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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR orders suspension of quarrying activities around Mayon Volcano

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINO](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:19 PM November 02, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered the suspension of quarrying activities around Mayon Volcano in Albay.

During key government officials' meeting with President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday evening, Cimatu also announced the suspension of at least 11 quarry operators' activities in the province.

"I directed the suspension of all these 11 or 12 operators, including suspending quarrying operations, around the volcano, habang meron pang sumusunod na mga typhoons para naman ma-prevent itong mga maaaring mangyari ulit," Cimatu said.

(I directed the suspension of all these 11 or 12 operators, including suspending quarrying operations around the volcano, while there are still typhoons coming to prevent this from happening again.)



GRIM AFTERMATH Residents of Travesia village, Guinobatan town, Albay province, survey the devastation wrought by the typhoon, which sent lahar flowing and boulders cascading down the slope of Mt. Mayon that swept away and buried houses in their path. —MARK ALVIC ESPLANA



DENR orders suspension of quarrying activities around Mayon Volcano

“Some of these operators left their stockpiles in the middle of these rivers. Kaya nung bumaba ‘yung tubig, malakas, dala-dala ‘yung lahar pati ‘yung mga stockpiles nila doon, boulders, ay kasama na,” he added.

(Some of these operators left their stockpiles in the middle of these rivers. That’s why when the water cascaded, it brought lahar, also the stockpiles, and even boulders.)

Cimatu warned that DENR will shut down quarrying operations if firms are proven to have caused the landslide of volcanic ash in Albay amid Super Typhoon Rolly’s brunt.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1355616/denr-orders-suspension-of-quarrying-activities-around-mt-mayon#ixzz6cgFvt5Bs>

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ONE News

7 hrs · 🌐

Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu orders the suspension of quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano in the wake of Super Typhoon #RollyPH. Pres. Rodrigo Duterte also orders a probe into the complaints of residents near the area.

DENR SUSPENDS QUARRYING ACTIVITIES AROUND MAYON VOLCANO

PTV



DENR suspends quarrying around Mayon Volcano

By [Alexis Romero](#)(Philstar.com)

- November 2, 2020 - 9:53pm



A resident walks past a damaged house and boulders washed away by floodwaters from the slopes of nearby Mayon volcano in Guinobatan town, Albay province on November 2, 2020, after super Typhoon Goni made landfall in the Philippines on November 1.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has suspended quarrying operations around the Mayon Volcano in Albay after local residents blamed quarrying for the landslides during the height of typhoon "Rolly."

During a meeting on the effects of "Rolly" in Malacañang, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the DENR and the public works department to probe the quarrying operations in Guinobatan, Albay, one of the areas worst hit by the typhoon.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said flood waters from the volcano fell on three rivers where quarrying activities are taking place. He said some of the quarrying operators left their stockpile in the middle of the rivers. The stockpile of quarrying operators, boulders, and lahar were carried by the water and reached residential areas.

"I directed the suspension of the 11 or 12 operators including suspending the quarry operations around the volcano so we can prevent similar incidents," Cimatu said.

"At the same time, we will investigate the quarrying procedures. They should not place their stockpile on the river," he added.

Duterte said he talked to residents of Guinobatan before flying to Manila to attend the meeting with officials. He said the residents were concerned about the dangers posed by boulders that are carried by the river every time there is a typhoon.

"Without really condemning the act itself of quarrying, I hope it should have the proper environmental clearance. If there is none, then I think you have to stop it in the meantime," the president said.

Cimatu said he has directed the suspension of the 12 operators and all quarrying around Mayon Volcano.

"In the meantime, I will suspend it. In fact, we have to close some of them, those who are culpable for this incident," he added.



Cimatu orders suspension of all quarry operations around Mayon Volcano

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Nov 2, 2020 11:42:31 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 2) — Environment chief Roy Cimatu said on Monday that he ordered to suspend all quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano after the lahar flooding incident that occurred during the onslaught of typhoon Rolly over the weekend.

“I directed the suspension of all these 11 or 12 operators, including suspending all quarry operations around the volcano,” Cimatu said during the televised briefing of President Rodrigo Duterte and his Cabinet members, noting that these quarrying permits were issued by the provincial government.

He said that based on his initial investigation, the incident happened after floodwater flowed through the slope of the volcano that fell down to three rivers. Some of the operators left their stockpile in the middle of these rivers that were also washed down together with the flood with lahar, he said.

These all flowed towards residential areas near the volcano that led to the death of four residents, Cimatu said.

He added that they will also investigate quarrying procedure of these firms since stockpiles must be placed in their respective quarry areas and not in rivers. Some other operators may be closed as well if they are found to be liable, he noted.

Rolly, one of the strongest cyclones in the world this year, first made its landfall in the eastern province of Catanduanes on Sunday. After causing massive floods in many areas, it has already weakened as it continues to head out of the country’s area of responsibility.



Cimatu suspends quarry operations in Albay after Rolly floods

Published November 2, 2020 8:03pm

Updated November 2, 2020 10:34pm

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has suspended quarry operations in Guinobatan, Albay following the damage caused by Typhoon Rolly.

In a press briefing on Monday, Cimatu said four people died and three have been buried by the lahar aggregates from Mayon Volcano.

According to him, floodwaters traveled down the slope of the volcano and fell on three rivers where 11 quarries were operating.

"Some of these operators left their stockpiles in the middle of these rivers kaya no'ng bumaba 'yung tubig, malakas, dala-dala 'yung lahar, pati 'yung stockpiles nila boulders ay kasama na," he said.

Cimatu said the 11 operators were given permits by the provincial government. He has since directed their suspension, including a quarry operation around Mayon.

"Imbestigahan natin pati 'yung procedure ng pag quarry kasi dapat hindi nila ganyan nilalagay 'yung kanilang mga stockpiles do'n sa river mismo kasi nabawasan na tuloy 'yung volume do'n," he said.

Earlier, Senator Bong Go said President [Rodrigo Duterte](#) wants an investigation into the quarrying operations following complaints from residents.

Duterte visited Albay one day after Rolly wreaked havoc in Bicol. He also conducted an aerial inspection over Catanduanes, the first province hit by the typhoon. —MGP, GMA News



Cimatu suspends quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 02 2020 08:42 PM



An aerial view shows destroyed and flooded houses after super Super Typhoon Rolly hit the town of Malinao, Albay province, south of Manila on November 1, 2020. *Charism Sayat, AFP*

MANILA - Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu on Monday said he has ordered the suspension of quarry operations around the Mayon Volcano in Albay province following the onslaught of typhoon Rolly.

Cimatu made the announcement after President Rodrigo Duterte said he will order an investigation on quarry operations after his visit to Guinobatan town.

"I directed the suspension of all these 11 or 12 operators, including suspending all quarry operations around the volcano habang mayroon pa itong mga sumusunod na mga typhoons para naman ma-prevent na itong mga maaring mangyari ulit," Cimatu said during the Cabinet's meeting with Duterte.

(I directed the suspension of all these 11 or 12 operators, including suspending all quarry operations around the volcano during the typhoon season so as to prevent similar situations from happening in the future.)

Cimatu also said that based on their initial investigation in Albay, some of the quarry operators left their stockpiles in the middle of the rivers. These were then washed away when floodwaters flowed down from Mayon Volcano.

"So nung bumaba 'yung tubig, malakas, dala dala 'yung lahar, pati yung mga stockpiles nila doon, boulders, kasama na," he said.

(When the water flowed, together with lahar, the boulders were also washed away.)

Cimatu said he will also look into the permits of the quarry operators. It is the provincial government that issued these permits.



Cimatu suspends quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano

He likewise said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will look into the quarrying procedure in the area.

"At the same time, iimbestigahan natin pati 'yung procedure nila ng pag-quarry, kasi dapat hindi nila nilalagyan 'yung stockpiles sa river mismo," Cimatu said.

(We will investigate the procedure of quarrying because they should not put their stockpiles in the river.)

Duterte on Monday visited Quinobatan town, which is among the areas pummeled by typhoon Rolly. The visit came after criticism on his absence from public view during the disaster that destroyed thousands of homes and killed at least 16 people.

Duterte's aerial survey also passed over Catanduanes, where Rolly first made landfall and has cut off power and telco lines, said Sen. Christopher "Bong" Go who joined the trip.



DENR, ipinag-utos na ang pagsuspende sa quarrying operations sa Guinobatan, Albay

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Nov. 3, 2020 at 4:15am



Pinasususpende na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang quarry operations sa Guinobatan, Albay na hindi nakaligtas sa hagupit ng Bagyong Rolly.

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, na apat ang namatay at tatlo ang natabunan ng lahar deposits mula sa Bulkang Mayon.

Ang tubig ay dumausdos mula sa bulkan at umagos sa tatlong ilog kung saan nag-o-operate ang 11 quarries.

Sinabi ng kalihim na inabandona ng operators ang kanilang stockpiles sa gitna ng mga ilog na sumama sa lahar deposits at malalaking bato.

Ang 11 operators ay nabigyan ng permit ng provincial government pero suspendido muna ang kanilang quarry operation sa paligid ng bulkan.

Matatandaang pinapaimbestigahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang quarrying activities sa nasabing lugar.



Duterte orders DPWH, DENR to probe quarrying operations in Guinobatan

Published November 2, 2020, 7:08 PM

by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

President Duterte has instructed the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to look into the quarrying operations in Guinobatan, Albay following the devastation caused by typhoon “Rolly.”



(photo from Sen. Bong Go)

Duterte made the order following his aerial inspection and visit to Guinobatan on Monday, a day after the typhoon ravaged the said area.

In a situation briefing on the effects of Typhoon “Rolly” in Malacañang, Duterte instructed DPWH Secretary Mark Villar and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu to look into the complaints of the residents and local government units about the quarrying activities in the area.

“Ang reklamo nila doon, Secretary Villar, yung, kay Cimatu man ‘to, pero (Their complaint there, Secretary Villar, and this is for Secretary Cimatu, too), I think it’s the construction there are getting the raw materials from sa Guinobatan mismo (from Guinobatan itself),” he said.

“Every washout, water from the mountains, dadalhin talaga doon sa baba (It will really go straight down to the lands),” he added.

According to the President, he assured the people of Guinobatan to relay their complaints to Villar and Cimatu because they are the people who have more knowledge about the situation.

“Sabi ko, we will look into it, I will ask Secretary Villar and Secretary Cimatu, who would have a knowledge about these things, kung may magawa sila (if there’s anything they can do),” he said.

In response, Villar assured President Duterte that he will personally look into the matter. Cimatu, meanwhile, said the DENR has already suspended quarrying operations in the area.

A day after Filipinos online wondered where the President was amid the typhoon, Duterte conducted an aerial inspection on Bicol and Calabarzon to see the effects of typhoon “Rolly.”

The President likewise visited Guinobatan, Albay where he was able to talk to the people.



Duterte: Investigate quarrying in Guinobatan, Albay



Published 29 mins ago

on November 2, 2020 06:14 PM

By [MJ Blancaflor @tribunephil](#) [MJB](#)



President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday ordered an investigation into alleged quarrying operations in Guinobatan, Albay that was engulfed by lahar from Mayon Volcano that led to the death of two persons and buried hundred of houses during the onslaught of typhoon Rolly (International name: Goni).

In a statement sent to reporters, Senator Christopher Lawrence Go said the Chief Executive instructed concerned government agencies to look into the quarrying activities in the area after residents complained about the matter.

Go, who previously served as Duterte's top aide, accompanied the President in his visit to the town, which also marked his first public appearance since "Rolly" entered the country.

While on his way to Manila, the President also conducted an aerial survey in the Bicol Region and other provinces in southern Luzon which were hardest hit by then super typhoon and now Tropical Storm Rolly.

"Rolly", considered as the world's strongest tropical cyclone this year, dumped heavy rain and whipped up strong winds in several provinces early Sunday, causing massive flooding and lahar flow in the towns of Camalig and Guinobatan in Albay. It is expected to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility Tuesday.

Of the 16 fatalities from the typhoon, 10 came from Albay.

Ako Bicol Representative Zaldy Co has earlier appealed to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other government agencies to limit quarrying and mining activities near Mayon Volcano.

He said only heavily silted rivers in Mayon's gullies must be designated for mining or quarrying.

During the onslaught of Typhoon Reming in 2006, Ed Laguerta, former regional chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology in Bicol, warned officials against a repeat of lahar flow in Albay due to unregulated quarry operations.

ROLLY'S FURY | Duterte orders inquiry into illegal quarry operations around Mayon Volcano as damages pile up

November 2, 2020 , 06:24 PM

By Manny Mogato, News5 editor-at-large

(November 2, 2020) – President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday ordered an immediate inquiry into the illegal quarry operations on slopes of Mayon Volcano after intense rains brought by a super typhoon dislodged lahar deposits and buried a village in a town in Albay.

The populist leader gave instructions after conducting an aerial survey of the areas battered by Rolly, the strongest typhoon to hit the country since 2013 when Yolanda struck the belly of the archipelago, killing 7,000 people and leaving 200,000 households homeless.

Disaster and local officials said there were 16 initial fatalities, most of them in Albay and Catanduanes—two of the worst-hit areas. The initial damage to property and crops could reach more than 1 billion pesos in Catanduanes province alone, they added.

“The president has instructed concerned agencies to conduct an investigation on alleged quarrying operations that residents complained about,” said Senator Lawrence Christopher “Bong” Go who joined Duterte in the inspection trip.

The president also talked to officials and residents in Guinobatan town, the worst-hit area in Albay, and ordered agencies to help in the speedy recovery and to build back better infrastructure, like roads, bridges, power and communication lines.

In Manila, military and disaster officials said three transport planes—a C130 Hercules plane and two medium-lift C-295 planes—will be dispatched to the Bicol region to ferry relief goods as well as officials to supervise rehabilitation efforts.

A military spokesman said about 5,000 soldiers and 3,000 active auxiliaries were deployed to help in the recovery efforts as wide areas remain isolated by floods, landslides, and debris which make the roads not passable to any motor vehicle.

Power and communication lines were disrupted and thousands of houses made of light materials were either totally destroyed or damaged, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless and seeking shelter in temporary evacuation centers, where the risk of contracting coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is high due to social distancing problems.

Pangulong Duterte, paiimbestigahan ang quarrying activity sa Guinobatan, Albay

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)
-Nov. 2, 2020 at 6:15pm



Tiniyak ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na paiimbestigahan niya ang quarrying activity sa Guinobatan, Albay.

Ito ay matapos ang isinagawang aerial inspection ng Pangulo kasama si Senator Christopher Bong Go sa Catanduanes at sa Guinobatan, Albay na isa sa pinaka-naapektuhan ng Bagyong Rolly.

Pagkalapag pa lamang ng pangulo sa Albay, agad itong dinumog ng sumbong ng mga residente.

Ayon sa mga ito, ang malawakang quarrying activity sa Guinobatan ang sanhi kung bakit mas matindi ang pananalasa ng bagyo sa kanilang lugar.

Sinabi naman ni Senator Go, susubukan nilang mag-ikot pa sa ilang probinsya ng Bicol bago dumaan sa CALABARZON bago bumalik sa Metro Manila para sa pulong ng Pangulo sa kanyang mga gabinete



Pagmimina, quarrying sa Mayon limitahan – Cong Zaldy Co

By Abante News Online — Last updated Nov 2, 2020

NEWS



Photo courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

Nanawagan si Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno na limitahan ang mining at quarrying activity sa Bulkan Mayon.

Ito'y kasunod ng pagbuhos ng lahar sa tinatayang 300 kabahayan sa Purok 6 at 7 ng San Francisco, Guinobatan, Albay dahil sa hagupit ng bagyong Rolly at pinaniniwalaang may mga taong nalibing ng buhay.

“Over extraction leads to death and destruction. We cannot sacrifice lives and properties just for the benefit of a few,” giit ni Co.

“We must learn our lesson: we can save many lives if we ban over extraction of aggregates in Mt. Mayon,” ayon pa sa kongresista.

Binigyang-diin ni Co na turismo pa rin ang magiging pangunahing kabuhayan sa rehiyon at hindi ang pagsira ng kalikasan.



TARA, MAGTULONG-TULONG TAYO VS KALAMIDAD



November 2, 2020 @ 3:24 PM 15 hours ago

KASASABI lang ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration na maaaring magkakaroon ng tig-3 bagyo ang Nobyembre at Disyembre at tig-1 ang Enero at Pebrero 2021, heto't nakadalawa na agad ang Nobyembre.

Nauna pa ang super typhoon na si Rolly kay Siony na naging kakambal niya pero naiwan sa Pinas na magpapaulan sa Hilagang Luzon sa loob ng isang linggo.

Kung mabagsik ang katulad ni Rolly na halos pumantay ang lakas ng hangin na 305 kilometro kada oras kay Yolanda na 315km/hr, mabagsik din ang isang linggong pag-ulan.

Kung tinutumba ang mga bahay, puno at pananim at nanlulunod ang super bagyo sa loob ng isa o mahigit isa o dalawang oras, sa loob naman ng isang linggong ulan, nilulubog at nilulunod din ng mahinang bagyo ang mga bahay, puno, pananim at mamamayan.

Ganyan katindi ang mga bagyo na kung lumikha ng mga kalamidad ay gayun na lamang anoman ang kapangyarihan ng mga ito.

STATE OF CALAMITY

Kauna-unahang lalawigan na nagdeklara ng state of calamity kaugnay ni Rolly ang Cavite.

Nauna rito, nagdeklara ang Batangas ng state of calamity laban sa naunang bagyo na Quinta subalit malamang na magtutuloy-tuloy ito dahil kay Rolly.

Ang Catanduanes, baka magdeklara rin ng state of calamity, kasama ang ilan pang lalawigan ng Kabikulan at iba pang bahagi naman ng Timong Katagalugan.

Sa state of calamity, alam na ng lahat na pipigilin ng pamahalaan ang pagtaas ng presyo ng mga pangunahing bilinghin at ilalabas nito ang mga kinakailangang ayuda sa mga mamamayan sa pinakamadaling panahon.

At mga programang ito ang agad na maramdaman ng mamamayan dahil magsasama-sama ang pambansa at mga lokal na pamahalaan sa pagsasapatupad ng state of calamity.



TARA, MAGTULONG-TULONG TAYO VS KALAMIDAD

MILYON ANG EVACUEES

Bago dumating si Rolly, nasa milyon ang pinagbakwit.

May pinwersa, may nagkusa, may ibinakwit gaya ng mga ni-rescue sa mga bubong ng bahay na noong una ay naniwalang hindi matatamaan ng hagupit ng bagyo.

Ginawa ang mga pagbabakwit hindi lang sa Kabikulan at Katagalugan kundi maging sa Lungsod ng Maynila.

At napakalaking tulong ito sa hanay ng mga mamamayan para sa kanilang kaligtasan bagama't may mga inabutan pa rin ng kamatayan.

Marami sa mga evacuee ang nakabalik na.

Nakararami naman ang nakabalik sa kanilang mga tahanan na buo at ligtas ngunit marami ang nawasakan ng mga tahanan at nasiraan ng mga ari-arian at hanapbuhay.

Nakadapa na ang marami dahil sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 at napakalungkot isiping, dinaganaan pa sila ni Rolly.

PAGTUTULUNGAN HIGIT NA KAILANGAN

Pagtutulungan, pagmamalasakit at pagmamahal sa kapwa ang higit na kailangan sa mga araw na ito hanggang sa makahinga man lang nang maluwag-luwag ang mga mamamayang dinaanan ng super bagyo na may kasamang COVID-19.

Ang mga dayuhan, partikular ang Britanya, ay nangako na ng tulong sa mga nasalanta ng bagyo.

Higit kaninoman, tayo dapat ang mauna sa anomang kaya natin.

Kung walang-wala tayo, mga Bro, kahit dasal ay magbubunga ng maganda.

Kung meron tayo, ang piso ay pupwedeng maging milyon kapag pinagsasama natin ang ating mga palad na mag-alay para sa iba.

Hindi lang ang mga pamahalaang pambansa at lokal ang asahan natin.

Sapagkat simula't sapul ay tungkulin nila ang magprotekta at magsilbi sa taumbayan, sa oras man ng kalamidad o sa normal na kalagayan.

Ang mga mamamayan ang kalahati ng pwersa ng pamahalaan upang mapagtagumpayan ng buong bayan ang mga dumarating na kalamidad.

Tara, kumilos po tayo bilang mga indibidwal o organisasyon na tumulong sa mga nasasalanta ng mga kalamidad.

Kailangan po nila tayo.



Manila Bay dolomite 'beach' looks quiet a day after Rolly pounded Luzon

Published November 2, 2020 10:22am

By TINA PANGANIBAN-PEREZ, GMA News

The Manila Bay portion with a dolomite "beach" looked quiet on Monday morning, a day after Super Typhoon Rolly (international name: Goni) barreled through Luzon and caused devastation in many areas.

Black sand that were "washed in" could be seen by the edge of the man-made beach, which is still under construction.

There was no garbage seen in the area though.

As the sun peeked through clouds, people stood on the footbridge to view the beach.

Police meanwhile reminded passersby on the footbridge to observe social distancing.

Bikers and joggers who gathered near the beach were asked to leave the area by Manila Police District's Police Lieutenant Safero Combinido as a precaution against a possible storm surge.

Metro Manila was placed [under Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 4](#) on Sunday as Rolly threatened parts of Luzon.

The beach on Sunday was also quiet, with [slight seas](#) observed. —KG, GMA News



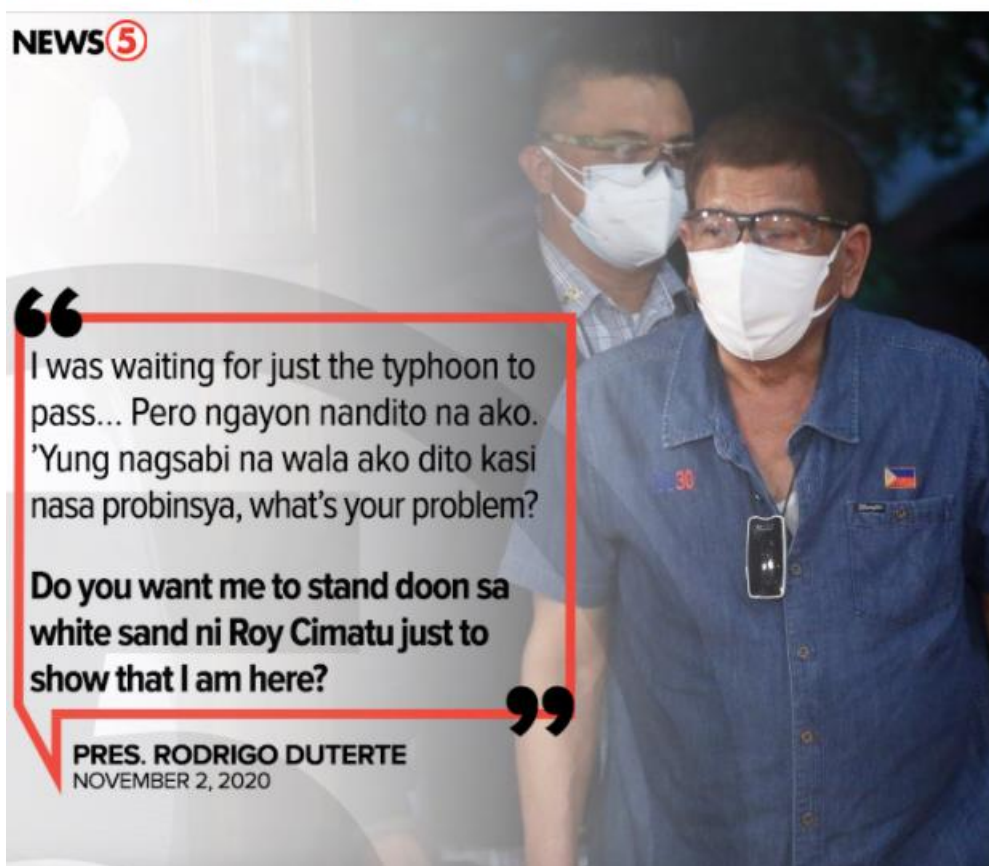
News5

7 hrs · 🌐

Sumagot si Pres. Duterte sa mga puna sa kanyang pagkawala noong kasagsagan ng pananalasa ng bagyong #RollyPH.

WATCH: bit.ly/385piYm ✓

NEWS 5



“

I was waiting for just the typhoon to pass... Pero ngayon nandito na ako. 'Yung nagsabi na wala ako dito kasi nasa probinsya, what's your problem?

Do you want me to stand doon sa white sand ni Roy Cimatu just to show that I am here?

”

PRES. RODRIGO DUTERTE
NOVEMBER 2, 2020



UNTV News and Rescue ✓

9 hrs · 🌐

Walang naging pagbabago sa itinambak na dolomite sand sa Manila Bay kahit pa ilang bagyo na ang dumaan nitong mga nakalipas na araw.



YOUTUBE.COM

Bagyong #RollyPH, hindi nakaapekto sa dolomite sand na itinambak sa Manila Bay ✓



ABS-CBN News ✓

19 hrs · 🌐

TINGNAN: Kalmado na ang situwasyon sa Baseco beach ngayong Lunes ng umaga; nagpapatuloy na rin ang paglilinis ng Manila DPS sa lugar. Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News





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**PAGKATAPOS NI BAGYONG ROLLY
DOLOMITE SAND KAMUSTA?**

**MMDA CHAIRMAN DANILO LIM
Napadaan sa Dolomite Sand**

[DOLOMITE SAND BINISITA NI MMDA CHAIRMAN
DANILO LIM | AFTER SUPER TYPHOON ROLLY](#)

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Itsura ng synthetic white sand sa Manila Bay matapos ang pananalasa ng Bagyong #RollyPH. | via Greg Gregorio





**Dolomite Sand
NANATILING MATATAG!**

HUMINA NA SI ROLLY, PUMASOK SI SIONY!

[DOLOMITE SAND NANATILING MATATAG KAY BAGYONG ROLLY!](#)

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[BIYAYA NG DAGAT!! LUMUTANG! BAGYO LUMAYAS NA! ROLLY MANILA BAY UPDATE](#)

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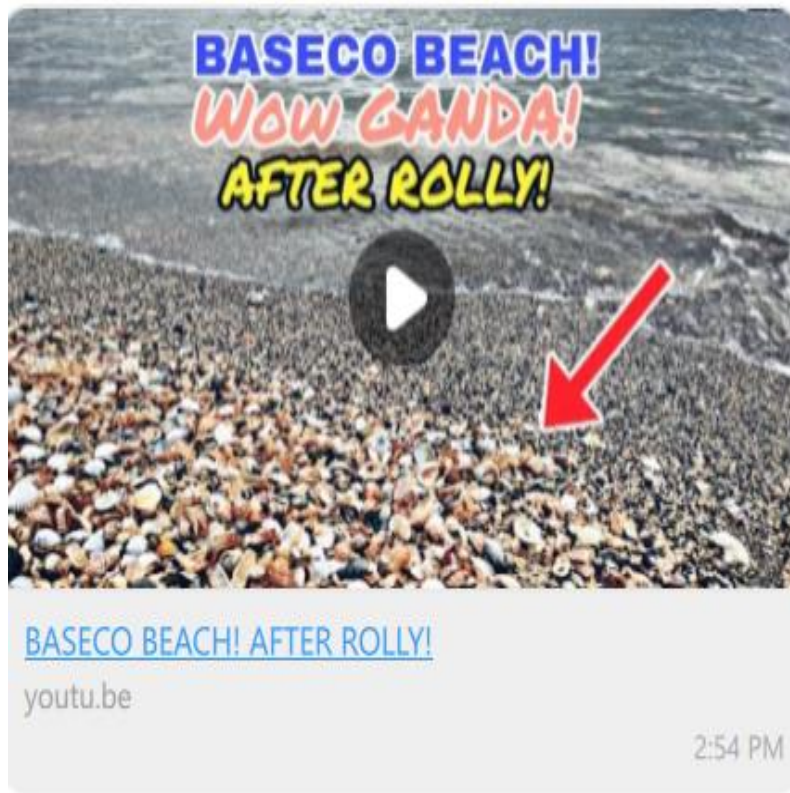
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MANILA BAY UPDATE **TUBIG KULAY MINT GREEN**
 "BAGYONG ROLLY"

DOLomite SAND NANANATILING MATATAG!
LIBO-LIBONG MIGRATORY BIRDS DUMAGSA

[BAKIT ito Nangyari Ngayon sa MANILA BAY / LIBO LIBONG IBON Dumagsa/ Bagyong Rolly Update](#)
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Sa Manila Bay!



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**LIBU-LIBONG HALAAN
DUMAGSA!**

NAKAKAGULAT WALANG INIWANG BASURA!

[NAKAKAGULAT! SUPER TYPHOON ROLLY WALANG INIWANG BASURA SA MANILA BAY!](#)

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**MANILA UPDATE
BAY UPDATE
NOVEMBER 2,2020**

ISANG MILAGRO GOLDEN BROWN NA MGA SEASHELL ANG TUMAMBAD

[Manila Bay ISANG MILAGRO GOLDEN BROWN NA MGA SEASHELL ANG TUMAMBAD! Miz July](#)

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Positibo at negatibo ang naging pahayag ng maraming Pilipino sa ginagawang rehabilitasyon ng pamahalaan sa dating mala-isa ng basura sa Manila Bay at paglalagay ng dolomite artificial white sand beach. Ngunit, ano nga ba ang malalalim na mensahe ng Manila Bay para sa ating lahat?

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#ManilaBayWhiteSand #DolomiteSand #BeachNourishment



Artificial beach can't stand natural forces

Published November 2, 2020, 1:09 PM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



That patch of white sand – actually crushed dolomite rock – in Manila Bay on Roxas Boulevard was in the news again last Thursday. A part of the beach had turned dark, apparently covered by black sand brought in by the waves from the bay.

Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas Leones said the white dolomite is still there. “Due to the natural wave action of wash and backwash,” he said, “fresh sand, stones, rocks, and other materials piled up over the dolomite sand. DENR experts who inspected the site found nine to ten inches of various sediments on top of the dolomite overlay.”

Two weeks earlier, when people first noticed the white beach turning dark in some parts, DENR spokesman Benny Antiporda said it was a lie – referring to some criticism – that the white beach had been washed out. Black sand was washed in and covered the white dolomite, he said.

The first time the public learned of the white beach project with a budget of ₱389 million, the initial reaction was it seemed to come at a poor time – during the COVID-19 pandemic when so many people had lost their livelihood and the government was looking for funds to dole out to the neediest families.

It was defended by presidential spokesman Harry Roque as important for the mental health of the people, a glowing addition to the beautiful sunset on Manila Bay. Many people were willing to accept that the white beach did indeed look good.

But now there is this question of how long it can stay white. Twice in just a period of one month, strong waves from the bay brought black sand to cover the white. It will be restored with some considerable effort – until the next big waves comes along. Even now, tropical storm “Rolly” is coming from the east and is expected to be in the vicinity of Capas, Tarlac, by this morning. Its winds are bound to generate waves in Manila Bay.

And how many more tropical storms are coming our way, each one sending waves crashing into the eastern shore of the bay, including that white dolomite beach? DENR officials said “engineering interventions” will keep the dolomite from being washed out to sea. But waves will keep bringing in black sand that will keep covering the white beach.



Artificial beach can't stand natural forces

Perhaps the only engineering intervention that will work would be a wall just like that surrounding the US embassy compound beside it. But then it would cease to be beach. It would just be another compound, a valuable piece of real estate reclaimed from the sea.

Evidently those who conceived of the white beach project did not realize that it could not stand against natural forces of wind and sea in that part of Manila Bay. They were thinking of beautification, of mental health, when the real problem of Manila Bay is the pollution that has left its waters unfit for swimming.

There is still time to rethink the project and save some of the ₱389-million budget set aside for it. Perhaps the money should go to cleaning up the bay, stopping the raw sewage flowing into it from thousands of toilet-less houses along the hundreds of streams pouring into the Pasig River and Manila Bay. And to setting up a long-planned but still nonexistent sewage treatment plant.



Artificial beach can't stand natural forces

📅 November 2, 2020 | 📁 Filed under: Editorial, Opinion | 👤 Posted by: Tempo Desk

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[Pag-isyu ng permits, clearances ng DPWH at DENR kapalit umano ng lagay, iniimbestigahan ng PACC](#)

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'Illegal logger' nabbed in Eastern Samar

-[RONALD O. REYES](#)

November 2, 2020

POLICE arrested a 24-year-old suspect following an anti-illegal logging operation in General MacArthur, Eastern Samar Saturday, October 31, 2020.

The suspect was identified as Anthony Abadilla, single, and a resident of Balangiga, Eastern Samar.

General MacArthur Municipal Police, led by Lieutenant Mark Anthony Dancel, arrested the suspect at 11 a.m. Saturday in Barangay Aguinaldo of the said town.

Abadilla allegedly failed to present any document or permit while transporting 13 sacks of wood charcoal with an estimated market value of more or less P2,600.

The suspect was heading towards Balangiga town, according to the police report.

The arrest was in relation to Presidential Decree No. 705, otherwise known as the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines, it added.

Confiscated from his possession and control were thirteen 13 sacks of wood charcoal and one Suzuki multicab.

The arrested person and the confiscated items were brought to the General MacArthur Municipal Police Station for documentation and proper disposition. **(SunStar Philippines)**



NWRB: NAPAKAHALAGA ANG PAGBUO NG WATER SECURITY ROAD MAP



November 3, 2020 @ 12:15 AM 6 hours ago

SA paanyaya ng National Water Resources Board na pinamumunuan ni Executive director Seville David, Jr. ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), isa ang inyong Agarang Serbisyo Lady sa isang zoom meeting na ginanap noong ika-7 ng Oktubre.

Ang Focal Group Discussion on Urban and Domestic Water ay nilahukan ng concerned government agencies (Philippine Economic Zone Authority at Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System); water districts/distributor ng Baguio City, Bocaue, Cagayan de Oro City, Boracay island, Prime Water at Village Water Supply System, Inc.; water concessionaire na Manila Water, at institutional partners (Philippine Water Partnership), at nagsilbing moderator si Dr. Maria Aileen Leah Guzman, associate professor at chairperson ng Department of Environmental Science, Ateneo de Manila University.

Kinatawan ni Ms. Susan Abaño, chief ng Policy and Program Division, NWRB, si Dr. David.

Ipinaliwanag niya na ang FGD ay isa sa mga aktibidad kaugnay sa pagbubuo ng Water Security Road Map na pinagtutulungan ng water board, University of the Philippines Los Baños at mga stakeholder.

Nagkaroon na ng FGD para sa agriculture and environment, economic, domestic and urban, at governance and resilience sectors noong 2019.

Napakahalaga ng pagkakaroon ng “Water Security Road Map” bilang panangga sa nagbabantang malaking krisis sa tubig (domestic, agricultural and industrial use) na sa pagtataya ng United Nations ay mararanasan sa mga taong 2025 hanggang 2030.

Kung nagimbal tayo sa malaki at malawak na epekto ng COVID-19, mas yayanigin tayo ng water crisis na maaaring pagsimulan ng World War III, ayon sa mga eksperto.

Bukod pa sa kailangan natin ito bilang katibayan ng mga konkretong aksyong ginawa ng bansa kaugnay sa Sustainable Development Goals kung saan ay isa ang mga tubig sa ipinupuntong dapat na mapamahalaan nang mabuti ng Estado at magamit ng mga mamamayan.



NWRB: NAPAKAHALAGA ANG PAGBUO NG WATER SECURITY ROAD MAP

Bagama't isang arkepelagong bansa ang Pilipinas na napaliligiran ng tubig, sa hindi nating wastong paggamit ng ating surface water resources at mga underground water resources ay unti-unti na itong nauubos na sinamahan pa ng epekto ng Climate Change.

Pinagtuunan ng FGD ang walong key reform area kaugnay sa urban and domestic water.

Una na riyan ang pagkakaroon ng isang epektibong water supply service institution.

Dito sa ating bansa, ang NWRB ang siyang responsable sa tama at maayos na exploitation, utilization, development, conservation and protection ng mga water resources, alinsunod sa pamantayan ng Integrated Water Resource Management at nasa ilalim ito ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources kaya nagsisilbing chairperson si Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Bahagi ng programa ng water board ang pagkakaloob ng technical and financial assistance sa limitadong kapasidad dahil sa maliit lamang na pondo nito na ngayong taong 2020 ay nasa Php 168.20 million lamang.

Sa pananaw ng Manila Water, lubhang napakahalaga ng "stakeholders' involvement" kaugnay sa usapin ng water supply service.

Pero maliban sa NWRB, nandiyang din ang MWSS para sa water concessionaires sa Greater Manila Area, Local Water Utilities Administration, may Manila Bay Coordinating Office at Environmental Management Bureau ang DENR, may programa ang Department of the Interior and Local Government, ang DOH ang namamahala sa water safety examination and testing, at may mga pinatatakabong water provider ang mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Sa kabuuan, sabog-sabog at iba-iba ang proseso at mekanismo sa usapin ng tubig sa bansa.



2,298 new COVID-19 cases push Philippine tally to over 385,000

Published November 2, 2020 4:01pm
By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

The number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases in the Philippines rose to 385,400 on Monday after the Department of Health (DOH) reported 2,298 new infections as 14 laboratories failed to submit data on time.

The five areas with the highest number of new infections were Benguet with 188, Davao City with 166, Rizal with 119, Quezon City with 116, and Bulacan with 91.

Meanwhile, total recoveries rose to 348,830 after 87 more patients recovered from the respiratory illness.

The death toll also climbed to 7,269 with 32 new fatalities.

“Moreover, 13 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths,” the DOH added.

The remaining 29,301 are active cases undergoing treatment or quarantine, 82.5 percent of which are mild, 9.6 percent are asymptomatic, 2.8 percent are severe, and 5 percent are in critical condition.

As the Philippines reels from the [onslaught](#) of Typhoon Rolly amid the coronavirus pandemic, over 300 COVID-19 patients and medical workers were transferred to various hospitals across Metro Manila.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III also said that [healthcare facilities](#), especially in the Bicol region, took a hit from the typhoon. —LDF, GMA News



PH receives USD100-M loan for Covid-19 response from SoKor

November 2, 2020, 9:40 pm



MANILA – The Philippines and South Korea have entered into an agreement for the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) Covid-19 Emergency Response Program Loan worth USD100 million.

In a press release issued on Monday, the Korean government, through the Export-Import Bank of Korea or Korea Exim Bank, and the Department of Finance of the Philippines signed the agreement on October 29.

The agreement was the third signed by the two countries under the USD1-billion EDCF Framework Arrangement for the years 2017 through 2022. The first was New Cebu International Container Port Project worth USD172.64 million and the second was Philippines-Korea Project Preparation Facility worth USD50 million.

The loan program aims to provide immediate financing or budgetary support to the recipient country for economic policies or implementation of sector development plans.

It also aims to "further strengthen relations between Korea and the Philippines in the field of public health and safety in addition to diverse areas of cooperation over the past 70 years".

"It (the loan) may also take the form of an emergency relief fund for a pandemic situation like Covid-19. Due to Covid-19-related travel restrictions, the EDCF Covid-19 Emergency Response Program Loan agreement between the two governments were cross-signed by mail," it added.

The EDCF was established by the Korean Government on June 1, 1987 with the purpose of promoting economic cooperation between Korea and developing countries.

Most EDCF projects in the Philippines have focused on infrastructure development, particularly roads and bridges, and the transportation sectors. **(PR)**



Albay, Catanduanes hardest hit by super typhoon: NDRRMC

By Priam Nepomuceno November 2, 2020, 2:08 pm



ROLLY'S WRATH. Houses were left destroyed in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Rolly in Barangay San Francisco, Guinobatan, Albay on Monday (Nov. 2, 2020). The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said the provinces of Albay and Catanduanes incurred the heaviest damage during the onslaught of the super typhoon on Sunday (Nov. 1, 2020) *(Photo courtesy of Guinobatan Municipal Police Station)*

MANILA – The provinces of Albay and Catanduanes incurred the heaviest damage during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly on Sunday, the chief of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Monday.

"The Bicol area, or at least two provinces of the Bicol area are probably the hardest hit, Catanduanes and Albay. Based on unofficial information, there is widespread damage in agriculture, a lot of houses were destroyed. Those are mainly the damages along with roads and bridges," NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad said in a press briefing.

He added that damage assessment from the typhoon is still ongoing and that the NDRRMC's efforts are focused on responding and helping the victims of the disaster.

He said an Office of Civil Defense emergency telecommunications team will be deployed along with their very small aperture terminal (VSAT) equipment to Catanduanes via Philippine Coast Guard BN Island aircraft to establish a satellite and data communications network to address communication problems in the province.

In the same briefing, Jalad said 'Rolly' has "exposed" a total of 12 regions and "affected" 372,653 families or 2,068,085 individuals.

Aside from Bicol, the typhoon has affected the regions of Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and the National Capital Region (NCR).

Jalad said 108,555 families, or equivalent to 389,867 persons residing in NCR, CAR, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol, and Eastern Visayas were preemptively evacuated due to the typhoon.

The NDRRMC has yet to give a breakdown of the typhoon's casualties.

In a separate message, NDRRMC spokesperson Mark Cashean Timbal said communication link has been restored in Catanduanes.

"Communication link has been reestablished in Catanduanes as of 11:30 a.m. with the successful arrival and set-up of comms equipment by the OCD Rapid Emergency Telecommunications Team," he added. *(PNA)*



Laguna De Bay, umapaw na

By [Bombo Sol Marquez](#)

-November 2, 2020 | 1:46 PM

Pansamantalang naninirahan sa isang evacuation center sa Barangay Palingon, Taguig City ang halos 3,000 indibidwal na naninirahan malapit sa Laguna De Bay.

Tumaas kasi ng hanggang 6 na talampakan ang tubig sa Laguna de Bay bunsod na rin ng malakas na ulan na dala ni Bagyong Rolly.

Bahagya namang nahihirapan ang mga baranggay official ng naturang lungsod na pagsabihan ang mga evacuees na panatilihin ang social distancing dahil halos nagsisiksikan na aniya ang mga ito.

Sa kabila nito ay tiniyak naman ng mga otoridad na ang lahat ng tao na nasa loob ng evacuation sites ay nakasuot ng face mask.



P5.6-B HALAGA NG PINSALA DULOT NI 'ROLLY', NAITALA

written by [Ashley Jose](#) November 2, 2020



Pumalo na sa P5.6-B ang halaga ng pinsala ng bagyong Rolly sa mga imprastraktura sa bansa.

Ayon sa Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Sec. Mark Villar, sa Region 5 pa lamang ay aabot na sa P4.5-B ang halaga ng pinsala sa mga imprastraktura.

Sinabi ni Villar, batay aniya sa naging assessment ng DPWH mga rehiyon aabot sa P558-M ang halaga ng pinsala sa mga kalsada, P452-M naman sa mga tulay, P1.2-B sa flood control facilities, at P352-M naman sa mga public buildings.

Kaugnay nito, inabot naman ng P1.1-B ang iniwang pinsala ng bagyong Rolly sa region 4A.



UN, EU mobilizing support for Philippines following Rolly onslaught

Published November 2, 2020 11:00am

By [MICHAELA DEL CALLAR/](#)

The United Nations and the European Union said they will support the government's response to assist communities affected by the onslaught of super Typhoon Rolly that battered the southeastern portion of Luzon last Sunday.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez confirmed to the Philippine government the readiness of the humanitarian community to support national efforts.

"We have not waited for the landfall of this typhoon to mobilize our humanitarian teams and take action," said Gonzalez in a statement.

"UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs are already working with relevant government departments and offices, Philippine Red Cross, and with private sector groups to coordinate our efforts to support the conduct of rapid needs assessments and swiftly assist the most vulnerable people caught in the typhoon's destructive path."

The EU also vowed to assist in recovery efforts.

"Our solidarity with the Filipino people as typhoon #RollyPh batters the country, particularly Bicol region. The resiliency, strength, and courage of the Filipinos will persevere in these trying times," it said on Twitter.

More than two million individuals from 12 regions have been affected by the typhoon, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

At least 10 were killed and three were reported missing, officials said, noting the number could have been higher if local governments did not enforce preemptive evacuation in areas on Rolly's path.

Humanitarian agencies, the UN said, are conducting assessments of the humanitarian impact of the typhoon - the strongest to hit the country this year - including in the most affected areas, in coordination with the government while observing all movement restrictions and safety protocols in place due to COVID-19.

Philippine Red Cross emergency response teams are also supporting the authorities in search and rescue efforts and in providing immediate relief to hard-hit communities as the disaster unfolds, it added.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is doing impact assessments, while International Organization for Migration (IOM) is providing support to the authorities in the management of evacuation centers, the UN said.

The World Food Programme has already received a request for logistical support to food distributions, it added.—AOL, GMA News



Sunud-sunod naman ngayon

By [Korina Sanchez](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- November 3, 2020 - 12:00am

MATAGAL din tayong hindi nakaranas ng ganitong lagay ng panahon. Pero mga buwan ng Oktubre at Nobyembre nga pumapasok ang malalakas na bagyo. Nauna na si Quinta na rumagasa sa Albay. Higit 100 kilometro bawat oras ang lakas ng hangin. Tumahak patungong Mindoro bago tuluyang lumabas sa bansa.

Wala pang isang linggo at ito na ang bagyong Rolly. Mas malakas na may dalang hangin na higit 200 kilometro bawat oras ang lakas. Pinakamalakas para sa taong ito. Sa Bicol region din unang nag-landfall at ayon sa direksyon ng pagtahak ng bagyo ay madaraan ang Metro Manila. Kaya ilang beses naglabas ng babala ang gobyerno na maghanda na para sa bagyo. Sa pagsusulat nito ay hindi pa dumaraan si Rolly.

Naglabas din ng babala ang PAGASA na baka magpakawala ng tubig ang Ipo dam sa posibilidad na umapaw dahil sa ulan na dala ng bagyong Rolly. Ganun din ang babala para sa La Mesa dam. Malayo pa naman ang lebel ng pag-apaw ng Angat dam, ang pinagmumulan ng tubig ng Metro Manila. Parang kailan lang ay nangamba ang gobyerno sa baba ng lebel ng tubig ng Angat.

Iba na ang sitwasyon ngayon. Dalawang uri ng panahon nga naman ang nararanasan ng bansa, tag-init at tag-ulan. May nakasunod ngang bagyo kay Rolly, na hindi pa nabibigyan ng pangalan ng Pagasa. Tatlong magkakasunod na bagyo. Epekto na ba ito ng La Niña?

Ano kaya ang magiging epekto ng malakas na bagyong ito sa dolomite beach ng Maynila? Ito na siguro ang pagsubok kung hindi nga maanod ang dolomite kung sakaling magkaroon ng storm surge sa Manila Bay. Sa kabila ng matinding kritisismo sa “white beach”, sana nga ay hindi maanod dahil masasayang lang ang milyun-milyong ginastos para rito. At hindi pa natin pinag-uusapan ang basura na maaaring madesposito muli sa Manila Bay dahil sa bagyo.

Sana ay hindi malaki ang magiging danyos ng bagyo. Kasalukuyang may pandemya pa kaya hindi kailangan ng karagdagang problema. Sana ang bagyong nakasunod sa Rolly ay mahina lang, at huli na para sa taong ito.



La Niña bringing more rains to PH

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 02 2020 10:18 PM

Watch also in [iWantTFC](#)



[La Niña bringing more rains to PH](#)

news.abs-cbn.com

12:33 AM

Bad weather prior to typhoon Rolly worsened conditions in the province of Albay. The country is set to experience more rains due to the La Niña phenomenon. - **The World Tonight, ANC, November 2, 2020**

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La Niña magdadala ng malalakas na pag-ulan sa Southeast Asia hanggang 2021 – WMO



November 2, 2020 @ 10:33 AM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Iniulat ng World Meteorological Organization (WMO) na makararanas sa higit sa karaniwang pag-ulan ang buong Southeast Asia hanggang 2021 dala ng La Niña.

“La Niña is often associated with wet conditions across large parts of South East Asia, Australia and the latest seasonal outlook is consistent with historical La Nina conditions,” ayon sa ulat ng WMO.

Makararanas ng bahagya hanggang sa malakas na epekto ng La Niña.

Huling naitala ito noong 2010-2011 na sinundan ng bahagyang epekto nitong 2011-2012.

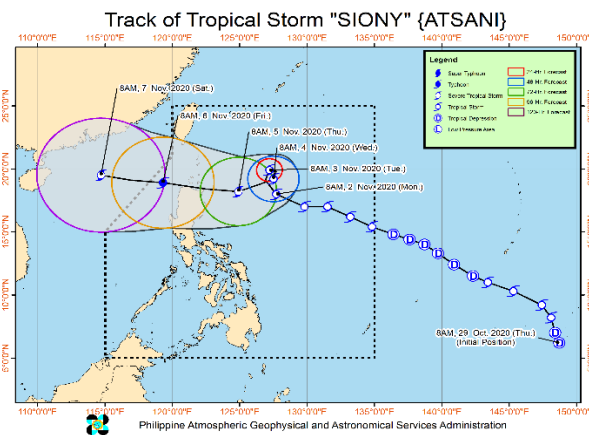
Ang La Niña ay malawakang paglamig ng dagat sa gitna at silangan ng Pacific Ocean kaya’t nagkakaroon ng madalas na mag-ulan. **RNT/ELM**



Here comes ‘Siony’



Published 17 seconds ago
on November 3, 2020 12:07 AM
By [Tribune reportorial team](#)



Hardly has super typhoon “Rolly” left the Philippines Monday than here comes another one close on its heels.

Tropical storm “Siony” (International Name, Atsani) has maintained its strength as it accelerates west-northwestward over the Philippine Sea, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) disclosed.

As of an 11 a.m. update issued by PAGASA, the center of tropical storm “Siony” was estimated based on all available data at 620 km East of Aparri, Cagayan with maximum sustained winds of 65 km per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 80 km per hour.

It is moving West Northwestward at 40 km per hour.

PAGASA said at present, there is no tropical cyclone wind signal raised in areas around the country but the trough of tropical storm “Siony,” will bring light to moderate with at times heavy rains over Batanes, Cagayan and Isabela.

Sixteen persons have been reported dead, more than 76,000 houses were wrecked, and over P690 million worth of damage was recorded in Bicol after “Rolly” hit the region.

Ten of the fatalities were from Albay and six are from Catanduanes, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD)-Bicol said in a report emailed Monday noon.

In Albay, three are dead in Guinobatan, two each in Tabaco City and Malinao, and one each in Daraga, Oas, and Polangui, while four deaths were recorded in Virac and one each in Gigmoto and San Miguel of Catanduanes.

Three people remain missing in Barangays San Francisco and Travesia of Guinobatan.



Here comes ‘Siony’

Affected areas

The OCD-Bicol said “Rolly” wrecked some 76,176 houses, of which 55,515 was damaged and 20,661 was destroyed.

The figures are only from Camarines Sur and Sorsogon. The OCD has yet to release data on the damaged houses in Albay and Catanduanes, which took the full force of the super typhoon.

OCD administrator and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Executive Director Ricardo Jalad, reported during a press a press briefing at the OCD headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo that a total of 372,653 families or 2,068,085 individuals were affected by “Rolly,” after it barreled it way to Catanduanes, Albay and Quezon.

The 12 affected or exposed regions were Regions 1, 2, 3, CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), MIMAROPA (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan), 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region) and National Capital Region (NCR).

Aerial inspection

President Rodrigo Duterte was scheduled to conduct an aerial inspection in the Bicol region and southern Luzon on Monday afternoon to assess the extent of damage caused by typhoon “Rolly” which left at least 10 people dead.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the Chief Executive will survey typhoon-ravaged areas while on his way to Manila.

“En route to Manila he will be conducting an aerial inspection in Bicolandia and CALABARZON,” Roque told reporters.

Department of Health (DoH) Secretary Francisco Duque III urged for an immediate power resumption in the areas affected by typhoon “Rolly.”

He said it is urgent as longer power interruptions may soon put the vaccines and COVID-19 test specimens in cold storage facilities under peril.

“We have a potential problem in our cold chain management for vaccines and COVID-19 test kits and specimens should the resume of power supply take a while,” he said in a televised briefing.

Duque said that based on their latest update, the health personnel in the province are having a hard time reporting to work due to flooding and affected communication lines still in place especially in Bicol.

DoH Director for Health Emergency Management Bureau Dr. Gloria Balboa assured that some of the vaccines were transferred to hospitals and facilities with generators in preparation for the power shortage.



Here comes ‘Siony’

For now, they are continuously checking for more recent updates to ensure that all equipment and supplies are still intact.

“We are expecting that there will be a lot of damage reported in Catanduanes and other parts of Bicol,” she said, noting a health enhancement response already on standby for these instances.)

Balboa emphasized that safety officers have been tasked to ensure that minimum health standards and enough physical distancing are in place among evacuation sites.

Immediate deployment

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief PGen. Camilo Pancratius Cascolan on Monday ordered the immediate deployment of an initial 6,000 personnel across regions hardest hit by the recent onslaught of typhoon “Rolly” to help with road clearing operations to ensure the safe and easy passage of emergency vehicles and first responders.

Cascolan had tasked all directors of Area Police Commands to lead the post disaster clean-up, relief and rehabilitation operations of regional and provincial police offices in badly affected areas.

All police ground units were likewise instructed to initiate clearing operations of highways and main thoroughfares to allow the smooth passage of emergency services, relief caravans and commercial cargo.

“In the spirit of bayanihan, the PNP is linking arms with local government units, state agencies and NGO in rebuilding and rising from the devastation left by typhoon ‘Rolly,’” Cascolan said following yesterday morning’s send-off for police personnel belonging to the Reactionary Standby Support Force in Camp Crame.

The PNP Chief also led the loading of relief packs from the PNP Food Bank to be distributed to typhoon victims in nearby provinces.

Cascolan also took the opportunity to appeal to anti-government forces to not take advantage of the calamity and launch attacks against those conducting rescue and relief operations.

“Our appeal is for them to let government forces pass in affected areas where there is also insurgency. If you really want to help the people, come down and join us. Don’t attack us,” expressed the top cop.

Emergency response

First responders from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) were part of the government contingent, which was immediately deployed to conduct typhoon damage assessment, as well as emergency response and relief operations in Catanduanes.

PCG Commandant Admiral George V. Ursabia Jr. said that PCG’s Islander plane has already been dispatched to Catanduanes early this morning, with clear directives to render the necessary assistance to the typhoon-ravaged province, and pinpoint the hotspots where immediate rescue and relief missions should be prioritized.

Two more helicopters from the Coast Guard Aviation Force are yet to follow.

PRRD ‘waited for typhoon to pass’ before flying back to Manila

By Azer Parrocha November 2, 2020, 10:03 pm



TYPHOON BRIEFING. President Rodrigo Duterte presides over a Cabinet meeting to tackle the government’s response to Super Typhoon Rolly on Monday (Nov. 2, 2020). Before the meeting, Duterte conducted aerial inspection of the areas heavily affected by the typhoon. (Screenshot)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday said he was “waiting for the typhoon to pass” and visited the resting place of his late parents, the reason for his absence in the government’s first briefing on its response to Super Typhoon “Rolly”.

In a Cabinet meeting aired over PTV-4, Duterte said while he failed to make it to the briefing because of the typhoon, he really intended to be there as soon as the weather permitted.

“*Itong mga ugok naman sinabi na wala ako* (These idiots, they’re saying I was absent), I was waiting for the typhoon to pass, then *lumipad ako* (I flew),” he said.

He said he spent the weekend in Davao City before the All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day.

“*Kami taga probinsya*, we travel almost with regularity, *bakasyon*, all Souls’ Day, *kaya nga ako nauwi* (We from the province, we travel almost with regularity, vacation, all Souls’ Day, that’s why I went home),” he said.

Duterte said he could not skip his tradition of paying respects to his late parents.

“You know *kung wala kayong patay, okay lang. Kami may mga pamatay, kailangan umuwi kami doon sa amin* (if you don’t have deceased loved ones, it’s okay. Us, we have that’s why we need to return home),” he said. He added that he and the Cabinet members were not present due to the typhoon.

“*Kaming lahat wala* because *may bagyo eh, ngayon*, I was waiting for... *yung tail end ng bagyo* then *lumipad ako* (We (Cabinet members) were not present because there’s a typhoon, I was waiting for the tail end of the typhoon then I flew),” he added.



PRRD ‘waited for typhoon to pass’ before flying back to Manila

Duterte’s absence from the first two typhoon response briefings was criticized on social media, but many officials said the President is on top of the situation and monitoring developments while in Davao City.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the President was monitoring developments on the typhoon from his home.

He said all concerned agencies are on “red alert” status to maximize their capacity to respond to the people’s needs.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director Ricardo Jalad noted that Duterte had the luxury of monitoring developments from his home since he was confident that the local and national governments are “functioning”.

“*Dapat hindi mangamba ang ating mga kababayan bakit hindi nila nakikita si Presidente* (Our countrymen shouldn’t worry that they can’t see the President) because he has that luxury, the government is functioning from the local government unit up to the national level,” he added.

On Monday afternoon, Duterte conducted an aerial inspection in Guinobatan, Albay and visited affected residents there.

He also ordered concerned agencies to ensure that residents are given food and cash assistance and ensure that there is clean water in areas hit by the typhoon. (PNA)



PRRD conducts aerial inspection of typhoon-battered areas

November 2, 2020, 6:20 pm



AERIAL INSPECTION. President Rodrigo Duterte conducts aerial inspection of areas hardest hit by Typhoon Rolly, particularly in Catanduanes and Albay in Bicol Region on Monday (Nov. 2, 2020). Duterte was accompanied by Senator Christopher ‘Bong’ Go. *(Photo courtesy of Senator Bong Go).*

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte, accompanied by Senator Christopher “Bong” Go, on Monday conducted an aerial inspection of areas hard-hit by Typhoon Rolly, particularly in Catanduanes and Albay in Bicol Region.

Duterte also visited Guinobatan, Albay to meet with residents severely affected by the super typhoon.

Go said Duterte instructed concerned agencies to conduct an investigation on alleged quarrying operations in the area that residents complained about.

During an interview, Go said Duterte has been working and monitoring round-the-clock developments regarding the recent devastation of Super Typhoon Rolly in the country, particularly in Bicol Region where the typhoon made its first landfall.

“Hindi ibig sabihin nasa Mindanao po ang Pangulo ay hindi po siya nagtatrabaho, 24/7 po nagtatrabaho ang ating Pangulo at sinisigurado ng Pangulo na laging handa ang mga ahensya ng gobyerno na magbigay kaagad ng immediate assistance sa mga lugar na maapektuhan ng bagyo. Gusto ng Pangulo na parati tayong handa (If the President is in Mindanao, it does not mean he is not working. Our President is working 24/7 and he always makes sure that our government agencies are ready to give immediate assistance in the affected areas. The President wants us to be ready always),” Go said.

Go said the primary focus of the government must be on providing immediate aid to affected communities and in restoring normalcy in those areas.

“Lahat po ng ahensya ay dapat laging handa to restore normalcy ng lahat ng apektadong lugar. Ipinatawag po niya ang lahat ng ahensya ng gobyerno para tumulong kaagad dito sa recovery efforts (All agencies must always be ready to restore normalcy in all affected areas. He directed all government agencies to immediately help in recovery efforts),” he added.

PRRD conducts aerial inspection of typhoon-battered areas



President Rodrigo Duterte visits Guinobatan, Albay to meet with residents severely affected by the Super Typhoon Rolly. (Photo courtesy of Senator Bong Go)

Go urged concerned agencies to work double time to ensure that critical services are restored, and immediate aid are delivered to communities needing support from the government.

“Especially *po dito sa* DICT (Department of Information and Communications Technology), restoration *ng* communications *natin*. *Sa* Department of Energy, restoration *ng* electricity. *Napaka*-importante *po nito, lalong-lalo na walang komunikasyon sa kanila* (Especially the DICT, restoration of our communication. To Department of Energy, restoration of electricity. This is very important, especially that they have no communication),” he stressed.

He said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Department of Health (DOH) are also doing their respective functions to help the affected areas.

Meanwhile, Go also reminded local government units to enforce strict social distancing and other health protocols in evacuation centers to prevent the possible spread of Covid-19 and other diseases.

Go also shared that he will continue to push for his proposed measure providing for the creation of the mandatory evacuation centers in every province, city and municipality nationwide that will serve as a temporary shelter for those who are displaced by natural and man-made disasters.

“As of now, we have evacuation centers by region. That’s why I’m pushing Mandatory Evacuation Center Act of 2019. It seeks the establishment of evacuation centers in every city, province and municipality,” Go said.

He said it is important that sanitation in the evacuation centers will be maintained.

“*Kawawa po ‘yung mga bata kung saan meron man lang silang komportableng higaan pansamantalaga habang hindi pa sila nakakabalik sa tirahan po* (The children should have comfortable place while they are still in evacuation centers),” he added.

Go also mentioned that he is pushing for the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) to ensure quick response and proactive and holistic approach in preparing for calamities and other natural disasters.



PRRD conducts aerial inspection of typhoon-battered areas

He also urged Filipinos to remain vigilant as the new tropical cyclone “Siony” is moving towards extreme northern Luzon. He also asked the public to continue to cooperate and help each other amid the ongoing crises.

“Mag-ingat po tayo sa mga kapatid nating Pilipino meron na namang parating na bagyo... Paigtingin natin ang pagdadasal, meron pang Covid-19, meron pang bagyo. Magcooperate po tayo sa gobyerno at sumunod sa mga patakaran. Para rin ito sa kabutihan ng lahat (Let us all be careful because there is another storm coming. Let’s pray, we have also Covid-19. Let’s cooperate with the government and following guidelines. It’s for our own good),” Go said. (PR)



Need for national land use policy revived anew

Published November 2, 2020, 6:29 PM

by [Hannah Torregoza](#)

Agusan del Norte Rep. Lawrence Fortun on Monday pressed lawmakers to expedite the passage of a bill that seeks to institute a national land use and management policy to provide a rational design that will help local government units (LGUs) withstand the damaging effects of a natural calamity or disaster.



Agusan del Norte 1st district Rep. Lawrence Fortun (MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Fortun pointed out many towns, cities, buildings, and homes are not resilient against typhoons, floods, and earthquakes due to a hazy land use and management policy.

“That is the reality out there because of old laws, poor compliance with good laws, and zero or lax law enforcement especially at the local government level and for public works projects. We need dikes, breakwaters, spillways, and huge aqueducts,” Fortun said in a statement.

For one, the lawmaker said the government should consider prioritizing the construction of underground cables for towns and cities along the Pacific side of the Philippines.

“To protect from storm winds, we must gradually bury underground as many of our electricity and communications cable as possible as part of disaster adaptation and mitigation,” he said.

“Underground cables should be prioritized for towns and cities along the Pacific side of the country,” he pointed out.

“Sawang-sawa na ang milyung-milyong Pilipino sa epekto ng mga kalamidad, pero wala naman tayong ginagawang permanenteng solusyon, kaya paulit-ulit tayong nagpe-penitensiya tuwing may kalamidad. (Millions of Filipinos are fed up with calamities and yet we don’t have any permanent solution that’s why we end up regretting again every time there is a calamity),” he lamented.



Need for national land use policy revived anew

“We need new typhoon-resilient designs of houses and buildings. We must build back better. The first steps must begin now,” he stressed.

Fortun earlier filed House Bill No. 105 or the proposed National Land Use and Management Act of the Philippines which primarily seeks to provide for a rational, holistic and just allocation, utilization, management and development of the country’s land and water resources.”

Currently, Fortun said the government does not have a national land use policy framework with disaster resilience built-in.

“Legislation on national land use reform has been languishing in the committee. Congress should set its priorities right especially on the areas of environmental protection and disaster resilience,” he pointed out.

“Now with the Senate are the bills on the Department of Disaster Resilience. Some important bills are stuck in the committee, including 14 bills on land use management policy, and two about updating the National Building Code,” Fortun noted.



Group renews call for climate emergency declaration after Rolly lashes Philippines

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)(Philstar.com)
- November 2, 2020 - 5:55pm



An aerial view shows destroyed and flooded houses after super Typhoon Goni hit the town of Malinao, Albay province, south of Manila on November 1, 2020.
AFP/Charism Sayat

MANILA, Philippines — After Super Typhoon Rolly left a trail of destruction in its wake, especially in hardest-hit Bicol region, an environmental group renewed Monday its call for the government to issue a climate emergency declaration.

Rolly (international name: Goni), this year's strongest storm, left at least 16 people dead and brought severe damage to houses and infrastructure after powering through Southern Luzon with devastating winds and heavy rains. It also forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes to avoid its wrath.

"Typhoon Rolly is not the strongest typhoon to sweep through the Philippines, nor will it be the last—there will be more, and they will most likely be worse," said Virgina Llorin, Greenpeace Philippines campaigner.

Greenpeace has been urging the government to declare climate emergency to step up its climate action. For the group, a climate emergency declaration should strengthen an "urgent whole-of-government and whole-of-society mobilization to respond to the climate crisis at the scale and speed needed to address it and protect the Filipino people."

The declaration must also call on the international community to act with the same urgency and demand equity from governments and accountability from corporations for the sake of countries that are least responsible for climate crisis but face the most vulnerabilities such as the Philippines.



Group renews call for climate emergency declaration after Rolly lashes Philippines

“Now is the time for the Philippine government to show true climate leadership by championing climate justice for the poorest of the poor who bear the brunt of the damage, and calling for accountability from industrialized nations as well as corporations most responsible for the climate crisis,” Llorin said.

Vulnerable

Due to its location in the so-called Ring of Fire in the Pacific Ocean, the Philippines is exposed to disasters such as typhoons and earthquake. From 2000 to 2019, the archipelagic nation experienced 304 disasters, according to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The warming of Earth’s temperature is exacerbating the country’s exposure to disasters, making it one of the most vulnerable nations to its devastating impacts.

“The climate crisis is costing Filipino people and communities their lives, livelihoods, health, security and dignity. We can’t keep counting the dead and the damage after every typhoon forever,” Llorin said.

In September, Malacañang said President Rodrigo Duterte would look into the suggestion to declare climate emergency, as tackling climate change is supposedly on the top of his agenda.

Last week, the Department of Energy announced it would no longer accept proposals to construct new coal power plants, marking a dramatic shift in its energy policy. While groups welcomed the move, they urged for a permanent moratorium and a phaseout plan for existing coal and other fossil fuel facilities in the country.



Urban forests springing up around the world as cities battle heat, pollution

[AFP Relaxnews](#) / 10:49 PM November 02, 2020



Seoul, Korea, April 27, 2019: Beautiful Saturday morning, hikers walking on the Gwacheon entrance of Gwanaksan Mountain in Seoul. Image: [july7th/1Stock.com](#) via AFP Relaxnews

Seoul, South Korea, has recently launched an urban forest project, hoping to lower city temperatures by up to 7 degrees Celsius. From Phoenix in the United States to Mumbai, India, and Paris, France, as cities try to combat pollution and improve air quality, urban forests are mushrooming.

In South Korea, Seoul residents are increasingly faced with intense summer heat. In the summer of 2018, the temperatures went up to 39.6 degrees Celsius during the hottest part of the day.

However, the capital's geographical location has two things going for it: it's overlooked by two mountainous massifs, Bukhansan to the north and Gwanaksan to the south. Now Korean authorities have decided to take advantage of the cooling properties of these relief features to try to ameliorate future heat waves.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government plans to install "wind path forests" along the rivers and roads, to create cooling air corridors that will flow into the city center. The project will commence as soon as November, and work will continue until the end of 2021. The total cost? About \$15 million.

Wind-generating species such as pine and maple trees will be planted along the water. Wild cherry and oak, known for their ability to purify the air and absorb and block particulate matter, will also be planted on paths linking the forested areas to the city center.

Action plans in cities worldwide

The Seoul project is far from unique. In the United States, urban forests are being employed to help congested cities breathe. Boston has just closed a request for proposals to design its urban forest plan, while on the West Coast, Los Angeles has plans to plant 90,000 trees by 2021. In Phoenix, Arizona, the Tree and Shade Master Plan was passed in 2010 to transform the city and provide more shade and cleaner air. Phoenix has since speeded up its efforts, planting over 4,500 trees per year to create more shade.



Urban forests springing up around the world as cities battle heat, pollution

In Mumbai, India, authorities are trying to increase urban forest cover as fast as possible. An initiative to plant 10,000 local species of trees, with the support of DCB Bank, will use the Japanese Miyawaki technique, named for its inventor, of planting dense forests of native species, which allows the trees to grow up to a hundred times faster than usual.

Meanwhile in Paris, mayor Anne Hidalgo has announced plans for urban forests next to multiple city landmarks including the Hôtel de Ville, Paris's city hall, the Opera Garnier and the Gare de Lyon. **JB**

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1355669/urban-forests-springing-up-around-the-world-as-cities-battle-heat-pollution#ixzz6cgEn97Di>

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Coal ban seen to lure \$30-B RE projects

November 3, 2020 | 12:05 am



THE Energy department's moratorium on new coal-fired projects is projected to bring in P1.45 trillion or \$30 billion worth of investments in renewable energy by 2030, said an organization that examines energy markets, trends, and policies.

In its report, the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) said the agency's ban and the subsequent transition to renewables could potentially cut the share of coal in the energy supply mix to 16% from its current 41.5%, while increasing the contribution of solar and wind to a combined 43.8% from 5.4%.

"[This presents] a conservatively valued investment opportunity for both domestic and international investors and developers of over USD 30 billion over the next decade," said the IEEFA in a commentary shared with BusinessWorld on Monday.

The figure was calculated based on the committed and indicative pipeline projects collated by the Department of Energy (DoE) for variable renewable energy (wind and solar) up to 2030, minus coal project plans affected by the moratorium, said the institute's energy finance analyst Sara Jane Ahmed via e-mail.

Committed power projects are those that have secured financing from investors or banks. Indicative power projects are those that have applied for DoE endorsement and have yet to secure financial closing.

Based on the organization's projections, the "deflationary price trajectory of domestic renewable electricity generation and storage triumphs over the cost of generating when the market is dominated by large fossil fuelled power plants."

With the decision to halt new coal projects in place, a committed capacity of 2,215 megawatts (MW) and indicative capacity of 8,603 MW from coal-fired plants stand to be affected, based on this year's DoE data.

"The impact of the coal moratorium will fall most heavily on the Luzon grid and the project development aspirations of San Miguel [Corp.] and Meralco (Manila Electric Co.)," said the IEEFA.



Coal ban seen to lure \$30-B RE projects

It added that the two companies most affected by the ban have already “positioned themselves to be part of the energy modernization,” with San Miguel and Meralco taking part in the investment and development of renewables.

STEPS FORWARD

According to the IEEFA, the moratorium reflects on the Energy department’s efforts to “save investors from unprofitable coal projects.”

It said that the market’s ability to benefit fully from the coal ban and the shift to renewables will depend in part on the new policy measures implemented by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

It further recommended two steps that could give the moratorium “real teeth.” These include the removal of fuel cost pass-throughs for end users, and the issuance of a “carve-out clause” that would allow the market operator to curtail baseload coal independent power producers.

In a separate report, the IEEFA noted that coal-fired plants were responsible for 60% of outages in May this year.

Last Tuesday, Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi announced the agency’s decision to stop the endorsements of greenfield coal-fired plants, while allowing foreign investors to fully own large-scale geothermal projects. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



Japan carbon pledge boosts hopes



By [Agence France-Presse](#)

November 3, 2020

TOKYO: Japan's pledge to become carbon-neutral by 2050 is offering hope to industry heavyweights pushing ammonia as the fuel of the future — but critics say the corrosive gas is still far from a clear-cut clean energy.

Burning ammonia, unlike fossil fuels, does not emit planet-warming carbon dioxide, and it is easier to transport than liquid hydrogen, also touted as a potential source of green fuel.

That has attracted the interest of a consortium of major Japanese firms, keen to launch large-scale imports into the country, which has few fossil fuel reserves and limited nuclear capacity since the Fukushima disaster.

“Ammonia is the cheapest and most viable option” for Japan, Shigeru Muraki, executive vice-president and representative director of the Green Ammonia Consortium, told Agence France-Presse.

Formed last year, the consortium groups 70 major Japanese firms who hope to use ammonia first at coal power stations and eventually at gas plants too.

The hunt for greener fuels has new urgency after Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in October set a 2050 deadline for the world's third-largest economy — still heavily coal dependent — to reach carbon neutrality.

Muraki believes ammonia could generate a tenth of Japan's electricity needs “before 2040.”

But whether the gas can provide a silver bullet depends a lot on future technological innovations, not least because most currently available methods for producing ammonia themselves emit carbon dioxide.

Gray, blue... and green?

Ammonia — composed of hydrogen and nitrogen — is already produced en masse from fossil fuels and exported worldwide to make fertilizer.

It maintains a liquid state at around -33 degrees Celsius (-27.4 degrees Fahrenheit), meaning it is much simpler and cheaper to transport than liquid hydrogen at -253 degrees Celsius.

In eco terms, the holy grail is “green” ammonia, manufactured with chemical reactions involving water, air and sustainable electricity. It is 100 percent renewable and carbon-free, according to the Royal Society, an independent scientific organization.

Researchers hope “green” ammonia could one day power a low-carbon planet, but for now most ammonia is “gray” — extracted from natural gas or coal.



Japan carbon pledge boosts hopes

This method emits on average around 2.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide for each tonne of ammonia produced, according to the International Energy Agency — accounting for about one percent of global CO₂ emissions today.

Comparing the emissions from producing gray ammonia to those from burning coal is complicated, experts say, but they agree that it won't be considered environmentally friendly unless produced renewably.

Work is underway to capture and store emissions from ammonia production, creating a halfway-house product dubbed "blue" ammonia.

Muraki said the consortium hoped to "eventually use blue and green ammonia."

But, he acknowledged, for now "we will use cost-effective gray ammonia from existing suppliers, because blue ammonia will not be available for the next few years."

Douglas MacFarlane, a chemistry professor at Monash University in Australia, said starting with "gray" ammonia "as a way of developing the supply chain and encouraging producer countries to build up their capability... makes sense, but only in the context of ultimately and fairly quickly moving to blue, then green."

And he warned that gray ammonia "also has the impact of shifting emissions from the user country to the producer country."

"That's a sensitive issue in global carbon politics," he told.

There are other concerns, as burning ammonia produces polluting nitrogen oxides, which modern coal plants are built to capture, but would require adaptations at gas power stations.



Forest fires scorch Brazil's vast Amazon wetlands

posted November 02, 2020 at 10:05 pm

by [AFP](#)

A record high number of fires scorched Brazil's Amazon and Pantanal wetlands last month, official data showed on Sunday, as deforestation and climate change wreaked havoc on some of the planet's most valuable ecosystems.

The Amazon rainforest has been described as the Earth's "lungs" due to its role in producing almost 10 percent of the world's oxygen.

The Pantanal further south is one of the world's largest tropical wetlands and a biodiversity paradise that extends across Brazil's borders into Paraguay and Bolivia.

The number of fires typically fall in October as the Amazon approaches the rainy season.

But Brazil's National Institute of Space Research on Sunday recorded 17,326 fires in the Amazon in October, more than double the number seen in the same month in 2019.

Satellite imagery showed close to 100,000 fires in the first 10 months of 2020, more than were seen in the whole of last year.

The INPE also detected almost 3,000 individual fires in the Pantanal, a new monthly record since data collection began in 1998.

The region—23 percent of which is estimated to have gone up in smoke this year—has seen a record-breaking 21,115 fires so far this year, more than double the number registered in all of 2019.

Experts and environmental NGOs blame the worsening fires on Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro, a climate change skeptic who supports opening both regions to logging and farming.

Some fires are the result of burning to prepare the land for livestock, despite a 120-day ban on the practice imposed in July.

"With deforestation rates increasing in recent years, warnings by researchers were ignored by the government: deforestation and fire go together," said Mariana Napolitano, the head of the science program at World Wildlife Fund Brazil.

"After deforesting the jungle, the offenders set fires to clean up the accumulated organic material... at the end of the month, with the arrival of the rains, the pace of the fires seems to be slowing down, but we can hardly depend on climate factors," she said.

"What happened in the dry season in the Amazon and Pantanal cannot be repeated."

Climate change has also played a role in the fires, with a team of international researchers warning this year that rising global temperatures posed a "critical threat" to the Pantanal's delicate ecosystem.

President Bolsonaro has denounced a campaign of "disinformation" about the Pantanal and the Amazon, even blaming local indigenous people and activists for setting the fires.

Topics: [Brazil](#) , [Amazon](#) , [Pantanal wetlands](#) , [climate change](#) , [National Institute of Space Research](#)