Defense.

"Discussions will revolve around disaster risk reduction and management in the time of the COVID pandemic. How we can promote resilience as well as the protection of the public from COVID. What are the steps that we have taken? and what are the best practices from the different government units," Timbal explained.

Other local government units will also have their own activities lined up.

The Department of Health meanwhile will also have several virtual activities such as hosting of social media cards and infomercials, dissemination forums and webinars.

Dr. Gloria J. Balboa, director of Health Emergency Management Bureau of the Department of Health, said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the whole world with corresponding significant changes in the public health landscape which includes the threat of all the new diseases, climate change, extreme weathers event, natural disasters, armed conflict all of which has been challenging the health system and has been contributing to the burdens of our existence."

The Civil Defense Office as well as the Department of Health are determined to improve the preparedness and response system to address not only natural disasters but also emerging health threats.

They added that the consolidated effort of the government and the public is crucial in facing the challenges ahead.



COVID-19 health safety protocols, dapat isama sa local disaster plans ngayong tag-ulan

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on July 6, 2020
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046774>

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN, Hulyo 6 (PIA) -- Hinimok ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang lahat ng local government units (LGUs) na isama ang COVID-19 health safety protocols sa pagsusuri nila ng kanilang mga local disaster risk reduction and management (LDRRM) plans sa pagsisimula ng tag-ulan.

"Mas mabigat ang tungkulin ng ating mga LGUs dahil ngayon lang mangyayari na may sama ng panahon sa gitna ng patuloy na pagsugpo sa Covid-19. Nakapagbigay na kami ng mga panuntunan at mga alituntunin sa pamamagitan ng DILG Central Office Disaster Information Coordinating Center (CODIX) upang mas mapaghandaan nila ang pagharap sa sitwasyon," sabi ni DILG Spokesperson at Undersecretary Jonathan E. Malaya.

"Ang mga panuntunang ito ay ilalabas upang matulungan ang mga LGUs na mabisang mapaghandaan at sabay na matugunan ang mga natural disaster at Covid-19," ani Malaya.

Ayon naman kay CODIX Chief Edgar Allan B. Tabell, ang mga LGUs ay hindi bulag na makikibaka dahil mula pa noong unang bahagi ng 2003, sa banta ng Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) at ng sakit na Ebola virus disease (EVD) noong 2015, ang mga LGU ay ginagabayan upang magplano at tumugon sa mga kalamidad.

Pinaalalahanan ni Malaya ang mga LGUs na magsagawa ng mga pagkilos na tutugon sa mga likas na sakuna, na inirerekomenda ng Operation Listo manual, isang advocacy program ng Kagawaran na naglalayong palakasin ang paghahanda sa sakuna ng mga lalawigan, lungsod, bayan, at mga barangay sa pamamagitan ng paggawa ng minimum na mga aksyon bilang paghahanda para sa mga bagyo.

Inulit niya ang pangangailangan sa mga LDRRM Councils ng mga LGU na magsagawa ng kanilang sariling pre-disaster risk assessment at simulan na ang lahat ng kinakailangang logistical preparations nang may lubos na pagsasaalang-alang sa mga panganib sa kalusugan dala ng coronavirus.

Inaatasan ang mga LGUs na magpulung at suriin ang kani-kanilang mga LDRRM plans at i-update ang kanilang mga tugon nang naaayon sa mga minimum health standards at infection prevention protocols na itinakda ng Department of Health (DOH).



COVID-19 health safety protocols, dapat isama sa local disaster plans ngayong tag-ulan

Gayunpaman, nabanggit ni Malaya na marami sa mga LGUs ang may kakayahan ng pangasiwaan ang mga likas na sakuna dahil maayos na naipapatupad ang mga Operation Listo protocols ng DILG simula nang ilunsad ito. Tiniyak niya na ang DILG ay nakikipag-ugnayan sa iba't ibang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan para sa mas malinaw na mga alituntunin upang matiyak na ang mga hakbang na gagawin ng mga LGUs sa pagtugon sa mga bagyo at Covid-19 ay alinsunod sa mga minimum health protocols.

“Mapaghamon ang mga susunod na araw. Nakatitiyak kayo na ang DILG ay mananatiling nakatuon sa pagtulong sa LGUs para mapagtagumpayan ang mga hamon na ito,” aniya.

“Sa harap ng ganitong sitwasyon, nais pa rin nating purihin ang mga LGUs na patuloy na pinapanatiling ligtas ang ating mga komunidad sa gitna ng pandemyang ito. Wala pa po tayong ganitong nararanasan. Lahat tayo noong umpisa ay nag-adjust. Ngunit patuloy tayong nag-aaral, at natututo tayo mula rito,” dagdag niya.

Nauna rito, pinayuhan ng PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration) ang publiko at lahat ng mga kinauukulang ahensiya sa gumawa ng mga pag-iingat na hakbang bilang paghahanda sa tag-ulan.

Ngunit idinagdag ng state weather bureau na ang mga panaka-nakang pag-ulan ay susundan ng mga dry periods, na tinatawag na monsoon breaks, “na maaaring magtagal mula ilang araw hanggang dalawang linggo.” (PIA NCR)



Save own seeds, grow food, public urged

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on July 6, 2020
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046776>



House Deputy Speaker and Antique Representative Loren Legarda

CALOOCAN CITY, July 6 (PIA) -- On the seventh episode of “Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Pathways,” with the topic, “Saving Seeds and Growing with Nature,” experts shared the basics of permaculture and encouraged individuals and households to start saving their own seeds and grow food in a manner that heals nature.

House Deputy Speaker and Antique Representative Loren Legarda joined the permaculture practitioners and seed saving experts and enthusiasts, including Bert Peeters of the Philippine Permaculture Association; Jabez Flores of Permaculture Research PH; Rina Papio of Green Space Pilipinas; Karen Hizola of Global Seed Savers PH, and Dr. Blesilda Calub of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños.

While environmental lawyer Ipat Luna; Earth Leader and founder of Kai Farms Karla Delgado; and DowntoEarth PH founder Atty. Paula Aberasturi joined as panel reactors.

The online discussion is organized in partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission (CCC), with support from the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), The Climate Reality Project-Philippines, and Mother Earth Foundation.

Peeters described permaculture as designing with nature through an ecosystems and biodiversity approach. He also explained how permaculture empowers communities.



Save own seeds, grow food, public urged

“Permaculture in action entails working with a lot of local government units (LGUs). It is being able to make products that are locally relevant with the abundant materials that are in the area. It is also teaching people how they can craft and use raw materials into something useful like baskets or bamboo bikes, or wines and juices,” Peeters said.

For his part, Flores talked about the permaculture and biodiversity mapping of the Philippines, which is an essential tool that allows farmers and researchers to visualize the geographic location of their potential sites, determine the available resources, and identify farm components.

He also highlighted that there are species that act as natural pest control, seed dispersers, or pollinators, thereby making the entire ecosystem more functional and resilient.

“Permaculture landscapes are designed for diversity. The aim is not just to promote biotic diversity with crops, wildlife, and trees, but also biophysical and sociocultural biodiversity as well, which are sometimes neglected in the design,” Flores said.

Likewise, Papio discussed the importance of soil health and illustrated new ways of turning food waste into healthy soil through Bokashi composting.

“Whenever we send our food waste to the landfill, we are throwing away a valuable resource that can help build soil. It’s time we make a change from being land fillers to land healers,” Papio said.

For her part, Hizola showed the basic steps of seed collection and storage, encouraging more people to adopt seed-saving practices as she highlighted their benefits.

“Why are seeds very important in our lives, especially sa panahon ngayon ng pandemya? When you hold a seed in your hand, it is like holding the past, the present, and the future because mayroon kang record ng kung ano mang tanim ang na-produce ng seeds na 'yun. You are holding the future in your hand because seeds are actually self-replicating and key in making sure that we are able to flourish in the future” Hizola said.

Meanwhile, Calub explained how the UP Los Baños and its surrounding communities have benefited from the school gardens, home gardens, and community gardens through their mentorship and learning resources.



Save own seeds, grow food, public urged

“We made use of the school gardens as an open-air classroom for teaching Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan, Science, Math, and English. We integrate in these subjects the science of food and nutrition, organic agriculture, edible landscaping, climate resilience, and composting from biodegradable wastes,” said Calub.

Legarda, author of House Bill no. 637 or the Food Gardening Act of 2019 and Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Law, reiterated the need for every household to implement segregation of food waste and composting in practicing permaculture.

“There’s so much we could do together to help implement existing environmental laws. When we design small or big farms in rural or urban areas, let’s make sure that every local government, people’s organization, and citizen can understand, implement, operationalize, and benefit from permaculture,” Legarda said.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, Stories for a Better Normal aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities to lead sustainable lives towards a healthier, safer, and much better normal than we used to have. (PIA NCR)

Nutrition must remain a priority even amid a recession, experts urge

By Eveline Gan July 6, 2020

<https://www.eco-business.com/news/nutrition-must-remain-a-priority-even-amid-a-recession-experts-urge/>

Amid a pandemic and belt-tightening times, smart food choices can bolster immunity; the key is to have a diverse diet and use your calories wisely by selecting micronutrient-filled foods.



A diversified diet will ensure people consume the micronutrients they need. Image: Megan Thomas via Unsplash

The impact of Covid-19 on global food supply chains and access to food has been vast.

Lockdowns imposed by many governments to control the outbreak have also caused many businesses—in some cases, entire industries such as tourism—to shut, driving millions out of work and their households into financial insecurity.

In a world set to face challenging economic times, eating healthily must remain a priority even when on a tight budget, nutrition experts told Eco-Business.

Even without the threat of Covid-19 infection, eating well helps keep the immune system running efficiently. Diets have a direct impact on health and the body's ability to ward off or recover from illnesses.

For instance, it is well-established that poor diets are linked to chronic diseases, such as Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, which are currently the leading causes of poor health and deaths worldwide.

Mounting evidence also shows that people with these pre-existing conditions fare worse and have a higher risk of dying when they contract Covid-19 and other infections.

Say 'no' to empty calories



Nutrition must remain a priority even amid a recession, experts urge

A rule of thumb for healthy eating is to have a well-rounded, diverse diet filled with nutritious foods from various sources, said food and nutrition experts Regina Moench-Pfanner and Janelle Limquenco.

Diets lacking important nutrients can impair the immune system's ability to function normally, said Limquenco, a product manager at Singapore food technology firm NamZ who is trained in food science and technology.

It is all the more important now [in the midst of a pandemic] to minimise intake of empty calories—junk food with little nutritional value—as much as possible.

Janelle Limquenco, product manager, NamZ

“It is all the more important now [in the midst of a pandemic] to minimise intake of empty calories—junk food with little nutritional value—as much as possible,” she said. “It is best to use your calories wisely by filling them up with micronutrient-filled foods.”

Micronutrients are vitamins and minerals that are not produced by the body, but are required in small amounts. Those scientifically proven to support the immune system include vitamins A, B-vitamins, C, D, E and folate as well as trace minerals such as iron, copper, zinc and selenium.

“The key here is that these micronutrients need to be eaten every day, and you can only get them if you consume a diversified diet, represented in a ‘colourful plate’, meaning that foods of one colour should not dominate the plate,” said Moench-Pfanner, the founder and chief executive of ibn360, a consulting firm specialising in food, nutrition and health.

There is also emerging evidence that links gut health to immune response. “Our immune system has co-evolved with our gut microbiota, which is important in regulating our immune responses. Consuming fibre could therefore be helpful in boosting the immune system too,” said Limquenco.

Using knowledge to overcome barriers

But barriers such as affordability, lack of access to nutritious foods and poor nutrition awareness can stand in the way of a nutritious and diverse daily diet, said Moench-Pfanner.

In some low-income countries in Asia for example, rice might make up 70 per cent of the daily energy intake, which is not optimal, she said.

“If you are a good cook and have the knowledge to cook nutritious foods, such as vegetables, pulses, beans, cereals, nuts and some meat, in a way that is appealing to the family, then you can manage even on a low budget to have a nutritious diet,” Moench-Pfanner said.

“However, if this knowledge is not available, you will fall back mainly on staples like wheat, rice and maize, which do not offer a lot of bio-available micronutrients.”



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Regina Moench-Pfanner, founder and chief executive, ibn360

Smart food choices need not always involve a hefty price tag. For instance, rice and beans are one of the most affordable yet healthiest food combinations available in the region, Limqueco said.

Beans are rich in protein, fibre as well as micronutrients, folate, iron, and copper. Together with rice, they provide a complete source of essential amino acids, she said. They also incur much smaller carbon footprint than animal protein.

Other than rice and beans, Limqueco said that green leafy vegetables are probably the next best bang-for-your-buck whole-food option.

While varieties can range from the humble Chinese spinach to the more premium kale and rocket salads, most leafy greens are nutrient-dense and contain vitamins A, C, K, folate, iron, and B-vitamins.

“It is possible to have a rice, beans and leafy greens meal for S\$2 (US\$1.40) or even less,” Limqueco said.

While a diverse diet of natural whole foods is key to healthy eating, Limqueco said that eating well need not be an “all-or-nothing” approach. Depending on the circumstances and situation, a more practical approach may sometimes be required, for instance, when time or access to fresh food items are limited.

“Some of us might not even have time to cook at home while juggling multiple calls. For others, juggling kids and work makes time even more limited,” she said. In such situations, consumers would need to pick the healthiest option available.

Healthier and more sustainable convenience foods

NamZ, which specialises in nutritious comfort food, has rolled out a range of instant noodles, shakes and soups that aim to be positive for people and planet under the brand WhatIF Foods.

Its instant noodles, for instance, are dehydrated using a proprietary process similar to air-frying that reduces the fat content by at least 55 per cent. Ingredients include future-fit crops such as the Bambara groundnut and moringa, which are climate-resilient and can grow on poor soil or marginalised or degraded land, opening up income opportunities for smallholder farmers.

The crops are also nutrient-dense. For instance, WhatIF’s moringa and Bambara groundnut noodles both contain iron—an essential mineral necessary for normal immune system function—as well as two to three times more fibre than popular deep-fried instant noodle brands in Singapore.



Nutrition must remain a priority even amid a recession, experts urge

Each portion of the Bambara groundnut noodles contains as much protein as two eggs, but without the cholesterol as the noodles are entirely plant-based.

For its soups and shakes, NamZ teamed up with Austrian health supplement company Biogena to incorporate essential immune-boosting micronutrients, adding to their already-balanced macronutrient profile.

NamZ co-founder Christoph Langwallner said the collaboration with Biogena came about due to their shared interest in solutions to the nutritional paradox, which refers to the paradoxical trends of hunger, obesity, undernutrition and environmental degradation.

Michael Waeger, science team leader at Biogena, said the company has almost 15 years of experience in the field of nutritional supplements and nutritional medicine. For the collaboration, both companies took into account the needs of the general population as well as groups that have increased nutritional needs, he said.

They used vitamin and mineral compounds with a high bioavailability, which refers to the quantity of the ingested dose that is absorbed in the gut and can be used by the body, Waeger added.

The micronutrients in WhatIF's soups and shakes include selenium, zinc and vitamins D and C. A study published in April in the peer-reviewed journal *Nutrients* found that vitamins D and C, along with other micronutrients, may confer protective benefits against Covid-19.

And studies have shown that even short-term supplementation of zinc can reduce the incidence and duration of infections of the lower respiratory tract, Waeger said.

Wider efforts needed to ensure food security

Apart from individual efforts to eat well and stay healthy, other experts have called for wider efforts to ensure food security and access to nutrition amid the pandemic. Governments should work together and ensure that short-term measures to restrict trade should not distort global markets, international agencies including the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation have urged.

More investments are also needed to increase the resilience of food systems and prevent future infectious disease outbreaks, they said.

Governments must also support the poor, vulnerable and those whose incomes have been hit. "Implementing adequate social protection measures, such as cash transfers, and investing in early recovery efforts in response to Covid-19 is critical to saving both lives and livelihoods. Ensuring that these measures reach everyone will be key to avoid further spread of poverty and hunger," the agencies said.



Part of Manila Zoo converted to organic urban farm

Published July 6, 2020, 1:21 PM by Gabriela Baron

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/06/part-of-manila-zoo-converted-to-organic-urban-farm/>

A portion of Manila Zoo in Malate was converted to an organic urban farm as it remains closed to the public amid the general community quarantine (GCQ).



SUSTAINABLE ZOO—Members of the Public Recreations Bureau convert the horseback riding area inside Manila Zoo in Malate into an organic urban farm. The vegetables once harvested are added to the animals' daily meals, while animal waste is used as fertilizer for the plants. (Photo from Isko Moreno Domagoso's Facebook page)

Members of the Public Recreations Bureau of the Manila city government used the horseback riding area to plant vegetables that are fed to animals in the zoo.

In a Facebook post, Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso said this was done to make the zoo more sustainable amid the crisis brought about by the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

“Sa maliit naming kaparaanan ay nais po namin na maging sustainable ang ating zoo kung kaya’t ginagawang pataba o fertilizer ang mga dumi ng hayop at ang mga gulay na naani naman ay pandagdag sa araw-araw na pagkain ng ating mga alagang hayop (In our own little way, we wanted to make our zoo more sustainable, so, we use animal waste as fertilizer for vegetables which are added to their daily meals),” he said in his post.

Domagoso earlier said they will soon break ground for the Bagong Manila Zoo.

This is among the series of the city government’s infrastructure projects lined up under the “Build Build Manila” program.

They recently broke ground for Tondominiums 1 and 2 and Bagong Ospital ng Maynila. The city government is set to break ground for Binondominium soon.



Civil service anniversary highlights technology, malasakit

By CSC Published on July 6, 2020

<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046812>

QUEZON CITY, July 6 -- Government gears up for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

For the 120th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary in September, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) will highlight the role of technology in the evolution of public service in the country, especially as the nation copes with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Thus, the theme of the anniversary celebration is Philippine Civil Service @120: Public Sector in the Age of Digital Transformation.

CSC Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala said that, in the age of technology, public service has to remain competitive and responsive enough to meet the evolving needs of its clientele. "Human resource (HR) management and development are also evolving as technology introduces new ways of interaction and alternative work arrangements. This was further highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic situation, which brought about changes to work, government-client transactions, and other processes," she said.

The CSC also encourages government agencies to learn from the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic. "This includes reassessing the ways government has been doing business, setting goals and targets, managing people, and evaluating work performance. CSC recognizes that innovation has now become a crucial ingredient not only to meet organizational objectives but also to keep employees safe, healthy, productive, and motivated," stressed Chairperson Bala.

The anniversary activities set for September 2020 will be mostly online, in accordance with the national government's directives on minimum health standards such as social distancing. To mark the start of the anniversary month, a virtual press conference will be held on 1 September. Jobseekers may participate in the 2020 Government Online Career Fair on 14-18 September. Photography enthusiasts may show off their best work by joining the 120th PCSA Photography Contest.

Government workers may also participate in eLearning courses and health and wellness webinars. For the whole month of September, special treats will be provided to government employees as a gesture of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

For more information on the theme and activities, refer to CSC Memorandum Circular No. 12, s. 2020 posted on the CSC website, www.csc.gov.ph. Updates and additional information may also be accessed via the PCSA webpage at www.csc.gov.ph/pcsa2020 and the CSC's official Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/civilservicegovph. (CSC)



Tax deductions for WFH workers pushed

July 6, 2020 07:00 PM By Hananeel Bordey

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/06/tax-deductions-for-wfh-workers-pushed/>



Senator Francis Tolentino on Monday proposed to deduct the additional expenses paid by work-from-home employees from their tax payments during the period of the \coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

During the Senate Committee on Energy hearing on the spike of electricity bills amid the health crisis, Tolentino said he will file a measure to amend the National Internal Revenue Code and include this proposal to ease the burden of employees working remotely.

The lawmaker said that employees who are working from their own houses should be entitled to tax reliefs.

“The expense of those who are working from their houses can be charged as deductible expenses in paying their taxes because the expenses in their workplaces have decreased,” he said.

“They are no longer working in their offices. They are not consuming much electricity for their aircon because they are working from their own houses. [Having said that,] their electricity charges have increased,” he added.

Tolentino along with Senate Energy Committee Chair Sherwin Gatchalian said they will initiate the filing of the said bill to provide an “appropriate, considerable, and reasonable deduction on gross income” of taxpayers who face additional electricity consumption for their remote work set-up.

Manila Electric Company, the sole distributor of electricity in Metro Manila, said that the consumption in residential areas has increased by 30 percent during the enhanced community quarantine.

Last 1 June, some establishments were allowed by the national government to resume its operations after the Inter-Agency Task Force recommended the shift to general community quarantine.



Estero dwellers warned to keep creeks clean

July 6, 2020 03:10 AM By *Pat C. Santos*

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/06/estero-dwellers-warned-to-keep-creeks-clean/>

Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso sent warnings to informal settler families (ISF) residing beside the city’s esteros to keep the waterways clean and act as their watchdogs.

“Just because you are squatters, that does not mean you have to be untidy,” Domagoso said. “Let us change this old habit. The government is trying to be understanding, but do not wait for the day when its patience runs out.”

The mayor stressed this during his regular Facebook Live post, as he appealed that they refrain from throwing their garbage into the waters.

He said while the city’s “estero rangers” have been consistently conducting cleanup operations of waterways and inlets, the cooperation of the residents themselves is still the key to keeping these free of garbage.

While the city government will never get tired of cleaning up the waterways, he said he cannot be sure until when he can tolerate the stubbornness of ISF.

“We continue cleaning, yet you continue throwing trash. Won’t you get tired of throwing garbage? One day, we just might be forced to tear down your homes. Won’t that be a downer? What if the government suddenly gets tired of being understanding? In the first place, you are staying there illegally,” Domagoso said.

The mayor said that, as much as possible, he would want to embrace every needy Manilan, which is why he came up with the idea of building in-city vertical housing, such as the condominium buildings in Tondo and Binondo.

He said the city government can help send them back to their provinces.

“However, as much as possible, I would want to help them in the city, with many privileges, such as free schooling for their kids, free hospitalization and many jobs available for those searching for one,” he added.



MWSS reports completion of P3.29-billion Angat tunnel project

By Jonathan L. Mayuga July 6, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/07/06/mwss-reports-completion-of-p3-29-billion-ang-at-tunnel-project/>

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has announced the completion of all the components and subsequent commissioning of the Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project (AWTIP) three months ahead of schedule.

In a news statement released on Monday, MWSS said completion of AWTIP, or Tunnel 4 project, marks another milestone in the MWSS promise of water security for Metro Manila.

The completion of Tunnel 4 is the culmination of the joint efforts of the Philippine government, with the MWSS as the implementing agency and the Asian Development Bank.

The centerpiece of AWTIP is a 6.3 kilometers tunnel with a finished internal span diameter of 4 meters, designed to accommodate 19 cubic meters per second (m³ /s) raw water from Angat Dam.

The construction of the P3.29- billion tunnel project started in June 2016 and was completed in June 2020, which is three months ahead of the original completion date target in September 2020.

The AWTIP is a critical component of the Duterte administration's water supply security program as it mitigates the risk of a partial, or total disruption of water supply for Metro Manila, according to the MWSS.

It will provide redundancy and enable the system's full design capacity to be restored by allowing the upstream tunnels and downstream aqueducts to be sequentially closed, inspected, and rehabilitated, or decommissioned.

"I am very pleased to see the completion of Tunnel 4 as it now paves the way for the rehabilitation of the transmission system's main components that are as old 75 years, in poor condition, and most likely not in compliance with current structural and seismic requirements," Administrator Emmanuel B. Salamat who visited the project site said.

Meanwhile, the MWSS said that minor delays due to the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) restrictions thwarted its efforts to place on stream the additional 19 m³ /s (equivalent to 1,600 million liters per day) into the delivery system.

"We have partially operated the tunnel last April, which solved the summer's annual water supply problem. We are currently in commissioning activities and continue to work non-stop," the MWSS said.

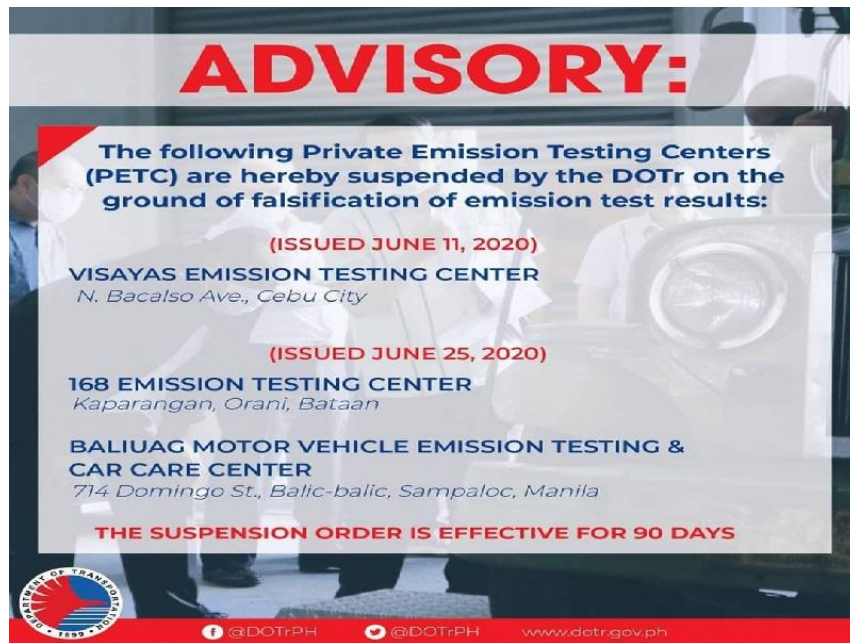
Meanwhile, a one-month testing period will ensure the performance of each system and the overall system meet the design standards and operating requirements.



Tatlong private emission testing center, sinuspinde ng DOTr

By Angellic Jordan July 06, 2020 - 09:48 PM

<https://radyo.inquirer.net/252581/tatlong-private-emission-testing-center-sinuspinde-ng-dotr>



Sinuspinde ng Department of Transportation (DOTr) ang tatlong private emission testing centers.

Ayon sa kagawaran, sa pamamagitan ng Investigation Security and Law Enforcement Staff (ISLES), naglabas ng preliminary suspension order (Department Order 2016-017) dahil sa pamemeke ng emission test results.

Kabilang sa pinatawan ng suspensyon ang mga sumusunod:

- Visayas Emission Testing Center
N. Bacalso Ave., Cebu City
- 168 Emission Testing Center
Kaparangan, Orani, Bataan
- Baliuag Motor Vehicle Emission Testing & Car Care Center
714 Domingo St., Balic-balic, Sampaloc, Manila

Epektibo ang suspensyon sa loob ng 90 araw.

Babala ng DOTr sa mga IT Service Provider, posible silang mapatawan ng parusa kapag nagpatuloy sa pagproseso ng mga datos na galing sa mga suspendidong emission centers.



Overnight rain triggers landslides, flash floods in NoCot town

By Edwin Fernandez July 6, 2020, 10:34 pm
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1108054>



PLANT TREES. Mayor Jesus Sacdalan of Alamada, North Cotabato speaks to members of the municipal disaster risk reduction and management council following the series of flash floods and landslides in the town's remote villages on Sunday (July 5, 2020) due to the intertropical convergence zone affecting Mindanao. The mayor has called on constituents to plant more trees, particularly bamboos, to prevent soil erosion that triggers landslides during the rainy season. *(Photo courtesy of Alamada LGU)*

COTABATO CITY – An overnight downpour brought about by an intertropical convergence zone affecting Mindanao triggered flash floods and landslides in an upland town in North Cotabato on Sunday.

Mayor Jesus Sacdalan of Alamada town said he immediately directed the municipal social welfare office to attend to the needs of affected families whose number is yet to be determined.

Allan Singco, the municipal administrator, said overnight rains triggered landslides and flash floods in Barangays Bao, Paruayan and Malitubog.

The landslides shut down portions of the road network in Barangay Bao as a road grader and backhoe were sent on Sunday to clear the paths.

“Roads are now cleared, goods and commuters can now proceed to the town center,” Sacdalan said in a radio interview here Monday morning.

Sacdalan reminded residents, especially those living in the mountains to be on alert during the rainy season as landslides and flash floods are a common occurrence.

He also urged residents to plant trees, especially bamboos, for they are effective in controlling floods that cause soil erosion resulting in landslides.

Alamada known for its majestic “Asik-Asik Falls” has a population of about 64,500 based on the 2015 census. *(PNA)*



Bulusan earthquakes cause PHIVOLCS to raise Alert Level 1 over volcano

Published July 6, 2020 5:36pm By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/745691/bulusan-earthquakes-cause-phivolcs-to-raise-alert-level-1-over-volcano/story/>

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has raised the alert level in Bulusan Volcano.

PHIVOLCS on Monday raised the alert level in Bulusan Volcano in Sorsogon from 0 (normal) to 1 (abnormal) due to increased seismic activity.

In its 4 p.m. bulletin, PHIVOLCS said the volcano's monitoring network has recorded a total of 53 volcanic earthquakes since July 3.

Of the 53 quakes, PHIVOLCS said 43 were "low frequency events that are associated with weak and shallow hydrothermal or magmatic gas activity within the edifice."

"The increased seismicity could be succeeded by steam-driven or phreatic eruptions at the summit crater or from flank vents on the upper to middle slopes, despite the absence of visible degassing or steaming from the active vent this year," it added.

Meanwhile, PHIVOLCS said ground deformation data from continuous GPS measurements also indicate a short-term inflation of the edifice since late February this year.

"These parameters indicate that volcanic processes are underway beneath the edifice that may be caused by deep-seated degassing or hydrothermal activity or magmatic intrusion," the agency explained.

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

Due to this, PHIVOLCS warned local government units and the public that entry into the four-kilometer Permanent Danger Zone is strictly prohibited and that vigilance in the Extended Danger Zone must be observed due to the increased possibilities of sudden hazardous phreatic eruptions.

Pilots are also advised against flying close to the volcano's summit as doing so could be hazardous.

Moreover, people living within the valleys and along river or stream channels, especially on the southeast, southwest and northwest sector of the edifice should be vigilant against sediment-laden stream flows and lahars in the event of heavy and prolonged rainfall, PHIVOLCS added. **-NB, GMA News**



El Nido, planong magsagawa ng dry-run bago buksan sa lokal na turismo ang Palawan--DOT

Hulyo 6, 2020 5:56pm GMT+08:00

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/balita/745697/el-nido-planong-magsagawa-ng-dry-run-bago-buksan-sa-lokal-na-turismo-ang-palawan-dot/story/>

Inihayag ng Department of Tourism (DOT) na patuloy ang pag-uusap at pagpapalano ng mga lokal na opisyal kapag binuksan sa mga lokal na turista ang mga pasyalan ng Palawan, partikular ang Coron, El Nido at San Vicente.

Sa panayam ng Dabol B sa News TV nitong Lunes, sinabi ni Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, na patuloy ang nakikipag-ugnay nila sa mga lokal na opisyal ng lalawigan.

Posibleng ang unang buksan umano sa turismo ang isang resort sa El Nido.

“Pinag-usapan namin na since June 1 pa sila (Palawan) modified general community quarantine pero ayaw pa nila magbukas. Pinag-agreehan [agree] namin is puwedeng magbukas ang El Nido pero one establishment muna,” paliwanag niya.

“Gusto nila i-dry-run kasi ang El Nido. Zero ang COVID... so you can imagine zero COVID so siyempre kinakabahan sila at natatakot sila na baka kung mag-accept sila from the outside, magka-COVID sila,” paliwanag ni Puyat.

“So ang gagawin namin, dry-run muna sa isang establishment pero bago makapasok, kailangan naka-swab test,” dagdag niya.

Ayon pa sa kalihim, nasa P3 bilyon kita sa turismo ang nawala sa Palawan dahil sa pandemic.

Kasabay nito, nasa 14,000 hotel workers naman sa El Nido, Coron at San Vicente ang nawalan ng trabaho.

Dahil dito, nais ng mga lokal na opisyal na dahan-dahan na buksan ang turismo ng lalawigan na may kasamang pag-iingat.

“Wala nang other means (ang Palawan), tourism kasi talaga eh so importanteng kausapin ang LGU, mga mayors at governor and tignan natin kung paano natin ibubukas pero siyempre slow but sure. ‘Yong hinay-hinay lang tayo,” sabi ni Puyat.

Nitong nakaraang June 16, binuksan na ang Boracay para sa mga lokal na turista mula sa Western Visayas.--FRJ, GMA News



The Plastic Free July challenge is here to help you rid your life of single-use plastic waste

By Joe Bagliere, CNN Published Jul 6, 2020 7:51:24 AM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/lifestyle/2020/7/6/plastic-free-july-challenge.html>

(CNN)— Unlike dance battles and dangerous dares, here's a "challenge" just about anyone can get behind.

The Australia-based Plastic Free Foundation is once again recruiting participants to take the Plastic Free July challenge -- that is to go without single-use plastic for one day, one week or the entire month of July.

"Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution -- so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities," the organizers say on their website. "Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?"

The initiative, now in its ninth year, is spearheaded by the Australia-based Plastic Free Foundation, which aims to one day rid the world of plastic waste.

The annual event aims to provide resources and guides to help anyone interested in taking part "reduce single-use plastic waste every day at home, work, school, and even at your local café."

Some of the basic solutions the organization suggests for reducing plastic waste include using reusable coffee cups and bottles, bringing your own reusable straws, buying bars of soap rather than liquid bottled soaps, avoiding pre-packaged foods if possible and simply buying less packaged goods overall.

Though the campaign's focus is on July, its push is to make an impact year-round.

Over the years, a number of governments around the world, including Canada, the European Union and some US states, have moved to ban various plastic products. But with plastic so prevalent in our daily lives, many are looking for concrete things they can do at home to have an impact.

"People worldwide are increasingly concerned with the impact humanity is having on the natural environment. They are looking for leadership and a way to participate in making a meaningful difference," Gunther Hoppe, chairman of the Plastic Free Foundation board said in the organization's [2019 annual report](#). "We believe that the Plastic Free Foundation can provide both."

As part of its core values, Plastic Free Foundation operates under the principle that "small changes add up to make a big difference" and puts an emphasis on "inclusiveness of people, ideas, visions and approaches."

The Plastic Free July campaign was started in 2011 by Rebecca Prince-Ruiz in Western Australia who later founded the not-for-profit Plastic Free Foundation Ltd in 2017.

This story was first published on CNN.com, ["The Plastic Free July challenge is here to help you rid your life of single-use plastic waste."](#)



Hundreds of scientists say coronavirus is airborne, ask WHO to revise recommendations – NYT

By [Reuters](#) July 6, 2020 - 12:32 PM

<https://www.interaksyon.com/politics-issues/2020/07/06/172192/hundreds-of-scientists-say-coronavirus-is-airborne-ask-who-to-revise-recommendations-nyt/>

A computer image created by Nexu Science Communication together with Trinity College in Dublin, shows a model structurally representative of a betacoronavirus which is the type of virus linked to COVID-19, better known as the coronavirus linked to the Wuhan outbreak, shared with Reuters on February 18, 2020. (NEXU Science Communication/via Reuters)

Hundreds of scientists say there is evidence that novel coronavirus in smaller particles in the air can infect people and are calling for the World Health Organization to revise recommendations, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

The WHO has said the coronavirus disease spreads primarily from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, which are expelled when a person with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or speaks.

In an open letter to the agency, which the researchers plan to publish in a scientific journal next week, 239 scientists in 32 countries outlined the evidence showing smaller particles can infect people, the NYT said <https://nyti.ms/2Vlxp67>.

The WHO did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters.

Whether carried by large droplets that zoom through the air after a sneeze, or by much smaller exhaled droplets that may glide the length of a room, the coronavirus is borne through air and can infect people when inhaled, the scientists said, according to the NYT.

However, the health agency said the evidence for the virus being airborne was not convincing, according to the NYT.

“Especially in the last couple of months, we have been stating several times that we consider airborne transmission as possible but certainly not supported by solid or even clear evidence,” Dr. Benedetta Allegranzi, the WHO’s technical lead of infection prevention and control, was quoted as saying by the NYT. —Reporting by Rama Venkat in Bengaluru; Editing by Lisa Shumaker



Coronavirus can float in air, and experts say WHO and CDC should tell people that

By Maggie Fox, CNN Published Jul 6, 2020 8:21:49 AM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/7/6/coronavirus-airborne-experts-tell-World-Health-Organization.html>

(CNN)— Coronavirus can float in air droplets and is likely transmitting that way, a group of experts plans to say in a commentary.

They are publishing an open letter to the World Health Organization (WHO) and other health agencies, asking them to be more forthright in explaining how the virus can transmit in the air.

It's not a secret, but agencies seem to be afraid to talk about the airborne nature of the virus, said Donald Milton, a professor of environmental health at the University of Maryland who studies how viruses are transmitted.

"The airborne transmission word seems to be loaded," Milton, one of two main authors of the letter, told CNN on Sunday. "I guess we are hoping that WHO will come around and be more willing to acknowledge the important roles of aerosols, whether they want to call it airborne transmission or not."

Milton studies the airborne transmission of viruses. The other main author, Lidia Morawska, is a professor of environmental engineering and an expert in aerosol science at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. Milton said they and a group of other, similar experts have been discussing the potential airborne transmission of coronavirus since February.

The letter, signed by 239 scientists from around the world, is scheduled to be published Monday in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

This is a developing story.



ON SOUTH CHINA SEA | U.S. Navy carriers conduct drills as Chinese ships watch

July 6, 2020 , 07:28 PM

<https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/on-south-china-sea-u-s-navy-carriers-conduct-drills-as-chinese-ships-watch>

TOKYO (Reuters) – Two U.S. Navy aircraft carriers are conducting exercises in the contested South China Sea within sight of Chinese naval vessels spotted near the flotilla, the commander of one of the carriers, the USS Nimitz, told Reuters on Monday.

“They have seen us and we have seen them,” Rear Admiral James Kirk said in a telephone interview from the Nimitz, which has been conducting flight drills in the waterway with the Seventh Fleet carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, that began on the U.S. Independence Day holiday of July 4.

The U.S. Navy has brought carriers together for such shows of force in the region in the past, but this year’s drill comes amid heightened tension as the United States criticises China over its novel coronavirus response and accuses it of taking advantage of the pandemic to push territorial claims in the South China Sea and elsewhere.

China’s foreign ministry said the United States had deliberately sent its ships to the South China Sea to flex its muscles and accused it of trying to drive a wedge between countries in the region.

The Pentagon, when it announced the dual carrier exercise, said it wanted to “stand up for the right of all nations to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows”, describing its 100,000-ton ships and the 90 or so aircraft they each carry as a “symbol of resolve”.

About 12,000 sailors are on ships in the combined carrier strike groups.

China’s claims nine tenths of in the resource-rich South China Sea, through which some \$3 trillion of trade passes a year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have competing claims.

China has built island bases atop atolls in the region but says its intentions are peaceful.

Contacts with Chinese ships had been without incident, Kirk said.

“We have the expectation that we will always have interactions that are professional and safe,” he said. “We are operating in some pretty congested waters, lots of maritime traffic of all sorts.”

Reporting by Tim Kelly; Editing by Robert Birsell



Dozens feared dead, missing in Japan floods

July 06, 2020 at 07:25 pm by [AFP](#)

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/327891>

Tens of thousands of rescue workers in Japan on Monday combed through the wreckage of houses shattered by deadly floods and landslides in a desperate search for survivors as the death toll rose and more torrential rain loomed.

At least 37 people are feared dead after record rains lashed areas of western Japan in the early hours of Saturday, causing rivers to break banks and flooding low-lying regions.

“Rescue workers are tirelessly continuing the search this morning,” a spokesman for the western Kumamoto prefecture told AFP, with at least 13 people still unaccounted for.

Although the rain has subsided from its peak levels, the floods washed away roads and bridges, leaving many in isolated communities cut off.

A local firefighter in the western region of Kagoshima told AFP they had deployed boats to rescue 11 people but that conditions were making it hard to reach some of the people stranded.

“Calls came from people telling us that they wanted to flee their home but they could not do it on their own,” he said. “Some roads are submerged and you cannot drive through them.”

In one of the hardest-hit areas, residents spelled the words “rice, water, SOS” on the ground, while others waved towels and called for rescue and relief goods.

At a nursing home for the elderly, 14 people were feared dead when water from a nearby river inundated the ground floor, leaving those in wheelchairs unable to reach higher ground.

Emergency services, aided by locals in rafts, managed to rescue around 50 staff and residents from the facility, bringing them to safety by boat.