



## Land bureau fasttracks digital shift

By Malaya Business Insight July 8, 2020

[https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_business/land-bureau-fasttracks-digital-shift/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_business/land-bureau-fasttracks-digital-shift/)

The Land Management Bureau (LMB) is fast tracking its digital transformation to ensure safe, fast and efficient delivery of land-related services to the public under the new normal triggered by the pandemic.

LMB will migrate this year all land records from the manual system to the computerized Land Administration and Management System (LAMS), a computerized information system that consolidates land data and records in the country that is designed for quick and easy processing, tracking and retrieval of land information.

Talabis 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 in LMB offices nationwide.

LMB also targets the full implementation of the Inspection, Verification and Approval of Surveys (IVAS) under LAMS.

He mentioned that IVAS would allow clients through accredited geodetic engineers to submit e-survey returns online instead of going to LMB regional offices.

Likewise, the system allows geodetic engineers to access and download survey records, including textual and scanned documents of land information subject to LAMS policy on digital land data sharing and security measures but excluding confidential records.

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

A database containing authoritative information on cadastral or land survey records, parcel information and titling processes is also being prepared

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## Rising deaths alarm Cimatu

July 7, 2020 09:40 AM By Rico Osmeña

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/07/rising-deaths-alarm-cimatu/>

COVID-19 Task Force Cebu overseer and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu on Monday expressed alarm over increasing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) deaths in Cebu City.

The statement was made during his arrival and meeting with members of the Cebu City Council led by Vice Mayor Michael Rama.

Based on data released by the Department of Health Region 7 tracker, Cebu City has 226 deaths as of 5 July 2020 while the Cebu City Health Department (CCHD) recorded 221 deaths.

The case fatality ratio in Cebu City, based on CCHD data, was at 1.08 percent on 15 June and 2.20 percent on 24 June. By 30 June, it increased to 3.07 percent and to 3.67 percent on 4 July.

Cebu City's fatality rate is now higher than the national rate of 3.08 percent and World Health Organization's at one percent.

North District City Councilor Nestor Archival, in a separate interview by The Daily Tribune, expressed concern on the rising COVID-19 deaths.

"This is one of the biggest issues or concerns in our City, the reported Covid deaths. Our data for the deaths only reflects the results from Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center but deaths in other hospitals are not recorded," Archival said.

Citing the death of Pardo Poblacion barangay captain Litang Abarquez and her partner, Archival said there is no clear protocols in handling cases down to the barangays.

During the meeting, Cimatu suggested that members of the City Council be tasked to become overseer among 4-5 clustered barangays against COVID-19.

" You, the members of City Council have to portray the role of overseeing or supervising a cluster of 4-5 barangays," Cimatu said.

There are 19 members of the Cebu City Council including Vice Mayor Rama with 80 barangays in the city.

The City Council has been complaining that Mayor Edgardo Labella has no clear plans set against Covid-19.

Rama insisted they are only needed during times when Labella would request for the approval of budget.

He added that there is no coordination and cooperation between Labella and the legislative department.



# Cimatu optimistic Cebu City will be downgraded to GCQ by July 16

Published July 7, 2020, 5:02 PM by Minerva Newman

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/07/cimatu-optimistic-cebu-city-will-be-downgraded-to-gcq-by-july-16/>

CEBU CITY — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who is currently the chief coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response implementor in the Viayas, expressed his optimism that Cebu City's enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) status will be downgraded to general community quarantine (GCQ) by July 16.



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

“Mataas and recovery rate in Cebu City ngayon after the ECQ enforcement, we just have to catch up with contact tracing because of this, we might be able to reduce the COVID-19 infection in Cebu City, and we are optimistic that ECQ can be downgraded to GCQ by July 16, we just have to cooperate,” Cimatu said in his opening statement during the IATF press conference here Tuesday.

He, however, added that there will still be some left over ECQ restrictions that will be implemented beyond July 16, especially in the 20 hot spot barangays where hard lockdown was imposed in sitios, puroks, streets or in communities with high numbers of positive cases.

“Lockdown responsibility is given to barangay captains or officials, and they will be responsible to the mayors, governors and the inter-agency task force (IATF). It will now be the call of the barangay captains to do their jobs,” Cimatu said.

“ECQ enforcement in Cebu City is already paying off, people's compliance and behavior changes towards ECQ protocols have improved tremendously. Our weapon system to defeat COVID-19 are quarantine, testing and efficient contact tracing,” Cimatu added.



## Cimatu optimistic Cebu City will be downgraded to GCQ by July 16

In his meeting with nine private hospitals administrators and officials in Cebu City, Cimatu noted that there were challenges in the number of available hospital rooms dedicated for severely-ill COVID-19 cases here, and boosting the morale of private hospital health workers and medical practitioners.

He said that there were 569 available beds that were COVID-19-dedicated, and 77 ICUs, amounting to 86-percentage occupancy. "This is still crucial and critical. We are looking to increase this in the future in case dadami ang mga cases," Cimatu added.

The morale of health workers and practitioners in private hospitals in Cebu City was also discussed. Cimatu bared that there was a huge discrepancy in the salaries of health workers in government compared to that of private hospitals from P25,000 to P15,000, respectively.

Cimatu went on that the Cebu City government promised to grant a P10,000-incentive each to city private hospitals health workers directly working on COVID-19 patients, and San Miguel Corporation will also provide life insurance worth P2-million each for them.

The IATF also noted that health workers and medical practitioners needed N95 masks, and the rate of infection of police officers and other front liners was high and that they must be well protected, especially the team of contract tracers.



# Cimatu confident Cebu City will be downgraded to GCQ on July 16

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital | July 07, 2020 - 04:41 PM

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/324793/cimatu-confident-cebu-city-will-be-downgraded-to-gcq-on-july-16>

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the Interagency Task Force (IATF) overseer in Cebu, said he is confident that the city will be downgraded to General Community Quarantine (GCQ) by July 16, 2020.

“I am very optimistic that the ECQ (enhanced community quarantine) will be downgraded to General Community Quarantine by July 16. We just have to cooperate para hindi na magdagdagan ang rate of infection dito sa Cebu City,” he said.

Cebu City was first placed under ECQ from March 28 to April 28 and was extended until May 31. It was downgraded to GCQ from June 1 to June 15 before it was placed back to ECQ on June 15 due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

Read: Cebu City to remain under ECQ until July 15

Cimatu, who was ordered by president Rodrigo Duterte to oversee and evaluate Cebu City’s response towards the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), said the city has significantly improved in the compliance of ECQ guidelines of staying at home, wearing masks, and observing physical distancing.

Cimatu noted that when he came to Cebu City, he noticed a compliance rate of only 50 percent. Now, he says the compliance improved to at least 80 to 90 percent.

If the city will be downgraded to a GCQ, Cimatu said there will still be measures to ensure that the movement of people will be limited.

Responsibility of the barangays

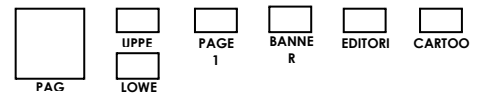
The hotspot areas, such as the top 20 barangays (villages) with the highest number of cases, will be placed under granular lockdowns, or the locking down of infected sitios (sub villages).

“In the top 20, andyan ang mga pockets of infection sa mga sitios. Yun lang ang ilockdown natin. This will be managed by the local government units. We are giving the responsibility to the barangays, but they will be assisted by the police,” said Cimatu.

The village chiefs will be the ones to order or lift a lockdown in concurrence with the city mayor, Edgardo Labella.



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## Cimatu confident Cebu City will be downgraded to GCQ on July 16

To facilitate this possible change of scenario in Cebu City, Cimatu said the IATF will remain in Cebu City to monitor and guide the city to a GCQ transition.

The City Council has also been tasked to pass ordinances that would put in legislation the proper protocol for the barangays in handling lockdowns in consonance to IATF regulations.

Cimatu hopes the city's situation will improve as intensified testing and contact tracing will be conducted in the next few days. /bmjo





# Cimatu kumpiyansang GCQ na sa Cebu City sa July 16

July 7, 2020 @ 6:13 PM

<https://remate.ph/cimatu-kumpiyansang-gcq-na-sa-cebu-city-sa-july-16/>

Manila, Philippines – Kumpiyansa si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Interagency Task Force (IATF) overseer sa Cebu, na isasailalim na general community quarantine ang lungsod ng Cebu sa Hulyo 16.

“I am very optimistic that the ECQ (enhanced community quarantine) will be downgraded to general community quarantine by July 16. We just have to cooperate para hindi na magdagdagan ang rate of infection dito sa Cebu City,” saad nito.

Naunang isinailalim ang Cebu City sa ECQ mula Marso 28 hanggang Abril 28 saka pinalawig hanggang Mayo 31. Sumailalim ito sa GCQ noong Hunyo 1 hanggang 15 bago ito ibalik sa ECQ noong Hunyo 15 dahil sa tumataas na kaso ng COVID-19.

Ayon kay Cimatu, bumuti ang pagsunod ng mga residente sa ECQ guidelines kagaya ng pananatili sa tahanan, pagsusuot ng masks at pagsunod sa physical distancing.

Nang magtungo aniya ang kalihim sa Cebu City, napansin niyang nasa 50 porsyento lamang ang compliance rate. Sa ngayon, umabot na umano ito sa 80 hanggang 90 porsyento.

Sa oras na isailalim ang lungsod sa GCQ, ipatutupad pa rin ang mga hakbang upang masigurong malilimitahan ang paggalaw ng mga tao. RNT/MM



# Cebu City remains under ECQ because hospitals are already overwhelmed – Duque

By: Gabriel Pabico Lalu - Reporter / @GabrielLaluINQ

INQUIRER.net / 04:34 AM July 08, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1303491/cebu-city-remains-under-ecq-because-hospitals-are-already-overwhelmed-duque>

MANILA, Philippines — Cebu City remains under an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), the highest quarantine restriction level placed by the national government, as hospitals are already overwhelmed.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said this during President Rodrigo Duterte's briefing early Wednesday morning, noting that the quick case doubling time — or the amount of time needed for an area's number of cases to double — is too short, at less than seven days.

“That puts them [Cebu City residents] at high risk, and their critical care utilization rate is high. It means their health systems capacity is already overwhelmed,” Duque told Duterte, speaking partly in Filipino.

A high critical care utilization rate, Duque explained, means that many COVID-19 patients are already using hospital beds and mechanical ventilators.

Cebu City is the only area in the country that is under an ECQ, with quarantine regulations in other parts like Metro Manila having been eased down.

Previously, Duterte assigned Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to spearhead the national government's response to the pandemic in the said city.

The President also blamed Cebuanos for being overconfident, as some people were seen roaming around outside while other areas were having a hard time fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Wednesday, Duterte again insisted that Cebu residents were nonchalant towards the health crisis, despite the strict implementation of quarantine rules by the police.

Earlier, Cimatu said that he was confident that Cebu would be downgraded to a general community quarantine by July 16.

As of Tuesday, the Philippines registered 47,873 confirmed COVID-19 cases, the second-highest infection rates in Southeast Asia. Of this number, 1,309 patients have died while 12,386 have recovered.





## Health care professionals in Cebu City private hospitals need assistance, says Cimatú

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital | July 07, 2020 - 08:20 PM

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/324844/health-care-professionals-in-cebu-city-private-hospitals-need-assistance-says-cimatu>

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú said that the health care professionals in private hospitals here desperately need assistance.

Cimatú, the Interagency Task Force (IATF) overseer in Cebu, said on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, that he checked on at least nine private hospitals in Cebu City to appraise the status of these hospitals on bed capacity dedicated for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and the morale of the health care workers.

He found out that there are still 569 beds and 77 available Intensive Care Unit (ICU) slots dedicated for COVID-19 patients in all nine private hospitals.

This means that private hospitals can accommodate 646 COVID-19 patients as of July 7, 2020, thus reducing the critical utilization rates of the medical facilities in the city.

This was good news for Cimatú as more available beds mean the hospitals are not yet overwhelmed.

But the health care professionals working in these private hospitals might be the ones who may need help.

The secretary found out that while government nurse earn a basic salary of 28,000 per month, the private sector counterpart only earns P15,000 per month.

This huge discrepancy, coupled with the additional workload due to COVID-19, has caused low morale among private-sector health workers.

This is why Cimatú is asking the city government to support these health workers from private hospitals through financial aid and personal protective equipment (PPEs).

“Sobrang low morale ng ating mga workers, kaya nagpapasalamat ako sa Cebu City kasi Mayor Edgardo Labella announced they will provide P10,000 financial assistance per month sa mga health workers natin sa private hospitals,” said Cimatú.

(Our health workers have a low morale, that is why I am thankful for Cebu City as Mayor Edgardo Labella announced they will provide P10,000 financial assistance per month sa mga health workers natin sa private hospitals.)



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## Health care professionals in Cebu City private hospitals need assistance, says Cimat

Labella said the city has decided to help the health workers because of their huge role during the pandemic. The P10,000 assistance per month would allow the private health workers to receive P25,000 per month, almost similar to the salary of a government health worker.

The mayor said the city is now working on how to release the said cash assistance to the doctors, medical interns, nurses, medical technologists, radio technologists, and others.

Cimatu emphasized the importance of the role of health care workers in the pandemic as they are the last line of defense against the COVID-19. A patient's life is under their hands and they should be appreciated.

He urged the city to support them by providing more PPE supplies as well. /bmjo



July 8, 2020 4:30 AM

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2086260024864074&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus\\_composer=0](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2086260024864074&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0)



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8 hrs · 🌐



Mga kuha sa media briefing na isinagawa nina Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella, at PRO-7 Director Albert Ignatius Ferro sa Cebu City ngayong araw.

Nasa Cebu si Mayor Magalong para tumulong sa training ng mga COVID-19 contact tracers at ibahagi sa probinsya ang best practices ng Baguio City para makontrol ang pagkalat ng virus. | via The Freeman

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# Magalong tutulong sa pagbuo ng contact tracing teams sa Cebu City

July 7, 2020 @ 4:34 PM

<https://remate.ph/magalong-tutulong-sa-pagbuo-ng-contact-tracing-teams-sa-cebu-city/>

Manila, Philippines – Isinama ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu si Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong upang tumulong na ayusin ang contact tracing teams.

“There are three weapons to contain the virus: community quarantine, testing and contact tracing. The most difficult part is the contact tracing. And that’s what Cebu City lacks. We don’t know where our targets are,” ani Cimatu.

Dumating si Magalong sa Cebu City nitong Martes at iiwan ang anim sa staff member nito upang sanayin ang contact tracing teams ng lokal na pamahalaan sa loob ng dalawang linggo upang pataasin ang istrategiya nito laban sa sakit.

Sa virtual press conference sa lungsod nitong Martes, nagbigay ng tip si Magalong kung paano epektibong magagawa ang contact tracing.

“A team should be handling just one or two COVID-19 cases. If you give them three cases, the team will be overwhelmed,” aniya.

Dapat aniyang magkaroon ng doktor, nurse, health worker at police investigator ang isang contact tracing team.

Naunang bumuo si Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella ng 35 teams ng contact tracers na may limang miyembro kada isa.

Ngunit ani Magalong, hindi ito sapat sa 80 barangay ng lungsod.

Pinuri naman ni Magalong ang pamahalaan ng Cebu City sa pagpapatuloy ng massive testing nito upang matukoy, mahiwalay at magamit ang mga tinamaan ng COVID-19.

Ibinalik ang Cebu City sa enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) dahil sa patuloy na pagtaas ng kaso ng coronavirus disease. RNT/MM



# Baguio to help virus-hit Cebu City in contact tracing

Published Jul 7, 2020 2:08:56 PM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/regional/2020/7/7/Baguio-City-to-train-Cebu-City-contact-tracing.html>

Cebu City (CNN Philippines, July 7) — A team from the Baguio City government led by Mayor Benjamin Magalong is in coronavirus hotspot Cebu City to aid in its contact tracing efforts.

Healthcare workers, members of the Cebu City police and PNP Central Visayas, as well as Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel, will undergo training on contact tracing, Central Visayas Police chief Albert Ignatius Ferro said in a briefing Tuesday.

In the same press conference, Magalong said they will “share their best practices to Cebu City,” which has been placed under enhanced community quarantine until July 15 due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the city.

As of Monday, Cebu City has the most number of infections in Central Visayas. The Department of Health-Central Visayas said Cebu City has 6,870 cases. The region has a total of 10,506 infections, 6,572 of which are active cases, with 3,572 recoveries and 408 deaths.

Magalong said that ideally, a team of contact tracers -- composed of a doctor, a nurse and a police investigator -- should handle up to two COVID-19 cases only. Beyond that, he said, they will start to get overwhelmed.

For his part, Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella thanked Magalong for taking time to help them in their fight against COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, overseer of the government’s COVID-19 response in Cebu City, said the city is “fortunate” to be trained by a group of contact tracing experts.

He stressed that an efficient contact tracing is one of the main “weapons” against COVID-19, without which they would not be able to contain the COVID-19 transmission.

Baguio City earlier trained its neighboring provinces, which saw a spike in infections, on the use of technology in helping slow down the spread of COVID-19.

Stringer Dale Israel contributed to this report





## Baguio LGU tutulungan ang Cebu City sa pagpapaigting ng contact tracing

ABS-CBN News Posted at Jul 07 2020 06:46 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/07/20/baguio-lgu-tutulungan-ang-cebu-city-sa-pagpapaigting-ng-contact-tracing>

Tutulungan ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Baguio ang Cebu City para lalong mapapagting ang kanilang kampanyang mapuksa ang banta ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) sa siyudad.

Dumalo sa siyudad si Retired Police Lt. Gen. at Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong at 6 pang tauhan na tutulong sa contact tracing efforts ng gobyerno.

Maaalalang itinuring ng Department of the Interior and local government ang Baguio bilang “model city” sa contact tracing.

"It's one of the most stressful strategy in containing the virus. what is important here is there is sufficient number of teams and at the same time one particular team is complete," ani Magalong.

Paglalahad ni Magalong, ginagamit sa Baguio ang technique na ginagamit ng mga pulis sa case investigation para makuha ang kinakailangang impormasyon.

Pagkatapos, gagamitin nila ang teknolohiya para pagtagpi-tagpiin ang mga impormasyon.

Sa tala ng Department of Health - Central Visayas, nasa 6,870 ang kabuuang COVID-19 cases sa Cebu City.

Aabot sa 3,750 dito ang active cases.

Nasa 1,636 ang nasa ospital at 2,114 ay nasa isolation facilities.

Samantala, humingi ng paumanhin si Cebu City Mayor Edgar Labella kaugnay ng hindi pagkakatuugma ng mga COVID-19 cases ng kanilang city health department.

Ani Labella, sa DOH Region 7 sila manghihingi ng datos.

-- Ulat ni Donna Lavarez, ABS-CBN News





# Magalong: Cebu City will need more isolation centers as tracing intensifies

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio July 07,2020 - 06:55 PM

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/324816/magalong-cebu-city-will-need-more-isolation-centers-as-tracing-intensifies>



A Barangay Isolation Center in Cebu City. | Photo Courtesy of Cebu City PIO

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, who is [currently in Cebu City](#) to help establish a better contact tracing system, said this city may need to have more isolation centers once the intensified contact tracing has begun.

Read: [Baguio City Mayor Magalong in Cebu City to share COVID-19 contact tracing expertise](#)

He said that as contact tracing intensifies, more will be tested, and potentially the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases will increase as well.

This means that there will be more patients needed to be isolated and together with that, the need for more space in the city.

“Eventually if you start doing the test, if you start coming up with the contact tracing, there will be a significant increase in the positive centers. I don’t need to recommend. Mayor Labella already said they will increase the isolation center,” said Magalong.

Mayor Edgardo Labella, for his part, said there are enough beds in the city as there are 19 Barangay Isolation Centers with a 3,000-bed capacity and the [NOAH Complex](#) at the South Road Properties (SRP) with a 300-bed capacity.



## Magalong: Cebu City will need more isolation centers as tracing intensifies

Labella said the city is looking into the suggestion of some councilors on transforming the Abellana Sports Complex into an isolation center.

“So far the barangay isolation centers have proven to be effective. If you look at the recovery rate of Cebu City, it is steady at 50 or more percent. But we will look into that and this should be studied by the IATF,” said Labella.

He said the goal of the city is to really decongest the hospitals and reduce the critical utilization rate in these medical facilities by placing asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic patients in separate quarantine center.

The city also has three quarantine centers for symptomatic patients: two [Bayanihan centers](#), and the [Cebu City Quarantine Center](#).

Labella said the city will add more isolation centers for the expected rise of cases as contact tracing intensifies in the next days. /bmjo



# CSC Exec commends frontline officers of DENR NCR

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on July 7, 2020  
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046874>



Three (3) frontline officers of DENR National Capital Region , (from left) Mr. Jerome G. Garingarao of the Licenses, Patents, and Deeds Division (LPDD), Ms. Norma S. Caballa, and Ms. Whilma Joie M. Aquino, both from the Surveys and Mapping Division (SMD) receive a note from a top Civil Service official on Friday, 3 July 2020, commending them for their “prompt action” and “courtesy” in dealing with clients. (Photo credit: DENR NCR)

QUEZON CITY, JULY 7 (PIA) --Three (3) frontline officers of the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) National Capital Region received a note from a top Civil Service official on Friday, 3 July 2020, commending them for their “prompt action” and “courtesy” in dealing with clients.

The three officers, Mr. Jerome G. Garingarao of the Licenses, Patents, and Deeds Division (LPDD), Ms. Norma S. Caballa, and Ms. Whilma Joie M. Aquino, both from the Surveys and Mapping Division (SMD) handle frontline client relations following the establishment of the regional office’s Online Appointment and Queuing System to better serve the public even while observing strict public health protocols.

The CSC official, who withheld his true identity during his visits to the office, was impressed by the efficient and courteous assistance of the frontline officers, commending the whole office as it gave him “more reason to be a proud public servant.”

The regional office rewarded the frontline officers with Certificates of Commendation signed by DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caancan and Assistant Regional Director Al O. Orolfo during the expanded Executive Committee meeting held via online videoconferencing app. on Monday, 6 July 2020. (DENR-NCR/PIA-NCR)



# CSC encourages government agencies to learn from the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic

By Jimmyley E. Guzman Published on July 7, 2020  
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046878>

PASIG CITY, July 7 (PIA) -- The Civil Service Commission (CSC) 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 Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala said in a news release sent to PIA-NCR.

“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,” she added.

CSC is celebrating the 120th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary in September highlighting the role of technology in the evolution of public service in the country, especially as the nation copes with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. It will have for its theme: Philippine Civil Service @120: Public Sector in the Age of Digital Transformation.

CSC Chairperson 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 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](http://www.csc.gov.ph). Updates and additional information may also be accessed via the PCSA webpage at [www.csc.gov.ph/pcsa2020](http://www.csc.gov.ph/pcsa2020) and the CSC’s official Facebook Page, [www.facebook.com/civilservicegovph](http://www.facebook.com/civilservicegovph). (CSC/PIA-NCR)





## 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



## Iloilo oil spill sparks calls to limit use of fossil fuels

black, but devastated the marine environment and economic lives of thousands of 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.





# Coastal residents urged to help in oil spill cleanup

By Perla Lena July 7, 2020, 5:29 pm  
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1108204>



**OIL SPILL DAMAGE.** The oil spill due to an explosion of a power barge at Zone 3, Bo. Obrero, in this city's Lapuz district on July 3 has reached the shores of 20 barangays in Guimaras. The owner of the barge on Tuesday (July 7, 2020) vows to cooperate with the government. (PNA photo courtesy of Guimaras provincial government)

ILOILO CITY – The help of the affected coastal communities in Iloilo City and neighboring Guimaras province is sought to clean up the oil spill from a power barge damaged by an explosion in Zone 3, Bo. Obrero, in this city's Lapuz District last July 3.

“The faster we do the cleanup, the better it would be. We need more people in the community, equipping them with the proper PPE (personnel protective equipment) to be able to complete the cleanup. And this is the same for Guimaras as well,” Gabino Ramon Mejia, head of plant operations of AC Energy Corporation said on Tuesday.

The damaged power barge 102 Starboard Side is owned by the AC Energy Corporation.

Mejia met with Mayor Jerry P. Treñas to discuss issues that should be addressed following the spill.

He also sought the assistance of the mayor to tap scientists from the University of the Philippines Visayas in coming up with an oil spill trajectory model.

“This is a good way to collaborate with each other -- the public and private entities so that they can work together to solve the problem,” he said during a press conference held in the city hall.

Meanwhile, quoting the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Mejia said the cleanup would last 10 to 12 days.

The PCG estimated the oil spilled to be at 251,000 liters as of July 4. He was informed that as of July 6, the collected oil was already 205,000 liters.



## Coastal residents urged to help in oil spill cleanup

However, Mejia said they need to know the location of the fugitive oil or those that escaped the containment area.

The official added that they are open to compensating those who were affected by the oil spill. Hence, he wanted “to know and be guided on how to go about the compensation”.

“We don’t know how but yes we are very much open. There is no skirting the issue, we will face the issue head-on,” he said.

Data from the Iloilo City Operations Center showed that as of 6 a.m. of Tuesday, 255 families are affected and 931 individuals are staying in four evacuation centers set up by the city government.

An additional 50 families in Mansaya also would like to be evacuated because of the strong smell of the bunker fuel.

AC Energy Corp is providing meals cooked by the staff of the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO).

Treñas, in the same press conference, said they are working with scientists from UP Visayas led by Dr. Rex Sadaba, National Resilience Council, and former Admiral Alexander Pama, who is also the former executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and administrator of the Office of Civil Defense.

“This (effect of the oil spill) entails a lot of work. We have to take care of the evacuees, we have to make sure that houses are going to be safe and that they can return to their houses the earliest possible time. Together with the owners, we have to make sure that they have some form of income during this time,” the mayor said.

The bunker fuel, he said, has already reached the mangrove areas and residential houses in Bo. Obrero.

Apart from Iloilo City coastal barangays, the oil spill has already reached the shorelines of 20 barangays in Jordan and Buenavista towns of Guimaras.

The Guimaras Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) identified the affected barangays as Rizal, Hoskyn, Balcon Milleza and Morobuan in Jordan and Montpiller, Rizal, Sto. Rosario, Magsaysay, Zaldivar, Sawang, Taminla, Dagsaan, Tacay, Getulio, San Miguel, Navalas, Bacjao, Tanag, Umilig and Avila in Buenavista.

Guimaras PDRRM officer Teresita Siason said that barangays immediately deployed spill booms and conducted cleanup operations to remove the bunker fuel. (PNA)

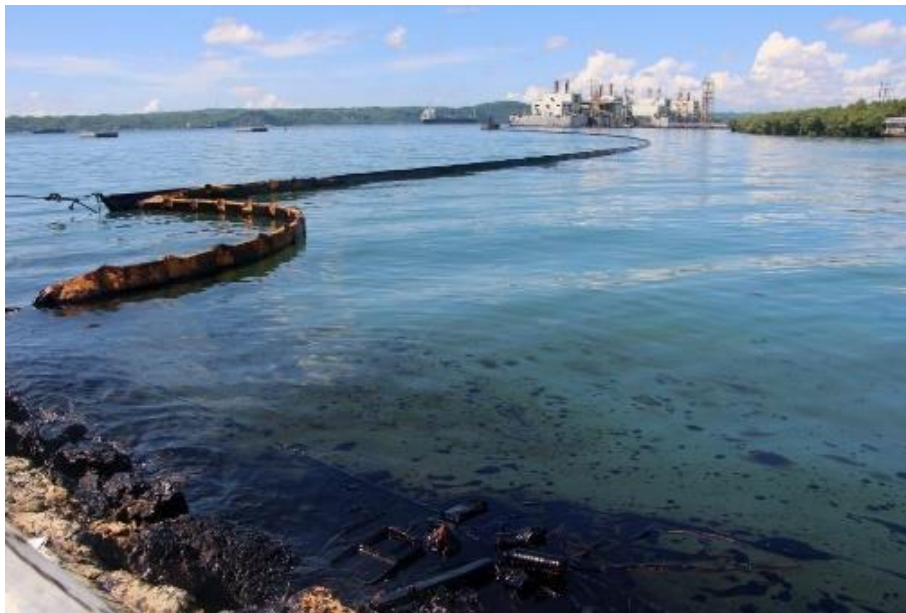


# Independent probe on Iloilo oil spill starts

Published July 7, 2020, 2:45 PM by Tara Yap

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/07/independent-probe-on-iloilo-oil-spill-starts/>

ILOILO CITY Investigators are conducting an independent probe on the explosion at a power barge here last July 3 that caused more than 200,000 liters of oil to leak out at sea.



While spill booms have been installed to contain the oil spill in Iloilo City, the flow of water brings back crude oil to the surface. The oil leaked from a power barge (background) that had its hull torn from a July 3 explosion incident. (Tara Yap/ MANILA BULLETIN)

“We still don’t know why there was an explosion,” said Gabby Mejia, head for plant operations of AC Energy Philippines.

The energy company under the Ayala group flew in a two-man team to specifically determine the root cause of the July 3 explosion of its Power Barge 102.

This came after the Western Visayas regional office of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) reported negligence while work was being done at one of the tanks power barge. It said that someone used acetylene torch, which ignited flammable fumes.

“What the BFP is saying is still premature. Everything is alleged,” Mejia told Manila Bulletin in an interview Tuesday, July 7.

“We did not want this to happen, but it happened. Now, let’s wait for the proper findings.

Let us give justice to the information that we are providing the public. We have to be certain,” Mejia added.

The independent investigators, both marine engineers with extensive experience in handling international cargo ships, are going to conduct a five-day field work to gather evidence.



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## Independent probe on Iloilo oil spill starts

Mejia disclosed there was also a suggestion to tap scientists from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas to strengthen factual and scientific findings.

The July 3 incident leaked out around 251,000 liters of bunker fuel that spread to coastal areas of Iloilo City and nearby coastal areas of towns in Iloilo province and Guimaras province. Clean up operations have collected an estimated 200,000 liters so far.

Meanwhile, Mejia clarified that AC Energy has been cooperating with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources -Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), Iloilo City government, local village officials, and other partners to address the various issues.



## Oil spill from Iloilo reaches Guimaras

Published July 7, 2020 11:57am

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/745782/oil-spill-from-iloilo-reaches-guimaras/story/>

The oil spill that occurred off the waters of Lapuz, Iloilo City last week has reached the province of Guimaras, according to a report by Rgil Relator of GMA Regional TV-One Mindanao on GMA News' Unang Balita on Tuesday.

Twenty barangays in the municipality of Buenavista in Guimaras were affected.

The oil spill also reached the municipality of Jordan in the province.

Barangay personnel made an improvised spill boom to help contain the oil spill.

A total of 196,000 liters out of the 268,000 liters of bunker fuel that spilled in the Iloilo-Guimaras Strait have so far been recovered by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

The Department of Health - Region VI meanwhile warned residents of coastal barangays of the possible effects of the oil spill on their health.

More than 400 residents of Lapuz, Iloilo have been evacuated.

Fishermen meanwhile expressed concern about the oil spill's effects on their livelihood.

Ayala-led AC Energy Philippines Inc. said initial investigation showed the oil spill was caused by a rupture in their barge's fuel tank.

The company said its power barge 102 discharged fuel oil at around 3:00 p.m. last Friday, July 3.

"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 Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it will impose fines on the barge owner.

The PCG on the other hand said raps will be filed if warranted. —KG, GMA News





# MGB-6 bares requirements for sanitary landfill site assessment

By Jaime S. CabagPublished on July 7, 2020  
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046791>

ILOILO CITY, July 7 (PIA) – The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Region VI said there is a process that must be followed as well as requirements that have to be complied with especially by local government units when requesting for the conduct of a sanitary landfill site assessment.

The process and requirements were presented by Mae Y. Magarzo, Chief Geologist of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, DENR Region 6, during the recent 2nd quarter meeting of the Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC). The RLUC facilitated the virtual meeting following health and safety protocols in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The assessment is designed to determine the suitability of a proposed sanitary landfill site and is done by the MGB. It is a basis for the issuance of an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) for the establishment of the facility.

Topping the list of must-do's is the letter addressed to the Regional Director of the MGB from LGUs concerned requesting for the conduct of Geo-Environmental Assessment of their proposed sanitary landfill site.

The following requirements must also be submitted at 4 copies each: a) Vicinity/Location Map; b) Lot Plan with Technical Description and Tie Line; c) Proposed/Approved Site Development Plan; d) Topographic Map/Plan; e) Grading Plan (if applicable); f) WACS (Waste Analysis and Characterization Study).

Compliance with requirements will be followed by field assessment as to, among others, topography and geohazards, as well as test pitting, submission of soil samples for laboratory analysis and preparation and endorsement of the report.

Magarzo also explained during the meeting that in assessing a possible sanitary landfill site, the following criteria are used: area capacity and availability, haul distance, proximity to sensitive groundwater resources, proximity to perennial surface water, the occurrence of flooding, proximity to sensitive land users, local ecological conditions, current and future land use, seismic condition, geologic condition, soil/land condition, topography, and proximity to airports.

Director Ro-ann Bacal of the National Economic Development Authority-Region 6, who is the RLUC chairperson, said “an established sanitary landfill in the region is very important, especially in this time of the pandemic, when there is an expected increase in the volume of solid wastes and hospital and infectious wastes.”

Republic Act 9003, The Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and its implementing rules and regulations mandate the local government to establish a comprehensive solid waste management system and waste management plans. And one necessary element of a working solid management system is the establishment of a sanitary landfill site in each locality. (MGB6/Laralournie Artajo-PIO/PIA6)





# Recycling Industry backs Senate Bill on Waste-to-Energy

by Melva C. Gayta Published on July 7, 2020  
<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046857>

QUEZON CITY, July 6 (PIA) -- The National Solid Waste Management Commission-Recycling Industry Sector (NSWMC-RIS) supports the proposed Waste to Energy Act, which provides a framework for the entire value chain of waste to energy facilities and ensure uninterrupted supply of waste as feedstock.

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Energy, opined in a statement that waste hierarchy of 'reduce, reuse, recycle' (3Rs) is a failure.

"The 3Rs is a failure, yung reuse, reduce, recycle because only 30% of the barangays conduct 3Rs, 70% ay tinatapon lang sa kung saan-saan," he said.

He stressed that it is now the time for the government to consider the adoption of WTE facilities in the treatment and disposal of solid waste.

In a position paper submitted by the RIS, the members noted that only 30% of the country's population has access to sanitary landfills and these facilities will soon be filled with waste.

"With only 30% of our population with access to Sanitary Landfills (SLFs) as the only final disposal option under RA 9003 based on 2015 data adopted by NSWMC, having not enough facilities being put up to meet the demand, and existing SLF facilities close to filling up," RIS said.

As a consequence, RIS also noted the gap to address the shortage of landfill spaces.

"The proposed bill will allow for the much needed, appropriate, and environmentally compliant private sector investment in waste treatment technologies to fill the gap and eventually lead to the final closure and [stop] recurrence of open and controlled dumpsite facilities," RIS said.

Gatchalian believes that the immediate passage of the WTE Act will not only encourage the development of new technologies in the treatment and disposal of solid waste, it also supports the expansion of bioenergy to attain sustainable energy.



## Recycling Industry backs Senate Bill on Waste-to-Energy

WTE facility refers to any processing facility that utilizes environmentally sound WTE technology that undergoes the process of generating energy in the form of electricity and/or heat from the primary treatment of waste, or the processing of waste into a fuel source, including biofuel plants and biogas producing sanitary landfill.

Incineration of waste might seem to be a bulletproof solution to address increasing wastes, but RIS noted that this can still be studied further to maximize the benefits of the co-existence of recycling and incineration.

RIS also clarified that referring to "incineration" as the burning of municipal, biomedical, and hazardous wastes which emits toxic and poisonous fumes is inaccurate. It is assumed here that incineration facilities automatically emit toxic and poisonous fumes which, in fact, it is the installed emission control equipment that determines it.

The RIS also suggested including the provision for tax incentives for WTE developers in the bill.

"WTE developers be provided with tax incentives [but] it should be clearly spelled out rather than going around different government agencies to apply for the appropriate incentive which oftentimes results in differences in interpretations and delays," RIS suggested.

Meanwhile, several private sector entities have conducted full-scale feasibility and investment studies for potential projects with Local Government Units on converting solid waste to energy in the country," said RIS. (MCG/PIA-IDPD, with additional information from RIS/CL)



# CCC further mainstreams gender, emphasizes integration of gender-responsive principles in climate adaptation and mitigation programs

By CCC Published on July 7, 2020

<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046942>

MANILA, July 7 -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) today announced that it is ready for Level 3: Gender and Development (GAD) Application from its previous status of Level 1: Foundation Formation, following the Philippine Commission on Women's (PCW) initial assessment of the CCC's Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF).

The CCC said that the presentation of the results of its GMEF last year and the submission of its Gender Audit Report are part of its commitment to mainstreaming gender, while aligning with the national policy to allocate 5% of every agency's budget to GAD initiatives. It also emphasized that gender-responsive principles must be applied in all climate adaptation and mitigation programs in the country.

The CCC's GMEF were assessed of its gender mainstreaming initiatives based on policies, people, enabling mechanisms, and projects, activities, and programs (PAPs).

The GMEF is a tool that identifies the status and/or progress of government agencies in mainstreaming gender and development in their respective organizations, particularly in their systems, structures, policies, programs, processes, and procedures, in line with the implementation of the Magna Carta of Women and other GAD mandates, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In terms of policy, the PCW highlighted the adoption of CCC Resolution No.2019-002: Mainstreaming and Strengthening Gender-Responsive Approaches in the Formulation and Implementation of Climate Change Policies, Plans, Programs, and Activities; the issuance of CCC Office Order No. 2018-022: Constitution of GAD Focal Point System based on RA 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women, Chapter VI Section 36.b; the issuance of statements supporting gender and climate change at national and international levels; and the integration of GAD perspectives in national plans, such as the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) and the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC). The PCW also positively noted the continuous advocacy on gender and climate change at the international level, such as the appointment of gender focals in the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the active participation in mainstreaming gender in UN climate talks.

In terms of human resource, the CCC is said to have a gender-balanced and gender-supportive management and is gender-inclusive in hiring personnel; while in terms of



## CCC further mainstreams gender, emphasizes integration of gender-responsive principles in climate adaptation and mitigation programs

enabling mechanisms, the CCC initiated exploratory activities with PCW and other organizations to facilitate gender mainstreaming, such as in the development of the Green Jobs Certification and Standard process, NDC consultations, and the NCCAP monitoring and evaluation (M&E) validation process, as well as the forging of Memorandum of Understanding with PCW on gender and climate change and the practice of collection of sex-disaggregated data.

In terms of PAPs, the PCW highlighted the integration of gender concerns during the conduct of 6th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation (APAN) Forum, which was co-hosted by the CCC with partners in the region, the 2nd National Convention on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCA-DRR), and the UNFCCC negotiations; the conduct of consultation activities with internal and external clients to identify gender issues in the climate change sector and its corresponding strategies; and the consultation with the PCW and partner agencies and relevant organizations in its GAD mainstreaming efforts.

The CCC stated that while the Level 3 status—up by two levels from previous assessment—is already a positive indicator of its efforts to effectively mainstream gender, much work needs to be done as it strives to achieve the highest, which is Level 5: Replication and Innovation, where GAD programs are institutionalized and replicated in other agencies and offices and where peoples, policies, enabling mechanisms, and PAPs are further enhanced based on the results of GAD M&E.

The CCC has always expressed that climate change is not gender-neutral—that the societal roles and responsibilities of women and men affect the way they experience and cope with climate impacts, which already aggravate existing gender inequalities. On the other hand, this very vulnerability of women makes their insights and experiences extremely valuable in planning and implementing climate action.

It is therefore the CCC's commitment to ensure that the aspect of gender equality and empowerment in climate action, which is already enshrined in international and national policies, is demonstrated in our country systems and processes. (CCC)



# Climate Change Commission ready to level up gender-mainstreaming programs

Published July 7, 2020, 5:34 PM by Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is currently working on leveling up its gender mainstreaming to be able to apply gender-responsive principles in the country's climate adaptation and mitigation activities and programs.

It announced on Tuesday that it is ready for Level 3: Gender and Development (GAD) Application from its previous status of Level 1: Foundation Formation, following the Philippine Commission on Women's (PCW) initial assessment of the CCC's Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF).

The CCC pointed out that climate change is not gender-neutral—that the societal roles and responsibilities of women and men affect the way they experience and cope with climate impacts, which already aggravate existing gender inequalities.

The vulnerability of women makes their insights and experiences extremely valuable in planning and implementing climate action.

It noted that the presentation of the results of its GMEF last year and the submission of its gender audit report are part of its commitment to mainstreaming gender, while aligning with the national policy to allocate 5 percent of every agency's budget to GAD initiatives.

It also emphasized that gender-responsive principles must be applied in all climate adaptation and mitigation programs in the country.

GMEF is a tool that identifies the status or progress of government agencies in mainstreaming gender and development in their respective organizations, particularly in their systems, structures, policies, programs, processes, and procedures, in line with the implementation of the Magna Carta of Women and other GAD mandates, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Beijing Platform for Action, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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# Climate Change Commission ready to level up gender-mainstreaming programs

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In terms of human resource, the CCC is said to have a gender-balanced and gender-supportive management and is gender-inclusive in hiring personnel; while in terms of enabling mechanisms, the CCC initiated exploratory activities with PCW and other organizations to facilitate gender mainstreaming, such as in the development of the Green Jobs Certification and Standard process, nationally determined contributions or NDC consultations, and the NCCAP monitoring and evaluation (M&E) validation process, as well as the forging of memorandum of understanding with PCW on gender and climate change and the practice of collection of sex-disaggregated data.

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The CCC pointed out that while the Level 3 status—up by two levels from previous assessment—is already a positive indicator of its efforts to effectively mainstream gender, much work needs to be done as it strives to achieve the highest, which is Level 5: Replication and Innovation.

Level 5 is where GAD programs are institutionalized and replicated in other agencies and offices and where peoples, policies, enabling mechanisms, and PAPs are further enhanced based on the results of GAD M&E.

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/07/climate-change-commission-ready-to-level-up-gender-mainstreaming-programs/>

# Combating climate change – why investors should keep their shares in fossil fuel companies

By [Adrian R. Bell](#) and [Chris Brooks](#) July 7, 2020

<https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/combating-climate-change-why-investors-should-keep-their-shares-in-fossil-fuel-companies/>

Investors who care about the environment are better off holding shares in and exercising their influence over fossil fuel companies.



Students at Tufts University marching to pressure their university to reduce and eventually eliminate investments in fossil-fuel related ventures. Image: [James Ennis, CC BY 2.0](#)

As we begin to engage with the climate emergency and the impact of carbon dioxide emissions, calls have grown to stop investing in companies engaged in fossil fuel production—a practice known as divestment.

The University of Oxford became one of the latest institutional investors to pledge to drop all fossil fuel companies [from their £3 billion endowment](#). Enormous pressure from students and staff alike has been put on other universities to follow suit, creating a culture of shame on those [that continue to hold these shares](#).

Many scholars in the UK may be horrified to hear that one of the largest university pension schemes, the University Superannuation Scheme (or USS) has the oil company Shell [as its largest holding](#) of £500 million. Recent [changes to the USS investment strategy](#) ended its investment in a number of controversial holdings, including tobacco manufacturing, coal mining, cluster munitions (a form of explosive) and landmines.

But [divesting from fossil fuel companies] may act as a diversion tactic, allowing the lobbyists and investors who follow their lead to feel good about themselves.

But USS continues to invest in a number of fossil fuel companies saying they intend to engage with them as a “force for good”. So long as they do wield this



# Combating climate change – why investors should keep their shares in fossil fuel companies

influence, we believe this is the right approach for investors who want to combat climate change. Many of those lobbying for divestment will have good intentions.

Divesting from fossil fuel companies is likely to make investors feel morally cleansed, having washed their hands of dirty investments that make profits from environmental damage. But it may act as a diversion tactic, allowing the lobbyists and investors who follow their lead to feel good about themselves. And yet they will have done [little to combat climate change](#).

Divestment, leading to the selling of fossil fuel company shares, should put downward pressure on the share price, making it harder for the company to raise new capital. But for the majority of them, even in the face of substantial divestments, it will be very much business as usual, having no effect at all [on their day-to-day operations](#).

If more people want to sell shares than buy them, this will affect the share price—but most oil companies are well beyond the situation where it would cause them significant issues.

Neither BP nor Shell, for example, are likely to need to raise new financing in the foreseeable future [as they have large cash reserves](#). Both have share repurchase schemes, where they are able to use dips in their share prices to buy their own shares back, allowing investors to benefit without paying taxable dividends.

But if a company's shares become sufficiently cheap relative to its profit stream, it will be ripe for a takeover. Most likely this will come from an even bigger, non-European oil company or by a wealth fund. It is highly likely in either case that the new purchaser will be less concerned about minimising the company's environmental impact than those divesting. And any such commitments could easily be dropped in favour of a more concentrated focus on profits.

More worryingly, divestment is highly likely to constitute a small step in a chain of events that will perversely lead to precisely the opposite of the lobbyist's desired outcome. When the University of Oxford (for example) sells its shares, they won't simply disappear—rather they will be sold on the market to another investor. And the investors that are actively buying oil shares right now are unlikely to be those who are concerned about the environment.



# Combating climate change – why investors should keep their shares in fossil fuel companies

## Shareholder rights

The divestor also gives up the opportunity for shareholder activism—something USS does with the fossil fuel companies [in which it holds investments](#). This is where shareholders can put pressure on companies they part own to introduce more sustainable ways of doing business. Although there is still much to be done, there is growing evidence that this kind of activism is having [a positive effect on fossil fuel companies](#).

Many European oil companies are much better than their peers when it comes to environmental performance. While oil extraction and refinement is by its nature a dirty business, Shell, for instance, has a strong commitment to climate change mitigation.

It aims to cut its net carbon footprint by 30 per cent by 2035, [and by 65 per cent by 2050](#), meanwhile increasing the role of renewables in its energy production. Contrast this with some oil majors in the US whose only commitment is to the development of more effective extraction processes and more efficient fuel.

A counter-intuitive strategy for divestment activists would be for them to actually encourage the maintenance of large equity holdings in fossil fuel companies by sympathetic institutional investors, such as universities and USS. Then, by working together with other large shareholders and shareholder activist groups, bring real ownership pressure to bear in order to reduce the polluting activities of these companies. This would work by hitting them where it hurts—for instance, by blocking the awards of executive pay rises and bonuses.

Divestment puts shares in big oil into the hands of those who don't give two hoots about the climate emergency, discourages such companies from taking mitigating steps and does nothing whatsoever to curb fossil fuel usage. If the question is how to tackle climate change, divestment is not even part of the answer.

Adrian R. Bell is the Research Dean for Prosperity and Resilience, one of the research themes at the University of Reading. Chris Brooks is Professor of Finance at the ICMA Centre, part of Henley Business School, University of Reading. This article was originally published on [The Conversation](#).

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# Gas boom risks 'perfect storm' for climate, economy: report

[Patrick Galey](#) (Agence France-Presse) - July 7, 2020 - 7:58am

<https://www.philstar.com/world/2020/07/07/2026259/gas-boom-risks-perfect-storm-climate-economy-report>

PARIS, France — Global natural gas capacity under construction has doubled in a year according to new analysis that warned Tuesday the investment boom in the world's fastest-growing fuel risks a "perfect storm" of climate chaos and stranded assets.

Capital expenditure on liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities has surged from \$82.8 billion to \$196.1 billion over the last 12 months, according to a report by Global Energy Monitor.

Following a string of divestments from high-profile LNG funders, the report warned that at least two dozen projects were recently cancelled or are in serious financial difficulty.

"LNG was once considered a safe bet for investors," said Greg Aitken, research analyst at Global Energy Monitor.

"Not only was it considered a climate-friendly fuel, but there was substantial governmental support to make sure that these mega-projects were shepherded to completion with all the billions they needed.

"Suddenly the industry is beset with problems," Aitken said.

As the coronavirus pandemic squeezes investors and a growing social movement against new gas projects gathers pace, the report said troubled projects were facing a range of difficulties in sustaining finance.

In the past year Berkshire Hathaway and the governments of Sweden and Ireland were among financiers to drop several billion dollars worth of gas project funding, it noted.

'Economically unsound decision'

While its proponents push LNG as a "bridge fuel" because it is less polluting than coal, a new gas-fired power plant has roughly the same environmental impact as a new coal plant, given the leakage of methane throughout the supply line.

Methane is dozens of times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over a 100-year time scale.

The landmark 2015 Paris climate deal enjoined nations to limit global temperature rises to "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels.

The accord also commits countries to work towards a safer warming cap of 1.5 degrees Celsius.





## Gas boom risks 'perfect storm' for climate, economy: report

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the safest and surest way to reach the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal would require a 15 percent decline in gas use by 2030 and a fall of 43 percent by 2040.

Global Energy Monitor said that any new gas infrastructure "directly contradicts the Paris climate goals".

The European Investment Bank (EIB) — the world's largest multilateral lender — said last year it was ceasing funding for nearly all new fossil fuel projects.

EIB vice-president Andrew McDowell said investing in new LNG capacity "is increasingly an economically unsound decision".

"We need to take advantage of opportunities that put us firmly on the path to reaching net-zero by 2050 whilst securing more jobs in the short and long term," he told AFP.

"This will undoubtedly be challenging, and it can't be instant. But it must happen."



## EU: Tie for warmest June globally, Siberia sizzles

posted July 07, 2020 at 09:00 pm by [AFP](#)  
<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/328000>

Paris—Temperatures soared 10 degrees Celsius above average in June across much of permafrost-laden Siberia, with last month in a dead heat for the warmest June on record globally, the European Union’s climate monitoring network said Tuesday.

An Arctic hourly temperature record for the month—37 degrees Celsius—was set on June 21 near Verkhoyansk in northeastern Russia, where a weather station logged a blistering 38C on the same day, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) reported.

The hourly record—averaged across 60 minutes—was one to two degrees above previously registered Arctic highs in 1969 and 1973.

Freakishly warm weather across large swathes of Siberia since January, combined with low soil moisture, have contributed to a resurgence of wildfires that devastated the region last summer, C3S reported.

Both the number and intensity of fires in Siberia and parts of Alaska have increased since mid-June, resulting in the highest carbon emissions for the month—59 million tonnes of CO2—since records began in 2003.

“Last year was already by far an unusual, and record, summer for fires in the Arctic Circle,” said Mark Parrington, senior scientist at the EU’s Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS), warning of “intense activity” in the coming weeks.

Copernicus has said that “zombie” blazes that smouldered through the winter may have reignited.

Globally, June 2020 was more than half a degree Celsius warmer than the 1981-2010 average for the same month, and on a par with June 2019 as the warmest ever registered.

Siberia and the Arctic Circle are prone to large year-on-year temperature fluctuations, but the persistence of this year’s warm spell is very unusual, said C3S director Carlo Buontempo.

Permafrost ‘carbon bomb’

“What is worrisome is that the Arctic is warming faster than the rest of the world,” he said in a statement.



## EU: Tie for warmest June globally, Siberia sizzles

Across the Arctic region, average temperatures have risen by more than two degrees Celsius since the mid-19th century, twice the global average.

Despite lower-than-average temperatures in its western reaches, the whole of Siberia—larger than the United States and Mexico combined—was more than 5C above normal for June, according to C3S satellite data.

The softening of once solid permafrost—stretching across Siberia, Alaska and northern Canada -- has upended indigenous communities and threatens industrial infrastructure, especially in Russia.

A massive diesel spill into rivers near the city of Norilsk, Russia resulted when a tank at a power plant built on melting permafrost collapsed in late May.

“Widespread permafrost thaw is projected for this century,” the UN’s climate science panel, the IPCC, said in a landmark report last year on the world’s cryosphere, or frozen zones.

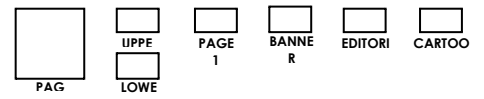
“The majority of Arctic infrastructure is located in regions where permafrost thaw is projected to intensify by mid-century.”

Soils in the permafrost region across Russia, Alaska and Canada hold twice as much carbon—mostly in the form of methane and CO2—as the atmosphere, more than 1.4 trillion tonnes.

One tonne of carbon is equivalent to 3.65 tonnes of carbon dioxide.



Strategic Communication  
and Initiatives Service



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08 July 2020  
Date

# 90 hawksbill turtle hatchlings pinakawalan sa Zamboanga del Sur

ABS-CBN News Posted at Jul 07 2020 12:06 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/07/20/90-hawksbill-turtle-hatchlings-pinakawalan-sa-zamboanga-del-sur>

Pinakawalan ng mga awtoridad ang 90 hawksbill turtle hatchlings sa baybayin ng Barangay Alindahaw, Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur nitong Lunes.

Ayon sa Facebook post ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Zamboanga Peninsula, natagpuan ng dalawa nilang Bantay Dagat personnel ang mga hatchling habang nagpapatrolya sa naturang barangay.

“In order to protect the hatchlings from stray animals, they collected the turtles and gave it to the fish warden who immediately called Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Ramon Magsaysay for assistance,” sinabi ng ahensiya sa Facebook post.

“Responding CENRO personnel recovered 90 turtle hatchlings and immediately released them back to the sea,” dagdag pa nito.

Bisitahin ang [Patrol.PH](http://Patrol.PH) para sa iba pang mga balita.



## MisOr town releases 683 turtle hatchlings

July 7, 2020 04:20 AM Erwin M. Mascariñas

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/07/misor-town-releases-683-turtle-hatchlings/>



BUTUAN CITY — Amid the lockdowns brought by the coronavirus disease, the small coastal town of Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental province has recorded the largest number of hatchlings released into the sea, while an upsurge of hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) nests were also observed for the first half of the year.

Rolando Pagara, a village council member who leads the community turtle conservation in Candiis, pointed out that during the enhanced community quarantine in March and general community quarantine in June, the team was able to document three separate nests in Barangay Candiis and another nest in Barangay Bonifacio Aquino.

“If we combine the numbers of turtle hatchlings release on May and June, which is about 573, we can say that this is the largest number of hatchlings released over the past five years and we are just in the first six months of 2020,” Pagara said.

The releases were documented by the villagers of Barangay Candiis with around 144 hawksbill turtle hatchlings released on 1 May, 155 hatchlings on 12 May and around 138 hatchlings on 16 May.

On 13 June, another 110 turtle hatchlings were released in the nearby village of Consuelo, while 136 hawksbill sea turtle hatchlings were released on 21 June.

Last year, the town released only 315 turtle hatchlings from five nesting grounds while in 2018, there were six recorded nesting sites but with only 364 hatchlings released as less than half of the eggs successfully hatched. The lower hatching incidence was said to be brought about by rising sea levels which causes eggs buried on the beach to spoil.





## MisOr town releases 683 turtle hatchlings

Pagara also observed a faster incubation period on the hawksbill turtle eggs this year compared to the previous years.

“Usually, a hawksbill turtle egg would hatch between 60 to 65 days after they are laid in the sand. But the 1 May hatchlings were nested on the beach on 17 March, or just 46 days of incubation. The same was true for all the other eggs that hatched in May and June,” Pagara said.

He believes that there might be other areas in Magsaysay where hawksbill turtles have nested and laid their eggs, but with the present situation it was hard for him to monitor them all.

Uriel Yhapon, a secondary teacher at Consuelo National High School, got his first experience in releasing turtle hatchlings when they discovered several of them slowly crawling out of the sand in front of their private beach on 13 June.

“We’ve only bought this part of the beach here in Purok Mindalag, Barangay Bonifacio Aquino. I was shocked and amazed that for the first time we saw small turtles crawling out of the sand, we immediately gathered them and then released them together,” Yhapon shared.

Pagara explained that the situation in Barangay Bonifacio was one of the cases that they were not able to monitor the turtle nests and that they only found this out after residents reported the release of the hatchlings.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature classifies the hawksbill sea turtle as critically endangered, with its population declining by as much as 80 percent in the past decade. In the Philippines, this turtle species is among the most trafficked on the black market, coveted for its shell which is usually carved into ornaments and baubles.

Magsaysay is home to a 612-hectare site declared as the Magsaysay Critical Habitat for Hawksbill Turtles via Department for Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order 2016-02 as the town has several nesting sites in the barangays of Candiis, San Isidro and Damayohan.



# Nanghihina, sugatang pawikan sinagip ng mga mangingisda sa Pangasinan

Joanna Tacason, ABS-CBN News

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/07/20/nanghihina-sugatang-pawikan-sinagip-ng-mga-mangingisda-sa-pangasinan>

ALAMINOS CITY, Pangasinan — Nailigtas ng mga mangingisda ang isang sugatang sea turtle o pawikan dito at kanila itong dinala sa tanggapan ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) para maisalba.

Ayon sa city veterinarian, puno ng gasgas ang katawan ng pawikan na posibleng dahil sa pagkakasabit sa fishnet.

Agad itong nilapatan ng paunang-lunas at inilagay sa maayos na container.

Sa pagsusuri, posibleng naghahanap ito ng makakain at lugar kung saan maaaring mangitlog.

"Puwede rin pong nawawalan sila ng pagkain sa ibang part ng mga dagat natin kaya naghahanap po sila ng mga ibang makakainan so napupunta po sila sa mga sea shore. Iyon din po puwedeng season na rin ng pangingitlog nila so bumabalik po sila doon sa mabuhangin para doon na po ihukay iyong kanilang mga itlog," paliwanag ni Dr. Joel Caasi, attending veterinarian ng Alaminos City.

May laking 26 x 31 inches ang sea turtle na may bigat na higit 10 kilo.

Paliwanag ng veterinarian, ang isang sea turtle ay may average na 100 itlog.

Bibihira rin daw na may mga pawikan tulad ng sea turtle ang nagagawi sa dalampasigan.

Posibleng isa sa dahilan nito kung bakit napapadpad sa laot ang mga pawikan ay ang malinis na karagatan lalo't nakatulong daw ang community quarantine para makapahinga ang dagat sa polusyon na dulot ng komersiyo.

"Medyo nabawasan po iyong waste na napupunta sa ating mga karagatan at siyempre nalinisan din iyong ating karagatan, kaya siguro dumarami rin sila," ani Caasi.



## Capiz kicks off 1M tree planting project

By Alex Lumaque Published on July 7, 2020

<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046884>

ROXAS CITY, Capiz, July 7 (PIA) – An early morning mangrove and upland tree planting activity kicked off the one million tree planting project dubbed “1 Million Kahoy” in time for the recent Arbor Day celebration here.

Governor Esteban Evan Contreras led the kick-off activity at the mangrove area in Brgy. Lonoy in Sapian town as he encouraged all Capicenos especially the youth to take part in the reforestation and greening initiative.



The governor then led provincial officials as well as department heads, national government agencies representatives, policemen and religious groups in the same activity in Brgy. Timpas in Panitan town.

“Let us make Capiz greener and more resilient to calamities,” Contreras stressed, adding that the reforestation effort will address erosions, landslides and flooding problems in the province.

The massive and collective tree planting, now on its third year, is spearheaded by the Capiz Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (CaPENRO) as part of its Go Green Capiz campaign towards an ecologically sustainable and resilient province.

CaPENRO head lawyer Emilyn Depon said that the one million trees planting project will run until the observance of the Provincial Environment Consciousness Month in November.

“Capiz has only about 9.5 percent forest cover which translates to about 25,000 hectares out of its 263,000 hectares land area based on a National Mapping and



## Capiz kicks off 1M tree planting project

Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) assessment and evaluation of the province’s environment in 2015,” Depon said.

In 2018, the “One Million Trees in One Day” undertaking in the province planted 1,148,387 trees in about 1,103.52 hectares with 52.44 percent survival rate or 602,283 survived out of the total number of trees planted.

The CaPENRO – initiated tree planting in 2019 initially accounted for 667,160 as some participants were not able to submit documentations of their respective organized tree planting activities. (JBG/AAL/PIA Capiz)



# MORE PINE TREES GROW IN JOHN HAY SINCE 1997

By [Gaby B. Keith](#) July 8, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/07/08/news/regions/more-pine-trees-grow-in-john-hay-since-1997/739254/>

BAGUIO CITY: Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevCo) last week bared that the number of pine trees inside Camp John Hay more than doubled since 1997, the year the company took over the lease of the 247-hectare former American military base. Mayor Benjamin Magalong lauded the company for its successful regreening program, which he described as a “huge accomplishment that needs to be highlighted.” In a message to the mayor, CJHDevCo Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer Shean Bedi said the number of trees had increased from 250,000 fully-grown pine trees in 1997 to 602,350 in 2019. The CJHDevCo Environment Team inventoried the trees. Bedi said the program would continue, with the CJHDevCo adding a total of 352,350-seedlings and saplings to the lot. Of this number, 242,350 are pine seedlings and saplings; 60,000 coffee plants and 50,000 bamboo culms. “We are sharing this information in support of our contribution to Baguio City’s regreening program,” Bedi said.





## Ex-GenSan dad, 74 others nabbed over land dispute in Tboli

By Richelyn Gubalani July 6, 2020, 10:46 pm  
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1108081>

GENERAL SANTOS CITY--A person was wounded while 75 others--including a former city councilor here--were arrested after violence erupted Sunday morning in a disputed ancestral land in the outskirts of Tboli town, South Cotabato province.

Maj. Irish Hezron Parangan, chief of Tboli municipal police station, said on Monday that a group of land claimants allegedly harassed and destroyed at least 20 shanties owned by members of the Palon family at a portion of Sito Pagang in Barangay Basag past 7 a.m.

Parangan said the Palons were occupants of a portion of ancestral land in the village that was also being claimed by a group of residents from the city led by former City Councilor Minda Atendido.

Carrying high-powered firearms and bladed weapons, he said the claimants led by Atendido reportedly stormed the site and harassed the occupants.

An occupant identified as Junjun Menson Daroy, 21, sustained a gunshot wound from an undetermined firearm during the attack, he said.

During the clearing operations past 9 a.m. along with elements from the Army's 11th Special Forces Company, Parangan said they found the armed suspects on site along with the former city councilor.

Recovered from the alleged attackers, who were mostly residents of this city, were five high-powered firearms and dozens of assorted bladed and other homemade weapons, he said.

The suspects are currently in the custody of the Tboli municipal police station.

"We're initially filing frustrated murder and malicious complaints against them," Parangan told PNA in an interview.

The police official clarified that they were not taking sides over the land dispute



## Ex-GenSan dad, 74 others nabbed over land dispute in Tboli

and they only intervened to pacify the involved parties and prevent the further escalation of violence.

Tboli Mayor Dibu Tuan said the police and military were forced to step into the situation as there were already firearms and harassments involved.

He said the municipal government earlier tried several times to mediate and settle the dispute between the claiming parties but later distanced after it reached the court.

The disputed ancestral land of the Blaan tribe in Barangay Basag covers a total of 297 hectares.

“This is a serious problem that should be resolved as soon as possible,” the mayor said. (PNA)



# Areas under ECQ, GCQ, MGCQ as announced on July 8, 2020

Published July 8, 2020 1:59am

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/745933/areas-under-ecq-gcq-mgcq-as-announced-on-july-8-2020/story/>

In a briefing aired past midnight on Wednesday, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III on President Rodrigo Duterte's instructions read the community quarantine designations for the following local government units.

## Enhanced Community Quarantine

- Cebu City

## General Community Quarantine

- National Capital Region
- Benguet
- Cavite
- Rizal
- Lapu Lapu City
- Mandaue City
- Leyte
- Ormoc
- Southern Leyte
- Talisay City, Cebu
- Towns of Minglanilla and Consolacion in Cebu province

## Modified General Community Quarantine (With strict local action)

- CAR: Abra, Baguio City, Ifugao, Kalinga
- Region 1: Ilocos Norte, La Union, Pangasinan
- Region 2: Cagayan, Isabela
- Region 3: Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Angeles City
- Region 4A: Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Lucena City
- Region 4B: Palawan, Puerto Princesa City
- Region 5: Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Naga City
- Region 6: Capiz, Iloilo, Iloilo City, Negros Occidental, Bacolod City
- Region 7: Cebu Province, Bohol, Negros Oriental
- Region 8: Tacloban City, Western Samar



# Areas under ECQ, GCQ, MGCQ as announced on July 8, 2020

- Region 9: Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur
- Region 10: Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro
- Region 11: Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao City, Davao de Oro
- Region 12: Cotabato, South Cotabato
- Region 13: Agusan del Norte, Butuan City
- BARMM: Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur

## Modified General Community Quarantine of low risk

- Rest of the Philippines

-NB, GMA News



## 100,000 cases in August?

July 8, 2020 12:07 AM By [Elmer N. Manuel @tribuneph1 Imer](#)  
<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/08/100000-cases-in-august/>

The Philippines' new coronavirus cases are seen to peak at 100,000 by the end of August if efforts to tweak the health protocols in the battle against the pandemic fails.

An expert from the University of the Philippines (UP) on Tuesday disclosed this information after the Department of Health (DoH) confirmed a record-high jump in "fresh cases" which brought the total tally to 46,333 on Monday afternoon.

Fresh cases are those whose results were released in the last three days.

Mathematics professor Dr. Guido David — a member of the UP OCTA Research group — noted that cases are increasing by at least a thousand a day.

Recently relaxed areas without any COVID-19 case before the lockdown have also been named as virus hotspots.

The new figure forecasts at least 5,000 more cases than the UP group's previous working model for the month of July.

"We need to rethink our solutions because some of them aren't working," said David. "Based on what I saw, the trend is that it will increase, surpass 100,000 if we don't change our system, our handling of the pandemic."

"Authorities should tighten border controls, ramp up coronavirus screening, and bring those who test positive for the virus to isolation facilities instead of going on home quarantine. The home quarantine is not working anymore," he added.

The UP professor also noted that the government should review the transportation of workers, after scores of MRT personnel have caught the virus and urged the public to wear masks, and practice physical distancing and hygiene.

He stressed that there is a need for stricter border control and underscored the importance of isolation. The professor also stressed that the COVID-19 cases in the country will continue to surge if the government will not change its "system" in handling the pandemic.

David also emphasized the need for more testing in the country.

"It would be good if we had mass randomized testing. So, when we increase our testing, we can conduct pooled testing. (Doing it) in big groups. For example, 50 people could be tested using just one kit," Guido said.





## 100,000 cases in August?

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire in June said her department aims to test around 1.63 million Filipinos — about 1.5 percent of the population — by the end of July.

To achieve this goal, the government would have to double the number of tests that it has conducted so far in less than a month. Despite the COVID-19 task force's recent approval of a plan to boost testing in the coming months, however, the health department is racing against time just to attain its testing goals for this month.

Data from the DoH shows that 783, 358 Filipinos — about 0.7 percent of the population — have been tested as of 5 July, a stark contrast to the government's plan to test 10 million Filipinos or about 9 percent of the population in the coming months.

The DoH has attributed the increase in cases to the relaxed community quarantine in various parts of the country, including Metro Manila, which shifted to general community quarantine since 1 June.





# Philippines has 2nd highest SEA cases after Indonesia

[Christina Mendez](#) (The Philippine Star)  
) - July 8, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/07/08/2026441/philippines-has-2nd-highest-sea-cases-after-indonesia>

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang will allow local government units (LGUs) to impose localized lockdowns to enforce minimum health standards amid the daily rapid increase in the number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infections, an official said yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque downplayed the report of the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center that the Philippines is now second to Indonesia with the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia.

Roque said there should be no cause for alarm despite the spike in COVID-19 infections, adding that the government has increased the capacity of the healthcare system during the first few months of the lockdown.

The report said Indonesia leads Southeast Asian countries in terms of COVID-19 cases with 64,958 as of Monday, followed by the Philippines with 46,333 and Singapore with 44,983.

On Sunday, the Philippines recorded 2,434 new COVID-19 cases, the biggest increase in a single day, with 1,147 classified as fresh cases and 1,287 as late cases.

Compared to other countries, Roque maintained that the country has been “winning significantly in the fight against COVID-19.”

“The increase in COVID-19 cases is not surprising until we find a vaccine and cure for the disease,” he said.

Roque noted that the Philippines’ positivity rate is pegged at six to seven percent for every 100,000 people tested for the virus.

“And we have a large capacity to provide hospital services to the sick. So I will always say, we are winning against COVID-19,” he said.

The government has doubled the efforts in handling the health crisis to ensure that the most vulnerable people are protected from the virus, according to Roque.

He said the mayors of Metro Manila, which remains under general community quarantine, have identified areas with high number of COVID-19 cases and discussed measures to curb the transmission of the virus.

Roque said villages with high cases of COVID-19 would be subjected to hard lockdowns instead of community lockdowns.



## Philippines has 2nd highest SEA cases after Indonesia

“The LGUs will have to be more active since they will be the ones to impose the localized lockdowns,” he said.

‘Phi not on second wave’

Despite the spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in the past weeks, the Philippines is not on the second wave of the epidemic, the Department of Health (DOH) reiterated yesterday.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the increase in the number of positive cases is due to scaled up testing and community transmission caused by the lack of implementation of minimum health standards.

“The increase has been gradual and our health system was able to cope with the increasing number of cases,” she said.

Vergeire said this is reflected in the “indicators” being used to measure the COVID-19 response.

As of July 5, she said the country’s case doubling time was still at 7.9 days. This means that it takes more than a week for the number of COVID-19 infections to double.

The increasing number of COVID-19 cases is no longer artificial, according to Vergeire.

“This is not just because we are testing more but because there are really cases, there are clustering of cases that we have been identifying for these past days. There is also community transmission,” she said.

The DOH previously announced that an “artificial” increase in cases should be expected as the testing capacity of the country was being built up.

Vergeire, however, said the number of deaths from COVID-19 is decreasing.

“We only have 2.9 percent case fatality rate compared to more than 10 percent when we started,” she said.

Amid reports that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, had mutated and is now “more infectious,” Vergeire appealed to the public to be more cautious.

‘COVID cases may breach 100,000’

A researcher from the University of the Philippines yesterday warned the public that the number of COVID-19 cases in the country may breach 100,000 by the end of August.

Mathematics professor Guido David, who is part of the OCTA Research team that releases regular forecasts on the number COVID-19 cases, noted higher projections based on the latest data released by the DOH.



## Philippines has 2nd highest SEA cases after Indonesia

“The trajectory right now is quite high since we went under GCQ. It looks like we would reach at least 65,000 by the end of July,” Guido said. “Based on our projection, it would be higher than 95,000 by end of August. It could even be over 100,000 if we will not change our system, the way we handle the pandemic.”

Guido stressed the need to rethink solutions, especially those that are deemed to be not working in response to the public health emergency.

He cited issues on mobility, such as the rise of COVID-19 cases among personnel of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3.

“We need to find solutions for workers on how we can bring them to their workplaces,” he said.

Vice President Leni Robredo said people should not be blamed for the spike in COVID-19 cases even as she urged the government to scale up mass testing to help contain the infection.

“It’s wrong (to blame the people), because when you do that it’s already self-defeating. The presumption is the people are solely the ones at fault,” Robredo said.

President Duterte had blamed the Cebuanos’ “stubbornness” for the increase in COVID-19 cases in the province, particularly in Cebu City, which remains under the strictest lockdown.

After the country posted over 2,000 new COVID-19 cases in two days, Sen. Francis Pangilinan reiterated the need for the government to focus on finding ways to stop the spread of the virus and simultaneously address the effects of the economic slowdown.

“Until now, after four months since the first quarantine period in March, there is still no comprehensive plan to stem the number of COVID-19 cases. In fact, the number of cases is going up fast,” Pangilinan said. Sheila Crisostomo, Janvic Mateo, Helen Flores, Paolo Romero



# Duterte: PH still grappling against 1st wave of COVID-19

ABS-CBN News Posted at Jul 08 2020 01:59 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/08/20/duterte-ph-still-grappling-against-1st-wave-of-covid-19>

MANILA - The Philippines is still battling the first wave of COVID-19, President Rodrigo Duterte said early Wednesday, as the country's coronavirus infections neared 48,000.

"Have we arrived at the second wave? I don't think so. We're still grappling the first wave," the President said in a streamed public briefing aired 1 a.m. Wednesday.

The health department earlier said the country was not experiencing a second wave of the disease, saying the surge in infection is attributed to increased testing capacity and community transmission.

"We are not experiencing a second wave but an increase in numbers of positive cases due to increase in testing, and community transmission caused by lack of implementation of minimum health standards. The increase has been gradual and our health system is able to cope with the increasing number of cases," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said.

Despite the rise in cases, Duterte said the the country has logged more recoveries than deaths since the pandemic began in January.

"Ang patay natin compared to those who recovered it's quite small," he said.

On Tuesday, the country saw its third highest-single daily rise of coronavirus cases with 1,540 new infections, pushing the nationwide toll to 47,873. The tally includes 1,309 fatalities and 12,386 recoveries.

During his speech, the President also defended the government's decision of gradually easing lockdown measures, saying the country couldn't afford to have another surge of COVID-19 cases.

"Because if we open the entire Philippines, thousands of thousands of new cases would happen then we are in deep s\*\*\*. Talagang mahirapan tayo. Una wala tayong pera," he said.

Since emerging in Wuhan City in China's Hubei province last year, there are currently no approved treatments or vaccines for COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

The President, however, said the vaccine against the disease could be available by December.

"I'm confident by our readings of other countries who have much improved their scientific study, I think that by December meron na hong vaccine or at least if not a vaccine a medicine that could kill the COVID-19," he said.





## DOH: New virus mutation seems more infectious

posted July 08, 2020 at 02:00 am by [Willie Casas](#)  
<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/328039>

The new mutation of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 appears to make it three times more infectious, the Department of Health (DOH) said Tuesday, even as the country's cases of the respiratory disease neared 48,000.

In a press briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said: "Mutations do occur with the COVID-19 virus, and this particular one is now more common in the world and seems to be more infectious."

"We are continuing to monitor this development and our scientists are sequencing some of our local viruses as we speak," Vergeire added.

Dr. Edsel Salvaña, a member of the technical advisory group that advises the DOH and Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), said the current variant called "D614G" has increased the infectiousness of the virus.

"There is no evidence it makes it more deadly or virulent. However, it can spread faster and overwhelm our health care system if we don't double our control efforts and so it can lead to a higher number of overall deaths if we do not properly manage the number of infections," Salvaña wrote on Facebook.

Earlier, there was "not enough" evidence yet to back a report by more than 200 scientists who warned the novel coronavirus can spread in tiny airborne particles, which should change pandemic guidelines, the DOH said.

Vergeire told ANC the DOH is "studying all of these articles that are coming out everyday and still there are not enough evidence at this moment to specifically say that it is already airborne."

"We are still working on that concept that COVID is transmitted via droplet infection," she added.

Also, Salvana said that while hospitals are aware the virus causing COVID-19 can be airborne, the considered "main mode" of transmission is still through respiratory droplets.

In an interview on GMA's Unang Hirit, Salvana, who is director of the UP Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, clarified there was actually no disagreement among local health experts whether the virus can be airborne or not, but said they are taking measures in light of this possibility.



## DOH: New virus mutation seems more infectious

Salvana made the statement in response to the calls of hundreds of scientists asking the World Health Organization (WHO) to revise its recommendations about the transmission of the disease.

The WHO 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.

At least 239 scientists in 32 countries outlined the evidence showing that the novel coronavirus in smaller particles in the air can infect people.

As countries ease their lockdowns, authorities need to recognize the coronavirus can spread through the air far beyond the two meters urged in social distancing guidelines, an international group of 239 scientists said Monday, July 6.

In a comment piece that takes direct aim at WHO for its reluctance to update its advice, researchers recommended new measures including increasing indoor ventilation, installing high-grade air filters and UV lamps, and preventing overcrowding in buildings and transport.

"There is significant potential for inhalation exposure to viruses in microscopic respiratory droplets (microdroplets) at short to medium distances (up to several meters, or room scale)," wrote the authors, led by Lidia Morawska of the Queensland University of Technology.

"Hand washing and social distancing are appropriate, but in our view, insufficient to provide protection from virus-carrying respiratory microdroplets released into the air by infected people."

The new paper appears in the Oxford Academic journal Clinical Infectious Diseases.

When an infected person breathes, speaks, coughs, or sneezes, they expel droplets of various sizes.

Those above 5-10 micrometers – which is less than the width of a typical human head hair – fall to the ground in seconds and within a meter or two.

Droplets under this size can become suspended in the air in what is called an "aerosol," remaining aloft for several hours and traveling up to tens of meters.

There has been a debate in the scientific community about how infectious microdroplets are in the context of COVID-19. With AFP



## PH in worldwide search for COVID-19 cure

Published July 7, 2020, 10:25 PM by Manila Bulletin

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/07/ph-in-worldwide-search-for-covid-19-cure/>

There is still no known cure for the COVID-19 virus which continues to infect millions of people around the world. Six months after the virus emerged in China in December, 2019, over 11 million people have now caught the virus, of which over 533,000 have died as of early this week.

In the absence of any cure or any vaccine, health officials around the world have concentrated on ways to prevent infections and they have come up with social distancing – keeping one to two meters from another person, wearing face masks, and constant hand washing and liberal use of alcohol.

But the search and tests continue for cures to heal the millions who have caught the virus as well as for vaccines for the billions who, though still uninfected, live in constant fear that they too may soon have the virus.

Last Sunday, our Department of Science and Technology (DOST) announced that it has begun a study on the use of convalescent blood plasma as therapy for COVID-19. DOST Secretary Fortunato de la Pena said this study is now being conducted by the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) with funding from the DOST.

Blood plasma donated by patients who have recovered from COVID-19 is administered to new patients. The blood plasma contains antibodies which, given at the right time, can mop up the virus in the new patient. The World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting the study.

The DOST said there is also a study being conducted on the use of coconut oil as a supplement for patients. The lauric acid found in coconut oil has been found to induce the body to naturally release enzymes with anti-viral properties.

Two anti-malarial drugs – Chloroquin and Hydroxychloroquine – are now being used on patients in Philippine hospitals, part of the WHO's "Solidarity Trial" in 40 countries.

Other studies are underway on possible cure for COVID-19 with the drug Remdesivir which has been used to treat ebola; a combination of Lopinavir and Ritonavir, a licensed treatment for HIV; and another combination of



Strategic Communication  
and Initiatives Service

## PH in worldwide search for COVID-19 cure

Lopinavir-Ritonavir with Interferom Beta which is normally used to treat multiple sclerosis.

All these drugs are now being tested on Philippine patients under the WHO's 40-nation "Solidarity Trial." But President Duterte has made a special appeal in behalf of the plasma study at UP-PGH. He said the public should be proud of our health workers who are now treating thousands of COVID-19 patients, but also of the doctors and other researchers leading the study on plasma therapy as a cure for COVID-19.

This could be the Philippines' big contribution to the global battle against the coronavirus, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said. Many other drugs are now being tested in many countries and we are proud that the Philippines is doing its share in this world-wide life-and-death endeavor.



# Index continues to retreat on COVID concerns

[Iris Gonzales](#) (The Philippine Star - July 8, 2020 - 12:00am)

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/07/08/2026332/index-continues-retreat-covid-concerns>

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

MANILA, Philippines — The stock market continued to decline yesterday on lingering worries over the unabated increase in COVID-19 cases in the country.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) finished at 6,267.40, down 61.01 points or 0.96 percent, while the broader All Shares gauge slipped 24.34 points or 0.65 percent to end at 3,677.83.

The sectoral indices were a mixed bag with the financials and mining and oil ending in positive territory. The property and services sectors, on the other hand, led the losers.

Total value turnover reached P7.594 billion. Market breadth was positive with 99 gainers and 96 losers, while 47 issues were left unchanged.

Foreign investors continued to dump Philippine shares yesterday with foreign selling at P5.09 billion, while foreign buying registered at P2.58 billion for a net foreign buying of P2.51 billion.

Philstocks Financials said market investors remain risk averse given the continued rise in COVID-19 cases in the country, the second highest number next to Indonesia which has 64,958 cases.

“COVID-19 worries continued to prevail over the market yesterday following the 2,099 new cases recorded on Monday,” Philstocks Financials said.

On Monday, the Department of Health (DOH) reported an additional 2,099 COVID-19 cases, which include 1,258 “fresh” cases and 841 “late” cases.

It also reported six additional fatalities.

The total COVID-19 count for the Philippines is now at 46,333 cases and 1303 deaths as of July 6, according to the DOH.

Active cases are now at 32,845, or about 70 percent of the total.

Furthermore, the DOH said 11 hospitals have reached full capacity of their COVID-19-dedicated beds.





## Global experts warn of Covid-19 airborne threat

July 7, 2020 01:39 AM By [Agence France-Presse](#)

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/07/global-experts-warn-of-covid-19-airborne-threat/>

An international group of 239 scientists on Monday urged authorities including the World Health Organization to recognize that the coronavirus can spread in the air at distances well beyond two meters (six feet), and to revise their prevention guidelines accordingly.

In a commentary that appeared in the Oxford Academic journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, researchers wrote that studies have shown “beyond any reasonable doubt” that viruses can travel tens of meters in the air, and analyses of certain spreading events had demonstrated the same was true of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19.

“Hand washing and social distancing are appropriate, but in our view, insufficient to provide protection from virus-carrying respiratory microdroplets released into the air by infected people,” wrote the authors, led by Lidia Morawska of the Queensland University of Technology.

Their recommendations included greater ventilation for indoor environments; the introduction of high efficiency air filters and ultraviolet lamps; and to avoid overcrowding in buildings and on public transport.

When an infected person coughs or sneezes, they expel droplets of various sizes. Those above five to ten micrometers fall to the ground quickly within a meter or two, while droplets under this size can become suspended in the air in what is called an “aerosol,” remaining aloft for far longer and traveling further.

There has been a vigorous debate in the scientific community about how infectious microdroplets are in the context of COVID-19, but for the time being the WHO advises that it occurs in “in specific circumstances” that occur in hospitals, for example when a patient is intubated on a ventilator.

On the other hand, studies of particular spreading events have shown that microdroplet transmission isn’t limited to hospitals.

The air flow from an air conditioning unit appeared to waft the coronavirus to several tables in a Chinese restaurant in January where patrons became infected, according to a study that appeared in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.



## Global experts warn of Covid-19 airborne threat

The authors of the new commentary recognized that the evidence for microdroplet transmission was “admittedly incomplete,” but argued that the evidence for large droplets and surface transmission was also incomplete yet still formed the basis for health guidelines.

“Following the precautionary principle, we must address every potentially important pathway to slow the spread of COVID-19,” they wrote.

The paper comes as countries ease their lockdowns, bringing people back to workplaces and students back to schools and colleges.

“We hope that our statement will raise awareness that airborne transmission of COVID-19 is a real risk and that control measures, as outlined above, must be added to the other precautions taken,” they concluded.



# Rising COVID-19 cases are 'not purely as a result of testing,' WHO official says

By Jacqueline Howard, CNN Published Jul 8, 2020 12:43:27 AM

<https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/7/8/rising-covid-cases-not-purely-result-of-testing-official-says.html?fbclid=IwAR2>

(CNN) - The number of COVID-19 cases around the world is continuing to climb and the increases are "not purely as a result of testing," a World Health Organization official said on Tuesday.

"What is a concern is the fact that the disease numbers are increasing day by day," Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of WHO's Health Emergencies Program, said during a briefing in Geneva.

"In April and May we were dealing with 100,000 cases a day. Today we're dealing with 200,000 cases a day — and that is not purely as a result of testing," Ryan added. "This epidemic is accelerating."

Ryan added that the rise in case numbers has occurred at the same time the global COVID-19 death rate has remained stable, which suggests that frontline doctors and nurses may be treating patients earlier and saving more lives.

The latest numbers: There have now been more than 11 million cases of COVID-19 and more than 535,000 deaths around the world due to the pandemic, according to WHO.

"The outbreak is accelerating and we have clearly not reached the peak of the pandemic," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during Tuesday's briefing.

"While the number of deaths appears to have leveled off globally, in reality some countries have made significant progress in reducing the number of deaths, while in other countries deaths are still on the rise," Tedros said. "Where there has been progress in reducing deaths, countries have implemented targeted actions toward the most vulnerable groups, for example those people living in long-term care facilities."



## SC orders government to justify legality of anti-terror law

posted July 08, 2020 at 01:30 am by Rey E. Requejo and Willie Casas, Maricel Cruz

<https://manilastandard.net/news/top-stories/328037/sc-orders-government-to-justify-legality-of-anti-terror-law.html>

The Supreme Court has ordered the government to file its comment justifying the constitutionality of the controversial Republic Act 11479 or the Anti-Terrorism Law of 2020.

During the en banc session on Tuesday, the SC magistrates gave the respondent government agencies and officials 10 days to answer the consolidated petitions filed by groups and personalities challenging the constitutionality of the anti-terrorism law.

SC spokesman Brian Keith Hosaka said the high court also required the government agencies tasked to implement the ATL to comment also within 10 days on the plea of the four groups of petitioners for the issuance of a temporary restraining order seeking to enjoin the implementation of the law.

The SC also ordered the consolidation of the four petitions which include Lawyers Howard Calleja, Joseph Peter Calleja and Christopher Lao and De La Salle Brothers led by former education secretary Armin Luistro; opposition lawmaker Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay; Far Eastern University Law Dean Mel Sta. Maria and other law professors of the said university; as well as opposition solons belonging to the so-called Makabayan bloc.

The Supreme Court said: "The four petitions are petitions for certiorari and prohibition with prayer for issuance of a temporary restraining order, and writ of preliminary injunction. They all related to Republic Act 11479 or the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020.

"Thus, the Supreme Court ordered the consolidation of the four petitions, and required respondents to file their respective comments on the petition and application for TRO within a period of 10 calendar days from notice."

The petitioners are seeking to declare as unconstitutional Section 4 of ATL, saying it violates basic rights of the people under the Constitution; Sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 22 as these provisions violate the fundamental right to privacy; the designation power of the Anti-Terrorism Council under Section 25 as it violates during process rights; preliminary order of proscription, under Section 26 and 27 for being unconstitutional; the period of detention without judicial charge under Section 29 for being arbitrary, unreasonable and unjustified; and Section 34 as it impairs the constitutional right to bail.

Contrary to the claim of the government and the authors of ATL, the petitioners argued that its Implementing Rules and Regulations cannot rectify the deficiencies and excesses in the new law because the IRR cannot modify, amend or repeal a statute.



## SC orders government to justify legality of anti-terror law

Named respondents in the petition were Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, the secretaries of defense, the interior, finance, justice, and information and communications technology, and the executive director of the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

Meanwhile, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has joined the list of international personalities supporting calls to junk the anti-terrorism law in the Philippines.

In a tweet on Monday, 17-year-old environmental activist Thunberg threw in support for Filipino climate activists who have been speaking up against the controversial measure.

Thunberg retweeted a Fridays For Future post which supported fellow climate activists in the Philippines.

"Please support the climate activists in the Philippines! #JunkTerrorLaw," Thunberg said in her Twitter post.

Fridays For Future is a movement that began in August 2018 when Thunberg and other young activists began a school strike for climate.

"The anti-terror law puts climate activists and environmental defenders at risk of being tagged as terrorists," Fridays For Future warned.

Aside from Thunberg, youth climate groups from different countries including Germany, Russia, United Kingdom, Portugal, Taiwan, and France, among others, have also posted about the Philippines' anti-terrorism law in response to the global movement.

The law, expected to take effect on July 18, will impose stiffer penalties for "terrorists" and those found to be helping or engaging in related acts. It also allows suspects to be arrested without warrant and detained without charges for up to 24 days.

Some critics also argued that it might be used to target those who simply express criticism against the government.

However, a number of local security officials as well as lawmakers have repeatedly dismissed these claims, saying citizens have enough safeguards under the Constitution.

One of the petitioners, Rep. Lagman expressed hope the Supreme Court would uphold the Constitution in deciding on the measure.

"We trust the Supreme Court will uphold the majesty of the Constitution by purging the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 of patently unconstitutional provisions and assuring that civil liberties would flourish," Lagman said, adding "We supplicate for justice and protection for the beleaguered Filipino people."





## SC orders government to justify legality of anti-terror law

ional security and the protection of basic rights are dual obligations of the State which are not antagonistic because they are mutually reinforcing."

Meanwhile, Esperon's recent statement saying the critics of the new ATL could be supporters of terrorists was a "dangerous leap in logic that endangers the lives of many independent voices opposing the draconian measure," Gabriela Partylist Arlene Brosas said on Tuesday.

"He is resorting to the classic Bush counter-terror antic 'it's either you're with us, or you're against us,' in an attempt to cheapen the debate, intimidate and sow fear among critics of the law, and dodge pressing constitutional issues," said Brosas in a statement.

Esperon maintained the new anti-terrorism law did not target activists and dissenters of the government.

Meanwhile, human rights watchdog Karapatan on Tuesday called on the government to address and respond to the "very relevant, valid, competent, and independent comments and questions" raised by nine United Nations Special Procedures on the Anti-Terrorism Act, which the rights group assailed as a "monstrous and draconian piece of legislation that will heavily impact on the human rights situation in the Philippines."

In a recently published communication to the Philippine government dated June 29, 2020, the UN Special Procedures expressed serious concerns on the Anti-Terrorism Act amid the designation of individuals, civil society, and humanitarian organizations as "terrorists" in the "context of ongoing discrimination directed against religious and other minorities, human rights defenders, and political opponents."

Citing several applicable international human rights law standards including core human rights treaties and obligations — of which the Philippines is a signatory — as well as numerous UN Security Council resolutions on rights obligations on combatting terrorism and violent extremism, the UN experts voiced their apprehension on the newly signed law, which they averred is susceptible to abuse.

"In our view, the [Anti-Terrorism Act] uses a definition of terrorism that is overbroad and vague, making it susceptible to the abuse of numerous rights enumerated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights," the UN Special Procedures stated.

Karapatan Secretary General Cristina Palabay said "there is great cynicism on the assurances of principal authors and movers of the said legislation on its supposed human rights safeguards because of the ambiguity of the letter of the law itself, the notoriety of the would-be implementers of the law, and the prevalent State policies that result in political repression, suppression of dissent and civil liberties, and rampant impunity in the country."



## GIYERA VS TERORISMO AT ANTI-TERROR LAW

July 7, 2020 @ 1:32 PM

<https://remate.ph/giyera-vs-terorismo-at-anti-terror-law/>

Simula't simula, pinaniwalaan nating hahantong ang kontrobersya sa Republic Act 11479 o "Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020" (ATA) sa sala ng Supreme Court para sa kaukulang pagpapasya.

At nangyayari na nga.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, may dalawang abogado at isang grupo na ang hiwa-hiwalay na nagsampa ng petisyon para ipawalambisa ang buo o bahagi ng nasabing batas na ganap na pamalit sa naunang batas na Human Security Act of 2007 (HSA) na ginawa laban din sa terorismo.

### SULYAP SA MGA BATAS

Parehas ang Human Security Act of 2007 at Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 na ipinasa ng buong Kongreso.

'Yung bang Kamara at Senado.

Sa administrasyon ni ex-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ipinasa ang unang batas na kanyang pinirmahan noong Marso 6, 2007 at nagsimulang magkabisa noong Hulyo 20, 2007.

Ito namang bago, pinirmahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nitong Hulyo 3 at inaasahang maging epektibo sa Hulyo 18 makaraang ma-publish ito sa Official Gazette.

Pero katulad ng naganap sa Human Security Act of 2007, maaari ring mapurnada ang nasabing petsa na paggana ng Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 dahil sa mga petisyon laban dito at magtulak sa SC na pigilin muna ang pag-iral ng batas sa takdang panahon.

Unanimous o lahat ng 15 mahistrado ng SC ang bumoto sa naunang batas laban sa terorismo noong Oktubre 5, 2010 at ganap nang isinara ang kaso ng SC noong Enero 2011 sa pagsasabing hindi labag sa Konstitusyon ang HSA.



## GIYERA VS TERORISMO AT ANTI-TERROR LAW

Kung sisilipin ninyo ang mga nagpepetisyon laban sa bagong batas, halos sila rin ang kumontra noon sa HSA.

Kung ano ang magiging kahinatnan sa Supreme Court ng kaso, magmasid at maghintay tayo.

Kung pabor o kontra sa bagong batas o kung baha-bahagi ang papaboran at kokontrahin ng SC, dapat tayong matutong yumukod at sumunod.

### BUNGAL NA HSA

Makaraan ang 13 taon na pag-iral ng HSA, sinasabi ng Solicitor General na iisa pa lang na terorista ang na-convict o napatunayang nagkasala sa ilalim ng batas na ito.

At hindi pa dahil sa merito o sustansya ng batas na nilabag ang dahilan kundi sa bisa ng plea bargaining agreement o pag-amin ng pagkakasala ng akusado para sa mas mababang uri ng pagkakasala.

At ang nakababahala pa umano, mga Bro, malapit nang lumaya ang marami sa 150 teroristang nahuli dahil 12 taon lang ang takdang pagkakakulong ng mga ito.

Sabi ni Sen. Panfilo Lacson, paanong maging epektibo ang HSA kung aapat lang sa probisyon nito kontra sa terorista samantalang 20 ang kontra sa pamahalaan at mga tauhan nitong nag-iimplementa ng batas.

Kasama sa mga inaayawan ng mga alagad ng batas na pulis o militar na probisyon ng HSA ang pagmumulta nila ng P500,000 araw-araw para sa detensyon ng terorista kung mapatutunayang walang kasalanan ang ito sa huli.

Eh, anak ng tokwa, paano kung magtagal ang kaso sa Regional Trial Court lamang ng limang taon gaya ng karaniwng nangyayari?

### PINAS NO. 9 SA TERORISMO

Magkakaiba ang posisyon ng mga petitioner laban sa ATA.

May isa sa kanila ang ligal na ligal ang laban at sinabing nasa 13 bahagi ng ATA ang labag sa Konstitusyon.

‘Yung iba naman na may halong pulitika ang laban, gusto nila, ganap na maibasura ang ATA at kasama na rin ang HSA.



## GIYERA VS TERORISMO AT ANTI-TERROR LAW

Ito'y para ganap umanong malaya ang mamamayan, lalo na sila na nagsusulong ng pagbabago ng buo umano sa lipunan at kahit kailan ay pinoprotesta nila lahat ng mga halal na Pinuno ng mahal kong Pinas.

Habang medyo tahimik ang karamihan sa Luzon at Visayas ukol sa kontrobersya, matindi rin ang reaksyon ng mga taga-Mindanao laban sa terorismo.

Sila naman kasi ang kinikidnap for ransom, binibilanggo, pinupugutan, minamasaker, pinalalayas sa tahanan at kinokontrol nang lubos ng mga terorista.

Sa gitna ng lahat ng ito, maaaring sumali tayo sa paglilinaw o pagtutuwid sa batas o pagpapanatili o pagbasura rito.

Basahin natin ang nilalaman ng batas upang makatulong tayo rito ngunit dahil totoo ang terorismo at pang-9 tayo sa may pinakamalalang kalagayang terorismo sa buong mundo, higit tayong maghanap ng paraan, kasama ang pagkakaroon ng batas laban sa terorismo.



# UN chief warns COVID-19 provides opportunity for terrorists

Associated Press / 07:39 PM July 07, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1303310/un-chief-warns-covid-19-provides-opportunity-for-terrorists>

FILE — UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres looks on during the opening of the UN Human Rights Council’s main annual session on February 24, 2020 in Geneva. (Photo by Fabrice COFFRINI / AFP)

UNITED NATIONS— U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Monday that the COVID-19 pandemic provides new opportunities for the Islamic State extremist group, al-Qaida and their affiliates as well as neo-Nazis, white supremacists and hate groups.

The U.N. chief said it’s too early to fully assess the implications of the coronavirus pandemic on terrorism, but all these groups seek to exploit divisions, local conflicts, failures in governing, and other grievances to advance their aims.

Guterres told the launch of United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week that the Islamic State group, which once controlled a vast swath of Syria and Iraq, is trying to reassert itself in both countries, “while thousands of foreign terrorist fighters battle in the region.”

“The pandemic has also highlighted vulnerabilities to new and emerging forms of terrorism, such as misuse of digital technology, cyber attacks and bio-terrorism,” he said.

Josep Borrell, the European Union’s top diplomat, told the virtual meeting that a global understanding of the pandemic’s implications on counter-terrorism efforts across the world is needed.

“It is true that, in some places, the crisis has led to a reduction of terrorist activity, mainly due to the mobilization of state security services,” he said. “But in other regions, terrorism and human suffering caused by it continue unabated.”

Former American diplomat Richard Haas, who heads the Council on Foreign Relations, said he believes COVID-19 “will add to the challenges of counter-terrorism.”

“It will perhaps create an environment where more countries become weak or fail,” he said, and recruitment for terrorist organizations will quite possibly go up.

Tunisia’s U.N. Ambassador Kais Kabtani, who chairs the U.N. Security Council’s counter-terrorism committee, said its recent report on COVID-19 described how the pandemic may have temporarily limited operations of terrorist groups because of lockdowns and travel restrictions — but also how groups including the Islamic State are exploiting increased social isolation and online use “to spread their propaganda through virtual platforms.” With global attention focused on tackling the pandemic, Kabtani said, terrorist groups are also seeking to capitalize “by undermining state authority and launching new attacks.”

The report by the committee’s executive directorate said the global population, including over 1 billion students, is spending more time on the internet as a result of COVID-19.

“The increase in the number of young people engaging in unsupervised Internet usage — particularly on gaming platforms — offers terrorist groups an opportunity to expose a greater number of people to their ideas, although the relationship between online activity and radicalization to violence is not fully understood,” the experts’ report said. “The reported rise in cyber crime could also lead to increased connectivity between terrorist and criminal actors.”

The U.N. experts said a wide variety of terrorist groups have already integrated COVID-19 into their propaganda “to exploit divisions and weaknesses among their enemies” including by intensifying hatred for certain groups, “resulting in racist, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic and anti-immigrant hate speech.”

“These narratives have been fused with an array of new or existing conspiracy theories, particularly by the extreme right, including through the linkage of 5G technology to the spread of the virus,” the experts said.

On the negative side, they said the pandemic in addition to limiting the movement of terrorists may disrupt their supply chains making it difficult for them to get food, medicine, money and weapons.

With the overwhelming global focus on COVID-19, the experts said terrorists may seek “even more `attention grabbing’ targets or techniques — as with the May 2020 attack on a maternity hospital in Afghanistan.”





## 4.3-magnitude quake hits Surigao del Sur

Published July 7, 2020, 8:58 AM

by Mike Crismundo

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/07/4-3-magnitude-quake-hits-surigao-del-sur/>

BUTUAN CITY – A 4.3-magnitude earthquake hit Surigao del Sur province in Northeastern Mindanao on early Monday night, July 6, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

In its bulletin, Phivolcs said the tremor was recorded at 6:22 p.m., with the epicenter plotted only 13 kilometers (kms) southeast of Cagwait town, Surigao del Sur province.

The tremor had a depth of 48 kms, Phivolcs said.

The earthquake was tectonic in origin and no aftershock or tsunami alert was raised by the agency.

The Surigao del Sur provincial disaster risk reduction and management council (PDRRMC) there reported no damage or injury.

Meanwhile, at 10:28 p.m. on the same day (July 6), a 3.1-magnitude tectonic earthquake was also registered and its epicenter was traced only 14 kms northwest of nearby Cortes town of that same province, with a depth of 22 kms, Phivolcs also said, in its bulletin.

No aftershock or tsunami alert was raised by the state agency.

The PDRRMC of that same province also reported no damage or injury.