

DATE: JULY 23, 2020

DAY: THURSDAY

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

Climate change remains 'top priority' amid pandemic: Cimat

By Marita Moaje July 22, 2020, 7:00 pm



DENR Secretary Roy Cimat

MANILA – Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimat said Wednesday the Duterte administration prioritizes climate change issues amid the coronavirus pandemic.

During a pre-SONA forum aired over state-run PTV4, Cimat, also chairman of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), said addressing climate emergency remains as urgent as ever.

Cimat said the government will “increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both coronavirus pandemic and climate change.”

He said among those being prioritized by the department include effective health care waste management as well as the treatment, storage and disposal facilities.

“More effective health care waste management shall be implemented to overcome the huge volume of infectious and hazardous waste of hospitals,” he added. “Treatment, storage and disposal facilities in the country shall be increased”.

There is a multiplier effect in climate change, he said, which eventually leads to other problems.

Cimat said this is because as the ecosystem becomes unstable and loses its balance, food production will, later on, be affected.

Cimat said as the head of the Cabinet cluster, he assures that government programs such as the "Plant, Plant, Plant" shall be aggressively undertaken to ensure food security, together with the reforestation and watershed management, forest protection and agro-forestry development.

He said the Covid-19 pandemic has been a big challenge to everyone.

“Malaking dagok sa buong mundo ang naging dulot ng Covid-19, hinamon ang ating katatagan (The Covid-19 pandemic brought huge challenges, it tested our strength),” Cimat said.

However, he expressed optimism that the country will be able to come out of this and that the Philippines can convert this health crisis into opportunities to accelerate climate action.

By formulating the correct responses to the pandemic and the problems on climate change, he said the country will be able to resist.

“Patuloy tayong magiging matatag. Lalaban natin ang dagok at hamon na kinakaharap natin hindi lamang sa hamon ng pandemya ganon din sa hamon ng panahon (We will continue to be strong. We will fight this challenge we are now facing, not only that of the pandemic but to the challenges of the time),” Cimat said. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1109787>

Climate change 'slower but graver' than COVID-19 – Cimatu

Published July 22, 2020, 1:33 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu on Wednesday said addressing climate change remains a top priority of the government, maintaining it is a bigger crisis than COVID-19.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, chief coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response implementor in the Visayas (NTF AGAINST COVID-19 / MANILA BULLETIN)

Cimatu, who chairs the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), made this clear during his presentation of the 2020 Pre-State of the Nation Address Report of the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR dubbed as “Pagkalinga Tungo sa Katatagan” on July 22 insisting, “Climate emergency remains as urgent as ever. It is like the COVID-19 emergency, just in slow motion and much graver.”

He explained changes in climate have a multiplier effect, leading to other problems, from ecosystem stability to food production and human conflict.

Cimatu said the government will use the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to accelerate climate action by formulating “responses to the worst public health crisis of this generation through a climate lens.”

“The government—through the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR—will prioritize actions and investments that will reduce long-term health impacts and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change,” Cimatu said.

Climate crisis and COVID responses should heed science

Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Emmanuel De Guzman echoed Cimatu’s statement saying climate change is “an urgent global concern, an existential threat, and a life-and-death issue.”

“Like our response to COVID, we must heed science in responding to the climate crisis. Kailangan natin ibangon muli ang ating ekonomiya mula sa dagok ng pandemya nang mas matatag kaysa dati. (We need to rebuild our economy from the pandemic blow more firmly than ever before). We cannot just go back to business-as-usual, vulnerable and defenseless against the next pandemic or global disruption,” De Guzman said.

“This is how we have been approaching green recovery in the CCAM-DRR. Our green recovery program shall uphold the health of the people and the planet. It shall let us survive and thrive amid climate change. Sa layuning ito binabalangkas ng climate change and nationally determined contributions or NDC. Ito ang susi sa ating green recovery. (For this purpose, climate change and nationally determined contributions or NDC are outlined. This is the key to our green recovery). The NDC which embodies our climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies will give us clean air and healthy environment. It wil deliver green investments and green jobs to our countryside. It will let our sectors and industries transform into a green economy. In short, it will pave our country’s sustainable future,” he added.



Climate change 'slower but grver' than COVI-19 -

July 23, 2020

TITLE: Cimatu

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Strengthening disaster response, environmental protection

He added CCAM-DRR will continue to respond to extreme weather events and disasters; increase adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities; ensure adequate supply of clean air, water and natural resources; and increase resilience of critical infrastructure.

He also noted that there is a need for major environmental protection programs like solid waste management, reforestation and biodiversity conservation consistent with the overall response to COVID-19, future pandemics, and climate crisis.

“High volumes of hazardous waste and the dramatic spread of zoonotic diseases account to the growing challenges that the government has to face to help alleviate problems in this deadly pandemic,” Cimatu said.

Created under Executive Order 24, Series of 2017, the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR is mandated to focus on the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and serves as a venue for discussing inter-related concerns on climate change and disaster risk management.

The cluster also takes the lead in the effective integration of policies and programs on climate risk management, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

Climate Change mas malaking krisis kaysa COVID;

July 23, 2020

TITLE: prayoridad pa rin sa gitna ng pandemya

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE



Climate Change mas malaking krisis kaysa COVID; prayoridad pa rin sa gitna ng pandemya

July 22, 2020 @ 5:34 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na ang pagtugon sa climate change ang prayoridad ng pamahalaan kahit na ito ay abala sa pagsupil ng COVID-19.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang climate change ay mas malaking krisis kaysa sa COVID-19 dahil mas malaking panganib ang dala nito sa mga susunod na henerasyon, ayon sa kalihim na nagsisilbing tagapangulo ng Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAMRR).

“The climate emergency remains as urgent as ever. It is like the COVID-19 emergency, just in slow motion and much graver,” ani Cimatu sa kanyang presentasyon para sa 2020 Pre-State of the Nation Address Report of the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR na may titulong “Pagkalinga Tungo sa Katatagan” sa Hulyo 22.

Sinabi ni Cimatu ang pagbabago ng klima ay maaaring magkaroon ng mas malalang epekto na nagbubunga ng mas malalang problema, mula sa magiging epekto nito sa katatagan ng mga ecosystem hanggang sa produksyon ng pagkain at pagkakaroon ng gulo sa sangkatauhan. Ang ecosystem at biodiversity loss ay nagsisilbing banta sa ating planeta na makapaghatid ng serbisyo at kailangan ng tao.

Idinagdag pa ng kalihim na ang pagkakalbo ng kagubatan ay nakagagambala sa weather patterns at water cycle, nakakapag-ambag sa climate change at sumisira sa mga tirahan ng mahahalagang species ng hayop. Ang mga kemikal at basura ay nagdudulot ng polusyon sa hangin, sa lupa at sa tubig at siyang pumapatay sa maraming tao kada taon.

Bilang estratehiya, sinabi ni Cimatu na gagamitin ng pamahalaan ang COVID-19 bilang oportunidad upang pabilisin ang climate action sa “pagbuo ng mga tugon sa pinakamalalang krisis pangkalusugang ng henerasyong ito sa pamamagitan ng ‘climate lens.’”

“The government—through the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR—will prioritize actions and investments that will reduce long-term health impacts and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change,” riin pa ni Cimatu.

Climate Change mas malaking krisis kaysa COVID;

July 23, 2020

TITLE: prayoridad pa rin sa gitna ng pandemya

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Ang Cabinet cluster, aniya, ay patuloy na tutugon sa mga extreme weather event at mga sakuna; daragdagan ang mga kapasidad sa pagtugon ng mga vulnerable communities; titiyakin ang sapat na suplay ng malinis na hangin, tubig at likas na yaman; at daragdagan ang katatagan ng mga kritikal na imprastaktura.

Sinabi ni Cimatu na ang mga malalaking programa sa pagprotekta ng kapaligiran tulad ng solid waste management at biodiversity conservation, ay dapat nakaayon sa kabuuang pagtugon sa COVID-19, mga pandemya sa hinaharap at krisis sa klima.

“High volumes of hazardous waste and the dramatic spread of zoonotic diseases account to the growing challenges that the government has to face to help alleviate problems in this deadly pandemic,” dagdag pa niya.

Alinsunod sa Executive Order 24, Series of 2017, ang Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR ay inaatasang magpokus sa pagprotekta at pagkonserba ng kapaligiran at likas na yaman at magsilbing venue para sa talakayan ng inter-related concerns ukol sa climate change at disaster risk management.

Pinangungunahan din ng cluster and epektibong pagbubuo ng mga polisiya at programa para sa climate risk management, disaster risk reduction at sustainable development. **Santi Celario**

Climate change worse threat than COVID-19 – Cimatu

July 22, 2020 By [Joel dela Torre](#) [People's Journal](#)



Roy Cimatu

CLIMATE change is a bigger crisis than COVID-19 and remains urgent as ever since it potentially poses existential risks for future generations.

This was aired yesterday by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu during his presentation of the 2020 Pre State of the Nation Address Report of the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR dubbed “Pagkalinga Tungo sa Katatagan.”

According to Cimatu, addressing climate change remains a top priority for the government even if it is preoccupied with controlling the spread of the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

“The climate emergency remains as urgent as ever. It is like the COVID-19 emergency, just in slow motion and much graver,” he said.

From the problems on ecosystem stability, changes in climate have a multiplier effect on food production and human conflict.

Ecosystem and biodiversity loss, according to the DENR chief, are threatening the planet’s ability to provide goods and services.

In his address, Cimatu also cited deforestation which he said disrupts weather patterns and the water cycle that contributes to climate change, and worse destroys the habitats of important species.

“Chemicals and waste are polluting the air, soil and water, killing millions each year,” he added.

As a strategy, Cimatu said the government will use the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to accelerate climate action by formulating “responses to the worst public health crisis of this generation through a climate lens.”

“The government—through the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR—will prioritize actions and investments that will reduce long-term health impacts and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change,” Cimatu said.

“High volumes of hazardous waste and the dramatic spread of zoonotic diseases account to the growing challenges that the government has to face to help alleviate problems in this deadly pandemic,” he stressed.

Created under Executive Order 24, Series of 2017, the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR is mandated to focus on the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and serves as a venue for discussing inter-related concerns on climate change and disaster risk management.

The cluster also takes the lead in the effective integration of policies and programs on climate risk management, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

Climate change bigger crisis than COVID-19

July 22, 2020 By [Joel dela Torre](#) [People's Tonight](#)

CLIMATE change is a bigger crisis than COVID-19 and remains urgent as ever since it potentially poses existential risks for future generations.

This was aired yesterday by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu during his presentation of the 2020 Pre-State of the Nation Address Report of the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR dubbed as “Pagkalinga Tungo sa Katatagan.”

According to Cimatu, addressing climate change remains a top priority for the government even if it is preoccupied on controlling the spread of the deadly corona virus pandemic.

“The climate emergency remains as urgent as ever. It is like the COVID-19 emergency, just in slow motion and much graver,” he said.

From the problems on ecosystem stability, changes in climate have a multiplier effect to food production and human conflict.

Ecosystem and biodiversity loss according to the DENR chief are threatening the planet’s ability to provide goods and services.

In his address, Cimatu also cited deforestation which he said disrupts weather patterns and the water cycle that contributes to climate change, and worse destroys the habitats of important species.

“Chemicals and waste are polluting the air, soil and water, killing millions each year,” he added.

As a strategy, Cimatu said the government will use the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to accelerate climate action by formulating “responses to the worst public health crisis of this generation through climate lens.”

“The government—through the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR—will prioritize actions and investments that will reduce long-term health impacts and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change,” Cimatu said.

“High volumes of hazardous waste and the dramatic spread of zoonotic diseases account to the growing challenges that the government has to face to help alleviate problems in this deadly pandemic,” he stressed.

Created under Executive Order 24, Series of 2017, the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR is mandated to focus on the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and serves as a venue for discussing inter-related concerns on climate change and disaster risk management.

The cluster also takes the lead in the effective integration of policies and programs on climate risk management, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.



Philippine News

11h ·



Climate change remains 'top priority' amid pandemic -Cimatu

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu said Wednesday the Duterte administration prioritizes climate change issues amid the coronavirus pandemic.

During a pre-SONA forum aired over state-run PTV4, Cimatu, also chairman of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), said addressing climate emergency remains as urgent as ever.

Cimatu said the government will "increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both coronavirus pandemic and climate change."

He said among those being prioritized by the department include effective health care waste management as well as the treatment, storage and disposal facilities.

"More effective health care waste management shall be implemented to overcome the huge volume of infectious and hazardous waste of hospitals," he added. "Treatment, storage and disposal facilities in the country shall be increased".

There is a multiplier effect in climate change, he said, which eventually leads to other problems.

Cimatu said this is because as the ecosystem becomes unstable and loses its balance, food production will, later on, be affected.

Cimatu said as the head of the Cabinet cluster, he assures that government programs such as the "Plant, Plant, Plant" shall be aggressively undertaken to ensure food security, together with the reforestation and watershed management, forest protection and agro-forestry development.

He said the Covid-19 pandemic has been a big challenge to everyone.

"Malaking dagok sa buong mundo ang naging dulot ng Covid-19, hinamon ang ating katatagan (The Covid-19 pandemic brought huge challenges, it tested our strength)," Cimatu said.

However, he expressed optimism that the country will be able to come out of this and that the Philippines can convert this health crisis into opportunities to accelerate climate action.

By formulating the correct responses to the pandemic and the problems on climate change, he said the country will be able to resist.

"Patuloy tayong magiging matatag. Lalabanan natin ang dagok at hamon na kinakaharap natin hindi lamang sa hamon ng pandemya ganon din sa hamon ng panahon (We will continue to be strong. We will fight this challenge we are now facing, not only that of the pandemic but to the challenges of the time)," Cimatu said.

(c) PNA



14

3 Shares

Cimatu to reopen mine sites closed by Lopez

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 23, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Some of the mining companies closed or suspended by the late environment secretary Gina Lopez will be allowed to resume operations.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the permits to operate of these mining companies were reviewed after they appealed the closure or suspension order.

“An audit was conducted by technical experts... There were recommendations made for the companies. They complied and applied corrective measures,” Cimatu said during a virtual press conference after the pre-State of the Nation Address forum yesterday.

He said some of the mining firms have yet to comply with the requirements.

Cimatu did not identify the mining companies that will be allowed to resume operations.

Lopez ordered the closure and suspension of 26 mining companies for alleged violation of environmental standards, including the Philippine Mining Act.

The inter-agency Mining Industry Coordinating Council chaired by Cimatu ordered the review of the closure and suspension orders of the mining firms in 2018.

Some mines allowed to reopen: Cimatú

By [Jed Macapagal](#)

-July 23, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said some mines shut down by the previous leadership of the agency have been allowed to reopen after complying with corrective measures, according to Secretary Roy Cimatú.

“Those which have (asked) for reconsideration underwent audit from our technical experts... Thirteen appealed in the DENR while 14 had their appeals submitted to the Office of the President. Those that are lodged in the DENR were audited with recommendations,” Cimatú told the Pre-SONA (State of the Nation Address) virtual briefing yesterday.

Cimatú did not elaborate but it will be recalled former DENR Secretary Gina Lopez in 2017 ordered the closure of 23 mining firms for alleged violation of various environmental laws.

These included Benguet Corp.; Ore Asia Mining and Development Corp.; BenguetCorp Nickel Mines Inc.; Eramen Minerals Inc.; LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc.; Zambales Diversified Metals Corp.; Mt Sinai Mining Exploration and Development Corp.; Emir Minerals Corp.; TechIron Mineral Resources Inc.; AAMPHIL Natural Resources Exploration; Oriental Synergy Mining Corp.; SinoSteel Philippines HY Mining Corp.; Kromico, Inc.; Oriental Vision Mining Philippines Corp.; Wellex Mining Corp.; Libjo Mining Corp.; ADNAMA Mining Resources Corp.; Claver Mineral Development Corp.; Hinatuan Mining Corp.; CTP Construction and Mining Corp.; Carrascal Nickel Corp.; Marcventures Mining and Development Corp.; and Platinum Group Metals Corp.

Lopez also ordered the suspension of Berong Nickel Corp., CitiNickel Mines and Development Corp., Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp., OceanaGold Philippines, and Strong Built Mining Development Corp.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau later recommended the resumption of operations of Zambales Diversified Metals, Berong Nickel, Carrascal Nickel and Strong Built Mining Development.

At the briefing, Cimatú addressing climate change remains a priority of the government despite the COVID-19 as this poses existential risks for future generations.

Cimatú said changes in climate have a multiplier effect, leading to other problems, from ecosystem stability to food production and human conflict including loss of ecosystem and biodiversity.

Cimatú added that major environmental protection programs like solid waste management, reforestation and biodiversity conservation, must be consistent with the overall response to COVID-19, future pandemics and climate crisis.

AFTER INSPECTION

DENR's Cimatu confirms mining firms suspended by Gina Lopez about to resume ops

Published July 22, 2020 4:33pm

By TED CORDERO, GMA News

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Wednesday confirmed that some of the mining companies earlier closed and suspended by his predecessor - the late Regina Paz Lopez - will be allowed to resume operations.

During the virtual press conference following the pre-SONA forum on Wednesday, Cimatu said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) audit teams have already done onsite inspections and already came up with recommendations.

“Yung mga dumaan lang sa proper [review]... at nag-submit ng [motion] for reconsideration sa DENR,” Cimatu said.

“Nagkaroon ng audit ng aming mga technical experts, pumunta doon sa mining companies na suspended by former Secretary Lopez,” he said.

The Cabinet official, however, did not disclose the names of mining firms which will be allowed to resume since reviews are still ongoing.

In 2017, Lopez, a staunch anti-mining advocate, ordered the closure and suspension of the mining activities of 26 firms as a result of the DENR's controversial industry-wide environmental audit.

In 2018, the DENR, under Cimatu, reviewed the closure and suspension orders of Lopez. He validated the suspension of AAMPFIL Natural Resources and Exploration and Development Corp., Carrascal Nickel Corp., Emir Mineral Resources, Krominco Inc., Libjo Mining Corp., Mt. Sinai Exploration and Development Corp., Strong Built Mining Development, Wellex Mining Corp. 1&2, and Zambales Diversified Metals Corp.

Cimatu also affirmed the closure of Claver Mineral Development Corp., Ore Mining and Development Corp., and Oriental Synergy Mining Corp.

The Environment chief, during the briefing, assured that only those that rectified their violations and complied with corrective measures will be allowed to re-open their mine sites.

“Yung mga hindi [nag-comply] pa ay talagang tutuloy pa naman nila ang kanila compliance bago sila i-allow na mag-open,” Cimatu said. **-MDM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/748010/denr-s-cimatu-confirms-mining-firms-suspended-by-gina-lopez-about-to-resume-ops/story/>

DENR seeks compliance of mining firms closed by late environment chief Gina Lopez

Arianne Merez, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 22 2020 05:45 PM

MANILA-- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Wednesday it was seeking the compliance of mining firms closed by its late chief Gina Lopez.

Some 13 mining firms were audited by the DENR and were given corrective measures so these can be allowed to operate again, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

"Iyong mga napunta samain sa DENR, dumaan na ito sa audit team, mayroon na silang recommendation," Cimatu said in a forum ahead of President Rodrigo Duterte's 5th State of the Nation Address.

(Those assigned to the DENR were already audited and given recommendations.)

"Mayroong iba naka-comply na sa corrective measures, mayroong hindi pa. So yung ibang hindi pa, itutuloy naman nila iyong compliance nila before they can be allowed to open," he added.

(Some complied with the corrective measures, others not yet. So for those that have yet to comply, they have to do so first before they can be allowed to operate.)

Cimatu said the audit came following mining firms' appeal to resume operations.

Lopez, during her short stint as environment chief, ordered the closure of 23 mines and suspension of five others over non-compliance with environmental laws.

While 13 firms were reviewed by the DENR, the 14 others were audited by the Office of the President, Cimatu said.

Mining firms na sinuspinde ni ex-DENR Sec. Lopez, balik-operasyon na – Cimatú

By [Bombo Reymund Tinaza](#)

-July 22, 2020 | 6:56 PM

Magbabalik na sa operasyon ang ilang mga mining companies na una nang sinuspinde noon ni dating Environment Sec. Gina Lopez dahil sa paglabag sa batas ng pagmimina sa bansa.

Ito ang kinumpirma sa pre-SONA forum ni Environment Sec. Roy Cimatú ng Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Cluster ng gabinete.

Sinabi ni Sec. Cimatú, dumaan sa tamang proseso ang mga ito bago payagang muling makapag-operate ang mga nasabing mining companies.

Ayon kay Sec. Cimatú, nagsumite ng motion for reconsideration sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga mining firms na nasuspindi kaya nagsagawa ng audit ang technical experts ng departamento, pinuntahan ang minahan at personal na ininspeksyon.

Inihayag ni Sec. Cimatú na 13 mining companies ang napunta sa auditing ng DENR at ang iba ay sa Office of the President (OP).

May mga rekomendasyon na umano silang ipinalabas para sa pagbabalik-operasyon ng ibang minahan lalo na ang mga nakasunod na sa hinihinging corrective measures habang ang iba ay hindi pa.

Tiniyak ni Sec. Cimatú na kailangan munang makita ang full compliance sa requirements ng mga nasuspindeng mining companies bago sila payagan ulit na makapag-operate.

Ilang mining companies na ipinasara ni Lopez, balik-operasyon na

ni [Thea Janica Teh](#) | July 22, 2020



Kinumpirma ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na may ilang mining companies ang papayagan ulit magbalik-operasyon matapos itong suspendihin at ipasara ng yumaong si Regina Paz Lopez.

Ibinahagi ni Cimatu sa virtual press ng pre-SONA forum na tapos ng inspeksiyunin ng audit team ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at naghanda na ng rekomendasyon.

Ayon kay Cimatu, papayagan lamang magbalik-operasyon ang dumaan sa proper review at nagpasa ng motion for reconsideration sa DENR.

Noong 2017, inilunsad ni Lopez ang anti-mining kung saan sususpendihin at ipasasara ang mga mining activity ng 26 firm na kalaunan ay naging resulta ng kontrobersyal na industry-wide environmental audit ng DENR.

Sa taong 2018, tiningnan muli ng DENR sa pangunguna ni Cimatu ang mga ipinasara ni Lopez. Ito ay ang AAMPHIL Natural Resources and Exploration and Development Corp., Carrascal Nickel Corp., Emir Mineral Resources, Krominco Inc., Libjo Mining Corp., Mt. Sinai Exploration and Development Corp., Strong Built Mining Development, Wellex Mining Corp. 1&2 at Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. Kasama rin dito ang Claver Mineral Development Corp., Ore Mining and Development Corp. at Oriental Synergy Mining Corp.

Sinisigurado naman ni Cimatu na ang babalik lamang sa operasyon ay mga kompanyang sumunod sa mga patakaran at nakapagpasa ng mga dokumento.

Cimatu assures 'safe' cemetery

Published 3 hours ago on July 23, 2020 04:31 AM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu visited the proposed site for the COVID-19 cemetery in Sitios Patayng Yuta and Baksan of the upland village of Sapangdaku on Monday, wherein he assured city residents that the new site will meet the highest safety and health standards. / PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF IATF-EID

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and COVID-19 Cebu overseer Roy Cimatu assured that the construction of the new public cemetery in Sitios Patayng Yuta and Baksan in Barangay Sapangdaku will meet the highest health and safety standards.

While the cemetery is being built to address the shortage of cemeteries given the growing number of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) fatalities in the city, Cimatu vowed that the public should not fear the effect it will have on the area which is undeveloped and full of trees.

“We have to ensure the development of roads leading up to here. There are trees here in the area, most of them mango trees. If the city can find a way to minimize the cutting of trees, the better,” Cimatu said.

He added that the two-hectare proposed burial site is outside of the city’s protected area and is far from residential areas.

“Out of all the sites we looked at, this is the best one,” Cimatu said.

For his part, Cebu Task Force on COVID-19 deputy chief implementer MGen. Melquiades Feliciano was thankful to the City Council and residents of Barangay Sapangdaku for approving the construction of the cemetery in the area.

“The IATF-EID (Inter-Agency Task Force for the management of Emerging Infectious Diseases) is grateful for the help and cooperation of the Sapangdaku residents and the City Council. This is an urgent undertaking that directly addresses Cebu City’s public health and safety,” Feliciano said.

Cimatu sees Cebu City shifting to GCQ by end of July

By John Rey Saavedra July 22, 2020, 3:41 pm



POSSIBLE TRANSITION. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (5th from left) confers with officials and members of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a meeting held in Cebu City on Tuesday (July 21, 2020). Cimatu expressed optimism that with the recent interventions to arrest the Covid-19 crisis, Cebu City will graduate to general community quarantine by the end of July. *(Photo courtesy of IATF-EID)*

CEBU CITY – With unified interventions put in place, the head of the government response against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) here has expressed optimism that the capital city will graduate to general community quarantine (GCQ) by the end of July.

Environment Secretary and Cebu Covid-19 response overseer Roy Cimatu revealed his upbeat assessment as he and other officials of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) met with the business community here on Tuesday.

Cimatu told businessmen that the IATF and the National Task Force for Covid-19 are implementing all possible measures to address the coronavirus situation and at the same time work for the “breathe of life into its economy”.

"We are making progress now because of contact tracing. I am expecting na bababa (number of cases will go down in Cebu City) by next week. So, hopefully by the end of the month, we'll go down to GCQ," he said in a statement.

The city government headed by Mayor Edgardo Labella has deployed teams of swabbers to 80 barangays here.

With the IATF's promising outlook for the city, business leaders welcomed Cimatu's pronouncement

"What you said, sir, is good news. Businesses are now more health conscious and I believe we are better equipped this time (for reopening)," said Felix Taguam, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president.

He expressed optimism that the city's economy, which has been severely affected by the pandemic, will bounce back.

Taguam admitted that many business owners are reeling from the negative impact of the public health crisis.

"Most of the business owners in the City are traders. The Chamber has 391 members, and right now I already received 92 requests for closure," he said.

Meanwhile, Melquiades Feliciano, IATF-Visayas chief implementer and Cimatu's assistant in Cebu, said the inter-agency task force will review the "Project Balik Buhay" of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas (OPAV).

A joint initiative of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Secretary Michael Lloyd Dino, Department of Health (DOH)-Region 7, local government units in Cebu and the private sector, the project aims to "gradually reopen the community through a calibrated, scientific, and evidence-based transition from ECQ (enhanced community quarantine) to GCQ."

July 23, 2020

DATE

TITLE: Cimatu sees Cebu City shifting to GCQ by end of July PAGE 1/ 2/2

"We will meet with the business sector to explore how the IATF can integrate this program into our policy direction, so that the needs of the communities, especially the workers whose jobs were greatly affected by the pandemic, can be addressed," Feliciano said.

Dino told the Philippine News Agency that the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas will work with the IATF and the business sector in laying down measures for a possible transition towards GCQ by the end of this month. **(PNA)**

Cimatu to biz owners: Cebu could transition to GCQ

July 23, 2020

TITLE: by month's end

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

Cimatu to biz owners: Cebu could transition to GCQ by month's end

By IATF VisayasPublished on July 22, 2020



Environment Secretary and Cebu overseer Roy Cimatu (center) meets with members of the local business community in Cebu. (IATF Visayas)

CEBU CITY (21 JULY 2020) -- Environment Secretary and Cebu overseer Roy Cimatu is optimistic that the city will be placed under general community quarantine by the end of the month.

This was the upbeat assessment made by Cimatu as he and other Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) officials met with members of the local business community here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the head of the government's coronavirus response in Cebu said the IATF and the National Task Force Against COVID-19 are implementing all possible measures to address the health situation in the city and breathe life into its economy.

The dialogue also provided the IATF and business owners an opportunity to share best practices and recommendations on how the city can best move forward in anticipation of a transition to a more relaxed community quarantine.

"We are making progress now because of contact tracing. I am expecting na bababa (ang cases sa Cebu City) by next week. So, hopefully by the end of the month, we'll go down to GCQ (general community quarantine)," an upbeat Cimatu said.

Felix Taguiam, president of Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, expressed optimism with the IATF's positive outlook despite the current state of the city's economy which has been severely affected by the pandemic.

"Most of the business owners in the City are traders. The Chamber has 391 members, and right now I already received 92 requests for closure," Taguiam said. "What you said, sir, is good news. Businesses are now more health conscious and I believe we are better equipped this time (for re-opening)," he added.

Meanwhile, retired MGen. Mel Feliciano, who is assisting Cimatu in Cebu, said the IATF will review the "Project Balik Buhay," a joint initiative of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas (OPAV), Department of Health (DOH) Region VII, local government units in Cebu, and the private sector.

Cimatu to biz owners: Cebu could transition to GCQ

July 23, 2020

TITLE: by month's end

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

The project aims to "gradually re-open the community through a calibrated, scientific, and evidence-based transition from ECQ (enhanced community quarantine) to GCQ."

"We will meet with the business sector to explore how the IATF can integrate this program into our policy direction, so that the needs of the communities, especially the workers whose jobs were greatly affected by the pandemic, can be addressed," Feliciano said. (IATF Visayas)

GCQ in Cebu possible on August 1 – Cimatú

Published July 22, 2020, 12:59 PM

by [Minerva Newman](#)

CEBU CITY – Environment Secretary and Cebu coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response overseer Roy Cimatú told local businessmen here that there is a possibility that Cebu City could be placed under general community quarantine by August 1.

Cimatú made the disclosure in a meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) with members of the local business community in Cebu Tuesday.

Cimatú's upbeat assessment on the COVID-19 situation here came after the positive reports of the IATF and the National Task Force Against COVID-19 that worked hard to implement all possible measures to address the health situation in the city and breathe life into its economy.

“We are making progress now because of contact tracing. I am expecting na bababa ang cases sa Cebu City by next week. So, hopefully by the end of the month, we'll go down to GCQ,” Cimatú said.

Cebu City has moved from enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) July 1 to July 15, and is now under modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President Felix Taguiam said Cimatú's assessment could come at no better time, and expressed optimism that this will bolster Cebu City's efforts to bounce back.

“Most of the business owners in the City are traders. The Chamber has 391 members, and right now I already received 92 requests for closure,” Taguiam said.

He added that businesses were now more health conscious, and better equipped to cope with safety protocols when the economy is reopened.

According to retired MGen. Mel Feliciano, who is assisting Cimatú in Cebu, the IATF will be reviewing the “Project Balik Buhay (PBB)”, a joint initiative of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas (OPAV), Department of Health (DOH-7), local government units in Cebu and the private sector.

The project aims to gradually re-open the community through a calibrated, scientific, and evidence-based transition from ECQ to GCQ.

Feliciano said that the IATF was meeting with the business sector to explore how it can integrate PBB into policy direction so that the needs of the communities, especially the workers whose jobs were greatly affected by the pandemic, can be addressed appropriately.

The dialogue also provided the IATF and business owners an opportunity to share best practices and recommendations on how the city can best move forward in anticipation of a transition to a more relaxed community quarantine.

IATF places 21 Cebu City villages under 'granular lockdown'

By John Rey Saavedra July 22, 2020, 6:31 pm



GRANULAR LOCKDOWN. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, overseer of government interventions against Covid-19, announces the placing of 21 barangays in Cebu City under granular lockdown, in a meeting on Tuesday (July 21, 2020). Cimatu said Mayor Edgardo Labella will issue an executive order implementing the lockdown while barangay captains are empowered to place a sitio or purok under the same strict quarantine restrictions. *(Photo courtesy of IATF)*

CEBU CITY – The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) has placed 21 barangays in this capital city with the most number of active coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases under "granular lockdown".

A granular lockdown is implemented in a sitio or purok, business enterprise or economy and will continue based on the IATF guidelines under a modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) classification.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu said despite the downgrading of the risk classification here from enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) to MECQ, Mayor Edgardo Labella will issue an executive order (EO) placing these villages under strict quarantine protocols.

The effectivity of the granular lockdown will depend on the EO of Labella.

Cimatu and other IATF officials met business leaders here on Tuesday to announce that they will still put villages with the most number of Covid-19 cases under granular lockdown to impose more focused interventions.

He said the lockdown will still be supported by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in coordination with barangay officials.

As presented during the meeting with the Cebu City Council and 75 barangay captains in the city, the 21 villages are Lahug, Guadalupe, Capitol Site, Talamban, Kamputhaw, Mabolo, Poblacion Pardo, Tisa, Sambag, Apas, Labangon, Basak Pardo, Cogon Ramos, Punta Princesa, Sambag 2, Quiot, Zapatera, Banilad, Hipodromo, Basak San Nicholas and Cogon Pardo.

As agreed, provisions and other essentials for residents affected by the granular lockdown will be provided by the city government.

"The lockdown at the sitio level will be implemented by the barangay chairman and there should be a barangay lockdown plan," a statement from the IATF said.

Meanwhile, the heads of the swabbing and contact tracing teams supervising barangay isolation centers presented their status report to the IATF for the first time on Tuesday since they were organized to help the national and local government officials in addressing the Covid-19 crisis in the city.

Cimatu, designated by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee the Covid-19 response in this capital city, pointed out that in the fight against the coronavirus, they need to find or locate where the virus is, impose responsive interventions and measures such as lockdown and ensure the people's cooperation with the existing protocols and guidelines. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1109749>

21 Cebu City barangays face granular lockdown

Published July 22, 2020, 1:25 PM

by [Minerva Newman](#)

CEBU CITY – Twenty-one Cebu City barangays with the most number of active coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases are facing granular lockdown once an executive order is issued by Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella, and confirmed by the regional Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), according to Environment Secretary and COVID-19 response overseer for Cebu Roy Cimatu.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, chief coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response implementor in the Viayas (NTF AGAINST COVID-19 / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

In a July 21 meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) and with members of the local business community in Cebu, Cimatu said that while Cebu City has been downgraded from enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) to modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ), there will still be granular lockdowns in barangays with the most number of active cases.

The granular lockdown will be enforced, and coordinated by the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and barangay officials in the following barangays.

Lahug, which has 38 actives cases; Guadalupe (29), Capitol Site (23), Talamban (23), Kamputhaw (18), Mabolo (18), Poblacion Pardo (17), Tisa (17), Sambag 1 (15), Apas (14), Labangon (12), Basak Pardo (11), Cogon Ramos (10), Punta Princesa (10), Sambaga 2 (9), Quiot (9), Zapatera (8), Banilad (7), Hipodromo (7), Basak San Nicholas (7), and Cogon Pardo (7).

Cimatu said that the Cebu City government must provide the needed provisions and other essentials for those barangays affected by the granular lockdown which will be implemented by the barangay chairpersons at the sitio level based on the Barangay Lockdown plan.

While the granular lockdown will be implemented in a sitio or purok, business enterprise or economy will continue based on IATF guidelines under the MECQ status, and the members of the Cebu City Council will be assigned to supervise all COVID-19 related activities in a cluster of five barangays.

The heads of the swabbing, contact tracing, and Barangay Isolation Center (BIC) teams presented a status report during the meeting. The IATF noted that it was the first time that a status report was presented after the IATC-Cebu organized a dedicated team to handle swabbing, contact tracing and BIC.

Cimatu pointed out that there were three weapons that would be essential in the fight against COVID-19, including finding out or locating where the virus is, responsive interventions and measures such as lockdown, and attitude of the people to cooperate with the existing protocols and guidelines.



IATF eyes 'granular lockdown' in 21 Cebu City barangays

Marel Floreen Baluyos July 22, 2020

There are 21 barangays in Cebu City eyed for granular lockdown as identified by the Interagency Task Force (IATF).

These places compose the highest number of active coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases in a period of three days.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the best strategy the city can apply moving forward with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is to contain the lockdown to smaller areas where there are a lot of cases.

This granular lockdown will be covered in an Executive Order by Mayor Edgardo Labella, to be released in the next few days.

21 Barangays with their corresponding number of COVID-19 cases:

- Lahug – 38
- Guadalupe – 29
- Capitol Site – 23
- Talamban – 23
- Kamputhaw – 18
- Mabolo – 18
- Poblacion Pardo – 17
- Tisa – 17
- Sambag 1 – 15
- Apas – 14
- Labangon – 12
- Basak Pardo – 11
- Cogon Ramos – 10
- Punta Princesa – 10
- Sambag 2 – 9
- Quiot – 9
- Zapatera – 8
- Banilad – 7
- Hipodromo – 7
- Basak San Nicholas – 7
- Cogon Pardo – 7

IATF eyes ‘granular lockdown’ in Cebu City

July 23, 2020

TITLE: barangays

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Business enterprise or economy will continue based on the IATF guidelines under the MECQ under strict monitoring.

“I am positive that the city will be downgraded by August if this trend continues,”

– Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu

Cimatu reports concrete actions after one-year 'Battle
for Manila Bay'

TITLE:

PAGE 1/ 1/2

July 23, 2020
DATE

Cimatu reports concrete actions after one-year 'Battle for Manila Bay'

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on July 22, 2020

CALOOCAN CITY, July 22 (PIA) -- Roughly one year since the Battle for Manila Bay was waged, and amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the public can already see concrete actions on the rehabilitation of the once heavily polluted body of water, an official of government's Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction Cluster (CCAMDRR) reported on Wednesday.



During the Pre-SONA forum powered and multicast by the Presidential Communications, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu reported on key government improved natural systems and enhanced climate-resilient communities connected with keeping Manila Bay healthier and cleaner.

"Climate emergency remains urgent as ever. It is like the COVID-19 emergency just in slow motion and much graver," Cimatu said, explaining that environmental protection must be tackled, and climate action needs to be consistently pursued even during the pandemic.

To recall, Manila Bay had been notorious for its polluted water, stinking smell, and coastline flowing with trash. The bay inadvertently served as one of Metro Manila's dumpsites, where sewage from households, industries, and agriculture flow untreated and unchecked.

"The Cabinet cluster and CCAMDRR shall prioritize actions and investments that will reduce the long-term health impacts from, and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change," he said.

"More effective healthcare ways management shall be implemented to overcome the huge volume of infectious and hazardous waste in hospitals, treatments, storage, and disposal facilities in the country shall be increased, to prevent zoonotic diseases (illness spread by animals), due to biodiversity laws, we shall intensify, enhance surveillance, and enforcement activities in degradation hotspots and critical ecosystems," Cimatu added.

Relatively, the CCAMDRR reported the following programs, projects, and activities implemented, so far, for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay:

- At the Manila Baywalk, a 1.7 km wastewater interceptor was constructed to catch dirty waters from the three notorious outfalls of Manila at a solar-powered sewerage treatment plant beside the Manila Yacht Club. This STP is capable of treating 500,000 liters of untreated wastewater per day. As a result, chloroform levels at the bay walk area have drastically decreased recently;

Cimatu reports concrete actions after one-year ‘Battle
for Manila Bay’

TITLE:

PAGE 1/ 2/2

July 23, 2020

DATE

- A 2.5-kilometer long trashboom was already installed designed to trap for collection of floating debris coming from the offshore before these would inundate the seawall of the Manila Baywalk;
- Dredging the waters fronting the whole Manila Baywalk is in full blast. While nourishment of the beach area beside the US Embassy is ongoing;
- Dredging of the Tullahan-Tinejeros River System, through the support of San Miguel Corporation’s P1-billion pledge of dredging and cleanup of the river system has started;
- With the help of barangays, communities, private sectors, and estero rangers, the massive cleanup of esteros continues;
- Direct dumping of trash along the riverways draining to Manila Bay is a critical issue that needs to be resolved in a comprehensive manner;
- Provision for re-settlement of the informal settler families is a key option in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay; and
- With the relentless cleanup drive and the mobilization of the barangay and communities, the environment around Baseco has improved, with the cleanup preparing the communities for the need for continuing hygiene to fight COVID-19.

Cimatu emphasized that development in utilizing natural resources for disease prevention and cure shall also be undertaken.

“Reforestation and watershed management, forest protection, and agroforestry development especially in critical watersheds shall be strengthened,” he said.

“Family-based approach shall be adopted under the expanded National Greening Program to provide livelihood opportunities,” he added.

“Increase demand for water during the COVID-19 pandemic shall be addressed by fast-tracking the development of alternative water sources,” he furthered.

Moreover, Cimatu also said the capacities of the local government units (LGUs) especially the barangays, shall be strengthened as first responders and frontline service delivery units.

“We are at the point where humanity is given an enforce chance to stop and think and to choose how we rebuild. And we shall come out of this in such a way that we can connectively deal with climate change and disasters,” he said.

“We shall reimagine our relationship with nature by catalyzing structural investments and behavior change,” he added. (PIA NCR)

Discarded face masks now common sight in shores of Manila Bay

Published July 22, 2020, 6:41 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Due to its improper disposal, single-use face masks are now being washed up on the shores of Manila Bay, further endangering the livelihood of people who rely on the bay's aquatic resources.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) said discarded medical face masks are "slowly becoming a common sighting in the waters of Manila Bay" along with cigarette butts and disposable plastics.

It appealed to Metro Manila residents to properly dispose of used face masks and other medical wastes, or better yet use washable face masks.

Be responsible for your used face masks, the DENR-NCR said, and help in the cleanup, rehabilitation, and protection of Manila Bay and its tributaries.

The DENR continues to seek ways to restore the water quality of Manila Bay to a level fit for swimming, as mandated in the mandamus issued by the Supreme Court in 2008.

The DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has been enjoining everyone to observe proper waste segregation starting in their homes.

"We specifically call on all households who have members identified as 'persons under investigation' or 'persons under monitoring' to take extra precaution in handling their special wastes by initially disinfecting it with chlorine based solution prior to collection to prevent any further spread of the COVID-19 virus in the community," it said.

Practicing proper waste segregation is in accordance with the Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The EMB pointed out that proper handling of household healthcare wastes, such as used face masks and gloves that are considered as special wastes will help stop the spread of coronavirus disease.

Local government units nationwide were likewise urged to ensure the compliance of their constituents with the proper segregation, handling, and disposal of wastes in accordance with the provisions of RA 9003 and RA 6969 otherwise known as Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/22/discarded-face-masks-now-common-sight-in-shores-of-manila-bay/?fbclid=IwAR01DFVtZhCay5UQWF19na0iqi_QfOx2Xb6WaoJKQQfp1cIJQkvJ71yHn0

'PA Talk' features nation's protected areas

By DENR-8Published on July 22, 2020

TACLOBAN CITY, July 22 -- In the middle of persistent efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) steps up public awareness on the importance of nature and biodiversity to human well-being, homing in on the country's protected areas.

In June, DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in partnership with the office of Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda launched "PA Talk: Protected Areas for a Protected Future" – a monthly online conference for Protected Areas in the Philippines. This once-a-month conference which piloted on June 22 shall run until all 107 legislated protected areas in the country are featured.

Six (6) protected areas formed part of the first virtual discussion namely, Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary in Davao Oriental; Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape in Surigao del Norte; Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park in Negros Oriental; Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape in Cagayan; Mt. Isarog Natural Park in Camarines Sur; and Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park in Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro.

This episode which focused on efforts to preserve and protect PAs from environmental degradation, climate change, and other threats also marked the 2nd Anniversary of the enactment of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) Act of 2018 (Republic Act 11038).

The law amends the previous version, Republic Act 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas), which promotes and strengthens the management of protected areas in the Philippines to protect and conserve the country's rich biodiversity against various threats.

During the conference, it was emphasized that with E-NIPAS, there are now 107 legislated protected areas, covering around 7.76 million hectares. In terms of land area, 15.7 percent is set aside for protected area and 1.4 percent of territorial waters set aside as protected area. Before the amendment, there were only 13 legislated PAs in the country.

"It is in accordance with our Convention on Biological Diversity that our biodiversity and our protected areas must be in order. We should have 17 percent of our land area as protected area and 10 percent of our marine waters should be declared as protected area, to ensure the continuous supply of food, and at the same time, continuous management of our biodiversity," Assistant Secretary for Climate Change and concurrent Director of the BMB, ASec. Ricardo Calderon stressed during PA Talk's pilot episode.

On July 28, 2020, Region 8's Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) will take center stage along with five other PAs from other parts of the country. Regional Executive Director Tirso P. Parian, Jr., Protected Area Superintendent Zenaida Baisa, and members of people's organization operating within the PA will share their best practices in engaging local communities in the management of biodiversity and sustaining ecosystem services.

Director Parian invites everyone to join the conference which will be livestreamed through DENRVIII's facebook page DENR Eastern Visayas, at 10:00 am.

"We take pride in presenting our protected areas to everybody through this online conference. This way, we will encourage and strengthen its protection and conservation as our natural defense against calamities and diseases such as today's pandemic", Director Parian says.

Six other legislated PAs from Region 8 – Biri Larosa Protected Seascape and Landscape, Calbayog Pan-as Hayiban Protected Landscape, Guiuan Marine Resource Protected Landscape and Seascape, Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park, Cuatro Islas Protected Landscape and Seascape, and Lake Danao Natural Park will be featured in the succeeding episodes. (Maita Reina Sucgang, DENR-8)

DENR-NCR collaborates in conviction against high profile wildlife smuggler

By BOCPublished on July 22, 2020



Judge Allan B. Ariola, Branch 48, Metropolitan Trial Court of Pasay City, convicted the apprehended importer of 63 reptiles for violation of Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001. (Photo from BOC)

QUEZON CITY, July 22 -- On 21 July 2020, Judge Allan B. Ariola, Branch 48, Metropolitan Trial Court of Pasay City, convicted the apprehended importer of 63 reptiles (54 Iguanas; 2 Basilisk; 4 Veiled Chameleon and 3 Bearded Dragon) at BOC-NAIA for violation of Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, and sentenced a penalty of 3 months and 1 day to 6 months imprisonment and P20,000.00 fine.

It can be recalled that the person convicted was apprehended by BOC-NAIA frontliners, ESS-NAIA, CIIS-NAIA and XIP-NAIA operatives, in collaboration with DENR-NCR operatives last February 2019, while in flagrante illegally importing 63 reptiles surreptitiously concealed inside his luggage from Bangkok, Thailand, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2, without import permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The seized wildlife were immediately turned over to the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit of the Department of Natural Resources.

BOC NAIA stresses that the said conviction clearly manifests the seriousness and commitment of the Bureau of Customs under the leadership of Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to penalize smugglers of illegal goods and contrabands; and serve as a deterrent and warning to others engaging in similar illegal activities. (BOC)

Court convicts lizards smuggler

Published 7 hours ago on July 22, 2020 10:47 PM

By [Anthony Ching](#)



All lizards came from Thailand. (Raoul Esperas photo)

The Metropolitan Trial Court (MTC) of Pasay City has convicted a wildlife smuggler caught by airport customs officers with 63 different lizards in his luggage in February 2019.

The Bureau of Customs Port of NAIA said Wednesday that on 21 July 2020, Judge Allan B. Ariola of MTC Branch 48 convicted Neil Ryan Dysoco for trying to smuggle into the country 54 iguanas, 2 basilisks, 4 veiled chameleon and 3 bearded dragon.

Dysoco was sentenced to 3 months and 1 day to 6 months imprisonment and ordered to pay P20,000 in fine.

The smuggling attempt of the lizards at the Port of NAIA violated Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

BoC-NAIA frontliners, ESS-NAIA, CIIS-NAIA and XIP-NAIA operatives, in collaboration with DENR-NCR operatives, discovered the 63 reptiles surreptitiously concealed inside Dysoco's luggage from Bangkok, Thailand, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2.

The cargo was without an import permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The seized wildlife were immediately turned over to the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit of the Department of Natural Resources.

Port of NAIA stresses that the said conviction clearly manifests the seriousness and commitment of the Bureau of Customs under the leadership of Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to penalize smugglers of illegal goods and contrabands; and serve as a deterrent and warning to others engaging in similar illegal activities.

p: wjg



Palawan News

1d · 🌐

LOOK || SAFE HOME—An adult male Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) was repatriated to Palawan through the efforts of the DENR-CALABARZON which shipped the endangered species from Metro Manila to Puerto Princesa City via airplane yesterday afternoon. // Images from PCSD.

#Pangolin #EndangeredSpecies #PalawanNews #PalNews
#IndependentPN #FearlessPN #CrediblePN #IfItsNewsItsPalawanNews
#LIKEPalawanNews #FOLLOWPalawanNews #SHAREPalawanNews
#READPalawanNews #PalNewsMIMAROPA #PNMimaropaRegion

For more updates follow us on our social media pages:

Facebook Palawan News

Twitter @news_palawan

Instagram @palawan_news_official



👍❤️ 300

2 Comments 28 Shares



 **Palawan Council for Sustainable Development** 15h · 🌐

5-KILOGRAM PHILIPPINE MONKEY TURNED OVER TO PCSDS

A 5-kilogram Philippine long-tailed macaque or Philippine Monkey (*Macaca fascicularis philippensis*), locally known as "Unggoy" or "Matsing" from Bgy. IV, Roxas Palawan was turned over to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) District Management Office - North today, July 22, 2020 at around 9:30 AM.

The monkey was voluntarily surrendered by Mr. Jhonny A. Tomias, a resident of the said barangay. He narrated that the monkey has been domesticated for 2 years after they found it at the back of their house.

Mr. Tomias added that they decided to turn over their pet to PCSDS so it could return to the forest, its natural habitat.

The Philippine long-tailed macaque is listed as endangered in the "Updated list of threatened terrestrial and marine wildlife in Palawan and their categories pursuant to Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Act" per PCSD Resolution No. 15-521 Series of 2015.

If you happen to find any wildlife species in your vicinity, and witness any illegal activities that involves our wildlife species, please call our PCSD Hotline numbers, 0935 116 2336 (Globe/ TM) and 0948 937 2200 (Smart/ TNT). Let us keep our wildlife in the wild!




 53 1 Comment 1 Share

Environment group hits proposed legalization of garbage incineration in the guise of waste-to-energy plants

Published July 22, 2020, 9:48 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A group of environmental advocates have criticized the proposed legalization of garbage incineration under the guise of waste-to-energy plants.



(PIXABAY / MANILA BULLETIN)

No Burn Pilipinas and Break Free From Plastic (BFFP) on Wednesday said there are existing and proven solutions in dealing with waste at the local level that do not require burning or incineration.

“These thermal waste-to-energy facilities are essentially incinerators in disguise and could never be considered as an environmentally sustainable form of waste management or as a renewable energy option,” BFFP global coordinator Von Hernandez said.

Senators Sherwin Gatchalian and Francis Tolentino have sponsored a bill that intends to create a regulator framework for waste-to-energy technologies in the 18th Congress in line with the present administration’s thrust to advance renewable energy in the country.

“If these bills are approved, the real winners would be the plastics industry and big waste management companies who will profit at the expense of taxpayers, local communities, and the environment. Instead of reducing and eliminating their use of problematic plastics, producers and purveyors of single-use plastics and disposable packaging will find justification to continue with their polluting business as usual practices,” Hernandez said.

He added that burning unrecyclable plastics can cause toxic fumes that will make communities more susceptible and vulnerable to the impacts of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Mother Earth Foundation chair Sonia Mendoza said that allowing incineration will only reverse the country’s achievements in the implementation of the Clean Air Act and Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

“Instead of burning away billions of pesos in public funds to support waste-to-energy facilities, we urge the government to invest in efforts by our communities and local governments to implement zero waste programs as already provided for in the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. Cities and barangays doing/having zero waste have managed to divert municipal waste by as much as 80 percent and saved millions of pesos while creating jobs,” she said.

Incineration an ‘overkill’

Dr. Jorge Emmanuel, who co-authored the World Health Organization’s guidebook on health care waste, said SARS-COV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, is among the easiest microorganisms to destroy using readily available materials, such as diluted bleach, alcohol, hot water, and regular soap and water.



Environment group hits proposed legalization of garbage
incineration in the guise of waste-to-energy plants

PAGE 1/ 2/2

July 23, 2020

DATE

He said treatment methods already used by hospitals such as chemical disinfection and autoclaving are more than sufficient to destroy the COVID-19 virus.

“Incineration will make things worse because incinerating COVID-19 related wastes will produce poisonous and toxic fumes especially since most of the materials are made of plastics. Some of the incinerator pollutants are also known to increase the death rate from COVID-19,” he said.

“Our government must not use this pandemic as an excuse to introduce polluting disposal methods like burning and incineration. Instead, we must encourage them to adhere to safe and environmentally sound treatment methods to safeguard our communities against the virus,” he added.

Small retail stores to recycle plastic

PCEx incentivizes women-owned sari-sari stores to become collection points for post-consumer plastic waste.

Published 3 hours ago on July 23, 2020 03:00 AM

By **TDI**



The Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx), the country's first homegrown global non-profit plastic offset organization, together with the City of Manila, and with the support of the PepsiCo Foundation recently introduced the Aling Tindera waste-to-cash program.

Along with their teams, PCEx founder Nanette Medved-Po and Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso signed a memorandum of agreement to roll out 100 network partners over three years covering all of the city's 897 barangays.

Under the Aling Tindera program, PCEx incentivizes women-owned sari-sari stores to become collection points for post-consumer plastic waste and establishes the community infrastructure for the aggregating, storing and efficient transport of the waste to partner processing facilities.

Added income for SME

Among the benefits of the project are: increased income opportunities for women micro-entrepreneurs and city residents; a more organized informal sector of waste collectors; cleaner environments and improved health.

"We couldn't be happier to work with the Mayor and his team who have passionately demonstrated their commitment to the improvement of Manila. We hope that our program will have a positive impact on the City's citizens and on the environment that we all share," Medved-Po said.

Community effort needed

"PepsiCo realizes no single organization or industry can solve the plastic waste challenge on their own. That is why we're working with PCEx and communities in Manila through the Aling Tindera program to accelerate systemic change and meaningful progress through collaborative, holistic and sustainable solutions in the Philippines," PepsiCo corporate affairs head for the Philippines and Asia Anne Marie Corominas emphasized.

Hinatuan Mining declares success in 'coral gardening'

By [BMPlus](#) July 22, 2020



Hinatuan Mining divers monitor the coral nursery twice weekly to record its detailed growth and to graph survival rates.

Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC) announces with pride the success of its coral nursery project in the island of Hinatuan, Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte. HMC is a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC).

“The coral nursery initiative, designed and implemented by HMC’s Mine Environmental Protection and Enhancement Department (MEPEO), aims to further enhance the growth of the natural coral reef systems around the marine waters of the island,” explains Forester Manuel A. Torres, Jr., HMC’s MEPEO lead and Envi-Manager.

For Jusua dela Peña, HMC’s dedicated marine biologist, ‘success’ means that in less than a year of establishing the nursery – initially with 343 coral fragments in 4 nursery beds – the coral fragments have fully recovered with an excellent growth rate and a yield of 90% survival against a mortality rate of 10%. The nursery begins the successful coral gardening in Hinatuan Island as healthy coral “outgrowths” are transplanted to propagate the coral garden.

The United Nations (UN) connects coral gardening to the current narratives about the pandemic, detailing how humans and our livelihood are connected to corals in so many ways: the fish that live on coral reefs provide food; coral reefs are draws for tourists who bring in the cash that provide livelihood; that there are new medicines being developed from species found in coral reefs; and, that coral reefs help in the protection of our shores from erosion and pollution.

“We know that the priority right now is to keep the communities and our workforce healthy and safe from the virus, but we at HMC will never stop finding ways to also protect the environment and enhance the island’s marine resources,” explains dela Peña.

Engr. Francis J. Arañes, Jr., HMC’s Resident Mine Manager, is most happy about the success of the company’s ‘coral gardening’ because it showcases the healthy waters surrounding the mine site, which is something to be greatly proud of as a miner.

“The coral nursery is located 200 meters from the mine site’s pier and 6 meters in depth from the water line. The excellent growth of the corals signifies that the water quality around the mine and HMC’s marine resources are a healthy support to the overall water ecosystem,” Arañes explains.



Healthy coral outgrowths in HMC's coral nursery.

Healthy coral outgrowths in HMC's coral nursery.

“The objective of this program is to highlight NAC-HMC’s sustainable best practices in marine protection, emphasizing our initiatives, as a responsible mining company, in resources protection and tourism development,” Arañes adds.

As a marine biologist, dela Peña attests to ‘growing corals’ as being labor-intensive, requiring dedication and focus. The nursery is monitored twice weekly with the help of experts and licensed-divers. Every inch of growth is recorded, ever recovery rate or otherwise, graphed.

“We cannot emphasize enough the importance of ‘coral gardening’ and we at HMC, as responsible miners, are obviously very passionate about this. Coral gardening plays a significant part in the sustainable development of our environment and in maintaining the integrity of our ecosystem,” dela Peña adds.

Dela Peña explains further that, most importantly, the involvement of the community is a vital component to the success of the coral garden.

Everyone in the mining communities must be taken in as part of the drive to reach the full potentials of the project. This means intensive information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns about corals and, also, to declare the site of the nursery as marine protected area in order to minimize disturbance to allow the corals to reach its full growth to be healthy enough for massive propagations.

The Hinatuan mine site, also known as the “Tagana-an Nickel Project”, is located in Barangay Talavera, Hinatuan Island, municipality of Tagana-an, the Province of Surigao del Norte. Its area of operations is within the Surigao Mineral Reservation.

Museum researchers publish groundbreaking discovery of oldest fossil in PH

Published July 22, 2020, 6:51 PM

by [Hanah Tabios](#)

The groundbreaking discovery of the oldest fossil record of Nautilus in the Philippines has been published by the museum researchers from the Geology and Paleontology Division of the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) and the Nannoworks Laboratory of the National Institute of Geological Sciences of the University of the Philippines-Diliman.



Photo from National Museum of the Philippines

Nautilus species belongs to the family of octopi, squid, and cuttlefish, which has been present on the planet for 500 million years.

The new historical development is now available online at the Philippine Journal of Science September 2020 issue, which scientifically narrates how the team of Filipino researchers led the finding of two nautilid (Cephaloda, Mollusca) fossils from an exposure of the late Miocene – early Pliocene Calatagan Formation – in Talim Point, Lian town, Batangas.

In the published paper, the researchers said the Batangas fossils is also, so far, the only late Miocene to the early Pliocene record of Nautilus in the world.

The team discovered the two Nautilus specimens during their geologic fieldwork in September 2012 and December 2018, in a condition described as poorly to moderately preserved casts embedded in sandstone at the said site.

“Planktonic foraminifera analysis of the sandstone matrix was used to determine the age of the formation. Other fossils observed in the outcrop include mollusks, echinoids, and corals,” it said.

The researchers also emphasized that the new discovery of Nautilus specimens from the Neogene deposits in Batangas is important in understanding the evolutionary history of the genus. It was previously believed, based on experts’ account, that nautilids do not have any fossil record during the Pliocene and Pleistocene.

Prior to this, the only records of chambered Nautilus fossils in the country were from the early Pleistocene siltstone outcrop in Tambac Island in Pangasinan province and from the Holocene uplifted sediment in the province of Leyte.

However, according to conservation organization Save the Nautilus, the changing demands of people has now endangered the said species amid what it called a “horrible massacre” to make Nautilus jewelry, which is often marketed as mother of pearl.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/22/museum-researchers-publish-groundbreaking-discovery-of-oldest-fossil-in-ph/>

Duterte to unveil Covid-19 recovery roadmap during SONA

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos July 22, 2020, 11:30 am



President Rodrigo Duterte

MANILA – On his fifth and penultimate State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Rodrigo Duterte will present a roadmap that will help the country recover from the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), Malacañang said on Wednesday.

“He (Duterte) will be presenting now a roadmap for recovery which the economic team has not unveiled yet and I think the reason is they want to unveil it in the SONA itself and many fora after the SONA,” Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said in an interview with CNN Philippines.

Roque, however, did not provide additional details about the Covid-19 recovery roadmap Duterte will be presenting during his fifth SONA on July 27.

Despite the threat posed by Covid-19, Duterte decided to be physically present at the Batasang Pambansa Complex in Quezon City when he delivers his fifth SONA.

However, there will only be a limited number of people who can attend this year’s SONA to minimize Duterte’s risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus.

The Presidential Security Group has also ensured that heightened security measures would be in place during the annual event to keep Duterte safe from Covid-19.

Roque said Duterte is expected to discuss “in much detail” the government’s efforts to combat the disease, as well as its plan to help the country recover from the Covid-19 crisis.

“There is no other problem as big as [Covid-19] right now,” he said. “The President will summarize the effects of the [Covid-19] pandemic as well as the responses of the government and the way forward on how the government will actually approach this problem.”

As of Tuesday, the Philippines has logged 70,764 confirmed Covid-19 cases, with 23,281 recoveries and 1,837 deaths.

Duterte has eased the quarantine restrictions in the country to pave the way for the gradual reopening of the economy.

Earlier, he consulted doctors and experts on the possible reopening of the Philippine economy amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

He was told that the country could afford to resume more economic activities, provided that localized lockdown is implemented, Covid-19 testing capacity improves and the vulnerable groups are protected. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1109697>

Pandemic shapes direction of Duterte administration's unfinished business

By [BusinessMirror](#)

July 23, 2020



In this handout photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, talks with troopers during his visit to the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City, southern Philippines, on Friday, July 3, 2020. The Philippine president on Friday signed a widely opposed anti-terror law which critics fear could be used against human rights defenders and to muzzle dissent.

By Jovee Marie N. Dela Cruz, Butch Fernandez & Bernadette D. Nicolas

BORDERING on the cavalier, President Rodrigo Duterte will address, physically inside the hallowed halls of Congress, Filipinos half of whom have become despondent with the coronavirus disease 2019 and the extreme measures his government took to curb its spread. Duterte will stand, in a manner of speaking, between the portal of the past and future; the unfinished business and the hazy way forward.

And as he leads the reopening of the second regular session of the 18th Congress, lawmakers (mainly) and government officials would aim to find their bearings anew to help the country's economic rebound from the crippling effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, while continuing the "unfinished business" set out in the time of "normalcy;" a time that appears to have felt like yesterday.



In this photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, left, listens as they discuss issues related to the new coronavirus during a meeting with members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) at the presidential guest house in Panacan, Davao City, southern Philippines on Tuesday July 7, 2020

Nonetheless, the going would be easy for the Duterte administration as all lawmakers concede the need to respond to the impact of Covid-19 and the measures against its spread is urgent.

Both the majority and the minority in the Senate, for one, agree such response will largely shape the direction of the second regular session of the 18th Senate when the chamber reconvenes on July 27.

This is because many of the carryover bills from 2019, which senators had vowed to continue working on in 2020, have been overshadowed by the massive, mind-boggling challenges of dealing with the pandemic, described around the world as the worst crisis to hit humanity since the 1929 depression.

Prostrate state

IN fact, even the 2020 budget had to be drastically altered via the Bayanihan To Heal As One Act. That law, Republic Act 11469, was passed in a special session in late March, to give the President flexibility to realign billions in agency budgets for the huge requirements of the moment: urgent purchases of personal protective equipment; providing outright doles to millions of households whose livelihood was disrupted by the virus-induced lockdowns; and, beefing up capacities of public hospitals and building quarantine facilities, among others.

As a result, much of the “unfinished business” from the Senate before it adjourned sine die on June 5 will not just involve passing a slew of stimulus and recovery measures including the Bayanihan to Recover As One Act (or Bayanihan 2), but the pandemic is reshaping the context in which even the remainder of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) is being viewed.

For instance, the senators who are sometimes accused by economic managers and congressmen of taking their sweet time passing the second tax reform the Trabaho bill that evolved into the Citira (Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Reform Act) and now, Create (the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act) have committed to urgently pass their version of the bill by August, at least.

But it's just the first part of the bill the reduction in corporate income tax (CIT) that is seen to draw unanimous support. The contentious other half the rationalization of tax incentives is still expected to spark debates, notwithstanding claims by the House that its revised version of Citira, or Create, considers the near-prostrate state of many businesses, especially export-oriented firms in economic zones.

Opting easy

HOUSE Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Joey Sarte Salceda said his committee in the Lower House is preparing for “likely” bicameral conference committee proceedings on tax reforms that will be crucial to economic recovery reforms, and which are pending in the Senate.

“As I said before, the committee is prepared to accept the Senate version of the CREATE, but if there are provisions that will erode revenue too much, or are contrary to the committee’s basic principles on tax equity, efficiency and effectiveness, then we are also prepared to fight for a more sustainable version,” Salceda said. “I prefer the easier path, of course.”

He added that the committee is also preparing for bicam proceedings on the Pifita (Passive Income and Financial Intermediaries Taxation) Act and the Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Act (Rpvara), or Package 3 of tax reform.

‘We’re prepared’

SALCEDA reiterated he prefers “the easier, faster route of no bicam.”

“So I hope the Senate passes a version that accepts our basic principles,” he added. “But, if not, we are prepared to have a bicam on these.”

Meanwhile, as chairman of the House economic stimulus and recovery cluster, Salceda said given that the stimulus bills have also tax provisions, “we are also prepared to go into bicam on these bills.”

The solon said the committee will also explore ways to provide small-business regulatory relief.

“We will study and hear from stakeholders if there are charges that we can waive for small businesses, or regulations that we can relax so they can stay afloat,” he added.

Salceda said he, especially, wants small businesses to be able to register with the appropriate agencies for free, with some sort of tax holiday of maybe two years, “so that they can benefit from stimulus programs, and, when they recover, pay their fair share of taxes.”

“We will study what would be most helpful to small businesses,” he added.

Economic recovery

DUBBED by the Department of Finance (DOF) as the “largest fiscal stimulus program for enterprises in the country’s history,” the CREATE bill, if passed, will trigger an immediate cut in the CIT rate from the current 30 percent—the highest in the region—to 25 percent this year.

This would be followed by a 1-percentage point reduction starting 2023 until it reaches 20 percent by 2027. As a result, the government is expecting to give up at least P667 billion in revenues from this reduction.

The DOF also said the CREATE bill, if enacted into law, will benefit non-large taxpayers as there will be an extension of the applicability of the net operating loss carryover for losses incurred this year from the current three years to five years.

Finance Assistant Secretary and Spokesman Antonio Joselito Lambino II said they are still hoping that all the remaining tax reform packages, including CREATE, will be passed by the end of the year to help the economy bounce back from the slump caused by the pandemic.

“The immediate 5-percent reduction in CIT will help small businesses by leaving more money in their hands so that they can retain jobs and pay for expenses. The ability to offer fiscal and non-fiscal incentives will allow us to attract the most desirable investments in terms of job creation and technology,” Lambino told the BusinessMirror. “These benefits have been shared with our legislators.”

Reform packages

LAMBINO explained that “Package 3 will help LGUs [local government units] in their resource mobilization and Package 4 will broaden investment and insurance opportunities.

“These will also help our economy recover from the pandemic,” he added.

With the government’s vow on tax reform, Lambino said credit rating agencies continue to laud the Philippines and affirm its invest-grade ratings, which they consider as a “vote of confidence” in a sea of downgrades and negative outlook revisions worldwide.

“The credit rating agencies continue to cite our positive track record in debt management and our commitment to tax reform as key factors in their favorable assessments of our credit-worthiness. The Duterte administration intends to maintain its approach to debt management; and we hope Congress will pass the remaining tax reform packages that will further improve the fairness, simplicity, and equity of our tax system,” he said.

While the country has been receiving multiple affirmations of its investment grade credit ratings, Lambino said it would still be hard to predict what the future holds for the country’s credit ratings as the forthcoming upgrades would depend on several factors, including how long the pandemic will last and how long a vaccine becomes available. The economic team is eyeing to achieve an A rating before mid-2022.

“In the meantime, the Duterte administration’s economic team is committed to exercising prudent and responsible management of the country’s resources,” he said.

Tax cuts

SENATE Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said in June, as the senators began their break, that the chamber “gives its word” that when sessions resume in July, the Bayanihan 2 and the CREATE bill will get priority attention. But he was explicit in his support only for the CIT reduction.

“The Senate of the Philippines expresses its full support for the passage of the enhanced and repackaged Create [bill], previously known as the Citira. In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, economies the world over are on the brink of collapse, with businesses needing massive government support in order to rebuild, recover and retain jobs for their employees.”

According to Zubiri, the amendments in the CREATE bill “address this need head-on; offering businesses an unprecedented and outright 5-percent tax cut, thereby reducing the CIT rate from 30 to 25 percent.”

“This reduced CIT rate will allow businesses to recoup the unanticipated losses they incurred during the various stages of community quarantine across the nation,” Zubiri added.

The passage of the CREATE bill, he said, “will be particularly vital to MSMEs [micro, small, and medium enterprises], which make up 99 percent of the nation’s corporate taxpayers and employ a majority of Filipino workers.” The MSMEs were particularly hit hard by the lockdowns that began in mid-March.

Other cogs

IN a hint that beyond the CIT cut, there may yet be much debate between the two chambers, especially on the incentives, Zubiri said: “While we see the merits of the measure, we are also committed to ensuring that the best version of the bill should pass the Senate—one that is truly responsive to the extraordinary needs of our time,” he said.

Rest assured, Zubiri said, “that your legislators are working tirelessly in scrutinizing the measure in its finer points in order to craft and approve the most effective economic recovery plan possible.

“You also have our word that we will take up the bill upon resumption of the session in July and work to pass it by the month of August.”

So, too, will the other cogs in the CTRP wheel the Pifita and the Rpvara. Both measures are up for bicameral conference committee deliberations.

Top priority

HOUSE Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano said the lower chamber will prioritize the immediate passage of the proposed Bayanihan 2 and other fiscal measures when the Second Regular Session of the 18th Congress opens on July 27.

Cayetano said Bayanihan 2 and other fiscal measures are needed to ensure that MSMEs and banks are given assistance and opportunities to bounce back from the financial losses caused by government’s grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Aside from Bayanihan 2, these measures include the Financial Institutions Strategic (FIST) bill and the Government Financial Institutions Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises for Economic Recovery (Guide) bill.

“In the coming days, we will be working and coordinating closely with various national government agencies in preparation for [the President’s] fifth Sona [State of the Nation Address] and the beginning of the second regular session,” Cayetano said.

Cayetano said the House is holding consultations with different sectors and groups to ensure that its legislative agenda are aligned with the needs of the people and the vision of the President.

Before the Congress sine die adjournment in June, the House had approved the following: House Bill (HB) 6815 or the P1.3-trillion Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy (Arise) bill; HB 6817, or the Anti-Covid-19 Discrimination bill; HB 6864, or the Better Normal for the Workplace, Communities, and Public Spaces bill; and, HB 6920, or the P1.5 trillion Covid-19 Unemployment Reduction Economic Stimulus (Cures) bill.

All these bills are now pending before the Senate.

How-to hoped for

THE Senate minority, meanwhile, expects Duterte to unwrap the administration's comprehensive economic recovery plan when he delivers his fifth Sona before a joint session of Congress on Monday.

"At the top of our [Sona] wish list is to hear the President's plan on how to revive our economy heavily hit by the pandemic and help millions of our countrymen, including hundreds of thousands of overseas Filipino workers, who lost their livelihood," Senate Minority Leader Franklin M. Drilon said in a radio interview last Tuesday.

Drilon suggested that the upcoming Sona is an "opportunity for the President to present an overall plan on how the country will survive the pandemic."

Drilon disclosed that at the top of the opposition's SONA wish list is to hear straight from Duterte his administration's plan "on how to revive our economy."

At the same time, Drilon deplored the administration's "lack of an overall comprehensive plan in the fight against Covid-19" lamenting that because the government did not have an overall plan, "it resulted in a shotgun approach in dealing with the pandemic and in implementing the longest lockdowns in the world, which did little to prevent the spread of the virus but only damaged the economy."

Expect cooperation

THE opposition senator asserted that "we want to hear the government's plans on how we can get out of this situation as a whole; and I assure them that the members of the opposition will cooperate with the administration in crafting measures to help them address the pandemic."

At the same time, Drilon conveyed a wish to "hear President Duterte talk about how much the country would really need to beef up the economy," even as he noted "conflicting figures between the Department of Finance and Congress."

Drilon recalled that members of the House of Representatives were reported to be eyeing a P1- trillion stimulus package to revive the economy but Malacañan and the DOF found the amount too high as the government can only allow up to P140 billion. That figure is the price tag the Senate put on its own version of Bayanihan 2, which hurdled second reading before its June break.

Proposed bills

FOR Salceda, the eye is on the revenue ball.

Salceda said his committee is now working on the passage of several bills providing government with much-needed revenue to support the economy now sputtering with the lockdown-easing measures.

He said his "committee is prepared to do whatever it takes, on the tax side, to get us back to positive territory."

According to Salceda, their proposals "will yield about P591 billion in five years; more than enough to cover the period's incremental debt payments due to our Covid-19 response and new programs to boost the economy."

These measures include the proposed motor vehicle road users' tax, the tax on compensation and tax on revenues of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (Pogos), tax administration reforms and the proposed digital taxation.

These measures include the proposed motor vehicle road users' tax, the tax on compensation and tax on revenues of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (Pogos), tax administration reforms and the proposed digital taxation.

Pandemic shapes direction of Duterte administration's
unfinished business

TITLE:

PAGE 1/ 6/7

July 23, 2020

DATE

“First, we will optimize existing revenue sources; that means, as much as possible, we will try to improve or update existing taxes, or enhance tax administration,” Salceda said. “That is why my digital economy taxation bill only closes tax loopholes for the tech giants instead of creating new taxes and why my proposed taxes on Pogos clarifies confusion in taxing those companies.”

Essential services

THE lawmaker added the committee's proposal on motor vehicle road users' taxes “also just updates the rates, which has not been done since 2004, even if it was mandatory to do so under the law.”

Salceda added: “On entirely new taxes, except for purposes of health or some other much greater good, I am skeptical of consumption taxes, especially at a time when you need to boost consumption.”

He said he “will also not entertain taxes that will affect the poorest of the poor, so barter trade taxes will not even be discussed.”

He said other reforms that would bolster the government's revenue include: the implementation of oversight into customs-bonded warehouses; full digitalization of the taxpayer filing and payment in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); and, application of zero tax for some period and tax base expansion after for MSMEs.

“I will also continue to exercise active oversight on the BIR and the Bureau of Customs (BoC),” Salceda said. “First, I hope to see to it that they complete basic digitalization—that means, most essential services that most taxpayers deal with should be possible to do remotely.”

Over, above

SALCEDA added he will be rolling out “a legal review of the impediments to digitalization in the coming session.”

Likewise, he said his committee will study the call on luxury taxes.

“We just have to study which luxuries in particular will be worth the effort, since luxuries consumption is also depressed during economic crises. They are very progressive taxes, and if we can find luxury goods worth taxing, I prefer luxury taxes over broad consumption taxes,” he said.

“We favor luxury taxes, but we need very strong tax administration measures to ensure that we are able to collect them. Otherwise, we will just widen the tax gap,” Salceda explained. “For example, we have to figure out whether it is better to impose them on imports or at the point of sale. Proper entry, reporting, valuation and assessment will be just as important in this case as collection.”

Protecting consumers

FOR his part, House Committee on Trade and Industry Chairman Weslie Gatchalian said the global pandemic saw the unprecedented rise of e-Commerce in the country.

“Unfortunately, during this period, we are also seeing an increase in the number of scammers who are seeking to take advantage of the latest technological development,” Gatchalian said. “Thus, the Committee saw the need to introduce regulations to this largely unregulated market to ensure that online consumers and merchants are protected, industry best practices are adopted and cross-border disputes [are] resolved.”

The lawmaker said the panel is now ready to present the substitute bill to HB 6122 or the Internet Transaction Act for the plenary approval of all the members.

In relation to consumer protection, he said the committee has also approved the creation of a technical working group to work on the amendments to the 28-year-old Consumer Act.

Pandemic shapes direction of Duterte administration's
TITLE: unfinished business

PAGE 1/ 7/7

July 23, 2020
DATE

“The amendments seek to bridge the gap between the law and the advances that have happened since it was passed in 1992,” he said.

Lacking sufficiency

LIKEWISE, Gatchalian said the committee is also considering the amendments to the Price Act, which, as seen when the pandemic struck the country, is insufficient because thousands of Filipinos fall victim to unconscionable price increases that are not subjected to any price ceiling.

He said the three bills being prioritized by the Committee are fully supported by the Department of Trade and Industry.

“Once passed, these bills hope to create a more inclusive economy for every Filipino,” he said.

According to Gatchalian, other bills that have been referred to the trade and industry panel and now under study are amendments to the Cheaper Medicines Act and the Intellectual Property Code.

Engaging Cha-cha

SENATORS, led by Senate President Vicente Sotto III, are also expected to pick up key reforms that were part of their unfinished business, and which they believe would pull the rug from under resurgent moves in the House, supposedly fueled by a “clamor” from local executives, to amend the Constitution.

The amendments to the Public Service Act (PSA), where Sotto is a key mover, and the retail liberalization amendments, are of this mold.

Drilon said on Sunday that the avowed need for Charter change, which is to make the Charter more investment-friendly, will be mooted by the passage of the amended PSA. Drilon, a former secretary of justice, also reminded House advocates for Charter change that their other avowed basis for Cha-cha, i.e., to “institutionalize” the Mandanas ruling, is not necessary since SC rulings are deemed part of the law of the land already.

Meanwhile, the pandemic has also given some lawmakers cause to push their pet bills.

Two measures pending in late 2019, the Department of Disaster Resilience and the Department of Overseas Filipinos were recently cited as becoming more relevant in light of the pandemic-induced problems.

For instance, the latter bill is seen needed in times like the pandemic, when nearly half a million Filipino workers were displaced from their jobs, sending various government agencies scrambling to repatriate them. At press time, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reported the number of those repatriated is nearing 100,000.

Gov't charting 'safe course' for PH while fighting COVID-19;
gains in social welfare, labor, agriculture, environment cited

PAGE 1/ 1/3

July 23, 2020
DATE

Gov't charting 'safe course' for PH while fighting COVID-19; gains in social welfare, labor, agriculture, environment cited

Published July 22, 2020, 2:36 PM

by [Genalyn Kabiling](#)

The government is working to chart a "safe course" for the Philippines through these uncertain times and recover its gains disrupted by severe impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles announced Wednesday.



Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles
(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

According to Nograles, the government's measures to uplift the plight of the people affected by the health emergency will be included in President Duterte's State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday.

The President's upcoming annual address will be different from past SONAs since he will deliver it in front of a limited audience at the House of Representatives in Quezon City, but will be "more important more than ever," he said.

"Malamang marami sa atin ay maninibago—kasama na dito si Presidente—pero hindi magbabago o mababawasan ang kahalagahan ng talumpating ito: ang pag-ulat ng estado sa ating bayan, at pagbalangkas ng mga hakbang na gagawin ng gobyerno para i-angat ang buhay ng bawat Pilipino (Maybe many will feel change, including the President, but it does not change or diminish the importance of this speech: The report to the nation, the crafting of measures the government to take to uplift the lives of every Filipino)," Nograles said during a virtual pre-SONA forum Wednesday.

"Such a report is more important now, more than ever, as government works to chart a safe course for our country as it navigates through unfamiliar and uncertain times, as it works to recoup the gains we have made in the President's first three and a half years," he added.

As the pandemic left more than a thousand people dead and thousands infected in the country, Nograles recognized that the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the nation has been "matindi, malawak, at masakit (severe, widespread, and painful).

The pandemic has resulted in job losses, involuntary hunger among families, and a drop in enrollment in both public and private schools, according to the Palace official.

"May mga pamilyang di makakain. May mga pamilyang di makakapag-paaral (There are families who have nothing to eat. There are families who can't send their kids to school). As in any natural disaster, it is society's most vulnerable sectors that have borne the brunt of this pandemic: our farmers, our youth, our poor," he said.

Nograles said there has been a slowdown in businesses that resulted in unemployment and lower tax collection. More than 70,000 overseas Filipino workers are expected to return home after being displaced by the pandemic abroad, he added.

A recent survey also showed that 20.9 percent of Filipinos or 5.2 million families experienced involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months, Nograles said.

Education authorities have also recorded a drop in enrollment in schools due to the economic impact of the pandemic on the families.

Gov't charting 'safe course' for PH while fighting COVID-19;
gains in social welfare, labor, agriculture, environment cited

PAGE 1/ 2/3

July 23, 2020
DATE

“Only 27% of those enrolled in private institutions of learning have returned to their schools, as many private schools students have been transferred by their parents to public schools with families feeling the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. Overall, according to Secretary Briones, the number of enrollees in both private and public schools has so far reached only 77% of DepEd’s enrollment target of 27 million,” Nograles said.

Amid the adverse impact of the pandemic, Nograles assured the nation that the government has implemented assistance packages worth billions to help ease the suffering of people.

Citing information from Social Welfare Secretary Rolando Bautista, he said that more than P106 billion of the social amelioration program was distributed to benefit more than 19 million beneficiaries during the pandemic. The government also provided assistance to workers, farmers and students.

“The Department of Labor and Employment, for its part, has extended financial aid totaling P6.4 billion to over 1.18 million displaced employees in the formal and informal sectors of the economy, including returning OFWs,” he said.

“The Department of Agriculture released cash subsidies to over a million affected farmers and fisherfolk amounting to P6 billion,” he added.

At the third and final pre-SONA forum, the President’s security, justice and peace cabinet cluster led by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana reported on efforts to protect and safeguard the interest of the people and the nation.

The cabinet group also cited government’s efforts to protect national territories and to safeguard territorial integrity, sovereignty and sovereign rights, ensure welfare of overseas Filipinos, strengthen rule of law, institutionalize an efficient and impartial justice system, advance and protect human rights and attain just and lasting peace, according to Nograles.

The Cabinet cluster likewise highlighted how the country has increased its defense and security engagements with the international community in areas of logistics and defense support as well as how the government shifted from a military-centric to a civilian-led approach in confronting the armed communist movement and ending armed communist insurgency. The group also reported on concerted efforts in orchestrating COVID-19 containment and recovery efforts.

At the same forum, the cabinet cluster on climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction led by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu also reported on the government’s programs to build stronger and safer communities amidst tropical cyclones, strong earthquakes and other natural disasters.

The Cabinet report included government’s efforts to respond to disasters through assistance for search, rescue and retrieval operations; cash for work; loan assistance for agricultural production, processing facilities; and farm improvement for typhoon, earthquake victims, and the recent Taal Volcano eruption.

Nograles said the report also highlighted improved natural systems, which include the rehabilitation of Boracay and Manila Bay; enhanced climate-resilient communities, reforestation through the Enhanced National Greening Program, and better management of hazardous wastes, particularly medical wastes due to COVID-19.

The Palace earlier announced the President has decided to deliver his speech at the Batasan instead of doing it via video conference from the Palace. The Presidential Security Group has promised to implement additional security and health measures to provide “a 360-degree shield” for the President when he delivers his SONA. Nograles said the President’s fifth SONA will be markedly different from his first four addresses, as well as those that preceded his tenure as Chief Executive, due to the existing health precautions.

“He will be addressing the nation from the same podium, but for the safety of all the members of Congress and the employees of the House, he will deliver his SONA in a chamber that will not be filled by the legislators, officials, and dignitaries that usually attend this function,” he said.

Stricter community quarantine in NCR still possible:

TITLE: Palace

PAGE 1/ 1/2

July 23, 2020

DATE

Stricter community quarantine in NCR still possible: Palace

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos July 22, 2020, 11:18 am



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque. (File photo)

MANILA – Malacañang on Wednesday raised the likelihood of placing Metro Manila under a stricter community quarantine after July 31.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque was not discounting the possibility that Metro Manila might be under modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ), the second-highest quarantine classification if coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases in the country's metropolis continue to spike.

"Yes, a reversion to MECQ or a more stringent quarantine is possible. I hope it will not happen though," Roque said in an interview with CNN Philippines.

President Rodrigo Duterte was supposed to place Metro Manila under MECQ from July 16 to 31 but decided to retain the general community quarantine (GCQ) classification, a more relaxed community quarantine, in the area.

As of Tuesday, around 38,248 Covid-19 infections have been recorded in Metro Manila, according to the Department of Health's Covid-19 tracker.

There are still 24, 244 active Covid-19 cases in Metro Manila, the tracker revealed.

Around 13,037 people have already recovered from the disease, while some 967 Covid-19 patients in the country's metropolis have died.

Roque remained optimistic that a stricter community quarantine would not be imposed in Metro Manila after July 31.

"That's a distinct possibility [that a more stringent quarantine might be imposed] although a possibility that I wish would not happen because we all know that while we have to contain the disease, we also need to restart our livelihoods," he said.

Roque made the remarks as he admitted that another economic recession in Metro Manila, in case MECQ or a stricter quarantine classification is implemented, would be a big problem.

"We come to a very crucial point where I think the economy can no longer afford a shutdown anew," he said.

On July 16, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases ordered the reclassification of several business industries in the country to revive the economy in Metro Manila and Calabarzon.

Roque expressed hope that Filipinos would cooperate to avoid the possibility of imposing a more stringent community quarantine in Metro Manila.

Stricter community quarantine in NCR still possible:

July 23, 2020

TITLE: Palace

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

He was confident that Filipinos would take part in the country's fight against Covid-19 by continuing heeding the quarantine and health protocols imposed by the government to contain the disease.

"I'm confident the Filipinos actually will cooperate to an even greater degree than they have shown," Roque said. "The Filipinos will cooperate when they have to. And I think the message has been well-received by Filipinos that we need to take care of our health so that we can proceed and pursue a livelihood anew." **(PNA)**

Only 4 PHL provinces Covid-free

By [Claudeth Mocon-Ciriaco](#)

July 23, 2020



The famous Marlboro Hills of Batanes's Batan Island, seen in this BusinessMirror file photo, offers a scenic view of the Pacific Ocean and the dormant Mount Iraya and is a favorite among foreign tourists. The Department of Tourism is counting on domestic tourists to make up for the huge income drop that tourist-related businesses are expected to sustain with the spread of COVID-19.

FROM 41 provinces in May, the Department of Health (DOH) reported on Wednesday that there are only four remaining provinces with no Covid-19 cases in the country.

Dr. Beverly Lorraine Ho, director of the DOH Health Promotion and Communication Service, said that as of July 21, Batanes, Quirino, Aurora and Dinagat Island are still Covid-free.

Ho said that one of the factors for why these provinces still have no recorded infections is that they are “isolated”.

“Bukod sa isolated dahil ang iba sa mga probinsiyang ito ay isla. Ipinagmamalaki po namin ang balitang ito at inaanyayahan na ipagpatuloy ang measure na kanilang nasimulan to make sure that wala silang Covid-19 [Besides being isolated, some of them are islands. We are proud of this fact and encourage them to keep doing what they did to ensure they don't have infections],” Ho said.

She said the local government units in these provinces are “very active in terms of screening people.” Meanwhile, as of 4 p.m. of July 22, the DOH recorded 1,594 confirmed cases, bringing the total number of Covid-19 cases to 72,269.

The additional cases were reported based on the total tests done by 78 out of 89 current operational laboratories.

There were 342 recoveries, bringing the total number of recoveries to 23,623.

Six deaths were recorded, of which 5 (83 percent) occurred in July and 1 (17 percent) in June. Deaths were from the National Capital Region (2 or 33 percent), Region 6 (2 or 33 percent), Region 7 (1 or 17 percent), and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (1 or 17 percent).

Eighty-nine duplicates were removed from total case count. These numbers undergo constant cleaning and validation.

Image Credits: [Stephanie Tumampos](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/07/23/only-4-phl-provinces-covid-free/>



PERA-PERA SA ANGKAS BARRIER?; UNAHAN SA BAKUNA VS COVID-19

July 22, 2020 @ 12:16 PM 19 hours ago

Sa pagkakaalam ng ating Uzi, wala pa talagang malinaw na patakaran ang pambansang pamahalaan ukol sa barrier o harang sa pagitan ng driver at angkas nito sa motorsiklo.

Mayroong mga rekomendasyon, oo, pero walang malinaw na batas na nagsasabing 'ito' na ang nararapat at maaaresto at/o magmumulta ang sinomang lalabag.

Binabanggit natin ito dahil sa natanggap ng ating Uzi na may gumawa na ng ordinansa o resolusyon na pagmumultahin at/o ikukulong na ang mga walang motor barrier.

Ibinalita ito sa Sta. Maria Netizen, ng Sta. Maria, Bulacan at ipinakita pa ang litrato ng nakapaskil na anunsyo ukol sa ordinansa o resolusyon.

Sa San Miguel, Bulacan umano ito nagaganap at epektibo ang ordinansa o resolusyon noong Hulyo 20, 2020 at ipinaskil na ng San Miguel Municipal Police Station ito.



Ang parusa rito, P20,000 hanggang P30,000 o kulong na isang buwan hanggang anim na buwan.

Kayong mga nasa Inter-Agency Task Force, pupwede po bang silipin ninyo ang katotohanan dito at bigyang-linaw ang publiko?

UNAHAN SA BAKUNA VS COVID-19

Nag-uunahan ang iba't ibang bansa at kompanya sa paggawa ng bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Kabilang sa mga nag-uunahan ang Russia, Japan, Amerika, Britain, China at siyempre pa, ang mahal kong Pinas.

Sinasabi ng Russian Defense Ministry na nagamot at wala nang COVID-19 ang 18 sundalo nitong sumailalim sa bakunang gawa ng Russia.

Bagama't sinasabi ng Russian Health Ministry na hindi pa kumpleto ang pagsusuri o trial, sakaling mapatunayan sa mas malawak na testing ang bakuna nila, gagawa na sila ng 200 milyong yunit ng gamot na kanilang ipagagamit at ibebenta na rin sa iba sa ilang buwang darating.

Ang Japan naman, sinasabing nasa clinical trial na sa antas ng mga tao ang ginagawang bakuna ng mga kompanyang Anger, Inc. at kasama ang Osaka City University Hospital ang paggawa nito.

Kung magiging matagumpay ang trial, gagawa at magbebenta na sila ng bakuna sa Marso hanggang Nobyembre 2021.

Gumagawa na rin ang Amerika, sa pangunguna ng US biotechnology company na Moderna, Inc.; ang Britain sa pangunguna ng AstraZeneca Plc at ang China sa pangunguna ng CanSino Biologics, Inc.

Maging ang gumawa ng Dengvaxia na Sanofi Pasteur ay nagmamadali rin sa paggawa ng bakuna.

MGA CLINICAL TRIAL

Lahat nang ito, tapos na umano sa clinical trial sa mga hayop at nasa antas na ng trial sa mga tao.

Sa Phase 1 ng clinical trial sa tao, kaunti lang muna ang sinusuri at inaalam kung ano ang mga epekto sa mga iniksyunan ng bakuna.

Sa Phase 2, mas maraming tao, daan-daan o libo ang pasyenteng isasalang at aalamin kung gagaling ang lahat o higit na nakararami sa mga ito at kung walang gaanong masamang epekto ng bakuna.

Sa Phase 3, dapat na libo-libo na ang pasyenteng isasailalim dito at hangga't maaari, kasama ang ibang lahi sa ibang bansa at kung higit na nakararami ang gagaling at walang gaanong masamang epekto, rito na aarangkada ang paggawa, pagbibiyahe at pagbebenta ng bakuna.

Isang malaking katanungan umano, kung maging matagumpay ang Phase 2, hindi na ba kailangang isagawa ang Phase 3?

Problema na lang kung tatanggapin o hindi ng isang bansa ang bakuna na maaaring dumaan sa Phase 2 at kahit pa Phase 3 na bakuna.

PINOY AKSYON

Aktibo rin ang mga siyentistang Pinoy mula sa University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital at iba pa sa pagdiskubre, pag-testing at paggawa ng posibleng bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

At nagsisilbing inspirasyon ng mga ito ang pangako ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magbibigay ang pamahalaan ng P50 milyon para sa mga Pinoy na makadidiskubre ng bakuna na orig sa Pinas.

Kabilang sa mga tinitingnan ang bisa ng Virgin Coconut Oil at ilang halamang- gamot sa lagnat, ubo at sipon kung epektibo ang mga ito bilang pangunahing sangkap sa bakuna.

Heto ngayon ang isang balita: totoo bang gumagaling ang mga preso sa Cebu sa COVID-19 sa paglanghap ng kumukulong VCO at luyang dilaw?

Paano naman ang sinasabing kayang sirain ng VCO mismo ang virus ng COVID-19 na kumakapit sa katawan ng tao?

Sana, magtagumpay ang mga Pinoy at iba pang bayan sa pagdiskubre ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19 sa pinakamadaling panahon.

Pansamantala, habang wala pang bakuna, sumunod po tayo lahat sa mga batas sa pakikipaglaban sa sakit gaya ng laging pagsusuot ng face mask, social distancing, paghuhugas ng kamay, disinfection ng mga bahay, opisina at lugar ng trabaho, pag-uulat sa mga awtoridad ng mga posibleng may dalang COVID-19 at iba pa.

How rich countries, PHL face the crisis

By [BusinessMirror Editorial](#)

July 23, 2020

AS of June 2020, most G-20 member countries had committed to fiscal stimulus packages in their attempt to soften the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Out of all G-20 countries, Japan had passed the largest fiscal stimulus package that amounts to \$2.18 trillion or about 40 percent of its gross domestic product.

From the Associated Press: “European Union leaders finally clinched an unprecedented €1.82 trillion [\$2.1 trillion] budget and coronavirus recovery fund early Tuesday. To confront the biggest recession in its history, officials said the EU had a consensus on a 750 billion euro coronavirus fund to be sent as loans and grants to the countries hit hardest by the virus. That comes on top of the seven-year 1 trillion euro EU budget.”

Bloomberg News: “Australia’s government will pump a further A\$20 billion (\$14 billion) into supporting the jobs market as a surge in coronavirus infections threatens to prolong the nation’s first recession in almost three decades. The government’s signature wage subsidy program, which is currently supporting about 3.5 million workers, will be extended by six months until the end of March, albeit at a lower rate, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Tuesday. A supplement to unemployment benefits will also be extended, again at a lower rate.”

USA Today: “Congressional leaders are hoping to have another coronavirus aid package ready by the end of July, another tranche of funds to pile on to the \$3 trillion already passed to counter the pandemic and its sweeping impacts on the country. But while both sides of the aisle agree more funds will be necessary to help families, workers, businesses and the national economy recover, Republicans, [Democrats](#) and the [administration](#) still have significantly different ideas of what should be included in the next package, including the possibility of another stimulus check for some Americans.”

In the Philippines, our lawmakers are crafting legislation that can help cushion the pandemic’s economic impact. The House of Representatives approved on third and final reading early last month the proposed P1.3-trillion Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy (ARISE), which is expected to propel economic growth this year. At the Senate, the Bayanihan to Recover As One measure was approved on second reading before Congress went on a scheduled seven-week recess from June 5 to July 27.

Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, House Committee on Ways and Means chairman and one of the principal authors of ARISE, said the stimulus package will help protect and assist up to 15.7 million workers, create 3 million short-term jobs, and 1.5 million infrastructure jobs over three years, and help up to 5.57 million micro, small and medium enterprises.

While the Philippine stimulus package being deliberated in Congress can't compare to the trillion dollars earmarked by rich countries, it can help lessen the pain. In its final form, however, we hope that the measure will be inclusive and equitable. Our lawmakers must find a way to help millions of poor families in the informal sector—the street vendors, solo micro entrepreneurs, home-based workers, transport workers, *tuberos*, small coastal fisherfolks, landless rural poor, garbage collectors, on-call service workers (repairs, etc.), domestic service workers, bit players in the entertainment industry, and tourist aides, among others.

The informals constitute at least two-thirds of the Philippine labor force. But they remain invisible to policy-makers. For example, when the distribution of the cash assistance under the social amelioration program for the poor came, the government was flooded with complaints on the exclusion of numerous informal workers and their families. What the DSWD has is the list of around 4 million beneficiaries of the conditional cash transfer program. We hope that Congress can formulate measures to make the informals more visible. Let's not exclude the people who need government support the most.



4.1-quake hits Davao Occidental

Published July 22, 2020, 7:37 AM

by [Mike Crismundo](#)

BUTUAN CITY – A 4.1-magnitude earthquake hit Davao Occidental province on Tuesday afternoon, July 21, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

In its bulletin, Phivolcs said the tremor was recorded at 3:27 p.m.

The epicenter was plotted 372 kilometers (kms) southeast of Sarangani, Davao Occidental province.

The tremor had a depth of one km, Phivolcs said.

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

The regional office of the Southern Mindanao Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and provincial disaster risk reduction and management council (PDRRMC) there reported no damage or injury.

Meanwhile, a mild 3.7-magnitude tremor was also registered at 5:33 a.m., Wednesday, July 22, and its epicenter was traced 333 kms southeast of Sarangani, with a depth of 80 kms., Phivolcs also said, in its latest bulletin.

Earlier, a 3.8-magnitude tremor was also registered at 3:48 a.m. on the same day and its epicenter was located 236 kms of Sarangani, with a depth of 28 kms.

The two earthquakes were tectonic in origin, and no aftershock or tsunami alert was raised by the state agency.

The OCD and PDRRMC there also reported no damage or injury.

At least 8 more storms expected before year ends

2 TO 3 SEEN TO COME IN AUGUST

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:48 PM July 22, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The country may see at least eight more storms until the end of this year, according to the state weather bureau's tropical cyclone predictions based on frequency in the previous years.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Wednesday that for August, September, and October, two to three storms per each month may enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR).

For November and December, one or two storms each may be expected — which means that Pagasa expects, on a maximum, 11 tropical cyclones.

Rainfall predictions for August also showed that most of the country would receive a near-normal rainfall, while some parts of Eastern Visayas and Mindanao would get an above-normal amount of rainfall.

However, weather specialist Chris Perez clarified it does not necessarily mean that all of the predicted storms or typhoons would make landfall, as previous cyclone tracks showed that some moved along the country's eastern seas without crossing the landmass.

“But not necessarily dalawa or tatlo po ‘yong magla-landfall. Kung titignan man natin dito [...] ‘yong buwan ng Agosto po, although ang dominant track ng bagyo ay tumatama dito sa may bandang Luzon area partikular sa Central at Northern Luzon, may mga ibang bagyo rin na posibleng lumihis,” Perez said.

(But not necessarily two or three would make landfall. If we would take a look at the previous patterns for the month of August, although the dominant track of the storms is to hit the Luzon area particularly Central and Northern Luzon, there are some that actually moved away.)

“Lumapit lamang sa kalupaan ng ating bansa at hindi maglandfall, bagkus lilihis patungo sa northeast palayo ng ating bansa,” he added.

(They made an approach towards the country's landmass but did not make actual landfall, thus moving northeast away from the country.)

Meanwhile, Pagasa also noted that there is a 50 percent chance that a La Niña would occur by October or November 2020, as sea temperatures near the equator became a bit colder.

La Niña is defined as a cooler than average ocean water surface in the Pacific region, a lower than normal air pressure which contributes to the formation of more clouds that bring rains. [ac]

Scientists report that airborne coronavirus is probably
TITLE: infectious

PAGE 1/ 1/2

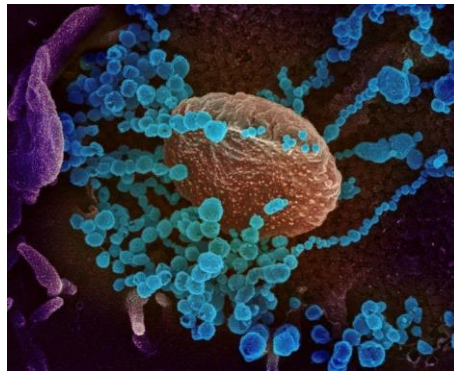
July 23, 2020
DATE

Scientists report that airborne coronavirus is probably infectious

Published July 22, 2020, 10:21 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

Scientists have known for several months the new coronavirus can become suspended in microdroplets expelled by patients when they speak and breathe, but until now there was no proof that these tiny particles are infectious.



A scanning electron microscope image of SARS-CoV-2 (round blue objects) emerging from the surface of cells cultured in the lab (AFP Photo/Handout)

A new study by scientists at the University of Nebraska that was uploaded to a medical preprint site this week has shown for the first time that SARS-CoV-2 taken from microdroplets, defined as under five microns, can replicate in lab conditions.

This boosts the hypothesis that normal speaking and breathing, not just coughing and sneezing, are responsible for spreading COVID-19 — and that infectious doses of the virus can travel distances far greater than the six feet (two meters) urged by social distancing guidelines.

The results are still considered preliminary and have not yet appeared in a peer-reviewed journal, which would lend more credibility to the methods devised by the scientists.

The paper was posted to the medrxiv.org website, where most cutting-edge research during the pandemic has first been made public.

The same team wrote a paper in March showing that the virus remains airborne in the rooms of hospitalized COVID-19 patients, and this study will soon be published in a journal, according to the lead author.

“It is actually fairly difficult” to collect the samples, Joshua Santarpia, an associate professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center told AFP.

The team used a device the size of a cell phone for the purpose, but “the concentrations are typically very low, your chances of recovering material are small.”

The scientists took air samples from five rooms of bedridden patients, at a height of about a foot (30 centimeters) over the foot of their beds.

The patients were talking, which produces microdroplets that become suspended in the air for several hours in what is referred to as an “aerosol,” and some were coughing.

The team managed to collect microdroplets as small as one micron in diameter.

They then placed these samples into a culture to make them grow, finding that three of the 18 samples tested were able to replicate.

Scientists report that airborne coronavirus is probably
TITLE: infectious

PAGE 1/ 2/2

July 23, 2020
DATE

For Santarpia, this represents proof that microdroplets, which also travel much greater distances than big droplets, are capable of infecting people.

“It is replicated in cell culture and therefore infectious,” he said.

Why we wear masks

The potential for microdroplet transmission of the coronavirus was at one stage thought to be improbable by health authorities across the world.

Later, scientists began to change their mind and acknowledge it may be a possibility, which is the rationale for universal masking.

The World Health Organization was among the last to shift its position, doing so on July 7.

“I feel like the debate has become more political than scientific,” said Santarpia.

“I think most scientists that work on infectious diseases agree that there’s likely an airborne component, though we may quibble over how large.”

Linsey Marr, a professor at Virginia Tech who is a leading expert on aerial transmission of viruses and wasn’t involved in the study, said it was rare to obtain measurements of the amount of virus present in air.

“Based on what we know about other diseases and what we know so far about SARS-CoV-2, I think we can assume that if the virus is ‘infectious in aerosols,’ then we can become infected by breathing them in,” she told AFP.

The micronutrients you need to support your immune system

By [BusinessMirror](#)

July 22, 2020

In an effort to further inform the public of the benefits of nutrients, an independent review was made on the global scientific evidence regarding the roles of nutrients in support of immune response, including response against viral infections.

The study was composed of a panel of experts, invited by Prof. Manfred Eggersdorfer, PhD, Professor for Healthy Ageing at the University Medical Center Groningen in the Netherlands. He is active as a member of the Advisory Board of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and has authored numerous publications in the fields of vitamins, innovation in nutritional ingredients, reviewer for a variety of journals and associate editor of the “International Journal of Vitamin and Nutrition Research.”

The research findings show a strong relation in the role of specific nutrients in supporting immune health in reducing the risk, duration, and severity of viral infections. The supplementation of nutrients on top of a well-balanced diet may help lower the risk of infection, and may play a role in faster recovery.

With restrictions on mobility and physical distancing slowly being eased, here are ways on how you can further support your immune system to fight against the risk of a viral infection.

Key nutrients

The expert panel confirmed that nutrients work together to support an effective immune system and reduce the risk of viral infections, including respiratory tract infections. These include the vitamins A, C, D, Zinc, as well as omega-3 fatty acids. For optimal results, it is desirable to ensure the intake of adequate amounts to help support the immune system.

Deficiencies or low status in nutrients have the potential to negatively affect the body's immune function and may, therefore, decrease resistance to infections. As supported by Covid-19 data, it is the elderly that are especially vulnerable, because they have relatively weaker immune systems, may suffer from comorbidities and nutritional frailty, and therefore often do not have an inadequate intake and uptake of the essential nutrients.

Oranges, fish, and meat to keep the doctors away

While there are ways to naturally consume the necessary nutrients with a healthy and well-balanced diet, nutritional supplements are a convenient and efficient way to assure adequate intake, help eliminate gaps in nutrition, and add support to the immune system.

For a strong immune system, an intake of 200 to 500 mg/day of vitamin C is recommended for healthy people. This can be achieved by eating three oranges or two kiwi fruits every day or by taking a supplement. Vitamin C requirements change depending on the health status of a person, and an intake of 1g to 2g per day is helpful for people who are sick.

Vitamin D is also effective in reducing the risk of respiratory tract infections. Studies have shown that an intake of 2000 IU daily is optimal. Fatty fish is rich in omega-3 fatty acids. However, if it is difficult to eat 2-3 portions of fatty fish per week to achieve the recommended amount, a supplement of omega-3 fatty acids (EPA and DHA) amounting to 250 mg a day would be a good alternative.

The micronutrients you need to support your immune

July 23, 2020

TITLE: system

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Zinc, while not stored in the body, is found in most of the meat we consume. Foods rich in Zinc are crab, beef, pork, and chicken, vegetables such as mushrooms and kale; chickpeas, lentils, and beans are also very good sources of zinc, with the recommended intake of 8 to 11 μg a day.

It is good to note that while nutritional supplementation will not necessarily prevent infections or cure the infection, it may help decrease the risk of falling ill, symptoms, and the duration, plus help in facilitating recovery. Therefore, a resilient immune defense is important to help reduce the risk or manage the implications of viral infections.