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# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

## Cimatu notes major turnaround in Cebu City

Published August 4, 2020, 1:55 PM

by [Calvin Cordova](#)

**CEBU CITY** – The overseer of the Task Force Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Cebu Roy Cimatu welcomed the continued decrease of COVID-19 cases in the city.



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

Cimatu, who is also the Environment Secretary, congratulated the city government following the downward trend in the number of COVID-19 cases in the past few days.

“We had a meeting with the advisory group here and I congratulated them for what they have done,” said Cimatu in a press briefing Tuesday.

Cimatu noted a major turnaround in the city’s campaign against COVID-19.

“I still remember when we came here, the highest daily at the time was 300 cases a day. But yesterday (Monday) we were able to register 22 cases. A very big improvement of what we have done and I’m very thankful for the cooperation of the people in complying the minimum health standards and health protocols,” said Cimatu.

Retired general Mel Feliciano, the task force’s deputy overseer, also noted the decrease in fatality rate in the city.

“From as high as 11 a day last month, now it’s down to two per day. We are aiming to lower it more. This is the direction of EOC (Emergency Operation Center),” said Feliciano.

As of August 3, the city has recorded 9,094 COVID-19 cases but only 2,764 were active cases. The city had 5,808 recoveries and 522 deaths.

Cimatu attributed the decline to aggressive contact tracing, mass testing and the lockdowns that the city enforced.

## Cimatu notes major turnaround in Cebu City Page 2/2

“One of the marching orders given to me was to make sure to comply with the guidelines given to the city. First order was to make some appeal to the people of Cebu to follow instructions and guidelines. That was the initial stage of the success,” said Cimatu.

Cimatu said the city has undertaken a style of contact tracing that was not being used in other areas.

“I reviewed the performance report of those who conducted the contact tracing. That was the first time I was able to experience the way contact tracing was done ever. There is nothing like this in other locations,” said Cimatu.

Cimatu added that residents have also become compliant with the health protocols “and I am very happy for that.”

“We will not stop here until we achieved the MGCQ (modified general community quarantine) status. This is the goal of each Cebuano for the economy to recover,” Cimatu said.

Mayor Edgardo Labella credited Cimatu for the improved situation in the city, which is now under general community quarantine.

“Thank you to General Cimatu for having guided us to where we are today. Thanks Cebuanos, health workers and barangay officials,” Labella said.

The mayor asked the Cebuanos to continue observing health protocols as he also appealed to the public to stay disciplined to prevent the city from reverting to a more strict community quarantine.

“I am challenging fellow Cebuanos to be united against this invisible enemy. Stay home if there is no good reason to go out. Inculcate into our hearts and minds the virtue of discipline because we will suffer if we don't have the discipline,” Labella said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/04/cimatu-notes-major-turnaround-in-cebu-city/>

## Cimatu credits GCQ to unity

By [Mary Ruth R. Malinao](#) (The Freeman)

- August 5, 2020 - 12:00am



“The first order was to make some appeal to the people of Cebu to follow instructions, guidelines and to me, that was the initial stage of success,” Roy Cimatu, the designated overseer of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) in Cebu, said in a press conference yesterday.

CEBU, Philippines — If there was one thing that helped Cebu City’s effort to be downgraded to general community quarantine, Secretary Roy Cimatu believed it was unity.

“The first order was to make some appeal to the people of Cebu to follow instructions, guidelines and to me, that was the initial stage of success,” Cimatu, the designated overseer of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) in Cebu, said in a press conference yesterday.

Last June, President Rodrigo Duterte sent Cimatu, the current environment secretary and a former armed forces chief, to Cebu to help in addressing the rising COVID-19 cases.

“I still remember that when I came here, of course with Gen. Mel (Feliciano), that the highest daily at that time was 300 cases a day,” he said.

On Monday, August 3, there were only 27 new cases recorded in the city based on the Department of Health in Central Visayas (DOH-7) update through its official Facebook page. The total confirmed cases was at 9,094, with 2,764 active cases.

The total recoveries, meanwhile, stood at 5,808 while total deaths at 522.

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“A very big improvement of what we have done for Cebu City. And, I’m very thankful for the cooperation of the people in complying the minimum health standard and protocols,” said Cimatu.

“It is not a matter of attitude change, it was a matter of knowing that they have to comply (with). I saw that they were misinformed about what they should do. When they were clarified of their role,



## Cimatu credits GCQ to unity Page 2/3

the people themselves, I pictured na nag-down na yung infection, then tuloy-tuloy na eh, and dahan-dahan lang naman, but it was worth the waiting,” he said.

### Other Reasons

Another significant factor Cimatu cited for the downgrade was the combination of intensified testing, contact tracing, and lockdown.

Cebu City was placed under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) from June 16 to July 15 and modified ECQ from July 15 to 31.

Granular or localized lockdowns were also implemented in some areas in the city to contain the spread of the virus.

Areas like Sitio Eyha in Barangay Guadalupe, Balaga Drive to Sitio Cekalco in Barangay Labangon, Tuada Compound in Barangay Tisa, to name a few, were placed under granular lockdown starting July 25.

A granular lockdown means restriction is limited to a specific area like a household or several houses, a street, or a compound where residents were exposed to a person with COVID-19.

In terms of contact tracing, the city was able to mobilize 134 contact tracing teams from only five teams last April.

### Next Goal: MGCQ

Mayor Edgardo Labella earlier said that contact tracing is being conducted every day.

Cimatu said efforts in containing the spread of the virus will continue in order to achieve a much relaxed quarantine status -- the modified GCQ.

“We’ll not stop here. We will continue until we achieve yung modified general community quarantine which is really the goal of each Cebuano,” he said.

Labella is also hoping for the MGCQ status after the GCQ status ends on August 15.

“Let’s make it as a challenge to all of us. Let us not flaunt with more reason that we should be circumspect, we should be more vigilant and we should be more alert. Because ang ECQ gamay ra man ang tawong manud, gamay ra ang tawong maglakaw-lakaw. Under GCQ perti na gyung daghana,” said Labella.

“Ang ako ganing hangyo sa mga katawhan, always adopt the attitude that we are still on ECQ so that we will be more careful... let us not put our guards down,” he added.

### ‘On Quarantine’ still

The mayor said there is a need to be very strict in the implementation of GCQ.

Labella recalled the first time the city was reverted back to GCQ from June 1 to 15, stating that the city has learned a "painful lesson" for the relaxing. During this time, the cases slowly surged, which made the city be placed again under ECQ for a month.

## Cimatu credits GCQ to unity Page 3/3

“I appeal to you. Let us inculcate into our hearts and minds the virtue of self-discipline. Disiplinahon gyud nato ang atong kaugalingon. Kay kung wala tay disiplina, kita raman sad maoy mag-antos labi na gyud kung mabalik ta atong ECQ status,” Labella told the city residents.

Labella also reminded the public to stay at home as much possible, wear masks in public places, observe physical and social distancing, and regularly conduct handwashing.

“Quarantine gihapon ta. Timan-i ninyo ha. Bisag GCQ pero quarantine gihapon,” he said. — **JMD (FREEMAN)**

## Cimatu admits he was ‘worried’ of COVID-19 cases in Cebu province

By: Rosalie O. Abatayo - CDN Digital|August 04,2020 - 07:35 PM



Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu talks with Mayors Samsam Gullas (Talisay City) and Kristine Chiong (City of Naga) after an IATF meeting with local chief executives on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. CDN Digital Photo | Rosalie Abatayo

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Interagency Task Force (IATF) Chief Implementer for the Visayas Sec. Roy Cimatu urged local government units in Cebu province to continue their COVID-19 responses as he admitted that he was getting worried about the additional infections being logged in the province recently.

Cimatu, in an interview after his meeting with [Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia](#) and the town and city mayors in a function complex in Cebu City on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, admitted that he was “worried” of the province particularly in terms of healthcare capacity.

“I am a little worried if mag-continue na mag-rise yan sa Cebu province,” Cimatu said.

“Yung ma-overwhelm yung health service natin. Kasi kung meron nang Cebu City, kung mag-rise pa yung Cebu province... kasi noon nung nag-rise ang Cebu City, mababa yung cases nga Cebu province pero umaangat na kasi yung Cebu province,” he added.

(I am worried that the health services sector might be overwhelmed since there are already a number of cases in Cebu City, what more if the cases in the province will also rise. Before when the cases in Cebu City were increasing, the cases in the province were low but now, it is starting to rise.)

During the meeting where Garcia presented the COVID-19 situation in the province, the governor assured that the province still has “more than enough” space in its provincial and district hospitals as the current occupancy rate of the COVID-dedicated beds is only at 24 percent.

Although he said that he was quite contented with the response of both Cebu City and Cebu province, Cimatu said the local government should continue to enforce health protocols to prevent the province from turning into another Metro Manila.





## Cimatu admits he was ‘worried’ of COVID-19 cases in Cebu province Page 2/2

“Ganyan ang sinasabi nila noon sa Manila nang biglang hindi na nahinto . Sana hindi na maulit dito. Sana hindi ma-experience dito kasi it’s a pity na nag-sacrifice na ang Cebu City, tapos itong province nadamay,” Cimatu said.

(That was also the case of Manila before then suddenly the cases continue to go up. I hope this will not happen here because it would be a pity if Cebu City had already sacrificed but the cases have already then the province would also be dragged in.)

The shoot up in the number of cases in Cebu province began in June when the Capitol opened the province borders to its residents who were working in Cebu City.

However, during the meeting, Garcia said the number of recoveries has already overtaken the active cases in the province. As of the August 3 data of the Department of Health (DOH-7), the province only has over 700 active cases remaining.

“We just cannot be looking at numbers. We have to look at the actual situation and the actual situation is not reflected in the cumulative total. It is reflected in how many are the active cases and pila man gyud ani ang critical?” Garcia said in a separate interview after the meeting.

“Do we have enough bed capacity nga di ma-overwhelm ang healthcare system? We have shown them nga even with our own lang, with the provincial and district hospitals, we have more than enough. Our bed occupancy is only at 24 percent,” Garcia added. /bmjo



August 5, 2020

TITLE :

PAGE 1/

Page 1/2

## Cimatu disallows cutting of trees at Cebu City Co cemetery

By John Rey Saavedra August 4, 2020, 7:49 pm



**NO CUTTING OF TREES.** Environment Secretary and Cebu Covid-19 response overseer Roy Cimatu concurs with IATF-EID deputy chief implementer Melquiades Feliciano as they visit the proposed grave site for deceased coronavirus patients on July 20. Cimatu on Tuesday (Aug. 4, 2020) ordered the regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to ensure that no trees will be cut in Sitios Baksan and Patay'ng Yuta in upland Barangay Sapangdaku and to make the proposed cemetery project environmentally sound. *(Photo courtesy of IATF)*

**CEBU CITY** – Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Tuesday ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Visayas to ensure that no trees will be cut in the grave site for the deceased coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) patients here.

“I made some suggestions during our visit here to save the trees, (and) instead put the grave side by side with trees para hindi na kailangan magputol ng kahoy except sa may natumba puede maputol pero nakatayo puede ilagay yung magkatabi yung graves (so that no more cutting of trees except those that have fallen already those can be cut but those that are standing, the graves can be placed beside it),” Cimatu said during a virtual press briefing.

Cimatu, the designated overseer of Covid-19 government response in Cebu, cited some cemeteries abroad where graves are placed right next to trees which made those graveyards compliant with environmental requirements.

He said the design of the Covid-19 cemetery in Sitio Baksan and Patay'ng Yuta in the upland village of Sapangdaku here can jibe with nature and transform the area into a “biological park” similar to one that he saw abroad.

He also instructed the regional office of the DENR to ensure that graves will not cause pollution to the water basin in the area.

Sapangdaku, he said, has its own river that leads to the tributaries downstream.



August 5, 2020

TITLE : \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

## **Cimatu disallows cutting of trees at Cebu City Covid-19 cemetery**

Page 2/2

“I am directing my regional director here to make sure that the cemetery (will) be compliant to the environment and make sure we have to protect the environment especially yung tubig na bumaba sa river dyan (the water that is going down the river),” he said.

Mayor Edgardo Labella said the Cebu City Council will pass an ordinance authorizing the construction of the Covid-19 cemetery in Sapangdaku.

Last month, Cimatu visited the site of the cemetery to ensure that the project “will meet the highest health and safety standards”.

The environment chief said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging and Infectious Diseases and the city government “have to ensure the development of roads leading to the site as well as the mango trees remain.

He said that “if the city can find a way to minimize the cutting of trees, the better”.

The proposal to build a cemetery exclusively for Covid-19 fatalities aims to address the backlogs in the city’s crematoriums.

The move is a result of the proactive approach being adopted by the city’s Emergency Operations Center headed by Melquiades Feliciano. **(PNA)**

## Cebu City may be on its way to recovery, says Cimatú

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital | August 04, 2020 - 06:15 PM



CEBU CITY, Philippines — Cebu City couldn't be considered the epicenter for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the country as Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú, the overseer of the Interagency Task Force (IATF), noted the drop in new cases, and death rate four days since the city was downgraded to General Community Quarantine (GCQ).

The IATF overseer said that the drop in death rate, which is now only at 1 to 2 per day, and the drop in daily new cases, which has remained in double figures since the end of July 2020, indicates that the city is now on the way to recovery.

“There was a time that NCR (National Capital Region) at Cebu City [were taking turns as being] the epicenter of COVID-19 [in the country]. Minsan mas mataas ang NCR, minsan ang Cebu City. Ngayon nakita natin nagdrop yung cases sa Cebu City, tumaas na naman ang sa NCR,” said Cimatú.

(There was a time that NCR and Cebu City were taking turns as being the epicenter of COVID-19. Sometimes the cases are higher at the NCR, sometimes the cases are higher in Cebu City. Now we see a drop in the cases of Cebu City, and the cases in NCR is rising.)

Cebu City has been downgraded to GCQ last July 31 while Metro Manila has been placed under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) from August 4.

Cimatú attributes the drop of the cases to the stricter implementation of the quarantine protocols. The interventions of the IATF has also been “successful.”

The secretary said Metro Manila should look at how the Queen City of the South handled the COVID-19 situation.

The compliance of Cebuanos should serve as an example to the rest of the Filipinos that if they changed their attitude towards following quarantine protocols, the coronavirus can be contained.

Cimatú assured Cebuanos that the IATF will continue to stay in Cebu to facilitate its recovery down to a Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ).

He said that now is not the time to be complacent as the cases continue to rise, albeit slower than before. The goal of Cebuanos should be to complete the entire quarantine and bring in the new normal way of living with the coronavirus. /bmjo

## DENR nagbabala sa pagbiyahe ng mango lumber



August 4, 2020 @ 11:37 AM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nagbabala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga trucking operators na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagkarga at pagbiyahe ng mango lumber ng walang kaukulang dokumento at permit.

Kasunod ito ng pagkakukumpikas sa P100,000 halaga ng mango lumber sa Malabon City nitong nakalipas na Linggo.

Ayon sa ulat ng DENR, inaresto ng mga tauhan ng Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group at Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) ang driver at dalawang pahinante ng isang Elf truck noong Hulyo 15, 2020 sa kahabaan ng Don Bautista Road, Malabon City dahil sa mango lumber na walang kaukulang dokumento.

Matapos masita sa checkpoint ay wala umanong maipakitang dokumento ang mga ito.

Agad namang kinumpiska ng PNP-HPG at DENR ang mga dalang mango lumber.

Sasampahan ng kasong paglabag sa ilalim ng Presidential Decree 705 o Revised Philippine Forestry Code ang mga suspek pati na ang truck owner at consignee nito. **Santi Celario**

## DENR to install more solar-powered treatment plants in Metro Manila

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on August 4, 2020



*The newly inaugurated solar powered STP along Roxas Boulevard in Manila. Inset: DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu and MMDA Chair Danilo Lim during the unveiling. (Photo credit: DENR)*

QUEZON CITY, Aug. 4 (PIA) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will install three more solar-powered sewage treatment plants (STPs) in Metro Manila, after unveiling the first one along Roxas Boulevard in Manila on July 30.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said similar solar-powered STPs will be installed along major river systems that drain into Manila Bay: the Libertad outfall in Parañaque River, Tullahan-Tinajeros River, and Las Piñas-Zapote River.

“The STP is a big step forward to making Manila Bay safe again for swimming, bathing, boating, fishing and other forms of contact recreation,” said Cimatu, who chairs the Manila Bay Task Force in charge of rehabilitating the historic water body.

Cimatu made the statement as he, together with Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Danilo Lim, led the inauguration of the first Manila Bay solar-powered STP, which is capable of treating 500,000 liters of wastewater per day.

According to the DENR chief, the project will ensure that no untreated wastewater from three drainage outfalls—Padre Faura, Remedios and Estero de San Antonio Abad—flow into the bay.

Cimatu said the untreated water from the STP will be recycled and stored in an underground tank with a capacity of 2 million liters.

The treated water, he said, will be used for watering plants along Roxas Boulevard, maintenance of two solar-powered comfort rooms to be constructed at the bay walk area, and fire trucks of the cities of Manila and Pasay.

Cimatu said the construction of STPs is “just one of the many geo-engineering interventions” for cleaning Manila Bay.





# DENR to install more solar-powered treatment plants in Metro Manila

Page 2/2

In January 2019, the DENR launched the rehabilitation project dubbed as “Battle for Manila Bay” with a massive cleanup activity along Roxas Boulevard, which was participated in by over 10,000 volunteers.

A month later, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte formed the Manila Bay Task Force and designated Cimatu as its chair to hasten government efforts to restore the heavily polluted bay to its former glory.

The President has allocated P43 billion for the implementation of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project within three years and at least 13 government agencies are working together to carry out the mission.

The government targets the source of water pollution in an effort to rehabilitate, restore and maintain the historic bay to a level fit for swimming, as mandated in the writ of continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court in 2008. (DENR/PIA-NCR)

## DENR, 28 KOMPANYA AT ORGANISASYON MAGTUTULUNGAN SA PAGBUHAY SA CEBU MAHIGA RIVER



August 4, 2020 @ 11:53 AM 16 hours ago

Nakakuha ng kakampi ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa 28 pribadong kompanya at organisasyon upang muling buhayin ang marumi at baradong Mahiga River sa Cebu City sa pamamagitan ng Adopt-an Estero/Waterbody Program ng ahensya.

Sa pamamagitan ng Memorandum of Agreement na nilagdaan ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu at nina Mayor Edgardo Labella ng Cebu City at Mayor Jonas Cortes ng Mandaue City, kasama ng mga kinatawan ng mga kompanya at organisasyon noong Hulyo 21 sa Cebu City ay nagkaisa ang mga ito na magtulong-tulong para sa rehabilitasyon ng Mahiga River.

Lumagda rin sa MOA ang anim na kapitan ng barangay na nakasasakop sa 9.1-kilometrong ilog na kinabibilangan ng Apas, Banilad (Cebu City), Kasambangan, Banilad (Mandaue City), Mabolo at Subangdako.

Kabilang sa mga pribadong kompanya na lumagda sa MOA bilang adopters ng Mahiga River ay ang Aboitiz Power Oil Visayas, A.D. Gothong Manufacturing Corp., Archdiocese of Cebu, ARN Central Waste Management Inc., AWG Development Corp., Banilad Town Center at Cebu Business Park Association Inc.

Nakiisa rin sa programa ang Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cebu Golden Restaurant, Cebu Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Cebu Land Masters Inc., Cebu Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels Inc., Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines-Cebu Wilkins Plant, Dynamic Power Adoptor, Ginebra San Miguel Inc. at Global Business Power.

Makikipagtulungan din ang International Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Jollibee Foods Corporation, Jomara Konstruck, Medclean Management Solutions Inc., Mezzo Hotel, New Millenium Petron Service Station, Pollution Abatement Systems Specialists Inc., Pollution Control Association of the Philippines, Inc. Foundation, Sarrosa International Hotel and Residential Suites, SM City Cebu, at The Lucky Group Management and Development Corp. Gaisano Country Mall.

Sa pamamagitan ng MOA ay nagkasundo ang bawat isa na magkaroon ng Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program upang mabawasan ang polusyon sa Mahiga River maging sa mga daluyan ng tubig na patungo rito.

“Mahiga River Creek is a critical waterway in the city and its current condition requires intensified actions from all stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of all rehabilitation measures,” sabi ni Director Lormelyn Claudio ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau sa Region 7.



## **DENR, 28 KOMPANYA AT ORGANISASYON MAGTUTULUNGAN SA PAGBUHAY SA CEBU MAHIGA RIVER**

Ayon kay Claudio, umabot na sa punto ng pagkasira ang ilog at nagiging banta na rin ito sa seguridad at kalusugan ng komunidad na nakatira malapit dito kaya't kinakailangan na ng mga residente at gobyerno ng tulong mula sa mga pribadong sektor.

Aniya, kinakailangan na ng tulong ng DENR mula sa mga pribadong indibidwal at organisasyon bilang bahagi ng kanilang "Corporate Social Responsibility" programs para sa maayos na pangangasiwa sa solid, hazardous at wastewater ng ilog kabilang na dito ang "surface clean-up" sa bawat bahagi ng Mahiga River.

Tutulong din ang mga ito sa information, education and communication campaign at social mobilization activities ng DENR at local government units upang magkaroon ng maayos na relasyon sa komunidad at makuha ang kanilang partisipasyon, kooperasyon at suporta para sa mga programa.

Samantala, sa pagtutulongan ng Cebu LGUs at EMB 7, titiyakin na susunod ang mga establisimyento sa pagsasaayos ng kanilang solid, healthcare at household hazardous waste base na rin sa nakasaad sa environmental laws sa barangay level.

Sa bahagi naman ng DENR, sa pamamagitan ng tanggapan ni Region 7 Executive Director Paquito D. Melicor, Provincial at Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices at EMB 7, magsasagawa ng monitoring sa mga industrial at commercial establishments at magkakaroon din ng regular na water quality monitoring sa mga piling lugar sa Mahiga River at iba pang daluyan ng tubig upang matukoy kung may pagbabago sa water quality ng ilog.

Isa sa mga pangunahing programa ng DENR, ang Adopt-an-Estero/Waterbody, ay isang hakbangin ng pagtutulongan ng mga nakatira sa estero, donor-partners, iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno at ng DENR.

Layunin ng programa na malinis ang mga estero sa basura, bara at burak, mahikayat ang mga komunidad na linisin ang estero at makuha ang kanilang aktibong partisipasyon sa mga ginagawang clean-up at sa pagpapatupad at paghahanda ng mga plano upang mapanatili ang malinis na estero.

## DENR taps military, says NPA a threat to tree-planting campaign

By: [Bong S. Sarmiento](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)  
[Inquirer Mindanao](#) / 09:01 PM August 04, 2020

KORONADAL CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here is tapping the military for security for its greening program in the Soccsksargen region after threats from communist rebels slowed the pace of its implementation in the past.

Felix Alicer, regional director of DENR, said efforts to boost and protect the forest cover in Soccsksargen had been hampered by security threats from the communist New People's Army (NPA), prompting his office to coordinate with the military in the implementation of its greening program in the region.

### ADVERTISEMENT

Alicer said at least 815 hectares had been set for its greening program in Cotabato province, identified as the priority area of the military's regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) in the fight against communist rebels.

"We have a convergence with the military and the police for the protection of our forests because DENR cannot do it on its own," he said.

Alicer said tree-planting programs in the area would also provide livelihood for the communities.

In December 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order No. 70 creating the ELCAC, supposedly to employ a "whole of nation" approach to defeating communist rebels.

The DENR-led National Greening Program, which is supposed to last from 2011 to 2028, had projected the planting of 1.5 billion trees on 1.5 million hectares of public lands nationwide.

Former President Benigno Aquino III issued Executive Order No. 193 in November 2015 enhancing the NGP to rehabilitate an estimated 7.1 million hectares of unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands from 2016 to 2028, according to a DENR project briefer posted on its website.

Mama Samaon, DENR regional technical services chief, said that of the country's 6.84 million remaining forest cover, four percent, or some 273,600 hectares, are in the Soccsksargen region.

He said the forest cover in the region grew by five to 10 percent from five years ago, when the national greening program was first implemented.

"We have seen forest trees growing in our forest lands in the last five to 10 years," Mamaon said.

He said that at least 996,000 hectares of forest lands straddled the region which is composed of the provinces of South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani.

## DENR taps military, says NPA a threat to tree-planting campaign

Alicer, a lawyer, cited the need to enhance the survival rate of trees under the NGP to boost the forest cover in the region.

“We are not satisfied with the rate of survival of trees planted under the NGP program,” he told reporters.

Across the region, Alicer said that 129,000 hectares of land had been planted with various tree species since the NGP was rolled out in 2011.

Alicer said the DENR regional office had been currently maintaining at least 8,000 hectares of tree plantations under the NGP program.

He said the government had allocated P5,000 per hectare to maintain the greening program.

# Ostriches in Quezon City catch the attention of netizens – and DENR

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Aug 4, 2020 7:20:51 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 4)** — Maybe someone has been playing Jumanji all along. This was the conclusion of some netizens after two ostriches were spotted running around a village in Quezon City on Tuesday.

Jumanji, a movie franchise about friends who became part of a virtual game filled with wild animals, trended on Twitter as netizens poked fun at the ostriches on the loose. Some said the players should finish the game already, in hopes the pandemic year could be back to normal.

“I have seen weird things in my life but this one ranks up there,” resident and video uploader Dino Rivera said in his Facebook post which has gotten more than 20,000 shares. Other videos of the flightless birds also surfaced online.

The ostriches have been captured, but where they came from remains a mystery.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said its Wildlife Rescue Center personnel went to the private subdivision in Barangay Pasong Tamo, but were told that the ostriches have been returned to the owner.

Ostriches can be kept as pets, said Dr. Rona Rose Sinaon of the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau, but owners should secure a Certificate of Wildlife Registration from the department.

Republic Act No. 9147 states that possession of wildlife is illegal unless the person can prove “financial and technical capability and facility” to take care of the animal.

Ariel de Jesus, an animal handler of DENR, told CNN Philippines they will request a meeting with the owner.

Meanwhile, using the promo code “OSTRICH” can get you a discount on Angkas Padala as the ride-hailing app rode on the viral video. The camera incidentally caught one of its riders while one of the ostriches was frantically running.

## Ostrich namataang tumatakbo sa isang village sa QC

Josiah Antonio, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 04 2020 03:39 PM | Updated as of Aug 04 2020 04:52 PM

MAYNILA (UPDATE) — Sa isang pambihirang pagkakataon, isang ostrich ang nakuhanan ng video habang tumatakbo sa isang village sa Quezon City nitong Martes ng umaga.

Mabilis na kumalat online ang mga video ng ostrich na nasa kalye sa Mapayapa Village III.

Sa Facebook post ni Gorgeous Umipig, residente sa lugar, makikitang hinarang sa gate ang ostrich. Aniya, 2 ostrich ang nakawala sa kanilang lugar at nahuli na rin ang mga ito.

## Environment, health groups call for total ban on importation of hazardous wastes

Published August 4, 2020, 11:31 AM

[by Ellayn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Environment and health groups appealed to the Philippine government on Tuesday to totally ban the importation of hazardous wastes.

This, following the re-exportation of the last batch of 80 containers of South Korean garbage that have been sitting in Northern Mindanao for the past two years.

“The completion of the complicated re-exportation procedures in the middle of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis that continues to disrupt and claim people’s lives is a big win in our people’s pursuit of environmental justice and the rule of law during these most difficult times,” EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

A total of 251 container vans of illegal waste shipments were re-exported to South Korea this year on July 18 (53 containers), March 27 (47 containers), February 16 (50 containers) and January 19 (50 containers), and last year on January 19 (51 containers).

The last 80 containers are scheduled for re-shipment on August 4 and 8, bringing the total number of returned containers loaded with garbage to 331.

“As the entry of foreign waste will likely persist unless corrective regulations are put in place, we call upon President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to implement his abhorrence against waste dumping through an order banning the importation of all wastes, including plastics intended for so-called recycling,” Lucero emphasized.

She noted that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has yet to revoke a policy allowing the importation of waste, including “recyclable materials containing hazardous substances.”

Meantime, Dr. Joe DiGangi, senior science and technical adviser of the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) says the return of illegally exported South Korean waste demonstrates that regulatory enforcement can and must continue during the pandemic.

“Now the challenge for both countries is to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment so that this sad history is not repeated,” he said.

The Basel Ban Amendment prohibits the export of hazardous wastes and “recycling” materials from rich countries belonging to Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, European Union, and Liechtenstein to developing countries.

DiGangi noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a massive increase in plastic waste that may be hazardous and is not recycled including personal protective equipment (PPE) and other healthcare waste, as well as other single-use plastic bags, food take-out containers and many others.



## Environment, health groups call for total ban on importation of hazardous wastes

Page 2/2

“Countries should protect themselves from the possibility of adding to their waste crisis by doing two things. In the short term, countries should move quickly to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, which prohibits developed countries from exporting hazardous wastes to developing countries. In the mid-term, countries should enact a ban on the importation of all wastes,” he said.

Greenpeace country director Lea Guerrero also pointed out that “the ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and the enactment of a total ban on waste imports is crucial, especially at a time when the nation grapples with recovery from a global pandemic that has led to the proliferation of medical and household waste.”

“Lack of prohibitions on waste imports and poor enforcement of existing regulations leave the country open to future incidents of illegal waste trade, which often results in recipient countries shouldering the health and environmental costs of foreign waste,” she added.

Chinkie Peliño-Golle, executive director of the Davao City-based Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), echoed the need for countries to support the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, which entered into force last December 5, 2019.

“As parties to the Basel Convention, we appeal to the governments of the Philippines and South Korea to ratify the Ban Amendment to prevent environmental injustice and to safeguard public health and the environment from the negative effects of the global trade in hazardous wastes and other wastes,” she said.

The ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and the imposition of a national ban on all waste imports, especially electronic, plastic and other hazardous and toxic wastes, are absolutely necessary to actively prevent the recurrence of waste dumping and trafficking in the Philippines, the groups said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/04/environment-health-groups-call-for-total-ban-on-importation-of-hazardous-wastes/>



## Re-exportation of remaining trash from S. Korea to be completed this week: official

Angelo Andrade, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 04 2020 08:35 PM



The remaining South Korean trash, currently dumped in Misamis Oriental province, will be re-exported this week, a Customs official said. *Angelo Andrade, ABS-CBN News*

MISAMIS ORIENTAL - Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Port Collector John Simon of the Bureau of Customs in Northern Mindanao assured that the re-exportation of South Korean trash dumped in Misamis Oriental will be completed this week.

At least 70 containers of trash were loaded to cargo vessel BF Mahia on Tuesday, making up the fourth batch of trash to be sent back to South Korea.

This coming weekend, an estimated of 20-30 containers will also be transported by another cargo vessel, completing the re-exportation of the more than 6,000 tons of misdeclared trash dumped in this province since 2018.

"From January to July this year, 200 [container] na yung ating natanggal. Plus previous year of 50, so 250 lahat. So yung 250 [containers] natanggal na, nasa Korea na," said Simon, the OIC of the Customs bureau in the region.

(From January to July this year, 200 [containers] have been removed. Plus the 50 the previous year, so, the total is 250. All the 250 that were removed are already back in South Korea.)

"Ngayong araw na 'to, ini-expect natin is 70," he added.

(Today, we expect to clear 70.)

But Simon said the issue is still not over even though all the South Korean trash are returned.

The government will still demand for damages, citing the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal.

"I-determine natin ang extent ng damage pagkatapos ng paglalagay ng pagtatapon ng basura. Kakausapin natin ang DENR at ibang ahensya, tingnan natin ano ba ang damage na nagawa sa atin ng basura na 'to," Simon said.

(We will determine the extent of the damage after all the trash are loaded for re-exportation. We will talk to the DENR and other agencies, and find out the damage caused by the dumping of these trash.

## NCR water supply adequate despite low Angat Dam levels

August 4, 2020 | 6:44 pm



METRO MANILA'S water supply is deemed adequate even after Angat Dam's supply hit minimum operating levels, according to the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

As of Tuesday morning, the water elevation of Angat Dam fell 14 centimeters to 182.04 meters, according to the weather bureau, known as PAGASA.

The current level of Angat Dam is about 2 meters above its minimum operating level of 180 meters.

The dam's normal operating elevation is 212 meters.

In a text message to *BusinessWorld*, NWRB Executive Director Seville D. David, Jr. said water supply for Metro Manila is still sufficient.

Citing projections by PAGASA, Mr. David said the country will have "near normal" rainfall for the rest of the year, adding that he expects the dam's water level to improve within the month.

"At the current situation and climate projections, we have sufficient supply of water for Metro Manila," Mr. David said.

"Water is critical in implementing preventive measures against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID19) pandemic such as hand washing and other hygiene and sanitation needs," he added.

Mr. David said the NWRB will retain Metro Manila's water allocation at 48 cubic meters per second (cms).

"We will retain the water allocation but we will closely monitor the level of Angat Dam for any significant deviations from the projections considering PAGASA's rainfall forecast," Mr. David said.

On May 14, the NWRB increased the raw water allocation of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to 48 cms against the previous 46 cms due to the intense heat at the time and in response to the pandemic. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## Maynilad upgrades La Mesa treatment plant



By [Jordeene B. Lagare](#)

August 5, 2020

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. on Tuesday said it had finished upgrading its facilities at the La Mesa treatment plant in Quezon City.

In a statement, the West Zone concessionaire said it commissioned last month the upgrading of its facilities at the La Mesa Treatment Plant (LMTP).

The work involved the rehabilitation of eight sedimentation basins and 16 filters, as well as the construction of a new sludge treatment facility.

The facility enhancements are part of Maynilad's P7.9-billion project to upgrade the LMTP 1 and 2 that together produce around 2,400 million liters of water per day, serving around 90 percent of the company's 9.7 million customers.

The project entails increasing the facilities' capacity to treat higher raw water turbidity, retrofitting structures to improve its earthquake resiliency and automating processes.

The upgrade, which started in 2017, is being implemented in phases so that the facilities can operate without interrupting water services for Maynilad customers.

"Once all upgrades are completed, LMTP 1 and 2 will have enhanced treatment capacity, automated processes and earthquake-resilient structures," Maynilad said.

In his speech during the event, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu thanked Maynilad for its continued investments toward ensuring water security.

Maynilad, majority-owned by Metro Pacific Investments Corp. serves the cities of Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon, as well as areas in Quezon City and Makati City.

## Eco-garden

*posted August 04, 2020 at 10:07 pm*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources CALABARZON Regional Office through its Manila Bay Site Coordinating/Management Office (MBSCMO) has established an eco-garden in Barangay Mayapa, Calamba, Laguna.



The garden has repurposed old tires, barrels, and other materials painted with bright colors. Old plastic bottles were used as plant containers for the vertical garden, which was established to promote waste segregation and reduction by diverting biodegradable waste as compost and identifying partner recyclers who can repurpose materials that would otherwise go to the sanitary landfill.

**Topics: [Eco garden](#) , [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) , [Manila Bay Site Coordinating/Management Office](#)**



## Balik sa kagubatan ng Baggao, Cagayan ang anim na iba't ibang uri ng agila

Harris Julio, ABS-CBN News  
Posted at Aug 04 2020 10:03 PM



Ilang mga agila ang pinakawalan muli sa kagubatan ng Baggao, Cagayan. Larawan mula kay Frederic Tomas, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer ng Baggao, Cagayan

Pinakawalan kamakailan sa kagubatan ng Baggao, Cagayan ang anim na iba't ibang uri ng agila na dating inalagaan ng mga lokal na residente.

Ayon kay Frederic Tomas, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer ng Baggao, bawal ang naturang buhay ilang o wildlife sa pangangalaga ng mga residente, alinsunod sa batas.

“Naipost po sa facebook. So basically po, bawal po kasi nating alagaan ito at gawing domesticated na mga pet. Kaya minabuti po ng ating opisina na kunin sa kanila,” sabi ni Tomas.

Ayon sa MENRO, indikasyon ito na marami pa ang buhay ilang o wildlife sa kabundukan ng Baggao.

Pero posible ring dahil sa unti-unting pagkasira ng kanilang tirahan, napapadpad ang mga ito sa residential areas.

Ipinasakamay muna ang mga nabawing ibon sa Wildlife Center ng DENR Region 2 para maalagaan nang wasto bago pakawalan sa kanilang natural habitat.



Larawan mula kay Frederic Tomas, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer ng Baggao, Cagayan

Makalipas ang ilang buwan at nang masiguro nang maayos ang kanilang kalusugan, ibinalik na sa kabundukan ang mga agila noong Hulyo 27.

“Depende po sa behavior ng mga eagles na ito, kaya napili natin yung dalawang site. And then, yung site po na yun ay definitely, medyo malayo na po ito sa mga kabahayan,” sabi ni Tomas.



August 5, 2020

DATE

TITLE : \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

# Balik sa kagubatan ng Baggao, Cagayan ang anim na iba't ibang uri ng agila

Page 2/2

"Kung pupwede, kapag nakita nila yung mga ni-release namin, huwag na huwag po nila galawin," dagdag niya.

Tiniyak naman ng lokal na pamahalaan ang masusing pagbabantay sa mga ito.

Itinataguyod din ngayon ng LGU Baggao ang "One Billion Trees" project para maprotektahan ang kabundukan.

## Lockdown paves way for tamaraw poaching

By: [Maricar Cinco](#) - Reporter / [@maricarcincoINQ](#)  
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:17 AM August 05, 2020



MINDORO PRIDE Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park in Occidental Mindoro province is home to more than half of the 600 tamaraw (dwarf buffalo) recorded on Mindoro Island. —GREGG YAN/CONTRIBUTOR

Illegal hunting of the endangered and endemic tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) has increased amid the community quarantine, with poachers becoming “more aggressive” in entering conservation sites inside the Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park in Occidental Mindoro province, according to environment officials.

Since the lockdown in March and the slump in tourism activities, forest rangers and wardens, who also worked as porters and tour guides inside the 106,655-hectare natural park, have lost their income source.

Despite this, Neil del Mundo, coordinator of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP), said all the more they needed to “intensify patrolling,” especially since hunters were taking advantage of the quarantine to carry out illegal activities.

### Armed poachers

In April, Del Mundo said hunters had entered the protected area and killed at least one tamaraw, a yearling.

“They were armed (whereas wardens) were not. We couldn’t do anything much about them,” he said.

Over the years, conservationists have been working to repopulate the rare forest buffalo after its global population had dropped below a hundred in 1969, TCP said.

A population survey in April 2019 showed about 600 tamaraw remaining on Mindoro Island, with 480 of these thriving on Mounts Iglit-Baco.

The annual tamaraw head count scheduled in April was deferred due to the pandemic. The TCP has 24 tamaraw rangers and 32 wardens, most of them members of the indigenous Taw’buid, Buid and Iraya tribes in Mindoro.

Rangers, who reported longer hours of duty, received salaries of P7,000 to P12,500 a month, while wardens earned P3,000. But Del Mundo said the program’s budget was slashed by 10 percent after government funds were realigned in response to the coronavirus pandemic. To sustain the allowances of the wardens and of at least one TCP ranger, the nongovernment Philippine Parks and Biodiversity formed the Tamaraw Society, which aims to raise a year’s worth of salaries and benefits for the furloughed park workers.





## Lockdown paves way for tamaraw poaching Page 2/2

### Crowd funding

“Our campaign is a COVID-19 emergency response to unite concerned groups,” said the society’s representatives, Nella Lomotan and Ann Dumaliang, in a statement.

So far, eight organizations and individuals, among them the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines, Masungi Georeserve and the Eco Explorations, have committed to each raise P20,000 for the crowd funding.

Del Mundo said the groups were aiming to raise over P1 million to sustain the tamaraw conservation efforts.

## Endangered turtle released back into Cagayan wild

Harris Julio, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 05 2020 02:54 AM



The Asian giant softshell turtle is classified as an endangered specie by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) because of its declining population. *Courtesy of Frederic Tomas*

An endangered Asian giant softshell turtle was released back into the wild in Baggao, Cagayan on Tuesday.

According to municipal environmental officer Frederic Tomas, the turtle is classified as an endangered specie by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) because of its declining population.

Tomas said that the last known sighting of the turtle in Region 2 was at the Addalam River in the town of Cabarroguis, Quirino in 2001.

Also known as Cantor's giant softshell turtle or frog-faced softshell turtle, it can grow up to 5.9 feet and weigh about 250 kilograms.

The one that was released in the river of Barangay Taguntungan, Baggao weighs approximately 450 grams and about 9-inches in length or size.

Last week, environment officials also set free 3 serpent eagles, 2 Brahminy kites, and a Philippine North Hawk-eagle in different secured locations on the mountains of Baggao.

Some of these eagles were rescued from residents who kept them as pets.

## Phl posts record 6,000 new COVID-19 cases



Published 11 hours ago  
on August 4, 2020 05:49 PM  
By [Gabbie Parlade](#)



The Philippines on Tuesday tallied a record high 6,352 new coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, bringing to 112,593 the total number of infections, data from the Department of Health (DoH) showed.

This is the highest number of new COVID-19 cases reported so far.

With an increase in the tally, the total active cases is now at 44,429 where around 91.2 percent are patients with mild symptoms while 7.5 percent are asymptomatic.

The National Capital Region (NCR) recorded the most number of newly-announced cases at 3,139 followed by Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, and Cebu.

The number of recoveries also increased to 66,049 with 240 new survivors of the disease while the death toll has reached 2,115 with 11 more fatalities,

In the breakdown of reports, Central Visayas acquired the highest number of deaths from the months of June and July.

Worldwide, Johns Hopkins University recorded that the range of infections has affected over 18.2 million as the United States leads the tally with 4.7 million cases.

## Compromise – one step back for Metro Manila

Published August 4, 2020, 10:12 PM

[by Manila Bulletin](#)



On one hand, we have the fact that the coronavirus is still very much around. As of July 31, the Department of Health and the World Health Organization said the Philippines had 93,354 cases and 2,023 deaths. The Philippines now has the most cases in the Western Pacific region — more than China's 87,245, Singapore's 51,531, Japan's 33,049, Australia's 15,582, South Korea's 14,269, and Malaysia's 8,956.

Most of our cases are in Metro Manila and Region IV – Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal – along with Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, Talisay City, Zamboanga City, and the towns of Minglanilla and Consolacion in Cebu. Within Metro Manila and Region IV, there are baran gays where strictest localized lockdowns are being enforced, because they have 80 percent of the cases

But Metro Manila and Region IV also account for 67 percent of the national economy. The lockdowns and other quarantine restrictions have severely harmed the economy, especially the consumer sector, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said. The economy sank to its lowest in April and May, he said, but is now slowly recovering with the easing of government restrictions.

Last July 22, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) warned that after almost five months of restrictions, many businesses were in danger of closure. The next day, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) said 52.66 percent of the nation's micro, small, and medium enterprises have closed down either permanently and partially.

Last weekend, representatives of the Philippine Medical Association, the Philippine Nurses Association, and the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists met with government officials and asked for a "time-out" – a return to the original Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said he can understand that the health professionals are weary, but millions of people need to go back to work or else they will die of hunger.

President Duterte decided for a compromise – one step back for Metro Manila to "Modified ECQ" (MECQ) instead of two steps back to the original stringent ECQ as the health workers recommended. The M ECQ will be in force for 15 days, after which the government officials concerned will make another appraisal of the situation.

We are confident that they will carry on with the utmost concern for what is best for the nation – for the medical frontliners, for people who need to work, and for the nation as a whole .

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/04/compromise-one-step-back-for-metro-manila/>

## 3 MILYONARYONG BANSA SACOVID-19; LUMAHOK SA GIYERA, 'DI MAMULITIKA



August 4, 2020 @ 2:26 PM 15 hours ago

Sa 215 bansa at teritoryo na sinasalakay ng coronavirus disease-19, may tatlo nang bansa ang milyonaryo sa rami ng nabanggit na sakit.

Ang United States of America, may 4,861,559 biktima at 158,907 patay; Brazil – 2,751,665 biktima at 94,702 patay; at India – 1,855,331 biktima at 38,971 patay.

Gayunman, ang Mexico ay pangatlo sa may pinakamaraming patay sa bilang na 47,746; pang-4 ang United Kingdom na may 46,210; at pang-6 ang Italy na may 35,166.

Ang mga bansa sa Latin America ay may 5 milyon na ring biktima kung isasama ang Brazil na may 2.8 milyon.

Sa 215 bansa at teritoryo sa buong mundo na may COVID-19, 33 lang sa mga ito ang wala pang nababalitaang walang patay sa nasabing sakit.

Kabilang sa mga wala pang naitatalang patay ang Vatican City bagama't may 12 na itong tinamaan mula sa mahigit lamang na 800 na kabuuang populasyon nito, kabilang na ang ilang cardinal at paring Filipino.

Ang nasabing 3 milyonaryo sa COVID-19 ang bumubuo ng nasa kalahati ng kabuuang 18 milyong biktima sa buong mundo at samantalang 421,702 naman ang parte ng anim na nabanggit na bansa sa kabuuang 696,795 patay.

Nasaan ang mahal kong Pinas?

Pang-26 tayo ngayon sa may pinakamaraming biktima mula sa pang-36 dalawang linggo na ang nakararaan subalit pang-33 tayo sa may pinakamaraming patay.

At nagbibilang pa halos lahat ng bansa ng mga biktima at patay pataas.

### KALAGAYAN SA BUONG MUNDO

Very busy ngayon sa USA ang mga politiko, lalo na ang dalawang naglalabang pang-Presidente na sina Donald Trump at Joe Biden at sinasabi ni Trump na ipagpapaliban nito ang halalan nila na



## 3 MILYONARYONG BANSA SA COVID-19; LUMAHOK SA GIYERA, 'DI MAMULITIKA

Page 2/4

gaganapin sa Nobyembre 3, 2020 dahil marami ang nakakanselang kampanyahan sa pagsambulat ng nasabing sakit at sila ang numero unong biktima sa kasalukuyan.

Sa Europa, tanging ang Germany ang nangahas na magbukas ng eskwelahan ngunit sa isang piling lugar lamang para ma-testing ang pagkalat ng COVID-19 ngunit todo-gwardiyado ng gobyerno nila para makaaksyon kaagad kung may mangyaring hindi maganda.

Marami namang balik-lockdown sa France, Spain, United Kingdom at iba pa laban sa pagbabalik at pagbangis ng COVID-19 sa mga ito.

Pare-parehong nagdedeklara ng recession o pagbagsak ng ekonomiya ang USA, UK at Europa.

Ang Singapore na isa sa pinakamayamang bansa sa mundo, bagama't nakokontrol nito nang kaunti ang pagdami ng may impeksyon at patay, bagsak na rin ang ekonomiya nito at wala nang bumibili sa mga mamahaling gamit gaya ng mga bag at alahas na may tatak na Hermes, Chanel, Louis Vuitton at iba pa at mga mumurahing gamit na lang ang binibili ng mga mamamayan.

Karambola ngayon sa Australia sa muling pag-arangkada ng COVID-19 na umabot na sa 500,000 ang may impeksyon kaya nagpataw ang pambansang pamahalaan nila ng anim na linggong lockdown sa Melbourne at Victoria, kumpara sa 15 araw na modified enhanced community quarantine sa Mega Manila.

Sa India naman, bumabagsak na rin ang produksyon ng mga generic drug na maaaring makasama rin sa suplay nito sa Pilipinas dahil nag-i-import tayo ng gamot sa kanila.

Sinasabing umabot na talaga sa mahigit 15 milyon ang biktima ng COVID-19 kapag pinagsama-sama ang mga kritikal, mild at asymptomatic at marami pa ang hindi naaabot ng testing nila sa mahigit 1.4 bilyong mamamayan ng India.

### MAYAYAMAN SILA, POBRE TAYO

Ang malaking pagkakaiba natin sa mga nabanggit na ibang bansa, mayayaman sila samantalang mahirap tayong bansa.

Magdeklara man sila ng lockdown, may pagkukunan pa rin sila ng pangsuporta sa kanilang mamamayan sa krisis at pagpapatakbo ng pamahalaan nila.

Ngayon ay halos lockdown ang modified enhanced community quarantine na ipinataw ng ating pamahalaan sa sentro ng ekonomiya ng mahal kong Pinas at apektado ang nasa 27 milyong mamamayan sa Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite at Bulacan.

Ang sabi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, ubos na ang pang-ayuda sa mga biktima subalit nasa likod nito ang pagtutulak niya sa Kongreso ng Bayanihan Act 2 na magpapagana ng pagbangon ng Pilipinas sa bagsak na kalagayan at maaaring pagkunan pa rin ng ayuda sa mga poorest of the poor na pamilyang Filipino.

Kasama sa pagkamada ng pondong gobyerno ang pangungutang sa ibang bansa at bangkong internasyonal subalit nakasandal pa rin ang pamahalaan sa mga nakokolektang buwis mula sa mga mamamayan at kita ng mga ahensya ng pamahalaan.



## **3 MILYONARYONG BANSA SA COVID-19; LUMAHOK SA GIYERA, 'DI MAMULITIKA** Page 3/4

Alam naman nating deka-dekada nang lumpo ang Pinas dahil sa matinding korapsyon at pandarambong at ngayon lang itinutuwid ni Pang. Digong para makalanghap tayo kahit konting ginhawa ngunit dumating naman ang hindot na COVID-19.

Ang malaking katanungan ngayon ay kung paano tayo makatutulong sa pamahalaan at magtulungan bilang mamamayan na ibangon ang ating bansa mula sa pagkalugmok gayundin ang ating mga lugmok ding kapitbahay at kabarangay!

Wala kasing ibang magtutulongan kundi tayong lahat na Filipino.

**PATAY NA HEALTH WORKERS: 1,800+ SA BUONG MUNDO; 600+SA USA**

Ayon sa mga nagrerekord ng mga nasawing health worker simula nang pumutok ang COVID-19 noong Disyembre 2019 sa China hanggang kahapon, may mahigit nang 1,800 ang mga ito at nasa 600 ang sa United States of America lamang.

Kaugnay nito, naging mainit na isyu hanggang ngayon ang karaingan ng ating mga health worker laban sa sobrang pagod at puyat ng lahat at kamatayan.

Binubuo ang mga health worker ng mga doktor, nars, midwife, medical technologist, radiologist at iba pa na nakatalaga sa mga pribado at pampublikong ospital, health center, paanakan at iba pa.

Naiintindihan naman ng Pangulo ang karaingan ng mga ito kaya ipinagkaloob sa kanila ang paraan para makapagpahinga kahit kaunti at mabawasan ang takot sa kamatayan at pagkakasakit sa kanilang hanay.

Bilang tugon, pinaiiral na ang MECQ sa Mega-Manila upang mabawasan ang kilos ng mga tao sa paglabas-labas nang hindi kailangan at kung lalabas man ay importante talaga ang lakad gaya ng nauugnay sa pagkain, gamot at iba pang tinatawag na essentials.

Kasama rito ang istriktong pagsunod sa mga patakaran sa social distancing, face mask at iba at pagtigil ng mga pampublikong sasakyan.

Kahit papaano, sa ilalim ng MECQ na tiyak na makababawas ng may impeksyon, makapagpapahinga ang mga health worker at maaaring magkaroon ng rotation ang mga ito sa pagdyu-duty.

Muli silang makababawi ng lakas ng loob na sumagupa sa kamatayan, pagod, pagkawalay sa pamilya at iba pa para sa mga susunod na araw makalipas ng 15 araw ng MECQ.

### **LAHAT APEKTADO**

Pero heto ang ilang dapat na isaisip pangunahin ng mga health worker.

Talaga namang hindi lang sa Pilipinas nakararanas ang mga health worker ng sobrang hirap, pagsasakripisyo at kamatayan na rin kundi sa ibang bansa.

Nabanggit na natin na mismo ang USA ay namatayan na ng mahigit 600 health worker at bahagi sila ng mahigit nang 1,800 na inililistang namamatay mula sa 64 bansa na sinasalakay ng COVID-19.





## 3 MILYONARYONG BANSA SA COVID-19; LUMAHOK SA GIYERA, 'DI MAMULITIKA

Page 4/4

Hindi ko sinasabing hayaan lang na mamatay ang mga health worker na Pinoy sa COVID-19, pagod, stress, puyat at iba pa.

Ang magandang gawin marahil ay ituring nilang sama-sama tayo lahat na naghihirap at namamatayan sa COVID-19 at sa iba't ibang anyo gaya ng kagutuman sa mga pinagbawalang magtrabaho at kumita, ng lockdown sa mga may pasyenteng maysakit na kasama ang buong pamilya o komunidad at iba pa.

Todo-puyat, pagod, pagkakasakit at kamatayan din ang sinasapit ng mga taga-local government unit, taga-national agencies gaya ng Palaso at Kongreso at marami pang iba.

Pero higit na napipinsala ang mga ordinaryong mamamayan na bumubuo ng higit na nakararami sa mga nagkakasakit, namamatay at naghihirap.

Kaya naman, ang paghihirap at sakripisyo sa giyera sa COVID-19 ay dapat pasan-pasan nating lahat.

Kung kailan matatapos ang problema, bakuna lang ang makasasagot at maaaring mapag-iiwanan tayo dahil maaaring wala o kulang tayo ng pambili ng gamot bilang mahirap na bansa.

Kung may pambili man, matutulad din tayo sa nangyari sa Dengvaxia na P600 lang ang presyo ng pangtatlong dosage ngunit umaabot sa P14,000 sa mga pribadong doktor at ospital.

### EHEMPLO NI BISHOP PABILLO

Isa sa mga bigyan naman natin ng pagpupugay si Bishop Broderick Pabillo, pinuno ng Archdiocese of Manila ng Simbahang Katoliko, sa ginawa nito sa mga simbahan na kanyang nasasakupan.

Pinaiiral niya ang katumbas ng Enhanced Community Quarantine sa halos lahat ng simbhang kanyang nasasakupan.

Walang gagawing misa na may mga parishioner at wala ring isasagawang ibang gawaing pangsimbahan gaya ng mga sakramento, seminar at iba pa.

Hindi baleng 'di kumita ang kanyang mga pari, madre at simbahan sa mga sakramento, blessings sa mga sasakyan, gusali at imprastruktura, limos at pasobre sa loob ng 15 araw.

Iba na talaga ang may aktwal na karanasan gaya ni Bishop Pabillo na minsan na ring tinamaan ng COVID-19.

Isang kritiko ang Obispo ni Pang. Digong ngunit gumagawa ito ng mga hakbang na makatutulong sa pagkontrol sa sakit na nakamamatay, nakahahawa at nakapaparalisa sa kabuhayan ng milyon-milyong Filipino.

Ang mga kritiko na politiko, aktibista, rebolusyonaryo at iba pa ni Pang. Digong at kanyang administrasyon, dapat ding magpahinga muna at makiisa sa lahat ng giyerang isinasagawa laban sa sakit.

Saka na ang awayan pagkatapos nito.

Ito ang tatandaan nating lahat: ang gobyernong binabanataan natin, malalaman nating dito rin tayo tatakbo para magpatulong kung matatamaan tayo ng COVID-19.

Tiyak na sasaluhin tayo ng PhilHealth, ng Malasakit Center, ng mga ambulansya ng mga barangay, ng mga government hospital at iba pa na nakaantabay para sa ating pagpapaospital, pagpapagaling, pagpapa-quarantine at iba pa kung hindi natin makayanan ang mahal na serbisyo ng mga pribadong ospital at doktor.

## Will Rody keep Sabah promise?



Published 5 hours ago  
On August 5, 2020 12:07 AM  
By [Aldrin Cardona](#)



The long simmering dispute on Sabah would not lead to a confrontational war as other drum beaters have projected, the heirs to the Sultanate of Sulu assured on Tuesday.

But the renewed campaign for Malaysia to recognize the sultanate as the rightful owner with the heirs bearing ancestral rights to the island should be settled through a government-to-government dialogue.

This was made clear by the Sulu Sultanate's Prime Minister or Wazir Amroussi Rasul, who stated that the Philippine government must help find a peaceful resolution to the sultanate's cause.

Rasul said support must come from no less than President Rodrigo Duterte, who made the Sabah claim as one of his campaign advocacies in 2016.

"Settlement of the Sabah issue is among the campaign promises made by President Duterte during the last presidential elections," Rasul stated. "The Tausug people will not forget his promise that he will give his full support to the Sabah claim."

Duterte had vowed to defend Sabah's sovereignty. There are about 500,000 Filipinos in the oil-rich island.

"We are allowing proprietary heirs to talk. Since it is part of our claim, it will be there as our land," Duterte said then.

"What has been the policy will always be the policy of the government especially those for the interest of the country. We have to stake our claim," he added.

But also in 2016, then Malaysian, Prime Minister Datu Seri Najib Tun Razak vowed to quash efforts to reclaim the island from Malaysia, citing Sabah had gained independence through Malaysia as recognized by the United Nations in 1963.

Then in July this year, newly-appointed Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein confirmed that Malaysia has stopped paying the cession money of RM5,300 (\$1,255.92) a year through lawyers representing the nine heirs of the Sulu Sultanate since 2013.



## Will Rody keep Sabah promise? Page 2/3

Hussein said the payments were made based on a treaty signed on 22 January 1878 between the then Sultan of Sulu Jamalul Alam and Baron de Overbeck and Alfred Dent of the British North Borneo Company.

Sabah eventually became part of the Malaysian Federation as one of its 13 states in 1963, although the Malaysian government recognized the British North Borneo Company's pact.

The Philippine government never had a part in the agreement.

But even before Malaysia had become a federation, President Diosdado Macapagal and the Philippine government claimed the territory of North Borneo on 2 September 1962, and the full sovereignty, title and dominion over it were "ceded" by the heirs of Sultan of Sulu, Muhammad Esmail E. Kiram I, to the Philippines.

Diplomatic relations were broken by the Philippines with Malaysia after the federation was formed with Sabah in 1963. Their diplomatic ties resumed only in 1989.

But Malaysia also continuously paid the Sultanate of Sulu cession money despite these tensions.

"Apart from the payments to the heirs of the Sulu Sultanate, Malaysia has never made any payment to the Philippine government," Hussein said.

He also reiterated that Malaysia did not recognize and entertain any claim by any party over Sabah. The state, he said, had been recognized as part of Malaysia by the UN as well as the international community.

He also claimed that Malaysia and the Philippines have an understanding that the claim over Sabah will not be raised at any regional or international platform.

"Until now, the claim on Sabah has only been raised by those who claim to be descendants of the Sulu Sultanate," he said.

"It will be up to President Duterte to do so. It was his campaign promise," Rasul said.

The Philippine government, however, had officially taken up the Sabah issue at least twice during Mr. Duterte's term after Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. chastised both the Malaysian and US governments for misdeclaring the island or its people as part of Malaysia.

After Locsin chastised Malaysian Ambassador Norman Muhamad for calling returning Filipinos from North Borneo as "expatriates."

"When this COVID-19 was starting and Zamboanga was getting quite a lot of infections from Filipinos leaving Sabah to return to Zamboanga, I told the ambassador, 'Don't you dare call them repatriates,'" Locsin said. "You just say you're moving Filipinos from one place to the other. Don't you dare call them that' and he has not."

Then Locsin lambasted the US Embassy in Manila for calling Sabah as part of Malaysia.

"Sabah is not in Malaysia if you want to have anything to do with the Philippines," an irate Locsin tweeted.



## Will Rody keep Sabah promise? Page 3/3

Sultan Muedzul Lail Tan Kiram, chief of the Royal House of Sulu, also issued a call for unity among the nine families staking their claim on Sabah to bolster the Philippine position.

In 2013 an army of 200 Tausug went to Sabah to assert the Philippine claim. The misadventure resulted in the death of some 60 Tausug warriors.

Former President Benigno Simeon Aquino III took the Malaysian position and demanded the Filipinos' return to Sulu.

That group was sent to Sabah by Jamalul Kiram III, one of the claimants to the throne of the Sultanate of Sulu. Jamalul died barely eight months after sending his warriors to Sabah in February that year.

## Solons seek Malampaya project extension

Published August 4, 2020 6:20pm

By TED CORDERO, GMA News

Lawmakers are pushing for the extension of the Malampaya gas-to-power project to prevent a looming energy crisis brought about by heightened demand and thinning resources.

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In a virtual forum, Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (Philreca) Rep. Presley de Jesus said Malampaya played a vital role in the country's energy security.

"Is it enough? That's the question. Natural gas is very affordable and dependable. Energy independence would help us sustain our rapid development," de Jesus said.

The so-called "power block" of the House of Representatives filed Resolution No. 1063, which calls on the implementation of national defense and security policies to attain independent and sustainable energy supply, while also focusing on extending the life of the Malampaya plant.

The Malampaya field supplies about 40% of Luzon's power needs.

Service Contract 38, covering the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project is operated by Shell Philippine Exploration B.V., together with its consortium partners Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corp., and Udenna Corp, which recently acquired Chevron's stake in the project. The contract will expire in 2024.

"Indeed, the issue of energy security has long-term repercussions that go beyond the power industry," APEC party-list Rep. Sergio Dagooc said.

"Energy security is a crucial factor in protecting and upholding our national sovereignty, so we can keep domestic economies running at full power," Dagooc said.

Dagooc pointed out that, with COVID-19 causing a strain on the global supply chain, it is no longer sustainable to keep relying on foreign fuel sources.

For his part, Ako Padayon party-list Rep. Adriano Ebcas gave said that "unless the government quickly addresses all these energy issues and rising demands, the Philippines may face an acute power shortage."

"These power shortages can have far-reaching effects—from access to energy and high energy cost, to livelihood, education, and of course, national security," Ebcas said.

Philippine Energy Independence Council Director Don Paulino said the speedy acceleration of the development of more energy resources can become an investment in the country's future.

"This country will have further growth, social mobility, and deeper impact on society if we have energy security and independence. Energy demand will increase as the Philippines continues to grow. We need two to three times the supply we have right now," Paulino said.

"This brings opportunities---now have an opportunity to develop our indigenous, renewable, and clean energy and transition from coal. This will result in more efficient and affordable energy," Paulino said.

The lawmakers noted that the continuous operations of Malampaya is a critical in ensuring a sustainable, uninterrupted supply of energy.

The gas field also accounts for 98% of domestic oil and gas production.

As one of the most successful Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements in the Philippines, it proves the country's potential for energy security and independence.

RECOBODA Party-list Rep. Godofredo Guya said that “now is not the time to get carried away with legal battles. We must tap the private and public sector to improve capacity and supply, and attract more investors.”

For his part, PNOC-EC president and CEO Rozzano Briguez underscored the need to fast-track the development of the energy supply.”

“We envision exploring new oil and gas sources to augment our Malampaya reserves,” Briguez said.

The PNOC-EC chief said the Department of Energy together with the University of the Philippines are conducting a study on the country's sedimentary basins. -NB, GMA News

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## Negros Oriental towns rocked by magnitude 3.7 quake

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lahu](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellahuINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:07 AM August 05, 2020



Epicenter of a quake that struck near Negros Oriental on Tuesday night. (Image from Phivolcs)

MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 3.7 earthquake rocked several Negros Oriental towns on Tuesday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

According to Phivolcs', the epicenter of the quake was at 10 kilometers southwest of Valencia in Negros Oriental, with a shallow depth of 6 km.

Intensity 4 was felt in Valencia while Intensity 3 was recorded in Dumaguete and Intensity 2 in Sibulan.

Instrumental intensities were also felt in Sibulan, Phivolcs said.

No damage nor aftershocks were expected.



# Global Covid-19 deaths surpass 690K: Johns Hopkins University

August 4, 2020, 10:19 am



People tour the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the United States on July 31, 2020. (Ting Shen/Xinhua)

**NEW YORK** – Global coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) deaths surpassed 690,000 on Monday, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University.

Total Covid-19 cases around the world rose to 18,109,901, according to the CSSE, with deaths reaching 690,055 as of 9:34 a.m. (1334 GMT).

The United States reported the most Covid-19 cases and deaths, standing at 4,668,406 and 154,861, respectively, followed by Brazil with 2,733,677 cases and 94,104 deaths.

Other countries with over 30,000 fatalities include Mexico, Britain, India, Italy, and France. (*Xinhua*)

## Leopards, wolves vanishing from panda conservation areas: study

posted August 04, 2020 at 07:30 am

by [AFP and Kelly Macnamara](#)

It may be one of the most recognisable symbols of conservation, but efforts to protect the giant panda have failed to safeguard large mammals sharing its habitats, according to research published Monday showing dramatic declines of leopards and other predators.

The giant panda has won the hearts of animal lovers around the world and images of the bamboo-eating creature with its ink-blot eye patches have come to represent global efforts to protect biodiversity.

Since conservation efforts began, China has cracked down on poachers, outlawed the trade in panda hides and mapped out dozens of protected habitats.

The strategy is considered one of the most ambitious and high-profile programmes to save a species from extinction -- and it worked.

The panda was removed from the International Union for Conservation of Nature endangered species list in 2016 although it remains "vulnerable".

But a new study published on Monday in the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution has cast doubt over the idea that efforts to protect the panda automatically help all other animals in its territory.

Researchers found that the leopard, snow leopard, wolf and dhole -- also known as the Asian wild dog -- have almost disappeared from the majority of giant panda protected habitats since the 1960s.

The findings "indicate the insufficiency of giant panda conservation for protecting these large carnivore species," said Sheng Li, of the School of Life Sciences at Peking University, who led the research.

The authors compared survey data from the 1950s to 1970s with information from almost 8,000 camera traps taken between 2008 and 2018.

They found that leopards had disappeared from 81 percent of giant panda reserves, snow leopards from 38 percent, wolves from 77 percent and dholes from 95 percent.

The predators face threats from poachers, logging and disease, the study found.

The authors said a key challenge was that while pandas may have a home range of up to 13 square kilometres (5 square miles), the four large carnivores can roam across an area exceeding 100 square kilometres.

Sheng Li told AFP that individual panda reserves -- typically around 300-400 sq km -- are too small to support a "viable population of large carnivores like leopards or dholes".

'Enormous charisma'



## Leopards, wolves vanishing from panda conservation areas: study Page 2/2

Panda conservation has helped protect other animals, he said, including small carnivores, pheasants and songbirds.

"Failing to safeguard large carnivore species does not erase the power of giant panda as an effective umbrella that has well sheltered many other species," he added.

But he called for future conservation to see beyond a single species, or animals with "enormous charisma", to focus on broader restoration of natural habitats.

He said he hoped this can be achieved as part of a proposed new Giant Panda National Park, a long-term programme that would link up existing habitats over thousands of kilometres to allow isolated populations to mingle and potentially breed.

The recovery of large carnivore populations would "increase the resilience and sustainability of the ecosystems not only for giant pandas but also for other wild species", the researcher added.

The IUCN estimates there are between 500 and 1,000 mature adult pandas in the Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu regions of China.

The conservation group lists the leopard and snow leopard as vulnerable across the areas they are found in, while the dhole is listed as endangered.