

DATE: August 15, 2020

DAY: Saturday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

## Cabinet members in LGUs inspired by Cimatu's 'success' in Cebu City–Nograles

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:54 AM August 14, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Assigning Cabinet members to cities and provinces with high COVID-19 transmission was inspired by Cebu City's "success" in handling the health crisis after Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu was designated as its pandemic response overseer, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said Friday.

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Emerging Infectious Diseases [assigned its members to cities](#) in Metro Manila and provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal to "provide stronger support" in local government units' (LGUs) efforts against COVID-19.

### ADVERTISEMENT

"Because of the experience we've had with Cebu City wherein the President assigned Secretary Roy Cimatu, member of the IATF, to act as kumbaga overseer doon sa Cebu City," Nograles said in an interview with CNN Philippines when asked what prodded the task force to implement such strategy.

"And because of the experience we've had, the success we've had in Cebu City, much the same way, we wanna be able to duplicate, replicate that in Metro Manila," he added.

In mid-June, Cebu City was reverted back to the strictest lockdown measure or enhanced community quarantine due to a sudden increase in its COVID-19 infections.

This prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to assign [Cimatu as overseer of Cebu City's](#) pandemic response.

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"While the effort against COVID-19 will be LGU-led, nandito kami para to act as a bridge to help them in coordination with government agencies. From there, we also look at the other MECQ provinces which were Bulacan, Laguna, Cavite and Rizal," Nograles said.

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National Task Force on COVID-19 chief implementer Carlito Galvez Jr. said the Cabinet members assigned will act as "[big brothers](#)" and "[big sisters](#)" and harmonize the policies being implemented.

/MUF

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1321593/cabinet-members-assigned-in-lgus-inspired-by-cimatus-success-as-overseer-in-cebu-city-nograles#ixzz6V8mwAgn4>

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## Cabinet members in LGUs inspired by Cimatú's 'success' in Cebu City–Nograles

By: Krissy Aguilar - Reporter / @KAguilarINQ - Inquirer.net|August 14,2020 - 02:32 PM

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## Pangolin trade sa Pinas ikinaalarma



August 14, 2020 @ 9:44 AM 22 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ikinaalarma ng non-government organization ang patuloy na pagtaas ng kaso ng illegal trade ng Philippine pangolins.

Sa ulat, ang Traffic ay isang NGO na nagtatrabaho sa iba't ibang bansa tungkol sa wild animals at mga halaban para sa biodiversity conservation at sustainable development.

Sa datos, mayroong 6,894 Philippine pangolins ang nasabat mula sa 2018 hanggang 2019.

Naitala rin ang 28 insidente sa Pilipinas ng illegal pangolin trading sa nagdaang dalawang taon.

Sa ulat pa ng grupo, limang restaurant sa Metro Manila ang naghahain ng pangolin dishes bilang pre-order.

Samantala, ipinaliwanag naman ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na ang demand ng pangolin ay nagmumula sa ibang bansa.

“Wala kaming nakikitang ganiyang sitwasyon dahil alam naman nila na the mere transport lang at mahuli ka ay may kaso ka na,” punto ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

‘Yong mga owners ng mga POGOs diyan mostly, wala rin naman dito sa bansa natin ‘yan eh kung kaya’t what we see in this situation is walang koneksyon sa ganoon. Ang nakikita natin is ‘yong demand talaga sa abroad dahil sa laki ng presyo niya,’ lahad pa nito.

“We came up with a proposal to Congress na baguhin ‘yung batas especially when it comes to the punishment. At least, 10 years to 20 years na parusa. Ang nangyayari dito, tuwing mahuhuli ‘yong violators, ang nangyari nagkakaroon lang ng negotiation na nagpi-plead guilty sila at probation so karamihan ng nahuhuli ng DENR ay mga repeat offenders.” RNT/FGDC

## Environmental problem kaakibat ng pandemic

[AKSYON NGAYON](#) - [AL.G. Pedoroché](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon ) - August 15, 2020 - 12:00am

Nababahala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa ilang posibleng problema sa kapaligiran kaakibat ng di pa masawatang COVID-19 pandemic.

Kaya hinihikayat ng DENR ang madla na gawing tama ang pagtatapon ng mga nagamit nang disposable face mask at gloves sa ating mga tahanan hindi lamang para maiwasan ang paglaganap ng plastic waste kundi upang maiwasan din ang pagkalat ng Covid-19.

Sa tingin ko, mas makabubuting gamitin na lang 'yung mga washable o puwedeng labhan kaysa mga disposable na itinatapon gaya ng mga diapers at sanitary napkins. Ang mga Personal Protective Equipment oPPE tulad ng disposable face masks at gloves ay naging basic needs natin dahil sa pandemya. Sa katunayan, ang produksyon ng mga PPE masyadong tumaas para matugunan ang pangangailangan sa panahong ito.

Tinatayang nasa 129 bilyong facemasks at 65 bilyong gloves ang nagagamit kada buwan sa buong mundo. Anang DENR, ang mga nagamit nang PPE, na tiyak na may taglay ng sari-saring sakit at impeksyon, ay maglilikha ng isang malaking suliranin kung hindi maipaplano ang wastong pagtatapon nito.

Maging dito sa ating bansa, ang hindi wastong pagtatapon ng nagamit nang face masks at gloves ay dahilan sa pagkalat nito sa ating mga daluyong tubig gaya ng canal, creek, estero, ilog, at dagat.

Tunay naman na ang sitwasyong ito ay napalaking dagok sa ating kapaligiran at likas-yaman. Ito rin ay tiyak na magdadala ng masamang epekto sa kalusugan ng mga tao pati na rin sa mga hayop.

## DENR seizes over 4K board feet of illegal lumber

By Marna Dagumboy Del Rosario August 14, 2020, 9:19 pm

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**ILLEGAL LUMBER.** Joint anti-illegal logging operatives seize some 4,000 board feet of premium hardwood lumber at the Romar's Hardware in Barangay Pandan, Angeles City, Pampanga on Thursday (August 13, 2020). The seized pieces of lumber are temporarily stored at DENR regional office and PENRO for safe keeping. *(Photo by DENR-PENRO Pampanga)*

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga** – More than 4,000 board feet of premium hardwood lumber worth some PHP250,000 were seized Thursday by the joint anti-illegal logging operatives of the regional and provincial offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Pampanga and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Angeles City.

Laudemir Salac, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) here, said the forest contraband was seized from the compound of Romar's Hardware located in Barangay Pandan, Angeles City and owned by a certain Marita Yen.

"This operation is part of our regular inspection, monitoring and spot lumber inventory. And our team found out that suspicious forest products, which are banned timber hardwood species from the Philippine dipterocarp species such as yakal, tanguile and lauan, were found hidden under those legitimate lumber stocks," Salac said in a media interview Friday.

He said upon verification, the owner failed to show any legal documents or permit for keeping such premium lumber, and the team immediately seized them.

"Possession of these species without necessary permit from the DENR is prohibited under forestry law," he added.

Salac also warned other hardware and lumber stores in the province not to store undocumented lumber or they may face the sanction of the law. He also appealed to the public to report to the DENR any illegal forest activities.

The DENR-PENRO Pampanga is now conducting administrative adjudication and is preparing to file a criminal case against the offender for violating Section 68 of the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

The seized pieces of lumber are temporarily stored at DENR regional office and PENRO for safe keeping. *(PNA)*

## Saving Agusan Sur's 300-year-old 'toog'

By: [Chris Panganiban](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)  
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:20 AM August 14, 2020

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR — A towering Philippine rosewood tree (*Petersianthus quadrialatus*), locally known as “toog,” looms over Barangay Alegria here as the landmark has turned into an ecotourism site.

But these days, the fate of the 300-year-old tree, said to be the country's oldest and tallest at 54 meters (177 feet), hangs in the balance.

The ancient tree that has been attracting conservationists, travel bloggers, and environmentalists is ailing. The decay of its buttress due to fungi and termite infestation had worried villagers, prompting them to ask environment officials last year to check on its health.

After environment officials confirmed the high probability that the tree would collapse, Mayor Solomon Rufila and the town council agreed on Monday to cut the tree's upper part, retaining only half of the tree's trunk that covered about 30 m from the ground.

But Armando Palijon, a tree surgeon and former forestry professor at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, warned that the tree would gradually die if its upper portion was cut off.



**HERITAGE TREE** This 54-meter-high Philippine rosewood tree or “toog” has attracted environmentalists and tourists to San Francisco town in Agusan del Sur province. —JANUS LOUISE PANGANIBAN

### No assurance

“If you notice, the tree is devoid of lateral branches from the base to the general crown level which is normal architecture of the tree,” Palijon told the Inquirer in an online interview.

“This means that [we can't be] assured that the tree will produce sprouts that will develop into branches [and] subsequently form the crown needed to make it function physiologically,” he said.

It was not clear whether town officials, in agreeing to keep the lower trunk of the tree, would pursue its treatment and cure.

Local officials were keen on cutting the tree last week, fearing that the tree's collapse would put at risk the lives of people living nearby and motorists and travelers along Agusan del Sur-Surigao del Sur Highway.

But a local environmental movement called Save the Toog Tree Please (Stop), is seeking to seek scientific treatment for the tree.

Mauro Bravo Jr., a retired Department of Public Works and Highways district engineer who heads Stop, presented to the council a proposed retrofitting project around the tree, where a two-level view deck would be built to provide a panoramic view of Mt. Magdiwata.

Palijon said the tree could still be saved through appropriate technological interventions. But he said he needed to see the tree to ascertain its actual condition.

Jurgenne Primavera, a pioneering member of Philippine Native Tree Enthusiasts and one of the country's leading authorities on mangroves, said the tree could still be cured with the help of the best scientific advice from tree surgeons like Palijon.

Marcelina Pacho, former pathologist of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, advised local officials in September last year to prune the tree's branches and clean its cavities with fungicide.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1321368/saving-agusan-surs-300-year-old-toog#ixzz6V811yLCG>

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## TRAK NGA KARGADO OG DAGHAN NGA "FOODS" NADISGRASYA

Trending karon sa social media ang usa ka trak nga dunay trap nga tatak "FOOD PASS" human napicturan ang nayabong kahoy nga karga niini sa dihang nakasugamak oh disgrasya sa Brgy. Tigatto, Davao City.



## 'No oil spill,' claims MV Globe 6 skipper, as Coast Guard probes incident off Antique

Published August 14, 2020, 5:38 PM

[by Beteena Kae Unite](#)

A day after a Vietnamese cargo vessel ran aground off Antique, its captain confirmed that there was no sign of oil spill from the vessel.

Captain Nguyen Hoai, the skipper of MV Globe 6, told the Philippine Coast Guard that the vessel's ballast tank remained intact and no sign of oil spill has been observed in the vicinity waters.

Despite the report from the captain, the Coast Guard still laid an oil spill boom around MV Globe 6 "as a precautionary measure before underwater hull inspection today (August 14)."

According to the Coast Guard, divers were not able to conduct inspection Thursday due to strong waves in the area. The divers were deployed anew Friday to check on the hull of the vessel to ensure that there is no oil spill but assessment has yet to be issued by the Coast Guard.

MV Globe 6 ran aground in the waters between Nagubat Island and Liwagao Island in Antique Thursday.

According to the ship's skipper, the officer on watch fell asleep during his duty when the incident happened.

The cargo ship, which was manned by 25 crew members, was on its way to Davao City from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to deliver rice cargo when it ran aground.

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/14/no-oil-spill-claims-mv-globe-6-skipper-as-coast-guard-probes-incident-off-antique/>

## Oil spill sa Antique dahil sa sumadsad na Vietnamese vessel, aagapan



August 14, 2020 @ 6:44 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naglatag na ng oil spill boom ang Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) katuwang ang Port State Control (PSC) Semirara Division sa baybayin sa pagitan ng Nagubat Island at Liwagao Islands sa Antique kung saan sumadsad ang Vietnamese cargo vessel.

Ayon sa PCG, ito ay bilang precautionary measure matapos inspeksyunin ang MV Globe 6.

Bago ang paglalatag ng oil spill boom, inireport ni Captain Nguyen Hoai, skipper ng MV Globe 6, na ang ballast tank ng barko ay nanatiling buo at walang senyales ng oil spill sa nasabing baybayin.

Una nang iniulat na ang nasabing barko ay sumadsad sa mababaw na bahagi ng karagatan habang papuntang Davao City upang magdeliver ng bigas mula Ho Chi Minh City.

Ayon sa kapitan ng barko, naka-idlip ang kanilang Officer On Watch (OOW) nang mangyari ang pagsadsad. **Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden**



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EDITORIAL



CARTOON

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DENR National Capital Region, through its East Field Office (EFO), retrieved a Great Eared Nightjar (*Eurostopodus macrotis*) in Barangay Silangan, Quezon City on Wednesday, 5 August 2020.

The retrieval was made possible through a forwarded message sent by Mr. Carlito Bayron, Jr. on 4 August 2020. The owl appeared to be weak and exhausted was surrendered by a resident who captured and kept it for several days.

The EFO team endorsed the rescued wildlife to the Enforcement Division (ED) for temporary custody prior to its release back in the wild.

The Great Eared Nightjar is the largest and most conspicuous of the Philippine nightjars. It has pronounced ear tufts and inhabits forests, forest edges, and fields and plains with some tree cover. Presently, the conservation status of the bird is listed as "Least Concern" in both the DENR and IUCN wildlife database.

[#KeepAnimalsWildAndFree](#)

## Bird club festival goes online

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:20 AM August 15, 2020

Months into quarantine, Filipinos looked out their windows and into backyards, and observed what was there all along: birds! Endemic, resident and migrant birds.

The Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) noted a spike in pictures or audio clips received, along with descriptions and a recurring query: “What bird is this?”

Fittingly, WBCP’s 13th Philippine Bird-Tual Festival—the country’s first-ever online bird fest—focuses on backyard birding. Everyone is invited to join for free and ask questions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, August 15, through the livestream on BirdwatchPhilippines’ Facebook page.

“Expect to learn about birdwatching basics, how to identify urban birds, birding hot spots in the Philippines and the region, and conservation of flagship bird species. There is also a children’s hour with storytelling, drawing, coloring, and face-painting activities,” said Gina Mapua, the festival chair.



QC RESIDENT A coppersmith barbet, locally known as “pokpok,” emerges from its tree dwelling in Quezon City in a photo taken by birdwatcher Adrian Constantino.

### No stranger to risks

“WBCP Bird Festivals have been held in Manila, Cebu City, Puerto Princesa, Davao City, Dumaguete, Balanga, Zamboanga City, Tacurong and Negros to promote awareness of birds and nature, and to develop a concern for their conservation among Filipinos, especially children,” Mapua added. “WBCP works with local government units, the Department of Tourism and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to encourage policies and directions toward conservation.”

While annual bird fairs all over the world have been canceled, the Philippine Bird Festival (PBF) has long been navigating risks.

The very first PBF, for example, was held in Quezon City at the height of a global avian flu alert, WBCP president Mike Lu recalled.

### Global audience

The 9th PBF, held in Zamboanga, was rescheduled due to a Moro rebel siege while the 11th edition in Bacolod pushed through despite a typhoon.

This year, “the COVID situation put a stop to a physical bird festival but today’s event allows us to share the Philippine Bird Festival with a global audience,” Lu noted. —LU-ANN FUENTES-

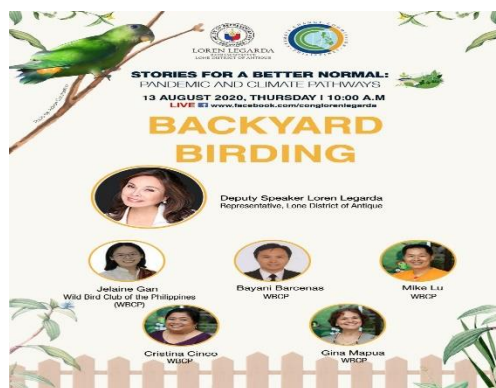
**BAJARIAS, CONTRIBUTOR**

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1321869/bird-club-festival-goes-online#ixzz6V8RQimlo>

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## Backyard birdwatching in next 'Stories for a Better Normal' series

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on August 14, 2020



Caption

CALOOCAN CITY, Aug. 14 (PIA) -- “Easy Backyard Birding” or birdwatching will be the topic for the next episode of “Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Pathways,” on Thursday, Aug. 13, at 10 a.m. via Facebook Live

at [www.facebook.com/conglorenlegarda](http://www.facebook.com/conglorenlegarda) and [www.facebook.com/CCCPhI](http://www.facebook.com/CCCPhI).

In the episode, backyard birdwatchers and professionals will share their experiences and insights in bird watching, discuss urban bird biodiversity, and highlight the role of birds in our ecosystems, particularly as pollinators of plants.

House Deputy Speaker and Antique Representative Loren Legarda will host the event, and will be joined by members of the Wild Bird Club, including Mr. Mike Lu, a club founding member; Ms. Jelaine Gan; Mr. Bayani Barcenas, club secretary; Ms. Cristina Cinco, who is also a food entrepreneur; and Ms. Gina Mapua, an organizer of the annual bird fair conducted by the club, will share easy, replicable, and sustainable techniques of backyard bird watching.

This upcoming episode aims to inspire young people to see the importance of birds in maintaining the balance of our ecosystems, as well as encourage urban dwellers to start identifying and protecting threatened species of birds and help conserve their critical habitats in urban areas.

In previous episodes, the online series tackled topics on food gardening, saving seeds, permaculture, good nutrition and diet, and sustainable urban mobility in order to teach citizens how to be self-sustainable and self-sufficient.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, Stories for a Better Normal aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a “better normal” can be realized within our communities.

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

## How biodiversity conservation can curb pandemics



By [Anjelica Ibuyan](#)

August 15, 2020

The world is currently illness tooth and nail against a deadly illness known as the coronavirus disease 2019, which has put billions of lives at risk.

As health care workers fight the pandemic, people who went into social isolation to prevent further infections of the virus delve into numerous social discussions on health practices, health systems, politics and the environment.

### What are pandemics?

Disease outbreaks start as epidemics or when the disease rapidly spreads across a particular region or regions before they are classified as pandemics. These diseases can affect thousands to millions of people easily through person-to-person contact if the virus, which usually comes from wild animals, changes or mutates.

A novel infectious agent or a bacteria that becomes resistant to antibiotic treatment are the usual causes of a pandemic. Considering that the cause is a novel bacteria or virus, humans may have little to no immunity against, which may lead to high death tolls.

### Conditions for deadly diseases

Numerous outbreaks plagued the world throughout history, with some deadlier than others. Among them is the spread of the Nipah virus in 1997. Scientists identified the virus was carried by fruit bats that flew from Indonesia to neighboring countries in search of food.

The Nipah virus outbreak is just one of the many infectious diseases, usually confined in wildlife, that infected people living in or near areas undergoing deforestation. Deforestation creates conditions for a variety of deadly viruses that emerge and eventually spread to people.

A decreasing number of forests has been linked to 31 percent of disease outbreaks as bacteria and virus-carrying animals are driven out of their natural habitats and moving closer to human settlement. This is the case for the Nipah virus outbreak; Fruit bats migrating to neighboring countries, bringing with them novel virus strains, after their homes were burned down to make way for agriculture.

Along with declining biodiversity is the drive to hunt and sell wildlife, even those that are endangered, and increasing the risks of animal-to-human transmission of novel diseases. It is believed that it's because of this exploitation and abuse to nature Covid-19 spread from animals to humans.

## How biodiversity conservation can curb pandemics

Biodiversity would have contained pathogens before they could infect humans. But the destruction and unwanted intrusion into natural habitats — whether for hunting wildlife or agricultural development — made containment far more difficult.

### Protecting biodiversity

It's plain to see that biodiversity plays a huge role in containing diseases that put human lives at risk, but considering this crucial factor in key discussions is rare. Including this in policy decisions that affect natural ecosystems sees the same fate. The current pandemic is another wake-up call for lawmakers and societies to think about the effects of turning a blind eye on these connections.

While finding a cure and vaccine will help in resolving the current pandemic, preventing another one will be next wise action. Biodiversity conservation is a crucial step society needs to take to curb a new wave of disease outbreak.

Collectively holding companies accountable for their acts against the environment and demanding them to eliminate these actions is also critical in protecting biodiversity. Along this line is supporting the indigenous peoples and local communities who safeguard the forests and maintain the integrity of forest lands.

Taking part in conservation efforts such as tree planting activities, donating to environmental organizations like Haribon Foundation, volunteering, or raising awareness about the cause are also ways that any citizen can do in preserving and restoring nature and its resources.

Above all, governments should be at the forefront of biodiversity conservation and upholding the rights of every individual. People in power should implement science-based conservation policies to protect nature and its people.

To help conserve the environment against future pandemics, go to [bit.ly/HelpOurForests](https://bit.ly/HelpOurForests).



## Has the lockdown inspired new hope in the fight against global warming?

[AFP Relaxnews](#) / 04:44 PM August 14, 2020



Investment in renewable energy is essential to combat global warming, points out a recent study. Image: Mimadeo/Istock.com via AFP Relaxnews

How will COVID-19 affect the fight against global warming? A recent study, which looked at the reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during the lockdown, offers some reasons for hope.

However, the authors of the research warn that structural measures must accompany major changes in the behavior of the world's population if global warming is to be halted.

The study published in "Nature Climate Change" shows how a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on a scale with the one occasioned by the lockdown could, if it was reinforced by structural economic measures, effectively combat global warming.

### **A temporary reduction that needs to be permanent**

The team of 14 researchers evaluated data from Apple and Google on mobility during the health crisis. Their results show that close to four billion people cut down on traveling by 50% during a period that extended from February to June 2020, prompting a significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions worldwide.

This is encouraging news for the fight against global warming, although the impact of the reduction will be largely ephemeral due to its limited duration.

The researchers point out that even if the lockdown was extended until the end of 2021, its impact on global warming would only amount to 0.1 degree Celsius by 2030.

### **Long-term change to counter a looming emergency**

For professor Piers Forster, who led the study, a major change in human behavior will not be enough in itself to put an end to global warming.

The world must now take advantage of a post-COVID opportunity to implement structural change in the economy with the objective of reducing emissions to a figure close to zero.

The three sectors targeted by the researchers are industry, transport and power generation. They notably argue for a massive investment in renewable energy and a policy that prevents any fossil fuel lock-ins or bailouts. And they explore the impact of these measures in two scenarios, one that is relatively moderate and another that is much more radical.



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## Has the lockdown inspired new hope in the fight against global warming?

However, in both cases, governments will have to make important decisions in favor of the environment to avoid the most harmful consequences of global warming and create a more resilient future. **IB**

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

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

**TOPICS:** [carbon dioxide emissions](#), [Climate change](#), [coronavirus](#), [COVID-19](#), [Global warming](#), [lockdown](#), [pandemic](#), [quarantine](#), [Renewable Energy](#)

Read more: <https://technology.inquirer.net/103136/has-the-lockdown-inspired-new-hope-in-the-fight-against-global-warming#ixzz6V8U65nmp>

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## You(th) remain an inspiration to our climate journey

By [Ludwig O. Federigan](#)

August 15, 2020

I promised last Saturday (August 8) that I will dedicate today's column for our young people. Here is the excerpts of my address to our young Bangsamoro brothers and sisters for the "#ASuLongKabataan: Youth Engagement for Local and Global Action," the sixth and the last episode of Usapang Liguasan: Online Environmental Learning Sessions, during the International Youth Day 2020 last August 12.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change identified our young people as key actors in raising awareness, running educational programs, promoting sustainable lifestyles, conserving nature, supporting renewable energy, adopting environmentally-friendly practices, and implementing adaptation and mitigation projects.

The youth always have the ability to challenge the traditional and uphold the interests of future generations more than ever. They see climate change as a profound injustice and an existential threat to their generation and those that will follow. I shared in my column last week that the new Deloitte Global Millennial Survey 2020 revealed 83 percent of millennials and 79 percent of Gen Zs agreed that climate change is happening and is caused primarily by humans.

By organizing school walkouts, public protests and social media campaigns, the youth have drawn the world's attention to global warming in ways that decades of studies could not.

All over the world, a growing number of engaged youth organizations are formed through which youth make their voices heard and actively contribute to shaping the intergovernmental climate change policies. The global climate strike in 2019 alone mobilized 10 million young people on the streets to demand from their governments immediate actions to address the continued threats of climate change.

The future totally depends on the decisions made by the youth — and in turn, these decisions will ultimately have an impact on themselves in future, as they are the one who has the most time to spend in the future and their children as well.

Youth can be the one who will find the solutions to the problems the older generation has failed to respond to — especially on climate change — Sustainable Development Goals 13 (SDG) as among the 17 SDGs. This event manifests the widespread recognition of the role that you play.

### Addressing challenges

And for those who are still new to this concept, how can you do this very challenging task?

First, you must understand what climate change is — how will it affect you, your family, friends and community, and what are the things that you could do to help address it?

Second, you are called to raise awareness. Raising awareness is key as we aim to influence our friends, our families and our communities. The momentum is already there. Lots of conventions and negotiations were commenced. All you have to do is learn how to sustain it and move forward.

Third, innovate. Youth have the capability to identify and challenge existing efforts and breakthrough barriers as you have the energy to bring fresh perspectives.

## You(th) remain an inspiration to our climate journey

Fourth, communicate, initiate and engage in dialogues. You can always initiate to bring government leaders into the table by engaging yourselves proactively in the continuing discourse. While I admire our young street parliamentarians who continue to articulate the inequalities, I have the firm belief that governments are willing to listen to the voices of the youth. You can inspire people from different sectors to work together to create more efficient, practical and innovative solutions towards achieving a common goal.

Fifth, create enabling policies. Most of you here are young leaders from your respective localities. You have the capacity to translate all these talks into policies which shall move forward our collective agenda towards sustainable development.

People of all ages are responsible for creating a sustainable and healthy planet. But it is the youth who may have the most to win or lose in whether we achieve targets for sustainable living. This puts emphasis on the critical role you play.

As our government continue to lay the groundwork for the transformation of critical sectors towards a more sustainable and equitable economic growth that is more resilient to the interconnected threats of climate change and public health emergencies, I recognize that more actions are needed to be done. And our government — both local and national — need all the help to further elevate our aspirations.

The climate crisis, just like the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, will continue to disproportionately affect the poor and marginalized. Preventing and overcoming another public health crisis, therefore, will entail actions across all sectors of society.

The scale and scope of our current situation are beyond a single solution. This cannot be managed by one government alone. We need concerted efforts from all the sectors of all countries around the globe, particularly those countries who are historically responsible for this mess. A global scale mobilization is what we need and youth have shown their might on previous occasions.

But before we achieve this, we need to fortify our commitments here at home.

Scientists have been relentless in saying that the climate, without any iota of doubt, is moving faster than what we could really think of, and that it will cause horrible consequences for all living things.

I am human, too, and I find all these climate projections terrifying and scary. I am afraid that several years from now, we will not be able to talk like this because most of us might not have been able to survive the increasing temperatures, suffocating air, and the lack of food and clean water.

As a father, I fear that my children who are at the ages 12 to 18 years old will not be able to enjoy living their youth free of worries. I am not saying all of these to scare you. I am laying these climate realities to appeal to all of you. As you go back to your communities, I encourage you to reflect on the learnings you have received today.

As the generation who would inherit this planet, think ahead, plan ahead, and take a stand. For us to aspire for a prosperous future for you and your future children, join me and let us all be part of the solutions.

## Use of face shield in public transport on Saturday

Published August 14, 2020, 5:16 PM

[by Alexandria Dennise San Juan](#)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) reminded passengers, drivers, and conductors of public utility vehicles (PUVs) Friday that the mandatory wearing of face shields and face masks in public transportation starts Saturday, Aug. 15.

The LTFRB said Memorandum Circular (MC) 2020-033 issued this month requiring PUV passengers, as well as drivers and conductors to wear face shields, takes effect in areas where public transportation is allowed.

The circular, which was signed by LTFRB Chairman Atty. Martin Delgra III on Aug. 7, amended a previous memorandum requiring PUV drivers and conductors to use just an eye protector aside from the mandatory face mask.

Based on the memorandum, they are now required to wear “face shields that should cover the whole face” in line with the MC 2020-014 of the Department of Transportation.

“Failure to wear face mask and face shield shall be reasonable ground to refuse/deny boarding in any PUV,” the order said.

Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade had earlier said that this initiative will be implemented along with their existing health and safety protocols to further reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in public transport facilities.

The DOTr chief said the mandatory wearing of face shield will be implemented in all public transportation, including in the aviation and airports, railways, road, as well as the maritime sector.

Operations of all forms of public transportation are still suspended in Metro Manila until Aug. 18 while the modified enhanced community quarantine is being enforced.

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/14/use-of-face-shield-in-public-transport-on-saturday/>

# Localized lockdowns sa NCR kapag ibinalik ito sa GCQ – IATF

By

[Bombo Reymund Tinaza](#)

-August 14, 2020 | 2:40 PM

Aasahan umano ng mga taga-Metro Manila ang mas mahigpit na localized lockdowns kapag ibinalik ang rehiyon sa general community quarantine (GCQ).

Sinabi ni Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, dahil may mga Cabinet secretaries ng itinalaga sa mga lungsod sa Metro Manila, makakaasa ang publiko ng mas aktibong localized lockdowns.

Ayon kay Sec. Nograles, ang pagtatalaga ng “big brothers and sisters” sa Metro Manila cities ay pag-replicate ng ginawa noon sa Cebu City kung saan ipinadala si Environment Sec. Roy Cimatú bilang point person ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa COVID-19 situation sa lungsod.

Ang mga nasabing Cabinet secretaries umano ay magsisilbing tulay sa pagitan ng national government at binabantayang local government units (LGUs) para mas epektibong mapangasiwaan ang laban sa COVID-19.

“If we go [back to] GCQ, we’ll have to be very strict doon sa ating localized lockdowns. We have to be more active sa localized lockdowns,” ani Sec. Nograles na co-chair din ng IATF. “I think, with Cabinet secretaries assigned to the different cities of Metro Manila now, we can assure the public na even if mag-GCQ mas magiging aktibo po ang pag-localize lockdowns natin.”

## COVID-19 cases breach 150,000

posted August 14, 2020 at 05:15 pm

by [Willie Casas](#)

With 6,216 new COVID-19 cases reported Friday, the Philippines now has a total of 153,660 infections since the pandemic began.



*SHIELD INSPECTOR. Levi Facundo, head of the Manila Bureau of Permits, inspects a stall selling face shields in Carriedo, Sta Cruz on August 14, 2020 to check if traders are abiding by a price control imposed by the Department of Trade and Industry. The demand for face shields has gone up following the government decision requiring the mandatory use of face shields and masks in public transportation and at work beginning August 15, amid the steady spike in new COVID-19 cases. Norman Cruz*

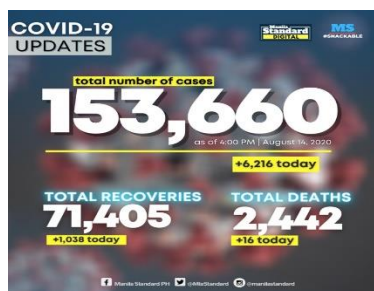
This is the second highest number of additional COVID-19 cases reported in a single day, with the record-high at 6,958 on Aug. 10.

Of the total number of infections, 79,813 are active cases, with patients being treated for COVID-19 or under quarantine.

Health officials reported 16 new fatalities, bring total deaths to 2,442 from COVID-19.

At the same time, there were 1,038 new recoveries, bringing to 71,405 the number of patients who have recovered from the disease.

The Philippines has been logging record-high numbers in terms of new COVID-19 cases since late July, following the easing of quarantine measures and the gradual reopening of the economy.



There has been no apparent letup in the rise even while Metro Manila and surrounding provinces reverted to a stricter modified enhanced community quarantine on August 4, with the restrictions to remain in effect until Aug. 18.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire on Friday said the “bulk of cases are in the productive age group of 20 to 59 years old.”

This was the group that went out to work, she said.

## COVID-19 cases breach 150,000



*SITUATIONAL REPORT. Secretary Vivencio Dizon (left), deputy chief implementer of the government's national policy against covid-19, goes into a huddle with Dr. Conrado Crisostomo of DLSU-MC , prior to the start of the COVID-19 situational report of Dasmarinas City, Cavite at the Villarosa Hall, Angelo King building on Friday, Aug. 14, 2020. Cavite is one of the provinces that have been chalking up surging cases of virus infection despite being placed under the stricter MECQ controls. JR Josue*

“The drivers of infection - when we look at the data--are those who go out of their homes. When they return, they are the ones who bring the infection to their homes,” Vergeire said.

After Metro Manila and nearby provinces reverted to the relatively stricter modified enhanced community quarantine, the government said it would recalibrate its COVID-19 response with the help of the medical sector.

**Topics:** [COVID-19 cases](#) , [Maria Rosario Vergeire](#) , [pandemic](#) , [Department of Health](#) , [Metro Manila](#)



## Philippines reports over 6,000 more COVID-19 cases as tally climbs to 153,000

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Aug 14, 2020 4:30:22 PM



The country on Friday recorded over 6,000 new COVID-19 infections, with the tally of cases reaching 153,660, the Department of Health said. (FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 14)** — The country on Friday recorded over 6,000 new COVID-19 infections, with the tally of cases reaching 153,660, the Department of Health said.

The department said 6,216 more people were infected, of whom 80 percent or 4,973 cases were detected in the last 14 days. Metro Manila recorded the most number of new cases, with 3,844 more infected residents, followed by Laguna with 302, Rizal with 242, Cavite with 240 and Bulacan with 178 more cases.

There are 79,813 active cases or currently ill patients of which 91.1 percent have mild symptoms, 7.3 percent have no symptoms, one percent are in critical condition and 0.6 percent are severe cases, the case bulletin stated, it added.

The number of recoveries also rose to 71,405 after 1,038 more people got better. However, 16 others have died raising the death toll to 2,442, the department said.

The data came from 98 out of 103 COVID-19 testing laboratories in the country, the agency noted.

The Department of Foreign Affairs also announced five new COVID-19 cases among Filipinos abroad, bringing the total to 9,878. Two more recovered and there were no new deaths. The total number of recoveries is at 5,823 and the death toll remains at 722, the agency added.

## Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles nais isailalim sa lockdown ang 25 barangay sa QC

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo August 14, 2020 - 09:52 AM



Photo grab from PCOO Facebook video

Nais ni Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles na magpatupad ng lockdown sa 25 mga barangay sa Quezon City.

Si Nograles ang miyembro ng gabinete na nakatalaga para sa COVID-19 response sa Quezon City.

Ayon kay Nograles, nais niyang maisailalim sa “special concern lockdowns” ang 25 mga barangay na pawang mataas ang bilang ng populasyon at mataas din ang kaso ng COVID-19.

Sa ngayon nagpapatupad na ang Quezon City government ng special concern lockdowns sa ilang lugar gaya ng Batasan Hills, Culiat, Fairview, Tatalon, Sauyo, Bahay Toro, Kamuning, Roxas, Bagbag, Baesa, at Kaligayahan.

Pero nais ni Nograles na tignan din ang sitwasyon sa Tandang Sora, Commonwealth, Holy Spirit, Novaliches Proper, Pasong Tamo, Crame, Payatas, Socorro, Matandang Balara, Pinyahan, at San Roque.

Ang Quezon City ay mayroong 8,240 na total confirmed cases ng COVID-19.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/259325/cabinet-secretary-karlo-nograles-nais-isailalim-sa-lockdown-ang-25-barangay-sa-qc#ixzz6V8WFOGLt>

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## Global death toll sa COVID-19 mahigit 753,000 na

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo August 14, 2020 - 12:23 PM



Sumampa na sa mahigit 753,000 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Sa huling datos, ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa COVID-19 sa iba't ibang panig ng mundo ay 753,451 na.

Pinakamaraming naitalang nasawi pa rin sa US na umabot na sa 170,415.

Ang India na ang pang-apat sa mga bansa sa mundo na mayroong pinakamaraming nasawi sa sakit matapos na maungusan ang death toll ng UK.

Sumampa naman na sa mahigit 105,000 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa Brazil.

Habang death toll sa Mexico ay umabot na sa mahigit 55,200.

Narito bilang ng mga nasawi sa iba pang mga bansa:

Brazil – 105,564  
Mexico – 55,293  
India – 48,144  
UK – 41,347  
Italy – 35,231  
France – 30,388  
Spain – 28,605  
Peru – 21,713  
Iran – 19,162

Sumampa naman na sa mahigit 13.9 million na ang bilang ng mga naka-recover na sa sakit.

Habang nasa mahigit 6.4 million pa ang aktibong kaso.

Read more: <https://rado.inquirer.net/259345/global-death-toll-sa-covid-19-mahigit-753000-na#ixzz6V8YEzMSP>

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## The race to contain the coronavirus

posted August 15, 2020 at 12:20 am

by [Rod Kapunan](#)



BACKBENCHER  
by Rod Kapunan

"This pandemic has united the world."

How I wish nations would act as one in the race to save mankind to come out with a vaccine against the coronavirus. China, Russia, the US, Japan, UK, France, etc. are now racing against the pandemic that is threatening to eradicate mankind. Unlike previous history, including the threat to rekindle the Cold War, countries are one in their endeavor to erase this threat to civilization.

The dawning of civilization saw man inventing his tool as means to gather food for his survival. Because he had to subdue wild animals, it became necessary for him to defend himself.

Through the ages, the tool that became his weapon suited his needs. During the Stone Age, men devised them as their earliest tool. Primitive men used them to hunt animals or as flint to start a fire. It was equally converted to weapons used to defend themselves against ferocious beasts.

As man's knowledge for survival advanced, bows and arrows were invented. Each has their specific purpose like allowing men to hunt in wider areas, and later against their fellowmen who might wrest from them their prized catch.

Tools formally became a weapon to kill. The invention of gunpowder for their guns, rifles and cannons were intended against their fellowmen whose depravity developed alongside with their concept of property something far above the concept of survival. Thus, the tool to gather food was radically transformed to a weapon to kill anybody who might deprive him of what he earned from his labor. Hence, the right to kill in defense of one's property became morally right. Philosophers like Marx elevated to a second level man's consciousness, that defense of property be accorded moral justification.

The third level is the ultimate transformation of tools as weapons was the invention of nuclear weapons. The atom bomb shed off whatever hypocrisy man has to protect himself and his property. Its purpose is to wipe out humanity from the face of the globe. Those that have nuclear weapons are driven by the negative object of totally destroying mankind.

The only contraction is that it gave birth to members of the nuclear club the deterrence of restrain for fear of its awesome consequence. It instilled a universal fear that nuclear weapons could wipe them out of existence. Military strategists call this the mutually assured destruction (MAD) theory.

Despite that, the balance of power concept remains precarious. Once that imbalance is felt, the old instinct to dominate will resurface. The two world wars were the result of power imbalance. The Marxists attribute this to imperialism, which is an inherent contradiction in the capitalist system.

When the US has the monopoly of the atomic bomb, it entertained the notion that it was its passport to dominate the globe. The US saw the destructive capacity of the nuclear bomb when it was first

used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb on August 29, 1949, the concept of MAD became an unwritten deterrence between the two superpowers. It proved that a nuclear weapon has its frightening limitation that promoted the negative theory of sum zero game, which is a contradiction in terms.

The advent of the pandemic reverted back the philosophy to the positive and universal cycle of protecting mankind. As political observers noted, there was nuclear disarmament but it remained precarious because other nuclear club members continue to entertain the notion they still have a chance to survive in the event of nuclear war.

The pandemic resurrected the universal objective of man, which is to preserve mankind irrespective of race, religion, ideology and economic status. Unlike the doctrine relying on the use of nuclear weapons, in the case of the current pandemic, nobody can say somebody started it. It was nature taking its vengeance against mankind for the mess brought by their own progress. The greatest drawback to this is it now engulfs the whole of mankind, and all are seemingly helpless to stop it.

As the pandemic takes its toll on human lives, it becomes far more difficult to control than that of a nuclear blast because it is an enemy one cannot see, feel or smell. It is this characteristic that urged mankind to revert to the strategy of preserving their species or of making the whole of humankind their ally against this deadly virus.

Notably throughout the millennia, mankind has been visited by a pandemic. During the Medieval Ages man suffered the bubonic plague or "black death." The plague nearly wiped out one third of the entire population of Europe. In exploring the New World in the 14th century, white colonizers practically wiped out the entire native population in the Caribbean by bringing new and unknown diseases. They accidentally introduced tuberculosis, cholera, measles, smallpox, and diphtheria to the continent. At the turn of the 20th century, nearly 50 million were killed by a deadly virus known as the Spanish influenza.

In all these cycles of pandemic, men were united in their endeavor to contain it. Coronavirus reunited mankind not for their need for food, but for their very survival. Nonetheless, the US used the occasion to politicize its version of "freedom" and "democracy" by withdrawing from the WHO all for the charge of being "China centric."

The pandemic of our time already infected 19.7 million, about 12 million have recovered, and there have been 729 thousand deaths worldwide. The unity to fight against Covid 19 was not warranted by international convention but by the necessity to counteract the threat. Among the countries racing to develop the vaccine are:

Russia - Russian Ambassador Igor Khovaev said his country already developed an "effective and safe" vaccine. According to Kirill Dmitriev, the vaccine was developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology. vaccine. Russian vaccine for COVID-19 is named Sputnik V and is now being manufactured and readied for world distribution.

China - SinoPharm is the Chinese pharmaceutical firm that approved the experimental vaccine. The vaccine is expected to be on the market by the end of the year. The vaccine was jointly developed by the Beijing Institute of Biological Products and by the Wuhan Institute of Biological Products. China's ambassador Huang Xilian assured the Philippines will be given priority.

Britain – The vaccine is called ChAdOx1 nCoV-19. Studies show 90% of people developed neutralizing antibodies after taking one dose. Only ten people were given two doses and all produced neutralizing antibodies. UK-based pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca pledged to supply that vaccine at cost price.

France - The Institut Pasteur, is now leading the way. France teamed up with three other EU countries to form an “inclusive vaccine alliance” to EU nations.

US – The US announced an agreement with Pfizer for large-scale production and nationwide delivery of 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Japan – announced the delivery of oral antiviral drug Avigan for clinical trials to be administered to 100 Filipino COVID-19 patients. The Japanese embassy said Avigan tablets, generically known as favipiravir, Avigan has drawn interest for its potential to prevent viral replication.

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**Topics:** [COVID-19](#) , [Pandemic](#) , [Japan](#) , [Russia](#) , [France](#) , [Britain](#) , [United States](#) , [World Health Organizations](#)



The July 3 to 6 poll found 79 percent of Filipino adults saying that their quality of life worsened compared to a year ago (called “losers” by the SWS) and eight percent saying it got better (“gainers”).

The STAR/Michael Varcas, file

## 79% of Pinoys say quality of life worsened in past 12 months

[Helen Flores](#) (The Philippine Star ) - August 15, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Eight in 10 Filipinos believe their lives got worse in the past 12 months, according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) mobile phone survey.

The July 3 to 6 poll found 79 percent of Filipino adults saying that their quality of life worsened compared to a year ago (called “losers” by the SWS) and eight percent saying it got better (“gainers”).

This resulted in a net gainers score (gainers minus losers) of -72, classified by the SWS as “catastrophic.”

Meanwhile, 12 percent of Filipinos said their quality of life was unchanged.

The quality of life was also “catastrophic” or a score of -50 and below across the country, the SWS said. It was lowest in the Visayas with a net score of -75, followed by balance Luzon at -74, Metro Manila at -71 and Mindanao at -65.

But the SWS said the scores in all areas improved from May 2020. The biggest improvement was in Mindanao, up from -80 in May, followed by the Visayas from -82, Metro Manila from -77 and balance Luzon from -75.

The SWS survey was conducted using mobile phone and computer-assisted telephone interviews of 1,555 adult Filipinos, aged 18 and above, nationwide.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. assured the public that the government is working to improve the lives of everyone despite the recent developments while he continues to trumpet the administration’s good economic standing prior to the pandemic.

“We understand this public sentiment considering that our government economists have mentioned that prior to COVID-19, the Philippines was among the fastest growing economies in the region, with low and stable inflation and lowest ever rates of unemployment, underemployment and poverty,” he said. “The coronavirus has indeed adversely affected our economy and people’s livelihood and business.”

## 79% of Pinoys say quality of life worsened in past 12 months

The Philippine Statistics Authority reported in June that the Philippines experienced a record-high unemployment rate of 17.7 percent or about 7.3 million Filipinos by April.

Its data also showed that 13 million Filipinos (representing 38.4 percent) had jobs but were not able to report to work. Nearly all of them attributed this disruption to COVID-19 regulations. The resulting lockdowns in numerous communities and industries also pushed the country's economy into recession.

Roque echoed the statements of the country's economic managers, who maintained that the Philippines can rise above the challenges caused by the pandemic.

To mitigate the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, he said government economists have prepared a whole-of-society program in a recovery plan called Recharge PH, which seeks to refocus, sharpen the design and accelerate the implementation of programs under the 2020 General Appropriations Act.

"We will implement Recharge PH within 2020 and into 2021 and will be incorporated in the Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022," he said, echoing again the statements made earlier by National Economic and Development Authority acting chief Karl Kendrick Chua at a briefing in Malacañang.

Roque reiterated that the government's priority Build, Build, Build programs have also started, subject to health and safety protocols, to create jobs and stimulate the economy.

The Department of Labor and Employment expects the number of workers who will lose their jobs due to the pandemic to still increase. It also reported that 944 establishments have laid off workers in the first nine days of August as they downsize or shut their operations. – **Christina Mendez**



## LPA to bring cloudy skies, scattered rains, thunderstorms in Batanes, Babuyan

Published August 14, 2020 5:19pm

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

A low pressure area (LPA) is expected to bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over Batanes and the Babuyan Group of Islands, according to PAGASA on Friday afternoon.

In its 24-hour forecast, the weather bureau said the LPA was located 170 kilometers north northeast of Basco, Batanes at 3 p.m.

The intertropical convergence zone, meanwhile, may bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in the Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, Marinduque, Romblon and Mindoro provinces.

PAGASA advised affected residents to prepare for possible flash floods or landslides during light to moderate with at times heavy rains.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country, on the other hand, will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to the ITCZ or localized thunderstorms.

Flash floods or landslides during severe thunderstorms are also possible, PAGASA warned.

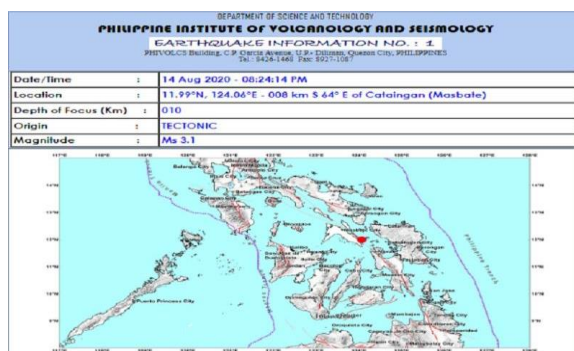
PAGASA added that light to moderate winds and slight to moderate coastal water conditions will prevail in the whole country.

Moreover, the PAGASA synoptic station at the Science Garden in Quezon City reported a minimum temperature of 24°C at 6 am. and a maximum temperature of 32.6°C at 1:50 p.m.

The sun will set at 6:19 p.m., it added. -MDM, GMA News

## Cataingan, Masbate niyanig ng magnitude 3.1 na lindol

August 14, 2020 - 08:44 PM



Niyanig ng magnitude 3.1 na lindol ang lalawigan ng Masbate .

Ayon sa Phivolcs, naitala ang pagyanig sa 8 kilometers southeast ng bayan ng Cataingan, alas-8:24 gabi ng Biyernes (August 14).

May lalim na 10 kilometers at tectonic ang origin ng pagyanig.

Wala namang naitalang pagkasira sa mga ari-arian, intensities at aftershocks.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/259451/cataingan-masbate-niyanig-ng-magnitude-3-1-na-lindol#ixzz6V8XEeHwh>

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August 15, 2020

DATE

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## World's oldest alligator marks 83rd birthday



By [Agence France-Presse](#)

August 15, 2020

**BELGRADE:** Muja has lived through multiple bombing campaigns and several countries — all while never leaving a tiny pool in Belgrade's zoo for 83 years, making him the world's oldest captive alligator. While zookeepers don't know his exact hatch day, the reptile arrived in Belgrade this week in August 1937 from a German zoo. "He's an older gentleman, and we respect his age," Jozef Edvedj, the zoo's veterinarian, told Agence France-Presse with a smile after handlers helped guide a dead rat to the jaws of the slow-moving reptile.

## 'Terror crocodile' the size of a bus fed on dinosaurs, study says

Johnny Diaz, The New York Times

Posted at Aug 14 2020 11:46 PM



A captive crocodile in Dili, East Timor on Feb. 4, 2019. *Matthew Abbott, The New York Times/file*

They had teeth the size of bananas, were as long as buses and limos, and preyed on dinosaurs that fed near their waterways.

Those are among some of the findings presented in a new study announced this week about an enormous ancient animal called the “terror crocodile,” or *Deinosuchus*.

The research, published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, found that the *Deinosuchus*, a lineage of the giant crocodylians from North America, grew up to 33 feet long and “was the largest carnivore in its ecosystem,” in the late Cretaceous period about 75 million to 82 million years ago.

Adam Cossette, a vertebrate paleobiologist who led the study, said in an email Tuesday that while it was difficult to determine their average size because there were so few known specimens, “the specimens that we do have are all HUGE.”

Cossette, of the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine of Arkansas State University, said that large specimens were 30 to 35 feet long and weighed about 8,000 pounds. For comparison, he said that a large American alligator today is about 12 to 13 feet long, weighs about 700 to 800 pounds, and has teeth about 3 inches long at the tip of its snout.

He also said that the ancient reptiles had a large enough head and strong enough jaws to prey on dinosaurs that lived among them.

“*Deinosuchus* was a giant that must have terrorized dinosaurs that came to the water’s edge to drink,” he said in a statement. “Until now, the complete animal was unknown. These new specimens we’ve examined reveal a bizarre, monstrous predator.”

In addition to killing dinosaurs, the animals, because of their size, probably preyed on just about anything that wandered their way. Researchers found multiple bite marks on turtle shells and dinosaur bones.

They also found that at least three species of the *Deinosuchus* roamed what is now the United States and Mexico. Two species lived in the West, from Montana to northern Mexico, and another species lived along the Atlantic coastal plain, from New Jersey to Mississippi.

## 'Terror crocodile' the size of a bus fed on dinosaurs, study says

The study said that despite the name of the genus, which means “terror crocodile,” the creatures were more closely related to alligators. But because of an “enormous skull,” they did not look like either crocodiles or alligators.

The snout was long and broad “but inflated at the front around the nose in a way not seen in any other crocodylian, living or extinct,” according to the researchers, using an alternate spelling of crocodylian.

The reason for its enlarged nose is unknown, the researchers said. They also do not know why the animal had two large holes at the tip of its snout, in front of the nose.

“These holes are unique to Deinosuchus,” Cossette said. “Further research down the line will hopefully help us unpick this mystery.”

His colleague on the study, Christopher Brochu, a vertebrate paleontologist at the University of Iowa, said that the fossils showed how crocodylians were “not ‘living fossils’ that haven’t changed since the age of dinosaurs.”

“They’ve evolved just as dynamically as any other group,” he said in the statement.

“The earliest ancestors of the American alligator, such as Deinosuchus, were bizarre and unlike anything that we see in the modern crocodylian species of today,” Cossette said in the email. “The evolutionary history of Crocodylia is much more fascinating than meets the eye.”

Mark A. Norell, curator and chair of the American Museum of Natural History’s division of paleontology, said the study had many new findings, especially about the strange inflation at the end of the skull, the animal’s heaviness and size, and the shape of its skull.

And Norell said there was much more to learn, because the animals’ fossils remained rare, undercollected and understudied. “Usually their collection and study is an afterthought,” he said, “as most work done on these formations and deposits is dominated by dinosaurs.”

## Every Sumatran rhino has died in Malaysia. Scientists want to bring them back with cloning technology

By Jessie Yeung, CNN

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(CNN) — Iman, [the last Sumatran rhino in Malaysia](#), died last November -- bringing the endangered species one step closer to extinction.

Now, Malaysian scientists are hoping to use tissues and cells from Iman and other dead rhinos to bring the population back.

The project, conducted by a team at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), focuses on stem cell technology and in-vitro fertilization. The process is similar to cloning technology, in that it aims to give birth to a new baby using cells from old rhinos, said Dr. Muhammad Lokman Bin Md. Isa, one of the lead researchers.

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Innity

"Before the three rhinos (the last survivors in Malaysia) died, we got their cells, and the cells are still alive -- which is why I'm quite confident," Dr. Lokman told CNN. "If you don't have any cells, or if we just had tissue that aren't living anymore, we can't do anything with that. We can only put it in a book or museum. But now we have a living thing that we can use."

Here's how the process works: In collaboration with the Borneo Rhino Alliance (BORA), the researchers collected cells and tissue from the last three Sumatran rhinos at BORA's sanctuary -- including Iman -- before each died.

The cells came from the rhinos' hearts, lungs, brains and kidneys. Crucially, the team collected stem cells -- basically, raw material from which cells with specialized functions can be generated.

There are then two possible approaches. The first is to develop these stem cells into an egg and sperm, to create an embryo that will be implanted into a surrogate mother. The surrogate will likely be another rhino, either a Sumatran rhino from another country or another species.

The second method is to take the egg of a surrogate animal, remove the nucleus, and join it with a Sumatran rhino's somatic cell. This technique was famously used to clone Dolly the sheep in 1996.

Lokman and his colleagues are trying both ways.

Because the stem cells self-replicate, the team has a decent stockpile and can try different methods to see which works best.

## Every Sumatran rhino has died in Malaysia. Scientists want to bring them back with cloning technology

The team is still in the preliminary stages; next, they need to analyze the cells to create a genomic database, differentiate the stem cells, and work with zoos and conservancies to find a suitable surrogate female. There are a number of ways this could go wrong; the fertilization could fail, and even if it doesn't, the pregnancy could fail once the embryo is implanted.

But there are signs of hope from similar projects around the world. A Kenyan conservancy houses the only two northern white rhinos left worldwide, Fatu and Najin, who are both female. Last year, scientists [successfully fertilized](#) in-vitro embryos collected from the two remaining females with sperm from dead males, which was celebrated as a major step forward in saving the subspecies.

### The race against extinction

Iman died at BORA's Borneo Rhino Sanctuary last year, where she had been kept and cared for since her capture in 2014. She was 25, and had cancer, which was starting to cause her pain because a tumor was putting pressure on her bladder.

Her death came months after Tam, Malaysia's [last male Sumatran rhino](#), died after suffering organ failure. Conservationists had hoped to breed Tam and Iman.

There are a number of factors that complicated these efforts; the female rhinos at the reserve turned out to be infertile, and plans to set up an international breeding collaboration ultimately failed due to "a series of incidents, some sociopolitical, some biological, and some simply bad luck," said Susie Ellis, executive director of the International Rhino Foundation, in a statement after Tam's death.

Sumatran rhinos, the world's smallest rhino species, are listed as critically endangered by the [World Wildlife Fund](#). The [International Rhino Foundation](#) estimates that there are less than 80 alive in the world.

With Iman's death, the IRF declared the species extinct in the wild in Malaysia; the remaining rhinos are scattered across Indonesia and Thailand.

The population's decline was initially caused by poaching for their horns, which were coveted as ingredients in traditional Asian medicine. Later, it was exacerbated by fragmented habitats and human encroachment on the environment, which prevent the rhinos from gathering and breeding.

The international trade in rhino horn has been banned since 1977, regulated by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), but individual countries determine their own laws that allow or prohibit its sale domestically, according to [Save the Rhino](#).

There are now only five remaining rhino species worldwide, and all are threatened. Some sub-species have already vanished; the western black rhino, native to western Africa, was declared extinct in 2013 due to poaching. The last male northern white rhino died last year, which is what pushed scientists to try in-vitro fertilization with Fatu and Najin.

*This story was first published on CNN.com, "[Every Sumatran rhino has died in Malaysia. Scientists want to bring them back with cloning technology.](#)"*

## Climate change sours French winemakers' bitter harvest

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 01:02 AM August 15, 2020

Rivesaltes, France — Just when it seemed the year could not get more awful for French winemakers, it has got worse.

With coronavirus lockdowns sending sales plummeting, some have had to turn their unsold stock into alcoholic hand disinfectant.

This is all the more depressing because 2019 was a vintage year in many of the country's wine regions.

But 2020 has also brought the creeping specter of climate change into sharp focus, as winemakers were forced to start picking their grapes in early August in parts of southern France – a whole month ahead of the norm two generations ago.



A picker unloads grapes into a trailer at a vineyard in Espira-De-L'Agly, southern France, on August 12, 2020, during the wine harvest. – Every year, the harvest in the Agly valley, flooded with sunshine 300 days a year, is the first in France, starting with dry white wine grape varieties. According to the Ministry of Ecological Transition, “on average, the harvest takes place 18 days earlier than 40 years ago” in France and the advance of the harvest date is “an effective marker of global warming”. (Photo by Lionel BONAVENTURE / AFP)

The first signs are not good, with a meager crop riddled with mildew from topsy-turvy weather.

In some vineyards, there are hardly any grapes left to pick.

The Agly valley, upriver from Rivesaltes, the village which gives its name to the renowned fortified wine, is the sunniest in France, with 300 days of sunshine a year.

### Picking at night to avoid heat

Yet even here they have not seen a year like it with grape-pickers working under blistering temperatures nearing 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

Farmers have been forced to harvest by machine at night or handpick from the crack of dawn to keep the grapes at their cool best.

“It is the first time I have seen anything like this, and I have been working in the vineyards since I was 17,” 68-year-old Jean-Marie Dereu told AFP in his fields 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the Spanish border.

“When I was young, we started the harvest in September.”

This year it started on August 5.



## Climate change sours French winemakers' bitter harvest

"We had so much rain in the spring, which was catastrophic, and in the summer the vines were devastated by mildew.

"Normally, the Tramontane sea breeze blows and dries the vines but this year there was no wind. And now it's almost a drought," said Dereu, who works seven days a week despite his age.

"This year we are definitely going to lose money," he added as he climbed onto his tractor.

The French government said climate change is almost certainly to blame.

The environment ministry said that "on average harvests across France are taking place 18 days earlier than there were 40 years ago."

This was a clear "marker of global warming", it added.

### 'Spanish grapes will grow in UK'

In her laboratory in Rivesaltes, oenologist Anne Tixier is worried about the "disturbing" way the rise in temperatures has been affecting wine production as she tests the pressed grape juice straight from the vineyards.

"We are going to end up growing Spanish grape varieties in England" if this continues, she said as she tasted the first small muscat grapes of 2020 with their distinctive notes of lemon.

"We have been watching harvests get earlier for 30 years," Tixier added.

"We can no longer deny climate change. We have got to think about the future, maybe by using other varieties or hybrids to adapt" to global warming.

Pierre Ruel, whose vineyards are in the nearby village of Salses-le-Chateau, is still passionate about the wine he produces but admits that it "would be more profitable to sell my vineyards than to work them."

Dereu wants to retire but "no one in my family wants to take it on. The young ones would rather work behind a desk than have to do hard physical labor," he sighed.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1321910/climate-change-sours-french-winemakers-bitter-harvest#ixzz6V8SeRrlf>

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## Greening sovereign-debt restructuring



By [Simon Zadek](#)

Aug. 13, 2020

The Covid-19 crisis has made painful sovereign-debt restructurings inevitable for many countries. Countries should offer more favourable terms to debtors that improve protection of natural assets such as rainforests, oceans and biodiversity.



Aerial view of the Amazon Rainforest. Image: [Lucia Barreiros da Silva](#), [CC BY SA 2.0](#)

Many developing countries have so far avoided the high Covid-19 infection and mortality rates that are being experienced elsewhere. While that may be good news, at least in the short term, the bad news is that these countries are set to be among the hardest hit in economic terms.

The World Bank [estimates](#) that as many as 100 million people could fall into extreme poverty as a direct result of the crisis. This is only the tip of the iceberg, as developing-country exports collapse, and small businesses, communities, and livelihoods implode.

The fiscal implications are equally dire, with tax revenues in freefall and extraordinary increases in public spending. From Bangladesh to Brazil, developing countries are trying to keep their economies afloat through debt-financed public spending. South Africa's \$26 billion emergency fiscal-stimulus package, the largest in the country's history, amounts to almost 10 per cent of its GDP.

A sovereign-debt crisis could be in the cards. Globally, emerging-market debt has increased rapidly to [over \\$70 trillion](#). This has been fueled by a decade-long search for yield in a world of excessive liquidity and low interest rates, delivered courtesy of the solution adopted to deal with the economic fallout of the 2008 global financial crisis: quantitative easing.

Acting to help communities and countries weather the economic crisis, while improving natural capital and delivering positive long-term economic prosperity, is both possible and necessary.

The debt burden in so-called frontier economies has increased to \$3.2 trillion ([114 per cent of their collective GDP](#)), from less than \$1 trillion in 2005.

Sovereign-debt restructuring is therefore inevitable, presaging a period of pain on all sides. This implies an urgent need to provide immediate help and to devise longer-term solutions to the debt problem.

One such solution could be to “green” emerging and developing countries’ sovereign debt. This would be done by linking a country’s debt service to its success in protecting or enhancing so-called natural capital – essentially, the biodiversity of their animal and plant species. Many of the affected countries are rich in biodiversity, yet their natural capital is increasingly coming under threat, including from climate change.

Investing in natural capital may seem indulgent. But greening emerging and developing countries’ sovereign debt could ease their economic crises, while restoring and protecting critical biodiversity assets like rainforests, wetlands, oceans, and endangered species, as well as delivering global public goods and sustainable productivity growth.

Doing so would also turn a painful necessity into a threefold virtue. First, offering lower interest rates and principal repayments in return for improvements to debtor countries’ natural capital would ease immediate fiscal pain.

Second, such improvements would boost these countries’ sustainable productivity growth and prosperity by strengthening their increasingly valuable natural capital.

Third, doing so at a time of historically rock-bottom interest rates would offer a cheap way to secure natural assets that are critical to global security, food supply, and the fight against climate change.

In short, there is now a compelling opportunity – indeed, an urgent need – to develop a performance-based new approach to sovereign debt that bolsters economic recovery and builds resilience through better stewardship of developing countries’ balance sheets, with natural capital featured alongside financial assets.

About \$750 billion worth of green bonds have already become part of the global debt landscape. Debt instruments with green-performance-linked interest rates are an obvious next step. Big data can now provide a robust foundation for delivering the required, real-time metrics to build trust and avoid gaming on all sides.

Champions are needed, and there are some obvious choices. China and the European Union, both green pioneers on the international stage, hold a sizeable chunk of developing countries’ sovereign debt and have considerable influence over other debt holders. Together, they could advance green sovereign-debt outcomes.

Grand gestures of multilateralism and coordinated deal making are not what we need make this work. Indeed, we may have to avoid them to reach productive deals quickly. In the right political environment and with some deft technical brokering, it would be smarter and faster for debt-heavy, biodiversity-rich countries and their creditors to reach individual deals. Learning and network effects, with some nudging, will do the rest.

Humans are innately incapable of multitasking, with neuroscientists assuring us that it is far more efficient to do one thing at a time. The opposite is true when it comes to running our societies. Acting to help communities and countries weather the economic crisis, while improving natural capital and delivering positive long-term economic prosperity, is both possible and necessary.

*Simon Zadek is Chair of the Finance for Biodiversity Initiative.*

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