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Suspects in brutal slay of Agusan del Sur forest ranger identified

Published October 31, 2020, 6:48 AM

by [Philippine News Agency](#)

BUTUAN CITY (PNA) – The suspects in the killing of a forester of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Agusan del Sur have been identified after one of them surrendered on Thursday, an official said.



Marianito G. Rufano, the forester of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Bunawan, Agusan del Sur who was slain on Oct. 28, 2020. (Photo courtesy of Herzon Gallego/ PNA/ MANILA BULLETIN)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 13 (Caraga) Information Officer Herzon Gallego disclosed on Friday that suspect Sonny Yagong yielded to the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion, and named Wilson Yagong, Tirso Yagong, and Jenefer O. Sudijana as the other suspects in the killing of Marianito G. Rufano.

Rufano and his co-workers were in Barangay Bunawan Brook in Bunawan town on Wednesday afternoon to retrieve illegally cut logs when he was slain.

"The suspect also handed over upon his surrender the murder weapon, and identified the other suspects," Gallego said.

He said Rufano confronted a group of men whom he suspected of being timber poachers, but was attacked by the latter instead.

"The DENR-Caraga will file criminal charges today (Friday) against the suspects," Gallego said.

Aside from murder, DENR-13 will also file charges for violations of Presidential Decree 705, or the Revised Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines, for stealing forest products inside a forestland owned by the government, he added.

Gallego said Rufano and his team managed to seize some 6,000 board feet of illegal lumber of the lauan and "toog" species.

DENR-13 Executive Director Hadja Didaw D. Piang-Brahim condemned the killing of Rufano and ordered DENR-13 personnel to take extra precautions while performing their duties in protecting the forest in the area.

Meanwhile, Gallego bared that the officer in charge of CENRO-Bunawan and its personnel who took part in the retrieval operation with Rufano have received death threats.

The threats, he said, were sent through calls and text messages coming from unknown senders.

"They are not taking any chances now but continue to report to the office to perform their duties," Gallego said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/31/suspects-in-brutal-slay-of-agusan-del-sur-forest-ranger-identified/>



DENR to penalize giant taro collectors P1M

By Antonio P. Rimando

November 1, 2020

DIPOLOG CITY: From now on, collectors of badiang (giant taro), considered a “critically endangered plant specie,” will be penalized, ranging from P500,000 to P1 million by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Zamboanga Peninsula, an agency official warned.

DENR Regional Executive Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez disclosed that badiang collectors run the risk of paying up to as much as P1 million if they are positively caught, getting the endangered plant.

Rodriguez announced that DENR issued a list of other wildlife species that are critically endangered. This list included badiang, “which belongs to the family of *Alocasia zebrine* Schott ex Van Houtte, being considered as vulnerable species.”

The DENR regional chief explained that to collect critically endangered plants, “a person must first secure a necessary agency permit; otherwise, he or she will be charged for violating RA (Republic Act) 9147 known as ‘The Wildlife Resources Conservation Act.’”

According to Rodriguez, badiang recently trended on social media “after a television personality elegantly displayed it inside her house, which caused a speculative purchase among plant collectors.”

Each fruit, Rodriguez added, “possesses several, pale brown seeds with 4 mm diameter, and it has upright, erect, elongated [and] woody stems of 1 m to 1.2 m long and 25 cm in diameter. Badiang prefers tropical climates and well-drained soil, she concluded.



All quiet at Manila Bay's 'white sand' beach as Rolly heads for Luzon

Published October 31, 2020 5:27pm

With Typhoon Rolly predicted to slam into Luzon in the next 12 hours or so, things appeared quiet at Manila Bay's "white sand" beach, according to a Saturday afternoon Twitter post by GMA News' Vonne Aquino.

Trash and water hyacinths had washed onto the beach last October 21 due to Tropical Storm Pepito.

A 500-meter stretch of coastline near the US Embassy in Manila was filled with sand made from tons of crushed dolomite boulders from the Visayas, creating the beach.

The government said that it spent about P28 million on the project. — **DVM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/762208/all-quiet-at-manila-bay-s-white-sand-beach-as-rolly-heads-for-luzon/story/>



Philippine News Info

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DOLOMITE WATCH : Manila bay "white sand" beach before Typhoon #RollyPH | via Vonne Aquino , GMA News

RELATED STORY: Signal no. 3 raised over Catanduanes as #RollyPH maintains strength as it moves toward Bicol <https://bit.ly/3mGIDV0>



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Indigenous peoples: Environmental defenders

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

November 1, 2020



Taw'buid tribesman armed with a tulag, or spear, inside the Mounts Iglit-Baco Mountain Range. Indigenous tribesmen are employed as porters, scouts and trackers and serve to educate their fellow tribesfolk about the merits of protecting the land.

Tamaraw rangers and forest wardens help protect the iconic Philippine tamaraw and their Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park (MIBNP) habitat on Mindoro Island.

The Mindoro environment protectors include indigenous peoples (IPs), who lost their jobs and are suffering from economic setbacks owing to the impact of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic, with the community quarantine enforced by the government since March to contain the disease.



Curious Taw'buid children in Tamisan Uno on the foothills of Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park in Mindoro.

In this light, a P1.1-million fund was raised to provide for the allowances and provisions of the forest frontliners in recognition of their important role in protecting the tamaraws and their natural habitats.

The initiative also highlights the celebration of October as the Tamaraw Month.

Concerned groups and individuals comprising the Tamaraw Society turned-over the fund to the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) on October 29.



IP Sundays, IPRA month



Fufu Ama, or tribal elder, Ben Mitra with a gadun, or short bow, used for hunting small prey like birds and lizards. The Taw'buid are the most numerous of Mindoro's eight ethnolinguistic groups. Though they revere the tamaraw, they also engage in slash-and-burn farming and set-up both spike traps and snares to snag wildlife.

The IPs' rights and contributions to humanity are recognized by many sectors worldwide.

The United Nations commemorates August 9 as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. It is celebrated around the world and marks the date of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982.

At the same time, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) led the celebration of the 23rd year of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act in October with the theme, "Correcting Historical Injustices for Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Welfare."

For the Catholic Church in the Philippines, October 10 is IP Sunday. Celebrated every second Sunday of October, priests dedicate homilies about the sad plight of the IPs and encourage support for their struggle for self-determination.

In his homily, Bishop Broderick Pabillo, the administrator of the Manila archdiocese, also recognized the role of IPs in protecting and conserving the environment and biodiversity.

IPs are known to be the ultimate defenders of land rights. But little is known about their role as the protectors of the environment.

Land is life

According to the NCIP, there are a total of 133 different IP groups in the Philippines. Some 1.2 million are IP rights holders with a total of 5,411,798.93 hectares covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles.

A United Nations Development Programme report said there are around 14 million to 17 million IPs in the country.

At the core of the issue of the right to self-determination of IPs is the issue of land rights. For centuries, IPs all over the world have been fighting for their right over their ancestral lands which have been taken away by governments or by law.

Beverly Longid, global coordinator of the International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL), said IPs believe land is life, therefore, it is integral to IPs not only in the Philippines but around the world.



Land-grabbing, encroachment

The encroachment to ancestral lands of IPs has been happening for a long time, Longid said.

“Since the onset of colonization, encroachment has been happening. Now, it is development projects, mining, energy, among others [that have been encroaching on IPs lands],” she said in a Zoom meeting with the BusinessMirror on October 13.

Unfortunately, she said not only in the Philippines, but also elsewhere around the world, there is no legal recognition on the rights of IPs to their native lands that makes companies easily encroach on their territories.

According to Longid, sometimes, the government even allows or facilitates the encroachment on ancestral lands to pave the way for so-called development. This, she said, almost always result in the massive destruction of the environment and natural resources.

Environmental defenders

IPs are known as defenders of the environment. They protect the forests, as well as the plants and animals that thrive within their ancestral domains—because they are crucial to the IPs’ survival, Longid explained.

The fact that the remaining forests are found in IP lands is proof of IPs value and defense of their ancestral domains, she pointed out.

Unfortunately, Longid said the programs and policies of governments are not very supportive or beneficial to IPs, even in the Philippines.

“Currently, there’s no such program or policies where we can work with government on that score,” added Longid, an Igorot from Benguet province, an IP tribe in Cordillera Administrative Region in northern Philippines.

IP territories, KBA

For centuries, IPs have been fighting against destructive development projects in their ancestral domain, she said.

It is for this reason that the remaining forests that are rich in biodiversity and key biodiversity areas (KBA) are found in IP territories

“This is no longer in the framework of protection or saving [our ancestral domain]. It is now in the framework of defending the remaining areas of biodiversity,” she said.

Longid cited what she described as human-induced fires in the Amazons rainforest in South America which are being targeted by ranchers who want to intrude in the territories of IPs. The IPs in the Amazons are now fighting for their forests, she said.

Closer to home, she cited the successful defense of their right to land and natural resources by Kalinga people of the Cordillera against the proposed Chico River Dam Project in the 1970s.

The Chico River, also called the “river of life,” is essential to the people in the Cordillera and Cagayan Valley.



The people feared that the planned dam was environmentally destructive and would deprive thousands of people of their right to land and water.

The strong people's opposition forced the government to cancel the project in the 1980s.

"Had the IPs not succeed in opposing the projects, the communities along the Chico River would have all been gone," she said partly in Filipino.

Best practices

IPs around the world, as well as in the Philippines, are known for their best practices in protecting and conserving their natural wealth.

Longid said their group is trying to popularize IP practices in forest protection and in certain values, such as in gathering or using resources that are only needed.

"This means production and consumption is not wasteful. Reduce, reuse and recycle. In certain [organized IP] communities, we are able to introduce nondestructive projects like [constructing] micro dams that will provide electricity to communities to counter accusations that we are antidevelopment," she said.

According to Longid, without IPs' right to self-determination, the remaining biodiversity areas will be gone for good.

"If not for the active defense by IPs, most of these areas that are key biodiversity areas would be gone by now," she said.

Vulnerable, highly at risk

In Mindoro, the plight of the tamaraws, their natural habitat and their protectors mirror what is happening across the country, one of the 17 megadiverse countries in terms of flora and fauna and one of 35 biodiversity hot spots in the world due to the rapid rate of biodiversity loss.

The situation was aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic because some people who lost their jobs are forced to turn to alternative source of income and livelihood that are destructive to the environment.

At the same time, forest protectors, including IPs, are at risk of eventually losing their jobs because of income loss in protected areas and national parks whose operation is partially dependent on tourism income.

Important role

The important role played by IPs goes beyond simply protecting and conserving the environment. Their role in biodiversity conservation is globally recognized, the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI) believes.

Grace Diamante, MBCFI executive director, said IPs are the main players in conservation because since time immemorial, they are the original inhabitants of a particular area.

While most of vast areas are no longer exclusive to IPs, they still have traditional access to them for their subsistence.



“IPs believe that they coexist with plants and animals around them. But they themselves admit that they cannot do it alone, hence, the help from lowlanders are needed,” Diamante said via Messenger on October 19.

Enhancing IP capacity

Diamante said the MBCFI help IPs develop their individual and organizational capacity to carry out biodiversity conservation “even in the management of their ancestral domains without canceling their own cultural practices and the traditional system of resource use.”

In working with peoples’ organizations (POs), who are also Mindoro IPs, each member has allotted almost 1 hectare for conservation. Half of the land area is dedicated to reforestation using native trees that will never be cut down under a conservation agreement between the individual and MBCFI. The rest is planted to fast-growing trees for fuelwood and fruit-bearing trees.

IPs in Mindoro are helping protect the forests. Diamante said 69 members of the PO they are working with are waiting to be tapped by the DENR as forest protectors.

Sustainable living

Asean Centre for Biodiversity Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim said via Messenger on October 14 that IPs are known to live in harmony with nature, living and working with their natural environment.

“Since time immemorial” indigenous peoples have lived peacefully with nature, taking only what they need for sustenance, and adopting sustainable practices that allowed the Earth to replenish itself,” Lim said.

“This is what we consider their traditional practices, and the informal know-how that is passed on from generation to generation is traditional knowledge,” she added.

Lim said such knowledge, once harnessed, will be very helpful in protecting biodiversity and preventing extinction.

“Being designated by the CBD [Convention of Biological Diversity] as the regional node for the global biodiversity target on protected areas in the Asean, the ACB, per request of member-states, also supports activities that promote and recognize IPs as they apply traditional measures for area-based conservation. We consider this as one of the means to achieving the global protected area targets,” Lim said.

Make or break

Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on October 26 that IPs play a crucial role in biodiversity conservation, especially because they have control over vast tracts of land within their ancestral domains.

IPs, he said, have the potential of being the ultimate environmental defenders, given that they promote practices in sustainably managing the natural resources. Such potential, however, can go sideways.

“Some IPs facilitates environmental abuse as they partner with unscrupulous individuals,” said Calderon, also the concurrent director of the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB).



He was referring to wildlife traders, loggers or timber poachers, or people representing big companies with vested interest over IPs' lands.

It is for this reason that IPs, he said, should always be mindful of the environment more than the benefits offered by proponents of potentially destructive activities.

“The IPs should always be on the side of conservation. What we need to do is harness their potential,” Calderon said.

Image credits: [Gregg Yan/National Geographic Channel](#), [Gregg Yan](#)



Bl'aan women perform a number during a dialogue on the government's grant of permission, on their behalf, for a colossal gold and copper extraction activity in Tampakan, South Cotabato. Philstar.com/John Unson

NCIP issues permission for gold, copper extraction in South Cotabato community

[John Unson](#) (Philstar.com) - October 31, 2020 - 3:53pm

SOUTH COTABATO, Philippines — The Bl'aan community in this province was elated with the government's imprimatur, on their behalf, for the extraction of copper and gold in their ancestral homeland.

Benefactors have earmarked US\$5.9 billion for the mine development project, expected to generate employment for Bl'aans and much-needed revenues that can be spent for education, health care and social interventions for the indigenous people in areas within the extraction sites.

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, or NCIP, issued on September 19 a "Certification Precondition," or CP, to the Sagittarius Mining Inc., or SMI, the developer of the Tampakan project in the borders of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur.

Copies of the CP that granted permission from the indigenous people for the SMI to forge ahead with the project were received by Bl'aan tribal leaders only last Wednesday during a gathering in Barangay Danlag in Tampakan, South Cotabato.

The event was capped off with lengthy messages of gratitude from Bl'aan tribal leaders, who repeatedly mentioned that they have spent 10 years for extensive coordination efforts for mining activities in their ancestral domain to take off.

Bai Hadja Naila Mamalinta, chairwoman of Barangay Datalblao in Columbio town in Sultan Kudarat, said Saturday her Bl'aan constituents gladly welcomed the NCIP's document, a requisite for SMI's operation.

The CP, dated Sept. 19, 2020, was signed by Allen Capuyan, chairperson of NCIP.

Mamalinta said the Tampakan mining project is favored by the Bl'aans in Salnaong area in her barangay, where the SMI is also to operate.

"These lands that are to be covered by this mining operation are touted as having Southeast Asia's largest untapped copper deposit," Mamalinta said.



The CP from the NCIP explicitly mentioned the SMI's mining area as covering Barangays Danlag, Pulabato and Tablu in Tampakan, Malabod and Bl'aan in Malungon, in the Salnaong area in Datalblao, and in Kimlavis, Bolosalo, Tacub and Abnate in Kiblawan in South Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur provinces, respectively.

Local officials and Bl'aan tribal leaders in Tampakan told reporters at the sideline of Wednesday's gathering in Barangay Danlag the SMI long had school, health services and other social projects for the local indigenous sectors.

The sources said the firm had also produced a number of Bl'aan professionals through a college scholarship program meant to empower the indigenous people in the barangays where it is to extract copper and gold.



Support traditional culture, sustainable livelihoods of IP communities

By Climate Change Commission (CCC) Published on October 31, 2020

MANILA, October 31 -- Representatives from indigenous peoples (IP) groups featured their unique ways of preserving culture and heritage and called for more support to enhance their resilience to the pandemic and climate impacts, during the 24th episode of "Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Pathways."

The online conversation hosted by House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda featured indigenous and cultural advocates, including Waway L. Saway, member of the Talaandig in Bukidnon and Head of the Family Food Security Cycle program of Hineleban Foundation; Delia Pauden, Cluster Head of Ati in Antique and Aklan; and Renee Talavera, Head of the Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Dedicated in celebration of the National Indigenous Peoples' Month this October and the 23rd anniversary of the passage of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, the episode aimed to raise awareness on the interventions needed from all sectors to further promote traditional culture and rural livelihoods of IP groups and communities.

Mr. Saway, an international-renowned artist for music and arts, introduced the Hineleban Foundation, which aims to secure Mindanao's sources of water by reforesting the buffer zones surrounding the high mountain ranges and to provide sustainable livelihood options for the Bangsamoro and IPs of Mindanao. Rooted in the belief that neither the forest nor the people can thrive without the other, the foundation approaches its goal in three aspects—food security, sustainable livelihood, and reforestation. He also discussed how the various groups in Bukidnon and other areas in Mindanao converge to do sustainable rainforestation work, especially during this pandemic.

"Simula lamang ito dito sa Bukidnon, subalit ito ay gagawin natin sa buong Mindanao dahil ang Hineleban ay one of the key players of Mindanao rainforestation. Ibig sabihin nito, buong Mindanao ang ating ginagalawan, kasama na rito ang mga pamayanan ng mga kapatid nating Muslim," said Saway.

Ms. Pauden, member of the Pandan-Ati organization that teaches dance, music, weaving and Ati language to the young members of Ati, shared how the government helped them in preserving their traditional culture and sustain their livelihoods,

"Sa ngayon, unti-unti nang nawawala 'yung tradisyon namin. But through Deputy Speaker Legarda and NCCA's support, we're praying and hoping na makatulong na maibalik 'yung kultura at tradisyon namin," said Pauden.

Ms. Talavera introduced the programs and projects for the IPs, such as Assistance to Artisans Program and School of Living Traditions (SLTs) to revitalize IP culture and heritage. SLTs are non-formal centers of learning in the communities where cultural masters transmit their knowledge and skills on a particular art, craft, and tradition to the young members of the community for their appreciation and learning.



“Ang SLTs, five years na nitong natutulungan ang communities hanggang sa maging sustainable na ang mga ito. Ganu’n din sa Assistance to Artisans, ang mga natulungan nito ay malaki ang pasasalamat dahil nari-reach natin kahit ‘yung mga nasa pinaka-liblib na lugar kung saan meron pala silang mga pangangailangan na hindi kaagad nila mailapit dahil mahirap ang sitwasyon. Dahil dito sa Assistance to Artisans program, maraming mga tao at mga komunidad ang napasaya, lalo na ngayong panahon ng pandemic, hindi tumigil ang ating mga programa at tuloy-tuloy pa rin tayo,” said Talavera.

Legarda showed several photos of her programs, activities, and projects for the IPs whom she considers as frontliners in the preservation of indigenous culture. She also reiterated the need to preserve the cultural wealth and heritage bestowed upon by the IP communities and their indigenous knowledge, systems, and practices. She also stressed the need to ensure that budgets allocated for IPs are properly utilized and spent to further protect their rights.

“There should be adequate safety protocols and support mechanisms in place for our IPs, the NCCA, and the NGOs we work with in the preservation of our indigenous culture and heritage. We also need to ensure that the budgets intended to support our IPs are used fully and efficiently. We should always respect the culture of our IPs. Huwag tayong gagamit ng kanilang kaalaman nang hindi nire-respeto ang kanilang karapatan, kultura, at kabuhayan,” Legarda concluded.

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

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



SMC sets Bulacan river dredging

By Eireene Jairee Gomez

October 31, 2020

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) has committed to help solve the flooding problem in Bulacan by dredging, widening and cleaning up major rivers in the province, as it gears up for the construction of its P734-billion Manila International Airport in Bulacan town, the biggest airport development in the Philippines.

In a statement on Thursday, SMC President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon Ang said the company had been in talks with local government units and other stakeholders the past few weeks, to outline the company's flood mitigation strategy.

The LGUs and stakeholders had been requesting for SMC to replicate its ongoing P1-billion Tullahan-Tinajeros River System dredging project in Bulacan, to help mitigate flooding which has affected Bulacan residents, particularly those living in the low-lying areas of the province.

“Cleaning up major rivers in Bulacan is really part of our plan. That is why many stakeholders, led by the provincial government and local government units, welcome the project. We have committed to help with this issue and show that this airport project will not only provide jobs and boost the economy, but will also provide a long-term solution to the perennial flooding in Bulacan,” Ang said.

To be subjected to river channel improvement, according to Ang, will be tributaries belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System. He said the plan is to dredge, widen, and deepen the Alipit or Taliptip River, Sta. Maria River, and the Meycauayan River, to address the risk of upstream flooding.

Ang said the company has also studied future improvements to alleviate the potential risk of flooding, as continued urban development can increase surface runoff volumes. These include further dredging the rivers to increase their top width and dredged depth.

“Constant dredging and cleanup is important for these tributaries leading to the Manila Bay as silt, trash, and other obstructions restrict the free flow of water, caused heavy flooding, and affecting the marine ecosystem and traditional fishing grounds,” he said.

SMC's flood mitigation strategy will complement the Department of Public Works and Highways' Valenzuela-Obando-Meycauayan Area Drainage System Improvement Project, further improving flood mitigation in the province.

Early this year, SMC launched its five-year, P1-billion initiative to dredge and clean the Tullahan River.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/31/business/green-business/smc-sets-bulacan-river-dredging/789357/>



Isang Southeast Asian Box Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*) ang na-retrieve ng Palawan Council for Sustainable Development matapos itong i-turnover ng dalawang bata mula sa Puerto Princesa City nitong Biyernes, October 30.

Ang natagpuang pagong ay kabilang sa itinuturing na endangered species sa ilalim ng PCSD Resolution No. 15-521. | Palawan Council for Sustainable Development



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Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2254880791335329&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0



Nickel industry boosts rehab and other environment efforts

By [BusinessMirror](#) November 1, 2020

The Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) through its eight member-companies have boosted its Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP) and have reported a total of 6.59 million trees planted over 3,167 hectares in their respective mining areas.

Despite the slowdown in operations during the community quarantine period, PNIA member-companies have planted an additional 809,656 more trees in the first two quarters of 2020 alone.

It covered 322 hectares of land, or equivalent to approximately 600 football fields, which brings their total number of planted trees to over 6 million to date.

Last year, PNIA reported 5.3 million trees planted.

“PNIA members have consistently delivered beyond compliance to demonstrate our commitment to environment protection and rehabilitation,” said PNIA Executive Director Charmaine Olea-Capili.

Olea-Capili said PNIA members “have invested over P203 million on continued EPEP activities and specifically P59.7M on progressive rehabilitation this year despite the pandemic.”

She pointed out that the implementation of the progressive rehabilitation program is based on research and follows rigorous scientific methods.

“PNIA members have full-time environment and technical experts who study the ecosystem and soil of each area that will be rehabilitated to identify which tree species will suit the environment and benefit the community. Member-companies have planted over 70 different tree species including bamboo in their respective mining sites,” she added.

As of August 2020, the group reported over 23,100 bamboo seedlings have been planted across 43 hectares.

Besides rehabilitating the environment, bamboo-planting can also provide livelihood opportunities for the local communities by selling various bamboo-made products.

Apart from boosting tree planting, the nickel industry members have also conducted numerous environmental programs for the benefit of their host communities.

They held 17 coastal cleanups in Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte and Palawan, and the planting of almost 95,000 mangrove seedlings as of August of this year.

The ongoing reforestation is just part of the continuous efforts of the industry to help the local communities during the pandemic.

As of July, the nickel group members have allotted almost P30 million in pandemic relief assistance under their Social Development and Management Programs in the forms of personal protective equipment, food security packs, medicines and test kits and disinfection tents.

They also organized transportation and intensive information dissemination campaign in their host communities to ensure that localities including the indigenous communities are taken cared of during the pandemic.



“We ensure that no one gets left behind, especially in these trying times. In partnership with the local government, we continuously provide assistance through our various social development, crisis response and environment protection programs,” Olea-Capili said.

“Although production slowed down this year, PNIA members have ramped up their social development and environment programs to help the community throughout the pandemic and deliver our commitments to our stakeholders,” she added.



Gardening hacks while on lockdown

Published 9 mins ago on November 1, 2020 12:50 AM

By **TDT** @tribunephl



Planting has found a new vigor during the coronavirus disease outbreak. / Photograph courtesy of ARC

The lockdowns spurred by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak has revealed green thumbs who propagated vegetation and planting in the country.

Known now as plantitos and plantitas, these people now focus their energies in planting different kinds of plants — some are for decoration and some are for sustaining their livelihood amid the pandemic.

To support and unite the different types of gardeners in the community, ARC Refreshments Corp. launched its long-term program, “Grow as One” campaign, showcasing the company’s resiliency in the new normal.

The campaign also calls for sustainable gardening to help lessen the impact of environmental pollution that is slowly killing the planet.

Under the program is a project called, “My Gulay Garden,” initiated by ARC Refreshments Corp. employees; it encourages people to start growing their own food especially in urban areas, and advocates for the use of recycled RC Cola PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles as plant pots.

This way, less plastic will end up in landfills and the oceans and more will end up being useful in gardens.

ARC also offered some tips on how to grow your own vegetable in your small backyard.

The company said that seeds should be soaked in warm water to increase the germination rate of seeds that can develop into new plants faster — a method called “presoaking.” The warm water acts as a signal that it is in the perfect condition to grow.

However, not all seeds require presoaking, though. It is good to presoak beans, peas and pumpkins among others, while radish, carrots, spinach and lettuce are a few of the plants whose seeds do not need soaking.



TECHTALKS

Plantitos, read this

Hydroponic farming can be easy with the right container.

Published 6 mins ago on November 1, 2020 03:30 AM

By **FTM**



HYDROPONIC farming has many benefits, including taking the weather out of the equation. / W. Commons

With planting as a hobby a hit in the Philippines as a way to combat the stresses of the pandemic, the future of agriculture may be found in commercial containers which can host plants hydroponically.

Hydroponic farming has many benefits, including saving the resources involved in soil cultivation and avoiding the uncertainty of weather conditions, according to Seedo, an innovator in the field of commercial growth containers.

Approximately 40 percent of the costs of produce in large city supermarkets are used to cover logistics and shipping.

Commercial containers such as those from Seedo would expand the potential for urban farming to anywhere, anytime. Plants can be cultivated 24/7, regardless of location.

For example, the automated urban farm is ideally suited to the growing market for medical cannabis products.

Seedo is the technology behind the world's first automated medical cannabis farm, which will yield significantly more plants than traditional controlled greenhouses.

Another opportunity for the Seedo technology is to improve the agriculture of at-risk countries like the Philippines, where global warming and other concerns threaten consistent farming and food production.

In some areas, farmers can use Seedo equipment and technology for growing not only medicinal herbs, but also greens such as lettuce, kale and wheatgrass; herbs such as parsley, dill and basil; and vegetables such as cherry tomatoes and bell peppers and even strawberries.

In the home, individuals can set up a small unit that grows plants easily and effectively without intervention.

The Seedo products use artificial intelligence software to control and monitor plant development from the moment the seed is planted. The software tracks each plant's development, and responds by taking action to optimize growth.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/11/01/plantitos-read-this/>



PH records 1,803 new COVID-19 cases; total exceeds 380,000

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Oct 31, 2020 3:33:16 PM



The country has posted another surge in COVID-19 infections with 1,803 new people testing positive, the Department of Health announced on Saturday. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 31) — The country has posted another surge in COVID-19 infections with 1,803 new people testing positive, the Department of Health announced on Saturday.

This brings the total to 380,729 with 42,462 active or currently sick patients, equivalent to 11.2% of the tally. From these active cases, 83.2% are experiencing mild symptoms, 11.3% have no symptoms, 3.5% are in critical condition while 1.9% are severe cases, the agency said in its case bulletin.

Rizal province reported 97 new infected residents, making it the area with the highest number of new cases, followed by Davao City with 93, Quezon City with 86, Cavite with 66 and Pasig City with 65.

Meanwhile, 606 more people recovered from the disease, raising the number of recoveries to 331,046. This is 87% of the total number of cases, the DOH pointed out. The death toll also rose to 7,221 with 36 more people succumbing to the disease. This is equivalent to 1.9% of the case tally.

The department said it removed seven duplicate cases from the total count including three recoveries. It also noted that 14 recoveries from its previous bulletin were actually deaths after validation.

The tally includes all COVID-19 laboratories except 12 that were not able to submit their recent data, the DOH clarified.



MALUWAG NA QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS SA BANSA INAASHANG SA 2021 NG DOH

written by ***Gilbert Perdez*** October 31, 2020



Umaasa ang Department of Health (DOH) na maisasalang na sa mas maluwag na quarantine protocols ang buong bansa sa unang bahagi ng taong 2021.

Ayon kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, maganda ang mga ipinakikitang hakbang ng mga lokal na pamahalaan tulad ng contact tracing at treatment.

Aniya, nakagawa na rin ng “milestones” at “safeguard conditions” ang gobyerno at maaari ito ang maging daan upang maikasa ang Modified General Community Quarantine (MGQC) sa iba’t ibang lugar na siyang pinakamaluwag sa apat na quarantine classifications.



Duterte all set to issue COVID-19 test SRP

October 31, 2020 | Filed under: Headlines, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

Malacañang said that it is just a matter of time before President Duterte signs the executive order putting a price ceiling on the cost of real time-polymerase chain reaction tests used to detect COVID-19.

In a radio interview, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said that they are just waiting for the decision of the President on the matter.

“Well, inaantay na lang po natin ang desisyon ng Presidente, tapos na po lahat ng staff work (We’re just waiting for the President to make a decision. All the staff work has been completed already),” he said. “It’s a matter of time. I think anytime the President will sign his executive order,” he added.

In a text message, Roque said that he will follow up on the status of the EO.

However, he said that while the public awaits the signing of the EO, he reminded those in need to be tested that there are affordable testing services in the country that cost as low as P1,500 to P2,000. “Tangkilikin po natin itong mga lugar na ito,” he said.

Among those facilities in Metro Manila offering affordable COVID-19 tests are the following:

1. Philippine Children’s Medical Center in Quezon City
2. National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City
3. Lung Center of the Philippines in Quezon City
4. Perpetual Help Medical Center in Las Piñas City

Early this month, Malacañang reminded facilities that offer RT-PCR swab testing not to jack up the rates of the test, especially if they got their machines and kits for free.

The Department of Health submitted to the Office of the President last month a recommendation for the issuance of an EO that imposes a ceiling on the prices of RT-PCR tests.

In a press briefing in September, Roque said that it was not impossible for Duterte to issue an order putting a price ceiling on RT-PCR tests. **(Argyll Geducos)**



Coconut stakeholders upbeat on VCO potential vs COVID-19

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 1, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Coconut industry stakeholders are upbeat that recent trials that show coconut oil having strong potential in fighting COVID-19 may spur the growth of the industry as well as the local economy.

After six months of initial research trials, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) found that coconut and virgin coconut oil compounds not only reduced the coronavirus count by up to 90 percent, it also improved cell survival of patients with COVID-19.

Monolaurin found in coconut oils, VCO and MCT oils like Laurin are said to be effective not only against SARS-COV-2, but also with majority of viruses and bacteria which are Lipid-coated.

The United Coconut Associations of the Philippines (UCAP), the country's leading coco advocacy group, said VCO would help reinvigorate the country's economy battered by the coronavirus outbreak.

"If further research and trials prove positive for VCO as COVID-19 alternative treatment, this will undoubtedly have impact not only for patients, but a needed boost for coconut farmers and the industry as a whole," the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) said.

VCO has an estimated \$1.8 trillion-dollar market.

Coconuts remain the Philippines' number one export, generating north of \$2 billion yearly to the Philippine economy, while employing an estimated 3.5 million farmers in the country.

PCA explained that even before the onslaught of the COVID 19 pandemic, they have long been advocating the health benefits of virgin coconut oil.

With the renewed interest in VCO and the indigenous coconuts, UCAP, PCA and other stakeholders hope this will spark empowerment and change, while enticing younger generations to support and re-energize the country's greying coconut industry.

Ateneo Professor Emeritus of Science Fabian Dayrit, one of those who pushed for the research and testing of VCO against COVID-19, said a daily dose of coconut oil "is a good precaution to take" against COVID-19.

In the late '90s and early 2000, Dayrit was also part of the research team which administered controlled dosage of coconut and monolaurin oils to persons living with HIV.

Dayrit said the patients' viral count significantly went down, while antibody count increased after being administered with a controlled daily dosage of coconut oil and monolaurin.

"Coconut oil-derived products are functional food; it is the same as taking vitamin supplements daily," Dayrit said.



The United Coconut Association of the Philippines' (UCAP) Marco Reyes says VCOs antiviral and anti-bacterial properties are unleashed inside the body once it metabolizes into a derivative called monolaurin, a property that can also be found in other coco-based products, from cooking oils to more concentrated volume in products like Laurin MCT oil.

Other test results are expected to be released by November. This early, Dayrit is positive of VCO's efficacy, a product that is indigenous and readily available for Filipinos.



DBM approves extension of service of gov't contractual workers until 2022

Published 1 day ago on October 21, 2020 10:48 AM

By [Bella Cariaso](#)



Quezon City Hall workers pack essential health kits composed of face masks, alcohol, Vitamin C tablets and germicidal soap distributed to 100,000 indigent families. (File photo)

Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado announced Wednesday the approval of a joint circular allowing the extension of services of job orders and contractual workers in the government until 2022.

In an interview over DZMM, Avisado said this means that the employment of contractual workers hired by different agencies are extended for two years.

“Ito po ‘yung joint circular number 2, series of 2020 na pinirmahan ko po, kasabay ng Chairman ng Commission on Audit (COA), patungkol po sa updated rules and regulations governing contract of services and job orders in the government,” Avisado said.

Avisado added that employment contracts of those hired by various departments are set to expire this December 2020.

“Dahil nga po matatapos na sa katapusan ng taon ang pagtatalaga, pagha-hire ay napagkasunduan po namin na ang contract of service at job orders hanggang katapusan ng 2022,” said Avisado.

“Una nga po nga po dahil sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon, dahil nga po dito sa COVID-19, ay ang pangangailangan ng iba’t ibang ahensiya ng pamahalaan. ‘Yun po ang naging basis namin,” he explained.

The DBM official said the funding for the extension of the contract of the employees will be sourced from the budget of each agency.

Avisado did not say the total number of contractual employees who will benefit in the extension of their jobs.

“Hindi ko po alam kung ilan po sa ngayon (contractual employees), nagha-hire kasi sila for a specific service,” he noted.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/21/dbm-approves-extension-of-service-of-govt-contractual-workers-until-2022/>



Philippines orders evacuation as world's strongest typhoon of 2020 approaches

Story by Reuters

Updated 0719 GMT (1519 HKT) October 31, 2020



Residents wade in a flooded bridge over a swollen river due to heavy rains in Ilagan town, north of Manila, on October 31 ahead of Typhoon Goni's landfall in the Philippines.

(CNN) Philippine officials on Saturday ordered the evacuation of thousands of residents in the southern part of the main Luzon island, as the world's strongest storm this year approached the Southeast Asian nation.

Typhoon Goni -- known locally as Rolly -- is a category 5 storm with 215 kilometers per hour (133 miles per hour) sustained winds and gusts of up to 265 kph (164 mph). It will make landfall on Sunday as the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines since Haiyan killed more than 6,300 people in November 2013.

Pre-emptive evacuations have started in coastal and landslide-prone communities in the provinces of Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur, while the Albay provincial government will order residents in risky areas to leave their homes, Gremil Naz, a local disaster official, told DZBB radio station.



The floor of a destroyed house after Typhoon Molave hit a town in Oriental Mindoro province, the Philippines, on October 26.

Earlier this week, [Typhoon Molave](#) killed 22 people in the Philippines -- mostly through drowning in provinces south of the capital Manila, which is also in the projected path of Goni.

Authorities are facing another hurdle as social distancing needs to be imposed in evacuation centers to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The Philippines has the second-highest number of Covid-19 infections and deaths in Southeast Asia, behind only Indonesia.

Relief goods, heavy machinery and personal protective equipment are already positioned in key areas, Filipino Grace America, mayor of Infanta town in Quezon province, told DZBB radio. "But because of the Covid-19 pandemic, our funds for calamity concerns and expenses are insufficient," she said.



Local officials canceled port operations and barred fishers from setting sail.

Typhoon Goni, moving westward at 20 kph (12 mph) from the Pacific Ocean, will bring intense rains over the capital and 14 provinces nearby on Saturday evening, and threats of floods and landslides.

Another typhoon, Atsani, is gaining strength just outside the Philippines. Around 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year.



Rolly now a super typhoon, Signal No. 5 to be raised over parts of Bicol

By: [Katrina Hallare](#) - Reporter / [@KHallareINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:00 AM November 01, 2020

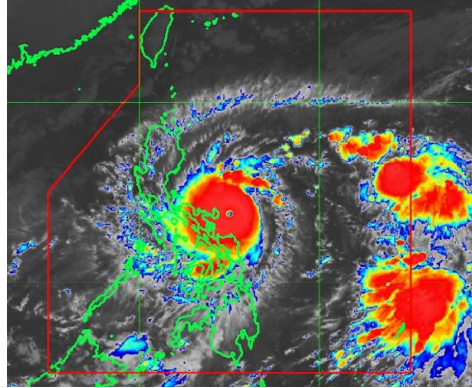


Image from PAGASA

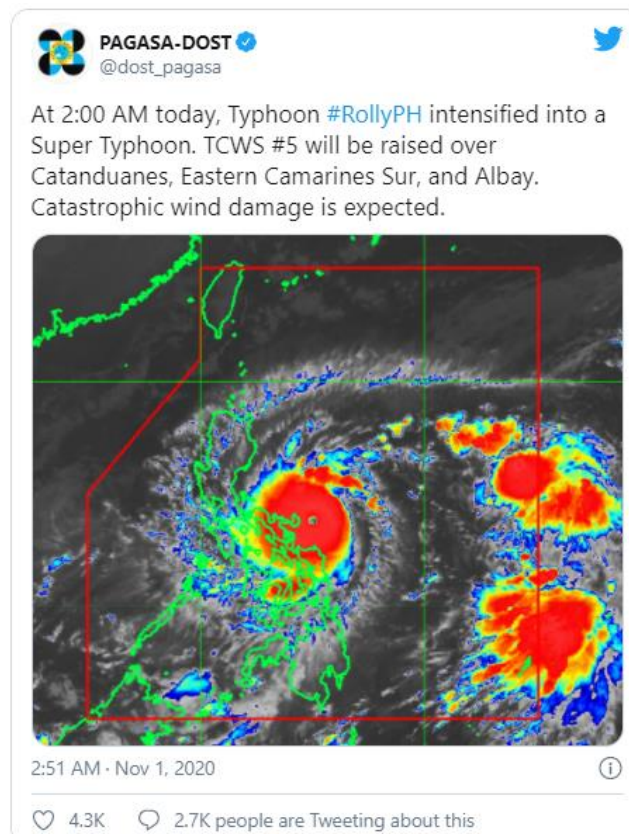
MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Rolly (international name: Goni), the [strongest typhoon](#) in the world so far in 2020, intensified further to a super typhoon early Sunday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Because of this PAGASA warned that Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 5 will be raised over Catanduanes, Eastern Camarines Sur, and Albay.

“Catastrophic wind damage is expected,” Pagasa said in a tweet.

Under Pagasa’s public storm warning signal, TCWS No. 5 means that winds of more than 220 kilometers per hour (kph) is expected in at least 12 hours, and a storm surge of more than 3 meters is possible at coastal areas.

Currently, Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, and the northern portion of Albay and the eastern portion of Quezon are under TCWS No. 4.





Meanwhile, Signal No. 3 is raised over:

the rest of Albay

Burias and Ticao Islands

Sorsogon

the rest of Quezon including Polillo Islands

Laguna

Rizal

Cavite

Batangas

Metro Manila

the southern portion of Bulacan (Norzagaray, Santa Maria, Balagtas, Bulacan, San Jose del Monte City, Bocaue, Marilao, Meycauayan City, Obando)

Marinduque

the northern portion of Occidental Mindoro (Abra de Ilog)

the northern portion of Oriental Mindoro (Gloria, Pinamalayan, Socorro, Pola, Victoria, Naujan, Calapan City, Baco, San Teodoro, Puerto Galera)

the northern portion of Romblon (Concepcion, Banton, Corcuera)

Northern Samar

Signal No. 2 is hoisted over:

the rest of Masbate

the rest of Romblon

the rest of Oriental Mindoro

the rest of Occidental Mindoro including Lubang Island

the rest of Bulacan

Pampanga

Bataan

Zambales

Tarlac

Nueva Ecija

the central and southern portion of Aurora (Dipaculao, Maria Aurora, Baler, San Luis, Dingalan)

the southern portion of Quirino (Nagtipunan)

the southern portion of Nueva Vizcaya (Alfonso Castaneda, Dupax Del Norte, Dupax Del Sur) Pangasinan

the northern portion of Samar (Catbalogan City, Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, Hinabangan, San Sebastian, Tarangnan, Pagsanghan, San Jorge, San Jose de Buan, Matuguinao, Gandara, Santa Margarita, Calbayog City, Santo Nino, Almagro, Tagapul-An)

the northern portion of Eastern Samar (San Julian, Sulat, Taft, Can-Avid, Dolores, Maslog, Oras, San Policarpo, Arteche, Jipapad)

the extreme northern portion of Antique (Pandan, Libertad, Caluya)

the northwestern portion of Aklan (Buruanga, Malay, Nabas, Ibajay)

And Signal No. 1 is raised over:

the southern portion of Cagayan (Peñablanca, Iguig, Rizal, Piat, Tuao, Solana, Tuguegarao City, Enrile)

Isabela

the rest of Quirino

the rest of Nueva Vizcaya



the southern portion of Apayao (Conner)

Kalinga

Abra

Mountain Province

Ifugao

Benguet

the southern portion of Ilocos Norte (Nueva Era, Dingras, Sarrat, San Nicolas, Laoag City, Paoay, Currimao, Badoc, Pinili, Batac City, Banna, Marcos)

Ilocos Sur

La Union

the rest of Aurora

Calamian Islands

the rest of the northern portion of Antique (Sebaste, Culasi)

the rest of Aklan

the northern portion of Capiz (Jamindan, Mambusao, Sapi-An, Ivisan, Roxas City, Panay, Pilar, Sigma, Dao, Panitan, Pontevedra, President Roxas)

the northern portion of Iloilo (Carles, Balasan, Estancia, Batad)

Biliran

the northern portion of Leyte (Leyte, Tabango, San Isidro, Calubian, Capoocan, Carigara, Tunga, Barugo, San Miguel, Babatngon, Tacloban City)

the rest of Samar

the rest of Eastern Samar

In its 2 a.m. severe weather bulletin, Pagasa warned that violent winds and intense to torrential rainfall will be experienced over Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, and the southern portion of Quezon.

“This a particularly dangerous situation for these areas,” Pagasa said.

The eye of Rolly is forecast to make landfall at its current peak intensity over Catanduanes early Sunday morning and over Camarines Sur Sunday morning.

“Afterwards, the center will cross the Camarines provinces before heading towards mainland Quezon [Sunday] afternoon,” Pagasa added.

Rolly was last spotted 110 kilometers east northeast of Virac, Catanduanes.

Moving west-southwestward at 25 kph, it was packing maximum sustained winds of 215 kph near the center with a gustiness reaching up to 265 kph.

Rolly will bring heavy to intense with at times torrential rains over Bicol Region, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon province, Metro Manila, Marinduque, Romblon, Mindoro Provinces, Bataan, Bulacan, Aurora, Northern Samar, Samar, Eastern Samar, Biliran, and the eastern portions of mainland Cagayan and Isabela.

Moderate to heavy rains with at times intense rains will fall over the Cordillera Administrative Region, Leyte, and the rest of mainland Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon.

It will bring light to moderate with at times heavy rains over Caraga, Northern Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula, and the rest of Luzon and Visayas.



Meanwhile, Pagasa is also monitoring Tropical Depression Atsani, last spotted at 1,385 kilometers east of Southern Luzon.

The tropical depression has maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center with a gustiness reaching up to 70 kph. It was moving west-northwest at 20 kph.

Atsani is expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility Sunday afternoon. It will be given the local name Siony when it enters PAR.

Atsani remains less likely to affect any portion of the country over the next two to three days, Pagasa said. However, it likely to reintensify into a tropical storm in the next 12 to 24 hours.
[atm]



Northern Panay Island could also be at risk due to 'Rolly'

Published October 31, 2020, 3:26 PM

by [Tara Yap](#)

ILOILO CITY—The northern part of Panay Island may be considered risk areas because of typhoon Rolly.

This was the consensus agreed on by officials after the Office of Civil Defense (OCD-6) led a Saturday meeting of the Western Visayas Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (Western Visayas DRRMC).

“We’re looking at the areas at risk of flood and landslide,” said Aleth Nogra, chief of OCD-6’s disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) division.

Nogra told The Manila Bulletin on Saturday, October 31, that they have identified areas, which are prone to landslide in some localities in Aklan, Antique and Iloilo provinces.

“For flooding, we are looking at Capiz and Iloilo provinces. These are almost the same places where Typhoon Quinta passed by recently,” Nogra added.

While weather bureau PAGASA has indicated that Rolly will not pass by Panay Island, Nogra said that local DRRMs and the people should not be complacent, and should remain vigilant.

“Remember, we are still also under a pandemic. There are a lot of challenges,” Nogra added.

One of the key concerns was that if people need to be evacuated, there would also be the challenge of implementing physical distancing in evacuation centers.

“I think that’s what some local officials are worried about,” Nogra added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/31/northern-panay-island-could-also-be-at-risk-due-to-rolly/>



Coast Guard implements no-sail policy to and from Talim Island

Published October 31, 2020, 5:13 PM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

Binangonan, Rizal – A no-sail policy is now in effect for those going to and coming from Talim Island in Laguna Lake starting Saturday, October 31.



Villagers in Cardona, in Rizal Province remove tarpaulins and trim branches of trees as safety measures in anticipation of the effect of Typhoon Rolly in the lakeshore municipality. (Photo courtesy of Bong Bernabe of Cardona MDRRMO/ MANILA BULLETIN)

Loel Malonzo, head of the Rizal Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) told Manila Bulletin that the Philippine Coast Guard –Laguna De Bay Station (PCG-LDBS) enforced the ban on sailing of all kinds of boats to and from Talim Island starting 11 a.m., Saturday after the state weather bureau raised Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 1. over Rizal province.

The no-sail policy is regularly enforced when a storm signal is raised in the province.

The PCG-LDBS sub-stations are located in Pritil in Barangay Libis, Binangonan; Barangay Malaya in Pililla; and Barangay San Roque in Cardona.

The terminal of passenger boats that travel to and from Talim Island is located in Pritil.

There are 17 villages under the jurisdiction of Binangonan and seven villages under Cardona that are located in Talim Island, an island that is shaped like a dagger or a bladed weapon.

Bong Bernabe, head of the Cardona Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) told Manila Bulletin that the municipal government conducted clearing operations in the mainland and island villages in Cardona to remove tree branches near power lines and bring down large tarpaulins.

Bernabe said aside from clearing operations, the disaster management officers in the barangay levels led by village leaders have pre-positioned evacuation and rescue equipment in their respective areas in anticipation of the effects of Typhoon 'Rolly'.

At least seven villages in mainland Cardona and two villages in Talim Island are considered prone or high risk to flooding or landslide based on the data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau according to Bernabe.



Last October 26, the entire Talim Island was plunged into darkness after Typhoon 'Quinta' toppled power lines in the island.

Island villagers have become used to power outages during bad weather that households use either generators, rechargeable lamps, solar lamps or kerosene lamps to light their homes.

The PDRRMO has activated its operation center at the provincial capitol to provide coordination and exchange of information with the local MDRRMO in the municipal and city levels and its counterpart in the national level.



Pagasa: La Mesa Dam aapaw

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Oct 31, 2020

NEWS



Inilagay umano sa red alert status ang La Mesa Dam sa Quezon City dahil sa posibleng pag-apaw nito ngayong paparating ang bagyong 'Rolly'.

Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Inihayag ito ni Richard Orendain, hydrologist ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), sa ginanap na online press briefing ng ahensya.

May posibilidad din umano na magpakawala ng tubig ang Ipo Dam sa Norzagaray, Bulcan dahil malapit na itong umapaw.

"Maliit lang po ang Ipo Dam and ang spilling level is 101.5 meters and halos .5 meters lang ang difference from spilling level so posibleng mapuno ang Ipo Dam dahil dito dadaan si Rolly," paliwanag ni Orendain.

Dagdag pa ng opisyal, posible rin na madagdagan ng hanggang limang metro ang ipon na tubig sa Angat Dam dahil sa bagyo subalit hindi naman aniya ito aabot sap ag-apaw.

Ganito rin aniya ang puwedeng mangyari na madagdagan ng ipon ng tubig sa Pantabangan Dam sa Nueva Ecija.



Lahar mula Mayon, Taal, Pinatubo raragasa

By Abante News Online — Last updated Oct 31, 2020

NEWS



Photo Courtesy: AP



28 0

Bukod sa banta ng pagbaha at landslide, pinaghahanda din ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) ang mga residente na naninirahan sa 3 aktibong bulkan laban sa pagragasa ng lahar kasunud ng inaasahang pag-uulan na dala ng Bagyong Rolly.

“Due to its (Rolly) trajectory, current severe intensity and potentially high-volume rainfall, Rolly can be expected to generate volcanic sediment flows or lahars, muddy streamflows or muddy run-off in rivers and drainage areas on the monitored active volcanoes of Mayon, Pinatubo and Taal,” ayon sa Philvolcs.

Pinaghahanda ng Phivolcs ang mga residente at ang Local Government Units(LGUs) sa posibilidad ng paglikas sa oras na rumagasa ang lahar.

“DOST-PHIVOLCS thus strongly recommends increased vigilance and readiness of communities in pre-determined zones of lahar and related hazards on these volcanoes,” dagdag pa ng Phivolcs.

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Ang pag- agos ng lahar sa Mt Mayon ay maari
umanong dumaaan sa



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Simbahang Katolika handang
tumanggap ng mga evacuee
Oct 31, 2020 0

Miisi,Binaan,Anoling,Quirangay,Maninila,Masarawag,Muladbucad

Nasisi,Mabinit,Matan-ag at Basud.

Samantala ang Mt. Pinatubo Lahar ay maaaring umagos sa Sto. Tomas-Marella at Bucao River systems at dadaan sa San Marcelino, San Narciso,San Felipe,Botolan sa Zambales.

Habang sa Taal Volcano, ang lahar ay maaaring umagos sa Agoncillo at Laurel. (Tina Mendoza)

Source: <https://www.abante.com.ph/lahar-mula-mayon-taal-pinatubo-raragasa/>



Why US polls are critical for climate change

By [Ludwig O. Federigan](#)

October 31, 2020

In three days, the most powerful nation in the world — the United States — will elect its leader. A toss-up between the President Donald Trump, a Republican, and his challenger, former vice-president Joe Biden, a Democrat, the new leader will either continue or have the change to lead the most dominant economic and military power. He will eventually shape the lives of 327 million Americans and influence billions worldwide.

Trump, on June 1, 2017, announced that “the United States will cease all implementation of the non-binding Paris Accord and the draconian financial and economic burdens the agreement imposes on our country.” In a statement released by the White House the same day stated, “this includes ending the implementation of the nationally determined contribution and, very importantly, the Green Climate Fund which is costing the United States a vast fortune.”

Subsequently, on Nov. 4, 2019, the Trump administration formally notified the United Nations that it would withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change. This is a complete turnaround from the gains of the Obama administration.

Lest we forget, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2015, then-President Barack Obama, in his remarks titled “A world that is worthy for our children,” he said that accepting this challenge — referring to the Paris Agreement — will not reward us with moments of victory that are clear and quick. He added “our progress will be measured differently — in the suffering that is averted, and a planet that’s preserved. And that’s what’s always made this so hard.”

The outcome of the forthcoming election will determine the continued participation of the US in the Paris accord.

The US should remain responsible

Commitments through the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement require unequivocal global cooperation. As the deadline of midnight of Dec. 31, 2020 is almost on our doorstep, we expect developed and industrialized countries to deliver more ambitious on emission reductions to keep climate change within relatively safe limits.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was very clear — anything beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius even half a degree of warming will significantly worsen the risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth. To rein global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius, global net carbon dioxide emissions should be cut by 45 percent by 2030 from 2010 levels and achieve de-carbonization of “net zero” by mid-century. Based on current global emission reduction commitments, we are headed toward an uninhabitable 3-degrees Celsius world by 2100.

We have emitted over a trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) since 1751. With the objective of the Paris Agreement limiting the average temperature rise way below 2 degrees Celsius, we need to urgently reduce global emissions. One common argument on the table is that those countries which have added most to the CO₂ in the atmosphere —contributing the most to our ecological situation — should take on the greatest responsibility in addressing it.

To date, the US has emitted more CO₂ than any other country. It is responsible for 25 percent of historical emissions — at around 400 billion tonnes since 1751. Next is the European Union (EU) consisting of 28 countries having a combined contribution of 22 percent.



In a report by the World Resources Institute, the US, EU and China are now the top three greenhouse gas emitters contributing more than half of total global emissions while the bottom 100 countries only account for 3.5 percent. Collectively, the top 10 emitters account for nearly three-quarters of global emissions.

The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement — if and when it happens — will push other industrialized nations to press emerging powers for more commitments.

Industrialized countries like the US are classified as Annex 1 party of the Paris Agreement.

Other major polluters like China need to step up. As a developing country, China agreed to be part of the Paris Agreement because the US was taking action.

Another Trump administration

On Nov. 4, 2020, the day after the election, the US is officially withdrawn from the Paris Agreement. Trump's announcement a year ago sent a strong message that the US no longer shared our common fight against climate change.

Aside from the withdrawal, the Trump administration, according to the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law of the Columbia Law School, has scaled back or wholly eliminated over 160 federal climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

All attempts to scaled back on environmental regulations are part of the agenda to accord less importance to climate change and, at the same time, do everything to continue to degrade climate science. And if Trump is reelected, the practice will continue.

Known climate scientist Michael Mann said: "Another four years of what we have seen under Trump, which is to outsource environmental and energy policy to the polluters and dismantle protections put in place by the previous administration would make that essentially impossible."

Hence, achieving the central goal of the Paris Agreement may no longer be certain.

A Biden presidency

Biden, who called "climate change as the number one issue facing humanity," outlined his bold plan to address the growing threats of climate change and lead the world in addressing the climate emergency. He sees the US urgently needs to embrace greater ambition on an epic scale to meet the scope of this challenge and that the environment and economy are completely and totally connected.

Among others, Biden's plans include:

– Ensure the US achieves 100-percent clean energy economy and reaches net-zero emissions no later than 2050;

– Build a stronger, more resilient nation by making smart infrastructure investments and ensure that our buildings, water, transportation, and energy infrastructure can withstand the impacts of climate change;

– Rally the rest of the world to meet the threat of climate change;

– Stand up to the abuse of power by polluters who disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income communities; and

– Fulfill our obligation to workers and communities who powered our industrial revolution and subsequent decades of economic growth.



Foremost to his plan is to rejoin the Paris Agreement and to reclaim leadership to lead us to, in the words of Obama, “a world that is worthy of our children; a world that is marked not by conflict, but by cooperation; and not by human suffering, but by human progress; a world that’s safer, and more prosperous, and more secure, and more free than the one that we inherited.”

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Ice sheet melt reshaping coastal Greenland

By Twila Moon / NSIDC / American Geophysical Union

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WASHINGTON—Ice loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet has accelerated significantly over the past two decades, transforming the shape of the ice sheet edge and, therefore, the coastal Greenland, according to new research.

A new study in AGU's *Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface*, which publishes research on the processes affecting the form and function of Earth's surface, finds these changes could have far-reaching impacts on ecosystems and communities as the flow of water, nutrients and sediments under the ice sheet are altered.

"The speed of ice loss in Greenland is stunning," said Twila Moon, deputy lead scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, and lead author of the new study.

"We can now see many signs of a transformed landscape from space. And as the ice sheet edge responds to rapid ice loss, the character and behavior of the system as a whole is changing, with the potential to influence ecosystems and people who depend on them," Moon said

In the new study, researchers compiled data from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other satellites from 1985 to 2015 to compare ice edge position, ice sheet surface elevation and glacier flow over three decades.

Advancements in satellite technology allowed them to observe the changes to the ice sheet in much greater detail than was possible in the past.

Using these comparisons, the researchers developed a few key findings. The most consistent trend, found across the entire ice sheet, is widespread ice edge retreat.

While there is a range of behavior among glaciers across the ice sheet, there is a noticeable lack of sustained ocean-connected glacier advance.

Out of 225 ocean-connected glaciers that were measured, none have substantially advanced while 200 have retreated, particularly since the year 2000.

This is notable even in regions dominated by slower-moving glaciers and cooler ocean water, such as the northern and northeastern regions of the ice sheet.

In addition, while most glaciers are retreating, ice flow response on those glaciers, such as speeding up or slowing down, is affected in large part by topography and upstream factors.

This includes the slope of the landscape and the presence and shape of bedrock and sediments underneath the glacier. Therefore, even glaciers within the same regional or local area can behave differently.

As the researchers examined changes in the Greenland Ice Sheet, they found that zones of fast glacier flow are narrowing, ice is being rerouted, and in some cases, the flow of new ice to glaciers is slowed, stranding glaciers in place.



These processes could have a variety of downstream impacts, such as altering how water moves under the ice sheet, which could affect the availability of water to communities and animals, altering where nutrients and sediment enter the ocean, exposing new land areas, opening new fjord waters, and altering ecosystems and physical landscapes.

“As the Arctic ocean and atmosphere warm, we can clearly see the flow of ice into the ocean accelerate and the ice edge retreat,” said Alex Gardner, a research scientist at Nasa’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and coauthor of the study.

“When we look more closely, however, we can see the complexity of how individual glaciers respond, owing to differences in the properties of the ocean water that reach the glacier front, the bedrock and till that lie below, and in how meltwater runoff is routed beneath. Understanding the complexity of individual glacier response is critical to improving projections of ice sheet change and the associated sea level rise that will arrive at our shores,” Gardner said.

The researchers hope the study findings can help project future changes in ice sheet dynamics, ice loss and local to regional impacts as global warming continues to reshape the cryosphere.