

DATE: AUGUST 06, 2020

DAY: THURSDAY

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

Cimatu wary of Cebu situation

Published 3 hours ago on August 6, 2020 03:40 AM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



Inter-Agency Task Force(IATF) Cebu overseer and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu on Tuesday admitted to being “worried” on Cebu province’s coronavirus situation.

“I am a little worried if cases continue to rise in Cebu,” Cimatu told media after meeting with Governor Gwendolyn Garcia and the province’s city and municipal mayors.

“I am worried that the health services sector might be overwhelmed since there are already a number of cases in Cebu City,” Cimatu said. “What more if the cases in the province will also rise.”

Still, Cimatu said he hopes that what happened in Manila won’t take place in Cebu.

As of 4 August, Cebu province has 1,919 confirmed cases with 1,070 recoveries and 738 active cases with 111 deaths.

The highest numbers are in Talisay City (790 confirmed cases/565 recoveries/146 active/79 deaths), Minglanilla (411 confirmed/280 recoveries/112 active/ 19 deaths) and Consolacion (411 confirmed/202 recoveries/185 active/24 deaths).

The increase in Cebu province began in June when it opened its borders to residents working in Cebu City.

Cimatu: Sana 'di matulad Cebu sa Metro Manila

By Abante News Online — Last updated Aug 5, 2020

METRO



Photo courtesy of facebook.com/DENROfficial



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Hinimok ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang mga local government unit ng Cebu para ipagpatuloy ang ginagawang aksyon laban sa COVID-19 para hindi matulad sa nangyari sa Metro Manila.

"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," sinabi ng kalihim sa isang panayam, matapos ang pakikipagpulong nito kay Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia at iba pang local chief executive sa Cebu City.

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Siniguro naman ni Garcia na may sapat na espasyo ang mga provincial at district hospital dito dahil nasa 24 porsyento lamang ang kasalukuyang occupancy rate sa mga COVID-dedicated bed.

Kontento man si Cimatu sa hakbang ng Cebu government para sa pandemya, kailangan pa rin umanong gawin ang mga health protocol. Dagdag niya, "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." (Prince Golez)

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DENR employs faster reporting system in enforcing waste management program

Published August 5, 2020, 5:59 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has started using an enhanced online monitoring system to efficiently track local government units (LGUs) in compliance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

EMB Director William Cuñado said the agency is tapping 307 environmental monitoring and enforcement officers (ENMOs) to be assigned all over the country to use the new system of reporting which, he said, is "simpler and faster than the previous method."

Unlike the previous system where monitoring reports reach EMB offices some days after the incident occurred, the new online system provides real-time reporting, allowing for quick response by concerned LGUs, which are primarily responsible for the enforcement of the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"With the newly improved system, we can quickly post, share and keep track of reports and complaints more efficiently. Our counterparts in LGUs can immediately view the report and act on it," Cuñado said.

ENMOs have been deployed nationwide to provide assistance to LGUs, particularly barangays, in establishing an effective solid waste management program and strengthen the enforcement of other environmental laws and regulations since 2017.

This is in line with the implementation of the Solid Waste Enforcement and Education Program, which supports DENR's strategy to develop systems and mechanisms for improved monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws through strengthened partnership with LGUs and other stakeholders.

"This pandemic allowed us to focus our efforts in upgrading our online systems to continuously serve our clients and perform our mandated tasks despite the lockdowns," Cuñado said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/05/denr-employs-faster-reporting-system-in-enforcing-waste-management-program/?fbclid=IwAR3jxZcO6bPAm9muq3MbmHVXLBh9C7b49E3UJnXeeX89It7TWi8Lw56fZ5Q>

DENR-EMB GAGAMIT NG BAGONG ONLINE SYSTEM SA PAG-MONITOR SA LGU SA PAGPAPATUPAD NG RA 9003



August 6, 2020 @ 12:11 AM 6 hours ago

Higit pang palakasin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) ang pag-monitor sa local government units kung sumusunod ba ang mga ito sa ipinatutupad na solid waste management law sa pamamagitan ng paglalagay ng online monitoring system.

Ayon kay EMB Director William Cunado, gagamitin ng 307 environmental monitoring and enforcement officers na nakatalaga sa buong bansa ang bagong sistema sa kanilang pag-uulat na higit na madali at mabilis kumpara sa naunang ginagamit na pamamaraan.

“This pandemic allowed us to focus our efforts in upgrading our online systems to continuously serve our clients and perform our mandated tasks despite the lockdowns,” sabi pa ni Cuñado.

Hindi tulad ng dating sistema kung saan ang monitoring reports ay nakarating sa mga tanggapan ng EMB ilang araw pa matapos ang insidente, sa bagong online system na nagbibigay ng real-time reporting, agad ang mabilisang pagtugon ng kinauukulang LGUs, na silang pangunahing responsable sa pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act ng 2000.

“With the newly improved system, we can quickly post, share and keep track of reports and complaints more efficiently,” paliwanag ni Cuñado. “Our counterparts in LGUs can immediately view the report and act on it.”

Simula noong 2017 ay may nakatalaga nang ENMOs sa buong bansa upang magbigay ng tulong sa LGUs partikular sa mga barangay sa pagbuo ng epektibong solid waste management program at mapalakas pa ang pagpapatupad ng mga batas at regulasyong pang-kalikasan.

Ito ay kaugnay sa ipinatutupad na Solid Waste Enforcement and Education Program na sumusuporta sa estratehiya ng DENR na bumuo ng mga sistema at mekanismo para sa maayos na monitoring at enforcement ng mga batas pang-kalikasan sa pamamagitan ng malakas na pagtutulungan ng LGUs at iba pang stakeholders.

Samantala, sinabi rin ni Cunado na dahil sa umiiral na community quarantine ay nagawa ng EMB na lubusang makalipat sa online processing ng clearances at permits.

“The system, which was originally developed as an internal document tracking system, has now largely evolved and will include in the loop, LGUs and other stakeholders to better serve its clients and the public, especially in these uncertain times,” sabi pa ni Cuñado.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/denr-emb-gagamit-ng-bagong-online-system-sa-pag-monitor-sa-lgu-sa-pagpapatupad-ng-ra-9003/>

Basura imo-monitor online



August 5, 2020 @ 4:08 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Palalaksin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) ang ‘pag monitor sa Local Government Units (LGUs) kung sumusunod ba ang mga ito sa ipinatutupad na solid waste management law sa pamamagitan ng paglalagay ng online monitoring system.

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“This pandemic allowed us to focus our efforts in upgrading our online systems to continuously serve our clients and perform our mandated tasks despite the lockdowns,” sabi pa ni Cuñado.

Sinabi ng DENR, hindi tulad ng dating sistema kung saan ang mga monitoring report ay nakararating sa mga tanggapan ng EMB ilang araw pa matapos ang insidente, sa bagong online system na nagbibigay ng real-time reporting, agad ang mabilisang pagtugon ng kinauukulang LGUs, na silang pangunahing responsable sa pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act ng 2000.

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Samantala, sinabi rin ni Cuñado na dahil sa umiiral na community quarantine ay nagawa ng EMB na lubusang makalipat sa online processing ng clearances at permits.

“The system, which was originally developed as an internal document tracking system, has now largely evolved and will include in the loop, LGUs and other stakeholders to better serve its clients and the public, especially in these uncertain times,” sabi pa ni Cuñado. *Santi Celario*

Source: https://www.remate.ph/basura-imo-monitor-online/?fbclid=IwAR3VennJBOu_sPrMQs9nr7ocrZPz3MW2yztZ_6l-Jp7nSnxz4YknYYRXwRY

Customs returns hazardous waste to SoKor

Published August 5, 2020, 4:33 PM

by [Bethena Kae Unite](#)

After two years, the remaining containers containing 6,000-tons of household hazardous waste were finally sent back to South Korea from the Port of Cagayan de Oro.

Bureau of Customs PH
15 hours ago

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

BOC RE-EXPORTED 6,000 TONS OF ILLEGAL KOREAN WASTE

05 AUGUST 2020

Through the continuous efforts of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) – Port of Cagayan de Oro and Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) Subport under the leadership of District Collector John M Simon, the 6,000 metric tons of illegal Korean Waste has been re-exported to its origin in Pyeongtaek City, South Korea.

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BOC Re-Exported 6,000 Tons of Illegal Korean Waste

Through the continuous efforts of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) – Port of Cagayan de Oro and Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) Subport under the leadership of District Collector John M Simon, the 6,000 metric tons of illegal Korean Waste has been re-exported to its origin in Pyeongtaek City, South Korea.

The last shipment of 80 containers of Korean Waste was returned last August 4, 2020 and was loaded on board the vessel "MV MA... 展开

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The re-exportation of the wastes resumed on Tuesday, August 4, after being halted for some time due the global restrictions caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

The waste shipment was sent back to its port of origin in Pyeongtaek City, South Korea onboard MV Mahia, The Bureau of Customs said Wednesday.

According to the bureau, 80 containers were scheduled for re-exportation Tuesday but 10 were left behind with the vessel already reaching its capacity.

These will be sent back to South Korea this Saturday, August 8.

Customs data showed that the waste shipment arrived in the country on July 22, 2018 at the Port of Cagayan de Oro on two separate occasions and was consigned to Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corporation.

Both shipments were declared as plastic synthetic flakes but an inspection conducted by the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region X revealed that the shipments contained household hazardous waste, Port of CDO District Collector John Simon said.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero said the re-exportation of the wastes to South Korea is due to the failure of the consignee to secure prior import permit from the DENR and for its misdeclaration.

Guerrero added that the re-exportation order was pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act), Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act), and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

6K toneladang basura galing Korea, tinapon pabalik ng BOC



August 5, 2020 @ 5:08 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naipatapon na pabalik sa pinanggalingang bansa ang tinatayang nasa mahigit 6,000 metriko tonelada ng “illegal Korean waste” sa pamamagitan ng pagsisikap ng pamunuan ng Bureau of Customs-Port of Cagayan de Oro at Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) Support.

Ayon sa BOC, ang huling 80 containers na naglalaman ng mga Korean waste ay naibiyahe na pabalik sa Pyeongtaek City, South Korea kahapon sakay ng “MV MAHIA”.

Nabatid sa BOC na noong buwan pa ng Enero nila sinimulan ang pagbabalik ng may 251 container ng mga basura na galing sa Korea ngunit naantala umano ito dahil sa mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng mga alituntunin bunsod na din ng nararanasang pandemya dulot ng COVID-19.

Ang isinasagawang “re-exportation” ng mga basura sa South Korea ay dahil sa kabiguan ng consignee na makakuha ng kaukulang import permit mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at dahil na rin sa maling deklarasyon nito kung saan idineklara nila itong mga “plastic synthetic flakes.”

Sinuri ng mga tauhan ng Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ng DENR-Region X ang mga nasabing kargamento na naka-consigned sa Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corporation at nadiskubre na naglalaman ito ng mga “household hazardous waste”.

Sa magkahiwalay na araw, ang Verde Soko Philippines ay nagdala sa bansa ng isang kargamento na naglalaman ng 5,176.91 metriko tonelada ng iba’t-ibang klase ng plastic at waste materials kung saan sinundan pa ito ng isang 51 na 40-foot containers na idineklarang naglalaman ng mga plastic synthetic flakes.

Dahil dito, agad na ipinag-utos ni Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero ang agarang re-exportation sa mga nabanggit na kargamento. Ang naturang “re-exportation order” ay bunsod sa umiiral na probisyon ng Republic Act 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act), Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act), at ng “Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal”.

“The action of the Bureau against the illegal Korean waste is a clear signal to all concerned that our country is not a global dump and that waste traffickers will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.” ani MCT Support Collector John Simon. *Jay Reyes*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/6k-toneladang-basura-galing-korea-tinapon-pabalik-ng-boc/>

BOC re-exported 6,000 tons of illegal korean waste

By BOCPublished on August 5, 2020



6,000 metric tons of illegal Korean Waste has been re-exported to its origin in Pyeongtaek City, South Korea. (Photo from BOC)

QUEZON CITY, August 5 -- Through the continuous efforts of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) – Port of Cagayan de Oro and Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) Subport under the leadership of District Collector John M Simon, the 6,000 metric tons of illegal Korean Waste has been re-exported to its origin in Pyeongtaek City, South Korea.

The last shipment of 80 containers of Korean Waste was returned last August 4, 2020 and was loaded on board the vessel "MV MAHIA".

The BOC initiated the re-exportation of 251 containers of korean waste from January, however, the operation was delayed by the restrictions imposed amid the current crisis brought about by the pandemic. The re-exportation of the wastes to South Korea is due to the failure of the consignee to secure prior import permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and for its misdeclaration of the waste shipments as "plastic synthetic flakes."

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region X has examined the shipments consigned to Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corporation and were found to contain household hazardous waste.

Verde Soko on two separate occasions brought into the country one shipload containing 5,176.91 metric tons of various plastic and waste materials and another fifty-one forty-footer containers (51×40') both declared as plastic synthetic flakes.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero has ordered the immediate re-exportation of the shipments. The re-exportation order was pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act), Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act), and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

In the statement of MCT Subport Collector John Simon, he said that the action of the Bureau against the illegal Korean waste is a clear signal to all concerned that our country is not a global dump and that waste traffickers will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. (BOC)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1049552>

Philippines sends another 6,000 metric tons of waste back to South Korea

Published August 5, 2020 4:10pm

By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

The Philippines returned some 6,000 metric tons of Korean waste back to Pyeongtaek City in South Korea, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) reported Wednesday.

In an emailed statement, the BOC said the last shipment of 80 containers, which illegally entered the Philippines, was sent back on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 onboard the MV MAHIA.

The re-exportation of 251 containers of Korean waste started in January, but was delayed due to the implementation of lockdown restrictions designed to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"The re-exportation of the wastes to South Korea is due to the failure of the consignee to secure prior import permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and for its misdeclaration of the waste shipments as 'plastic synthetic flakes'," the BOC said.

The shipments were consigned to Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp., which on two separate occasions brought into the Philippines one shipload containing 5,176 metric tons of various plastic, and another 51 forty-footer (51x40) containers which contained waste materials, both declared as plastic synthetic flakes.

The Philippines has already [sent back some 2,676 metric tons of waste materials](#), part of the 5,176.91 metric tons illegally imported in the Philippines from South Korea in 2018.

The garbage was shipped back in 151 forty-footer containers -- the first batch of 51 containers shipped back on January 25, 2019, the second batch of 50 containers on January 15, 2020, and the third batch of 50 containers on March 21, 2020.—**AOL, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/749972/philippines-sends-another-6-000-metric-tons-of-waste-back-to-south-korea/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR19FilxgDfq6MaOo0eNe9-n_PIR71dk5kdYrNy77cJgsUjU--BNobF-Zag



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Naibalik na sa South Korea ang huling batch ng mga basurang iligal na ipinadala sa bansa noong 2018. Nire-export ng Bureau of Customs ang nasa 6,000 toneladang Korean waste na ikinarga sa MV MAHIA. | via Romel Lopez

📷: BOC



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Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2131277207029022&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0

Is keeping an ostrich in a subdivision allowed? DENR

August 06, 2020

TITLE: says it needs permit

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Is keeping an ostrich in a subdivision allowed? DENR says it needs permit

Published August 5, 2020 4:19pm

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Ostriches running around the streets of a private Quezon City subdivision was among Tuesday's top talking points, after photos and videos of the flightless birds turned up on social media and went viral.

Many wondered what an ostrich was doing inside a private subdivision, if it were even legal to begin with.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), keeping an ostrich in subdivisions is legal, as long as it is compliant to Republic Act No. 9147 and supported by necessary documents.

DENR told GMA News Online on Wednesday that keepers of wildlife should have financial and technical capability, as well as facility to maintain them.

“Generally, keeping wildlife is allowed and is legal as long as the provisions of Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, are satisfied,” DENR said.

Under Section 27, it is stated that the **wildlife** should not be obtained to commit violation against these animals through illegal acts such as collecting, hunting or possessing wildlife, their by-products and derivatives.

“However, it is not common, the practice, the interest, or concern of subdivisions to allow wildlife in their facilities for reasons of keeping their facilities clean and healthy,” DENR said.

For those who are interested to keep wildlife animals, the DENR issues a Certificate of Wildlife Registration through the Wildlife Resources Permitting Section at the DENR-NCR for Metro Manila.

The certificate can also be obtained in other regions from respective Wildlife Resources Permitting Section offices, DENR told GMA News Online.

Is keeping an ostrich in a subdivision allowed? DENR

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Requirements include duly accomplished Application Form and proof of Acquisition or Deeds of Donation, according to the DENR.

For further details, aspiring wildlife keepers may inquire with concerned DENR offices regarding the process of obtaining wildlife permits.

For those asking how to apply for a Certificate of Wildlife Registration, please check this out: For clarifications and...

Posted by [DENR National Capital Region](#) on [Sunday, 24 June 2018](#)

News of the ostriches running free in a QC village [hogged social media](#) for much of Tuesday, with netizens amused at another unexpected event for an already strange year.

By the afternoon, [one ostrich was seen captured](#), while other flightless bird remained under the radar.

It remains unclear where the animals came from. — **LA, GMA News**

DENR-NCR orients Estero Rangers for CAMANAVA area

By Ma. Alaine P. AllaniguePublished on August 5, 2020



Photo credit: DENR-NCR

QUEZON CITY, Aug. 5 (PIA) – The Department of Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) organized a virtual orientation on Monday, for some 250 Estero Rangers for the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela (CAMANAVA) area.

During the learning event, the Estero Rangers were appraised of their role, duties, and responsibilities, and expected outputs.

DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caanacan emphasized the importance of community involvement in the success of the ongoing implementation of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program.

She said Estero Rangers will play a critical role in the effort because they will serve as community-based advocates of DENR on proper solid waste management and other important environmental laws.

More importantly, she said they will help the DENR in monitoring and ensuring that the rivers and esteros under their care are protected and trash-free.

The Estero Rangers will be deployed in barangays along or near waterways traversing the CAMANAVA area, the area of jurisdiction of DENR National Capital Region's North Field Office.

They will coordinate with and/or initiate local cleanup efforts with barangays and help monitor the enforcement of environmental laws at the grassroots level.

The learning event, done in three batches, was organized with the assistance from the Enforcement Division Chief and concurrent North Field Office Chief Environmental Officer (CEO) Orly T. Cariazo and his Deputy Chief Environment Officer Olga O. Arzadon.

Also present during the event were EMB-NCR Regional Director Atty. Domingo M. Clemente Jr., Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Ignacio R. Almira Jr., and other officials of the regional office.(DENR NCR/PIA-NCR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1049508>

WV mining permittees commit 415.9 hectares for bamboo plantations

By Jaime S. Cabag Published on August 5, 2020

ILOILO CITY, Aug. 5 (PIA) – Mining permit holders in Region 6 have committed to allot portions of their permit areas for bamboo plantation in support to the program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to plant more bamboos under the National Greening Program (NGP).

So far, 22 permit holders have expressed their commitment to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office 6 (MGB-6) to allocate areas for bamboo plantation totaling 415.9 hectares. The minimum area requirement for a bamboo plantation is one hectare, according to a report from MGB-6 Information Officer Laralournie Artajo.

Two mining companies with approved Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), namely Philex Gold Philippines, Inc. (PGPI) in Sipalay, Negros Occidental committed 1.5 hectares while Semirara Mining and Power Corporation in Semirara, Caluya, Antique committed 394 hectares.

Other permit holders in the sand and gravel and mineral processing and production sectors in the industry committed one hectare each. Three permit holders already have existing bamboo plantations with a total area of 8.5 hectares.

It will be recalled that the DENR has identified bamboo as an alternative lumber material and as a plant which can largely contribute to increasing the country's forest cover.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has directed the mining industry to contribute to the economic recovery initiatives of the government, one of which is the establishment of bamboo plantations within their permit areas.

The program aims not to limit the activities to planting but for the mining companies to ensure that the bamboos planted are cared for and their growth properly monitored, MGB-6 said. (MGB-6 PIO/JBG/JSC/PIA6)

Make cash out of plastic waste through the 'Aling Tindera' initiative

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August 06, 2020 DATE



Photo: Jessica Bartolome/GMA News

Make cash out of plastic waste through the 'Aling Tindera' initiative

Published August 5, 2020 1:32pm

By JANNIELYN ANN BIGTAS, GMA News

Single-use plastic has long been an environmental problem, and with COVID-19 and the very valid safety concerns about cross-contamination, it's become an even bigger problem with more people back to using single-use plastic.

Thankfully, there are organizations that are working together to find a long-term strategic solution. Enter the Aling Tindera program. The Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) has partnered with the Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEX) and launched the initiative to support the cleanup of Manila Bay.

"The conservation of Manila Bay should not come to a halt, while we address the global pandemic," PCEX Chairperson Nanette Medved-Po said in a statement. "We need to collaborate to create long term solutions for the health of our oceans and waterways because it is very much tied to our own health."



Make cash out of plastic waste through the 'Aling Tindera' initiative

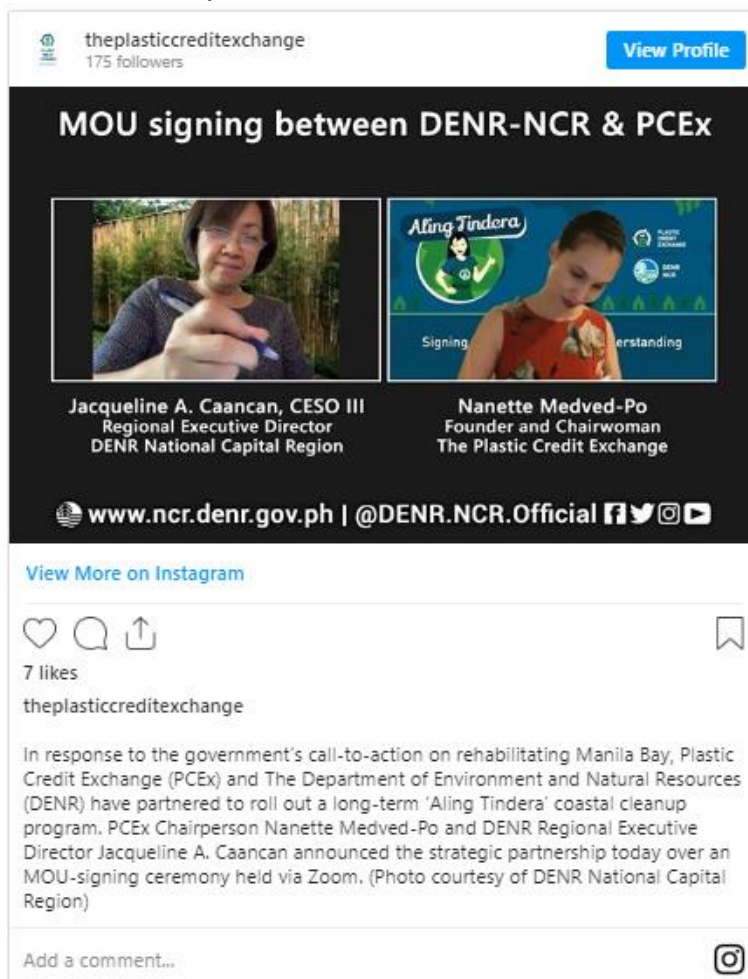
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According to the statement, the PCEx will be incentivizing fishermen and their families to "catch" plastic waste around Manila Bay and sell them in exchange for cash at Aling Tindera collection points stationed in coastal areas.

It added that the Aling Tindera shops — sari-sari stores owned by women — will be aggregating the plastic before turning it into profit, by selling them through sustainability-conscious companies through the PCEx.

"The Aling Tindera project represents an alternative solution of collecting used plastic packaging. At the same time, it also provides economic incentives to the sari-sari store owners and to their suki," DENR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caancan said.



DENR data showed that five days of coastal cleanup in the Manila Bay island could yield 16,000 kg of trash, the majority of which are plastic sachets.

Medved-Po encouraged businesses who would like to responsibly offset their plastic footprint to join the movement.

"It's only through collective action that we can continuously reduce the flow of plastic into our environment," she said. — **LA, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/749932/make-cash-out-of-plastic-waste-through-the-aling-tindera-initiative/story/>

PH climate activists hope CHR makes polluting firms accountable

Published August 5, 2020, 4:05 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Filipino communities in the frontlines of the climate crisis are hoping that the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) will hold the world's biggest polluting companies accountable for human rights violations due to the impacts of climate change.



Commission on Human Rights
(MANILA BULLETIN)

The CHR is already preparing to release at the end of August its resolution on the world's first investigation on climate-related human rights violations of fossil fuel companies.

The impending resolution is the outcome of an almost five-year-old petition filed by Filipino civil society organizations and individuals seeking responsibility from 47 fossil fuel companies, collectively called the "carbon majors," for their contribution to the climate crisis, which resulted in human rights violations.

They said the climate crisis has threatened Filipinos' lives and livelihoods and disrupted access to basic needs.

Greenpeace Philippines hopes that the resolution could establish new legal precedents in global climate litigation.

Climate justice campaigner Virginia Benosa-Llorin said petitioners are awaiting the release of CHR's findings as it could also strengthen calls to ensure a green and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We seek no less than a groundbreaking decision that will give communities and people all over the world a strong rallying point to attain a better normal without fossil fuels, to demand ambitious climate action from governments, including regulations for the immediate and managed phaseout of fossil fuels, and to compel carbon majors to abandon their destructive business models involving the continuous production of fossil fuels," she said.

Veronica Cabe, coordinator for Nuclear-Free Bataan Movement and one of the petitioners, said they hope "that the CHR resolution will not just tell our stories, but will also encourage actions.

"We hope the decision will not just tackle moral responsibility. We want to see findings on legal liability and responsibility of carbon majors to stop them from continuing to violate not just the rights of people from coal-impacted communities, but the whole planet," Cabe added.

Typhoon "Yolanda" survivor and youth climate activist Marinel Ubaldo said that "the result of the petition will be the basis of future actions, especially among the youth."

"This is just the beginning. We have a long way to go and we should not stop. Ang laki ng magiging parte ng kabataan sa pagsusulong ng hustisyang pang-klima because it is our generation that will be affected in the near future. Kami ang makakaramdam ng climate impacts. (The youth will have a significant participation in the promotion of climate justice because it is our generation that will be affected in the near future. We are the ones who will feel the climate impacts)," she said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/05/ph-climate-activists-hope-chr-makes-polluting-firms-accountable/>

Conservation of hornbill endemic to W. Visayas urged

By Annabel Consuelo Petinglay August 5, 2020, 10:19 am



CONSERVING THE DULUNGAN. Antique provincial board member Jesselito Pio Sumande Jr. (wearing a white shirt) plants seedlings at the habitat of the Dulungan, the provincial bird. Antique kicked off the Dulungan Month celebration in Barangay Flores, Culasi on Monday (Aug. 3, 2020). (Photo courtesy of Antique PIO)

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – Antique provincial board member Jesselito Pio Sumande Jr. has called for the protection of the endangered “Dulungan” or the Rufous-headed Hornbill that could only be found in the Philippines and is endemic to Western Visayan islands, particularly in Antique province.

Antique began the celebration of Dulungan Month last Monday, as mandated under Provincial Ordinance 2020-208.

Through the celebration, the provincial government aims to increase awareness and understanding, including the biology, ecology, and cultural values related to the existence of the endangered species, Sumande said.

It also aims to conserve and protect the Dulungan, which Antique has adopted as its provincial bird.

“Our celebration yesterday started with a caravan from the Capitol to Barangay Flores of the municipality of Culasi where we had a program,” Sumande said on Tuesday.

He said some 100 provincial and national government employees, as well as representatives of non-government organizations and the academe, took part in the celebration.

A tree-planting activity was conducted as a part of the kickoff activities.

Sumande said the Dulungan is mostly found in the northern towns of Culasi and the neighboring town of Sebaste.

“There is an estimated population of 600 (birds) in the towns of Culasi and Sebaste,” he said.

This was based on the 2017-2019 study conducted by the Haribon Foundation, an organization that advocates biodiversity conservation.

Sumande said the foundation would spearhead the holding of free webinars on the conservation of the Dulungan for three Fridays starting August 14. **(PNA)**

PH eagle 'Mal'lambugok' rescued in Davao Oriental

Published August 5, 2020, 12:02 PM

by [Ivy Tejano](#)

DAVAO CITY – The Philippine Eagle Rescue and Release Team (PERRT) on Saturday, August 1, rescued a critically endangered Philippine eagle in Sitio Tagbanahao in Barangay Sobrecary, Caraga town in Davao Oriental province.

Reports said that the eagle, named “Mal-lambugok” was discovered trapped in the area after it attacked and ate some of the livestock at a farm. The eagle was already placed inside a birdcage before the Philippine Eagle Rescue and Release Team arrived at Tagbanahao.

Dr. Jayson C. Ibanez, a director for Research and Conservation of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), with the team’s research director Dr. Ana Lascano, veterinarian Tristan Senarillos, and biologists Rene Bacquiano and Emmanuel Tundag provided proper first aid and rehabilitation for the rescued eagle.

In an almost 25-minute video documentary on the rescue of Mal'lambugok, it said that the eagle was found to be healthy. The female eagle weighed 5.9 kilos, and was estimated to be one-year and seven months old.

Mal'lambugok was successfully rescued and brought to Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Calinan District in Davao City for further medical attention and examination, the rescue and release team said. It added that the eagle will be released back to the wild in one or two months.

Tagalog News: 40th IB nagsagawa ng clean-up drive sa kanilang AO

By PIA Cotabato City Published on August 4, 2020

LUNGSOD NG COTABATO, Agosto 4 (PIA)--Nagsagawa kamakailan ng AO-wide clean up drive ang 40th Infantry 'Magiting' Battalion sa area of operation (AO) nito.

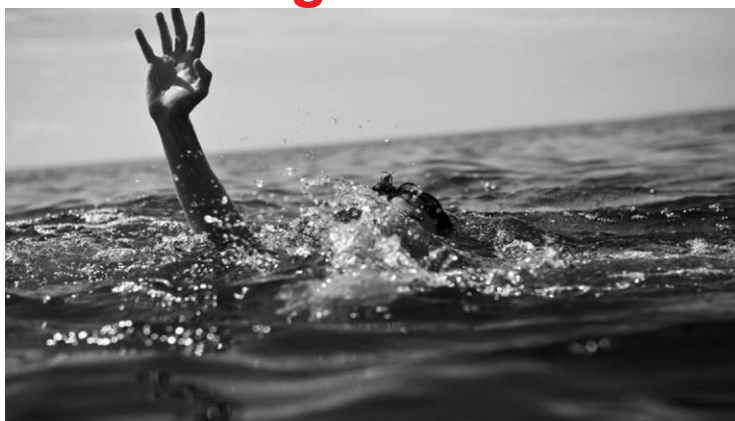
Ito ay nilahukan ng mga lokal na pamahalaan sa AO ng nasabing battalion na kinabibilangan ng Buluan, Paglat, General Salipada K. Pendatun, Datu Paglas, Mangudadatu, at Sultan Sa Barongis sa Maguindanao, President Quirino at Lutayan sa Sultan Kudarat, at Tantangan naman sa South Cotabato.

Ang nasabing clean-up drive ay isinagawa bilang pagsuporta sa pagsisikap ng gobyerno na maiwasan ang dengue sa pamamagitan ng paghahanap at pagsisira sa mga breeding ground ng dengue-carrying mosquitoes ngayong tag-ulan. Layunin din ng aktibidad na mapanatili ang kalinisan alinsunod na rin sa mga alituntunin ng Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) upang maiwasan at malabanan ang coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19.

Ayon kay 40th IB Commander LT. Col. Rogelio Gabi, ang naturang clean-up drive ay isa lamang aniya sa mga programa na ginagawa ng 40th IB sa pakikipagtulungan sa mga bayan at stakeholder sa kanilang AO. Dagdag ni Gabi na ang kanilang battalion ay nakatuon sa pagsuporta sa mga lokal na pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng paglalahok sa mga programa at serbisyo ng gobyerno na may layuning makatulong sa komunidad.

Samantala, hinikayat naman ni President Quirino Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) Officer Rigobert Reyes ang lahat ng ahensya na suportahan ang lahat ng mga programa na tumutulong upang maprotektahan ang kapaligiran. (LTBolongon-PIA Cotabato City/With reports from 40th Infantry "Magiting" Battalion)

Trabahador nilamon ng La Mesa Dam



August 5, 2020 @ 7:05 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Patay ang isang lalaki na trabahador sa La Mesa Dam matapos na malunod ito sa kasagsagan ng malakas na pag-ulan sa lungsod ng Quezon.

Nakilala ang biktima na si John Patrick Ortega, 21 anyos, binata, laborer ng La Mesa Dam, residente ng No. 117 Marangya St., Freedom Park 2, Brgy. Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

Base sa ulat, dakong 3:19 ng madaling araw (August 5) nang matagpuan ang nakalubog pang bangkay ng biktima sa Intake 5, La Mesa Dam Watershed, Brgy. Greater Fairview, ng nasabing siyudad.

Batay sa imbestigasyon, una dito ay lulan umano ng 'barge' o patag na barko ang biktima at ang ilang kasamahan sa La Mesa Dam at nagsasagawa ng 'pile drilling' sa nasabing lugar.

Lumalabas na nahpasya na mahpahinga muna ang mga trabahador dahil sa malakas na ulan subalit makalipas ang ilang oras nang mag-inspeksyon ang foreman na si June Bisitan sa kaniyang mga manggagawa ay napansin na nawawala na si Ortega.

Agad na inimpormahan ng foreman ang guwardiyang si John Combalicer na magsagawa ng 'search and rescue operations' sa lugar, at doon ay nadiskubre ang bangkay ng biktima na nakalubog sa ilalim ng tubig malapit sa barge.

Hinihinalang nasa kahimbingan nang pagkakatulog ang biktima nang mahulog ito sa bargeat hindi na nakaahon pa dahilang upang malunod ito. Jan Sinocruz

Palace downplays spike in virus cases

Published 3 hours ago on August 6, 2020 03:20 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#)



Malacañang on Wednesday allayed concerns on the continuous surge of coronavirus cases in the Philippines, saying that other countries are also seeing a spike of new infections.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque downplayed the record-high 6,352 new cases recorded Tuesday which raised the total to 112,000.

The figure surpassed the previous high of 5,032 cases tallied last Sunday. It was the fifth time that the Philippines set a new highest single-day jump in the past week.

“We are not alone. It’s not as if it’s just happening in the Philippines,” Roque told CNN Philippines in an interview.

He later cited a report from the Nikkei Asian Review which stated that about 70 percent of countries across the globe are reporting growing number of COVID-19 cases.

The report noted that Spain and Australia in particular are seeing notable increases of COVID-19 patients, exceeding the previous peaks it had in the previous months.

The Palace official also said that it was only “understandable” that cases continue to increase because of the country’s increased testing capacity now at 32,000 tests per day.

He also floated the possibility that the surge of COVID-19 cases could be attributed to mutation as new research has been showing a specific change occurring in virus outbreaks in Europe and the United States.

Meanwhile, he said the government will tap the Philippine National Police in contact tracing in a bid to curb coronavirus transmission.

Following the model of Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, every tracer will have to locate 30 to 37 close contacts of a COVID-19 patient, Roque said.

Bayanihan II approved on second reading

Published 8 hours ago on August 5, 2020 09:54 PM

By [Keith A. Calayag](#)



Voice voting on the P162-billion Bayanihan 2 measure. (HoR image)

The House of Representatives has passed on second reading the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act which seeks to extend the additional powers granted to President Rodrigo Duterte to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bayanihan II or House Bill 6953 which is among the priority bills Duterte mentioned in his State of the Nation Address was approved through voice voting during a plenary session on Wednesday.

The bill provides for a P162 billion funding for COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

Bellow is the breakdown of the Bayanihan II budget:

- P10 billion – subsidy for the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to be used for expanded COVID-19 testing
- P10.5 billion – hiring of additional health care workers and arrangements for risk allowance, life insurance, compensation, and compensation for death and critical illness
- P3 billion – purchase of personal protective equipment for barangay health workers and indigents
- P4 billion – construction of quarantine and isolation facilities
- P20 billion – implementation of cash-for-work programs
- P51 billion – infusion of new capital for government financial institutions to expand credit
- P20 billion – low-interest credit for the agriculture sector
- P10 billion – for programs of the Department of Transportation to assist the critically impacted businesses in the transportation industry and provide temporary livelihood to displaced workers
- P10 billion – for the programs of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority assisting the recovery of the tourism industry
- P100 million – for training and subsidies for tourist guides
- P3 billion – for smart, ICT-ready education facilities in state universities and colleges
- P600 million – subsidies for qualified students in private tertiary education institutions
- P300 million – subsidies for personnel of private tertiary education institutions and part-time personnel of state universities and colleges
- P1 billion – additional scholarship funds for TESDA
- P12 billion – for Department of Social Welfare and Development programs such as Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation, emergency subsidies for areas on hard lockdown, sustainable livelihood programs, and supplemental feeding
- P4 billion – to assist the Department of Education in preparing classrooms for digital education
- P1.5 billion – assistance for local government units
- P180 million – to finance athletes whose allowances were reduced due to COVID-19
- P820 million – assistance for Department of Foreign Affairs programs for displaced migrant workers

The House leadership contended for the P162 billion funding even as Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III advised the legislative to stay within a cap of P140 billion due to lack of revenues.

The Senate's version of the Bayanihan II proposes P140 billion.

House Deputy Speaker and Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., who sponsored the bill during the plenary session on Wednesday, said the House leadership believes the government can fund the P162 billion.

"In reality talaga P162 billion is not enough, in fact the Senate has passed P140 billion."

"We are only given an amount of P140 billion but this body feels the national government can afford P162 billion that is why we're passing it," Villafuerte told legislators.

Villafuerte said after the Bayanihan II, the chamber will work closely with the national government on how to raise revenues to fund the trillions of stimulus packages being proposed by the House.

"In reality, we feel P1.5 to P2 trillion trillion is needed to help bounce back the economy," said Villafuerte.

Villafuerte said the Bayanihan II is not a stimulus but only a "stop-gap," and said there is a need for a separate stimulus package.

"We cannot call this (Bayanihan II) full stimulus because not all sectors will be given the right amount and boost needed," Villafuerte added.

No funding for households in MECQ

Villafuerte also said the bill will not fund cash subsidies for the about 6.3 million households affected by the recent declaration of the modified enhanced community quarantine.

"Hindi po finund 'to sa Bayanihan II because I firmly believe that there is excess funding from Bayanihan I."

Villafuerte said the Bayanihan I has excess funds because the national government chose to distribute the second tranche of the emergency subsidy amounting to P5,000 to P8,000 only to 14 million households instead of the 18 million as provided for in the law.

"They gave second tranche to 14 million Filipinos so may excess fund po 'yan."

Support from House blocs

Leaders of major blocs and parties in the chamber stood before the end of the plenary session to express support to the bill.

Ruling party Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan Vice President Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales, Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats stalwart Wilter "Sharky" Palma and National Unity Party stalwart Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado all manifested support for the proposed measure.

Rep. Weslie Gatchalian who is one of the leaders of the Nationalist People's Coalition, Deputy Speaker Raneo Abu of the Nationalista Party and 1 PACMAN Rep. Mikee Romero, president of the 53-member Party-list Coalition Foundation Inc. also manifested their respective blocs support to the proposed measure.

p: wjg

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/08/05/bayanihan-ii-approved-on-second-reading/>

Philippines posts record daily rise in coronavirus cases,
could become Southeast Asia's new epicenter

PAGE 1/ 1/2

August 06, 2020
DATE

Philippines posts record daily rise in coronavirus cases, could become Southeast Asia's new epicenter

The Straits Times/Asia News Network / 03:42 PM August 05, 2020



Traffic jam in Metro Manila on Aug 4, 2020. Checkpoints have been set up all over the area, home to some 12 million. REUTERS via The Straits Times/Asia News Network

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines could soon become the new epicenter for the coronavirus pandemic in Southeast Asia, as it reported another record single-day jump in infections on Tuesday (Aug 4).

The grim news came on the first day of a tough new lockdown that will confine some 27 million to their homes for two weeks and sent the economy in a tailspin again.

The Department of Health tallied 6,352 new cases, bringing the country's total caseload to 112,593. By comparison, Indonesia, which has the most number of cases in Southeast Asia, has 115,056 infections.

Eleven more people in the Philippines died, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 2,115.

The government on Tuesday restored tough shelter-at-home restrictions in Metro Manila and four densely populated provinces – Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Cavite. Health workers had warned that the country was “waging a losing battle” against the coronavirus as cases spike after restrictions were relaxed in June.

Overnight, checkpoints manned by policemen, soldiers and village watchmen were set up all over Metro Manila, home to some 12 million. These created choke points along major highways leading to the capital.

“We had to pass through several checkpoints, and there was traffic at every checkpoint,” said Mr Jeremy Encarnado, 40, who runs a food delivery business.

He said sentries were checking not only for travel passes but also proof that those passing through had tested negative for Covid-19.

Long queues were also seen at groceries, public markets and banks, as people stocked up on food and cash.

Philippines posts record daily rise in coronavirus cases,
could become Southeast Asia's new epicenter

PAGE 1/ 2/2

August 06, 2020
DATE

Agriculture Secretary William Dar said on Tuesday that there was no need for panic buying, as he assured residents that Metro Manila would not run out of rice, vegetables, fruits and meat any time soon.

In Quezon City, Metro Manila's largest city, the head of a task force meant to promote discipline caused a stir when he issued "shoot-to-kill" orders on lockdown violators.

He was promptly told to refrain from issuing "improper and illegal" statements.

Under the new restrictions, only authorized people, including medical personnel and workers in vital companies, are allowed to venture out of their homes.

Other businesses previously allowed to partly reopen, including barber shops, Internet cafes, gyms, dine-in restaurants, massage and tattoo shops, drive-in cinemas and tourist destinations, have again been closed.

Authorized companies, including banks and food processing firms, can operate partly but need to shuttle their employees between home and work.

Workers can travel by bike, motorcycle and private car, but mass transit is closed.

President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman Harry Roque said the government was not keen on extending the lockdown beyond two weeks. "I have to be honest. Our economy cannot withstand a long lockdown," he told reporters on Tuesday.

The economy stands to lose P12 billion a day during the lockdown, economist and Marikina Representative Stella Quimbo estimated.

Analysts forecast that the Philippine economy, once Asia's fastest-growing, probably contracted by at least 8 per cent, mainly because of the sweeping lockdown from mid-March to June 1, among the longest in the world.

The government will report gross domestic product figures for the second quarter on Thursday (Aug 6).

Creating visibility to win the war against COVID-19

[GO NEGOSYO PILIPINAS ANGAT LAHAT!](#) - [Joey Concepcion](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 6, 2020 - 12:00am

Balancing health and the economy is really challenging. There is a need to save lives, as well as to support the livelihoods and jobs of our people so that they can survive.

The lives of people are very important, but we must also strike a cautious balance, ensuring that people can also provide for their families. Challenges will assuredly arise if we do not lay down a sound economic recovery plan. Poverty will worsen, and people will not be able to buy food and medicine.

We, in the private sector, respect the decision of President Duterte to put Metro Manila and nearby provinces under a two-week modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As of Aug. 5, the number of cases surpassed 110,000. I understand that there is a need to revisit our strategies to contain the sharp increase in infections. Two weeks is not too long. I think we can use this period to plan ahead.

We fully understand the plight of the healthcare workers and medical groups who are at the frontlines of this disease, and we commit to fully support them through all means.

One of the biggest challenges we now face is helping those who have lost their jobs and businesses. This has been brought to light when the government eased into general community quarantine (GCQ) and gradually reopened the economy. Entrepreneurs started resuming operations and transportation was increased. Many of those who were losing money were looking forward to restarting and recovering their losses.

Nevertheless, the decision of the President has been made. We have to make productive use of the two-week lockdown to ensure that quarantine facilities and testing continue to be scaled up.

We cannot deny the challenges confronting our economy brought by the pandemic. We are entering a period of historically strong consumption levels from August to December when we expect most of the businesses to recover their losses.

Our group will make the best out of the two-week MECQ and launch pooled PCR testing before Aug. 15. That will help map out infections at the community level and increase visibility on where the infections are. Pooled PCR testing will be a game-changer since it will significantly speed up testing and bring down testing to anywhere from P350 to P550 per person, depending on the pool size.

ARK-PCR private sector chief implementor Rep. Janette Garin is leading the private sector initiative for this effort. In addition, we're bringing 20 automatic extraction equipment that will be used for pooled PCR testing, which is scheduled to arrive by the end of this week.

The private sector will also fund a pooled PCR testing pilot for 16 cities and one municipality this month. That represents about P160,000 pooled PCR tests that will be done for this part of the research.

Yesterday, we held a virtual MOA signing with the city of Makati together with Mayor Abigail Binay as the pilot city for pooled PCR testing. The pilot launch is supported by our big brother and staunch supporter, BDO Unibank led by Tessie Sy-Coson.

As the country's business capital, Makati is one of the cities in NCR to pilot Go Negosyo's pooled PCR testing. The city also pledges to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through massive targeted testing. The data and results that will be gathered during the tests will then be used as a guide in policy-making, program formulation in line with the LGU's COVID-19 response.

I strongly believe that one of the most effective ways of protecting our businesses and the lives of our people is to create visibility through massive targeted testing. Testing gives us the visibility we need to come up with more informed and comprehensive strategies. If we cannot control the health situation, then we have little chance of saving the economy.

With no cure or vaccine available on the market, we are calling for a more surgical and localized approach to lockdowns, focusing on barangays or local clusters with high infection rates, while allowing the rest of the area to operate normally. Part of the plan is to grant more power to local chief executives. We believe this is a sustainable strategy to limit the spread of the virus, while allowing some level of economic activity to resume.

To co-exist with the virus, we have to act and decide based on science and data. This will also allow us to focus and save resources.

To effectively fight the pandemic, the public and private sectors must continue to work hand-in-hand and use our combined resources and expertise to create the visibility we need to win this war. Moving forward, our multi-sectoral teamwork will spell the difference in our push to save lives and livelihoods. With the hard work of our admirable medical frontliners and the combined efforts of all, we will win as one team.

Meralco meter reading, business operations to continue amid MECQ

Published 12 hours ago on August 5, 2020 06:37 PM

By **TDI**



Meralco assured its customers Wednesday that business operations, including meter reading activities, will continue despite Metro Manila and neighboring provinces Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, and Bulacan being reverted to the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

Business centers will also remain open to facilitate customer payments and service applications as well as address concerns and inquiries of customers.

In line with this, Meralco appeals to local government units (LGU) and barangay officials to recognize meter readers as among the essential workers granted permission to work amid MECQ, and allow them access to read meters of residences.

“Rest assured this will be unobtrusive and the deployed meter readers will be in complete personal protective equipment, bearing in mind safety procedures. This will ensure that actual consumption for the month will be billed accordingly,” it said in a statement.

The distribution company likewise guaranteed it will strictly implement all health protocols laid down by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF-MEID) to ensure the safety of its clients and employees.

Meralco is also closely coordinating with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding the continuation of business operations while the MECQ is in effect.

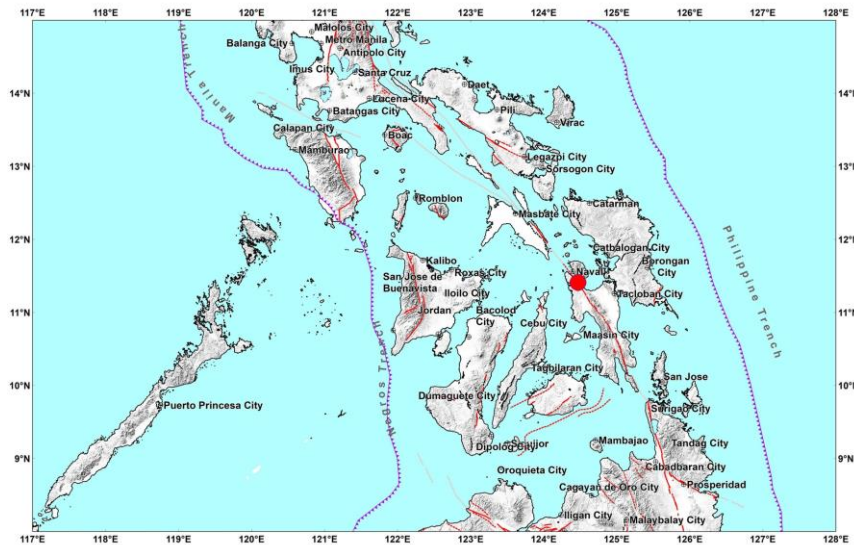
Meralco crews will likewise be on standby round the clock to respond to emergencies and reports with the utility company’s beefed-up 24/7 Call Center tasked to respond to customers who will forward their concerns via its social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter, email (customercare@meralco.com.ph), SMS numbers (09175516211, 09209716211, 09175592824 and 09209292824), and hotline (16211).

More details may be found on Meralco’s official website, www.meralco.com.ph.

4.3 quake sways Leyte, Biliran

By: [Joey Gabieta](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 07:36 PM August 05, 2020



1:10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 5.

Its epicenter was traced to the town of Leyte in Leyte, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The tremor was tectonic in origin and had a depth of 13 kilometers.

It was felt in Naval, Biliran at Intensity 4; Ormoc City at Intensity 2, and Palo at Intensity 1.

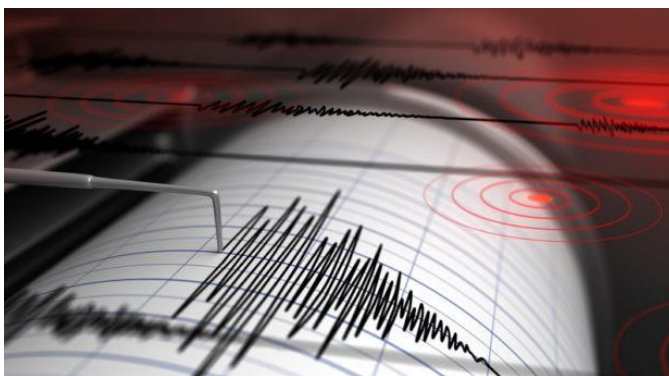
No damage or aftershock was recorded.

LZB

3 quakes hit Mt. Province, Antique, Surigao del Sur–Phivolcs

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:21 AM August 05, 2020



Seismograph with paper in action and earthquake – 3D Rendering

MANILA, Philippines — Three consecutive earthquakes were recorded in Mountain Province, Antique, and Surigao Del Sur on Wednesday morning, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Phivolcs said a magnitude 4.1 earthquake was recorded nine kilometers southeast of Sabangan, Mountain Province at 6:58 a.m.

It had a depth of focus of 16 kilometers. There have been no reported intensities from the quake.

Meanwhile, another tremor with a magnitude of 4.6 was also registered 44 kms. northwest of Patnongon, Antique at 8:28 a.m. This one had a depth of 34 kms.

Instrumental intensities were reported in the following areas: Intensity III in Malinao, Aklan; Intensity II in Sebaste and Valderrama, Antique, and; Intensity I in Malay, Aklan and Jamindan, Capiz.

At 9:30 a.m., a magnitude 4.5 earthquake struck 12 kms. southwest of Bayabas, Surigao del Sur. The quake had a depth of four kilometers but there have been no reported intensities.

According to Phivolcs, all the quakes were of tectonic origin and no aftershocks and damages were expected from these tremors.

JPV

Waste plastic cascade could triple in 20 years

In a throwaway world, some discards are forever. New research measures the crisis of the world's waste plastic.



Plastic trash in a beach in Yemen, Middle East. Image: [Gerry & Bonni, CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

By Tim Radford, Climate News Network

Aug. 5, 2020

Without immediate, sustained and concerted action worldwide, the flow of waste plastic into the world's oceans [could triple by 2040](#).

Right now, 11 million tonnes of throwaway bags, cups, bottles, cables, netting, and other products made of almost indestructible polymers get into the sea each year.

And in the next 20 years, this tide of detritus could almost triple to 29 million tonnes, according to new research in the journal [Science](#). This works out at nearly 50kg of plastic on every metre of coastline worldwide.

And because plastic may fragment but [never degrade or decompose](#), the message is that by 2040 the measure of plastic in the oceans would equal the mass of three million blue whales.

The choice of the whale as indicator is not arbitrary. Discarded plastic has become a global hazard to ecosystems worldwide.

It has been [found in all oceans](#), in lakes, in rivers, in [soils and sediments](#), in the atmosphere and in the tissues of [700 marine species including whales](#), and in 50 freshwater species. It fouls beaches, blocks drains, and provides a substrate and breeding surface for [the carriers of disease](#).

The plastic crisis is solvable. It took a generation to create this challenge; this report shows we can solve it in one generation.

Martin Stuchtey, professor for resource strategies and management, University of Innsbruck

It is also expensive. At a very conservative estimate the economic costs of plastic pollution on tourism, fishing and shipping reach US\$13bn (£10bn) a year. And plastic particles have entered the human food chain, though nobody can yet be certain of the impact of this.

The researchers modelled the flow of plastic and its accumulation in the environment and tested the consequences under six scenarios. These include one in which the world simply goes on making single-use plastic products and carelessly discarding them, and one in which the world's plastics systems undergo complete overhaul, including every aspect of production, collection, consumption and disposal.

So far, on the evidence of government promises, the flow is likely to be reduced by only 7 per cent by 2040.

Offering an opportunity

The scientists also identified eight things that could together reduce the flow of plastics into the sea by 80 per cent in the next 20 years. That would still see five million tonnes each year getting into the oceans.

And the researchers warn that, even if every nation invested in concerted and immediate action, by 2040 at least 710 million tonnes of the stuff will have worked its way into the world's wetlands, soils, estuaries, beaches and seas.

The report presents a calamity in the making, but one that could also be seen as an opportunity.

“Our results indicate that the plastic crisis is solvable. It took a generation to create this challenge; this report shows we can solve it in one generation,” said [Martin Stuchtey, of the University of Innsbruck](#) in Austria, one of the authors.

“We have today all the solutions required to stem plastic flows by more than 80 per cent. What we now need is the industry and government resolve to do so.”

This story was published with permission from [Climate News Network](#).

Bali sea turtles set free after poacher arrests

Published 9 hours ago on August 5, 2020 09:22 PM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



Around two dozen green turtles were released back to the wild in Bali on Wednesday after the endangered creatures were rescued from poachers on the Indonesian holiday island.

Marine officials carefully guided the giant reptiles as they thrashed their flippers in the sand to propel themselves toward the water.

The turtles were among 36 seized after a raid last month that saw the arrest of several suspected traffickers — who could face five years behind bars if convicted under Indonesia’s wildlife protection laws.

“Hopefully these 25 turtles will survive so that they can lay their eggs again,” said Bali conservation agency chief Agus Budi Santosa, adding that 11 others rescued at the time would be freed later.

The turtles, which can grow to more than a meter (three feet) in length and weigh upwards of 300 kilograms (700 pounds), are under threat due to poaching and habitat destruction.

Their eggs are considered a delicacy and they are also slaughtered for their meat, skin, and shells.

Satellite imagery reveals new penguin colonies in Antarctica

By Lianne Kolirin, CNN

Published Aug 5, 2020 5:00:21 PM



(CNN) — Satellite imaging has revealed that there are nearly 20% more emperor [penguin](#) colonies in [Antarctica](#) than previously thought.

However, while the discovery has been welcomed, the previously undiscovered animals will act as "canaries in the coalmine" when it comes to studying the impact of [global warming](#), experts have said.

Scientists discovered 11 new colonies, meaning there are now 61 colonies across the continent overall.

The study, which used satellite mapping technology, will "provide an important benchmark for monitoring the impact of environmental change on the population of this iconic bird," researchers said.

Writing in the journal *Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation*, the authors explained that they used images from the European Commission's Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellite mission to locate the birds. The satellite is part of a program to observe earth and any changes to the environment.

It is difficult to study emperor penguins, which need sea ice to breed, because they live in remote and often inaccessible areas with temperatures as low as minus 50 degrees Celsius (minus 58 degrees Fahrenheit).

Climate change is a real threat to the species as the loss of sea ice will devastate their habitats. According to the report, published Tuesday, the new colonies "are situated at the margins of the emperors' breeding range," which makes them vulnerable as the global climate warms.

Phil Trathan, head of conservation biology at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), has been studying penguins for the last three decades. He said in a statement: "Whilst it's good news that we've found these new colonies, the breeding sites are all in locations where recent model projections suggest emperors will decline.

"Birds in these sites are therefore probably the 'canaries in the coalmine' -- we need to watch these sites carefully as climate change will affect this region."

Three of the new colonies had previously been identified but had not been confirmed until now, the authors said.

Over the last 10 years scientists have been searching for new colonies by studying the penguins' guano -- excrement -- stains on the ice. The researchers studied the images manually, looking for brown pixels which marked the stained areas.

"This is an exciting discovery," said Peter Fretwell, a geographer and lead author of the study, in a statement released by the BAS.

Although welcoming the news, he said the discovered colonies only take the overall population count up by 5-10% to just over 500,000 penguins -- about 265,500 to 278,500 breeding pairs.

Satellite imagery reveals new penguin colonies in

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Several colonies were found on sea ice formed around icebergs in shallow water, up to 180 kilometers (111 miles) offshore. Scientists described the finding as "surprising."

Over the last 10 years, scientists have relied on Landsat data to detect such penguin colonies, but Sentinel-2 has a much higher resolution, according to Fretwell, who said that they will now deploy much more focused high-powered satellites to count the number of birds.

He told CNN that the population of all emperor penguins is expected to decline by 80% by the end of the century.

"The only real threat to emperor penguins is climate change," he said. "Once the sea ice melts you can't put it back. There's nothing we can do on a local level at each colony to help the penguins -- it really is a global problem."

Earlier this year, it emerged that penguin colonies in some parts of the Antarctic had declined by more than 75% over the past half century, largely as a result of climate change.

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[Satellite imagery reveals new penguin colonies in Antarctica.](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/8/5/new-penguin-colonies-antarctica.html)"

Brazil firefighters race to contain wetland blazes

posted August 05, 2020 at 10:30 am

by [AFP and Rogerio Florentino, Jordi Miro](#)

A tractor cuts a firebreak through the vegetation of the Pantanal, the world's biggest tropical wetlands, as firefighters race to contain the blazes that have been devastating one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth.



Handout picture released by the Mato Grosso State Fire Department on August 4, 2020 showing firefighters extinguishing a fire at the Paranatinga region, Mato Grosso state, Brazil, on August 01, 2020. Handout / MATO GROSSO FIREFIGHTERS DEPARTMENT / AFP

The Brazilian Pantanal suffered a record 1,684 fires last month, triple the number from July 2019, according to satellite images.

It was the worst month on record for fires in the region, which sits on the southern edge of the Amazon rainforest and stretches from Brazil into Paraguay and Bolivia.

Firefighters have been working around the clock to contain the blazes, with the help of residents of the city of Pocone and the surrounding area.

"We've been fighting this one for about 10 days. We've already lost 50,000 hectares," or 125,000 acres, firefighter Adrison Parques de Aguilar told AFP.

Eighty percent of the Pantanal is typically covered in water in the rainy season. But the region has had a drought this year, leaving large swathes of vegetation at risk of going up in flames.

The fires are sometimes set by ranchers clearing land to graze cattle, even though President Jair Bolsonaro, under pressure to protect the Amazon and the Pantanal, decreed a four-month ban on agricultural fires in July.

Dozens of columns of smoke rise along the Transpantaneira, a highway linking the region's ranches and tourist destinations.

"The flora and fauna are being devastated. This is causing irreparable environmental damage," said Aguilar.

The firefighters advance single file through the wetlands, putting out remnant fires and looking for others burning underground.

The last in line carries a rifle to fend off jaguars. The region is also home to yellow anacondas, jabiru storks, giant otters, toucans, macaws and hundreds of other species. Human inhabitants, meanwhile, are worried about the impact the smoke will have on their health.

The issue is all the more pressing amid the coronavirus pandemic, which has caused more infections and deaths in Brazil than any other country except the United States.

The smoke only increases the risk of respiratory emergencies in a region already facing an onslaught of them because of the virus.

"It's the dry weather that's causing all this. We haven't had rain in months," said rancher Antonio Santana Correia Marques.

"The Pantanal needs rain."

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/330557>

Forest fire in southern France triggers evacuations

Published August 5, 2020, 9:04 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

A forest fire Tuesday ravaged 800 hectares of vegetation near the southern French city of Marseille, forcing the evacuation of over 200 people, officials said.



The fire spread rapidly, fanned by strong winds (AFP Photo/Xavier LEOTY)

There were no casualties thus far from the blaze that broke out west of Marseille, as 1,200 firefighters and water bombing planes were deployed to fight the flames.

Some 225 people, mostly tourists and campers, were evacuated by boat to a nearby fishing village and then taken by bus to makeshift shelters in the town of Martigues.

“We are braced for a difficult fight throughout the night,” said a spokesman for the firefighting service in the Bouches du Rhone department.

The fire broke out in the afternoon, sending out plumes of black smoke. It crossed eight kilometres in two hours, fanned by strong winds, the firefighting service said.

Seven water-dumping planes and a number of helicopters and other aircraft were deployed to back up 1,200 firefighters, officials said.

“We were in Martigues for shopping but now we cannot enter our home in La Couronne. All the roads have been cut off and the fire’s burning everywhere,” said Mylene Greffeuille.

“We’re very worried because my father is old and he is La Couronne,” near the fire, she said.

Part of a highway from Marseille to Martigues has been closed.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/05/forest-fire-in-southern-france-triggers-evacuations/>