

Malinis na paligid panlaban sa COVID

[AKSYON NGAYON](#) - [Al G. Pedroche](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - March 21, 2020 - 12:00am

KAHIT ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources ay lalung naging abala ngayong may matinding krisis sa paglaganap ng COVID-19. May mga mahahalagang payo ito sa taumbayan kung papaano mapapangalagaan ang sarili at ang kapaligiran laban sa pandemic na ito.

Sabi ni DENR Usec for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Benny Antiporda, ang mga sambahayan ay pinapayuhang magtimpla ng tamang solusyon ng chlorine sa malinis na tubig (10-15 porsyento) at ipanlinis sa kanilang kabahayan, pati na sa kanilang mga basura bago ilabas para hakutin ng mga basurero. Tama nga naman dahil ang basura ay paboritong tambayan ng lahat ng masasamang mikrobyo.

Pati mga tagahakot ng basura ay pinapayuhan ding mag-spray ng ganitong solusyon sa kanilang garbage truck bago at matapos makapaghatid ng basura sa mga dumpsite. Ito nga naman ay hindi ginagawa bago sumulpot ang sakit na COVID.

Kaya nga nasabi ko sa nakaraang kolum na ang krisis na ito ay maaaring magpabago sa ating kultura upang mabura ang ilang masama nating nakagawian.

Kung tutuusin, sadya namang malayo sa mga karamdaman ang isang kapaligirang malinis at may personal touch ng pangangalaga ng mga mamamayan. Alam natin ang prinsipyo at teorya pero kulang tayo sa gawa.

Sa bawat barangay, nababasa natin lagi sa mga karatula ang “tapat ko linis ko, tapat mo linis mo” pero madalas nakikita rin natin sa ilalim ng karatula ang mga nagtambak na basura.

Sa determinadong pamamalakad ng pamahalaan ngayon, kasama ang matinding krisis na ito, palagay ko’y natauhan na tayo upang matalos ang ating pananagutan sa sarili at sa ibang tao dahil tayo ay naninirahan sa iisang planeta lamang na dapat nating mahalín at alagaan.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2020/03/21/2002434/malinis-na-paligid-panlaban-sa-covid>



Malinis na kapaligiran, panlaban sa COVID-19: DENR

March 20, 2020 @ 6:09 PM 13 hours ago
Views: 104

Manila, Philippines – Mariing nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko na panatiliing malinis ang kapaligiran upang malabanan ang nakahahawang sakit na COVID-19.

“While we take care of ourselves against the COVID-19 pandemic, we also need to consider that dirty surroundings also contribute to the spread of the virus. Thus, we need to sanitize our homes and workplaces,” sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Pinayuhan din ni Cimatu ang publiko na maghanda ng cleaning solutions sa pamamagitan ng paghalo ng 10-15 percent na bleaching agent o sodium hypochlorite at malinis na tubig.

Ang mga karaniwang brand ng sodium hypochlorite na matatagpuan sa mga tindahan ay Zonrox, Chlorox, Mr. Muscle, at iba pa.

Ang iba pang uri ng disinfectant products ay matatagpuan sa link na ito:

: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Aniya, ang solution na ito ay maaaring panlaban sa virus at panglinis sa kapaligiran. Maaari din itong ipang-spray sa mga basura bago kolektahin ng mga basurero.

Maging ang mga garbage collector ay pinapayuhan din na gumamit ng parehas na solution sa mga nahakot na basura bago ito dalhin sa tamang tapunan. Kinakailangan ding linisin ang mga garbage trucks bago ito muling mag-ikot at maghakot ng basura.

“The idea is to kill the virus present in the solid waste and in the hauling trucks,” paliwanag ni Cimatú.

Samantala, binigyang diin naman ng kalihim na kinakailangang may maayos at tamang pagtatapunan ng basura na mula sa mga ospital tulad ng disposable masks, gloves, caps at hospital gowns na kadalasang ginagamit ng mga health workers para protektahan ang kanilang sarili laban sa COVID-19.

“The Office of the Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns led by Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda will be coordinating with the mayors for the implementation of this collection, treatment and disposal procedure for solid waste to ensure that it will be followed,” paliwanag pa ni Cimatú.

Dagdag pa ng kalihim ng DENR na paaalalahanan din ang mga lokal na pamahalaan na mahipit na ipatupad ang hindi pagtatapon ng basura sa mga daluyan ng tubig bilang pagsunod sa Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. **Santi Celario**

Source: https://remate.ph/malinis-na-kapaligiran-panlaban-sa-covid-19-denr/?fbclid=IwAR0M_lv7VJY96uwUu3tnBEVvx7I1LEWIP4431oRBIHWoGAe6kz3LVw9Vm_c



Mayor Joy Belmonte said yesterday waste collection in the city would continue even with the enhanced community quarantine implemented in Luzon.

STAR/ File

Special waste collection set for quarantined Quezon City homes

(The Philippine Star) - March 20, 2020 - 12:00am

QUEZON CITY , Philippines — The Quezon City government has designated a special team that will handle the waste collected from homes quarantined due to the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19).

Mayor Joy Belmonte said yesterday waste collection in the city would continue even with the enhanced community quarantine implemented in Luzon.

She said regular segregation schedules shall continue throughout the city, but residents are strongly encouraged to abide by the “no contact” and social distancing protocols during all waste collection activities.

A team of sanitation personnel was designated to collect waste from quarantined homes. They had undergone training and were provided hazmat suits to ensure their protection.

The city also designated special trucks to collect waste solely from quarantined persons and households.

The special waste will be properly disposed of by the city’s sanitation office.

Belmonte said all sanitation personnel and garbage collectors in charge of collecting all regular waste in the city were provided with facemasks.

The city government urged residents to separate, sanitize and segregate their waste to prevent the spread of the disease.

“Residents are also reminded to sanitize their trash bags by spraying disinfecting products when available,” said the city government.

“The practice of double-bagging, or enclosing the trash bag in another cleaner bag, is also suggested to avoid the potential spread of the virus, which may be hazardous to the general public,” it added.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/03/20/2002205/special-waste-collection-set-quarantined-quezon-city->



Trash collectors gather garbage at a creekside residential area in Tondo Manila on June 26, 2019. © Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/File

DENR urges trash collectors to disinfect waste amid COVID-19 outbreak

ABS-CBN News

Mar 20 2020 05:34 PM

MANILA - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Friday urged garbage collectors to disinfect waste to stem the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Garbage collectors must disinfect collected waste before they are sent to trash sites, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

Garbage trucks must also be sanitized before it can start its next round of waste collection, he added.

He also stressed that medical waste, including masks and gloves used by health workers against infectious diseases, needs proper disposal.

The agency will coordinate with local government units on how to properly dispose waste.

As more than 50 million people in Luzon are placed under lockdown, Cimatu said households should segregate and sanitize their trash bags before they are collected.

Households can make their own cleaning solution by mixing 10 to 15 percent of bleach with clean water, he said. - **Report from Raya Capulong, ABS-CBN News**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/amp/news/03/20/20/denr-urges-trash-collectors-to-disinfect-waste-amid-covid-19-outbreak?fbclid=IwAR3ttDQzd1ldgT-GFyYfaQx9MVWPMP3seU-aKsShFLexFKIHvY11QJD7GjA>

Metro Manila water supply enough amid month-long Luzon lockdown - NWRB

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 20 2020 06:44 PM



MANILA - There is sufficient water supply in Metro Manila, the state water regulator assured Friday, even as the Philippine capital region is on a month-long lockdown along with the rest of Luzon to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

To ensure a steady water supply in Metro Manila households, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has increased allocation for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) from 42 cubic meters per second (cms) to 46 cms.

"Sa ngayon, sa ganitong panahon na may pangamba ng COVID-19, wala tayong interruption. Kasi nga po gusto natin na kahit anong oras sana [meron], 24/7 po gusto natin ma-target sa ngayon," NWRB executive director Sevillo David Jr. told radio DZMM.

(Right now, in this time that we're facing the threat of COVID-19, there will be no water interruption. We want to provide water supply all the time, for 24/7.)

MWSS is the agency that splits water from the reservoir to concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water. Maynilad distributes water to the capital's west zone, while Manila Water covers the east.

Water is critical in the face of the virus crisis as it is necessary to maintain personal hygiene, with handwashing a vital measure against the disease. Steady water supply is also needed in communities for boosted cleanup and disinfection efforts, and in hospitals amid the rising number of cases and persons under investigation.

As of Friday, the water level at Angat Dam, where Metro Manila sources nearly all of its water supply, was at 199.3 meters, below its ideal mark of 212 meters.

In March last year, taps ran dry in nearly a million Metro Manila households as the Angat Dam breached its critical level due to lack of rains.

Metro Manila's water utility firms began rotational supply cuts in October last year to avoid a repeat of last summer's water shortage.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/20/20/metro-manila-water-supply-enough-amid-month-long-luzon-lockdown-nwrb?fbclid=IwAR3sLJZPyQ5OzkGRm4uCWdY5C5PuatP71o7aeOLo79sN5zEwcZpnqcutU6k>

Water supplied to Metro Manila safe to drink – MWSS

Published March 20, 2020 8:24pm

By TED CORDERO, GMA News

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said on Friday that drinking water supplied to its concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water was safe and compliant with the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW).

In a statement, the MWSS said that, given the importance of water in the preventive measures against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Umiray-Angat-Ipo Dams and existing waterworks and water conveyance systems were being continuously manned to ensure the availability and delivery of water supplies despite the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine.

To ensure unimpeded delivery of essential water-related activities and services, and to make sure that treatment plants continued to operate throughout the public health emergency, the MWSS had endorsed the exemption of concessionaire employees' from travel restrictions as follows:

- personnel involved in the management of Water-related Goods- importation, domestic transport and sale of equipment, devices, and chemicals;
- personnel involved in the management of employees and service providers such as contractors, haulers, and related service providers; and
- personnel of contractors that perform indirect services such as security, sales, technical and other support personnel as well as employees of third-party contractors during sales, installation, maintenance, and essential repair works.

In support the government's effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 and to keep up with the increasing demand, the MWSS had also requested the National Water Resources Board to increase the water allocation to be distributed by the concessionaires from 42 cubic meters per second (CMS) to 46 CMS.

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/730646/water-supplied-to-metro-manila-safe-to-drink-mwss/story/>

Environmental groups warns public about improper use, storage of disinfectants

Published March 20, 2020, 3:27 PM

By *Chito Chave*

Quezon City-based environmental group EcoWaste Coalition cautioned the public on Friday about the ill effects of the reckless use and storage of disinfectants, with households using them to eliminate the coronavirus from their surroundings.

The group reminded parents and domestic workers to safely store the disinfectants away from children's reach to prevent chemical poisoning.

As another precautionary measure, EcoWaste Coalition dissuaded the public from putting them in other containers which may be mistakenly be identified as non-poisonous items.

"The use of disinfectants to deactivate coronaviruses on indoor surfaces is recommended by health experts as a measure to keep COVID-19 out of our homes. But it must be done with utmost care to avoid unintentional poisoning of young children," said Thony Dizon, Chemical Safety Campaigner, EcoWaste Coalition.

To prevent poisoning incidents involving substances for cleaning and disinfecting, the EcoWaste Coalition urged the public to take the following precautions:

On Safe Usage:

1. Carefully read the product label and follow the usage instructions, including the recommended dose.
2. Do not mix chlorine-based products such as bleach with acids, ammonia, and other cleaning products.
3. Always use alcohol and bleach in a well-ventilated area.

On Safe Storage:

1. Keep alcohol and bleach products in their original containers.
2. Do not transfer the liquid from its original container to another container such as beverage or water bottles.
3. Keep disinfectants out of reach of children as well as pets.

The group issued the reminder after an appeal from the Rizal Medical Center Poison Control Unit on proper storage of bleach disinfectant via a Facebook post.

"Diluted bleach solution is a good disinfectant, but please do not store it in drinking water bottles. We now have a case of accidental ingestion of diluted bleach solution because it was mistaken for water," the March 14 post reads.

"We do not want other cases like this to clog our hospitals, at this moment when we are busy fighting the threat of #COVID19."

Based on 2018 data by the UP-PGH National Poison Management and Control Center (NPMCC), sodium hypochlorite (an active ingredient of bleaching products) ranked second in inpatient and telephone referrals for pediatric cases, while ethyl or isopropyl alcohol poisoning ranked sixth in inpatient referrals and fourth in telephone referrals.

If a person ingests or inhales alcohol or bleach disinfectant and shows symptoms of poisoning, the EcoWaste Coalition advised the public to seek medical attention right away or call the NPMCC hotlines for free advice at +632-8524-1078 or 8554-8400 local 2311.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/03/20/environmental-groups-warns-public-about-improper-use-storage-of-disinfectants/>

Republic Cement, Nestlé PH expand green cooperation



By [The Manila Times](#)

March 21, 2020

Republic Cement and Nestlé Philippines have expanded their partnership on reducing plastic waste through their existing co-processing initiative.



“Republic Cement is happy to be working with Nestlé in their push to becoming plastic-neutral. This partnership likewise allows us to do more as we promote the use of alternative fuel to further embed sustainability in our operations,” said Republic Cement President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Nabil Francis.

Initiated in 2019, the expanded Plastic Neutrality Initiative between Republic Cement and Nestlé

Philippines aims to further reduce plastic waste in the country through the co-processing of soft plastic waste in cement kilns.

“Increasing the amount of post-consumer plastic waste to be co-processed is a significant point in our expanded 2020 agreement. Through this partnership, Republic aims to play its part in the various national programs that address environmental concerns, such as plastic waste,” said Francis.

In 2018, Nestlé announced its global commitment to make 100 percent of its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025. As the world’s largest food and beverage company, Nestlé envisions a waste-free future in which none of its packaging, particularly plastic, ends up in landfills, the oceans, or as litter.

“We continue to intensify our efforts to tackle plastic wastes, to expand our reach, and we are thankful to Republic Cement for helping us do just that,” said Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki. “Our new agreement is a welcome step in our common journey, and specifically will help us collect considerably more plastics than we did last year.”

Republic Cement is licensed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to utilize and dispose of qualified waste streams through cement kiln co-processing. Co-processing is a superior waste management method where waste materials are processed at a very high temperature. This breaks down complex materials into simpler compounds and the energy or mineral content of wastes are completely recovered and utilized in the process of producing cement. Emissions from the process are filtered and monitored in compliance with DENR standards.

Since energy and minerals from waste are almost completely used up during the process, co-processing is more advantageous compared to land filling and physical treatment as it diverts wastes from waterways and oceans.

“Co-processing as a method of waste material disposal is practiced in other parts of the world. It is internationally accepted and authorized by local environmental laws and regulations and has been part of our operations for close to 20 years,” said Francis.

Republic Cement has mastered the art of alternative fuels for almost two decades at its five integrated cement plants across the country. Backed by its 60 years manufacturing expertise, Republic Cement started cement co-processing in the early 2000s with biomass wastes such as rice husk and woodchips. Since 2012, it has handled more complicated hazardous wastes from industrial sources.

THE TIMES

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/21/business/green-business/republic-cement-nestle-ph-expand-green-cooperation/704708/?fbclid=IwAR28KnBJY43nR3Zc853ijsdkIU85Rq437gee56uEYpTZ_Wa9-PcLx6XKF6w



JOINT SESSION NG KAMARA, SENADO GAWIN NA VS COVID-19

March 20, 2020 @ 8:11 PM 12 hours ago Views: 96

HINDI dapat mag-aksaya ng pananon ang pamanaiaan sa paggawa ng batas ukol sa pananalapi na kailangang-kailangan ng buong bayan ngayong sinasalakay tayo ng Corona Virus Disease-19.

Ang emergency na kailangan ay pondo para asistihan ang milyon-milyong obrero at iba pang mamamayang kinakapos na sa pagkain at iba pang batayang pangangailangan.

Hindi dapat nakadepende ang paglalabas ng pondo sa bilang ng mga namamatay at nagkakasakit dahil sa COVID-19 kundi sa dami na ngayon ng mga nagugutom at naghihirap.

Nawawalan na ng trabaho, negosyo at iba pang mapagkakakitaan ang mga mamamayan dahil sa mga lockdown sa mga kalsada, kautusang “stay at home” at pagsasara ng operasyon ng mga proyekto maging ang mga imprastruktura, pabrika, call center, hotel at restoran.

STATE OF CALAMITY HINDI SAPAT

Oo nga at idineklara ng ating Pangulong si Rodrigo Duterte ang State of National Calamity para magamit agad ng lahat ng Local Government Units at maging ng pambansang pamahalaan ang kanilang mga pondong pangkamidad.

Subalit lumalabas na napakaraming LGU, lalo na ang mga barangay, ang kakatiting ang calamity funds na 30 porsyento ang para sa kanilang quick response fund na pupwedeng gamitin laban sa krisis na nilikha ng COVID-19.

Iniulat pa nga mismo ng isang pamahalaang barangay na hanggang P18 lang ang maibibigay nila sa bawat nangangailangan sa kanilang 1,200 na mahihirap para sa isang buwan.

Ito’y dahil P22,000 lang buwan-buwan ang pupwede nilang ilabas mula sa kanilang QRF.

Ang masama, napakabagal ang responde ng mga pamahalaang bayan at lalawigan sa paglalabas ng ayuda sa mga barangay na roon naninirahan ang mga nawalan ng trabaho, negosyo at iba pang mga pinagkakakitaan.

Ang totoong kalagayan, hindi na lang ang mga indigent individual at pamilya ang nawawalan ng pagkain at iba pang pangangailangan kundi maging ang mga nawalan nga ng trabaho, negosyo at iba pa.

KONGRESO PAGSANIBIN

Sa ngayon, may pailan-ilang kongresman at senador ang lumulutang at nababahala sa krisis-pinansyal ng mga mamamayan at imimumungkahi nila ang pagkakaroon ng sesyon kahit nakabakasyon ang mga kongresman at senador.

Subalit lumalabas na kanya-kanyang sesyon ang Kamara at Senado ang gustong gawin kung gagawin man nila ito.

Ngayong emergency ang kalagayan, dapat magkaroon na ng joint session at kung hindi pupwede ang karamihan na magpakita, pupwede namang gamitin ang online voting para sa pagpapasya.

Kailangan na kailangan ng Pangulo ng bansa ng batas bilang batayan ng kanyang paglalabas ng pondo na malakihan para sa emergency.

Madaling kalabitin ang Pangulo na magdeklara ng “urgent bill” para sa supplemental budget na kailangan laban sa gutom at paghihirap.

Ang hirap ngayon, gusto man ng Pangulo na gamitin lahat ng salaping bayan laban sa kalamidad, nakatali ang kanyang kamay sa kung ano ang sinasaad ng batas sa paggamit ng pondo.

Ginagawa na ng Pangulo ang kanyang dapat gawin gaya ng pagdedeklara ng State of Calamity para magamit agad ang mga calamity fund.

Nasa kamay naman ng mga kongresman at senador ang bola para gumawa ng batas para sa sasabihin nating supplemental budget laban sa COVID-19.

May kongresman na nagsasabing may P38 bilyong mapagpapasyahan kaagad para sa karagdagang pondo para sa ngayog taon at pupwedeng aprubahan ito ng Kongreso.

Pero nasaan ang nakararaming kongresman at senador?

Huwang nilang sabihin na nagtatampo sila dahil hinarang ni Pangulong Digong ang nasa P85 bilyon na isiningit nila sa 2020 budget bilang pork barrel.

SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY

Sa parte ng mga negosyante, nasa 90 porsyento ang nahahanay sa small and medium industries at nasa 15 porsyento ang nahahanay sa big industries.

Gusto mang tumulong ang mga nasa small and medium industries, lalo na ang mga small, naghihinalo rin ang karamihan sa mga ito.

Maliit na porsyento lang ang nakasu-survive at kung makatutulong man sa iba, maaaring hanggang pang-isang araw o pang-isang linggo lang na pantawid-gutom para sa maliit na bilang ng mamamayang nasa gitna ng krisis.

Tanging ang mga malalaki ang may kakakayanang magbuhos ng malalaking bolyum ng tulong subalit sa katagalan, maaaring hindi nila magawa ito.

Kaya naman, ang pamahalaan ang pinakamalaking inaasahan ngayon na umayuda dahil sa kakayanan nitong pinansyal mula sa buwis ng mga mamamayan.

At tanging ito ang pinagkakatiwalaan ng mga nagpapautang na malalaki, sa loob at labas ng bansa, kung daraanin man sa utang ang pagkukunan ng pondo laban sa krisis na nilikha ng COVID-19.

MAHIRAP HAGILAPIN SINA KONG AT SEN?

O kayong mga kongresman at senador, dapat kayong lumabas, magsesyon sa anomang paraan at gumawa ng batas para sa paghahanap at paglikha ng pondo laban sa krisis.

Ayon sa ating Uzi, napakahirap ngayong hagilapin ang mga kongresman at senador dahil bakasyon nila ngayon.

Totoo ba ito kahit may krisis ang buong bansa?

Source: https://remate.ph/joint-session-ng-kamara-senado-gawin-na-vs-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR3qx-umIqgeqAMXl2B6VEdl8RrrGIA5s-CkNDIIEl63imlHHAkB_ffB_dQ

COMMENTARY

COVID-19 and greater disaster resilience

By: [Vinod Thomas](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:02 AM March 21, 2020

The jolt of a new coronavirus outbreak should motivate governments to strengthen resilience to disasters, especially frequent in the Philippines. COVID-19 continues to unfold dangerously as seen in Italy, Iran, and Spain. In the Philippines, that the new coronavirus broke out as communities were struggling to recover from the Taal Volcano eruption highlights the urgency for preparedness. And the rainy season will soon be upon us, with the attendant fears of fiercer typhoons and floods.

That the Philippines scores above the global average on the World Health Organization's Global Health Security Index is of no comfort. This is because the global average of the measures of prevention, early detection, rapid response, health system quality, standards, and risk environment is a low 40.2 out of 100. The Philippines' score is 47.6 (53/195 countries), showing that preparedness for COVID-19 needs to be fortified. The shortage of test kits is alarming.

COVID-19 is still not well enough known for us to be able to anticipate its behavior. But we do know from past emergencies the priorities for action. The following six priorities are particularly relevant to the Philippines.

The first urgency is to protect high-risk groups—the elderly, the sick, and frontline health care workers—by taking measures to reduce their exposure to the virus and to prioritize them for medical support.

Second, clear surveillance protocols are needed. Close attention must be paid to high-risk groups in each province and to monitor community transmission. There is a need for decentralized testing centers, including drive-by testing and quarantine facilities. Each province should do a “stress test” to reveal crucial gaps, such as in diagnostic equipment and prevention protocols.

Third, as in most Asian countries, the government needs to increase spending to strengthen the capability of health services to deal with public health emergencies, particularly surges in case numbers. Government health expenditure as a share of GDP in the Philippines needs to be higher for a middle-income country. Another concern is that Filipinos make sizable out-of-pocket expenses for health. By one estimate, there is one doctor for 33,000 patients and one hospital bed for 1,121 patients.

Fourth, Asian countries should strengthen partnerships between the public and private sectors, for example between government agencies and the pharmaceutical industry, to help maintain supply chains. Collaborative approaches exist for tuberculosis, AIDS, and malaria, but more is needed for disasters on the scale of COVID-19 and SARS. A flexible loan facility, as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have for natural disasters, can boost the country's resources. Networks for health professionals are vital to address clusters of infections.

The fifth priority is to tackle the growing link between environmental changes and new viruses, and the dangerous interaction between particulate matter and viral respiratory tract infections that are being noted in epidemiological studies. Two-thirds of known pathogens and three-quarters of newly emerging pathogens are spread from animals to humans, triggered by increased human encroachment on wildlife territory. So, protecting biodiversity should be a priority for national health, too.

The sixth is clear communication of risk levels and steps to help health professionals and the public to prepare as calmly as possible for emergencies. This would help reduce panic-buying, for example, as in the COVID-19 outbreak. It is crucial to understand diagnostic tools and surveillance systems linking laboratory information with electronic health records. China's handling of COVID-19 showed the cost of delaying the announcement of the outbreak. Global lessons speak to the need to build public trust. In the Philippines, overseas workers need to get accurate and timely information for wise travel decisions over Easter, for example.

The Philippines is increasingly at the sharp end of disaster risks. COVID-19 might just provide the needed push to invest more and better in disaster resilience. Vinod Thomas (vthomas@aim.org) is a visiting professor at the Asian Institute of Management.

Source: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/128202/covid-19-and-greater-disaster-resilience?fbclid=IwAR2ms0iREZAH4wQ0aTPB9u6weA5awqJvvHVQql-0rOBjY8PpmENmmqEg94E>

Euromonitor Digest lists 10 global consumer trends in '20

By **BusinessMirror**

-March 21, 2020

Convenience and personal control are the main themes which are evident in this year's top consumer trends, according to the world's leading independent provider of strategic market research.

The Euromonitor Digest, a monthly online publication of the Department of Trade and Industry's Export Marketing Bureau (DTI-EMB), listed 10 global consumer trends that are expected to gain traction in 2020, including that they never need to leave home.

The report said consumers are drawn to the comforts of home during times of economic, political or personal uncertainty.

"While this tendency is nothing new, for the first time, consumers don't want to leave their homes, but also don't have to. Thanks to high-speed Internet access and innovative goods and services, global consumers are able to exercise, shop, work and play, all from the comfort of their Multifunctional Homes. The impact on government, distribution, and industries is profound and far-reaching," it added.

In 2020, consumers are starting to embrace robots or other artificial intelligence (AI), which can perform certain tasks traditionally done by humans.

"Though complete trust of, and universal access to, this technology will take more time, we are embracing the concept of AI-driven robots for our own welfare, convenience and comfort," it said.

They also want flexible and personalized transportation to move around increasingly congested cities as they please.

"Frictionless Mobility is now the expectation as consumers use navigation apps to plan their journey and want real-time updates on the best way to get [from point] A to [point] B, whether it is by train, taxi, electric bike, scooter, helicopter or a combination of them all," it added.

Consumers also demand more content in less time, as they constantly seek personalized, authentic and appealing channels. "With improved technology, accessibility and usage, consumers can find immense amounts of information with fewer barriers," it said. "Catch Me in Seconds consumers want brands to make their information, product or service as accessible as possible in a short time frame to compete with other demands."

The report said private personalization consumers expect brands to tailor products and services to them yet, they must surrender their personal information to optimize their experience.

“Companies are investing in algorithms and data collection methods to achieve more precise marketing. In return, consumers spend less time researching product options. Yet, consumers are growing concerned about who has access to their data and how it is used,” it said.

Moreover, brands are catering to individuals with physical or mental disabilities, unlocking the potential for an Inclusive for All business model.

“Companies are reframing their products and services to be more accessible to everyone, representing individuals beyond the mainstream and helping to reduce prejudice around diversity and differences,” it said. “Businesses are making steps toward authenticity and inclusion, putting accessibility at the core of new product developments.”

The report further said tuning into the proudly local, going global trend is a compelling business strategy to win and retain consumer loyalty in 2020.

“It captures global consumer desire to adopt and appeal to a sense of individuality and growing national identity from local inspiration. There is also a growing expectation of multinationals to respond appropriately and creatively to local culture, social norms and consumer habits,” it said.

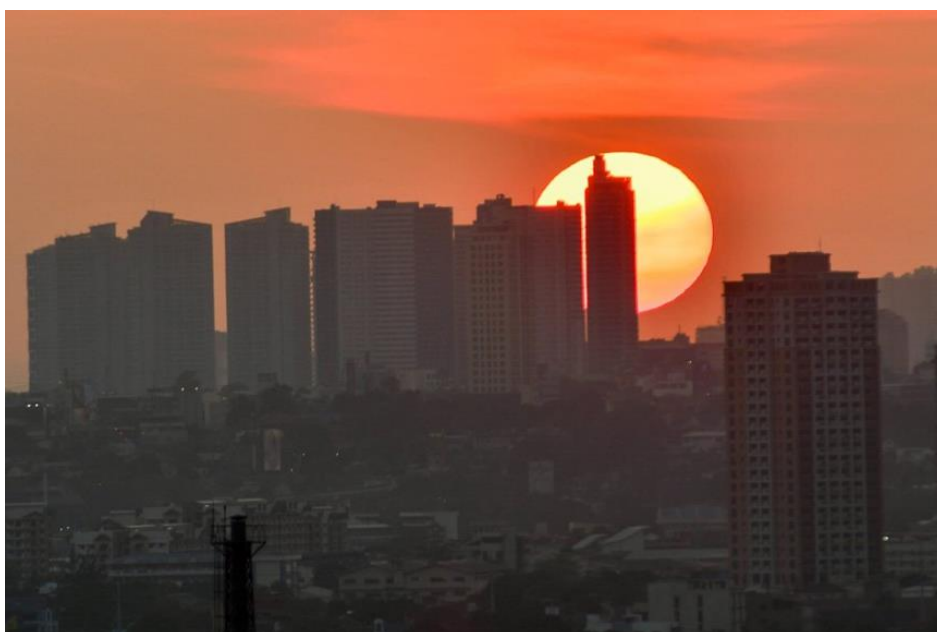
Moreover, increased environmental awareness is driving the reuse revolutionaries trend, especially for younger generations who are prioritizing experiences over ownership.

“This is creating sustainable business opportunities. New business models that avoid waste generation are appealing to more ethical consumers who are embracing sustainability through longer-lasting products,” it added.

The report also underscored the growing concern for personal well-being and the environment which is putting air quality in the limelight.

“The We Want Clean Air Everywhere trend highlights how awareness of air pollution is impacting consumer choice and how brands are positioning themselves to target environmentally conscious consumers,” it said.

The report said “Minding Myself” is bringing mental wellbeing to the forefront of consumer concerns in 2020. Consumers are seeking outcome-based goods to address specific mental wellbeing needs and prevent the physiological effects of stress, worry, and sleeplessness, it added.



The sun sets over Manila on Thursday as the skyline is shown clearly from Antipolo, Rizal without any smog obstructing the view. The lockdowns in Metro Manila due to the COVID-19 outbreak have resulted in an apparent improvement in air quality in the metropolis.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/03/21/20/smog-free-sunset-days-after-start-of-lockdown?fbclid=IwARoZI5QyXecB67a7RbsimHWUoWv3U-O-2ycD-iTofLfqbfCNdmrOhzFCEao>