

04 NOVEMBER 2020, SUNDAY



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Albay gov dinikdik ni Cimatú sa quarrying

By Abante News Online — Last updated Nov 3, 2020

NEWS



Photo courtesy of facebook.com/DENROfficial



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Labing isang quarry operators ang pinapanagot sa matinding pinsalang inabot ng mga residente sa Guinobatan, Albay dahil sa pag-apaw ng tubig sa mga ilog nang manalasa ang bagyong Rolly.

Sa report ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, ang provincial government ng Albay ang nagbigay ng permit para makapag-quarry ang mga operators.

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Sinsupinde na aniya nito ang operasyon ng quarrying sa lalawigan at iniimbestigahan na kung sino ang mga dapat managot sa pinsalang idinulot sa mamamayan.

"Itong 11 permits ibinigay po ito ng provincial government. Sila kasi ang nagbibigay ng permit sa nagku-quarry doon, ang because of this Mr. President, we will still be continuing the investigation, finding out culpability . I directed the suspension of all these 11," ani Cimatu.

Ang kasalukuyang gobernador ng Albay ay si Al Francis Bichara.(Aileen Taliping)



Cimatu halts quarry operations in Albay as DENR sets assessment, update of geohazard map

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

November 3, 2020



A half-submerged house lies beside boulders and mudflows from Mayon Volcano triggered by heavy rains from Typhoon Goni engulfed about 150 houses in a single community in the town of Guinobatan, Albay province, central Philippines on Monday, Nov. 2, 2020. More than a dozen of people were killed as Typhoon Goni lashed the Philippines over the weekend, and about 13,000 shanties and houses were damaged or swept away in the eastern island province that was first hit by the ferocious storm, officials said Monday. (AP Photo/John Michael Magdasoc)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will look into possible violations of quarry permit holders around Mayon Volcano, which residents in Guinobatan, Albay blamed for the landslide of ash that buried houses at the height of Typhoon Rolly's onslaught.

This developed as Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ordered the immediate suspension of all quarry operations in the area on Monday upon the order of President Duterte who earlier conducted an aerial inspection and visited victims of the typhoon in Guinobatan town. This is not the first time that the DENR ordered the suspension of quarry operations in the province.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones told the BusinessMirror that Typhoon Rolly, which caused a landslide of volcanic ash that killed at least 3 persons, bared "alarming" geological hazards that need to be investigated.

He said such geological hazards call for a comprehensive assessment and warrants the updating of the province's existing geohazard map.

"There's an instruction from the President, similar to what we did the last time in 2017. We recommended and suggested to the LGU [local government unit] to suspend all LGU-issued quarry permits," Leones said.

In implementing President Duterte's order, he said, Cimatu has also called for a thorough investigation to determine possible violations of quarry permit holders.

He said the DENR in Region 5 has been instructed to coordinate with concerned LGUs to enforce the suspension orders as soon as possible, noting that the LGUs are the ones that issue quarry permits in the province, particularly around Mayon Volcano.

According to Leones, out of the 100 or so quarry permit holders in the area, only one was issued by the DENR. All others were issued by the LGU.



Leones said based on the feedback he gathered from the DENR Region 5 office, quarry operators have gone beyond their designated, or prescribed area of operation. Many quarry permits cover extraction of lahar from rivers covered with lahar. But some operators, he said, are extracting quarry materials outside their designated quarry area.

“Some of the ‘permittees’ are getting their quarry materials outside the river bed. This also happened in Zambales. If you get quarry materials in sloping area, or upstream, this is dangerous because it causes instability,” he said.

“Our way forward is to come up immediately with a policy wherein we are confining the permittees where they can get quarry materials. Remember these are LGU-issued permits that’s why we are presuming that the LGU issued the permit based on maps provided by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau [MGB] to the LGU,” he said.

Leones said that an LGU that issues a permit inside so-called no-go zones as identified by the MGB makes local officials liable.

But Leones said generally, suspending quarry permits impacts on the country’s production capacity, and ensure a stable supply of quarry materials for the construction industry.

The problem of stopping quarry operation, he said, is that it will also affect rehabilitation efforts.

“Remember, we need to rebuild as part of rehabilitation,” he said. It is for this reason, he added, that the DENR lifts suspension orders on the condition and assurance that mitigation and corrective measures will be immediately undertaken.

Last, he said that DENR experts from the MGB and perhaps the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority will be called to reassess and update the various geological hazards in Albay and come up with an updated geohazard map for the province.

The Bicol region, particularly the Province of Albay, is known for its resilience and disaster preparedness and recognized for best practices in balancing environmental protection and natural resources conservation with development. In 2016, Albay was declared as United Nations, Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization Biosphere Reserve.

The onslaught of Rolly and typhoon-induced rainfall that dumped a huge volume of rainwater triggered the landslide of quarry materials that caught many barangays unprepared amid repeated warnings and calls for immediate evacuation made by the country’s weather bureau.



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.

"limbestigahan 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.

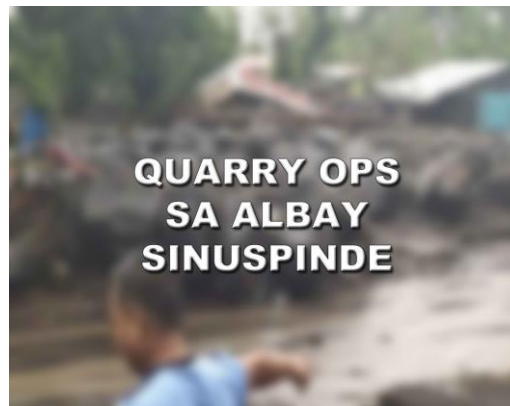
Duterte visited Albay one day after Rolly wreaked havoc in Bicol. He also conducted an aerial inspection over Catanduanes, the first province hit by the typhoon. —**MGP, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/762440/cimatu-suspends-quarry-operations-in-albay/story/>



QUARRY OPS SA ALBAY SINUSPINDE

[14 hours ago](#) [jake](#)



SINUSPINDE ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang quarry operations sa Guinobatan, Albay makaraan ang pinsala na dulot ng Bagyong Rolly.

Sa press briefing, sinabi ni Cimatu na may apat katao ang namatay at tatlo ang nalibing sa rumagasang lahar mula sa Mayon Volcano.

Ani Cimatu, malakas ang agos ng tubig-baha na nagmula sa bulkan at bumagsak sa tatlong ilog kung saan nag-o-operate ang 11 quarry o tibagan.

“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,” ayon kay Cimatu.

Aniya pa, ang 11 operators ay binigyan ng permit ng provincial government.

Dahil dito, ipinag-utos niya ang suspensyon ng mga ito kabilang na ang quarry operation sa palibot ng Mayon.

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Senador Bong Go na nais ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na imbestigasyon ang quarrying operations matapos makatanggap ng reklamo mula sa mga residente.

Samantala, binisita naman ni Pangulong Duterte ang Albay isang araw matapos manalasa ang bagyong Rolly sa Bicol.

Nagsagawa rin ang punong ehekutibo ng aerial inspection sa Catanduanes, ang unang lalawigan na binayo ng bagyong Rolly. (CHRISTIAN DALE)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/quarry-ops-sa-albay-sinuspinde/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR3-e6dvaGh7hILldPpvKpgKORiWGveEn_98y7fum2MLuMkQVaeFcse7V9k



News5 posted a video to playlist **Frontline Pilipinas**.

9h · 🌐

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#FrontlinePilipinas | Sinuspinde na ni Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu ang quarrying operations sa paligid ng Mayon Volcano dahil sa mga landslide noong manalasa ang #RollyPH. Duda naman ang gobernador ng Albay na quarrying nga ang dahilan ng landslides. | via Shyla Francisco

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Quarry operators face sanctions for massive flooding in Albay

By Catherine Teves November 3, 2020, 3:05 pm

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will look into the possible culpability of quarry operators whose stockpiles were washed away by lahar and water during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly (international name: Goni) in Albay province over the weekend.

"We'll investigate even their quarrying procedure because they shouldn't have placed the stockpiles in rivers there," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said in his report during Cabinet meeting Monday evening aired over PTV-4.



DENR will also examine the operators' respective quarrying permits which the provincial government issued.

Cimatu said the deluge of quarrying stockpiles, water, and lahar from Mayon Volcano during the super typhoon's onslaught reportedly killed four people.

He already ordered the suspension of all quarrying operations around the volcano.

The suspension will remain while tropical cyclones are still forthcoming to help prevent the occurrence of another deadly deluge involving quarrying stockpiles, he noted.

Citing results of his initial investigation, Cimatu said water and lahar cascaded over Mt. Mayon's slopes and flowed into three rivers where 11 operators were quarrying.

"Some of them left their stockpiles in the middle of those rivers," he said, adding that water and lahar that flowed in the rivers washed away the stockpiles there.

Such deluge affected houses along the rivers, he said, noting that the DENR will continue investigating the matter.

Last week, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology warned of possible lahar flows from Mayon Volcano and muddy run-offs in rivers and drainage areas due to downpour from "Rolly".

Phivolcs urged communities near Mt. Mayon to prepare for such occurrences.

"Rolly" already exited landmass and is no longer directly affecting the country, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration. (**PNA**)



Posibleng pananagutan ng LGU at mga tauhan ng DENR sa quarry operations sa Guinobatan, Albay, iimbestigahan

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Nov. 3, 2020 at 12:59pm



Iimbestigahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang posibleng pagkukulang ng mga tauhan nito at ng Local Government Unit (LGU) sa pagmo-monitor ng quarrying operations sa Guinobatan, Albay na hindi rin nakaligtas sa hagupit ng Bagyong Rolly.

Kasunod ito ng utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa DENR at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) na silipin ang reklamo ng mga residente hinggil sa nasabing aktibidad.

Sa interview ng RMN Manila, sinabi ni DENR Usec. Jonas Leones na bagama't LGU ang nag-iisyu ng permit ay may tungkulin ang ahensya na magsagawa ng inspeksyon para masigurong sumusunod sila sa environmental laws.

Tiniyak naman ni Leones na sinumang maaakusahang may pananagutan sa insidente ay dadaan sa due process.

"Most of the quarry activities are happening doon na sa upstream, hindi na doon sa baba so talagang nag-a-ano na sila roon sa mga lugar na hindi dapat, so talagang may pagkukulang d'yan," ani Leones.

"Sa parte namin kasi, lahat ng mga quarry, even the quarry permits are issued by the Local Government Units, ang aming DENR din ay merong karapatan na i-monitor ang mga progress d'yan. So, titingnan din natin kung mayroong pagkukulang ang ating mga kasama sa kagawaran, sa mga Local Government Unit and then tingnan natin pa'no natin palalakasin [polisiya] at hindi na maulit ang ganitong sitwasyon," dagdag pa ng opisyal.

Matatandaang apat ang namatay habang tatlo ang natabunan ng lahar deposits mula sa Bulkang Mayon na umagos sa tatlong ilog kung saan nag-o-operate ang 11 quarries.

Sinuspinde na ng DENR ang quarrying activities sa lugar.

Source: https://rmn.ph/posibleng-pananagutan-ng-lgu-at-mga-tauhan-ng-denr-sa-quarry-operations-sa-guinobatan-albay-iimbestigahan/?fbclid=IwAR2ZO-kG7TifR_1qy4o5kd9c0RX5U0InK4H_YfEZa3pso_O7zdvi6YN5KuE



Duterte bumisita sa Bicol, quarrying pinaiimbestigahan

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 3, 2020 - 12:00am



Nagsagawa ng inspeksyon kahapon si Pangulong Duterte kasama si Sen. Bong Go sa mga lugar na naapektuhan sa paghagupit ng bagyong Rolly. Humarap si Pangulong Digong sa mga residente ng Guinobatan, Albay na inireklamo sa kanya ang quarrying operations sa lugar.

Courtesy of Sen. Go

MANILA, Philippines — Nagsagawa kahapon ng aerial inspection si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa mga lugar sa Bicol Region na matinding hinagupit ng bagyong Rolly.

Mula sa Davao, kasama ng Pangulo si Sen. Bong Go na nagsagawa ng aerial inspection sa Catanduanes, Tabaco, Albay at saka lumapag sa Guinobatan, Albay. Catanduanes, Tabaco, Albay at saka lumapag sa Guinobatan, Albay kung saan nakaharap niya ang mga residenteng labis na naapektuhan ng bagyo.

Ayon kay Go, inikot din nila ang mga lugar sa Mt. Mayon at mga naapektuhan ng mudslides at lahar.

Inatasan na rin ni Duterte ang mga kinauukulang ahensiya ng gobyerno na magsagawa ng imbestigasyon sa inirereklamong quarrying operations sa lugar na inirereklamo ng mga residente.

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Interior Secretary Eduardo Año na kabilang ang Albay at Bato, Catanduanes sa pinaka-hinagupit ng bagyo matapos mag-landfall dito ang bagyo.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/03/2054223/duterte-bumisita-sa-bicol-quarrying-pinaiimbestigahan/amp/>



UNTV News and Rescue

15h · 🌐



Pinaimbestigahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang quarrying operations sa Guinobatan, Albay kasunod ng mga reklamo dito ng mga residente sa lugar.

Samantala, bilang tugon sa direktiba ng punong ehekutibo, ipinag-utos na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang suspensyon ng quarrying activities sa paligid ng Bulkang Mayon.



YOUTUBE.COM

Quarrying operations sa Guinobatan, Albay, pinaimbestigahan ni Pangulong Duterte - YouTube

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QUARRY SITES SA ALBAY, PINALALA ANG PAGRAGASA NG LAHAR SA KASAGSAGAN NG BAGYO?

Rumaragasang tubig na may kasamang lahar at malalaking bato ang ipinatikim ng bagyong Rolly sa ilang barangay sa Guinobatan, Albay! Pero ang pagragasa ng lahar, mas pinalala umano ng mga quarry sites sa lugar. Ayon sa ilang residente, iniwan daw ng quarry operators ang kanilang stockpile o panambak at malalaking bato na siyang inanod sa baha at tumabon sa mga bahay sa lugar. Ang insidenteng ito, pinaimbestigahan na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte! Panoorin ang video.



Stand For Truth posted a video to playlist **Stand For Truth Stories (November)**.

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Albay governor appeals quarrying suspension

Published November 3, 2020 10:49pm

Albay Governor Al Francis Bichara on Tuesday appealed against the suspension of quarrying operations in the province, saying they would run out of aggregates for reconstruction and rehabilitation if it happens.

According to Sandra Aguinaldo's report on "24 Oras" on Tuesday, Bichara urged the national government to first investigate the matter before suspending quarrying operations in the province.

"If they will stop the quarrying, we will run out of aggregates for reconstruction, rehabilitation of our province. Not only that of the region because most of the aggregates come from Albay," Bichara said.

Earlier, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu had suspended quarrying operations in Guinobatan following the damage brought by Super Typhoon Rolly. He said floodwaters traveled down the slope of Mayon Volcano and reached three rivers where 11 quarrying operations were ongoing.

Cimatu said the destructive floods could be due to operators leaving their stockpiles in the middle of these rivers.

However, the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office said even without quarrying, lahar from Mayon would still have likely overwhelmed several barangays.

"Ito kasing lahar deposit sa Mayon, actually the whole body of Mayon Volcano is a deposit dahil product siya ng emission ng pyroclastic material coming from volcanic eruption. Ang trigger ng mudflow sa Mayon ay amount of rainfall," Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office chief Cedric Daep said.

Bichara also previously said no operator would leave their stockpiles in the middle of a river during the rainy season.

President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday said an investigation must be conducted regarding quarry operations in the province following the destruction brought by Rolly. — **Ma. Angelica Garcia/DVM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/762631/albay-governor-appeals-quarrying-suspension/story/>



This aerial photo taken on November 2, 2020, shows houses buried by boulders and lahar washed from the slopes of nearby Mayon Volcano in Guinobatan town, Albay province, south of Manila, after super Typhoon Rolly (Goni) made landfall in the Philippines on November 1.

AFP/Charism Sayat

Albay gov: Quarrying not to blame for floods, mudslides

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 4, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara denied the other day that quarrying around Mayon Volcano caused the destructive lahar-like floods and mudslides during the onslaught of Typhoon Rolly over the weekend.

Speaking to “The Chiefs” on Signal TV’s One News channel Monday night, Bichara said engineers of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and officials of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) told him quarry sites were not the source of the lahar flow that hit areas in Guinobatan town.

“The source of lahar came from the top. It did not come from quarry areas,” he told The Chiefs, adding that there are no quarrying activities within the six-kilometer radius of the volcano.

Earlier, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered the suspension of quarrying activities around the volcano after finding out that operators allegedly left their stockpiles in the middle of rivers and these were washed out together with the flood and lahar.

However, Bichara said it is unlikely that quarry operators left their stockpiles in the rivers and let the materials go to waste during the rainy season.

While he has no problem with the suspension order of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bichara said Cimatu should have conducted an investigation first before jumping to conclusions.

In a separate interview over TeleRadyo, the governor warned that suspending quarry operations would result in more losses to the livelihood of residents in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also warned the suspension may lead to a shortage in construction aggregates for the provinces of Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Catanduanes, Leyte, Samar and Cebu since Albay is their supplier.



“We are in a pandemic situation, there is no livelihood. We stop this (quarrying), it will worsen the situation,” Bichara said.

Meanwhile, he appealed for more aid from the national government as provincial and local funds are no longer enough to cope with other calamities which may hit still the country for the rest of the year.

“We only have about P60 million for calamities for the next two months. We need more than that,” he said.

He underscored that most parts of the province are still without electricity because about 90 percent of the electric posts maintained by power cooperatives were toppled by Rolly. – **Cet Dematera**



Albay gov doubts Rolly floods caused by quarry stockpiles in rivers

Published November 3, 2020 9:42am

By ANNA FELICIA BAJO, GMA News

Albay Governor Al Francis Bichara on Tuesday expressed doubt that quarrying operators in Guinobatan are somewhat to blame for the destructive flood that hit the province during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly over the weekend.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has suspended quarrying operations in Guinobatan following the damage brought by Rolly. He said floodwaters traveled down the slope of Mayon Volcano and reached three rivers where 11 quarrying operations were ongoing.

Cimatu said the destructive floods could be due to operators leaving their stockpiles in the middle of these rivers.

But according to Bichara, no operator would do such thing during the rainy season.

"I doubt it because no operator... it's always raining so no operator will stockpile in the middle of the river" he told ANC.

"It's a rainy season eh, sino maglalagay doon? Mawawala din 'yan, sayang ang efforts nila, mawawala din 'yan," he added.

Asked if Cimatu could have been misinformed, Bichara said: "They should have conducted an investigation first before they decide on something."

"Nevertheless we will follow. There's no problem with that," he added.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who went to some typhoon-hit areas in the Bicol Region on Monday, already said investigation must be conducted regarding quarry operations in the area following the destruction brought by Rolly in the province.



Bichara said quarry operators need to secure permits before they can operate.

"We issued the permits. Before we issue the permits, I always require them to go first to the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to ask for environmental compliance, certificate, before I issue," he said. —**KBK, GMA News**



ONE News
23h · 🌐

#TheChiefs | Despite pointing out that the lahar flow in Guinobatan is not linked to quarrying, Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara sees no issue with the government's order to suspend quarrying operations in the area following mudslides triggered by Super Typhoon #RollyPH's rains.

NO PROBLEM WITH SUSPENSION OF QUARRYING ACTIVITES—ALBAY GOV.

THE CHIEFS

BICHARA: WE ARE ASKING FOR HELP FROM NATIONAL GOV'T, PRIVATE ENTITIES TO HELP REBUILD ALBAY

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ONE News
18h · 🌐

The statement comes after the DENR suspended quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano following the onslaught of #RollyPH.
WATCH: <https://youtu.be/NgJBOFUQAew>

**GUINOBATAN LAHAR FLOW
NOT LINKED TO
QUARRYING
—ALBAY GOVERNOR**

The debris from mudslides that swept down villages in Guinobatan town in Albay and buried homes during the height of Super Typhoon Rolly's rampage did not come from quarry stockpiles, says Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara.

OneNews.ph OneNewsPH photo: Congressman Fernando "Didi" Tibor Cabredo

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<https://web.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/989074541498432/?app=fbl& rdc=1& rdr>



UNTV News and Rescue

10h · 🌐

Binigyang-diin ni Governor Al Francis Bichara na walang kinalaman sa quarrying operations sa paanan ng Bulkang Mayon ang pagragasa ng lahar.



YOUTUBE.COM

Quarrying sa paanan ng Mayon Volcano, walang kinalaman sa pagragasa ng lahar — Gov. Bichara

Source:

https://web.facebook.com/187059061319515/posts/5357922437566459/?app=fbl&_rdc=1&_rd



Bishop seeks probe into mining, quarrying activities around Mayon following disaster

By [Marielle Lucenio, LICAS.news via CBCP News](#) - November 3, 2020 - 6:07 PM



A house is partially submerged in debris after Typhoon Goni swept through Daraga, Albay province, Philippines, November 2, 2020, in this photo obtained from social media. (David Lee/via Reuters)

Bishop Joel Baylon of Legazpi called on the government to investigate quarrying activities around the Mayon Volcano after lahar flows from the mountain buried at least 300 houses during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly on November 1.

“We see many factors that should be given attention especially the ongoing quarrying on the slopes of Mayon Volcano that might be partly responsible for the unnecessary big amount of lahar flowing down,” said Baylon.

When “Rolly” slammed the province of Albay, about 300 houses in Guinobatan town were buried under volcanic rocks and mud flows from Mayon.

“We are trying to call the attention of the government to address this matter,” Baylon said in an interview with LiCAS.news.

The prelate said that while “there is not much we can do with nature’s wrath,” recent studies on the frequency and increasing intensity of typhoons seem to point to human activity as partly responsible. “[In that aspect], I believe there is more to be done,” he said.

“While I may not have the power nor resources to lessen a typhoon’s intensity, I have the capacity to do small things that can mitigate unnecessary destruction when disasters come,” said the bishop as he urged people to be more responsible, especially in cutting trees.

“There are reminders from government agencies, but still irresponsible cutting is happening. We don’t have much logs here anymore, we don’t have forested areas,” he said.

“We can not stop mother nature, but we can lessen the destruction and deaths if we are going to be more responsible with the way we deal with things,” said the bishop.

In 2006, super typhoon Reming (international name: Durian) also caused massive destruction in the Bicol region, leaving 1,366 people dead after mud flowed from Mayon Volcano.



Ed Laguerta, former regional chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology in the region, earlier cautioned against lahar flows like what happened during typhoon Reming.

Congressman Zaldy Co of the party-list group Ako Bicol also called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to limit mining and quarrying activities around the volcano.

“Over extraction leads to death and destruction. We cannot sacrifice lives and properties just for the benefit of a few,” said the legislator in a statement.

“We must learn our lesson: we can save many lives if we ban over extraction of aggregates in Mount Mayon,” he said.

Rolly left at least 20 dead and three others missing, and about more 390,000 people displaced from their homes.



TALAMAK NA QUARRYING SA ALBAY IPINATIGIL



November 4, 2020 @ 12:05 AM 6 hours ago

IPINATIGIL ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang malawakang quarrying sa Guinobatan, Albay batay na rin sa kautusan ni Tatay Digong makaraang magsagawa ito kamakailan ng inspeksyon sa pinsala ng super typhoon na si Rolly sa naturang lalawigan.

Umabot sa 10 ang namatay dahil sa tinangay ng rumaragasang tubig baha at 300 kabahayan ang inilubog ng lahar sa kasagsagan ng itinuturing na mapaminsalang bagyo sa lalawigang ito na nag-iwan din ng sira-sirang kalsada, gumiba ng malalaking building at nagperwisyo ng mga pananim sa lahat ng lugar sa Kabikulan.

Sa aerial inspection na isinagawa ni Tatay Digong noong Lunes, lumabas na ang pagkasira ng mga ilog sa Guinobatan, Cagsawa ruins at iba pang bayan sa Albay bunsod ng talamak na quarrying ng armour rock at black sand dito ang dahilan ng malawakang pagbaha at pagragasa ng lahar mula sa bulkang Mayon kung saan inilubog ang libo-libong kabahayan dito habang binabayo ni Rolly ang Bicol kamakailan.

Ang hindi alam ni Tatay Digong na matagal nang winawalanghiya ng ilang buwayang opisyal sa Albay sa pamamagitan ng walang pakundangang pagbebenta ng black sand na itinuturing na mataas ang kalidad na klaseng buhangin mula sa mga ilog dito na pangunahing materyal naman sa konstruksyon ng mga proyekto ng gobyerno.

Batay sa sumbong na ipinaabot sa akin noon pa man, sa Masbate pa lang, daan-daang barko na ng black sand ang ibinayahe rito na may basbas mismo ng ilang tiwaling opisyal ng Kapitolyo sa Albay na kumikita ng milyones habang kakarampot naman ang napupunta sa kaban ng lokal na pamahalaan dito.

Hindi pa kabilang 'dyan ang ipinupuslit na buhangin mula sa illegal quarrying na ito patungo naman sa mga karatig-lalawigan ng Albay.

At lalong hindi pa kuwentado ryan kung ilang libong barko na puno ng black sand ang ibiniyahe na patungong Visayas at Mindanao noon pa man na kagagawan ng ilang opisyal na ganid sa kwarta sa gitna ng pagkawasak ng mga ilog dito.

Lumutang din sa sumbong ng mga Albayano na ipinarating sa inyong lingkod na si Kapitan Nimo na bagman daw ng Kapitolyo sa lahat ng mga ilegal na aktibidades dito kabilang ang jueteng, ay siya rin pala ang inginusong nasa likod ng mapanirang quarrying sa nabanggit na lalawigan.



Susmaryusep, kaya pala sa halaga pa lang ng luxury vehicles sa loob ng mansion ni Kapitan Nimo ay talo pa raw nito ang highest paid na artista dahil lahat yata ng mamahaling sasakyan ay meron ito.

At alam n'yo bang ipinagmamayabang pa nito sa lahat ng sulok sa Bikol na tao raw siya ni Albay Governor Al Francis Bichara?

Tingnan natin kung uubra ang apog mo sa Malakanyang.

Ngunit bago pa madiskubre ni Tatay Digong ang talamak na quarrying dito, itinuturing na ang Albay na numero unong supplier ng black sand sa Kabikulan at Kabisayaan.

Nakikinita ko na sa kangkungan pupulutin ang ilang buwaya riyan sa Kapitolyong salarin sa talamak na quarrying sa nabanggit na lalawigan.

Bagaman nakikiramay tayo sa pinsalang iniwan ni Rolly sa mga kababayan natin sa Bikol ngunit ito na marahil ang ganti ng kalikasan sa pang-aabusong ginawa ng ilang sakim sa kwartang mga opisyal d'yan.

Sa susunod na isyu, hahambalusin natin itong alyas Amor na nasa likod ng bookies ng STL na prente naman ng malawakang operasyon ng jueteng sa Camarines Sur.

Ipinagmamayabang nitong cabron na hindi raw kayang gibain ang kanyang palaro dahil may patong sa kanya ang mga hepe ng bawat istasyon ng pulis doon.

Para sa inyong komento o suhestyon magtext sa 09999388537/email normanlaurio17@gmail.com.



EDITORIAL - Public safety risk

(The Philippine Star) - November 4, 2020 - 12:00am

The provincial governor has stressed that quarrying is needed for construction. This is also a point raised by players in the extractive industries: the country needs raw materials, many of which come from the earth, for construction and other economic activities.

With deaths during Typhoon Rolly blamed partly on quarrying, however, President Duterte has approved a recommendation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to suspend quarrying in the town of Guinobatan in Albay. The other day the President had visited the town, where residents complained that boulders indiscriminately piled along three rivers by quarrying firms were washed away by lahar and floodwaters from Mayon Volcano at the height of Rolly, aggravating the destruction from the typhoon. The residents lamented that this always happened during typhoons in their town.

The President stressed that he was suspending judgment on the issue until the DENR finishes its investigation. Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara has said that dikes on the slopes of Mayon Volcano had collapsed from the heavy rainfall spawned by Rolly. Bichara also doubted that the quarrying firms had left their stockpiles along the rivers for floods to wash away.

Quarrying around Mayon, however, will have to be rationalized, considering how prone it is to mudslides. Volcanic debris keeps accumulating along the slopes of Mayon, one of the country's most active volcanoes. During heavy monsoon rains and typhoons, the debris is easily loosened and washed away, rampaging down to the communities around the volcano.

In December 2006, for example, powerful Typhoon Reming triggered massive mudslides from Mayon, leaving over 1,200 people dead or missing in Albay. More than a hundred of the fatalities were residents of Guinobatan. The area around the volcano is also regularly rocked by earthquakes. Disturbing the earth around the volcano through quarrying activities inevitably raises the risks to public safety during natural calamities. Following Rolly's onslaught, the government will have to improve safety protocols for communities around the volcano.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/11/04/2054413/editorial-public-safety-risk>



Beach nourishment project is a work in progress—DENR

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

November 2, 2020

AN official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the P389-million Manila Bay Beach Nourishment Project is still a work-in-progress and will require the contractor to procure and overlay more crushed dolomite.

On top of more dolomite, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said a breakwater to keep the artificial white and intact and protected from strong waves is being eyed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and its contractor, MAC Builders and Dragonhart Construction Enterprises Inc. joint venture.

The official is confident that engineering intervention will keep the artificial white sand in a 500-meter portion of Manila Bay intact, even with strong typhoons directly affecting Manila Bay.

The beach nourishment project, particularly the overlaying of the crushed dolomite to create a “Boracay beach-like effect,” was criticized as a waste of public funds. Critics say the funds for the project could have been used for other worthwhile projects especially in time of the pandemic or should have been spent for real coastal rehabilitation program and help improve water quality.

Upon extraction of debris in the 500-meter portion of Baywalk from the Manila Yacht Club to the US Embassy in Manila, the project proponents dumped two layers of ordinary sand before overlaying it with crushed dolomite.

Unfortunately, Leones said, the Cebu Provincial Government issued a cease-and-desist order against two Cebu mining firms preventing them from transporting crushed dolomite to finish the project.

With crushed dolomite rising at least a meters high above sea level, he is confident that washing in of ordinary sand or washing out of the artificial white sand will be minimized.

Leones said the dolomite beach is not the only purpose of the beach nourishment. Aside from replenishing the eroded beach with sand, he said the project has a soil erosion prevention component. The geotubes, he said prevent soil erosion, hence, keeping the sand intact despite heavy rainfall or storm surge.

However, Leones said, the construction of a breakwater becomes inevitable as violent storm surge is known to occur in Manila Bay, particularly along Roxas Boulevard, in the past.

He said the length, thickness or height of the breakwater and where it will be constructed will depend on the DPWH and its contractor. “This will be at no cost to the DENR, because it is part of the plan,” Leones said.

Leones also told the BusinessMirror that the construction of a breakwater aims not only to protect the dolomite, but as a flood-control measure to protect low-lying areas in Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas and Parañaque.



Based on the 2020 Manila Baywalk Perspective showed by Leones to the media revealed that the controversial beach nourishment project is far from over.

More crushed dolomite, he said, will have to be procured by the project proponents, confident that the local ban on transporting dolomite from Alcoy, Cebu will eventually, be lifted.

He said the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is currently in talks with the Cebu Provincial Government.

Based on the perspective, at least two offices that will house law enforcers and representatives of so-called mandamus agencies will rise at the Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard. There will also be two souvenir shops and two comfort rooms harnessing the Baywalk as a future tourist spot.

“This is a portion of our presentation to the media last time. Again, the breakwater although part of the plan is still subject to the conduct of feasibility study, EIA [environmental impact assessment] and consultation with other government agencies such as PCG [Philippine Coast Guard], PPA [Philippine Ports Authority], [PRA] Philippine Retirement Authority, NAMRIA [National Mapping and Resource Information Authority],” said Leones.

Leones said the construction of the breakwater has always been part of the beach nourishment plan but the overlaying of the crushed dolomite came in first.

“This [breakwater] was included in the plan because the construction of the breakwater is part of the flood-control program of DPWH to protect not only the beach nourishment area but the Baywalk as a whole. Recall in the past that there was a time when all the garbage and wastes overflow the Baywalk. Hope you can help us disseminate the info,” he said.



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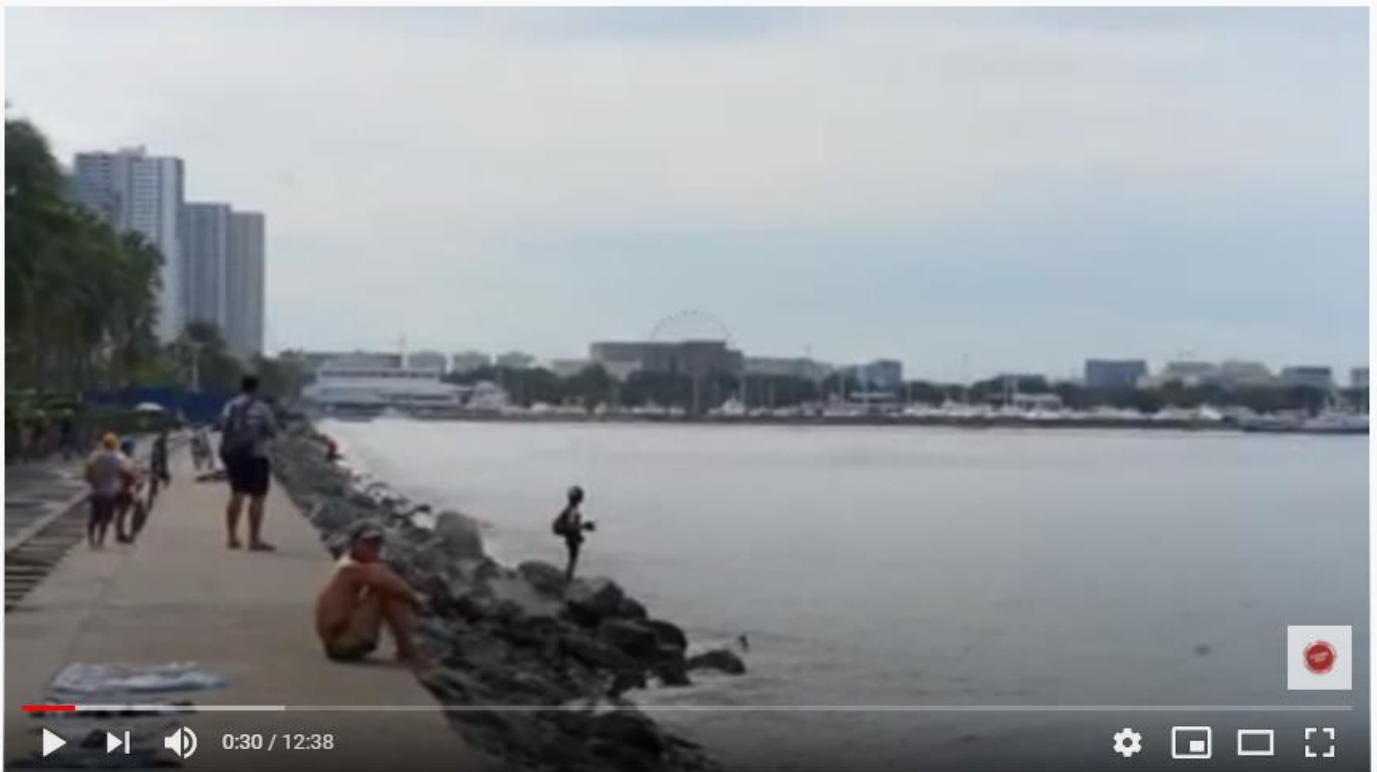
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DOLOMITE UPDATE

TINGNAN: Kasalukuyang estado ng dolomite sand sa Manila Bay matapos ang bagyong Rolly.



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DENR donates cut logs to Bataan government

posted November 03, 2020 at 10:00 pm

by [Butch Gunio](#)

Pilar, Bataan—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Bataan has executed a Deed of Donation for seized illegally cut logs to the provincial government.

Raul Mamac, Provincial Environment Officer, said DENR already signed the donation document, which has been forwarded to the capitol.

The logs will be used by the provincial government to build COVID-19 quarantine facilities.

“Our donation was in response to the request of Gov. Abet Garcia for the utilization of the cut trees affected by the road widening along Roman expressway,” said Mamac.

About 27.3217 cubic meter logs worth more than P579,000 were donated.

“We are glad to be able to contribute to the Proclamation No. 1021, extending the period of state of calamity throughout the country due to coronavirus,” Mamac said. Butch Gunio

The governor has initiated the setting up of a number of quarantine facilities in the province to accommodate COVID-19 cases.

National Task Force Against COVID-19 Chief Implementer Carlito Galvez Jr. has cited Garcia’s strong leadership as key in containing the coronavirus disease in province.



DENR delivers 10,000 vegetable seedlings for Caloocan City residents

Published November 3, 2020, 6:20 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) has delivered some 10,000 seedlings of vegetables to the Caloocan City government to help residents address food self-sufficiency amid the coronavirus pandemic.

DENR-NCR's Production Forest Management Section chief Arturo Calderon supervised the delivery of the seedlings to the city government last Oct. 28.

A total of 10,200 seedlings—composed of lettuce, tomato, and pechay—were provided to Caloocan City, which they can grow and redistribute to their constituents.

DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caanca expressed the regional office's commitment in helping all 17 LGUs of Metro Manila in its pursuit of food security.

According to her, this is the main reason why DENR-NCR entered into an agreement early this year with the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

“As Metro Manila relies on the provinces for its supply of farm produce, we saw the need for integrating urban farming in our greening strategy, especially as the supply and delivery of goods from the provinces have been affected by public health and safety measures authorities have set in place,” Caanca said.

“So now, apart from native trees and ornamental plants, we're also growing vegetables in our nurseries to give to organizations and people interested in backyard planting,” she added.

The memorandum of agreement (MOA) earlier signed by the DENR-NCR and DA-BPI aims to raise seedlings of high-value vegetable crops to help ensure food security in Metro Manila amid the community quarantine.

The vegetable seedlings that will be produced in the joint undertaking will be distributed to barangays of Metro Manila with urban farming or gardening programs.

Under the MOA, BPI agreed to provide technical assistance on seedling production, vegetable seeds, and other agricultural inputs to DENR-NCR.

Meanwhile, the DENR-NCR will provide the necessary facilities and manpower for the project.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/03/denr-delivers-10000-vegetable-seedlings-for-caloocan-city-residents/>



P179 MILYON GINASTOS NG MAYNILAD SA 19 BAGONG SANITATION TRUCKS



November 4, 2020 @ 12:20 AM 6 hours ago

Ang West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) ay gumastos ng mahigit sa P179 milyong piso upang makakuha ng 19 bagong vacuum truck units (VTUs) na makatutulong mapalakas ang koleksyon ng septage.

Ang mga bagong 10-cubic meter capacity VTU ay maaaring malinis sa higit-kumulang 190 septic tank bawat araw, at magpapalakas sa paghahatid ng mga sanitation services para sa kostumer na hindi pa nakakonekta sa sewer network ng Maynilad.

Noong 2019, nakapaglinis ang Maynilad ng higit sa 147,900 septic tank at nagamot ang halos 233 milyong litro ng septage. Ang septage na kinokolekta nito ay dinadala sa Septage Treatment Facilities ng kompanya para magawa ang pagpoproseso at paggamot.

Ang by-product na ito ay dinadala sa isang planta ng pagproseso upang maaari itong i-convert sa organikong pataba.

Ayon kay Maynilad Chief Operating Officer Randolph T. Estrellado, “The purchase of these trucks will help Maynilad accomplish its sanitation targets, which we strive to meet despite the restrictions brought on by the pandemic. We are appealing to our customers to have their septic tanks desludged because not doing so will result in serious environmental, health, and safety risks to their family and community”.

Ipinakikita ng mga opisyal ng Maynilad na pinangunahan ni President at CEO na si Ramoncito S. Fernandez, COO Randolph Estrellado, at Wastewater Management Head Apollo Tiglao, ang mga bagong VTU kina MWSS Administrator Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat (Ret.), Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso at DENR Asst. Secretary Daniel Nicer.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/p179-milyon-ginastos-ng-maynilad-sa-19-bagong-sanitation-trucks/>



Typhoon Rolly fills Angat Dam; enough water supply to last up to 2021

Maris Federez • November 3, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — The water level in Angat Dam has gone up to 202 meters Tuesday (November 3), close to reaching its normal level of 210 meters.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said the recent typhoons have significantly added to the supply of water in the dam.

The NWRB is confident that such an increase in the water level is enough to supply the whole of Metro Manila until the next dry season in the following year.

The agency added that apart from the recent typhoon, rains brought by La Niña has contributed a lot to cause the increasing water level in Angat Dam.

Based on the projection of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), more rains are expected in the coming days and that the 212-meter target water level of Angat Dam will be met by the end of the 2020.

With the increase of Angat Dam's water supply, the NWRB has also increased the allocation of water in Metro Manila to 46 cubic meter per second (cms) this month from the previous 44 cms.

The agency, on the other hand, decreased the water allocation in the agricultural lands of Bulacan and Pampanga to 15 cms in time for the harvest season. — **(with details from Joan Nano) /mbmf**



Labor group backs Greenpeace call for climate emergency declaration

Published November 3, 2020, 3:43 PM

by [Leslie Ann Aquino](#)

The Nagkaisa labor coalition on Tuesday backed the call of Greenpeace for the declaration of climate emergency in the wake of devastations from recent typhoons ‘Quinta’ and ‘Rolly’.

In a statement on Tuesday, Nagkaisa chairperson Sonny Matula said that such a declaration is needed to put the climate crisis on equal footing with the COVID-19 response in terms of urgency and significance.

“Climate crisis equally demands a whole of nation approach as its impacts on people and communities are far severe,” he said.

The group said they are also deeply bothered by the combined impact of the pandemic and climate devastation on jobs.

Nagkaisa has a green and climate jobs agenda under its State of Labor and its Agenda on Recovery (SOLAR).

Under SOLAR is its public employment program called Unemployment Support and Work Assistance Guarantees or USWAG, where demand for green and climate jobs as a strong component in addressing unemployment and climate crises at the same time, is being proposed.

The USWAG proposal has already been submitted before the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) last September.

Meanwhile, Nagkaisa said a study on climate jobs subject called “Greening the Philippine Pandemic Response: Labor Agenda on Recovery through Green Employment (LARGER) Programs” will be presented next week.

The group said the study inquires on whether a green agenda is included in the government’s pandemic response and recovery programs, and, at the same time, proposes climate jobs as a major component in the government’s public employment programs.

“We wanted to know if the President’s global challenge is reflected in actions taken in the home front,” Wilson Fortaleza who prepared the study, said.

He explained that the Philippines is rich in climate policies, but implementation is hampered by fragmentation, bureaucratic gridlock, and most of the time, by lack of funding.

Fortaleza is a member of Nagkaisa’s technical working group on the labor agenda.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/03/labor-group-backs-greenpeace-call-for-climate-emergency-declaration/>



CLIMATE JUSTICE | Greenpeace urges Philippines to declare climate emergency after super typhoon batters country

November 3, 2020 , 03:11 PM

(November 3, 2020) – An environmental group on Tuesday urged President Rodrigo Duterte’s government to declare a climate emergency as a means to strengthen the response to the climate crisis, two days after a super typhoon devastated the southern Luzon region.

At the same time, Greenpeace asked the government to speed up its action regarding the needs of vulnerable sectors to prevent a repeat of the death and destruction every time a strong typhoon visits the country.

“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,” Virginia Llorin, Greenpeace Philippines campaigner, said in a statement.

The local chapter of Greenpeace in the poor Southeast Asian country has been clamoring for climate justice even before three succeeding typhoons hit the country last month, noting that the environmental and climate situation could continue to get worse as months and years go by.

Intensified storms and worse natural disasters are direct outcomes of the climate crisis, Greenpeace said. If left unchecked, it said these particular instances can deal further damage that would be detrimental to the poor.

In the case of Typhoon Rolly, at least 6,000 families were left homeless in the province of Albay alone, according to Governor Al Francis Bichara. Most of them belong to poor communities whose economic security is in peril as the typhoon destroyed their source of livelihood.

“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.

Another group, the Nagkaisa Labor Coalition supported this call, highlighting the bothersome impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis on jobs.

In 2019, a non-profit organization RESET said declaring a climate emergency is a means to express the government’s urgency to respond to this ongoing crisis. But it should not merely end there, as concrete plans and necessary changes must also be implemented.

“If you declare a climate emergency, but then continue to implement policies which enforce fossil fuel use, the declaration is useless,” RESET said in a statement. So far, a total of 1,799 jurisdictions in 31 countries have issued such a declaration.

Greenpeace Philippines has extended an offer to assist the administration in crafting a declaration for climate emergency, after Malacañang said, in a statement last September, that the populist leader would look into the matter.

Should the national government agree to issue the declaration, the administration should make substantial efforts to reduce carbon emissions in the country. One thing the government can do, according to the pro-environment group, is to hold fossil fuel and cement companies accountable for the damages they have dealt over the years.

“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. “It’s time for the Philippines and every Filipino to rise together and hold these companies to account.”

(Beatrice Puente/MM)

Source: https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/climate-justice-greenpeace-urges-philippines-to-declare-climate-emergency-after-super-typhoon-batters-country?fbclid=IwAR1XZX61YqH9fVBOXToDVq_Oy4TIUwqJZeneZ8fuPcDn7leNuRUvAcXCWks



Preparing for the risks of climate change

By [BusinessMirror](#)

November 3, 2020



Seven years after the strongest typhoon in recorded history struck the Philippines, the country was again visited by another monster storm. Supertyphoon Rolly (international name Goni)—the strongest storm in the world so far for 2020—first unleashed its fury in the eastern part of the country. Packing winds of up to 220 kilometers per hour, Rolly barreled through the Bicol region and almost flattened areas that were ill prepared for strong typhoons (*See, “[Bicol, South Luzon bear brunt of ‘Rolly’ as ‘Siony’ enters PAR,](#)” in [the BusinessMirror, November 2, 2020](#)*).

The storm, which first made landfall in Catanduanes, destroyed houses and rendered thousands of families in the Bicol region homeless. Many of the houses knocked down by the typhoon were made of light materials, but the monster storm did not spare sturdy ones. Thousands of houses made of strong materials were also damaged, forcing families to flock to evacuation centers at a time when Covid-19 cases nationwide continue to rise.

The nightmare that is Rolly is once again reminding people in countries vulnerable to climate change, like the Philippines, that they can no longer afford to overlook the importance of building disaster-resilient homes. Investing in houses that can withstand winds of up to 250 kph is now a must, particularly in areas that are directly in the path of typhoons. Shelters that will protect Filipinos from pandemics must also be able to withstand nature’s wrath, given the increasing frequency of strong typhoons that the country has been experiencing in recent years.

The challenge may be daunting, given the staggering number of Filipinos who could not afford to buy their own homes (*See, “[The mass housing mess: Why Filipinos continue to struggle with owning a home,](#)” in [the BusinessMirror, January 3, 2019](#)*). It may require huge resources, but investments in disaster-resilient houses will pay off in the long run. Aside from the fact that it will help prevent deaths, disaster-resilient houses also spare taxpayers of an additional burden because the government would no longer have to shell out billions of pesos to rebuild flattened towns every time a strong typhoon hits the country.

Policy-makers must push initiatives that will protect Filipinos and families from the ill effects of climate change. Scarce resources must be invested in programs and projects that will enable cities and towns to withstand strong typhoons and other natural disasters. Lawmakers who approve the annual budget of the national and local governments must demand this from concerned agencies and officials.

Instead of channeling scarce resources to beautification projects, the government must invest taxpayers’ money in building disaster-resilient homes, fortifying existing structures against earthquakes, and data collection and establishment of databases that local governments can use in planning. Rolly is not the last monster storm that will visit the Philippines and inflict damage on the economy (*See, “[Disasters’ 10-year toll in PHL: P463-billion damage, 12,000 lives,](#)” in [the BusinessMirror, October 29, 2020](#)*). While preparation may be costly, it is the only way to minimize the adverse impact of strong storms on local farms and industries and prevent deaths.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/03/preparing-for-the-risks-of-climate-change/>



Pasig barangay collects over 250 kilos of plastic wastes in exchange for rice packs

Published November 3, 2020, 3:58 PM

by [Jhon Aldrin Casinas](#)

A barangay in Pasig City has collected more than 250 kilos of plastic wastes during its waste for rice program recently, which seeks to promote recycling and help residents affected by the pandemic.



(Barangay San Antonio, Pasig collects plastic waste in exchange for packs of rice. (BSA photos))

Barangay San Antonio, Pasig Chairman Raymond Lising said the barangay, in partnership with Planeta Cares—a non-government organization, recently launched the “Bayanihan Plastic Management Program.”

The program aims to encourage residents to properly dispose of their garbage and practice recycling. It also seeks to help residents during these trying times by providing them rice packs in exchange for collected plastic wastes.

Under the program, plastic wastes weighing at least 500 grams were traded for three kilos of rice.

The barangay has set up a collection booth at Mega Plaza Ortigas Central Business District on October 30 where residents brought their collected plastic wastes and had them exchanged for rice packs.

“We have collected a total of 251.2 kilos of plastic. Nearly 80 people participated in our program for the environment, we are doing this to help decongest land fields. Each person brought at least one to three kilo/s of plastic,” Lising said.

During the program, the barangay collected various plastic wastes such as plastic containers of shampoo, detergent, plastic bags, sachets, snack packs, plastic cups, among other plastic wastes.

According to Lising, they have distributed 237 packs of rice or around 700 kilos of rice to those who brought their plastic wastes.

Planeta Cares founder Ana Mikaela Samson said the collected plastic waste will go to their organization’s three selected recycling entities—The Sustainable Gardener PH, Cloop, and Sari-Cycle.

Samson said Cloop and Sari-Cycle, which are both located in Pasig and employ members of low-income families, turn plastic wastes into trophies and school supplies.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/03/pasig-barangay-collects-over-250-kilos-of-plastic-wastes-in-exchange-for-rice-packs/>



‘Basura to Ayuda’: Barangay sa Pasig nakakoleta ng 250 kgs basura kapalit ng rice packs



November 3, 2020 @ 7:35 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang ma-promote ang recycling at pangalagaan ang kalikasan, nasa 250 kilos ng basura ang nakolekta ng Barangay San Antonio sa Pasig City sa naging programa nito na basura palit bigas.

Ayon kay Barangay San Antonio, Pasig Chairman Raymond Lising ang programang “Bayanihan Plastic Management Program (BPMP): Basura to Ayuda ay naisakatuparan ng barangay sa pakikipagtulungan sa Planeta Cares, isang non-governmental organization, layon ng programa na maturuan ang mga residente sa tamang pagtatapon ng mga basura at mahikayat sila na mag-recycle bilang kontribusyon sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan.

Sa ilalim ng programa, ang mga residente na makapagkokolekta at makapagdadala ng 500 gramo ng plastic o 1.5L ecobrick na may bigat na 500 gramo ay maaaring ipalit ito ng tatlong kilo ng bigas.

Kabilang sa mga plastic wastes na maaaring ipalit sa nasabing programa ay mga plastic container at tub; shampoo, detergent, HDPE bottle; plastic bag, sachet, snack pack, plastic cup, lid, utensil at PET bottle.

“Residents brought their plastic wastes at Mega Plaza Ortigas Central Business District where the barangay set up a collection booth. Strict implementation of social distancing and necessary health protocols were observed,” saad niya.

Ayon pa kay Lising, “ We have collected a total of 251.2 kilos of plastic. Nearly 80 people participated in our program for the environment, we are doing this to help decongest land fields. Each person brought at least 1 to 3 kilo/s of plastic.”

Nasa 237 packs o 760 kilos ng bigas ang napamahagi sa mga residenteng nangolekta at nakapagdala ng kanilang plastic wastes.

Samantala, ang ilan namang residente ng San Antonio na nagdala ng mga plastic waste ay hindi na kumuha pa ng bigas , kundi, nakibahagai na lamang sila sa programa para makatulong sa kalikasan.

“With such gestures, it only shows that inclusivity is very much alive in Barangay San Antonio where people take part in helping their community,” ani Lising.



Sinabi ni Ana Mikaela “Maika” Samson, founder ng Planeta Cares, na ang kanilang mga nakolektang plastic waste ay dadalhin sa tatlong recycling entities— The Sustainable Gardener PH, Cloop at Sari-Cycle.

Ang Cloop at Sari-Cycle ay kapwa nakabase sa Pasig City at ang mga manggagawa nila ay pawang mula sa low-income families, at ang mga end product na na-recycle nila tulad ng trophies at school supplies ay kanilang ibinebenta para ang pinagkakitaan ay mapunta sa sahod ng mga manggagawa.

Saad ni Samson, ang ecobricks na nakolekta nila ay mapuputanta sa The Sustainable Gardener PH para kanilang urban farming projects. Gail Mendoza



Expedition confirms Panaon Island's rich marine biodiversity

By Sarwell Meniano **November 3, 2020, 9:48 am**



MARINE BIODIVERSITY. A myriad of healthy and colorful corals, sponges, and other marine organisms found at the reefs off Panaon Island in Southern Leyte. Photo taken by Oceana during its ongoing 22-day expedition in Panaon Island in Southern Leyte. *(Photo courtesy of Danny Ocampo/Oceana)*

TACLOBAN CITY – Environmental group Oceana has reported rich marine biodiversity in Panaon Island in Southern Leyte as they embark on a 22-day expedition in the bid to help protect and sustainably manage the island's underwater resource.

In a diary shared by Danny Ocampo, Oceana senior campaign manager, he said the corals in Panaon Island are "extensive and quite good" compared to other dive sites he has been to.

"Coral cover was very good in the shallows and as we went deeper between two coral outcrops, it was decorated with lots of crinoids, soft corals, and sea fans," Ocampo said.

Among the marine species seen are octopuses, black tip sharks, batfishes, eel, sea turtles, sea snakes, large chevron barracudas, giant trevallies, and big red snappers, among others.

"In one of the marine protected areas, the first thing we saw upon entering the water was a huge shallow area of unbroken foliose coral extending up to the deeper part of the reef," he added.

Ocampo is one of the experts deployed by Oceana for a 22-day expedition to assess the marine biodiversity of the island in Southern Leyte.

Oceana has started the assessment on Oct. 18, deploying a team composed of marine scientists, media production crew, and ship personnel who conducted the first of several dives off the waters of Panaon Island. The activity will conclude on Nov. 8.

They are on-board the expedition ship MV Discovery Palawan.

"Being situated at the Coral Triangle, the Philippines has several coral-rich sites that need attention. One of these is Panaon Island in Southern Leyte. While studies show a decline in coral cover in the Philippines, this particular site stands out and gives hope with its high diversity of coral species," Oceana Philippines said in a statement posted on its website.

The team is currently assessing corals, seagrass, and fish using scientific survey methods.

Leading the expedition is Dr. Badi Samaniego, a seasoned marine scientist, he has done extensive research on reef, fish ecology, and marine protected areas in Galapagos Islands, Coral Triangle, French Polynesia, and the British Indian Ocean Territory, according to Oceana.



All crew and members of the expedition team have undergone coronavirus testing procedures while regular disinfection procedures and basic health protocols are strictly enforced on-board.

Panaon Island is a small island, lying south of Leyte, separated from Dinagat to the east, and Mindanao to the southeast by Surigao Strait. Panaon is about 30 kilometers long from north to south. The largest town is Liloan, which is connected by a bridge to the main Leyte Island. **(PNA)**

Source:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1120518?fbclid=IwAR3CqqxjqjCF8kFDqZiNGGPY8AXcDQUO6nJpLIcFf-hlbmcBoajs4LXxucs>



Expedition confirms Panaon Island's rich marine biodiversity

Published November 3, 2020, 9:56 AM

by [Philippine News Agency](#)

TACLOBAN CITY (PNA) – Environmental group Oceana has reported rich marine biodiversity in Panaon Island in Southern Leyte as they embark on a 22-day expedition in the bid to help protect and sustainably manage the island's underwater resource.



A myriad of healthy and colorful corals, sponges, and other marine organisms found at the reefs off Panaon Island in Southern Leyte. Photo taken by Oceana during its ongoing 22-day expedition in Panaon Island in Southern Leyte. (Photo courtesy of Danny Ocampo/Oceana / via PNA)

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PEF seeks support for ailing PH eagle 'Balikatan'

Published November 3, 2020, 5:44 PM

by [Ivy Tejano](#)

DAVAO CITY – The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in Davao is working with American veterinary consultants to save the right eye of an eagle that was rescued in Bacuag town in Surigao del Norte three months ago.

The PEF confirmed, through its official Facebook page, that the Philippine eagle named “Balikatan” could no longer fly back to the forest.

Dr. Bayani Vandebroek earlier examined Balikatan’s eyes, and noticed the difference in the eagle’s reaction to his hands.

“When Doc Bayani brings his hand closer to Balikatan’s left eye, he does not get any reaction from the eagle. But on the right eye, the eagle Balikatan immediately reacts,” PEF executive Dennis Joseph Salvador said.

Salvador said that, after a thorough health checkup, they found that Balikatan was partially blind. He added that with poor eyesight, the eagle will not be able to survive being in the wild.

Based on the ophthalmic test results, Balikatan completely lost his vision in the left eye for unknown reason, while his right eye was showing early signs of cataract.

“An eagle needs its keen eyesight and its sharp talons to hunt in the forest,” Salvador said.

The eagle also seemed calm during his checkup that indicated that he was used to being with people. It also indicated a possibility for Balikatan to approach nearby settlements, and risk being hunted or captured.

“But there is still hope for Balikatan. He needs all the help we can give,” Salvador said.

The PEF-Davao is knocking on everyone’s heart to help raise funds to sustain Balikatan’s rehabilitation and provide for his upkeep for a year.

It added that any amount one can give will make them one of Balikatan’s adopters. Unlike previous rescued eagles, Balikatan will not be returning home.

Balikatan was brought to the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) last August for rehabilitation, after a concerned citizen took a photo of the eagle that he had kept in Bacuag.

The bird was under the care of an outdoor enthusiast Ryan Orquina, who had bought the eagle from an Indigenous Mamanwa trapper for P8,000.

Orquina said that such a price was small price to pay considering that it meant saving the country’s national bird.

Balikatan weighed 3.8 kilograms when he was rescued. He was believed to be immature (at least three years old). He was docile and could be restrained easily.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/03/pef-seeks-support-for-ailing-ph-eagle-balikatan/>



Pangarap Village residents seek PRRD's help to stop harassment, settle land dispute

Published November 3, 2020, 3:53 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Aside from challenges brought by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, thousands of residents of Pangarap Village in Caloocan City are facing yet another problem caused by an unsettled land dispute which has dragged on for years.



(Photo courtesy of Rhon Palmera, Joey Almodovar and Analen Barroga)

About 40,000 individuals in the village currently do not have access to water and electricity, according to Barangay 182 chairman Rowelle Brin.

This is because a land developer claiming rights over the area does not allow utility companies to enter the area to install water connection and power lines despite an injunction order issued by a Caloocan court in 2016.

Residents instead rely on water retail stores and, sometimes, on generators or solar panels for electricity, which are expensive.

Worse, dozens of residents lost their homes to mud and waist-deep flood amid the continuous digging and dumping of soil on the waterways, Brin added.

“They are doing it without court order because they want us to leave Pangarap Village. They are not contented with cutting our power supply. This is what they’re doing now. It’s their way of forcing the residents out of the property,” said Brin in a recent statement, “We are not squatters. We have our land titles.”

“Siguro iniisip [nila] mahaba, matagal yung proseso [ng batas], baka matatalo pa [sila]. Kaya ang ginagawa, tanggalin ang kuryente namin, tanggalin ang tubig namin, tabunan ang mga kalsada, tabunan ang creek (Perhaps, they’re thinking that the process of the law takes time and that they will lose the rights to the area. That’s why, what they’re doing is cut our electric and water lines and dump soil in the road and the creek),” the barangay head added in an interview with Manila Bulletin.

Brin also said that the land developer used to intimidate the residents “with armed men,” referring to armed security officers deployed in the area.



In a video uploaded by a certain A Delos Santos on his Facebook account, residents and several armed officers were seen engaging in a confrontation. He explained that the residents were trying to stop the officers, who were about to block another alley by dumping soil. Several alleys are reportedly not passable because of the dumping.

In the said video, a resident was heard complaining to a barangay councilor that the officers would usually break into their homes.

“You’re rude! Why are you opening our gates if there is no problem? Just because we don’t give up our lands, you would break open our gates? Right?” a resident was heard saying in Filipino in the video during a confrontation with the armed guards.

Because of continuous digging and dumping of soil in a nearby creek, homes of some residents are submerged in waist-deep floodwater whenever there is a downpour. Rhon Palmera, a resident and a team leader of a group of residents fighting for the land, said this is because some low-lying areas in the area have become catch basins.

“Tinanggalan na nga ng mga legal na linya ng kuryente pati tubig at nasa pandemya, ganito pa ang gagawin (They already cut off our electric and water lines and in this time of pandemic they still subject us to harassment),” Palmera said in his Facebook post, showing a video of another resident complaining about being “bullied” by the land developer.

The situation has been happening for years, according to Brin. It came after former President Ferdinand Marcos issued Presidential Decree No. 293 in 1973, invalidating the titles of its former owner and declaring the land open for disposition to members of the Malacañang Homeowners Association, Inc.

For several decades now, the question of who the real owner of the 156-hectare property is remains unresolved.

Currently, about 21 petitioners who are residents in the area are still awaiting the Supreme Court resolution on the quieting of title.

The barangay chairman and the residents are calling for a “status quo” in the area, which means no action or development in the said property but to no avail.

In early October, Caloocan City Mayor Oscar Malapitan asked the Philippine National Police and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to help the local government enforce laws to stop the land developer’s “harassment” saying, “the proper resolution of land disputes is through the various legal and humane processes instituted by law in order to preserve peace and order.”

He also ordered the deployment of the city’s Legal Office and Environmental Management Office to take legal action to protect the city’s waterways.

Brin said he wants to talk with President Duterte to ask his help and settle the problem for the sake of his constituents.

“Pabalik balik na po kami ng PCUB (Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor)... wala naman silang aksyon (We have brought this problem to the attention of the PCUB, but no action has been taken),” he said, “(Gusto namin makausap si President Duterte) para mapakinggan ang aming side, na ginaganito kami, walang proseso ng batas. Kawawa yung mga tao dito (We want to talk to President Duterte so he can hear our side, what is being done to us, no due process of law. People here are so pitiful).”

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/03/pangarap-village-residents-seek-prrds-help-to-stop-harassment-settle-land-dispute/>



Mining and sustainable technology

By ... -November 4, 2020



By: Michelle Ash, GEOVIA Chief Executive Officer, Dassault Systèmes

Mining the Philippines' road to economic recovery: sustainable technology and a fresh perspective

Amid an onslaught of economic uncertainties from the ongoing global crisis, the Philippines' mining industry shines a beacon of hope. [National mining authorities are optimistic](#) that a revival of the sector, whose largely untapped mineral assets are estimated to be worth [over P45 trillion](#), will present a lucrative avenue for the country's economic recovery in the next two to three years.

Mining is one of the oldest industries in the world and remains a major social and economic force across the world. As builders of society, the mining sector underpins economies and transforms communities.

Transformation of the mining industry

The industry itself has transformed dramatically in the last century, including –

- Adopted technology: Many mining operations are now able to extract minerals and metallic ores, with more accuracy, less harm to the surrounding environment, and without endangering the lives of miners.
- Improved health and safety: Annual mining related fatalities are at a record low as compared with 50 years ago.
- Improved environmental footprint: Newly-developed machines used for grinding and crushing can extract minerals from the earth with less energy than ever before.
- Made strides in workforce diversity: While the proportion of [women employed by mining organisations is only 15%](#), we have made tremendous strides since I first started in the industry.
- Transformed society: At its zenith in the early 20th century, Britain's iron, steel, and coal industries employed more than 10% of the working population and fuelled the industrial revolution. Similarly, in the Philippines, where mining remains a core pillar of the local economy and its communities, [mining employed over 212,000 persons in 2018, and contributed PHP\\$206 billion in mineral exports](#), accounting for [nearly 6% of total exports](#).

Societal expectations are the greatest challenge faced by the sector. However, the sector faces a big challenge. We are architects of the future, yet society views us through different lenses. Society's perception of mining is still from that of the 1920s — when miners used primitive tools for digging and accidents were common. The biggest challenge to the mining industry today and in the future is changing the opinions, and expectations of society, of people, and of citizens.

Our performance as an industry and the rate at which society's expectations are changing is widening. This doesn't mean we are not transforming. As an industry, we are adopting new technology, innovating and doing things differently; however, society's expectations of us as an industry are so much higher than in previous generations. This is simply the result of seeing ongoing dramatic change in other sectors and expecting the mining sector to change as fast and as radically. This means that not only do we need to increase our rate of transformation, but the sector needs to fundamentally rethink some of our processes.



Learning from other industries

The aircraft and automotive industries experienced something similar in the last quarter of the last century. Both industries have fundamentally changed from leveraging emerging technology of the time and adopting radically different ways of doing things.

For example in the aircraft industry, technology has helped in a [91% reduction in development time](#), [71% reduction in labor costs](#), [90% reduction in redesign](#) and dramatically reduced design and production flaws, mismatches, and associated errors.

The auto industry has also developed into a segmented network in the last 50 years. For example, no car company makes windshields or rear-view-mirrors anymore — they are always purchased from windshield makers, and rear-view-mirror makers respectively. This division of labour across the automotive ecosystem enables suppliers to be agile and innovative. This also means that auto-parts can be quickly and easily sourced, and suppliers empowered to design and produce new parts quickly and efficiently.

The advantage of mining companies

To quote the former United States Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, 'We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know.' Both the aircraft and automotive industries invested in technology that helped them better understand their customer's needs — the known unknowns. Both industries were then able to integrate their manufacturing to be flexible in a planned way, enabling the industries to reduce waste, and save time from constant planning changes.

On the other hand, we as a sector do not invest enough on our known unknowns — geology. Without this knowledge, we are forced to be flexible in an unplanned way, that ultimately leads to waste. This is where there is opportunity for the industry to work collaboratively across the ecosystem, from mining companies themselves, to suppliers, academics, governments, and even start-ups and more.

For me, there are four major problems we need to solve as an industry.

1. Global ore body intelligence: We need to be able to find ore bodies faster, cheaper, and more completely. We can use satellite imaging to detect ore bodies and use physical geospatial and hyperspectral technologies to provide additional data to a geologist.
2. Automation and electrification: We need to understand performance, optimise it in real time and optimise planning in real time.
3. Precision extraction: We need to be even more precise in extracting the metal that we are interested in without creating excessive waste and subsequently being able to process the metal efficiently. This means using digital twins to create simulations and what-if scenarios before building in real life with sensors in place for analytics. This not only minimises risk but also reduces errors, and waste.
4. Creation of social value: We need to better use technology to create and distribute value to our communities.

Mining companies' real competitive advantage is the speed at which they can adopt technology into their business that solves a business problem, while continuing to create value to society. For the Philippines to see a successful and sustainable revival of its mining industry, organisations need to review the solutions that are already available in other industries, and their ecosystem of competition and collaboration, to build stronger foundations for its mining future.



A moratorium on new coal plants

November 4, 2020 | Filed under: Editorial, Opinion | Posted by: Tempo Desk

The Department of Energy (DoE) last Sunday declared a moratorium on endorsements for coal power plants, following its periodic assessment of the country's energy requirements.

"I'm optimistic this would lead to more opportunities for renewable energy to figure prominently in our country's energy future," Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said. The moratorium does not affect some projects already committed or are now undergoing selection process.

The DoE decision for a moratorium on new coal power plants is in line with the commitment our country made at the Paris Climate Agreement of December, 2015, when 195 nations agreed to take various steps to stop or hold back the rise in world temperature caused by carbon emissions from the world's industries. Coal-fueled factories are among the major sources of these carbon emissions along with factories powered by oil and gas.

The Philippines needs power plants for its national development, with coal now having the highest share of these projects at 3,991 megawatts, followed by natural gas plants at 1,750 megawatts, battery storage plants at 989 megawatts, and oil-based plants at 425 megawatts.



We are beginning to develop renewable energy projects. Already approved at the DoE are 255 megawatts from wind-power projects, 179 megawatts from biomass projects, and 132 megawatts from wind projects. We have two other potential sources of renewable energy – hydro and geothermal – but no new projects in these two areas.

China and the United States are today the world's foremost producers of polluting carbon emissions. China recently committed to stop its carbon emissions by 2060. Japan followed soon after with the same pledge to achieve that goal by 2050. Unfortunately, the US withdrew from the Paris Agreement in 2017 and continues to be a major producer of polluting carbon pollution that is raising world temperatures.

The Philippines is but a minor contributor to this carbon pollution, but it is doing its part with programs for developing renewable sources of energy. Coal plants are still its major source of power for its factories because they cost the least, but we now have a policy in place for less reliance on coal and more on sun, wind, geothermal, and other renewable sources of energy.

The Department of Energy's recent decision for a moratorium on new coal plants is in line with that new policy and we hope to continue in that direction in the coming years.



PH COVID-19 cases nadagdagan ng 1,772; total umakyat pa sa 387,161 – DOH

By

Bombo Christian Yosores

November 3, 2020 | 4:06 PM

Nadagdagan pa ng 1,772 ang kabuuang bilang ng COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas, ayon sa Department of Health (DOH).

Batay sa pinakabagong case bulletin ng ahensya, umabot na sa 387,161 ang total ng coronavirus cases sa bansa.

“18 labs were not able to submit their data to the COVID-19 Data Repository System (CDRS) on November 2, 2020.”

Ayon sa ahensya, mula sa 14,019 na tinst as of 12:00PM nitong Lunes, may 1,016 na nag-positibo sa COVID-19.

May ilan din na bagong reported COVID-19 cases, na nag-positibo noong nakalipas pa na 14 na araw at mga buwan.

Pinakamaraming naitala na newly-announced casesa sa lalawigan ng Pampanga na nasa 154. Sinundan ng Quezon City, Laguna, Baguio at Lungsod ng Maynila.

Nasa 30,876 pa ang active cases o mga nagpapagaling. Nadagdagan naman ng 153 ang mga recoveries, kaya umakyat ang total nito sa 348,967.

Ang total deaths ay nadagdagan ng 49, kaya ngayon ay nasa 7,318 na.

“11 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 3 were recovered cases. Moreover, 13 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths.”

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/doh-ph-covid-19-cases-nadagdagan-ng-1772-total-umakyat-pa-sa-387161/>



Roadmap for Covid-19 vaccine rollout to be presented to PRRD

By Lade Jean Kabagani **November 3, 2020, 6:04 pm**



MANILA – The government has revved up the country's vaccine roadmap and timeline and will be presented to President Rodrigo Duterte, National Policy against Covid-19 chief implementer, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. announced Tuesday.

In a virtual press briefing, Galvez, newly appointed vaccine czar, said the roadmap would serve as an avenue to "normalcy and full economic recovery."

Galvez cited considerations in designing the vaccine roadmap, which include safety and underlying health risks, efficacy, sensitivity, costs and supply chain requirements, access for clinical trials, local production and distribution as well as complexity on the implementation.

Galvez said the roadmap's phases are composed of four operation cycles which include assessment, planning, preparation, and execution.

"Most likely, the vaccine will be available by early next year [2021]," Galvez said.

He said the National Task Force (NTF) against Covid-19 will be presenting the draft roadmap to President Duterte for his approval.

"We are planning to present it on Thursday," Galvez said.

According to the critical timeline of the vaccine roadmap from November to December this year, the government will organize a panel of experts on vaccination.

By the end of this year, Galvez said the government targets the approval of vaccine analysis, selection, and procurement.

This also includes the beginning of various clinical trials for potential Covid-19 vaccines, he added.

He said the government targets to complete bilateral and multilateral engagements with other governments as well as the private sector.

Galvez said the scientific evaluation, selection, and guaranteed acquisition of the vaccine should be completed by the end of December.

From January to March 2021, the government targets to complete the procurement process, production, shipment, and storage for the vaccine as well as the implementation plan should be ready rollout.

Country's vaccine czar

During a Cabinet meeting on Monday night, Duterte announced Galvez's designation as "vaccine czar" to ensure the country's access to a potential Covid-19 vaccine, once available.



Galvez said the planning for the country's vaccination program sustains a whole-of-government approach.

He said the Department of Health (DOH) will serve as the primary response agency all throughout the stages of the Philippine national vaccine roadmap and timeline.

"We will be having a distribution of efforts," he said.

Galvez, meanwhile, cited the significant assistance that the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines could provide in terms of vaccine storage and manpower for the rollout of the country's inoculation program against Covid-19.

Once a viable vaccine for procurement is identified, the local government units (LGUs) are in-charge of strategic communication and logistical information system.

Galvez cited the vital role of LGUs in the country's pandemic response as they are the ones who can identify the priority sectors for the planned vaccination program.

"The organizational structure for the vaccination rollout is composed of inter-agency approach and the majority of the information needed during the implementation will be coming from the health sectors and the LGUs," Galvez said. **(PNA)**



'What's your problem?': Duterte chides critics on his absence during Rolly's onslaught

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Nov 3, 2020 5:31:13 AM

Updated Nov 3, 2020 4:51:00 PM



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte is accompanied by Senator Christopher "Bong" Go as he arrives at the Malacañang Golf (Malago) Clubhouse after conducting an aerial inspection of areas hardest hit by Typhoon Rolly in the Bicol and Calabarzon regions on November 2, 2020. ALBERTO ALCAIN/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 3) – President Rodrigo Duterte lambasted his critics on Monday after being away from the public eye during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly.

This year's strongest storm battered the Bicol Region on Sunday with thousands of houses destroyed, left billions of damage in property and agriculture, and killed 20 persons according to the latest tally of the Office of Civil Defense Region 5.

"Iyong nagsabi na wala ako rito kasi wala, nasa probinsya, so, what's your problem? Ang mga papeles pinadala, tapos pirmahan ko. Ipadala ko ulit. Eh, machine lang naman iyan," Duterte said in a meeting with Cabinet members and disaster officials in Malacañang.

[Translation: Those who said that I was not here because I was in the province, so, what's your problem? The documents were sent, I signed them and sent them back. Those can be done through a machine.]

The President said he was in his hometown Davao City when the super typhoon hit Bicol and parts of Southern Luzon. He also skipped an emergency briefing on Sunday, led by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, where government officials assessed the damage left by Rolly.

Many netizens used the hashtag #NasaanAngPangulo and #PatayNaBa, which trended online for hours on Sunday, to express their displeasure over Duterte's absence.

The President is in good health, his spokesperson Harry Roque insisted as he pointed out that the 75-year-old leader is well enough to visit a typhoon-struck community in Albay.

"He is as good as anyone of his age. Siguro naman, hindi siya makakapunta sa Guinobatan kung hindi mabuti ang kalusugan ng ating Presidente [The President would not have been able to fly to Guinobatan if he wasn't in good shape]," Roque told reporters during his Tuesday briefing, while admitting that the President might have grown irritated after people went looking for him in the middle of a raging storm.

Duterte was also seen removing his face mask while in front of a crowd of typhoon victims that gathered to see him, which appeared to be a violation of health protocols. His spokesman came to his defense to say that the President simply could not resist facing the community despite the risk.



Duterte emphasized those who live in provinces like him regularly travel in their hometown for vacations and celebrate occasions such as All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. He visited the grave of his parents in Davao City last Wednesday.

"Kaya nga ako nauwi. Itong mga ugok naman, sinabi na wala ako. I was waiting for the typhoon to pass, then lumipad ako," he said.

[Translation: This is why I came home. Then this stupid people say I'm absent. I was waiting for the typhoon to pass, then I flew.]

Duterte also sarcastically mentioned the controversial crushed dolomite beach in Manila Bay in firing back at his critics.

"Do you want me to stand in the white sand [crushed dolomite beach] of [Environment Secretary] Roy Cimatu just to see that I am here?" the President added.

Duterte led the aerial survey of Albay and Catanduanes, provinces hardly hit by Rolly. He later visited the town of Guinobatan in Albay to personally see the damage inflicted by the super typhoon.

Roque explained in a press briefing on Monday afternoon that Duterte needed to rest on a Sunday.

"We were expecting landfall yesterday, and besides it was Sunday. Just because the President was in Mindanao does not mean he was not working. The President works 24/7," Roque said.

Super Typhoon Rolly has weakened into a tropical storm as it is expected to leave the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Tuesday morning. It made four landfalls on Sunday in the towns of Bato, Catanduanes; Tiwi, Albay; San Narciso, Quezon; and Lobo, Batangas.



EDITORIAL - After the storm, not during the storm

(The Freeman) - November 4, 2020 - 12:00am



As super typhoon Rolly unleashed its wrath on different parts of Luzon, many people were asking where President Rodrigo Duterte was. People noted his absence during a press briefing by Cabinet members after Rolly had hit, as well as in the areas devastated by the typhoon.

The reactions became so numerous it led to the adoption of a hashtag, #NasaanAngPangulo.

One critic even went as far as to say his absence was an abandonment of duty, while another said a true leader is one who “stays where the crisis is.”

However, during a speech made after the typhoon had passed, the president defended his absence.

"Itong mga ugok naman sinasabing wala ako (but) I was just waiting for the typhoon to pass... Kung wala kayong patay, okay lang. Kaming mayroon, kailangan umuwi kami doon sa amin... Do you want me to stand doon sa white sand ni (DENR Secretary) Roy Cimatu just to show that I am here?" Duterte was quoted as saying.

First, just like any of us, the president has every right to come home to visit his dearly departed during All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

Second, and more importantly, there is really no need for the president to put himself in harm's way by going someplace that is sure to be in the path of the typhoon.

Yes, his presence can help boost relief and rescue efforts in any area he is in, but there is really no need for him to endanger himself. When you consider that he is also the highest official of the land, doing so would just be foolhardy, not just for himself but also for the country.



And those critics who are blasting him for not being in the danger zone? Most likely they will also criticize him for what they will call a dangerous publicity stunt if he actually stays where Rolly is letting loose with its rains and winds.

Remember that time a certain high-ranking government official knowingly put himself in the path of a typhoon? That really didn't pan out so well.

Critics are actually right in saying that the president should be in the areas where the typhoon hit. But he should go there only after the danger has passed and not while the tempest is still ongoing.



'Siony' slightly intensifies, threatens extreme N. Luzon

By Ma. Cristina Arayata **November 3, 2020, 2:03 pm**



(Image grabbed from PAGASA's Facebook page)

MANILA – Tropical Storm (TS) Siony (international name: Atsani) slightly intensified, while TS Rolly (Goni) is about to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), the weather bureau said in its 11 a.m. bulletin on Tuesday.

“Siony” now packs a maximum sustained winds of 85 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center, and gustiness of up to 105 kph. It was last seen 565 kilometers (km) east of Basco, Batanes, slowly moving east northeastward.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) forecast “Siony” to intensify into a severe tropical storm in the next 24 to 36 hours, and may reach the typhoon category on Thursday. It may also make landfall over extreme Northern Luzon.

Meanwhile, the northeasterlies and the trough of “Siony” will continue to bring light to moderate with at times heavy rains over Batanes, Apayao, Cagayan, and Isabela.

Further, the northeasterlies enhanced by the two tropical storms will cause strong to near gale conditions with higher gusts over Batanes, Babuyan Islands, and the northern portion of Cagayan and Ilocos Norte.

“Rolly” was last seen 540 km west of Subic, Zambales, and is forecast to exit PAR on Tuesday.

Rough to very rough seas will prevail over the seaboard of Northern Luzon.

Moderate to rough seas will be experienced over the remaining seaboard of Luzon, and the eastern seaboard of Visayas and Mindanao, PAGASA said. **(PNA)**



US, Australia mobilize aid to help 'Rolly'-hit PH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **November 3, 2020, 8:39 pm**



Aerial photo of super typhoon Rolly aftermath in Catanduanes. (Photo from National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Facebook page)

MANILA – The United States and Australia have mobilized humanitarian assistance to support the Philippines recover from the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly last November 1.

US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires John Law on Tuesday said Washington is working with different international organizations in the Philippines to provide relief to the hard-hit areas.

"Our thoughts are with those affected by typhoon Rolly. The U.S. stands ready to help. We are working with WFP (World Food Programme) Philippines and the IOM (International Organization for Migration) Philippines to deliver relief supplies and provide emergency shelter supplies in Bicol," he said in a tweet.

The US Embassy in Manila said about 35 trucks were provided to the government to assist in the delivery of supplies.

Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven Robinson said Canberra has also provided emergency shelter kits, through the Philippine Red Cross.

"I extend my sympathies to the people of the Philippines for the loss of life due to Rolly. Australia is supporting the Philippine government's response efforts, with the Philippine Red Cross we are assisting 1,000 vulnerable families in Bicol Region with sleeping, hygiene and emergency shelter kits," he said in a tweet Monday.

He commended the Philippines' preparedness measures despite the challenges of the coronavirus disease pandemic.

"Australia stands ready to support the Philippine govt, and we are working with humanitarian partners in identifying needs. This is a time for mateship and bayanihan," he said.

China, meanwhile, said it is ready to join the government's recovery efforts to help those affected by the typhoon as it sent a message of solidarity to the Filipino people.

"We are deeply saddened by the massive destruction caused by Typhoon Rolly (Goni). Our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the victims and the families who have suffered immense losses of lives and properties, and sincerely hope for speedy recovery in the affected areas," the Chinese Embassy in Manila said in a statement.

On Monday, Turkey's Foreign Ministry extended its condolences to the relatives of the victims and people of the Philippines affected by the typhoon.

The ministry said it learned with sorrow about the loss of lives and extensive damage it caused.

It also wished a speedy recovery to the injured. **(PNA with reports from Anadolu)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1120649>



'Rolly' leaves Bicol Region in shambles

Published 2 mins ago on November 4, 2020 05:06 AM

By [Jun de Leoz](#)



PHILIPPINE Red Cross volunteer surveys the damage in Guinobatan, Albay's Barangay San Francisco, where houses were buried under lahar from Mayon Volcano. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PHIL RED CROSS

Residents of Albay in super typhoon-hit Bicol Region reported seeing bodies floating on rivers the day after "Rolly" battered their province.

One body was found Monday morning near Purok 4 in Barangay Tagas, Daraga, while another was spotted near Nagasgasan Bridge in Barangay Obaliw-Rinas in Oas town.

Clara Jacob, the netizen who posted the Daraga incident, said the body was found with a cash-filled wallet but without identification cards. The body was taken to Bejer Funeral Homes.

The body found in Oas was processed by the municipal police, according to netizen Luisa Rayco.

In an interview with the Daily Tribune, Rayco said body looked that of a boy around 12 years old.

As of press time, the death toll in the Bicol Region was placed at 20 (14 in Albay, six in Catanduanes) while damage to agriculture and infrastructure have initially reached P5.7 billion, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.

Ten towns in Albay and 29 in Camarines Sur were flooded while lahar flow damaged houses in Guinobatan and Camalig, Sto. Domingo and Tabaco City in Albay.

Help

In Sorsogon, Governor Chiz Escudero said they sent teams to help Albay in road-clearing, relief and rescue operations.

They were composed of the 903rd, 22nd and 31st Infantry Division of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Department of Public Works and Highways, Sorsogon Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office and Provincial Engineering Office. From the Sorsogon-Daraga boundary in Barangay Villa Hermosa, they traveled to Daraga until Polangui.

Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella also mobilized an assessment team to assist Bicol.

Cebu City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office head Ramil Ayuman said they met with Labella, Cebu City Department of Social Welfare and Service and other emergency response offices.



Bishop Sofronio Bancud of the Diocese of Cabanatuan, meanwhile, encouraged those who were spared by the super typhoon, the country's 18th storm this year, to help those heavily affected.

He called for material and spiritual support while parishes within the diocese will facilitate and receive donations.

"Proceeds from donations and relief goods will be immediately sent to the needy dioceses in the Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions," the bishop said.

Bataan's fear

In Bataan, Dinalupihan Mayor Angela Garcia said that there is a need to build an evacuation facility to prevent another "Rolly" from claiming lives in her town.

The OCD approved the town's plan to build a P40-million multipurpose evacuation center on a 1,500-square meter property in Barangay Colo.

"The evacuation facility will be a refuge for residents of Dinalupihan during typhoons and other disasters and calamities. Our area is known for geohazards, flooding and landslides especially during the rainy season," she said.

Garcia said all their 46 village chiefs are aware of the dangers in their areas and have enough knowledge on what to do during disasters.

**WITH A REPORT FROM SUNDY T. LOCUS,
JONAS REYES**



Bagyong 'Rolly' pinalaki mga bitak na gawa ng Bulkang Taal noong Enero

(Philstar.com) - November 2, 2020 - 6:51pm



Litrato ng mapanganib na "fissures" o bitak sa lupa na gawa ng Bulkang Taal noong Enero, na pinalaki at pinalalim sa 10 metro ng bagyong "Rolly" nitong weekend
News5/JC Cosico

MANILA, Philippines — Pinangangambahan ngayon ng ilang residente sa Batangas ang lalong paglalim at paglaki ng ilang "fissures" — o bitak sa lupa — na nilikha ng Bulkang Taal nitong Enero, bagay na lumala sa pagdaan ng noo'y Super Typhoon Rolly nitong weekend.

Ayon sa otoridad ng baranggay Mataas na Bayan sa bayan ng Lemery, Batangas, nangyari ang nabanggit dahil sa "erosion" na nangyari sa lupa sanhi ng dumaang bagyo — na pinakamalakas sa daigdig ngayong 2020.

Hindi bababa sa 10 metro ang lalim ng mga naturang bitak, sabi ng Lemery Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office ngayong Lunes.

LOOK | Nangangamba ang ilang taga-Barangay Mataas na Bayan, Lemery, Batangas dahil sa malalim at malaking bitak sa lupa. Ayon sa mga residente, nagkaroon ng bitak matapos ang pagputok ng Taal Volcano noong Enero. [@News5PH](#) [@onenewsph](#) pic.twitter.com/0TmZ0Mgoha

— JC Cosico (@JCCosico) [November 2, 2020](#)

Maliban sa Lemery, pinabaha rin ng nasabing bagyo ang ilang bahagi ng Batangas nitong Linggo gaya na lang ng lungsod ng Lipa.

Pinaguho rin ng sama ng panahon ang ilang lupa sa baranggay San Miguel sa Lobo, Batangas, dahilan para mahirapang makatawid ang maraming residente.



Matatandaang sumabog at umabot sa Alert Level 4 ang Bulkang Taal noong Enero, dahilan para lumikas ang libu-libong katao sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Luzon.

Sa lakas ng pagsabog, umabot pa hanggang Metro Manila ang ilan sa mapanganib na "volcanic ash" ng Taal.

Una nang sinabi ni Renato Solidum, officer-in-charge ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology na delikado ang mga nasabing fissures at dapat layuan ng mga residente.

"Delikado yan at pag may malakas na lindol, gagalaw pa yan. Ang suggestion namin ay iwasan ang mga bitak na lupa, at least 5 meters away," ani Solidum [10 buwan na ang nakalilipas](#).

Umabot na sa 16 ang patay sa bagyong "Rolly," marami mula sa probinsya ng lalawigan ng Catanduanes.

Umabot ito hanggang Signal no. 5 sa ilang probinsya ng Bikol, ngunit [nasa 225 kilometro na ito kanluran ng Iba, Zambales ngayong 4 p.m.](#), ayon sa huling ulat ng PAGASA. — **James Relativo at may mga ulat mula kay News5/JC Cosico**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2020/11/02/2054105/bagyong-rolly-pinalaki-mga-bitak-na-gawa-ng-bulkang-taal-noong-enero/amp/>



Bushfire koalas going back to the wild

Bushfire koalas going back to the wildClose

Australia's peak bushfire season is rapidly approaching – with all eyes on whether the blazes will be anywhere near as bad as the devastation of last year.

As well as claiming more than 30 lives and destroying thousands of homes – the country's wildlife was also terribly hit.

One of the worst-affected areas was Kangaroo Island in South Australia – a place renowned for its biodiversity and for one very Australian animal in particular, the koala.

About 50,000 of the cuddly creatures lived there before the fires but it's now feared as few as 5,000 are left.

- [Bushfires bring 'apocalypse' to Kangaroo Island](#)

Video by Simon Atkinson



Sri Lanka: Rescuers rush to save beached pilot whales

Sri Lanka: Rescuers rush to save beached pilot whalesClose

Around 100 pilot whales have beached themselves near the Sri Lankan capital Colombo.

Navy personnel and local volunteers have rushed to rescue them, but pushing the animals back into the ocean has been difficult as many get washed up again.

It's not clear why whales get stranded but it's not uncommon.

In September, hundreds of whales died on an Australian beach, in one of the largest strandings on record.