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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cimatu orders planting of 'lowly bamboo' to stabilize Cagayan riverbanks

Published November 30, 2020, 11:02 AM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Monday that the planting of the “lowly bamboo” as part of the rehabilitation of Cagayan River is ideal for stabilizing the riverbanks.



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (RTVM / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the “survival rate of bamboo is much higher and it has a faster growth rate compared to other trees.”

In addition to this, Cimatu noted the bamboo’s potential to be “a sustainable source of livelihood for the people of Cagayan Valley while protecting the integrity of Cagayan River.”

“The lowly bamboo will be playing a crucial role in the rehabilitation of the heavily silted Cagayan River which overflowed during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses leading to massive flooding that submerged the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela and killed at least 29 people in the area,” the DENR said.

The DENR chief issued the directive during the Nov. 27 meeting of the Build Back Better Task Force (BBBTF) created by President Duterte to oversee the rehabilitation of areas devastated by the recent powerful typhoons.

Cimatu co-chairs the task force with Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar.

He instructed the DENR regional offices in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and CALABARZON (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) to ensure the availability of bamboo planting materials.



Cimatu orders planting of 'lowly bamboo' to stabilize Cagayan riverbanks

He also directed the regional offices to immediately start identifying areas along the river channels that are most suitable for bamboo propagation under the government's Enhanced National Greening Program.

Cimatu's preference of bamboo as a rehabilitation tool and promotion of engineered bamboo as an alternative to lumber was supported by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which is one of the 24 member-agencies of the BBBTF.

During the recent BBBTF meeting, DTI Undersecretary Blesila Lantayona called the move as an opportunity to look into the economic importance of bamboo.

Lantayona said the DTI has been producing engineered bamboo but its facilities cannot operate at full capacity because there is currently a lack of bamboo supply.

She emphasized that Cimatu's push to mainstream engineered bamboo as a major alternative to timber will finally enable the full implementation of Executive Order (EO) 879.

Under EO 879, at least 25 percent of the annual requirement of school desks and chairs of all public elementary and secondary schools nationwide should be made of bamboo.

It also directs the DENR, through its Forest Management Bureau, Mines and Geosciences Bureau and Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), to use bamboo as the planting material for at least 20 percent of its annual reforestation and rehabilitation areas.

"This should be done especially in provinces and towns which are engaged in or have the potential to engage in bamboo-based industries or where trees are difficult to grow because of poor site quality, susceptibility to erosion, or adverse and steep gradients," the EO stated.



DENR orders bamboo planting along Cagayan River

November 30, 2020 | 7:33 pm

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STOCK PHOTO

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has ordered the planting of bamboo along the banks of the Cagayan River as an anti-flooding measure to prevent the recurrence of the floods that hit Cagayan and Isabela provinces during Typhoon Ulysses (international name: Vamco).

Following a meeting with the Build Back Better Task Force (BBBTF), Mr. Cimatu ordered the regional offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) to ensure that bamboo planting materials are available.

He also directed these regional offices to start identifying areas along the river banks suitable for bamboo planting, to be funded by the DENR's national greening program.

Mr. Cimatu said bamboo was selected because it is hardy and fast-growing.

"It is ideal for stabilizing riverbanks," Mr. Cimatu said.

"It can also be a potential sustainable source of livelihood for the people of Cagayan Valley while protecting the integrity of the Cagayan River," he added.

In the same BBBTF meeting, Trade Undersecretary Blesilda A. Lantayona said the DENR's decision to plant bamboo along the Cagayan River offers an opportunity to examine the crop's economic potential.

Ms. Lantayona said the government has been developing a supply of engineered bamboo, but is unable to operate at full capacity due to lack of supply.

"Mr. Cimatu's push to mainstream engineered bamboo as a major alternative to timber will finally enable the full implementation of Executive Order (EO) 879," Ms. Lantayona said.

Under EO 879, at least 25% of the annual requirement of school desks and chairs in public elementary and secondary schools across the country need to be built with bamboo.



DENR orders bamboo planting along Cagayan River

The EO also directs the DENR to use bamboo as a planting material for at least 20% of its targeted annual reforestation and rehabilitation projects.

“This should be done especially in provinces and towns which are engaged in or have the potential to engage in bamboo-based industries or where trees are difficult to grow because of poor site quality, susceptibility to erosion or adverse and steep gradients,” the DENR said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



Cimatu: Prioritize plating of trees on banks of Cagayan River

[Monday, November 30, 2020](#) [Cory Martinez](#)

PRIORITIZE the planting of bamboo trees on the banks of Cagayan River to help prevent a repeat of the massive flooding brought by Ulysses that submerged the Cagayan and Isabela and killed at least 29 people in the area.

This was the order of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu citing that the lowly bamboo will be playing a crucial role in the rehabilitation of the heavily silted Cagayan River.

Cimatu issued the order during the Nov. 27 meeting of the Build Back Better Task Force (BBBTF) created by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee the rehabilitation of areas devastated by recent powerful typhoons. Cimatu co-chairs the task force with Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar.

He directed the DENR regional offices in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and CALABARZON to ensure the availability of bamboo planting materials.

Cimatu further ordered the regional offices to immediately start identifying areas along the river channels that are most suitable for bamboo propagation under the government's Enhanced National Greening Program.

According to Cimatu, bamboo is ideal for stabilizing riverbanks given its high survival rate. *"The survival rate of bamboo is much higher and it has a faster growth rate compared to other trees,"* he pointed out.

He also cited bamboo's potential to be *"a sustainable source of livelihood for the people of Cagayan Valley while protecting the integrity of Cagayan River."*

Cimatu's preference of bamboo as a rehabilitation tool and promotion of engineered bamboo as alternative to lumber was supported by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which is one of the 24 member-agencies of BBBTF.

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This should be done especially in provinces and towns which are engaged in or have the potential to engage in bamboo-based industries or where trees are difficult to grow because of poor site quality, susceptibility to erosion or adverse and steep gradients.



'Minahang Bayan' eyed for displaced NV miners



By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)
November 30, 2020



BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) to identify a possible area for a “Minahang Bayan” site in Quezon town for residents displaced by recent landslides.

Cimatu earlier ordered the MGB Region 2 to close down illegal small-scale mining (SSM) operations in a landslide-prone area in the town’s Barangay Runruno a few of whose residents died in landslides during the onslaught of Typhoon “Ulysses” more than a week ago.

At least 10 bodies were recovered from a hazard-prone area in the stios of Kinalabasa, Bit-ang and Compound in Runruno village near a large-scale mining firm operated by London-based FCF Minerals Corp., which has a 25-year financial and technical assistance agreement or FTAA with the national government.

Cimatu said a Minahang Bayan site would provide a continuous livelihood for those who would be displaced by the closure of the SSM operations in the mineral-rich village in the province.

During the Mining Philippines 2019 International Conference and Exhibition in Pasay City, the MGB national office reported some 29 Minahang Bayan in the country and had endorsed six more to the Office of the Secretary for clearance.

In 2012, then-President Benigno Aquino 3rd issued Executive Order 79, which provided for the Minahang Bayan Law aiming to implement mining reforms in the country to ensure environmental protection and promote responsible utilization of mineral resources.



‘Minahang Bayan’ eyed for displaced NV miners

Under Republic Act 7076, or the “People’s Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991,” small-scale mining operations should only be allowed within a declared Minahang Bayan with only three metallic minerals such as gold, silver and chromite only to be mined.

Small-scale miners will not be allowed to mine nickel, iron and other metals, which require huge investment and elaborate operations, under the rules.

Mario Ancheta, MGB-Region 2 director, said it is specifically the MGB that designates the Minahang Bayan upon the endorsement of the provincial mining regulatory board (PMRB).

The Minahang Bayan Law gives the PMRB the authority to, among others, formulate and implement rules and regulations related to small-scale mining.

“In case there will be a good site for a Minahang Bayan in Quezon town, it will be the PMRB of Nueva Vizcaya that will formulate and implement rules and regulations for its operations,” Ancheta said.

“Secretary Cimatu’s order of finding a Minahang Bayan site for use by displaced small miners in Quezon town is to have them legalized and regulated to ensure their safety and to provide for their continued livelihood while preventing further destruction of the environment,” he added.

Ancheta explained that miners who will undertake their operations at the Minahang Bayan must comply with regulations, including environmental rules, and the mandatory sale of gold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas only at its buying stations in Quezon City, Baguio City, Davao City, Zamboanga City and Naga City.

“The government should closely look at the miners’ safety, sanitation and payment of correct taxes,” he said, adding that more Minahang Bayan areas will increase the opportunity for the government to track SSMs.

A rule on SSM also bans the use of mercury and provides for use of centralized mills inside the Minahang Bayan and small-scale mining contracts would be limited to six years, including renewals.

Ancheta said the law also limits the qualified applicants of an SSM contract to a cooperative or a group of small-scale miners; requires the contractors to pay the government share in the amount to be set by the PMRB, on top of the payment of the usual taxes; and also requires mineral processors to secure mineral processing licenses from the board.

The government will get a share of their revenues on top of the usual fees and taxes, he added.



Environment department employees join nationwide earthquake drill

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

November 30, 2020

THE 200 employees and personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in its regional and field offices participated in the 4th Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill over the weekend.

All employees performed the “duck, cover and hold” procedure to prevent major injuries during the occurrence of an earthquake.

During the drill, when the simulated earthquake had stopped, employees evacuated the building in an orderly fashion by following the posted emergency exit signs while keeping their heads protected from possible falling debris, as well as, maintaining social distancing and wearing face masks in accordance to Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases guidelines.

The employees proceeded to designated evacuation areas, where they waited while keeping a distance from each other as a precaution against the spread of Covid-19 until the all-clear signal was given for them to be able to re-enter their respective offices.



Man nabbed for 'illegal logging' in Eastern Samar

[RONALD O. REYES](#)

December 1, 2020

A 25-YEAR-OLD man was arrested on Monday, November 30, 2020, for alleged illegal logging activity in Oras, Eastern Samar.

Police identified the suspect as Edito Lagrimas, a resident of the said town.

Personnel from Oras Municipal Police Station led by Chief Master Sergeant Ronald Montallana, under the supervision of Major Jerome Camacho, arrested the suspect while in possession of 25 pieces of 2x3x12 good lumber (Apitong species).

The confiscated items have a total volume of 100 board feet, with an estimated market value of P3,000, police said in the report.

The suspect will be facing charges for violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Code of the Philippines. (**SunStar Philippines**)



Watershed rehab begins with new bridge in place

posted November 30, 2020 at 10:30 pm
by [Jess Malabanan](#)

City of San Fernando—The government will start rehabilitating the 44,000 hectares of Pantabangan-Carranglan watershed project situated in Nueva Ecija following the completion of 55-meter long Calaocan hanging bridge in Burgos town. Carranglan over the weekend.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office in Central Luzon said the reforestation project is part of the 10-year Forest Management Program of the government including the rehabilitation of the Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed (PCW).

“FMP is a 10-year reforestation project that aims to rehabilitate the PCW, one of the biggest protected areas in Central Luzon, through collaborative and comprehensive community-based forest management strategies,” said DENR3 director Paquito Moreno.

He said the FMP also integrates conservation and development-oriented activities with participation and capacity-building of local communities to rehabilitate degraded forestlands in three critical river basins, including Upper Magat and Cagayan in Region 2, Upper Pampanga in Region 3, and Jalaur in Iloilo.

On Friday, DENR3 and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) inaugurated the 55-meter long Calaocan hanging bridge linking Burgos village, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija to other areas in Carranglan.

Moreno said the bridge was funded by JICA as an Agroforestry Support Facility subproject in the 10-year Forest Land Management Project (FMP) in the Pantabangan-Carranglan watershed, which will connect farm areas to market towns, reduce transport cost of agricultural products, minimize post-harvest losses and ensure easier access to social services such as health and education.

“This 55-meter Calaocan hanging bridge, which traverses the Deguireg river, will be of great help not just in the conduct of developmental activities within the watershed, but will likewise be fundamental in uplifting the lives of the local communities as this will serve as a channel to increase local trade and productivity,” he said.

The completion of the hanging bridge is one of DENR’s strong commitments to uplift the socio-economic well-being of local communities while conserving and protecting the environment.

Moreno expressed his sincere appreciation to JICA for their generosity and as a formidable ally in bringing significance to good governance towards social and environmental development.

Launched in 2012, FMP has already rehabilitated 14,133 hectares of denuded forest lands in PCW.

Last year, it was able to construct a 3.7-kilometer farm-to-market road in Conversion village of Pantabangan town benefitting some 350 upland farmers and their families.

Topics: [Pantabangan-Carranglan watershed project](#) , [Nueva Ecija](#) , [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#)



The legal-illegal logging false dichotomy

By [BusinessMirror](#)
November 30, 2020



Editorial

BMI

In a joint statement released recently, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) announced that they will work together to fight illegal logging and quarrying to protect the country's remaining forest covers and habitats.

They better act fast. The DENR's own records show about 47,000 hectares of forest cover are lost every year from rampant logging and lack of security in areas declared as protected wildlife sanctuaries.

In last week's editorial *When Will We Ever Learn*, we noted that President Duterte's order to go after illegal logging after the record flooding in Cagayan and Isabela is nothing new.

In 2017, expressing his anger over the unabated logging that was blamed for the massive floods that claimed lives and destroyed properties in Northern Mindanao, he ordered then Environment Secretary Gina Lopez during a Climate Change Commission to "stop all logging operations with no exemptions."

The President then already asked the DENR and DILG, along with the Department of Agriculture, to form a committee to create the implementing rules of a nationwide logging ban.

Similar crackdowns on illegal logging have been ordered by past administrations. In fact, the National Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force was created through Executive Order No. 23 in 2011 during the term of President Benigno Aquino III.

So another full-court press against illegal logging is now in the works.



The legal-illegal logging false dichotomy

But first the government must stop falling for the false dichotomy. It must stop distinguishing between illegal and legal logging. At this point no logging should be allowed. Whatever passes for legal logging is actually and very surely illegal.

Almost three decades ago, during public hearings in the Senate, then Senator Orly Mercado said there's hardly any difference between illegal loggers and legal loggers. He said the only difference is that the so-called legal loggers have the political clout to get timber license agreements.

Indeed, for years environment groups have blamed legal logging for the denudation of Philippine forests. They say logging companies have used their legally allocated cutting permits to illegally access logs in areas outside the official limits of their permits.

Enforcing partial logging bans has actually been more difficult than enforcing total logging bans. To begin with, primary forests from which absolutely no logging must be done have not been properly or clearly identified by the government.

Also, the government does not have the manpower to monitor logging activities in restricted areas. And even if they have people in these areas, they're usually no match to the military might big-time loggers wield.

For instance, the police team that was conducting operations against illegal logging in Cagayan last week was assaulted by timber poachers. A police officer was hurt in the skirmish.

One of the loggers who was caught after firing upon the police already had an arrest record for violating the Forestry Code.

Surely criminal loggers like him who habitually escape justice are legion. If they are bold enough to engage in gun battles against the police, then it is no wonder that many forest rangers and environmental defenders have come under deadly attacks from them in recent years.

What makes them so bold? Is it because they enjoy the protection of certain officials in government?

Is this why, even the stolen and illegally cut timber can be sold and become legally clean?

Is this why a massacre of trees can still happen today, even in forests like the Masungi Geopark in Baras, Rizal, a joint reforestation project of Masungi and the DENR, which has been declared a protected area since 2011 due to its importance as a watershed reservation?

Forest laws around the world have hardly been enforceable. This is why logging has been generally unsustainable. It is a problem deeply rooted in poverty, corruption and environmental abuse.

In pursuing logging bans therefore, let us make no distinction between legal and illegal, partial or total. A total ban is not only right but long overdue. The bigger question, however, is whether such a ban can really be enforced. Because it has been done before and yet nothing has really been done.

Coming out with any kind of ban or law is one thing and having it followed is another. In the real world, implementing it has less to do with justice than with political will and strategy.

The government has not successfully acted against rampant logging and our people have paid for this negligence dearly with their lives.



RIZAL GOVERNOR ASKS DENR TO CANCEL LARGE-SCALE QUARRY AGREEMENTS 📍

We welcome this statement of Gov. Nini Ynares, especially as two of the largest quarrying agreements (under sister companies Rapid City and Quarry Rock) can be found in some 1,000 hectares of the Upper Marikina Watershed and Masungi Geopark, the site of current forest restoration efforts.

If you recall, we celebrated as DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu himself removed the quarry's fences in Masungi in March. He ordered the cancellation of agreements since the site is a protected area and critical watershed where quarrying is strictly and simply prohibited.

The waterways here are some of those that flow towards the Marikina-Pasig River. This area has been protected by multiple laws and official policy since 1904, so many questions remain on the issuance of these permits.

We were advised to remain vigilant of strategies typically employed by destructive and short-term interests to pursue their business and try to stop conservation efforts (i.e. sowing misinformation, community manipulation, corruption).

Let us not be fooled. There is no way quarrying in Masungi is the right choice. ✖

Our collective experience with Ulysses and the COVID-19 pandemic has shown Filipinos the devastation deforestation brings.

This must drive urgency and action for our leaders to make the right decisions for our citizens and for nature.

Thank you all for your support to [#SaveMasungi](#) & [#SavetheUpperMarikinaWatershed](#)! Let's continue fighting 🌿🌻🦋

Sign and share the petition: bit.ly/savemasungi

[Lalawigan ng Rizal \(Official\)](#)

[Department of Environment and Natural Resources \(DENR\)](#)

[DENR CALABARZON](#)



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RIZAL GOVERNOR ASKS DENR TO CANCEL LARGE-SCALE QUARRY AGREEMENTS

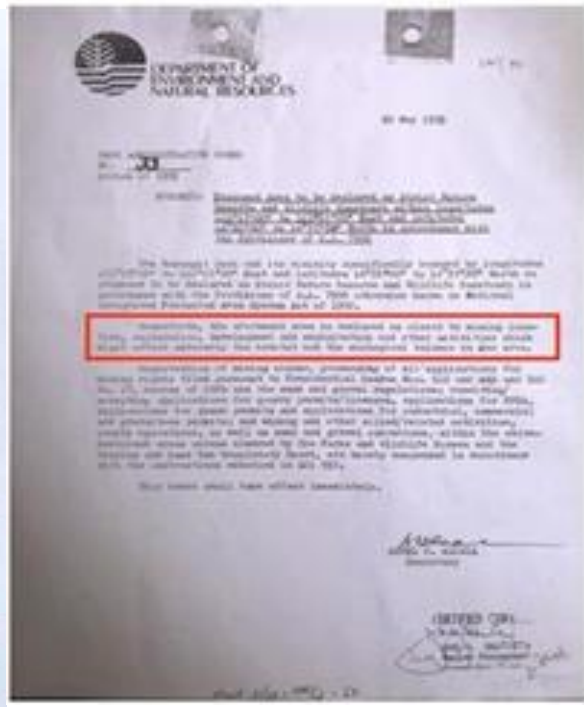
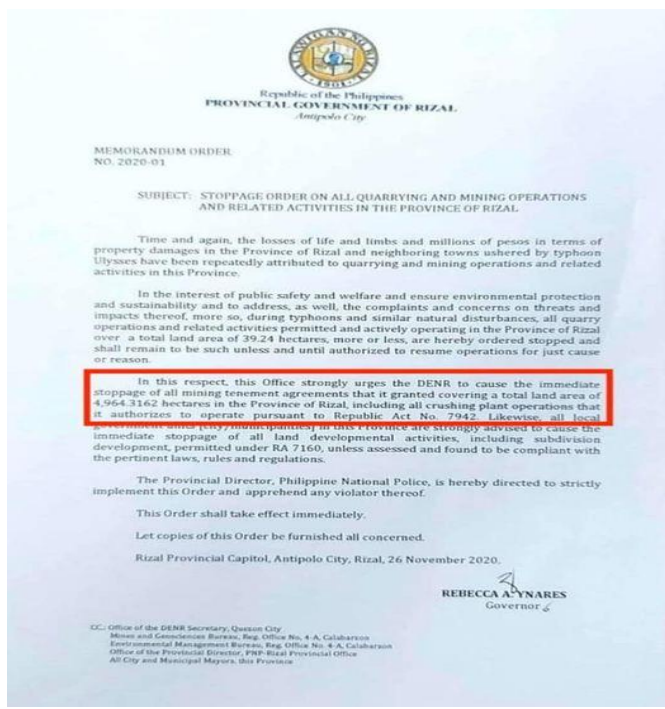
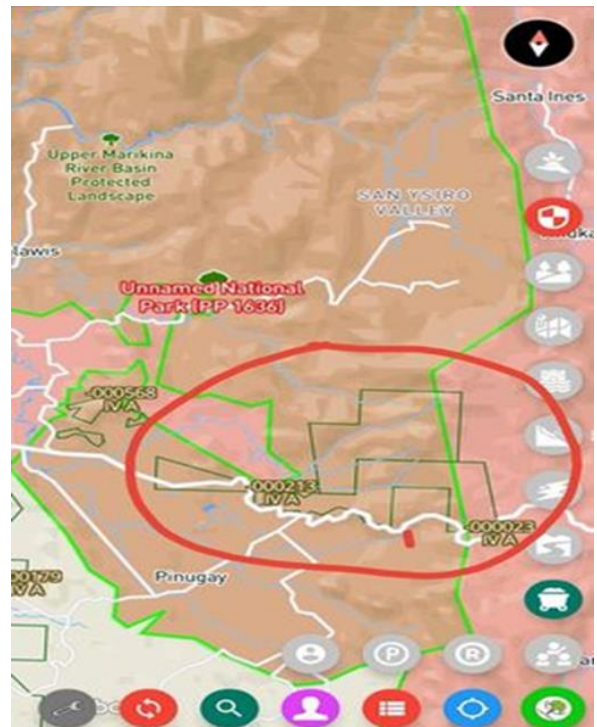


Figure 5.1 (Left) Landsat TM 7 satellite image of the study area in 1989; (Right) Landsat OLI-8 image of MRB in 2016





Stop quarry at mining operations sa Rizal! —Gov. Ynares

By [Non Alquitran](#) (Pang-Masa)
- November 30, 2020 - 12:00am

HINDI naman pala nagpabaya si Rizal Gov. Nini Ynares sa obligasyon niyang pangalagaan ang kapakanan at kaligtasan ng kanyang mga consitutents sa panahon ng bagyo. Sa biglang tingin, kasi parang walang pakialam si Ynares sa malungkot at kahabag-habag na sinapit ng mga alipores niya na nasalanta ng bagyong Ulysses. Hindi pala totoo ito.

Sa katunayan, nagpalabas ng Memorandum Order No. 2020-01 si Ynares noong Nobyembre 26 na nagpapasara ng quarry at mining operations sa 4,964.3162 hectares na land area ng Rizal. Mahigpit na hinikayat ni Ynares ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ihinto ang lahat ng mining tenement agreements na inisyu sa probinsiya sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 7942.

Kasama sa ipinahinto ni Ynares sa DENR ang lahat ng crushing plants na nagsilbing ugat ng quarrying. Ipinag-utos din ni Ynares sa mga local government units (LGUs) na ihinto ang lahat ng land developmental activities, kasama na ang pagtayo ng mga subdivision sa ilalim ng RA 7160 maliban lang kung ito ay nakitang sumusunod sa kaukulang batas at rules and regulations. Araguuyyyy! Hak hak hak! Hayan hindi pala manhid si Gov. Ynares sa mga hinaing ng kanyang constituents.

Maraming Pinoy ang nagbuwis ng buhay matapos tumama ang Bagyong Ondoy noong 2009, Habagat noong 2013 at nitong huli ay ang Ulysses. Halos lumubog ng dalawang metro ang mga mababang lugar sa Rizal, at pati na ang Marikina City, at hindi nalalayo na maulit pa ang delubyong ito dahil na din sa ianunsiyo ng PAG-ASA na may darating pang apat na cyclones sa bansa hanggang Mayo 2021.

Kaya tama lang ang kautusan ni Ynares para hindi pa lumala ang sitwasyon sa probinsiya n'ya at mapaghandaan nang husto ang darating pang mga bagyo at nang sa gayon ay maiwasan ang pagbuwis ng buhay ng mga Pinoy at pagkawala ng naipundar nilang kagamitan at kabuhayan. Araguuyyyy! Hak hak hak! Nasa tamang direksiyon si Ynares sa kautusan niyang ito. Anong say mo Anak Kalusugan party-list Rep. Mike Defensor Sir?

Ang kautusan ni Ynares laban sa quarry at mining operations sa Rodriguez ay epektibo kaagad noong Nobyembre 26. Iniutos niya kay Col. Joseph Arguelles, Rizal PNP provincial director na arestuhin ang lahat nang lalabag sa kanyang kautusan. Sana all ha, Col. Arguelles Sir?

Kahit sino pang Herodes ang nasa likod nitong quarry at mining operations sa Rodriguez ay dapat sumunod sa utos ni Ynares para sa kaligtasan ng mga residente sa eastern Metro Manila, di ba mga kosa?

Kung sabagay, sumulat ang Rizal provincial gov't. sa DENR matapos ang Ondoy at Habagat para ipasara ang naturang quarry at mining operations subalit dinedma lang ito.

Ganundin ang ginawa nila nang maupo si President Digong noong 2016 at nitong huli ay noong Nobyembre 18 matapos manalasa ang bagyong Ulysses. Si Ynares na mismo ang kumilos at sana tuluy-tuloy na ito habang di pa nakakakita ng permanenteng proyekto ang gobyerno para mahinto ang malawakang pagbaha sa eastern Metro Manila na naging dahilan para hindi makatulong ang mga residente tuwing may bagyo. Abangan!



Pagpatigil sa mining, quarry at logging bakit ngayon lang?

OPINION

On Nov 30, 2020



IPINAG-UTOS na ng gobernador ng Rizal Province at Cagayan Valley ang pagmimina, quarry at logging sa mga lalawigan ito na sinalanta ng malawakang pagbaha nitong mga nakaraang araw nang daanan ng magkakasu-nod na bagyong Quinta, Rolly at Ulysses.

Sa Rizal, si Governor “Nini” Ynares ay naglabas na ng kautusan para itigil ang talamak na mining at quarry activities sa probinsiya matapos lumubog sa baha na may kasamang putik ang mga bayan ng Rodriguez (Montalban), San Mateo at iba pang karatig bayan sa nakaraang bagyong Ulysses.

Ang illegal mining at quarry sa Rizal ay matagal nang inirereklamo ng mga mamamayan pero dedma lang ang provincial at municipal governments sa kung anong rason, alam nyo na ‘yun!

Nung panahon ni late DENR Secretary Gina Lopez, walang pinayagang mining o quarry sa Rizal dahil nga wasak na wasak na ang kabundukan dito at napakadelikado sa kabayanan sa ibaba kapag bumuhos ang malakas na ulan, tiyak baha with matching putik!

Pero nang maalis si Lopez sa DENR dahil binasura ng Commission on Appointment (CA) ang kanyang appointment at maupo si Sec. Roy Cimatu, nabuksan uli lahat ng mining at quarry sa probinsiya.

Ang CA ay mostly binubuo ng mga mambabatas na sangkot sa negosyong mining at quarry. Tama ba ako, Sen. Manny Pacquiao, Cong. Zamora, Cong. Mike Defensor at Cong. Egay Erice?

Gayundin ang ginagawa ni Gov. Manuel Mamba ng Cagayan Valley. Pinatigil nya rin ang mining, quarry at logging. May tirada pa siyang tatlong mayors daw sa kanyang lalawigan ay sangkot sa illegal logging. Ehem!

Ang Cagayan ay naging bahain na ngayon. Bumuhos lang ang ulan, baha agad! Bunga rin ito ng pagkakalbo ng kanilang kabundukan gawa nga ng mining, quarry at logging.

Sabi nga, kapag nagkaroon ng isang linggong tuluy-tuloy na ulan tiyak tuluyan nang mabubura sa mapa ng Region 2 ang Cagayan Valley lalo kapag nagpakawala ng tubig ang Magat Dam sa itaas ng probinsiya.



Pagpatigil sa mining, quarry at logging bakit ngayon lang?

Nitong nakaraang bagyong Ulysses, kungsaan halos 11 oras ang buhos ng ulan, nagmistuang Pacific Ocean ang buong probinsiya. Halos dalawang linggo bago bumaha ang tubig-baha na may kasamang putik. At nang muling bumuhos ang ulan nitong nakalipas na Biyernes at Sabado ay muling lumubog sa baha ang maraming barangay sa Tuguegarao City, Bagao at ilan pang karatig bayan sa Cagayan.

Kaya naman palang ipatigil ang mining, quarry at logging, bakit ngayon lang kungsaan patay na ang mga bundok at binabaha na ang kapatagan?

Hindi lang gobernador at mayor ang dapat managot sa pagkasira sa kabundukan at pagkalubog sa baha ng kalunsuran at kabayanan kundi ang DENR mismo dahil mandato nilang pangalagaan ang kabundukan at kapaligiran. Mismo!

Naniniwala ako na may mga opisyal ng DENR na kumikita sa talamak na mining, quarry at logging sa bansa. Kung seryoso si Sec. Cimatu na malinis sa korapsyon ang kanyang ahensiya, simulan nya sa mga opisyal sa city/municipal hanggang provincial dahil dito ang malupet na katiwalian, nakikipagsabwatan ang DENR officials sa mining/quarry operators. Mismo!



Gov. Albano nagsisinungaling umano; illegal logging, mining talamak din sa Isabela



November 30, 2020 @ 6:54 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Pahilippines – Kasabay ng pag-amin ni Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba na mayroon pa rin illegal logging at mining activities sa Cagayan na pinoprotektahan pa ng mga tiwaling mayor, binatikos naman ng ilang grupo si Isabela Governor Rodito Albano sa pagtuloy nitong pagtanggap at pagsisinungaling na wala nang ganitong aktibidad sa Isabela.

Ayon kay Alyansa Tigil Muna (ATM) National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera, wala man silang hawak sa ngayon na actual evidence ay maraming circumstantial at accounts mismo ng mga residente na magpapatunay na hindi natigil ang illegal mining at logging sa Isabela.

Giit ni Garganera, kung magkakaroon lamang ng aerial survey gaya ng ginagawa noon ng yumaong si Enviroment Secretary Gina Lopez ay makikita ang massive deforestation at ang presensya ng mga heavy equipment na nagsasagawa ng quarrying at mining sa Isabela gayundin sa Cagayan.

“Huwag sanang magbulag-bulagan si Governor Albano at ang mga opisyal ng Isabela, kahit sinasabi nilang wala ay kabaligtaran ito dahil meron naman talaga. Ang problema sa illegal mining, quarrying at logging ay magkakaugnay, para makapag-operate ng minahan at quarry ay kailangan na magputol ng puno at ‘yan ang nangyayari,” lahad ni Garganera.

Gayundin ang pahayag ni Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas(KMP) President Danilo Ramos.

Aniya, nakalulusot pa rin ang illegal loggers at miners dahil sa pagkunsinte ng lokal na pamahalaan, ang mga nagsasabi umano na wala nang illegal logging at mining ay siyang dapat na imbestigahan ng DENR at DILG dahil maaaring nagtatakip ito sa tunay na sitwasyon.

Inamin ni Mamba na may tatlong alkalde na may kasabwat na uniformed personnel ang sangkot at protektor ng illegal logging sa Cagayan, hindi nito pinangalanan ang mga tiwaling alkalde na pawang mayaman na.



Gov. Albano nagsisinungaling umano; illegal logging, mining talamak din sa Isabela

Sa datos ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), ang bayan ng Peñablanca at Baggao sa Cagayan ay nananatiling illegal logging hotspot zone sa probinsya.

Una na umanong inamin ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque nanagkaroon ng lapses sa enforcement kaya hindi napipiglan ang illegal mining at logging activities sa Isabela at Cagayan.

Asahan aniya na sa oras na matapos ang imbestigasyong ginagawa ng DENR at ni Interior Secretary Eduardo Año ay may mga mananagot na sangkot sa ganitong illegal na gawain.

Sinabi ni Año na ang nangyari sa Cagayan at Isabela ay dapat nang magsilbing wake-up call sa bawat isa na seryosohin ang eleksyon.

“Our citizens need to learn and vote for those who are serious and have no connections to anything illegal. We need to pick, otherwise we would be experiencing these things over and over again,” pahayag ni Año.

Ang pamilya Albano at pamilya Dy ay may ilang dekada nang namumuno sa Isabela, ang kasalukuyang gobernador na si Albano ay dating Isabela 1st District Representative, ang kasalukuyang Vice Governor nito na si Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III ang siyang dating gobernadora ng lalawigan.

Ang pamilya Albano ang may hawak ng congressional seat ng Isabela First District mula 8th Congress hanggang 17th Congress.

Si dating Isabela Vice Governor Tonypet Albano, kapatid ni Gov Albano, ang siyang humalili rito sa Kamara bilang kinatawan ng Unang Distrito habang mga kaakak din ang nakaupo sa ibang distrito, si Paul Ian Dy ang Isabela 3rd District Rep habang 5th District Congressman naman si Faustino Michael Dy III at 6th District si Inno Dy.

Maging ang nahala sa Provincial Board ay mga pamangkin din ng mga Albano at Dy.

Nabatid na sa loob ng 32 taon ay ang mga Albano at Dy ang siyang nagpapalitan lang ng pwesto sa lalawigan tuwing matatapos ang kanilang three-term limit.



Patuloy na pagtangga ni Isabela Governor Rodito Albano sa illegal logging at illegal mining activities sa Isabela, binatikos ng ilang grupo

By RadyoMaN Manila - Nov. 30, 2020 at 7:25pm

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Binatikos ng ilang grupo si Isabela Governor Rodito Albano sa patuloy na pagtangga nito na wala nang illegal logging at illegal mining activities sa Isabela kahit pa una nang umamin dito si Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba.

Ayon kay Alyansa Tigil Muna (ATM) National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera, maraming circumstantial at accounts mismo ng mga residente na magpapatunay na hindi natigil ang illegal mining at logging sa lalawigan.



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Ganito rin ang pahayag ni Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) President Danilo Ramos, kung saan sinabi nitong nakalulusot pa rin ang mga illegal loggers at miners dahil sa pagkunsinti ng lokal na pamahalaan.

Aminado si Mamba na may tatlong alkalde na may kasabwat na uniformed personnel ang sangkot at protektor ng illegal logging sa Cagayan pero tumanggi naman ang opisyal na pangalanan ang mga ito.

Una nang inamin ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque na nagkaroon ng lapses sa enforcement kaya hindi napipiglan ang illegal mining at logging activities sa Isabela at Cagayan.



Illegal logging, mining sa Isabela hindi natigil

By [Doris Franche](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- December 1, 2020 - 12:00am



Ayon kay Alyansa Tigil Muna (ATM) National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera na hindi dapat magbulag-bulagan si Albano at pakinggan ang boses at patunay ng mga residente sa Isabela na nagsabing hindi natigil ang illegal mining at logging sa lalawigan.
AFP/Ted Aljibe, File

MANILA, Philippines — Kung si Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba ay matapang na umamin na mayroon pa rin illegal logging at mining activities sa kanilang lalawigan na pinoprotektahan pa ng mga tiwaling mayor, salungat naman ito sa patuloy na pagtanggap umano ni Isabela Gov. Rodito Albano na binatikos naman ng ibat-ibang grupo.

Ayon kay Alyansa Tigil Muna (ATM) National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera na hindi dapat magbulag-bulagan si Albano at pakinggan ang boses at patunay ng mga residente sa Isabela na nagsabing hindi natigil ang illegal mining at logging sa lalawigan.

Giit ni Garganera, kung magkakaroon lamang ng aerial survey gaya ng ginagawa noon ng yumaong si Environment Secretary Gina Lopez ay makikita ang massive deforestation at ang presensya ng mga heavy equipment na nagsasagawa ng quarrying at mining sa Isabela, gayundin sa Cagayan.

“Huwag sanang magbulag-bulagan si Governor Albano at ang mga opisyal ng Isabela, kahit sinasabi nilang wala ay kabaligtaran ito dahil meron naman talaga. Ang problema sa illegal mining, quarrying at logging ay magkakaugnay, para makapag-oooperate ng minahan at quarry ay kailangan na magputol ng puno at ’yan ang nangyayari,” pahayag ni Garganera.

Gayundin ang pahayag ni Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) President Danilo Ramos, aniya, nakalulusot pa rin ang mga illegal loggers at miners dahil sa pagkunsinti ng lokal na pamahalaan, ang mga nagsasabi umano na wala nang illegal logging at mining ay dapat na imbestigahan ng DENR at DILG dahil maaaring nagtatakip ito sa tunay na sitwasyon.

Sa datos ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) ang bayan ng Peñablanca at Baggao sa Cagayan ay nananatiling illegal logging hotspot zone sa probinsya.

Una nang inamin ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque na nagkaroon ng lapses sa enforcement kaya hindi napipiglan ang illegal mining at logging activities sa Isabela at Cagayan.



Preventing future 'Ondoy', 'Ulysses' flooding

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora November 30, 2020, 6:41 pm



RESCUE. Philippine Coast Guard personnel rescue residents trapped in chest-deep floods in Barangay Barangka, Marikina City on Nov. 12, 2020. Heavy rains brought by Typhoon Ulysses submerged not only Marikina but northern Luzon particularly Cagayan and Isabela. (Photo courtesy of PCG)

MANILA -- On the night of November 11, Tain Limson already felt the strong winds rapping on their windows. At that time, Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco) already made landfall in Quezon, packing maximum sustained winds of 150 kilometer per hour.

"Sobrang lakas ng hangin naririnig mo 'yong whistle sa awang ng windows pero iniisip ko parang kasing lakas lang siya nung nanalasa yung Habagat samin dati kaya di kami masyadong natatakot. Tapos naalala ko nag-story pa ko sa IG ng mga 1:07 (Nov. 12) kasi nag-a-alarm na yung Marikina River na nasa 16 meters na yung taas niya (The wind was strong that you can hear it whistling in between the gap of the windows, it's like the monsoon. I even posted an update on Instagram Stories around 1:07 a.m. because the Marikina River was already at 16 meters," she narrated.

While the ferocious winds were banging on their walls, it didn't quite alarm the family at first. But by daylight, fear and panic quickly swept through their household after her mother alerted them that the river water has overflowed.

"Pagkababa ko sa 1st floor namin, nagulat ako kasi nakita ko umaagos na yung tubig parang flash flood. Ili-likas ko pa sana 'yong kotse namin kaso wala na madadaan (When I went down, I was shocked to see the water rapidly flowing, it was like a flash flood. I tried to save our car but to no avail)," she said.

"Ang bilis ng taas ng tubig talaga. Sinalba namin lahat ng kaya naming sagipin na gamit kaso lumubog halos lahat kasi ang bilis talaga umangat nung tubig (The rise of water was so quick. We tried to carry what we could but most of our stuff was really submerged)," she added.

In less than an hour, her two-storey house was almost inundated up to the second floor, with the first floor submerged with flood and mud. Around that time, the water was just six steps away from their second floor.



Preventing future 'Ondoy', 'Ulysses' flooding

"Sobrang nakakatakot kasi nakita kong rumagasa talaga 'yong tubig tapos minutes lang nasa loob na ng bahay (It was terrifying to see the raging floodwater, in just a few minutes it's already inside the house)," she said. "Nakakatakot talaga. Akala namin malulunod na kami (It was really scary. We thought we were going to drown)."

"Nag-u-usap na kami ng mga kapatid ko kung paano i-a-angat 'yong dalawang senior kong parents pati mga pets namin paakyat ng bubong. Hindi sila marunong lumangoy kasi (We have no idea how we were going to carry our two senior parents including our pets to the roof should the water continue to rise. They don't know how to swim)," she shared.



Photo by Tayn Limson

The family tried to ask for rescuers but the lines were likewise inundated with calls for help that weren't able to reach them at that moment. Fortunately, the water subsided around 9 p.m. on Nov. 12 -- her parents were safe and the flood did not rise further.

Tayn said the experience was akin to the onslaught of Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) in 2009. Although she was not in Marikina that time, her family likened Ulysses to the devastating typhoon, which swamped most of Marikina in 2009 and killed dozens of people.

"Lahat kami tulala pero mabuti walang masamang nangyari sa amin. Lahat ng naiwan naming gamit sa 1st floor lumubog lahat pati kotse namin. 'Yong mga photo albums namin wala nabasa na lahat pati ilang appliances. 'Di na kaya isalba kasi may makapal na putik na kasama yung flood (We were utterly shocked but thank goodness nothing bad happened to us. All of our things in the first floor, including our car were submerged in mud)," she said.

More than two weeks after Marikina experienced the wrath of Typhoon Ulysses and witnessed the worst flooding next to "Ondoy", Tayn said: "Makakabangon". A Filipino word, which means "to recover".

What's important is that no life was lost among her family, she said.



Preventing future 'Ondoy', 'Ulysses' flooding



Photo by Tayn Limson

"Sama sama naman kami kaya sa tingin ko makakabangon naman kami kahit papaano. Sobrang naiiyak din ako sa lahat ng tumulong sa amin during at tsaka after ng flood. Pati mga hindi mo inaasahang mga tao nagpapaabot ng tulong (We're all together so I think we can recover at least. I'm just overwhelmed that even strangers helped us)," she said.

For Tayn, the alarm system would have been more helpful had it been activated way before the water rose.

"Sa tingin ko po kasi kulang yung nag-a-alarm lang sila na pataas na yung tubig sa Marikina River. Lahat po ng reminders ng bagyo eh sa TV lang talaga namin nalalaman (They should've focused on the alarm system, because it only went on when the water already overflowed)" she said.

"Yung masakit din sa puso ko noon was walang dumating na rescue para tulungan kami. Grabe kasi tumaas 'yong tubig tapos parehong senior pa parents ko. Hindi ko talaga alam yung gagawin ko noong mga oras na yun (What's upsetting was that there was no immediate rescued. The water was really high then and my parents were both seniors. I really don't know what I would do that time)," she said.

Tayn said the experience was so traumatic they are now planning to move out. *"Si mommy at tsaka daddy ayos na rin naman, kaso ayaw na nila rito tumira, (My mom and dad are okay, but they don't want to live here anymore)"* Tayn said. *"Parang nakakatakot na kasi tumira dito everytime na may bagyo. 'Yong trauma namin ng family ko sa Typhoon Ulysses hindi na mabubura (It's terrifying to live here when there's a storm. We'll always carry the trauma Typhoon Ulysses brought to us)."*

Tayn said her family is thinking of selling the house and move to a much higher place in Marikina.

"Malinis kasi dito sa Marikina sa totoo lang. And halos lahat ng relatives ko sa father side nandito (It's clean here in all fairness. And most of my relatives on the father side are here)," she said.



Preventing future 'Ondoy', 'Ulysses' flooding

The case for Thea Poncian from Barangay Tumana, Marikina, on the other hand, is quite different. She said she cannot move out since the property is the only one she has, one that's already theirs.



Photo courtesy of Thea Poncian

"Wala po (kaming planong lumipat na), sarili na po kasi namin ang bahay po dito (We don't have a plan to leave because this house is already ours)," she said.

But her experience was equally distressing as those of Tayn's when "Ulysses" battered the city. She and her family had to rush outside their home and find refuge at the uppermost floor of her neighbor when the water from a nearby creek spilled.

"Noong mag-ala-una ng madaling araw, kinatok kami ng kapitbahay namin nandiyan na raw ang tubig. Umapaw na pala 'yong creek malapit sa amin at 'yong tubig napakabilis hanggang sa mag-1:30am pinasok na ang bahay namin (Around 1 a.m., our neighbor was already knocking on our door, saying the water is here. The creek apparently overflowed. Things happened quickly because by 1:30 am, the water already entered the house)," she narrated.

Her entire belongings down to their clothes were drenched with muddy waters. *"Nakaka-iyak po kasi lahat po ng gamit namin wala na kahit po mga damit lubog po ang bahay namin, puno nalang po ng mangga ang nakita (It was upsetting because everything was drenched, our house fully-submerged, you can only see the mango tree)."*

Recovery for her might take time, Thea said, comparing with the situation when Typhoon Ondoy hit them. In 2009, it took them almost a year to recover, she said.

"Matagal din po kagaya ng sa Ondoy, isang taon po siguro kasi wala na po lahat ng gamit namin (I think it will take time like when Ondoy struck, it took almost a year because our belongings were all swept away)," she said.



Preventing future 'Ondoy', 'Ulysses' flooding



Photo by Thea Poncian

"Panibagong pagsubok nanaman po ang haharapin pero pipiliting bumangon ulit, mahirap kasi 'di namin alam kung paano kasi lahat nawala sa amin walang tinira (This is another challenge that we have to face and it will be difficult because nothing was left)," she added.

'Bayanihan'

Although most of the Marikina residents who took refuge in evacuation centers have gone back to their homes, Rhianne Villaraza said those whose houses were totally wrecked by the typhoon are still there.

Rhianne's family was among the many groups who heeded the call and took it upon themselves to initiate a donation drive that has so far aided 300 families in Marikina to date.

"I think it's gonna take a while before everything goes back to normal. *Marami pang naglilinis, nagre-restore ng nasira nilang mga bahay/properties.* Some business establishments are still trying to cope and recover from the aftermath. However, we have high hopes, and we're continuously praying that in time, people would be able to live their usual daily lives again," she told the PNA.

Two of the hardest-hit areas that day were Barangays Malanday and Tumana, where the flood level reached up to the 2nd floor of the resident's homes. Rhianne said most of them were at work on the day of the typhoon, so they barely managed to save their belongings.

"My cousin and I started collecting clothes from our close friends so that they would have something to use in the meantime. Because so many people responded, and we got overflowing donations, the family decided to extend help to those living in Nangka, Marikina," she said.

To this day, the family initiative continues to give out aid.

Preventing future 'Ondoy', 'Ulysses' flooding



Photo courtesy of Rhianne Villaraza

Rhianne believes Marikina did a “fairly good job” in terms of calamity response because nobody expected that the river level would reach 22 meters in such a short time. Despite this, a lot of work needs to be done.

“At this point, I think community disaster preparation is vital since we’re a flood-prone city. It’s something that our government should focus on,” she said.

“Apart from that, maybe open job opportunities for the people gravely affected. We don’t want them to rely solely on donations. Eventually, they should be able to earn and provide again for their families; something that would benefit them in the long run,” she added.

‘Saving the watershed’

The city is now in the recovery stage but environmentalists warned that such massive floods will keep coming in the future if forest degradation continues in the Upper Marikina Watershed.

The Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) covers over 26,000 hectares of protected area in the towns of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Tanay, and Antipolo in Rizal.

But what does it have to do with the flooding in Marikina?

To visualize, a watershed is like an umbrella positioned upside down-- the sides are the mountains of Sierra Madre (watershed) and the base is the Marikina River.

“(Because of illegal activities in the land) *‘yong water wala nang pumipigil* because *wala na ‘yong mga puno*. *Ang function ng forest and ng healthy soils* is to regulate stormwater so scientifically if *wala nang forest and healthy soils*, the water will just rush and when they rush and they come from different mountains, they go to a basin, one basin-- the Marikina-Pasig River,” said Billie Dumaliang, trustee and advocate officer at Masungi Georeserve.

Masungi forms over 2,000 of the 26,000-hectare Marikina Watershed.



Preventing future 'Ondoy', 'Ulysses' flooding



Photo courtesy of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Forest Management Bureau

No settlement, quarrying, logging nor sale is allowed in the area, but to this day, Billie said such activities remain rampant in some parts of the Upper Marikina Watershed.

For Billie, conservation is a crucial step to prevent future great flooding similar to the ones brought by Typhoon Ondoy and Ulysses flooding. “It is the only long-term and sustainable solution coupled with, of course, proper disaster risk management from government and (smart) infrastructure,” she said.

Aside from these, strict enforcement of the laws protecting these areas is also a must.

“With climate change, there will be more rains, typhoons, and landslides based on science, and if we don’t restore the forest of Upper Marikina the instances of landslides and flooding happening will definitely worsen,” she warned in Filipino. **(PNA)**



BAHA UGATIN, PAGHANDAAN, BAKAHIN



November 30, 2020 @ 11:15 AM 18 hours ago

SINASABI ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration na magtatagal ang La Niña sa mahal kong Pinas hanggang sa Marso 2021.

Hulyo pa lang, inoobserbahan na ang La Niña at nang dumating ang Oktubre, idineklara na itong nagsimula na.

Itong La Niña ay nagdadala ng mas malalang pag-ulan kumpara sa pag-ulan sa panahon ng tag-ulan at ang Oktubre 2020 hanggang Marso 2021 na pagdapo nito ay mahaba-habang panahon.

Ngayon, pagsamahin natin ang tag-ulan na dala ng amihan na may dalang lamig at mga bagyong darating, baha ang agad na nasa isipan natin.

At ang baha ay nagaganap kahit saan sa Pilipinas.

GRABENG PAGBAHA

Nitong pagdating ni Ulysses, hindi man superbagyo, nagdala naman ng grabeng pag-ulan.

Dinatnan nito ang mga kalupaan natin na basa o matubig hanggang sa kailaliman dahil sa naunang mga bagyo at ulan.

Kaya naman nang magbuhos ng ulan si Ulysses, wala nang lupang sisipsip dito at pumatong na lang ang ulan nito sa lupang matubig.

At naganap na nga ang mala-Noe na baha o mas masahol pa umano sa bahang nilikha ni bagyong Ondoy ilang taon na ang nakararaan.

Milyon-milyong katao ang pinerwisyo ni Ulysses sa mga lugar na binaha nito mula sa Kabikulan, Timong Katagalugan, Metro Manila, Central Luzon at Cagayan Valley.

GRABENG PINSALA

Para sa mga magsasaka, naghahayupan, may palaisdaan at iba pang katulad nila, apat hanggang anim na buwan ang pinakamaigsing panahon para muli silang makabangon.



BAHA UGATIN, PAGHANDAAN, BAKAHIN

Apat na buwan ang buong panahon ng pagpupunla ng palay hanggang sa pag-aararo, pagtatanim at pag-aani.

Para naman sa mga magbababoy, kailangan ang anim na buwan para sila makapagpalaki ng bentahing alaga at ganito rin sa mga magbabangus at magtitilapia.

Ang mga may negosyo, marami maliliit ang nawalan ng buong puhunan na ang marami'y namuhunan sa utang para sa sari-sari store hanggang sa mga kompyuteran at iba pa.

Ang mga nasiraan ng bahay, sasakyan, gadget at iba pa, hindi mabilang sa daliri.

At ang maraming namatayang pamilya na ang mga haligi ng tahanan ang nasawi, kailan muling makababangon?

Nakalulungkot at nakaiiyak talaga ang sinasapit ng mga binabaha.

UGATIN ANG PAGBAHA

Bukod sa basang lupa na pinatungan ng tubig-ulan, marami pang iba ang pinag-uugatan ng pagbaha.

Isa na rito ang pagkakalbo ng mga kagubatan sa kabundukan at kapatagan.

Naririyang ang logging na ligal at ilegal, kaingin, minahan, quarry, proyektong pangkaunlaran at iba pa na ang pagputol ng mga puno ang isang karumal-dumal na gawain.

Sabi ng ating UZI, karaniwang hindi nagtatanim ng kapalit na puno ang mga gumagawa niyan.

Mula sa 36 milyong hektarya na kabuuang lupain ng bansa, iilang hektarya na lang ang mapuno.

Nawalan tayo ng katuwang na puno na sumisipsip sa mga tubig-ulan at dapat nating malaman na 75 porsyento ng puno ay tubig.

Kasamang pumipinsala ang mga putik, buhangin at bato na dumadausdos, kasabay ng baha, mula sa mga matataas na lugar, bagay na napipigilan sana ng mga puno na malalalim na nakaugat sa lupa.

DEKA-DEKADANG PINAGMULAN

Deka-dekada ang bibilangin natin kung paano nasira ang ating kapaligiran sa kamay ng mga nagla-logging, nagkakaingin, nagku-quarry, nagmimina, gumagawa ng mga subdibisyon at industrial zone o park at iba pa.

Ang iba, nanonood lang sa napakahabang panahon at marami pa ngang pagkakataon na iniluluklok natin sa pwesto, kahit sa matataas na pwesto sa pamahalaan, ang mga ito.

Ilang logger, may-ari ng mga minahan at quarry, land developer para sa residential, commercial at industrial sites ang inihalal nating bilang Pangulo, senador, kongresman at iba pa?

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, habang nagtuturo tayo sa iba na may sala sa mga pagbaha, itinuturo rin natin ang ating mga sarili.



BAHA UGATIN, PAGHANDAAN, BAKAHIN

Ngayon ay nagsisisihan ang lahat.

LUMABAN, MAGTULUNGAN

Paano kaya kung higit na baguhin natin ang dapat nating gawin.

Bukod sa paninisi at pagpapakulong sa mga direktang may sala na nararapat lang naman, paaano tayo magtutulungan upang maparami ang puno sa ating kapaligiran upang katulong natin ang mga ito na uminom ng tubig at pumigil sa mga landslide at iba pang anyo ng kasiraan?

Payag ba kayo, halimbawa, na turuan nating magtanim sa mga tamang lugar ang 27 milyong estudyante, pagtanimin ang daang libo na kumukuha ng driver's license at prangkisa ng sasakyan at nasa 55 milyong obrero sa buong bansa lahit minsan o dalawang beses sa loob ng isang taon?

Siyempre, kasama na riyan ang pangangalaga sa sarili nating mga tanim na puno.

Siyempre pa, may mabibilis na lumaki gaya ng mga giant ipi-ipil pero may mga puno rin na hintayin ng 6 taon pataas bago masabing sila'y mga puno gaya ng mga fruit tree na manga, santol at iba pa.

Kasabay nito, ilantad sa text message na 8888 na nakabase sa Palasyo ang inyong mga sumbong o kaya'y sumulat kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ang isang maipakukulong nating sumisira sa kalikasan kada isang linggo at ang isa o dalawang puno na maitatanim ng milyon-milyong Filipino sa isang taon ay napakalaking tulong para maprotektahan natin ang kalikasan at ang buhay, ari-arian at kinabukasan ng marami.



Lack of ‘after-care’ causes failure of reforestation programs – Ex-DOST official

November 30, 2020 10:21 PM by [Kristan Carag](#)



Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary (Photo from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity)

Dr. Florentino Tesoro, a former executive director of the Forest Products Research and Development Institute – Department of Science and Technology (DOST), believes that the reforestation programs of the government remain a failure due to lack of ‘aftercare’.

“*Kailangan pangalagaan, hindi lang basta itanim,*” the former DOST official said on Monday, November 30, during DZRH’s *Magandang Umaga Pilipinas*.

Tesoro explained that the government needs to ensure that seedlings receive enough water, and protection against pests in order for them to grow into trees.

“*Kapag wala yung aftercare, malamang, it will not grow into what we expect it to be in future,*” Tesoro said.

The massive floods and landslides experienced by provinces due to the heavy rains brought by the recent typhoons pushed the issue of deforestation back to public attention.

The calamities have been blamed to illegal logging and quarrying in the mountains.



Scientists' group point to watershed degradation as culprit in recent floodings

[November 30, 2020](#) 3 min read

By Tracy Cabrera

MANILA — Following the call from no less than People's Champion and Senator Emmanuel 'Manny' Pacquiao to plant more trees as part of measures to save our environment, local scientists confirmed the continued degradation of our natural resources.

That, and the unabated quarrying and logging in the Sierra Madre mountain range and other mountainous areas in Luzon have contributed to the disastrous flooding following the onslaught of natural disasters such as super typhoons Rolly and Ulysses.

A rapid research done by the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham) showed that aside from the excessive amount of rainfall dumped by the recent spate of typhoons that beset the country, the degraded condition of watersheds upstream the Marikina-Pasig and Cagayan rivers has been a critical factor in the floods that devastated communities in Marikina City and in the provinces of Rizal and Cagayan.

"If a watershed is no longer healthy, when there are no trees and no vegetation, runoff water can easily travel down from the mountains and toward the rivers and other channels," Agham education and public information officer Ana Celestial pointed out in an online forum.

Celestial added that land conversion and urban expansion has also been playing an active role in the worsening state of the country's watersheds, stressing that "water running off toward the urban areas are blocked by structures, as well as garbage."

These destructive activities, Agham's education officer stressed, persist despite the protected status of some of the watersheds, such as the Upper Marikina Watershed Protected Landscape.

She disclosed that three mining companies with mineral processing sharing agreements operating within the protected area in the towns of Baras and Tanay in Rizal province have been cited in the ongoing problem.

The permits of these firms were granted, however, in the late 1990s, long before the Marikina river basin was declared a protected area in 2011.

Just outside the protected site, 10 quarries with a combined area of 50 hectares have likewise been reported to be operational as of 2019.

Near Kasiglahan Village, a relocation site in Rodriguez, Rizal, which was heavily inundated during the height of Ulysses, at least six quarries operate in San Isidro, just north of the residential area.

Cagayan River Basin

In northern Luzon, watersheds in the Cagayan River Basin are also threatened by mining and logging, Agham secretary general Feny Cosico said.



Scientists' group point to watershed degradation as culprit in recent floodings

“While floods can be typical for communities near Cagayan River and its tributaries, deforestation in the Sierra Madre has greatly contributed to the watersheds’ inability to absorb and hold rainfall dumped by the typhoon,” Cosico revealed.

Between 1965 and 1987, widespread deforestation by cronies of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos has resulted in the loss of 27,000 square kilometers of forests due to timber license agreements.

More than 444,000 hectares of forest land, according to Agham, remain under legal commercial, private and community use “under different grants” issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Considering the severe devastation wrought by Ulysses, government must take urgent action to probe and put a stop to these disastrous activities, the non-government advocacy group said.

Cosico rationalized the recent flooding as a natural phenomenon but with anthropogenic or man-made factors, the hazards have become much greater.

“Stop-gap solutions do not address coping capacity and rooted inequalities . . . Environmental and socioeconomic analyses must be incorporated in all of the governments’ projects,” she concluded. *(AI/MTVN)*



EDITORIAL

Flood summit for a comprehensive disaster response: Will it help?



By [The Manila Times](#)

December 1, 2020

SOME are wracking their minds to come up with ideas on how the country can better cope with the seasonal disasters, wrought on the nation by typhoons and floods.

A lawmaker at the House of Representatives has called on the government to conduct a “flood summit” to discuss a “comprehensive” disaster response program to prevent a repeat of the recent flooding, heaped on communities in Marikina City, Cagayan and Isabela by Typhoon “Ulysses” (international name: “Vamco”).

Quezon City Second District Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo, noting how destructive typhoons in the past have inflicted the same extensive damage on low-lying areas, including parts of her district, said we have not learned our lesson from these disasters.

“Eleven years after, many of those flooded by [Typhoon] “Ondoy” (international name: “Ketsana”) swear that “Ulysses” was even worse. What have we done during those 11 years? What measures have we taken to prevent similar flooding?” she questioned.

“There must be a comprehensive, holistic and well-coordinated effort to avert flooding,” Castelo said.

She proposes a flood summit to include the Office of Civil Defense; the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC); the Departments of the Interior and Local Government, National Defense, Science and Technology, Public Works and Highways, and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); the Metro Manila Development Authority; and the Office of the President.

“Local government officials should be involved in a comprehensive flooding and disaster response program because they are the implementers and foot soldiers on the ground,” she said.

Castelo suggested exploring flood prevention measures, implemented by some European countries that have successfully contained flooding. She said some of the concerned agencies should send personnel to these countries to study their programs and the flood containment structures that they have built.

“We can even ask them to lend us some of their engineers and experts” she noted.

From another corner there is a proposal for the conduct of a probe of the watershed degradation that has evidently abetted the flooding in the heavily affected areas.



EDITORIAL

Flood summit for a comprehensive disaster response: Will it help?

Unabated quarrying and logging in the Sierra Madre mountain range and other mountainous areas in Luzon have contributed to the disastrous flooding, following the onslaught of Typhoon “Ulysses,” a scientists’ group contends.

The Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham) said their research shows that aside from the excessive amount of rainfall dumped by the typhoons, the degraded condition of watersheds upstream the Marikina-Pasig and Cagayan rivers was also a critical factor in the floods that devastated communities in Marikina City and in the provinces of Rizal and Cagayan.

“When a watershed is no longer healthy and there are no trees and no vegetation, runoff water can easily travel down from the mountains and toward the rivers and other channels,” one Agham member explained in an online forum.

Land conversion and urban expansion have played a role in the worsening state of the country’s watersheds, she said.

“Water running off toward the urban areas are blocked by structures as well as [by] garbage,” she added.

These destructive activities, Agham said, persist despite the protected status of some of the watersheds such as the Upper Marikina Watershed Protected Landscape.

Three mining companies with mineral processing sharing agreements operate within the protected area in the towns of Baras and Tanay in Rizal province.

Just outside the protected site, 10 quarries with a combined area of 50 hectares were reported to be operational as of 2019, the group said.

In northern Luzon, watersheds in the Cagayan River Basin are also threatened by mining and logging. While floods descend frequently on communities near the Cagayan River and its tributaries, deforestation in the Sierra Madre has greatly contributed to the watersheds’ inability to absorb and hold rainfall dumped by the typhoon.

These are sensible suggestions that should be taken up by government agencies that are already engaged in and mandated to address these problems.

Flooding is a natural phenomenon that comes with the geography and location of the Philippine archipelago. Our people have been coping and struggling with typhoons and floods for centuries. So, it is not as if we need to reinvent the wheel to surmount this problem.

The challenge should logically begin at the level of our DENR and the multiagency NDRRMC.

NWRB VIRTUAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN PARA SA BUWAN NG DISYEMBRE



December 1, 2020 @ 12:25 AM 5 hours ago

ANG paglilipat sa “bagong normal” sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemya ay nangangahulugang angkop sa ipinataw ng mga pagbabago na dapat nating sundin.

Tulad ng mga transaksyon na walang magbabayad gamit ang pera, mga online na pagpupulong at sa silid-aralan, ang mga lagda sa pamamagitan ng digital ay kabilang lamang sa mga bagong kalakaran na inilalapat sa bawat isa upang maiakma sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon.

Ang dating kampanya sa pagpupulong o talakayan ay hindi na naaangkop sa kasalukuyang panahon ng pandemya. Kailangang makabago at ligtas para sa lahat upang makapagpatuloy ang pagtuturuan sa publiko, samakatuwid, ang paglikha ng Virtual Education Campaign (VEC) ang nararapat.

Isinagawa ng NWRB ang unang batch ng VEC noong Hulyo hanggang Oktubre 2020, bilang bahagi ng Information, Education, Communication (IEC) drive. Ang mga online webinar na may mga paksa napili at inayos ng Water Resources Information Section (WRIS) sa pakikipagtulungan ng lahat ng mga dibisyon ng NWRB. Bawa’t dibisyon ay naglaan ng mga tagapagsalita (resource persons) na magtatalakay tungkol sa isang paksa sa bawat sesyon ng webinar.

Dahil sa may mga kahilingan na ulitin ang mga sesyon na naglalarawan sa mga resulta sa pagsusuri, ang layunin ng WRIS na magsagawa ng isa pang pangkat ng VEC upang maabot ang isang mas malawak na hanay ng madla at upang higit na ipaalam sa maraming mga stakeholder at kliyente ang tungkol sa ahensya ng NWRB at mga aktibidad nito.

Magkakaroon ng post-evaluation upang matiyak na ang NWRB VEC ay patuloy na mapabuti at matugunan ang layunin nitong turuan ang publiko nasa malayuang lugar malaman tungkol sa impormasyong nauugnay sa tubig.

NWRB VIRTUAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN PARA SA BUWAN NG DISYEMBRE

Layunin ng Virtual Education Campaign ay upang turuan ang publiko ng mga impormasyon na may kaugnayan sa tubig sa pamamagitan ng mga sesyon ng webinar.

Mga pinanukalang paksa at paunang iskedyul.

Topic	Speaker	Target Audience	Date	Time
Status of Water Resources Situation	Policy and Program Division	DENR - Water Resources Utilization Section (Luzon)	December 8, 2020	1:00 – 3:00 pm
Water Code of the Philippines & Online WPA Process	Water Rights Division	DENR - Water Resources Utilization Section (Visayas)	December 15, 2020	1:00 – 3:00 pm
NWRB Monitoring & Enforcement Activities	Monitoring & Enforcement Division	DENR - Water Resources Utilization Section (Mindanao)	December 22, 2020	1:00 – 3:00 pm

Ang target audience ay ang kawani ng DENR-WRUS, hihilingin sa kanila na magsagawa ng paunang rehistro bago ang petsa ng webinar sa pamamagitan ng mga Google form.

Isasagawa ang live webinar sa pamamagitan ng Google Meet o Zoom videoconferencing tools. Ang mga sesyon ay itatala at ang bawat presentasyon ay tatagal ng dalawa at kalahating oras. Susundan ng 45 minutes Question & Answer portion. Mapapanood sa screen ang speaker at moderator.



Quezon governor vows to block Kaliwa dam project



By [JIM PILAPIL](#)

November 30, 2020

Quezon Gov. Danilo Suarez stood firm on his opposition to the planned construction of the Kaliwa Dam, a P12-billion joint venture project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and China Energy Engineering Corporation.

Suarez vowed to block the project for as long as he is the governor of the province, citing the possible dangers that a huge dam can unleash such as floods and landslides.

The governor warned that he may resort to legal means to prevent the project from pushing through.

“I’m with you, I don’t like Kaliwa dam either,” Suarez said during a meeting with members of “Save Sierra Madre Network” which is also against the construction of the dam in the town of Infanta.

“If you would continue Kaliwa Dam, I’d see you in court,” Suarez said, directing his statement to the MWSS.

Residents of Real, Infanta, and General Nakar towns, as well as indigenous peoples groups have opposed the construction of the dam, citing the flashfloods and mudslides that devastated their areas on November 29, 2004, killing more than a thousand people.

Suarez met with groups opposed to the Kaliwa Dam project in Infanta when he conducted relief operations after the onslaught of typhoon Ulysses that hit the Polillo island and other towns.

“Why are we going to borrow money, and let the government ultimately pay the lender, when there are private sectors who can do the job without harming the environment?” Suarez said.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Quezon headed by Vice Gov. Samuel Nantes passed a resolution on Nov. 27 giving Suarez the authority to take necessary steps, on behalf of the provincial government, to stop the Kaliwa Dam project.

Church leaders in the province also renewed their opposition to the dam project, saying the fight was a matter of survival of the people.

Bishop Bernardino Cortez of Infanta said a big dam would pose risks to lowland agricultural and fishing communities.

“So you will understand that, by geography, our very survival depends on the care of our mountains, forests, rivers, protection of mangroves, and seashores,” he said.



Ulysses revives opposition to P12-billion Kaliwa Dam project

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

December 1, 2020



An aerial view of Kaliwa Dam in Quezon province. The opposition to the controversial water resource project to supplement Metro Manila's dwindling water supply appears to have been revived following the massive flood that inundated some parts of the province at the height of Typhoon Ulysses.

More groups are reported to be joining a movement to oppose the construction of the P12-billion Kaliwa Dam project.

Citing the potential adverse impact of large-dam construction and the recent flooding in Luzon triggered by Typhoon Ulysses, groups opposed to the Kaliwa Dam on Sunday reiterated the call for the cancellation of the project and pushed for the protection and rehabilitation of the Sierra Madre mountain range.

Some 500 people took part in a protest action with residents of the Real, Infanta, General Nakar (REINA) towns in Quezon being joined by groups from that include bikers and riders, youth, Dumagat representatives from Quezon and Rizal, fisherfolks from SAVED Rizal, and the Urban Poor Alliance committee and other flood-affected communities in Metro Manila.

"Today we remember the flash floods and landslides in 2004 brought by Typhoon Winnie, exacerbated by illegal logging in the Sierra Madre. This tragic event killed more than 1,500 people and caused millions worth of damages. However, our government appears to forget this tragedy with its consistent support of the Kaliwa Dam that will destroy about 300 hectares of our forest areas," Conrad Vargas, one of the conveners of STOP Kaliwa Dam Network and the Executive Director of Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance said in a news statement.

Residents of General Nakar and Infanta in Quezon and Daraitan in Tanay, Rizal experienced up to neck-deep flooding during the onslaught of Ulysses, days before the anniversary of the deadly flash flood in 2004.



Ulysses revives opposition to P12-billion Kaliwa Dam project

More than three weeks after Typhoon Ulysses, hundreds of families remain homeless, specifically in Daraitan, and many riverside homes in Tanay, Rizal. They fear that they would experience worse once the dam is built.

“This early when there’s still no dam, the flooding we are experiencing is already affecting even upland barangays in Tanay, what more when the dam is constructed? This will completely submerge communities, our ancestral lands, and destroy the mountains. We are appealing to those living in the urban area to oppose the Kaliwa Dam,” Ma. Clara Dullas, of the Kababaihang Dumagang ng Sierra Madre (K-GAT) appealed.

Marcelino Tena, leader of SAGIBIN-LN, one of the indigenous groups in Quezon, for his part, likewise, expressed his opposition to the dam. “The Kaliwa Dam will bring harm to indigenous communities because this will destroy life, the environment and our ancestral land. We don’t want this dam because this will only be a burial ground of people, nature, culture, our rights and freedom,” he said.

“Kaliwa Dam will not only destroy our natural protection from typhoons and other disasters, it will also worsen the impacts of climate change. Climate change has significantly altered the rain patterns, to the point that it is already unpredictable. Just like what happened recently with the onslaught of five consecutive typhoons in Luzon. Dams swell to their highest water level due to frequent extreme rainfall; thus the catastrophic water releases,” explained Ian Rivera of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, also one of the conveners of the STOP Kaliwa Dam Network added.

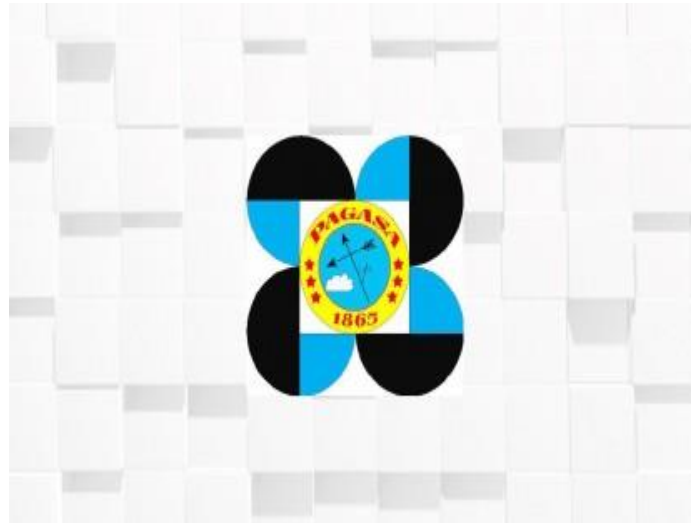
“The continuous destruction of our watersheds through large development projects, and the neglect and incompetence of our government to protect the environment, continue to endanger the lives of the people, particularly during climate change-induced typhoons and other extreme weather events,” Rivera added.

Bishop Bernardino Cortez of the Prelature of Infanta reiterated that resistance to the Kaliwa Dam as a matter of survival. In light of the climate emergency, “we continue to call on the government to focus on alternative solutions and technologies—rehabilitation and conservation of Kaliwa Watershed and the Sierra Madre, reduction of non-revenue water through the repair of existing water systems, reinforcement of rainwater collection in every barangay, and sustainable and efficient water demand management system, among others.”



Magat Dam spilling ops continue due to amihan rains

By Catherine Teves November 30, 2020, 5:48 pm



MANILA – The Magat Dam in Northern Luzon is likely to continue spilling operations this week which may cause flooding in its downstream communities, the weather bureau said Monday.

Max Peralta, a hydrologist of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), said rains from the surging northeast monsoon or amihan can increase inflow or flow of water into the dam, prompting it to spill excess water to prevent structural damage.

"That dam may not yet close its gate this week to stop releasing water," he said in an interview.

The release of water from Magat Dam contributed to flooding that affected areas in the Cagayan Valley Region earlier this month.

PAGASA weather forecaster Chris Perez said the northeast monsoon would prevail over Northern Luzon in the next four days bringing light to moderate rains.

According to PAGASA, Magat Dam's 6 a.m. water level on Monday was at 189.51 meters, which is 3.49 meters below the 193 meters spilling or normal high water level there.

Peralta said Magat's spilling operation is in progress with one gate opened to release excess water.

He noted that two gates were opened at 6 a.m. Sunday to release more excess water.

"Water flowing into Magat lessened since there hasn't been much rainfall lately so the dam just had one gate open on Monday morning for its reduced water release," he said. *(PNA)*



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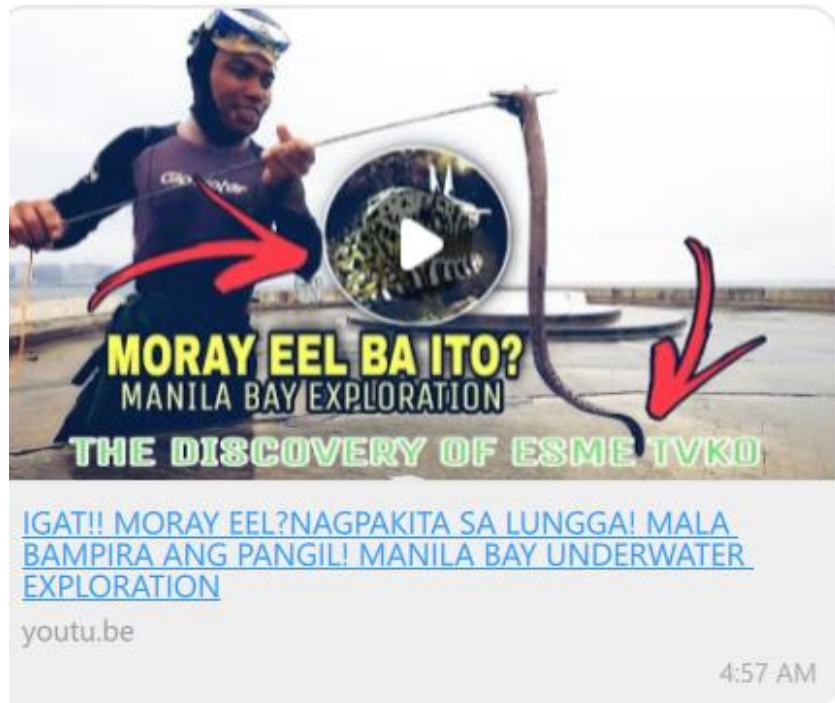
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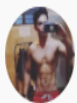


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Hi mga kababayans. Here is my update today November 30,2020 at Manila Bay!Thank you for watching and don't forget to like, share and subscribe.

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EDITORIAL

Safer space for bikers

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:30 AM November 29, 2020

Last Sunday, Nov. 22, was the first National Bicycle Day following Proclamation No. 1052, which designates every fourth Sunday of November as such. The proclamation aims to “highlight the importance of non-motorized transportation as a means of fostering sustainable development and promoting environmental health...” and was thus welcomed by cycling advocates who have long been pushing for government-wide policies and safe infrastructure to serve and protect those using active transport—or the physical activity of walking, biking, and using non-motorized vehicles as means of transportation.

But for these advocates, the proclamation was also just one step forward in creating a safer road environment for cyclists, at a time when more and more people have turned to bicycles as a mode of transport amid the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Even when business operations were partially allowed to resume in September, more than 20 percent of workers in Metro Manila failed to show up for work because they had no rides. Data from the National Economic and Development Authority showed that 22.7 percent, out of the 58.2 percent of Metro Manila workers who were allowed to return to work, were still unable to do so due to limited public transportation. Available public transport could accommodate only 35.5 percent of the workers given social distancing regulations such as the “one seat apart” rule. With public transportation restricted, “this prevented many Filipinos from leaving their homes and reporting for work even if their industries [were] allowed to operate,” noted acting NEDA Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua in a virtual briefing last Nov. 10.

Both private and public entities, such as Life Cycles PH, the Philippine General Hospital, Lend-A-Bike Project, the Department of Labor and Employment’s Free Bisikleta, and the Pasig city government, have spearheaded bike-sharing and donation drives since April to address the transport shortage and help workers, especially those on the health care frontlines, move to and from work.

But as the number of bicycle users has increased, so have concerns for their road safety. Last September, respondents of a survey conducted by the Institute of Labor Studies cited road safety, poor road conditions, and lack of secured bike parking or storage facilities as the top three reasons that prevented them from using a bike. The hit-and-run accident in Manila that killed 23-year-old nurse Renz Jayson Perez last Aug. 23 further highlighted how cycling in the metro could be a matter of life and death.

The revived popularity of cycling amid the pandemic has led advocates to campaign more vigorously for the construction of bike lanes and parking, among others. Marikina and Iloilo have been ahead in this endeavor for years, but other local government units are following their lead, including Pasig, which was recently hailed as one of the most bike-friendly cities in Metro Manila. Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto underscored his city’s transport vision with a tweet on Oct. 30: “Let’s work to reform this broken transport system that prioritizes the 10-20 percent of people who use 80-90 percent of our roads.”



EDITORIAL

Safer space for bikers

A March 2020 article in Bloomberg pointed just some of the benefits of a bike-friendly city: “Cycleways and pedestrian routes make transport more resilient, and fairer. They are immune to oil prices, and quite resilient to extreme weather and viruses. They don’t discriminate by income, gender or race. They make infinitely more sense than streets lined with public-subsidized private car parking. What’s more, without them we have little hope of tackling the other global crisis in our midst: climate change.”

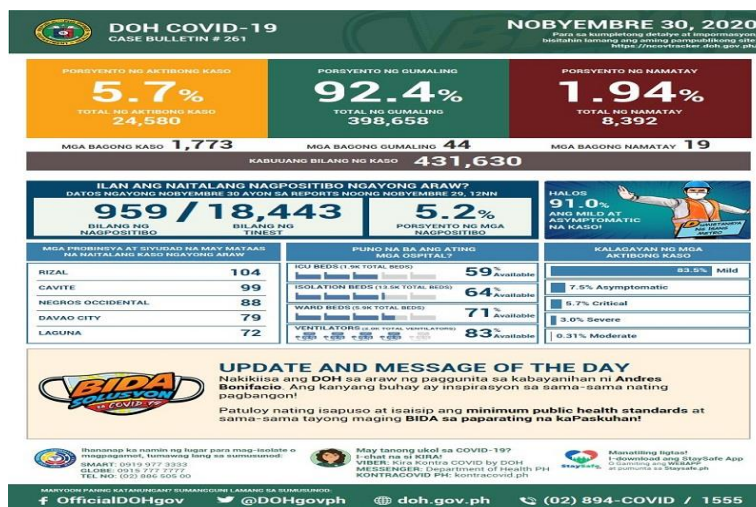
In marking National Bicycle Day last Sunday, bike enthusiasts like the members of the National Bicycle Organization (NBO) gave free bike lessons, something that they have been doing since 2014. The NBO recently partnered with Bonifacio Global City to create the first family zone in the middle of the metro where people can have a safe space to learn how to bike and hone their skills in urban riding. The group said it was important for a Third World metropolis like Metro Manila, notorious for its traffic jams and road indiscipline, to teach people how to bike properly. The advocates also highlighted the importance of growing a cycling community from the grassroots level, to change the mentality still prevalent among some that biking is a poor man’s mode of transportation.

Ultimately, as the people behind the Explore Your City On a Bicycle Facebook page exhorted, the government has to make sure that the streets are kinder to pedestrians and people on bicycles on a daily basis. “Our streets must be SAFE for people on bicycles... At ALL times of the day. Dahil para sa ating nagb’bike commute, araw-araw naman na [ang] National Bicycle Day.”



BREAKING: Bilang ng mga nagpositibo sa COVID-19 sa bansa umabot na sa 431,630 – DOH

By Mary Rose Cabrales November 30, 2020 - 05:35 PM



Mahigit 1,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas. Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (November 30), umabot na sa 431,630 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa. Sa nasabing bilang, 24,580 o 5.7 porsyento ang aktibong kaso. Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,773 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa. 83.5 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 7.5 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.31 porsyento ang moderate; 3.0 porsyento ang severe habang 5.7 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon. 19 naman ang napaulat na nasawi kaya umakyat na sa 8,392 o 1.94 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa. Ayon pa sa DOH, 44 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19 dahil dito, umakyat na sa 398,658 o 92.4 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



Community trial of virgin coconut oil as COVID-19 treatment completed —DOST exec

Published November 30, 2020 4:27pm
By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

One of the trials of virgin coconut oil (VCO) as a treatment for COVID-19 has been completed, according to an official of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

In a public briefing on Monday, Philippine Council for Health Research Development executive director Dr. Jaime Montoya said the results of its community trial for VCO are currently being reviewed.

“Tungkol sa VCO, dalawang pag-aaral po 'yan. Yung isa po ‘yung ginagawa sa komunidad sa Laguna. Natapos na po 'yan. At ang datos po ay tinitignan na at pinag-aaralan na,” Montoya said.

“Yung isa pong pag-aaral sa hospital naman para po sa mga moderate cases ng COVID -19 na nangangailangan ng hospitalization, ito ay ongoing pa,” he added.

The clinical trials of lagundi as another possible COVID-19 treatment, meanwhile, have proceeded to Phase 2, according to Montoya. He added that the trials will take two to three months.

“Ang lagundi po ay natapos na ang Phase 1, so nasa Phase 2 na po siya. At ito ay magtatagal ng dalawa hanggang tatlong buwan. Depende po ito sa bilis na makakuha sila ng volunteers,” Montoya said.

Phase 2 involves actual testing of its effectiveness with infected patients, according to Montoya.

Also, Montoya said Phase 1 clinical trials of tawa-tawa as a treatment for COVID-19 are also being conducted.

Aside from the herbal medicines, Montoya said the clinical trials of melatonin as supplementary treatment for COVID-19 have already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

“Ang melatonin po, base po sa mga pag-aaral ay isa pong ginagamit para po makatulog ang mga tao pero ito po ay may mga ibang gamit,” he said.

“Ito po ay posibleng may kinalaman sa COVID-19 para mabawasan po ang immune response na nakakasakit at nakaka-damage po ng mga organs ng may mga COVID-19,” he added. — **BM, GMA News**



Gov't officials reminded to become COVID-19 protocols 'role models' after Roque seen in Cebu mass gathering

By [Jeline Malasig](#)

- November 30, 2020 - 2:33 PM



Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque speaking to the crowd in Madridejos in Cebu on Nov. 27, 2020. (Photo from The Freeman/Aldo Banaynal via Facebook)

Authorities called on the government officials to serve as role models in observing minimum health protocols amid the coronavirus pandemic after presidential spokesperson **Harry Roque** was spotted in a mass gathering held in Cebu last Friday.

Former health secretary **Paulyn Ubial** said that they should serve as an example to the public since their actions send signals to everyone, being in high positions of authority.

"I hope our government officials will actually be the role model of really practicing the minimum health protocols—wearing masks, wearing face shields and physical distancing of one meter and more," she said in an [ANC interview](#) Monday morning.

"Government, and especially the Department of Health, has to remind some officials about maintaining the health protocols and making sure that they show this as an example to the public. They are the role models that the public will follow so if they break the protocol, then it's a signal to the public to also break the protocols," Ubial added.

The former health official said that while the event attended by Roque was held in an open-air, there is still the possibility of spreading the virus if there are people who are not wearing their face masks properly and if there is less than one-meter distance among them.

"Even if you're wearing masks, (if) you yourself are wearing a mask properly but the other persons are not, then you can spread the virus. In open-air, yes, the chances of virus' survival when it's open-air is lower but it doesn't mean it doesn't happen," Ubial said in reference to the possibility of transmission.

"The science actually supports that there's transmission of the virus if you are less than one meter apart," she added.

Gov't officials reminded to become COVID-19 protocols 'role models' after Roque seen in Cebu mass gathering

Dr. **Tony Leachon**, health reform advocate and former special adviser to the National Task Force Against COVID-19, also urged the officials to “walk the talk” when it comes to observing the health protocols.

“Everybody’s sacrificing—at home, in the workplace, and in the community. If you cannot prove it by your action, you do not mean it. We can’t give what we don’t have. As leaders—we need to Walk the Talk,” he [tweeted](#) in response to reports of Roque in a mass gathering.

Leachon also responded after the spokesperson defended himself against criticisms.

“Well, we can choose not to speak in the event if there are violations of physical distancing. Double standards are unfair. It’s like having a rule that applies to some people one way and another way to others. We will lose the moral ascendancy to lead in the long run,” he [said](#).

The gathering

In a [Facebook post](#) last Friday, Roque said he is the official guest of the opening of the Bantayan Island Airport which is eyed shorten the travel time from Cebu City to the island from one hour to 20 minutes.

The event was also [attended](#) by Cebu Governor **Gwen Garcia**, other national officials and former pageant candidates of the Miss Universe 2020.

Roque also participated in the tourism program by the Cebu provincial government “Suroy-Suroy” (strolling around) SMB Escapade which aims to promote Bantayan island as a tourism destination.

He went to Kota Park in the town of Madrideojos at Bantayan where he was pictured speaking to the crowd that had gathered in the vicinity.

[Pictures](#) of the event gained traction on social media as Filipinos pointed out the lack of physical distancing which is required by the health department to mitigate the COVID-19 transmission.

Roque had [reminded](#) the public to observe the government’s minimum health protocols during the event, where he told them to practice wearing face masks and regular handwashing.

He was also aware that they were not practicing the required physical distance at that moment.

“Pero huwag niyo lang tatanggalin ang mga masks niyo, okay na ‘yan dahil open air naman tayo,” Roque [told](#) the crowd.

The DOH said that people must observe at least a one-meter distance in public, which is nearly [equivalent](#) to a motorcycle’s length, to curb the transmission of COVID-19 which is primarily spread through respiratory droplets.

Roque later on [defended](#) himself and said that he had no control over the large crowd that had gathered in place.



Gov't officials reminded to become COVID-19 protocols 'role models' after Roque seen in Cebu mass gathering

"The activity where I was seen speaking before a crowd was organized by the local government, which I had no control as a guest," he said.

"I was later informed, that the local official/s mentioned in interview/s that they did not expect the huge turnout of people as well," the Palace official, who also acts as the spokesperson of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), said.

Roque also said that he "observed physical distancing" and that he "did not shake hands."

But a [news report](#) noted that in a now-deleted Facebook post uploaded by the official last Saturday, he was seen having a "selfie" with some locals.

"Halos kadikit niya ang ilang residente ng Bantayan Island habang nage-selfie," News5 reported.

Interior Secretary **Eduardo Año** [said](#) that a "fact-finding probe" will be done to "check if anyone has to answer" for the event.

"Nananawagan tayo sa lahat, including government officials, kung may activities kayo na hindi niyo kayang ipatupad ang health standards, particularly physical distancing, stop it. 'Wag niyo nang ituloy 'yan, kasi you cannot just say sorry kung hindi na-control," he [said](#).

Madridejos Mayor **Salvador dela Fuente** [said](#) that they had advised the public to practice physical distancing but authorities had lost control because of the latter's "eagerness and enthusiasm."

He has [advised](#) the locals to monitor themselves for symptoms following the incident, adding that there is a "possibility" someone could've been infected but was "asymptomatic" of the disease.

Meanwhile, National Task Force Against COVID-19 Chief Implementer **Carlito Galvez** in an interview with ANC said the alleged health violations in the Cebu event will be discussed during the meeting of the IATF-EID.

"There is a need to enforce social distancing at events but there are instances when we cannot dictate the situation," Galvez was [quoted](#) by the ANC as saying.

Importance of physical distancing

The **World Health Organization** recommends the public to stay at least one meter away from each other to reduce the risk of potentially transmitting respiratory droplets that may contain the virus, which is produced while talking, coughing, shouting and singing.

It can also be transmitted via aerosols in enclosed, indoor settings with poor ventilation and those with recirculated air.

For maximum protection, DOH also encourages people to practice two to three meters of distance.



Gov't officials reminded to become COVID-19 protocols 'role models' after Roque seen in Cebu mass gathering

Leachon, who was [reported](#) to have quoted medical journal The Lancet, said that a one-meter distance can reduce the chance of infection by up to 86%, while a two-meter and three-meter distance can reduce infection by 93 percent and 96 percent, respectively.

Strictly practicing physical distancing measures is one of the means in mitigating the spread of the pathogen which has a high transmission rate.

[Experts](#) said that observing such a preventive measure is crucial for "flattening the curve" or significantly reducing the number of infections in a community so that the health care system wouldn't be burdened.



Bantayan island escapade: DILG to probe crowded tour

By [Le Phyllis F. Antojado](#) (The Freeman)

- November 30, 2020 - 12:00am



People gather in Madrideojos town to welcome the participants to the Suroy-Suroy Sugbo Bantayan Island Escapade last Friday. DILG Secretary Eduardo Año has ordered an investigation into the breach of health protocols.

CEBU, Philippines — Fact-finding initiatives will be conducted into the group tour in Bantayan Island in Cebu after crowds converged in Madrideojos town on Friday, November 27, 2020, ignoring physical distancing rules.

"We will make sure na magkaroon ng fact finding diyan at kung merong dapat managot ay titignan namin (We will make sure there will be fact finding to determine who should be held accountable," said Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on Sunday over dzBB.

Año is a member of the national Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), which oversees actions to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Madrideojos was the second stop of the Suroy-Suroy Sugbo Santa Fe/Madrideojos/Bantayan Escapade aimed at promoting tourism under the new normal in Bantayan Island, which has just opened a new airport in Santa Fe town.

The flight that brought guests straight to Bantayan Island from the airport in Mactan Island was the maiden trip.

In Madrideojos, however, crowds flocked to the Kota Park where the welcome ceremony was held. Even students who are not attending in-person classes were made to wear their uniform to the welcome ceremony.

High-ranking government officials present at the event were presidential spokesman Harry Roque, Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Secretary Michael Dino, Department of Tourism-7 Director Shalimar Tamano, Department of Health-7 Director Jaime Bernadas, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, and Cebu Provincial Police Director Aladdin Collado.



Bantayan island escapade: DILG to probe crowded tour

Also in attendance were some candidates of the recently concluded Miss Universe Philippines pageant.

The event was initiated by the Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) in partnership with the Cebu Provincial Government and DOT-7.

Statements

Madrideo Mayor Salvador Dela Fuente said they will face the investigation.

"Okay ra kung adunay himoon nga imbestigasyon (It's ok if they will open an investigation)," he said Sunday.

Dela Fuente has since admitted that they were unable to control the crowd at that time.

"Sa amo nga parte, medyo wala mi ka-control tungod man gud sa kahibalo na ka nga diri sa isla intawon panagsa ra gyud maarian sa mga bisita," he said.

(We, somehow, were not able to control the crowd because, you know, it is not often that many visit us here in the island.)

He said earlier that they have advised the people to observe social distancing but eagerness and enthusiasm of the attendees prevailed. He assured that the incident will not happen again.

Garcia also welcomed the fact-finding.

"I welcome this 'fact-finding' probe. And I am offering myself to be questioned first and foremost. After all, I initiated the mini Suroy Suroy. And the crowd, wearing facemasks, in an open beach area, was there to watch a presentation during the Madrideo Suroy Suroy stop," she said on Sunday.

Roque, for his part, said he had no control over the large crowds that gathered in Madrideo.

"The activity where I was seen speaking before a crowd was organized by the local government, which I had no control as a guest," Roque said.

"I was later informed that the local official/s mentioned in interview/s that they did not expect the huge turnout of people as well," he added.

Roque said there was "general compliance" since most of those in the crowd wore masks despite the absence of physical distancing.

"The venue was open air as it was held by the beach, but I had to reiterate for the audience to keep on their masks," he said, adding, "As a precautionary measure, I observed physical distancing and reminded those who were present to observe the minimum health standards. Also, I did not shake hands and I wore a face mask."



Bantayan island escapade: DILG to probe crowded tour

Stop activities that can't be controlled

In the same dzBB interview, Año told the public not to push through with activities that they will have problems controlling.

"Nananawagan tayo sa lahat, including government officials: Kung mayroon kayong activities na hindi niyo kayang ipatupad ang health standards, particularly physical distancing, stop it. Wag niyo nang ituloy yan kasi you cannot just say sorry kung hindi na-control. Mahirap yan," he said.

(We're calling on everyone, including government officials: If you have activities wherein you can't enforce health standards, particularly physical distancing, don't push through with them because you cannot just say sorry when you won't be able to control them. That's difficult.)

Based on records released on Saturday, November 28, the Philippines still has 31,000 active COVID-19 cases.

In Cebu, the province still has 293 active cases with 26 cases recorded on November 28. The province has a total of 6,800 cases of which 405 patients have died. At least 6,102 have recovered from the virus.

After the controversial event in Madrideojos, the town immediately advised those who went to Kota Park to undergo home remedies, including steam inhalation, against COVID-19.

"Gi-awhag ang tanan Lawisanon nga nitambong sa Kota Park ganina diin gipahigayon ang Suroy-Suroy Sugbo dinhi sa atong lungsod sa pagtu-ob or steam inhalation aron mapakgang ang virus nga mapasa sa usa ka asymptomatic nga tawo nga mitambong sa maong okasyon kung aduna man gani," the municipal government wrote in a Facebook advisory.

(We urge all Lawisanon who went to Kota Park where the Suroy-Suroy was held to undergo steam inhalation to prevent contracting the virus from those who may be asymptomatic and who may have attended the event.)

Dela Fuente said that even from the start of the pandemic, residents of the town have practiced home remedies.

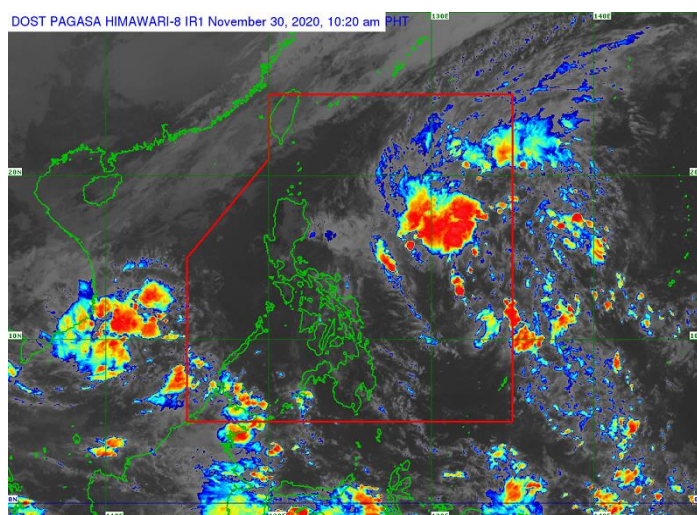
"Advisory lang sila nga home remedies lang ilang gamiton, kun mahimo mag-steam inhalation sila or moinom sila og luy-a; actually mao gyud na among gigamit since pagsugod sa pandemic mao nay mga advisory namo," Dela Fuente said.

(We have advised them to do home remedies, if they can, like steam inhalation and drinking of ginger tea. We have been practicing these since the start of the pandemic.) — **with reports from Philippine Star, JMO (FREEMAN)**



LPA sa Surigao del Sur wala pang direktang epekto sa bansa

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo November 30, 2020 - 11:36 AM



Nananatiling maliit ang tsansa na maging ganap na bagyo sa susunod na 24 na oras ang binabantayang Low Pressure Area (LPA) sa loob ng bansa.

Ang LPA ay huling namataan ng PAGASA sa layong 835 kilometers East Northeast ng Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur o sa layong 850 kilometers East ng Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

Humina naman na ang epekto ng tail-end of a frontal system (shear line) sa Bicol Region at Eastern Visayas.

Naging eastward na kasi ang kilos ng shear line matapos magkaroon ng interaksyon sa LPA sa Philippine sea.

Ngayong araw hanggang bukas, muling kikilos pa-westward ang shear line at habang papalapit ang LPA sa Southern Luzon-Visayas area.

Samantala, nananatili naman ang epekto ng Northeast Monsoon sa nalalabi pang bahagi ng Luzon at Visayas.

Ngayong araw hanggang bukas ang tail-end ng frontal system ay magdudulot pa din ng mahihina hanggang katamtaman at kung minsan ay malakas na pag-ulan sa Bicol Region at Eastern Visayas.

Ang Northeast Monsoon naman ay magdudulot ng paminsang mahina hanggang katamtamang pag-ulan sa Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region, Aurora, at Quezon.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/277624/lpa-sa-surigao-del-sur-wala-pang-direktang-epekto-sa-bansa#ixzz6fjxRwUxN>

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GCQ iiral pa rin sa Metro Manila

By Chona Yu December 01, 2020 - 05:01 AM



Mananatiling nasa General Community Quarantine (GCQ) ang Metro Manila.

Sa Talk to the nation ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, sinabi nitong pinalalawig pa niya ang GCQ hanggang sa katapusan ng Disyembre.

Bukod sa Metro Manila, nasa GCQ din ang Batangas, Iloilo City, Tacloban City, Lanao del Sur, Iligan at Davao City.

Mananatili naman sa Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) ang natitirang bahagi ng bansa.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/277668/gcq-iiral-pa-rin-sa-metro-manila#ixzz6fJw6fGTM>

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PAGDINIG SA 2021 NATIONAL BUDGET TARGET MATAPOS NGAYONG BIYERNES

written by [Lyn Aurora Legarteja](#) December 1, 2020



Isasalang na sa Bicameral Conference Committee (Bicam) ang proposed 2021 national budget, ngayong araw, Disyembre 1.

Target naman ng Bicam na tapusin sa Biyernes, Disyembre 4 ang pagbusisi at pagsasaayos ng panukalang pondo para sa susunod na taon.

Ayon kay House Appropriations Chairman Eric Yap, sa gagawing deliberasyon ay ipagkakasundo ng house contingent ang kanilang proposed amendments sa bersyon naman ng senado.

Aniya, sakaling mayroong suplications ay ipapalipat nila ang mga pondong ito sa ibang ahensya na higit na nangangailangan.

Bukod dito, isa ring pangunahing amyenda ng kamara ang pagbibigay ng karagdagang P5-B para sa calamity funds sa susunod na taon upang matulungan ang mga apektado ng sunod-sunod na bagyo sa Luzon.

Samantala, tiniyak naman ni Yap na walang naging apela si House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco sa ginawang amendments ng mga ahensya sa proposed 2021 budget.



Special Feature: Little Known Wonders of Nickel

posted December 01, 2020 at 12:30 am

By P. Y. Deligero

The strong, silvery-white metal can be found in almost everything—from batteries that power our electronics to the stainless steel that can be found in kitchen sinks or appliances.



NAC hopes to show off the forests they helped build to the communities.

This lustrous mineral is recognized for being resistant against corrosion and oxidation, its ductility, and ability to alloy, or bond, with other metals easily.

It was Swedish mineralogist and chemist Axel Fredrik Cronstedt who first discovered nickel in 1751. Initially, he thought he was extracting copper but it turned out to be nickel as the silver-white color of the metal became apparent.

Some 200 years later, the value of the mineral became highly recognized.

Compared to other minerals, the mining or production of nickel is relatively new. Mine production of nickel began in Norway in 1848, then in New Caledonia in 1875, and Canada in 1886. Since the mineral is used for nearly everything, the industry became one of the most important in the 20th and 21st centuries.

More than 25 countries worldwide mine nickel-laden ores to create end-use products. The Asia-Pacific Region accounts for more than 75 percent of global nickel mine production, with the Philippines and Indonesia leading the pack. But the largest producers come from Russia, Canada, and Australia.

While mine production in Canada and Russia are linked to sulphite-type deposits, Indonesia and the Philippines mainly mine laterites or a reddish clay-like material that hardens when dry, forming a topsoil in some tropical or subtropical regions.

Thanks to nickel, life as we know it has become easier to go about with the help of innovations that make use of the lustrous, durable material. Plus, the material isn't harmful to the environment as it can be recycled into new items.



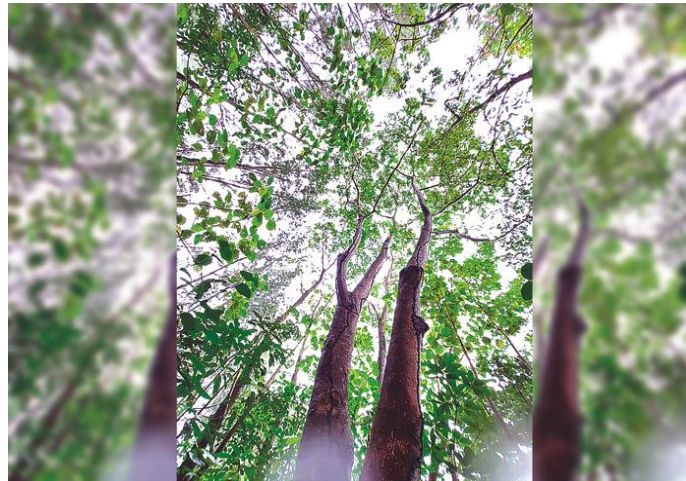
Special Feature: Little Known Wonders of Nickel

Hinatuan Mining's version of a 'Miyawaki' forest

Miyawaki is a technique, pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, on how to grow plants and build forests 10 times faster. The concept is gaining consideration all over the world now that companies and institutions are being marked by society on how they address environment-conservation issues.

For mining companies, the big challenge has always been growing trees in lateritic soil that are deficient in nutrients. While the Miyawaki Method is building forests on barren lands which is called 'afforestation', miners rehabilitate and strive to build forests on mineralized soil, which is called 'reforestation'.

According to HMC's environment manager, Forester Manuel A. Torres Jr., the traditional approach of reforestation requires systematic spacing between crops and trees consistent with the 'carrying capacity' principle of ecology—where only a certain number of seedling can be accommodated per hectare of land.



NAC planted 5.3 Million trees from 2009 to 2020 in its mined-out areas.

Opposite to that, the Miyawaki approach is dependent on natural regeneration with the main goal to achieve a more natural forest-like vibe with grasses, shrubs, and multiple sub-species added to the main trees, all randomly thrown together without specific patterns based on the principle of native planting.

"The traditional methods used by miners and the Miyawaki principle may differ in some of its planting strategies but the results yield the same kind of natural forest stand," explains Torres.

"I have not heard of Miyawaki before we started the rehabilitation at Eastern 1. We simply called our program 'high-density planting strategy', initially an experiment which turned out to have very similar goals to Miyawaki, which is to get the target area greener and leafier in half the expected time.

Special Feature: Little Known Wonders of Nickel

HMC started with picking out good provenance forest tree seedlings mixed them with fast-growing and indigenous forest tree seedlings that are naturally occurring in the area, and applied careful maintenance and tending practices to ensure quality growth in a short fragment of time.

As soon as the vegetation renders its microclimate, the natural characteristics of ‘endozoochory’ sets in wherein seed dispersal is aided by flora and fauna—‘the birds and the bees, and flowers and trees’.

Just like the Miyawaki vision, HMC is seeing a display of lush vegetation to the mined-out area to around 4-6 years.

“This is an exciting case study as the people expect to see more forests and greeneries in the communities,” remarks Torres.

For NAC and all its subsidiaries—Cagdianao Mining in Dinagat Islands (CMC); Dinapigue Mining in Isabela (DMC); Rio Tuba Nickel Mining in Palawan (RTN) and Taganito Mining (TMC) in Surigao del Norte; and of course, HMC—environment-conservation is a critical part of business strategy, and, ‘building forests’ are ‘key performance indicators’ across the organization.

According to Rogel C. Cabauatan, AVP for Environment and Community Relations at NAC, the company has been a part of the Philippine government’s national greening program since its inception and has recorded some P5.3 Million trees planted across the organization from 2009 to 2020.

“We have proof of concept in all our mine sites where you can now find dense forests in mined-out areas that are a prominent part of our showcase as a proud responsible mining company,” Cabauatan says.

Engineer Francis J. Arañes, Jr., HMC Resident Mine Manager, cannot wait to open the site to visitors.



HMC’s Eastern 1 rehabilitated area - the traditional methods used by miners and the Miyawaki principle may differ in some of its planting strategies but the results yield the same kind of natural forest stand.

“We look forward to when this health crisis is over because we have great visuals at the mine site that we want to share with the communities. As conscientious stewards of the environment, it will be an honor to show-off the forests we helped build,” Arañes remarks.



If garbage could talk, it would say whew

By [Jerry Tundag](#)(The Freeman)
- November 30, 2020 - 12:00am

For the first time in many years, no one has tagged garbage as the convenient suspect in the devastating floods that inundated Metro Manila, Luzon, and other parts of the country. And that is because the real culprit had been very obvious. A series of five tropical storms dumped inordinate amounts of rain that precluded any chance for the culprit to be mistaken for someone else.

There was just too much water dumped by Mother Nature for any amount of garbage in waterways to even be considered a factor in the flooding. The ability of garbage to clog or constrict waterways enough to cause flooding is really too limited unless people just want to use garbage as a convenient scapegoat for their own insensitivity, profligacy, inefficiency, and otherwise abuse of nature.

For so many years, people grew cities into concrete jungles, completely depriving the ability of the earth to absorb water. For so many years, people escaping these concrete jungles have stripped the mountains bare to make room for new habitats, thereby eliminating trees and other vegetation that could have sucked up the runoff water instead of rushing all the ways to the lowland communities.

In the meantime, the thirst for fossil fuels to fire up all the engines in cars that people own in their twos and threes, or companies in their fleets goes not only unabated but even more urgent and desperate. Vehicles have become more affordable and easier to own, resulting in even more burning of fuel whose emissions go nowhere else but up into the ozone, messing up the atmospheric heat and cold equations.

Global warming not only means melting polar ice caps and glaciers and therefore more surface water to heat and breed more and stronger storms, it also means eating up the time for recovery and second chances. And yet for so long, and even with such vicious warnings as Yolanda and Ondoy, people still continued making the silly mistake of blaming garbage for clogging and constricting waterways during regular and average flooding.

It is not the garbage, silly. Garbage cannot sink Metro Manila or inundate Luzon in whole or in part. No amount of garbage can withstand the onslaught of rampaging waters strong enough to wash away entire communities. The real culprit is too much water poured over a small corner of the planet in so short a time. This is the handiwork of nature gone haywire. This is the result of global warming. We are seeing climate change in action.

Even more disheartening and terrifying is that we are probably just seeing the beginning, the terrible initial manifestations of a fate that will be mankind's for ages. Worse, global leaders are not united in a truly resolute way to deal with the problem. They talk and gather in conventions and come up with protocols, all nice in the way they sound but actually useless in face of economy-driven pussy-footing.

Unless the world's governments assume greater responsibility for the world's future by assuming realistic proportionate sacrifices between economic gain and development and climate intervention and security, then we can only expect more and more of what cripples us in even more debilitating frequencies. And the only thing people really learn is to finally stop blaming the garbage, giving it pause and perchance to sigh, whew.

Roof of the world is home to microplastic fibres

Microplastic fibres have been found in the snows of Everest. Pollution levels have literally reached new heights.



Mount Everest North Face as seen from the path to the base camp, Tibet. Image: [Luca Galuzzi](#), [CC BY 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

By **Tim Radford**, Climate News Network
Nov. 30, 2020

Scientists have set a new record for the identification of microplastic fibres – [an altitude record](#). They have found them at 8,440 metres high in the Himalayas, almost at [the summit of Mt Everest](#).

It should be no surprise. Microplastic fibres and polymer fragments – derived from plastic products and especially from plastic waste – have been found in the sediments at the bottom of the sea, on the beaches around [barren Antarctic islands](#), in the Arctic ice, on the surfaces of the ocean, and [in the tissues of living things, from sea snails to whales](#).

And as the issue of plastic pollution made its way up the political agenda, it [has now also climbed Mt Everest](#). Researchers report, in the journal [One Earth](#), that they identified 12 fibrous plastic particles in every litre of snow from the highest measuring point, the so-called [Balcony of Everest](#); particles were also identified in stream water at high altitudes and in even greater numbers – 79 per litre of snow – at the famous Everest Base Camp.

Their arrival on the world's highest and most famous peak would have been inevitable. Seventy years ago manufacturers made plastic products at the rate of 5 million tonnes a year. In 2020, the world purchased 330 million tonnes, much of it used once and discarded.

It really surprised me to find microplastics in every single snow sample I analysed. Mt Everest is somewhere I had always considered remote and pristine.

Imogen Napper, marine scientist, University of Plymouth

Somewhere between [93,000 tonnes and 236,000 tonnes](#) is estimated to be floating on the sea surfaces. The cascade of polyester, acrylic, nylon, polypropylene and other polymer waste [could increase threefold in the next two decades](#).



Roof of the world is home to microplastic fibres

And just as there is more plastic on the planet, so there are more and more visitors to Sagarmartha National Park in Nepal, and to the slopes of Mt Everest. In 1979, the region was host to 3,600 trekkers and climbers. By 2016, that number had climbed to 45,000. [By 2019, climbers were forming an orderly queue and taking turns to reach the summit.](#)

And each of these would have been wearing high-performance outdoor clothing, while carrying – and sometimes leaving behind – ropes, tents and lunch boxes fashioned from polymer materials.

The snow samples were collected by [a National Geographic research team](#) formed to investigate [the impact of climate change on the world's highest peak](#), and studied by [Imogen Napper of the University of Plymouth](#) in the UK.

No longer pristine

“Mt Everest has been described as the world’s highest junkyard. Microplastics haven’t been studied on the mountain before, but they are generally just as persistent and typically more difficult to remove than larger items of debris,” Dr Napper said.

“I didn’t know what to expect in terms of results, but it really surprised me to find microplastics in every single snow sample I analysed. Mt Everest is somewhere I had always considered remote and pristine. To know we are polluting near the top of the tallest mountain is a real eye-opener.”

She added: “These are the highest microplastics discovered so far. While it sounds exciting, it means that microplastics have been discovered from the depths of the ocean all the way to the highest mountain on Earth.

“With microplastics so ubiquitous in our environment, it’s time to focus on informing appropriate environmental solutions. We need to protect and care for our planet.”

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

China to force firms to report use of plastic in new recycling push

Reuters

Posted at Nov 30 2020 06:59 PM



A worker walks at Xunxi factory, which is an affiliate of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, during a media tour, in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China November 10, 2020. [Aly Song, Reuters](#)

SHANGHAI - Restaurants, e-commerce platforms and delivery firms will be forced to report their utilization of single-use plastics to the authorities and also submit formal recycling plans, China's commerce ministry said in proposals published on Monday.

The Ministry of Commerce said it had established a nationwide system for retailers to report their plastic consumption as part of trial scheme to encourage recycling.

Plastic pollution has become one of China's biggest challenges, with vast amounts buried in landfills or dumped in rivers. The rise in home food deliveries has also caused volumes to surge.

In September, the ministry said single-use plastic bags and eating utensils would be banned from major cities by the end of the year, while single-use straws would be banned nationwide.

Wang Wang, chairman of the China Scrap Plastic Association, said the bans would "only resolve the most visible types of plastic pollution" and were just one part of the country's efforts to tackle waste.

From September, China has also prohibited some types of agricultural-use plastic film used to keep crops warm and moist. Chinese farmers use around 1.5 million tonnes a year, but it leaves residues that damage the soil.

A new "solid waste law" also came into effect in September, raising fines tenfold for those who break rules and mandating the construction of new recycling infrastructure.

Though there have been complaints China is moving too fast, Wang said the business impact of the measures would be limited, with firms aware in advance that some products would be banned.



China to force firms to report use of plastic in new recycling push

China produced 63 million tonnes of plastic in 2019, with a recycling rate of around 30 percent. It produces around 20 million tonnes of single-use non-biodegradable material annually, including 3 million tonnes of shopping bags.

Antoine Grange, chief executive for recycling at SUEZ Asia, said the bans were welcome but China would also need to improve its entire recycling capability.

"The single-use plastic ban is good for education, good for awareness, but it is only part of the big picture," he said. **(Reporting by David Stanway; editing by Barbara Lewis)**



Countries, groups oppose EU plan to cut shipping emissions

By [Reuters](#)

-December 1, 2020



Container ships and bulk carriers seen in the shipping lanes off the coast of Singapore. (Reuters Photo)

BRUSSELS- Japan, South Korea and a fleet of international shipping groups have warned the European Union against its plan to add greenhouse gas emissions from the maritime sector to Europe's carbon market.

As the 27-country EU seeks to steer its economy towards "net zero" emissions by 2050, the executive European Commission wants to expand its carbon market to shipping.

Currently, the policy requires power plants, factories and airlines running European flights to buy pollution permits to cover their emissions.

The proposal, formally due by next summer, has already run into opposition.

"The application of EU-ETS to international shipping will have adverse repercussion on both environmental integrity and sustainability of global maritime transport and trade," the South Korean government said in its response to an EU consultation on the policy, which closed on Thursday.

"Extension of EU ETS to international shipping is not the suggested way forward, whether the scope is limited to intra-EU shipping only or not," Japan's government said in public documents submitted to the European Commission.

The countries warned that adding shipping to Europe's carbon market could stoke trade tensions, and cause extra emissions by prompting ships to take longer routes to avoid stops in Europe.

Shipping produces 2.1 percent of global CO₂ emissions, a share expected to rise if left unchecked, threatening global efforts to curb climate change.



Countries, groups oppose EU plan to cut shipping emissions

The International Maritime Organization is developing global measures to deliver its pledge to halve shipping greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It says the EU plan undermines these efforts. Critics say the IMO measures are not ambitious enough and additional action is needed.

“I do not see binding measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at IMO level any time soon,” said Jutta Paulus, a Green lawmaker in European Parliament. Parliament approved in September a proposal by Paulus to add shipping to the EU carbon market in 2022.

Industry associations BIMCO and the World Shipping Council also said it is too early to add shipping to a carbon market, citing a lack of commercially viable technologies to cut emissions.

QUEEN'S TREE PLANTING | Britons to plant trees to mark Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on throne

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(Reuters) – Britons will be encouraged to plant trees to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70th anniversary on the throne as part of a plan to create a greener country in honour of her seven decades of service.

The 94-year-old, the longest-reigning monarch in British history, is due to mark her Platinum Jubilee in February 2022.

The government is planning a four-day celebration that summer, featuring an extra day's public holiday, with tree planting to be a feature of the milestone, according to an announcement on Sunday.

Named "The Queen's Green Canopy," the charity-backed project will encourage communities, schools, councils and landowners to plant native trees to help the environment and make local areas greener.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the health crisis and pandemic had reminded people of the importance of nature and green spaces and that trees could transform communities as well as tackling climate change.

"As we celebrate Her Majesty's incredible 70 years of service, I encourage everyone to get behind this scheme and go 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee,'" Johnson said.

Charities Cool Earth and The Woodland Trust said the planting of trees would create a special gift for the monarch, who has planted more than 1,500 trees around the world during her reign.

Elizabeth, who is also the world's current oldest and longest-reigning monarch, became queen on Feb. 6, 1952, following the death of her father King George VI.

The British royal family have been vocal campaigners on a host of environmental issues, with Elizabeth's son Prince Charles speaking out for decades about the impact of climate change and the importance of conservation, and her grandson Prince William also taking up the mantle.

(Reporting by Sarah Young; Editing by Mike Harrison)