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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



4 composite teams to probe quarry operations in Rizal province –DENR

Published December 10, 2020, 6:02 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has formed four composite teams to investigate quarry operations in Rizal province following a massive flooding that submerged some parts of the province and Marikina City during the onslaught of typhoon Ulysses last month.

Through its Region 4A office, the DENR will be equipped with aerial mapping drones to investigate the quarry operations specifically within the Marikina River Basin.

The composite teams were created in line with a memorandum order issued by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Region 4A temporarily suspending at least 11 quarry and crushing plant operators within the river basin, which river system drains toward the Marikina River.

Each team is composed of representatives from the DENR-CALABARZON, and central and regional offices of the MGB, Environmental Management Bureau, and Biodiversity Management Bureau.

The suspension order was issued against 11 companies, five of them are holders of mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs)—Asensio-Pinzon Aggregates Corporation, San Rafael Development Corporation, Montalban Millex Aggregates Corporation, Hardrock Aggregates, Inc., and Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation.

Also suspended were six firms with existing mineral processing permits—Oxford Mines, Inc., Viba Aggregates & Marketing; Amiterra Aggregates Corporation, Dream Rock Resources Phils., Inc., Superior Aggregates, Inc., and ATN Holdings, Inc.

It provides that the suspension is effective until the composite teams have completed their assessments and submitted their reports on the cause of the extreme flooding.

DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement, Mining, and Muslim Affairs Jim Sampulna described the directive as “very timely” considering the situation in Marikina City and portions of Rizal province.

“The DENR has to reevaluate the operation of all mining companies in the area so we can find out whether they contributed to the massive flooding during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses,” Sampulna said.

According to MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano, the directive was in response to a call made by Rizal provincial government.

Governor Rebecca Ynares had earlier urged the DENR to suspend the mining permits of quarry operators in the province pending the conduct of a comprehensive probe as to whether quarrying contributed to the floods.

Moncano said the MGB has already instructed the holders of mining permits in the area to use their Development of Mining Technology and Geosciences Funds to conduct research on the sediment influx of quarry operation to determine its contribution to the siltation of Marikina River.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/12/10/4-composite-teams-to-probe-quarry-operations-in-rizal-province-denr/>



DENR suspends quarrying, crushing plant permits of 11 firms in Rizal

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINO](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:40 PM December 10, 2020



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO / GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has suspended the quarrying and crushing plant permits of 11 companies in Rizal.

During the hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change on Thursday, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu enumerated the firms whose Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) have been suspended.

“Effective December 2, the following MPSA holders are suspended,” Cimatu told the panel as he enumerated the names of these companies:

- MPSA No. 070-97-IV of Asencio-Pinzon Aggregates Corp. (APAC)
- MPSA No. 136-99-IV of San Rafael Development Corp. (SRDC)
- MPSA No. 239-2007-IV of Montalban Millex Aggregates Corp. (MMAC)
- MPSA No. 202-2004-IV of Hardrock Aggregates, Inc. (HAI)
- MPSA Nos. 064-96-IV, 075-97-IV and 088-97-IV of Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation (RCRDC)

The committee was tackling Senate Resolution No. 581 that seeks discussion on the protection and conservation of the country’s forest cover and waterways.

According to the website of the DENR’s Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MRB) in Calabarzon, the following Mineral Processing Permits (MPP) in the province were likewise suspended:

- MPP No. 2017-002-IVA of Oxford Mines, Inc. (OMI)
- MPP No. 2018-001-IVA of Viba Aggregates & Marketing (VAM)
- MPP No. 2018-003-IVA of Amiterra Aggregates Corp. (AAC)
- MPP No. 2019-002-IVA of Dream Rock Resources Phils., Inc. (DRRPI)
- MPP No. 2019-003-IVA of Superior Aggregates, Inc.
- MPP No. 2020-001-IV of ATN Holdings, Inc. (AHI)

According to MRB, the suspension is in compliance with a memorandum dated December 2, where it ordered the temporary suspension of all quarrying and crushing plant operations in Rizal within the coverage of the Marikina River Basin.



In ordering the suspension of the quarrying operations, the MRB noted that the river system of the Marikina River Basin drains toward the Marikina River.

“In compliance with the Memorandum dated December 2, 2020, wherein the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director ordered/delegated to the Regional Director the issuance of the temporary suspension of all quarry and crushing plant operations in Rizal Province within the coverage of Marikina River Basin which river system drains toward the Marikina River, the quarrying and crushing plant operations under the following Mineral Contracts/Permits are ordered temporarily suspended,” MRB said in its website.

“The listed permits shall remain suspended until a joint assessment with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Composite Team has been completed and the cause of flooding in San Mateo and Rodriguez, Rizal and in Marikina City during Typhoon Ulysses on November 12, 2020 has been identified,” the bureau added.



DENR suspends 11 mining, quarrying permits in Rizal

Published December 10, 2020, 5:45 PM

by [Vanne Elaine Terrazola](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has already suspended the permits of 11 mining and quarrying firms in Rizal following the flooding caused by Typhoon Ulysses.

During the Senate inquiry Thursday on the state of the country's forests and watersheds in relation to massive floods last month, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu disclosed the companies whose Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) were suspended effective December 2:

1. MPSA No. 070-97-IV of Asencio-Pinzon Aggregates Corp. (APAC);
2. MPSA No. 136-99-IV of San Rafael Development Corp. (SRDC);
3. MPSA No. 239-2007-IV of Montalban Millex Aggregates Corp. (MMAC);
4. MPSA No. 202-2004-IV of Hardrock Aggregates, Inc. (HAI);
5. MPSA Nos. 064-96-IV, 075-97-IV and 088-97-IV of Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation (RCRDC)

An MPSA is an agreement between the government and a company which gives the latter the right to mine within an area. The government, in return, shall have a share in the company's production.

The DENR secretary referred to an order issued by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 4-A (Calabarzon) director Samuel Paragas amid the investigation on the cause of flooding in Rizal and Marikina during Typhoon Ulysses.

The same order also suspended the Mineral Processing Permits (MPPs) of the following firms:

1. MPP No. 2017-002-IVA of Oxford Mines, Inc. (OMI);
2. MPP No. 2018-001-IVA of Viba Aggregates & Marketing (VAM);
3. MPP No. 2018-003-IVA of Amiterra Aggregates Corp. (AAC);
4. MPP No. 2019-002-IVA of Dream Rock Resources Phils., Inc. (DRRPI);
5. MPP No. 2019-003-IVA of Superior Aggregates, Inc.; and
6. MPP No. 2020-001-IV of ATN Holdings, Inc. (AHI).

An MPP refers to the permit granted to an individual or corporation to process and convert by-products into marketable products.

“The listed permits shall remain suspended until a joint assessment with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Composite Team has been completed and the cause of flooding in San Mateo and Rodriguez, Rizal and in Marikina City during Typhoon Ulysses on November 12, 2020 has been identified,” the order stated.

Late last month, the provincial government of Rizal ordered the stoppage of small-scale mining and quarrying operations and related activities within its jurisdiction due to the flooding.

Reading a letter from Rizal Governor Rebecca Ynares, former governor Casimiro “Jun” Ynares III called on the national government and the DENR to permanently stop large-scale mining and quarrying operations in their province.

They also appealed for greater participation of local government units in the DENR's issuance of permits and in deciding over the disposition of their resources.

“Ang aming mga kababayan ang una po kasing dumadanas ng bunga ng labis na paggamit ng likas na yaman sa aming lalawigan (Our people are the ones who bear the brunt of the excessive use of the natural resources of our province),” Ynares said.

Cimatu, in the hearing, also said mining and quarrying are “a big no” in watersheds and all protected areas of the country.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/12/10/denr-suspends-11-mining-quarrying-permits-in-rizal/>



DENR suspends 11 quarry operators

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - December 11, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has suspended 11 quarry operators in Rizal as the DENR probes their possible liability for the siltation of the Marikina River, believed to have caused the massive flooding in the city during Typhoon Ulysses.

In an order dated Dec. 2, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the DENR suspended 11 quarry and crushing plant companies operating within the Marikina River Basin.

Of these companies, five are holders of mineral production sharing agreements: Asensio-Pinzon Aggregates Corp., San Rafael Development Corp., Montalban Millex Aggregates Corp., Hardrock Aggregates Inc. and Rapid City Realty and Development Corp.

The other suspended firms are holders of mineral processing permits. These are Oxford Mines Inc., Viba Aggregates & Marketing, Amiterra Aggregates Corp., Dream Rock Resources Phils. Inc., Superior Aggregates Inc. and ATN Holdings Inc.

The DENR said the suspension order would stay until it finishes the probe on the cause of the flooding in Marikina and Rizal.



DENR suspends quarry, crushing plant ops of 11 companies in Rizal

Published December 10, 2020 5:38pm

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

The quarrying and crushing plant operations of several companies in Rizal have been suspended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, its chief Roy Cimatu said Thursday.

During the Senate hearing conducted by the committee on environment on the protection and conservation of the country's forest cover, Cimatu made a run-down of the following firms whose Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) had been temporarily suspended, effective December 2:

- MPSA No. 070-97-IV of Asencio-Pinzon Aggregates Corp. (APAC)
- MPSA No. 136-99-IV of San Rafael Development Corp. (SRDC)
- MPSA No. 239-2007-IV of Montalban Millex Aggregates Corp. (MMAC)
- MPSA No. 202-2004-IV of Hardrock Aggregates, Inc. (HAI)
- MPSA Nos. 064-96-IV, 075-97-IV and 088-97-IV of Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation (RCRDC)

Information from the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Calabarzon's website showed that the Mineral Processing Permits of following had also been suspended:

- MPP No. 2017-002-IVA of Oxford Mines, Inc. (OMI);
- MPP No. 2018-001-IVA of Viba Aggregates & Marketing (VAM);
- MPP No. 2018-003-IVA of Amiterra Aggregates Corp. (AAC);
- MPP No. 2019-002-IVA of Dream Rock Resources Phils., Inc. (DRRPI);
- MPP No. 2019-003-IVA of Superior Aggregates, Inc.; and
- MPP No. 2020-001-IV of ATN Holdings, Inc. (AHI).

The operations of these companies are within the coverage of Marikina River Basin, which river system drains toward the Marikina River, according to the DENR-MGB Calabarzon.

Their permits shall remain suspended until the DENR's assessment is completed and after the cause of flooding in San Mateo and Rodriguez, Rizal and in Marikina City during Typhoon Ulysses on November 12, 2020 has been identified, it added. — BM, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/767526/denr-suspends-quarry-crushing-plant-ops-of-11-companies-in-rizal/story/>



Quarrying, crushing plant permits ng 11 kompanya sa Rizal, sinuspinde ng DENR

By **Bombo Bam Orpilla** - December 10, 2020 | 7:05 PM

Sinuspinde ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang quarrying at crushing plant permit ng 11 kompanya sa lalawigan ng Rizal.

Sa isang pagding sa Senado, inisa-isa ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang pangalan ng mga kompanyang pinatawan ng suspensyon sa kanilang Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA).

Kabilang sa mga ito ay ang Asencio-Pinzon Aggregates Corp. (APAC); San Rafael Development Corp. (SRDC); Montalban Millex Aggregates Corp. (MMAC); Hardrock Aggregates, Inc. (HAI); at Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation (RCRDC).

Maliban dito, batay sa Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), suspendido rin ang Mineral Processing Permits (MPP) ng mga sunusunod na kompanya:

Oxford Mines, Inc.
Viba Aggregates & Marketing
Dream Rock Resources Phils., Inc.
Superior Aggregates, Inc.
ATN Holdings, Inc. (AHI)

Ayon sa MGB, ang suspensyon ay alinsunod sa inilabas na memorandum noong Disyembre 2 kung saan ipinag-utos nito ang temporary suspension ng lahat ng quarrying at crushing plant operations sa Rizal na sakop ng Marikina River Basin.

"In compliance with the Memorandum dated December 2, 2020, wherein the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director ordered/delegated to the Regional Director the issuance of the temporary suspension of all quarry and crushing plant operations in Rizal Province within the coverage of Marikina River Basin which river system drains toward the Marikina River, the quarrying and crushing plant operations under the following Mineral Contracts/Permits are ordered temporarily suspended," saad ng ahensya sa kanilang website.

"The listed permits shall remain suspended until a joint assessment with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Composite Team has been completed and the cause of flooding in San Mateo and Rodriguez, Rizal and in Marikina City during Typhoon Ulysses on November 12, 2020 has been identified," dagdag nito.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/quarrying-crushing-plant-permits-ng-11-kompanya-sa-rizal-sinuspinde-ng-denr/>



DENR probes quarry ops in Rizal after massive flood in province, Marikina City

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:21 AM December 11, 2020



FLOODED CITY The storm dumped heavy rain that swelled the Marikina River, which topped its banks and flooded communities near the waterway, forcing evacuations. INQUIRER FILE/RICHARD A. REYES/November 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is launching an investigation into quarry operations in Rizal after heavy flooding hit the province and Marikina City last month.

This comes as DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Region 4A temporarily suspended at least 11 quarry and crushing plant operators within the Marikina River Basin. According to the agency, it formed four composite teams equipped with aerial mapping drones to focus on the quarry operations within the river basin, which residents blamed for the destructive floods brought by typhoon Ulysses.

Torrential rains due to Ulysses pushed the water level in the Marikina River to swell over 22 meters –higher than what it reached in 2009 because of Typhoon Ondoy, inundating Marikina City, and low-lying areas in Rizal like parts of San Mateo, Rodriguez, and Cainta.

Meanwhile, the 11 companies that MGB suspended include five which have mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs):

- Asensio-Pinzon Aggregates Corporation
- San Rafael Development Corporation
- Montalban Millex Aggregates Corporation
- Hardrock Aggregates, Inc.
- Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation

On the other hand, the remaining six companies that were ordered suspended by MGB have existing mineral processing permits:

- Oxford Mines, Inc.
- Viba Aggregates & Marketing
- Amiterra Aggregates Corporation
- Dream Rock Resources Phils., Inc.
- Superior Aggregates, Inc.
- ATN Holdings, Inc.



DENR said the suspended operations of the mentioned establishments would last until the composite teams have completed their assessments.

DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement, Mining, and Muslim Affairs Jim Sampulna said that the suspensions were necessary to the investigations.

“The DENR has to reevaluate the operation of all mining companies in the area so we can find out whether they contributed to the massive flooding during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses,” Sampulna said.

In 2017, late environmentalist and former DENR secretary Gina Lopez warned about the ill effects of deforestation and quarrying near the Marikina watershed as she believed it may result in massive floods. Lopez had explained that a watershed serves as a line of defense against the gush of water from Luzon’s highlands.

Lopez’s appointment as DENR chief was rejected by the Commission on Appointments.



Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1370548/denr-probes-quarry-ops-in-rizal-after-massive-flood-in-province-marikina-city>



Rizal gov't suspends permits of quarrying firms, urges DENR to halt mining agreements

Katrina Domingo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 10 2020 08:43 PM



Rizal residents carry their goods and belongings along a trail covered with huge rocks after Typhoon Ulysses damaged the area near Wawa Dam in Rodriguez, Rizal, on November 21, 2020. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News.*

MANILA - The provincial government of Rizal has ordered the suspension of all "quarrying and mining operations and related activities" in the province, according to a document presented in the Senate on Thursday.

Under Rizal Province's Memorandum Order No. 2020-01, all quarrying activities and related operations in the province are "ordered stopped and shall remain to be such unless and until authorized to resume operations for just cause or reason."

In the same document, Rizal Governor Rebecca Ynares urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to order the "immediate stoppage of all mining tenement agreements that it granted in the province."

Quarrying and mining firms, as well as "crushing plant operations" that received permits from the DENR cover nearly 5,000 hectares in Rizal, the memorandum read.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the permits of some quarrying firms have been suspended as of December 2.

Senate Committee on Environment chair Cynthia Villar directed Cimatu to submit to the chamber a list of the quarrying and mining firms that have been suspended, as well as the history of each company to see if some firms have committed repeated violations of some environmental laws.

The Rizal Provincial Government earlier blamed quarrying and mining activities in the province for the flash floods and landslides in some towns and villages, especially during the typhoon season.

Rizal was among the most devastated provinces in the country after a series of typhoons battered Luzon last month.

A portion of Rizal's forests and terrain form part of the Marikina Watershed, known to be Metro Manila's "first line of defense" when it comes to floods triggered by typhoons.

An environmentalist earlier described the Marikina Watershed's current condition as similar to having "stage 4 cancer."

In 2018, the DENR said it would suspend quarrying in Rizal towns after habagat floods swamped several communities in the province and nearby cities. However, several mining firms continue to operate in the area two years on.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/10/20/rizal-govt-suspends-permits-of-quarrying-firms-urges-denr-to-halt-mining-agreements/>



Small-scale na minahan pinasara ng DENR

By: Abante News Online — Last updated Dec 10, 2020

VISMIN



Photo courtesy of facebook.com/DENROfficial



Ipinag-utos ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu sa Mines ang Geosciences Bureau (MGB) sa Region 12 ang agarang pagpapasara sa illegal small-scale mining operation sa Magpet, Cotabato.

Ang mining site ay nasa 10 kilometro ang layo sa Mt. Apo Natural Park. Ito ay hindi pa idinedeclarang minahang bayan o lugar kung saan papayagan ang lahat ng small-scale miners na mag-operate.

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“Whether big or small, any illegal mining activity will have to stop,” ayon pa kay Cimatu at idinagdag pa nito na sasampahan ng kaso ang lahat ng nasa likod ng illegal mining activity.

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Ang direktibang ito ni Cimatu ay base na sa pinagsamang operasyon ng DENR, MGB, local government ng Cotabato at ng Armed Forces of the Philippines sa Brqy. Don Panaca noong Disyembre 7.

Natuklasan ng grupo na ang sinalakay na lugar ay mayroong five-meter tunnel na nagpapatunay na ang mining operation ay nagsisimula pa lamang.

Natagpuan sa tunnel ang 25 sako kung saan ay naglalaman ang bawat isa ng tinatayang 90 kilograms ng ore. Ang isa namang sako ay nakita sa kahabaan ng Balingos River na matatagpuan sa

tabi ng tunrel. Wala namang inabutang minero sa pagsakalay. (Riz Dominguez)



Cimatu orders closure of small-scale mining in Cotabato

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

December 11, 2020

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered the immediate closure of an illegal small-scale mining operation in Magpet town, Cotabato province.

The DENR chief instructed the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Region 12 to shut down a mining site located some 10 kilometers away from the Mt. Apo Natural Park, as it has not been declared a “Minahang Bayan” or a common area where small-scale miners are allowed to operate.

“Whether big or small, any illegal mining activity will have to stop,” Cimatu said, as he also ordered the filing of charges against those behind the illegal mining activity.

The directive was an offshoot of a joint operation conducted by the DENR, MGB, the local government of Cotabato, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Barangay Don Panaca on Dec. 7.

Acting on a tipoff, the team raided the area and discovered a five-meter tunnel indicating that the mining operation was still in its early stage.

Inside the tunnel were around 25 sacks, each containing approximately 90 kilograms of ore. Another sack was seen along Balingos River located beside the tunnel.

MGB 12 Director Felizardo Gacad Jr. said a cease-and-desist order will be issued against the illegal mining operation, while criminal charges are being readied against the illegal miners and their financiers.

“Records from the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board of Cotabato and MGB 12 show that there is no declared Minahang Bayan in the Municipality of Magpet in Cotabato, hence, the operation is illegal,” Gacad said.

According to a report prepared by the MGB 12, there was no ongoing mining activity or operation at the time of the raid, but signs of recent extraction were observed.

The report also noted that there was also no heavy mining equipment found in the area, although three shovels and one metal bar were seen outside the tunnel which indicated that the operations were done manually.

The mining operation was a clear violation of Republic Act 7942 or the “Philippine Mining Act of 1995.



Illegal mining site in Cotabato ordered closed

Thursday, December 10, 2020 Cory Martinez14

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has ordered the closure of a small-scale mining site illegally operating in Magpet, Cotabato. The said mining site is located some 10 kilometers away from the Mt. Apo Natural Park. It has not been declared a minahang bayan or a common area where small-scale miners are allowed to operate.

Cimatu issued the order following a joint operation conducted by the DENR, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the Cotabato local government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Barangay Don Panaca on Dec. 7.

"Whether big or small, any illegal mining activity will have to stop," Cimatu said, as he also ordered the filing of charges against those behind the illegal mining activity. During the operation, the team discovered a five-meter tunnel indicating that the mining operation was still in its early stage.

Inside the tunnel were around 25 sacks, each containing approximately 90 kilograms of ore. Another sack was seen along Balingos River located beside the tunnel.

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"Records from the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board of Cotabato and MGB 12 show that there is no declared minahang bayan in the Municipality of Magpet or in the Province of Cotabato, hence, the operation is illegal," Gacad said.

According to a report prepared by the MGB 12, there was no ongoing mining activity or operation at the time of the raid, but signs of recent extraction were observed.

The report also noted that there was also no heavy mining equipment found in the area, although three shovels and one metal bar were seen outside the tunnel which indicated that the operations were done manually.

The mining operation is a clear violation of Republic Act (RA) 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), as well as RA 7076 or the Peoples Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991 and its IRR.



DENR wins lawsuit vs illegal tarantula trader

December 10, 2020, 2:58 pm



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has won a legal case against a wildlife trader who was behind the illegal shipment of over 700 pieces of live tarantulas intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last year.

In a seven-page decision dated Nov. 20, Judge Allan B. Ariola of the Pasay City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 48 has convicted Jesse Camaro for illegally transporting 757 pieces of tarantula with an estimated value of PHP310,900 and customs duties and taxes amounting to PHP54,752.

Camaro was found guilty of violating Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act and sentenced to six months imprisonment and fined PHP20,000. He was also fined PHP100,000 for violating RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the decision is “a testimony of DENR’s effectiveness in bringing justice to the voiceless wildlife species”.

“The growing number of illegal trading cases prompts us to make environmental law enforcement as one of the priorities in the DENR,” Cimatu said.

Cimatu had earlier said the bill creating the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) under the DENR should be “a priority law to protect those in the frontlines of environmental protection efforts”.

The DENR’s Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI, in cooperation with the Bureau of Customs seized the tarantulas in April 2019.

Task Force POGI is a composite team of wildlife enforcers from various agencies, including the Biodiversity Management Bureau, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Philippine National Police.

Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force Executive Director Nilo Tamoria said the creation of EPEB would not only help save lives of the enforcers, but also “make DENR more effective in enforcing environmental laws”.

“If we have an enforcement bureau, we would have more flexibility and advantage in prosecuting the individuals who continue to violate our environmental laws,” Tamoria said.

Tamoria noted that the pandemic has not hindered the illegal wildlife traders to take advantage of the situation and continue their activities that are against the law.

“It gives us more impetus on running after environmental crimes with the support we are getting from the legislature, especially with the increasing number of legislators manifesting their co-sponsorship to the EPEB Bill” Tamoria said. (DENR PR)



Wildlife trader convicted for illegal shipment of 700 tarantulas worth P311,000 in 2019

Published December 10, 2020, 10:59 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has brought justice to the “voiceless wildlife species” after securing a conviction against a wildlife trader who was behind the illegal shipment of some 700 pieces of live tarantulas last year.



(UNSPLASH / MANILA BULLETIN)

“The growing number of illegal trading cases prompts us to make environmental law enforcement as one of the priorities in the DENR,” DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a statement.

Last Nov. 20, the Pasay City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 48 convicted Jesse Camaro for illegally transporting 757 tarantulas with an estimated value of P310,900 and Customs duties and taxes amounting to P54,752.

Camaro was found guilty of violating Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act and sentenced to six months imprisonment and fined P20,000.

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The tarantulas were seized in April 2019 by the DENR Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI, in cooperation with the Bureau of Customs.

Task Force POGI is a composite team of wildlife enforcers from various agencies, including the Biodiversity Management Bureau, National Bureau of Investigation, and Philippine National Police.

Cimatu has been calling for the creation of the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) under the DENR, which should be “a priority law to protect those in the frontlines of environmental protection efforts.”

According to Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force Executive Director Nilo Tamera, the creation of EPEB would not only help save lives of the enforcers, but also “make DENR more effective in enforcing environmental laws.”

“If we have an enforcement bureau, we would have more flexibility and advantage in prosecuting the individuals who continue to violate our environmental laws,” Tamera said.



He pointed out that the pandemic has not hindered the illegal wildlife traders to take advantage of the situation and continue their activities that are against the law.

“It gives us more impetus on running after environmental crimes with the support we are getting from the legislature, especially with the increasing number of legislators manifesting their co-sponsorship to the EPEB Bill,” Tamoria said.



Negosyante guilty sa tarantula smuggling

By: Abante Tonite — Last updated: Dec 10, 2020

METRO



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Wagi ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa kasong isinampa nito laban sa wildlife trader na nasa likod ng illegal shipment ng mahigit sa 700 piraso ng buhay na tarantula na nasabat sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport noong isang taon.

Base sa pitong pahinang desisyon na inilabas nitong Nobyembre 20 ni Judge Allan B. Ariola ng Pasay City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 48, si Jesse Camaro ay napatunayang nagkasala sa illegal na pagblyaha ng 757 piraso ng tarantula na tinatayang may halagang P310,900 at customs duties at taxes na P54,752.

Si Camaro ay napatunayang nagkasala sa paglabag sa RA 9147 o Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act. Makukulong ito ng anim na buwan at magmumulta ng P20,000. Pinagmumulta rin ito ng halagang P100,000 dahil sa paglabag sa RA 10863 o ang Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, ang desisyon ng korte ay nagpapatunay lamang na epektibo ang departamento sa pagbibigay ng hustisya sa mga kaawa-awang wildlife species. (Riz Dominguez)



Gamit na face mask ihiwalay ng basurahan – DENR

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Dec 10, 2020

NEWS



19 0

Umápela ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko na huwag basta na lamang itapon ang mga ginamit na face mask ng mga ito.

Sa panayam kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ni Jon Ibanez sa programang "Balitaan at Kumustahan" sa Politiko Live nitong Húwebes, inamin niyang lumalaki ang problema sa basura ng bansa.

Pero aniya, natugunan naman nila ang problema sa mga health care waste gaya ng pagdagsa ng basurang face mask sa pamamagitan ng paglalaan ng yellow bin sa mga barangay.

Dagdag niya, dapat ihiwalay ang mga nagamit na face mask sa ibang basura at itapon sa yellow bin para maiwasan ang pagkalat ng virus.

"Kaya nga po tayo gumagamit ng face mask para proteksyunan ang mga sarili natin pero kung saan-saan natin itatapon 'yan ay ipromote lang natin na may mahawa at may magkasakit," ani Antiporda. (Issa Santiago)



DENR, DPWH ininspeksyon ang Cagayan river



December 10, 2020 @ 5:17 PM 15 hours ago

Cagayan, Philippines – Nagsagawa ng ocular inspection ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) para malaman ang aktuwal na sitwasyon ng Cagayan River sa Magapit, Lal-lo.

Pumunta sa lugar ang tatlong undersecretary ng DENR na ipinadala ni Secretary Roy Cimatu kasama si DPWH Undersecretary Roberto Bernardino.

Una rito, nakipagpulong muna ang nasabing mga opisyal kay Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba kung saan nagbigay ng briefing kaugnay sa Status ng Cagayan River Restoration Project.

Sa panayam ng REMATE Online kay Engr. James Ferrer, 1st District Engineering Office ng DPWH ay pursigido ang pamahalaan na magsagawa ng dredging activity sa Cagayan River dahil sa matinding siltation na dahilan ng madaling pagbaha sa mga Low-lying Areas tuwing may mga malalakas na pag-ulan.

Matatandaan na nitong nakaraang November 13 binaha ang malaking bahagi ng lalawigan kung saan pinaka grabe ang nangyari sa Tuguegarao City at sa mga bayan ng Alcala, Amulung, Enrile at Baggao. **Rey Velasco**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/denr-dpwh-ininspeksyon-ang-cagayan-river/>



DENR, dredgers ink Cagayan River rehab deal

By Villamor Visaya, Jr. December 10, 2020, 3:04 pm



MOA SIGNING. The memorandum of agreement on the Cagayan River Restoration Project at the DENR-Cagayan Valley regional office on Thursday (Dec. 10, 2020). Cagayan River is the country's longest and biggest river. (Photo by DENR-Region 2)

TUGUEGARAO CITY – The rehabilitation of the Cagayan River will start soon after the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and two operator-dredgers on Thursday.

The MOA on the Cagayan River Restoration Project was signed by DENR through Cagayan Valley regional executive director Gwendolyn Bambalan and the Great River North Consortium managing head Antonio Talau, and president Feng Li of Riverfront Construction Incorporated.

In 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte directed the dredging of heavily silted rivers in the Philippines including the Cagayan River, the country's longest and biggest river.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu issued last February 27, DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2020-07 rationalizing dredging activities in heavily silted river channels in the country to help restore their natural state and water flow and reduce flooding, and to protect and properly manage the disposition of sand.

The DAO also requires a holder of an approved dredging clearance to apply for an authority to dispose of extracted material from the River Dredging Zone through a memorandum of agreement with the DENR Regional Office.

It further states that to open up heavily-silted river channels, areas starting from the coastline of river deltas extending all the way upstream, following the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Dredging Master Plan, shall be designated as exclusive River Dredging Zones by the Interagency Committee (IAC).

For Cagayan River, the IAC has approved the River Dredging Plan covering 30.8 kilometers as River Dredging Zone.

“The proponents will be shouldering all the expenses related to the dredging activities,” said Bambalan, vice-chair of the IAC on the Restoration of the Cagayan River.

The regional environment chief said Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba last June 8 submitted to Cimatu plans to undertake river restoration through dredging activities and the same was approved by the DENR on June 16.

“The Interagency Committee ensures that all activities pertaining to dredging will be as compliant as possible to all the requirements imposed by the government particularly in ensuring environmental consideration in terms of dredging,” Bambalan said, adding that all the requirements were met such as the issuance of Dredging Clearance by the DPWH and the Environmental Compliance Certificate by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

In his message, Mamba, IAC chair, said the project “is a dream come true” for the province of Cagayan. “Matagal na nating pangarap ito (We been dreaming about this for so long)... We should dredge the Cagayan River to mitigate flooding in the region. We should also dredge the river to open our port, port of Aparri, which (is) closed because of the heavy siltation of the Cagayan River.”



“Napakalaking tulong at napakalaking oportunidad nito para sa ating lahat (This is a big help and big opportunity for all of us). We can be connected to our neighbors up north who are economic tigers of Asia. We need them and they need us,” Mamba added.

Under the MOA, the DENR shall conduct survey of non-metallic and metallic resources in the River Dredging Zone to determine metallic and other valuable materials in economic quantities. It shall also monitor the operation of the operator-dredger to ensure faithful compliance with applicable environmental laws, rules, and regulations.

The dredging companies shall undertake the project without any funding from the government and bear the full cost of the project including the disposal of the dredged materials; and shall not process dredged materials and shall dispose the same outside the Philippine territorial jurisdiction.

They shall also report to the DENR all findings of precious metals or objects which they may inadvertently come across which may be of local or national interest.

During the MOA signing, Mines and Geosciences Bureau regional head Mario Ancheta issued the certificate of accreditation to the two companies as dealers, traders, and/ or retailers of minerals/mineral products and/or by-products.

The accreditation is solely for Cagayan River Restoration via dredging and shall be valid for two years. (PNA)



DENR taps two firms to dredge Cagayan River

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

December 11, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is tapping two companies to undertake the massive rehabilitation of the Cagayan River, the country's largest river.

In a news statement, the DENR announced that Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn C. Bambalan and Great River North Consortium Managing Head Antonio Talau, and President Feng Li of Riverfront Construction Inc. recently signed the Cagayan River Restoration Project.

To recall, in 2017, President Duterte directed the dredging of heavily silted rivers in the Philippines, including the Cagayan River, the country's longest and biggest river.

On February 27, 2020, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu issued DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2020-07 rationalizing dredging activities in the heavily silted river channels in the country to help restore their natural state and water flow and reduce flooding, as well as to protect and properly manage the disposition of sand.

The DAO also requires a holder of an approved dredging clearance to apply for an authority to dispose of the extracted material from the River Dredging Zone through a memorandum of agreement with the DENR Regional Office. It further states that in order to open up heavily silted river channels, areas starting from the coastline of river deltas extending all the way upstream, in accordance with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Dredging Master Plan, shall be designated as exclusive River Dredging Zones by the Interagency Committee (IAC).

For Cagayan River, the IAC has approved the River Dredging Plan covering 30.8 kilometers as River Dredging Zone. Director Bambalan, vice chair of the IAC on the Restoration of the Cagayan River, assured that the dredging activities to be undertaken will be at no cost on the part of the government.

"The proponents will be shouldering all the expenses related to the dredging activities," she said. The regional environment chief said Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba on June 8, 2020 submitted to Cimatu his intent to undertake river restoration through dredging activities and the same was approved by the DENR on June 16.

"The Interagency Committee ensures that all activities pertaining to dredging will be as compliant as possible to all the requirements imposed by the government particularly in ensuring environmental consideration in terms of dredging," Director Bambalan said adding that all the requirements were met such as the issuance of Dredging Clearance by the DPWH and the Environmental Compliance Certificate by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB). In his message, Gov. Mamba, IAC chair, said the project "is a dream come true" for the province of Cagayan.

"*Matagal na nating pangarap ito... We should dredge the Cagayan River to mitigate flooding in the region. We should also dredge the River to open our port, port of Aparri, which closed because of the heavy siltation of the Cagayan River,*" he said. "*Napakalaking tulngat napakalaking oportunidad ni to para sa ating lahat*"

"We can be connected to our neighbors up north who are economic tigers of Asia. We need them and they need us," Gov. Mamba added.



In the MOA, the DENR shall conduct survey of non-metallic and metallic resources in the River Dredging Zone to determine metallic and other valuable materials in economic quantities. It shall also monitor the operation of the operator-dredger to ensure faithful compliance with applicable environmental laws, rules and regulations.

The Great River North Consortium and the Riverfront Construction Inc. shall undertake the project without any funding from the government and bear the full cost of the project, including the disposal of the dredged materials; and shall not process dredged materials and shall dispose the same outside of the Philippine territorial jurisdiction.

They shall also report to the DENR any and all findings of precious metals or objects which they may inadvertently come across with, which may be of local or national interest. During the MOA signing, Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Director Mario Ancheta issued the certificate of accreditation to the two companies as dealer, trader and/or retailer of minerals/mineral products and/or by-products.

The accreditation is solely for Cagayan River Restoration thru dredging and shall be valid for a period of two years. The MOA signing was witnessed by Gov. Mamba, Director Ancheta, EMB Regional Director Virgilio Edralin Licuan, Amelia Ann Chan Sin and Bing Tiu Gatchalian of Great River North Consortium, and Keryl Danisse Li and Diosdado Balmes Jr. of Riverfront Construction Inc..



Firms to dredge Cagayan River for free – DENR

By Leander C. Domingo, TMT

December 11, 2020

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan: Two dredging companies have forged an agreement with the Philippine government on Thursday to rehabilitate the heavily silted Cagayan River for free and without any expenses to be incurred by the government, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Signatories to the memorandum of agreement (MoA) on the Cagayan River Restoration Project (CRRP) Antonio Talaue, Great River North Consortium (GRNC) managing head, and Feng Li, Riverfront Construction Inc. (RCI) president. Representing the DENR was Executive Region 2 Director Gwendolyn Bambalan of Cagayan Valley.

“The proponents will be shouldering all the expenses related to the dredging activities,” Bambalan said.

In 2017, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte directed the dredging of heavily silted rivers in the Philippines including the Cagayan River, the country’s longest and biggest river.

Acting on Duterte’s directive, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu issued Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2020-07 on February 27, rationalizing dredging activities in heavily silted river channels in the country to help restore their natural state and water flow and reduce flooding, and to protect and properly manage the disposition of sand.

The Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) under the DAO has approved the River Dredging Plan covering 30.8 kilometers as River Dredging Zone (RDZ) for the Cagayan River.

On June 8, 2020, Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba submitted to Cimatu his intent to undertake river restoration through dredging activities. It was approved on June 16, 2020.

With this, the GNRC and RCI have been issued their respective dredging clearance from the Department of Public Works and Highways and the environmental compliance certificate from the Environmental Management Bureau which were required under the DAO.

Under the DAO, a holder of an approved dredging clearance to apply for authority to dispose of extracted material from the RDZ through MoA with the DENR regional office.

Also the IAC vice chairman on the CRRP, Bambalan assured that the dredging activities to be undertaken in the Cagayan River will be at no cost on the part of the government.

“The IAC ensures that all activities of dredging will be as compliant as possible to all the requirements imposed by the government particularly in ensuring environmental consideration in terms of dredging,” Bambalan said.



DENR eyes massive Ipo Dam watershed reforestation in 2021

By: [Cristina Eloisa Baclig](#) - Content Researcher/Writer / [@CeBacligINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:28 PM December 10, 2020



Forest rangers patrolling at the Ipo Dam watershed at Norzagaray, Bulacan, three hours north of Manila. AFP FILE PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — Around 365,000 native trees are set to be planted at the Ipo Watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan next year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Thursday.

“Ipo Watershed, which supplies fresh water to 20 million people living or working in Metro Manila, will be bolstered with hundreds of thousands of new trees next year,” DENR said in a statement.

Thousands of native trees such as Narra, Lauaan, Kupang, and Yakal are expected to be initially planted once restrictions to contain the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are lifted next year.

This was made possible through donations from GCash, DENR, the United Nations Development Programme’s Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

“We originally wanted to plant in mid-2020, but decided to heed lockdown guidelines to ensure public safety,” said Mabel Niala, Mynt Public Affairs and CSR Head of GCash.

GCash users can also contribute to the project by earning Green Energy Points through GCash Forest. According to GCash, users can earn points by paying bills online. The points are also garnered anytime a user opt for activities that can reduce their carbon footprint.

A native tree will be planted on behalf of GCash users once they reach a total of 20,560 points. According to DENR, around 52,000 trees are being cut down daily. The department also noted that there are only 7.168 million hectares of forestland remaining in the country,

“Logging, slash-and-burn-farming, and land development are annually erasing 47,000 hectares of forestland – an area thrice the size of Quezon City,” said DENR.



Meanwhile, Ipo Watershed which supplies most of Metro Manila's [water needs](#) and is home to several native species of wildlife is also affected by slash-and-burn or [kaingin](#) farming and charcoal-making.

“From 85%, forest cover plummeted to 40% in recent years,” DENR added.

“It is estimated that for 2021, Metro Manila’s water demands will overtake supply by as much as 13% during peak days, meaning more dry faucets and unserved households – but taking care of watersheds can avert this,” the department noted.

/MUF



This 2019 file photo shows the island of Boracay.
The STAR/Walter Bollozos/File

As forest land clearing in Boracay continues, residents lament years of tax payment

[Rosette Adel](#) (Philstar.com) - December 10, 2020 - 5:24pm

MANILA, Philippines — With several residents about to be displaced by the ongoing forest land clearing in the prime tourist destination of Boracay, some of them expressed their regret for paying real property taxes over the years.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources early this month issued notices to vacate properties in areas categorized as forest lands.

At least nine people including Filipinos and expatriates were arrested in Barangay Balabag and were briefly detained for allegedly occupying or building structures in protected forest lands.

They were also charged for violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines, PD 1067 (Philippine Water Code), and the "25+5" or 30-meter beach easement ordinance of Malay, Aklan.



In this July 2019 photo, officials marked establishments that are violating the easement rule with red paint marks of 25+5.

NAMRIA/Released

The ongoing clearing operations are in compliance with President Rodrigo Duterte's Executive Order 53, which also created the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force tasked to reverse the degradation of the island.



This order follows Proclamation No. 1064 signed by then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2006 that classifies the island into 377.68 hectares of reserved forest land for protection purposes and 628.96 hectares of agricultural land as alienable and disposable pursuant to PD 705.

However, several residents who fear the loss of their homes are arguing that they have been residing in the area before the PD was approved.

"It's crazy that people are afraid to speak up about the theft of their ancestral domain land, because they fear their own government," a Boracay resident for 10 years, who refused to be named said.

Under the Republic Act No. 8371 or the "The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997," ancestral domains "refer to all areas generally belonging to Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous People (ICCs/IPs) comprising lands, inland waters, coastal areas, and natural resources therein, held under a claim of ownership, occupied or possessed by ICCs/IPs."

Section 2 of this law also indicates that the state shall protect the rights of ICCs/IPs to their ancestral domains "to ensure their economic, social and cultural well being and shall recognize the applicability of customary laws governing property rights or relations in determining the ownership and extent of ancestral domain."

The investor added that the residents have followed the government's process, which includes appealing to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, DENR. They also submitted government-issued permits and papers evidencing their tax declarations, but did not get any response.

"Will they all get that refunded? 77 years of tax declaration payments, so they can restart their lives," the resident said.

Czar Eric Nuque, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's Environmental Crime Division earlier said that the law still applies to these areas. He stressed that tax declarations are not enough to claim ownership of the land.

Malay Citizen's Charter, a guidebook on municipal government frontline services, also indicated this in its chapter IV.

"The Tax declaration is issued for taxation purposes only and should not be considered as title to the property," the Malay government said.

According to Nuque, a tenurial instrument will permit an individual to occupy areas categorized as forest land. A tenurial instrument grants an individual a limited period of stay of around 25 up to 50 years.

Tax refund?

Asked if the residents will be refunded of their real property tax payments, Nuque said it is not possible.



“Anomalous ang pagkaka-issue ng tax declaration. Dapat may clearance muna sa Land Management Bureau na ang lupa nga ay alienable disposable. Hindi puwedeng maging alienable and disposable ang lupa at the same time ay forest land,” the NBI official told Philstar.com in a text message.

(The issuance of tax declaration is anomalous. There should be a clearance with the Land Management Bureau first declaring that the land is alienable and disposable. An area cannot be alienable and disposable and at the same time be a forest land)

Nuque said that several persons colluded to issue the tax declaration documents for the forest land.

He added that it is for this reason that the NBI have sued some local government officials for issuing tax declaration illegally.

“Good faith is not a defense in a special law like the Forestry Code,” Nuque added.

The national government has been questioning the local government unit for allowing establishment of properties in areas declared as forest land in the past.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año then said the LGU should be held accountable for the crisis faced by Boracay.

“The presence of commercial establishments even beyond the prescribed distance from the coastline would not be possible without building and construction permits issued by the LGU. It is their lookout,” [the DILG chief said in February 2018](#).

“Why did the LGU allow establishments to be built in areas classified as forest lands? Why did the Barangay issue the necessary clearances? This we intend to find out and soon,” he added.

In May 2018, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu also issued a warning to LGUs who are violating the law by issuing illegal tax certifications.

A [Manila Standard report](#) cited a number of irregularities in the issuance of tax declarations by local government units to individuals who are in “open, continuous, exclusive, adverse and notorious possession” of parcels of forestland.

“The law is clear that no public officer or employee can issue a certificate of real property tax without securing a certification from the Department that the real property to be declared for taxation is alienable and disposable,” Cimatu was [quoted by the report](#) as saying.

Lack of response from authorities

Meanwhile, apart from the concerns on the tax payments, residents and business owners in the affected area also complained about the lack of response from the government.

An investor who also refused to be named said they have received a vacate order from the DENR in April 2018, prior to the island’s six-month closure.

“Our lawyer responded to that letter and we have not had any official information since,” the investor said.



He furthered that around September 2018, the NBI asked them to produce all the documents and permits they had.

“Our lawyer wrote a letter along with all the documents and handed it to NBI in manila . They said they will contact us if they need anything else. They never contacted us again, so we assumed it was ok,” the investor shared.

The Supreme Court in October 2008 ruled to classify Boracay as both forest and agricultural land that belongs to the state. This decision also junked the ownership claims of several resort owners.

The next year, the DENR gave residents a powerpoint presentation detailing the guidelines in the issuance of Forest Land Use Agreement for Tourism Purposes (FLAgT) in Boracay forest lands.

FLAgT is defined as “a contract between the DENR and a natural or juridical person authorizing the latter to occupy manage develop subject to government share, any forestland of the public domain for tourism purposes and to undertake any authorized activity therein for a period of 25 and renewable for the same period upon mutual agreement by both parties.”

One of the slides indicated that there is a timeline of around two weeks to issue the FLAgT.

“We applied along with many other people and paid P100,000 but then never heard anything back,” the investor said, despite the government's constant reiteration that it has been sending notices and show cause orders.

Demand for concrete plans

The investor said they were also not informed of relocation.

CENRO officer Rhodel Lababit in an interview with [Radyo Todo Aklan 88.5 FM's Todo Latigo](#) last week said that based on the Boracay Action Plan, the local government unit of Malay and provincial government are in charge of the relocation of residents.

In a press conference last week, Cimatu also reported the operations against establishment occupying protected forest lands.

“Appropriate cases have been filed against them. This proves that the rule of law is paramount and law enforcement is crucial and non-negotiable,” he said.

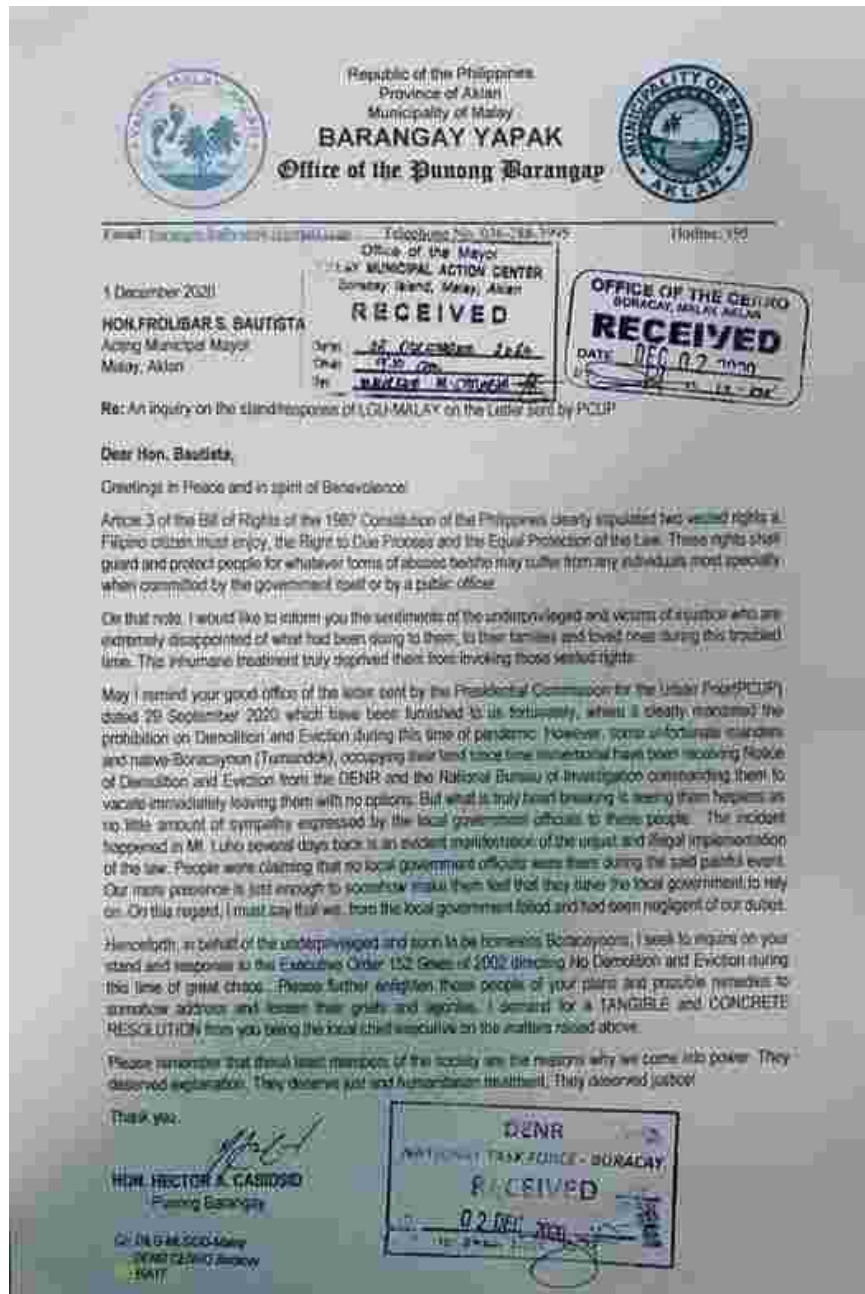
Cimatu also said a total of 249 of 339 structures or 73% have complied with the 25+5 meter easement rule.

Letter obtained by **Philstar.com** dated December 1 showed that Barangay Yapak chief Hector Casidsid wrote to Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista seeking action plan on the demolition.

Casidsid cited Presidential Commission for Ureban Poor dated Sept. 29, 2020 furnished to them, which mandated prohibition on demolition and eviction during the pandemic.



- Headline
- Editorial
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“Please further enlighten these people of your plans and possible remedies to address and lessen their griefs and agonies. I demand for a tangible and concrete resolution from you being the local chief executive on the matters raised,” the barangay captain wrote.

The DENR chief last week said the BIATF has yet to discuss the relocation of the affected residents.

“While we would would like to see for ourselves the movement on this, we have yet to discuss on what to do with these people who are required to vacate their respective establishments,” he said.

Cimatu during the meeting with the BIATF then suggested to delay the demolition, while also citing the pandemic. He said the DENR should first determine where the residents must be relocated.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/12/10/2062865/forest-land-clearing-boracay-continues-residents-lament-years-tax-payment>



Iskwater sa Wildlife Center boluntaryong lumayas

By: AbanteTonite — Last updated: Dec 10, 2020

MEERO



15 0

Boluntaryo nang naghakot ng kani-kanilang mga gamit ang may 11 pamilya na nakatira sa lupang pag-aari ng Ninoy Aquino Wildlife Center-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Quezon Avenue Project 6 Quezon City.

Ayon kay Emmanuel Lagamson, Area Coordinator ng Housing, Community Development and Resettlement Department ng Quezon City Hall, noong 2017 pa umano nagsimula ang dayalogo sa mga informal settler pero ngayon lang nakumbinsi ang mga residente na lumipat sa inilaang relokasyon sa kanila.

Sabi pa ni Lagamson, nagkasundo ang DENR at Philippine Children's Medical Center na pagtatayuan ng mga bagong gusali ng ospital para sa mga batang may cancer.

Nabatid naman na sa Pandi 2 Village Pandi, Bulacan inilipat ang mga umalis na residente sa lugar. (Dolly Cabreza)



Palawan wildlife rescue center now under NRDC supervision

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 Cory Martinez

TO generate higher revenues and pursue financial sustainability, supervision over the Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center (PWRCC) has been transferred to the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC), the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2020-10 recently issued by Secretary Roy Cimatu, the transfer of supervision from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) to NRDC was in line with the need to streamline the supervision over PWRCC, formerly known as the Crocodile Farm and Nature Park.

The PWRCC is a breeding place for the endangered Philippine crocodile, as well as a research and rescue center for other species endemic to Palawan, such as bearcats and Philippine cockatoos.

Included in the transfer are all documents, records, equipment, facilities, supplies and materials, concerned personnel except those holding permanent items in DENR-MIMAROPA Region, budget and all related matters.

"Within three months from effectivity of this Order, the NRDC, BMB, and the DENR-MIMAROPA Region shall formulate and implement smooth transition of the transfer and develop collaborative arrangements to strengthen the operations of the Center, to be contained in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)," as stated in the order.

The order also stated that within the transition period, the NRDC shall develop a business plan for PWRCC, as well as identify new, innovative, competitive and related business ventures, with the objective of financial sustainability.

Under the DAO, NRDC is authorized to update and fix prices, fees and charges related to PWRCC's commercial and business operations, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

However, the BMB will continue to enforce its regulatory authorities over the crocodile and other wildlife species in PWRCC.

Meanwhile, BMB Director Ricardo Calderon, also Assistant Secretary for Climate Change, said the bureau will continue to provide technical assistance and guidance in the management and conservation of the wildlife species in the center.

"The BMB has entered into an agreement with NRDC and DENR-MIMAROPA to ensure that the PWRCC shall continue to operate efficiently and effectively as a center for the commercial breeding of saltwater crocodiles and conservation breeding of Philippine crocodiles, as well as as for the care and rehabilitation of rescued, donated and confiscated wildlife species in Palawan," Calderon said.

He added that the NRDC's business plan will be developed "in consultation with the BMB to ensure that the conservation aspect of PWRCC's operations are adequately addressed."

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/provincial/palawan-wildlife-rescue-center-now-under-nrdc-supervision/?fbclid=IwAR2f2U4fzl389Ckj00Wyi77ESQK-N6qzLmX8jifA8ZNhC0KWSJvEisbDiI>



Gordon sponsors bill simplifying land titling to help farmers

December 10, 2020, 2:57 pm



File photo

MANILA – Senator Richard J. Gordon on Wednesday sponsored Senate Bill No. 1931 that aims to improve the confirmation of imperfect titles by simplifying the procedure and requirements in granting land deeds to help rural farmers and those who are unable to afford legal representation to secure land titles.

“Tulongan natin ang mga magsasaka at mahihirap na mabigyan ng titulo ang lupang kaakibat ng kanilang kabuhayan at pag-unlad para mayroon man lamang silang maipamana sa kanilang mga anak o maipautang sa mga bangko para makapagpalawak ng kanilang hanapbuhay at ito’y napakalaking tulong upang maiangat natin ang kalidad ng buhay nila (Let us help our farmers and underprivileged to get title for the land they farm so that they will have lands they given to their children or use as collateral to borrow money from the bank to improve their farm output for their families),” Gordon said in his sponsorship speech at the plenary.

The present law governing land titles in the country requires the production of a copy of the original classification approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary, as well as a City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Certification, that should be accompanied by an official publication of the DENR Secretary’s issuance declaring that the land is alienable and disposable.

These requirements have been difficult to secure that the demands to present proof of property rights before the courts are stringent.

“The first primary objective of this bill is to address the difficulties encountered in proving ownership since 1945 and the strict standards set by the Supreme Court in the judicial confirmation of imperfect titles. While the courts impose stringent requirements, it should be emphasized that the document certifying that the land is within alienable and disposable lands will not show the relative location of the land,” Gordon said.

Under Gordon’s proposed bill, the need for DENR Secretary’s certification and the barriers of proving ownership will be removed.

It also synchronizes and shortens the period of possession required for perfection of imperfect titles from 74 years to 30 years.

Another objective of the bill is to remove the fixed term set on Dec. 31, 2020 for the filing of application of agricultural free patents as stated under Republic Act 9176.

After this period, titling of agricultural lands through free patent will expire, which will result in an impasse where unregistered owners of agricultural lands will no longer be able to formalize their ownership.

“If no law is passed to extend or remove the period of application, no new agricultural free patent will be issued by DENR and poor rural farmers may not be able to title their lands. Under this proposed bill, we now remove the deadline for the application through free patent, making it available at any time, for qualified beneficiaries,” Gordon said.



Gordon emphasized that land title is a clear proof of ownership and is important to protection of one's property rights.

"Property rights are important to the country's growth and development. Unclear and unenforceable rights to property could lead to underinvestment, undervalued properties, land grabbing, fake titling, lack of access to credit and certainly, poverty," he said. (PR)



Villar willing to provide equipment for bamboo processing

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINO](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:29 PM December 10, 2020



Sen. Cynthia Villar. (Screen grab/ Senate PRIB file photo)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Cynthia Villar said Thursday she is willing to provide equipment for bamboo processing if the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would plan to propagate giant bamboo.

The Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, which Villar chairs, was tackling Senate Resolution No. 581 that seeks discussion on the protection and conservation of the country's forest cover and waterways when she made this remark.

“In that connection with the trees, bakit ayaw niyo ng bamboo, giant bamboo? Alam niyo bibigyan lang natin ng [equipment], and I am willing to give to all places ‘yung bamboo processing,” she asked Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

(In this connection with the trees, why do you not want to plant giant bamboo? You just need to provide equipment, and I am willing to provide the equipment that can be used for bamboo processing.)

“Ako, ipangako niyo lang sa akin magtanim kayo ng giant bamboo, ‘yung lahat ng lugar na tinaniman niyo, bibigyan ko ng bamboo processing. Mura lang ‘yun eh. Dito sa Las Piñas, P6 million lang ang nagasta namin to make the bamboo processing plant,” added Villar, who remains to be the [richest senator](#) with net worth of over P3.8 billion as of December 2019.

(Just promise to me that you will plant giant bamboo, and to all the places where you plant it, I will provide equipment for bamboo processing. It is not expensive. In Las Piñas, we only spent P6 million to make the bamboo processing plant.)

In citing the importance of propagating bamboo, Villar noted that former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has previously issued a presidential decree which mandates that the Department of Education should have 25 percent of school chairs be made of bamboo.

“So bibigyan lang natin ang mga nagtanim ng bamboo sa ating protected area ng processing equipment and siguradong hanap-buhay na iyon,” she said.

(So we will just provide processing equipment to those who plant bamboo in our protected areas and it will be their source of income.)



“Ang maganda sa bamboo, kapag ki-nut mo, hindi mo kina-cut ‘yung roots so naho-hold niya ‘yung wetlands and they regrow, unlike ‘yung trees, kapag ki-nut mo patay na ‘yun eh,” Villar further explained.

(What is good with bamboos is you don’t have to cut it at the roots so the roots can hold the wetlands and they regrow, unlike trees that die once you cut them.)

In response, Cimatú said he also prioritizes the planting of bamboo among DENR’s initiatives.

“My priority really is bamboo, and I would like to put that on record that the very big reason why we really need to increase the production of bamboo in our country is that while we have the national draining program, it is also the source of our lumber here in our country,” he said.

“Sineseryoso ko talaga ito na talagang i-propagate talaga ‘yung bamboo. ‘Yung tinatawag na giant bamboo, all kinds of bamboo, ipoproduce po natin ito,” Cimatú added.

(I am putting serious attention to the propagation of bamboo. We will propagate giant bamboo and all kinds of bamboo.)



Waterways urged to be protected

posted December 10, 2020 at 10:50 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Senator Cynthia Villar, head of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, underscored the need to protect and conserve the country's forest cover and waterways to avert flooding.

Villar presided over the virtual hearing looking into the massive flooding in the aftermath of the recent typhoons that submerged some areas in Luzon.

"In our hearing today, we expect to be informed on the green infrastructure needed, referring to an approach that protects and restores natural ecosystem such as forests, watersheds, plants and waterways that provide protection to the communities near them and mitigate, if not altogether prevent, the devastating effects of calamities to these communities," Villar said.

Senator Risa Hontiveros said the government must answer important questions concerning the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations in the country.

She said the government must answer how effective the laws were in protecting watersheds and forests.

"What have we done to stop illegal activities in protected areas? Why is logging and quarrying rampant despite the many laws that prohibit these acts?" Hontiveros said.

She then urged the government to support "intergenerational" measures that would better address the country's climate vulnerability.

Concerned over the statement of Wilfredo Moncano, director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that even if the entire Marikina Watershed was planted with 15-year-old mature trees, it would still require nine times that area to absorb the volume of water poured during typhoon "Ulysses".

Senator Nancy Binay asked how much volume of rainwater would the watershed hold if quarrying activities were stopped and if the watershed was fully planted.

Binay also asked the DENR to provide her a list of suspended quarrying operators and the history of quarrying suspensions.

Senator Imee Marcos urged local and national government agencies to promote sustainable livelihood programs as a means of eliminating illegal logging and quarrying in protected areas.

Citing her experiences as governor of Ilocos Norte, Marcos said that people living in protected areas like forests and watersheds should be provided access to alternative forms of livelihood, like eco-tourism, to prevent them from engaging in illegal logging and quarrying.

"The Department of Environment and Natural Resources should take the next step and promote these sustainable, resilient and profitable businesses so that the community itself will take care of the environment," she said.

Meanwhile, Hontiveros flagged the land-grabbing activities seemingly condoned by the DENR that she said were suspected to have caused the recent severe flooding after the onslaught of Typhoons "Rolly" and "Ulysses."

Hontiveros questioned the mining permits of quarry firms Rapid City Realty and Development Co. and Quarry Rock Group Inc., which were caught encroaching on the Masungi Georeserve earlier in the year. DENR Administrative Order 1993-33 says quarrying and mineral exploration in and around the Masungi limestones are explicitly prohibited.

She slammed the DENR for continuously releasing statements that protected areas such as the Marikina Watershed were "intact and free from human activity", despite continuous reports from conservation experts saying otherwise.



Senators raise eyebrows on DENR official's remarks detrimental to environment protection

Published December 10, 2020, 4:29 PM

by [Vanne Elaine Terrazola](#)

Senators lectured on Thursday the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its officials for their statements and issuances that appear to be condoning activities that are destroying the Marikina Watershed.

Senator Cynthia Villar raised an eyebrow over a remark made by a DENR official during his presentation in the Senate hearing on the state of the country's forest lands and watersheds in relation to the massive flooding during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses last month.

Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna was discussing the probable causes of the flooding in Cagayan province, Bicol and Marikina City when he noted that even "if all urban development and quarrying are stopped and the Marikina Watershed (is) fully planted with 10-year-old mature trees, it will require nine times the area of Marikina Watershed to absorb all the water during Typhoon Ulysses."

"You mean that even we protect the Marikina watershed, it will not absorb the water, no matter how much effort we do in the Marikina Watershed? I cannot understand that," Villar said.

"That would make all our efforts in the protected area useless, 'di ba (wouldn't it)? With that statement, which should not come from the DENR," the chairperson of the Senate environment committee commented.

Senator Risa Hontiveros said she was also "very surprised" by the DENR executive's statement. "Kasi kung sasabihin natin na kahit tigilin lahat ng urban development, kahit tigilin ang quarrying, if we want to add, mining, which are both banned anyway in protected areas...ay hindi maagapan, I agree, Madam Chair, I do not, cannot believe also."

"It would seem to be an argument setting up to fail doon sa pagprotekta ng watershed (the efforts to protect the watershed)," she said, adding that other experts in the DENR and stakeholders could have a different view.

Villar also recalled another DENR official who was supposedly quoted in a news article that suspending quarrying and similar activities could affect construction projects in Metro Manila. She did not identify the official.

"We should hear that from the Department of Public Works and Highways, not from you. My God, I am always telling them not to make those kind of statement because you are supposed to protect the environment," she said.

"You are justifying all the destruction of our environment," Villar pointed out.

Sen. Imee Marcos said the remarks made it appear that the DENR is "giving up" on its mandate to protect the environment.

DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu explained that the report only meant to highlight the huge volume of water released during Typhoon Ulysses. He agreed that watersheds should be protected from destructive activities.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Wilfredo Montano said the soil was already too saturated from the previous typhoons to absorb Ulysses' downpour, which reached 531 million cubic meters.

Still, Villar said: "It's the same as saying that we should not protect the Marikina Watershed because it cannot stop flooding in Marikina. It's an indirect way of justifying all those they are doing in the watershed."



“You don’t make statements like that, because if our DENR [is] not bent on protecting our watershed, who will be protecting our watershed?”

In the same hearing, Hontiveros questioned the DENR’s issuance of permits to at least two mining firms who were caught encroaching the protected area.

“How were companies able to secure large-scale mining permits over some 1,000 hectares of watershed and wildlife sanctuary despite Masungi Georeserve being a watershed reservation since 1904 in the first place? That is 116 years the area should have been protected, and yet these permits show otherwise. If there are under-the-table dealings within the DENR, the agency must uncover these right away, if not the recent floodings will only get more severe and frequent,” she said.

“Is the DENR mediocre in its implementation, or is the agency condoning such massive illegal activity? Billions have been invested in our greening and conservation programs, but we continuously fail to meet our goals.”

“It is of the greatest concern kung yung departamento ng kalikasan mismo ay subpar lang sa pamumuhunan nila sa kalikasan. If there is corruption, the cost is the millions of lives affected by worsening natural disasters,” she added.



Villar twits DENR over dismissive remark on importance of Marikina watershed

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:39 PM December 10, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Cynthia Villar on Thursday lectured the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) during a Senate hearing for issuing statements that seemingly dismissed the importance of protecting the environment, like the Marikina watershed.

The presentation of the DENR during the hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change read that: “If all urban development and quarrying are stopped and the Marikina Watershed are fully planted with 10-year old mature trees, it will require 9 times the area of Marikina Watershed to absorb all the water during Typhoon Ulysses.”

This, however, did not sit well with Villar, who chairs the committee.

“Ipagpalagay nang napakalakas ng Ulysses. Pero sana sinabi niyo na lang na the protection of the watershed, tapos maglalagay tayo ng ibang programa doon, we can solve that problem even if malakas ang ulan,” she said.

(Let us say that the Typhoon Ulysses was really strong. But you should have said that we will add more projects for the protection of the watershed and we can solve that problem even if the rain is heavy.)

“Hindi niyo sasabihin na kahit i-protect ‘yun, hindi kaya ‘yung Typhoon Ulysses. Na-shock na naman ako sa inyong department eh, kasi parang sinasabi niyo na pabayaang na lang kasi hindi kaya,” she added.

(You should not say that even if we protect the watershed, it cannot mitigate the flooding caused by Typhoon Ulysses. I was shocked with your department because it seems you were saying we should just let it be because we cannot handle the flooding.)

DENR’s Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MRB) director Wilfredo Moncano explained to the committee that Typhoon Ulysses has dumped a huge volume of rainwater, “so the entire Marikina watershed, even when it’s fully planted, cannot absorb the water.”

Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu further said that the DENR is committed to protecting the watershed.

“The worst-case scenario po kasi yung Typhoon Ulysses, so nagcompute compute sila na regarding volume of water na bumagsak dyan sa Marikina,” he said.

(Typhoon Ulysses was the worst-case scenario, so they computed the volume of water that the typhoon has dumped in Marikina.)

Villar, however, pointed out that such a statement should not come from the DENR.



In airing her frustration, she also recalled a supposed statement from another DENR official who said that suspending [quarrying operations](#) in the [watershed](#) would delay development projects in Metro Manila.

“I am always telling them not to make those kinds of statements because you are a department which is supposed to protect the environment. You let all the other departments say that but not you. Because you are justifying all the destruction of our environment,” said the senator.

“[DENR](#) should not make any kind of statements like that as if you’re saying that we should not protect [the watershed]. It’s the same as saying we should not protect the Marikina watershed because it cannot stop flooding in Marikina. It’s an indirect way of justifying all those they are doing in the Marikina watershed,” she further noted.

Senator Risa Hontiveros, who was also present in the hearing, shared the sentiment of Villar.

“Madame Chair, ‘yung logical conclusion ng statement nilang ‘yun (of that statement) would be let’s just sacrifice the watershed in order to proceed with so-called development projects, when in fact the protection of the watershed will protect our cities and urban areas which will enable our development programs to succeed,” Hontivero said, addressing Villar. — **Zac**

Sarao, trainee

EDV



Villar lectures DENR over 'shocking' remark on Marikina watershed

Published December 10, 2020 1:10pm

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

Senator Cynthia Villar on Thursday lectured officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for a remark that seemed to diminish the importance of protecting the Marikina watershed area.

DENR's presentation during a Senate hearing led by the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change stated that "if all urban development and quarrying are stopped and the Marikina watershed is fully planted with 10-year old mature trees, it will require nine times the whole area to absorb all the water during Typhoon Ulysses."

"No matter how we fully plant the whole Marikina watershed, it still cannot absorb all the water during that event, typhoon Ulysses," Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Wilfredo Moncano told senators.

But Villar, presiding over the inquiry on green infrastructures that would prevent destructive flooding, expressed dismay, saying this tone is "unacceptable" and should not come from the DENR.

"That would make all our efforts on protecting the protected area useless... I'm always telling this DENR that you should not make statements like that," Villar said, also recalling a supposed position of some DENR officials that prohibiting quarrying in the watershed would delay developments in Metro Manila.

"I cannot imagine an officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources saying that. We should hear that from the Department of Public Works and Highways, not from you. You are justifying all the destruction of our environment... Na-shock na naman ako sa inyong department eh," Senator Villar said.

Senator Risa Hontiveros also shared her dismay.



"Yung logical conclusion ng statement nilang yung would be, let's just sacrifice the watershed in order to proceed with so-called development projects," Hontiveros said.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the stance of the agency is to protect the Marikina watershed.

"Sa computations, hindi lang kasi namin napag-usapan 'yan," he said, agreeing with Villar that more effective interventions can be done by the DENR to ensure the preservation of the watershed and prevent severe floods. —LBG, GMA News



PAGHIMAY SA SANHI NG MATINDING PAGBAHA SA LUZON UMARANGKADA

11 hours ago jake



INIHAYAG ni Senador Cynthia Villar na sinimulan nang himayin ng Senado ang sanhi ng malawakang pagbaha sa Luzon partikular sa Cagayan, Isabela at Marikina City sa pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses noong nakaraang buwan.

Kasabay nito, hiniling naman ni Senador Risa Hontiveros sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na imbestigahan ang land grabbing activities sa mga protected areas na dapat walang human activity.

Ayon kay Villar, sinimulan ang virtual hearing upang imbestigahan ang malawakang pagbaha matapos dumaan ang ilang bagyo at kailangan makalikha ng batas sa proteksiyon at konserbasyon ng forest cover at waterways.

“In our hearing today, we expect to be informed on the green infrastructure needed, referring to an approach that protects and restores natural ecosystem such as forest, watershed, plants, and waterways that provide protection to the communities near them and mitigate, if not altogether prevent, devastating effects of calamities to these communities,” ayon kay Villar.

Ayon naman kay Hontiveros, dapat malaman ng komite kung gaano kaepektibo ang ating batas na nagbibigay proteksiyon sa ating watersheds at kagubatan.

“What have we done to stop illegal activities in protected areas? Why is logging and quarrying rampant despite the many laws that prohibit these acts?” tanong ni Hontiveros.

Hiniling din niya sa gobyerno na suportahan ang “intergenerational” measures upang matugunan ang climate vulnerability ng bansa.

Samantala, pinuna ni Hontiveros ang land-grabbing activities sa mga protected areas na pinaghihinalaang sanhi ng malawakang pagbaha sa pagdaan ng bagyong Rolly at Ulysses.

Kinuwestiyon din ni Hontiveros ang ibinigay na mining permits na ibinigay sa quarry firms na Rapid City Realty and Development, Co. at Quarry Rock Group, Inc. na nahuling nanghihimasok sa Masungi Georeserve nitong unang bahagi ng taon.

Binanggit din ng senador ang DENR Administrative Order 1993-33 na nagsasabing mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang quarrying at mineral exploration sa paligid at loob ng Masungi limestones. (ESTONG REYES)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/paghimay-sa-sanhi-ng-matinding-pagbaha-sa-luzon-umarangkada/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR1HN-MCJtDxwk0xXt8hYxuoCteqkOI7PXhV1is0bAHMPNkAM0S-J2HZfow



We all live in a watershed!

By **Rene E. Ofreneo**

December 10, 2020



Typhoon Ulysses bared the grim reality: The government has failed to stop the loggers and miners in killing our forest, as President Duterte himself said. The forest is our first line of defense against typhoons disgoring so much flood water.

However, another grim reality must be added: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Climate Change Commission (CCC) and other government agencies have failed to institutionalize an integrated watershed management. The complaints of the local government officials from Cagayan and Isabela regarding the huge flow of flood water coming from nearby provinces such as Kalinga, Apayao, Nueva Viscaya and Mountain Province indicate the absence of an IWM for the area. Same story for Marikina City, San Mateo and Montalban/Rodriguez, which were all inundated by flood water coming from the upper Marikina Valley and the Sierra Madre range.

In 2010, the Climate Change Congress of the Philippines (CCCP) headed by Bishop Antonio Ledesma and Chairman Christian Monsod proposed to the then newly established CCC that the "integrated river basin management" strategy be replaced by the "integrated watershed management" approach. As generally defined, the IRBM refers to a coordinated approach in the conservation, management and development of water, land and other resources across a given river basin. The IWM does the same on a bigger geographic scale.

The rationale given by the CCCP for the proposed shift is simple: The river basin is part of a bigger watershed. The late Dr. Esteban Godilano, CCCP's expert on geo-hazard mapping, explained that the whole country can, in fact, be divided into watersheds. He quipped: "We all live in a watershed!"

Dr. Godilano defined a watershed based on his geographic and environmental training at Cornell University. He said a watershed is the "geographical area" that covers the land, forests, rivers and streams in the said area. Water flows from the "ridge" (top of a hill or mountain), and gathers and merges with water draining from other areas of the land and forest. Water from the ridge and land eventually joins the river systems and various tributaries before flowing downward, as a body of water, all the way to the "reef" of the sea. Hence, the popular phrase "from ridge to reef."

Based on the foregoing definition, all land within a designated watershed is considered part of the said watershed. This is the reason why the CCCP asked CCC then to adopt the IWM strategy and to help push government to use watershed as the "planning domain." This implies a trans-regional and inter-provincial system of environmental planning. Dr. Godilano explained that the IWM does not respect administrative boundaries or local jurisdictions because water flows, flooding and landslides do not respect such boundaries or jurisdictions.

Typhoon Sendong in 2011 showed the importance of having an honest-to-goodness IWM. Dr. Godilano was able to predict in 2009 the possibility of massive flooding in Cagayan de Oro based on his analysis of the watershed map in the area. The map shows that rains in nearby Bukidnon province can rush downward to Cagayan de Oro even if the latter is having a sunny day. About 1,200 died when Sendong caused massive flooding in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, with flood water coming from the hilly parts of Bukidnon and the Misamis provinces.

A watershed is disturbed by deforestation, population growth, pollution, road construction, mining, quarrying, swidden agriculture, and so on. And yes, by typhoons and earthquakes. Hence, a comprehensive system of watershed management is critical.



At the center of watershed management is water management. Either there is too much water, or too little of it, at the upper and lower parts of a watershed. Mapping the flow of water draining from various parts of the watershed is a major challenge. This mapping, in turn, becomes part of a holistic program of watershed management that seeks to develop a healthy balance in the interaction between the population and the environment.

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) lists the following services and functions of a watershed:

- Provision of freshwater (particularly upland watersheds); Regulation of water flow;
- Maintenance of water quality;
- Provision and protection of natural resources for local livelihoods;
- Protection against natural hazards (e.g. local floods and landslides);
- Provision of energy (e.g. hydropower);
- Biodiversity conservation; and
- Recreation.

The FAO explains that the above watershed services and functions " ... may be threatened by deforestation, uncontrolled timber harvesting, changes in farming systems, overgrazing, roads and road construction, pollution, and the invasion of alien plants. They may also be affected by natural disturbances such as wildfires, windstorms and disease. The deterioration of watershed functions has significant negative impacts, potentially leading to erosion and the depletion of soil productivity; the sedimentation of watercourses, reservoirs and coasts; increased runoff and flash flooding; reduced infiltration to groundwater; reduced water quality; and the loss of aquatic habitat and biodiversity."

The above threats to the watershed requires a holistic and balanced program of protection and preservation of water, forest, land and other resources in the watershed. FAO asserts that watershed planning and watershed stewardship are a must. Watershed management also requires consultation with and getting the support of the communities living within the given watershed area on policies affecting the future of the watershed. These communities include those in the uplands (indigenous people, migrant settler families) and those in the low lands.

The question is: Have the DENR, CCC and other concerned government agencies ever sat down with the communities in various watersheds to discuss the future? And do the various watersheds, in their current state of care or neglect, have a sustainable future?



Senators scold DENR exec for saying reforestation of watershed won't solve flooding woes

Katrina Domingo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 10 2020 08:21 PM



In 2017, former Environment secretary Gina Lopez shared photos of the Marikina Watershed. *Gina Lopez's Facebook page*

MANILA - Senators on Thursday called out an Environment department official for saying that reforestation efforts and a crusade against illegal logging and quarrying in the Marikina Watershed would not help solve flooding woes in low-lying areas in Metro Manila.

Wilfredo Moncano, director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Bureau of Mines and Geosciences, told senators that even if the government plants "10-year-old trees" and stop "all urban development and quarrying" activities at the Marikina watershed, flooding would still occur in Marikina and nearby areas as the area is too small to hold heavy downpour during such typhoons as last month's Ulysses.

"Na-shock ako sa inyong department kasi parang sinasabi niyo, pabayaang na lang kasi hindi kaya 'pag parang Typhoon Ulysses," Senate Committee on Environment chair Cynthia Villar said in a Senate hearing.

(I am shocked because it's like your department is saying to just let things be because if it's something similar to Typhoon Ulysses, no intervention is effective to mitigate any impact.)

"Don't make statements like that...because if the DENR is not bent on protecting our watershed, who will?" she said.

"Your primary responsibility is to protect the environment. You should not say things like that... You should always be for the environment, not to justify the destruction of the environment."

Senators Risa Hontiveros and Imee Marcos expressed their disbelief that a DENR official would say that tree-planting efforts are useless in saving the Marikina Watershed.

"Medyo hinimatay tayo na ang DENR, surrender na," Marcos said.

(We nearly fainted after learning that the DENR said it has given up.)

"I could not believe it also. It would seem to be an argument setting up to fail doon sa pagprotekata ng (in protecting the) watershed," Hontiveros said.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that while the DENR is keen on protecting watersheds in the country, officials have yet to discuss technicalities on how much water each area could hold.

The committee will file a resolution expressing dissent against the DENR's statement that stopping quarrying activities in the the Marikina Watershed would not help solve flooding woes in the capital region.



"That statement would make all our efforts in protecting protected areas useless," Villar said.

"It should not come from the DENR... You let the other departments say that, but not you. You should be for the environment," she added.

The Marikina Watershed has long been considered as Metro Manila's "first line of defense" against rainwater from strong storms.

Several public and private groups have been pushing to keep quarrying companies and "professional squatters" off the Marikina Watershed to mitigate the deluge in low-lying Marikina City, especially during the typhoon season.

Netizens have also joined the call to restore the Marikina Watershed after Typhoon Ulysses' onslaught last month swamped homes, forcing thousands of residents to either flee to evacuation centers or escape to their houses' roofs.



FLOODING PROBE | Lawmakers hit DENR official over 'defeatist' remark in Senate flooding probe

December 10, 2020 , 04:16 PM

(December 10, 2020) – It would take nine times the size of Marikina watershed to absorb all flood water that submerged the city in the eastern part of the national capital region, an environment official told a Congressional hearing, painting a gloomy picture of the environmental hazard the country faces ahead.

But the candid remark of Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones did not sit well with senators, describing it as defeatist and calling on the government to take climate change mitigation and adaptation measures to solve perennial flooding in Marikina City.

"It's an indirect way of justifying all those they are doing in the Marikina watershed. Don't make statements like that," said Senator Cynthia Villar, reminding the agency that their primary purpose is to protect the environment.

"If our DENR is not bent on protecting our watershed, who will be bent in protecting our watershed?"

The massive flooding in the capital region due to heavy to intense rains brought by typhoon Ulysses last month killed dozens and destroyed crops, properties and public infrastructure.

Outside Metro Manila, the worst floods seen in more than 45 years displaced thousands. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Ulysses dumped about 356 millimeters of rainfall on Tanay, a nearby town in Marikina City, from November 11 to 12. It was way lower than the rainfall that soaked the capital region during typhoon Ondoy in 2009.

Minority Senator Risa Hontiveros had filed a resolution seeking to investigate the flooding incident in a bid to "create policy that better prepares the country for future calamities."

"I cannot believe it," Hontiveros said in response to Leones' remark, adding that stopping quarrying operations permanently is key to protecting various provinces in the country.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Calabarzon, for their part, has temporarily suspended quarrying and crushing plant operations within the Marikina River Basin.

Senator Imee Marcos also urged the DENR to step up its efforts and refrain from issuing statements that go against the very mandate of their agency.

"Medyo hinimatay naman tayo na mismong DENR ay nag-surrender na. Nabilgla naman tayo," Marcos said. "Higpitan n'yo naman ang enforcement [laban sa] mga quarrying, illegal logging activities kasi kita namang kalbong-kalbo na ang Sierra Madre kahit protected zone ito."

(with reports from Marie Ann Los Baños, News5; Beatrice Puente/MM)

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/top-stories/read/flooding-probe-lawmakers-hit-denr-official-over-defeatist-remark-in-senate-flooding-probe?fbclid=IwAR2SPgQ2VjSezd-QApBsIqI7urwvsU0vo0hfe-8aq0oonLi6pWB5BEyjsxwM>

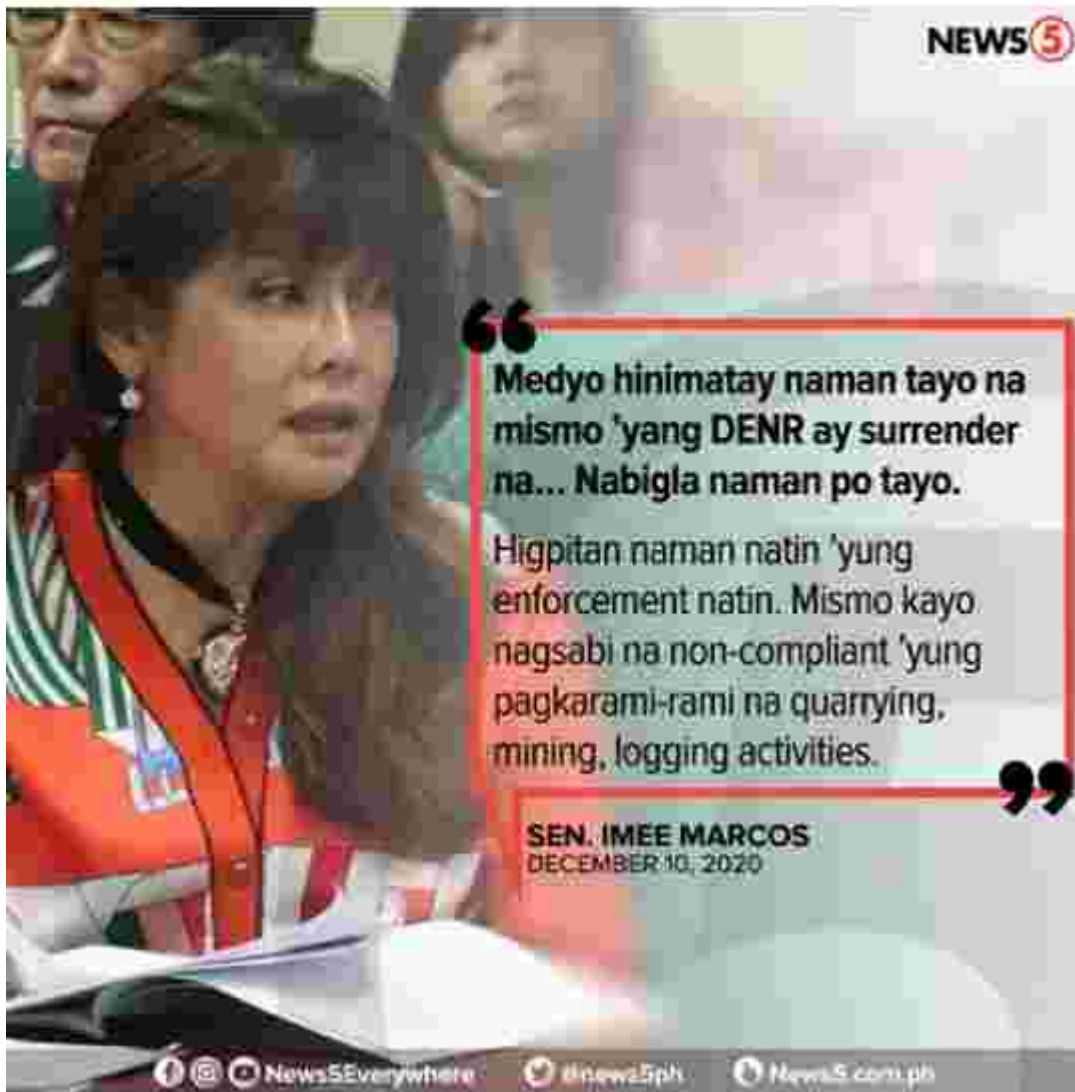


- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



Hindi nagustuhan ni Sen. Imee Marcos ang pahayag ng isang opisyal ng DENR na hindi itataguyod ang pagtatanim ng puno sa Marikina Watershed ang pagbahang dilut ng bagyong #UlyssesPH!

FULL STORY | bit.ly/3m4h0lp





'Professional squatting' impedes Masungi Geopark Project

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:18 PM December 10, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — "Professional squatting" has become a challenge in the pursuit of the Masungi Geopark Project in Rizal, with some "powerful" individuals, including retired enforcement officers, allegedly harassing forest rangers.

During the hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change on Thursday, Ann Dumaliang, project manager of the Masungi Georeserve, said "powerful individuals have been known to claim large tracts of the watershed," among them retired enforcement officers.

For instance, Dumaliang said a former police general fenced out rangers of the Masungi Geoserve from 500 to 1,000 hectares of the watershed just last October.

"Right now they are still here. Nagdadagdag pa sila ng mga (They have deployed) armed guards continuously harassing us on the ground and making it difficult for us to pursue our conservation efforts," she added.

According to Dumaliang, the armed guards patrol the area regularly, sometimes at night.

"They do not speak with us, they just move around the area, and when we do try to talk to them, napakaharsh po ng kanilang mga words (Their words are really harsh)," she told the panel.

"Ako po mismo, sinabihan nila na kakaladkarin nila ko kapag nakita nila ako (They told me that they will drag me if they saw me), and the same happens to our park rangers. Their president actually told me na when we go past a certain area, they will not hesitate to hunt us down," she added.

According to Dumaliang, 30 alleged former police officers went to the site sometime this year and claimed they will build a settlement facility for 60 people. She said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had acted on the matter and ordered the supposed former police officers to vacate the area.

In response, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu urged senators to act on the immediate approval of a bill that seeks to establish an [enforcement bureau](#) within the department.

He said that once the bill becomes a law, he would order the deployment of DENR personnel from the said bureau to the concerned site.

Senator Cynthia Villar, who chairs the committee, said she will also bring the matter to the director of the Police Regional Office in Calabarzon. She also promised that the Senate would conduct a hearing on the bill being referred to by Cimatu.

Further, Cimatu said the [DENR](#) can tap some officers from the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Army to increase the presence of government personnel in the area as the DENR has a memorandum of agreement with the two law enforcement bodies.



The [Masungi Geopark Project](#) seeks to restore some 2,700 hectares of land surrounding the Masungi Georeserve, a conservation area and a rustic rock garden tucked in the rainforests of Rizal.

EDV



Masungi Georeserve cries for help vs. 'professional squatters' but energy firm exec claims protecting IPs

Published December 10, 2020 7:02pm

The Masungi Georeserve, a conservation area in Rizal, on Thursday sought the help of the government in addressing the alleged harassment perpetrated by "professional squatters" who are claiming large tracts of lands in the site.

During a Senate hearing led by the committee on environment, Masungi Georeserve project manager Ann Dumaliang said that last October 20, a former police general fenced out the forest rangers from up to 1,000 hectares of the watershed.

"Right now, they are still here. Nagdadagdag pa sila ng armed guards [who are] continuously harassing us on the ground and making it difficult for us to pursue reforestation efforts," she said.

Senator Risa Hontiveros asked if Dumaliang was referring to a certain retired General Luizo Ticman who owns the energy company Green Atom. The resource person answered in the affirmative.

"They come to patrol the areas regularly. Sometimes they come at night and they do not speak with us. They just move around the area. When we do try to talk to them, napaka-harsh po ng kanilang words. Ako po mismo sinabihan nila na kakaladkarin nila ako pag nakita nila ako," Dumaliang said of the armed guards.

"Their president actually told me na when we go past a certain area, they will not hesitate to hunt us down... Kailangan po namin ang tulong niyo para matigil na po ito," Dumaliang added.

Green Atom president's side

Green Atom President Rex Recarro vehemently denied that the company is involved in the alleged harassment against the rangers of the Masungi Georeserve.

He admitted that he personally spoke with Dumaliang, but as a local who was close to the indigenous community in the area, and not as a representative of the firm.

"Ang sabi ko sa kaniya, makipag-usap sila sa mga katutubo. And ang sinabi ko sa kaniya, sa oras na niloko nila ang mga katutubo, hahanapin ko sila para ipamukha sa kanila 'yung kanilang sinasabi na sila'y maaayos na tao," he told GMA News Online in a phone interview.

He turned the tables at the management of Masungi Georeserve and said it was them who were engaged in land-grabbing in the eyes of the indigenous people because of the "gates" they were putting up.



"Lugar na puntahan din, 'di na sila (mga katutubo) makapunta dahil may gate na. Anong tawag doon?" Recarro said.

He also said the "baseless accusations" against Green Atom chairman Luizo Ticman should stop as all the lands in the area that had been previously linked to the latter had already been subsumed when the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act took effect in 1997.

"Ipina-subsume na niya. Walang may-ari ng lupang iyan kasi ang may-ari ng lupang iyan ay ang susunod na mga henerasyon," Recarro said.

Moreover, he said the security guards were not deployed by Green Atom. He said these forces have a contract with the indigenous people's organization that is in touch with the community, and are there to protect ancestral domain.

"Pine-prevent na ipasok nila (Masungi management) 'yung arko nila doon kasi holy area 'yun, sagradong lugar 'yun... 'Yung mga mga 'yun ay security guards na may lisensyadong baril," he added.

Recarro said the management of Masungi Georeserve needs more dialogue with the IP community to settle these issues.

DENR's action

During the hearing, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said his agency will take immediate action on the matter.

"We have a memorandum of agreement sa PNP at AFP na magbigay sila ng support sa amin. I can ask some personnel from the army and the PNP para matulungan din ang aming presence doon, in support sa management ng Masungi para matulungan sila," he told senators.

He also urged the lawmakers to fast-track the passage of the bill that would create an enforcement bureau within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Senator Nancy Binay said she already filed Senate Bill No. 1878 bill in the upper chamber.

Senate committee on environment chairperson Cynthia Villar said she would hear the measure as soon as possible, and committed to help set up a temporary office of the DENR and of state forces in Masungi Georeserve to prevent the alleged harassments in the area. - MDM, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/767535/masungi-georeserve-cries-for-help-vs-professional-squatters-but-energy-firm-claims-protecting-ips/story/>



Wildlife park grabbed

Published 8 hours ago on December 11, 2020 12:20 AM

By [Sundy Locus](#) @tribunephl_sndy



Bald-faced lies? Large-scale quarrying in Rizal had been blamed for the massive flooding from the last major typhoon 'Ulysses,' but some sectors say it was more the volume of water that most likely caused it.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Thursday suspended the quarrying and crushing plant operations of 11 firms in Rizal after Senator Risa Hontiveros flagged the alleged land-grabbing activities in the province's wildlife sanctuaries.

Listed in the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) CALABARZON website, five firms namely Asencio-Pinzon Aggregates Corp., San Rafael Development Corp., Montalban Millex Aggregates Corp., Hardrock Aggregates Inc. and Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation had their Mineral Production Sharing Agreements suspended effective 2 December.

Likewise, the environment agency also suspended the Mineral Processing Permits of six other mining firms in the region — the Oxford Mines Inc., Viba Aggregates & Marketing, Amiterra Aggregates Corp., Dream Rock Resources Phils. Inc., Superior Aggregates Inc. and ATN Holdings Inc.

The MGB said the suspension is in compliance with the memorandum issued by the Geosciences Bureau Director ordering all regional directors of the temporary suspension of all quarry and crushing plant operations in Rizal Province within the coverage of Marikina River Basin which river system drains toward the Marikina River.

Among the mentioned mining firms is Rapid City Realty and Development Co., which was also called out by Hontiveros for encroaching Masungi Georeserve in February this year.

The conservation area is protected by the DENR Administrative Order 1933-33 or the Masungi Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary which extremely prohibits quarrying and mineral exploration in the area.

"How were companies able to secure large-scale mining permits over some 1,000 hectares of watershed and wildfire sanctuary despite Masungi Georeserve being a watershed reservation since 1904 in the first place? That is 116 years that the area should have been protected, and yet these permits show otherwise," the Senator said in a statement.

"If there are under-the-table dealings within the DENR, the agency must uncover these rights away, if not the recent flooding will only get more severe and frequent," she added.

She also questioned the contrasting statement of the Rizal Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources which stated that the country will lack quarry materials if the quarrying activities in the area will be halted.



Hontiveros stressed that this is the same environment arm to claim that there is no human activity in the watershed.

Aside from the questionable activities, the government official also pointed out the lack of forest guards in the country emphasizing that there is only one guard to every 4,000 forest hectares in the Philippines — a mile distant from the ideal ratio of 1 to every 500 hectares.

If there are under-the-table dealings within the DENR, the agency must uncover these rights away, if not the recent flooding will only get more severe and frequent.

“P2 billion went to our Greening program but if we do not protect our investment by hiring more forest guards, it goes to waste.

In a time of massive unemployment, I’m sure hiring and training are definitely possible,” she said.

DENR enforcement bureau

Meanwhile, the DENR is pushing for the creation of an enforcement bureau as the department geared on making environmental law enforcement was its top priority.

Dubbed as Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau, the agency said the proposed unit will focus on the implementation of environmental laws such as the Forestry Code, Wildlife Act as well as other laws concerning air and water.



SMC turns over land titles to relocated families in Bulacan

By [VG Cabuag](#)

December 9, 2020



San Miguel Corp. on Tuesday said it formally turned over land ownership titles to former residents of Sitio Kinse in Barangay Taliptip, who were relocated to give way to the conglomerate's multibillion international airport project.

They are part of the last batch of former residents to move out of the future site of San Miguel P740-billion airport project. They were able to buy land and build new homes in Barangay Bambang, Bulacan with the financial assistance provided to them by the conglomerate.

The company also helped them find the property they chose, construct their houses and secured for them electricity and water utilities connection. San Miguel said it also took care of processing the transfer of ownership and titling of properties to their names.

The turnover was held last December 3, the company said.

The former Sitio Kinse residents did not own the land where their houses on stilts stood. They also did not have access to water and electricity.

Immediately after the completion of construction, they decided to move into their new houses last October 31 before heavy rains and wind brought by Typhoon Ulysses reached many parts of Luzon, including Bulacan.

Many of the residents still rely on fishing but the conglomerate said it is providing them livelihood and skills training opportunities through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Recently, the first 58 graduates of the TESDA courses completed their courses in shielded metal arc welding, electrical installation and maintenance, heavy equipment operations, dressmaking, and cookery.

About 12 graduates of the Heavy Equipment Operator course are set to be employed in the ongoing dredging project in Tullahan River and also the planned river channel improvement projects in Bulacan.



San Miguel provided a total of 277 owners of concrete and shanty houses in Barangay Taliptip with financial assistance. The company gave owners of non-concrete houses or shanties P250,000 each, while owners of concrete houses were given the appraised value of their homes, multiplied by two, plus P100,000.

San Miguel also provided cash assistance to 87 others who were disqualified, for a total of 364 beneficiaries.

Upon the request of Malolos Bishop Dennis Villarojo, San Miguel also distributed the total appraised cash value of abandoned chapels in Sitio Pariyahan, Sitio Dapdap, Sitio Bunutan and Sitio Capol to the 242 residents of these sitios.

Many decided to stay in Bulacan, but some of the residents decided to go back to their provinces Samar, Negros, Nueva Ecija, Sorsogon, Mindoro, Masbate, Camarines Sur, Malabon, Bataan Valenzuela, Parañaque, Dumaguete and Albay.



National bike law pushed in Congress

By Reina C. Tolentino, TMT

December 11, 2020

LAS Piñas City Rep. Camille Villar has filed a bill which seeks to provide a framework for a national bicycle law that upgrades the rights of cyclists similar to other drivers of motor vehicles.

The proposed measure, House Bill 8156, filed on December 7, seeks to provide a framework for a bicycle law on a national level so that bike riders and users will be under the regulated traffic rules in national roads and highways.

Under the bill, all main roads and highways shall be provided with bicycle lanes or bike ways identified by the Local Bikeways Office (LBO). The LBO is the agency which will be in charge of implementing the policies, rules and regulations pertinent to the Bicycle Act, including the registration of bicycles using the bike ways. This agency will be under the supervision of the city or municipal engineering office.

Villar noted that in the Philippines, one of the first laws related to bicycle use was enacted by the Marikina City Council in 1996, which dwells on the use of all streets, avenues, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, parks, and other public places as bicycle lanes. Recently, a bicycle ordinance was approved on second reading in Davao City.

The bill also includes a section indicating the rights, duties and obligations of cyclists, promoting safety of bicycle riders and all road users.

It mandates the use of helmets and appropriate signals and the use of reflective materials, especially at night.

It also imposes restrictions upon cyclists and the right to use a bicycle such as the prohibition for a bicycle to carry more persons than it was designed to carry except when another regular seat or trailer towed by the bicycle is present.

It also prohibits the parking of bicycles in areas not specifically marked as parking areas for bicycles.

“Filipino commuters may find a cheaper alternative to get to their destination while saving the environment from harmful emissions”, Villar said in the bill’s explanatory note.

This piece of legislation is a follow through to Villar’s father, former senator Manuel Villar’s proposal in 2011 to have a Bike Law in the country.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/11/news/national/national-bike-law-pushed-in-congress/807997/>



13 cities get recognition for best practices in climate mitigation

Published December 10, 2020, 1:27 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Thirteen cities were given recognition for sharing their best practices in climate mitigation and developing adaptation plans anchored in their crucial role in building a sustainable and climate-safe future.



WWF-PH Project Manager for One Planet Cities Imee Bellen shares the critical role of cities in a climate-defined future and how the One Planet City Challenge aims to help transform these urban areas. (WWF-Philippines / MANILA BULLETIN)

The World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF-Philippines) led the virtual awarding of the 2020 One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) on Wednesday, Dec. 9, to Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City, Dipolog City, La Carlota City, Malolos City, Parañaque City, Pasig City, Quezon City, San Carlos City, and Tagum City.

Also recognized were finalists Muntinlupa City and Santa Rosa City, as well as Batangas City, who bagged both the OPCC National Winner title and the World's Most Lovable City award in the We Love Cities (WLC)—the organization's public engagement campaign aiming to raise awareness and inspire citizens to engage in the sustainability efforts of their respective cities.

WWF-Philippines noted that it is the first time in its history that a Philippine city was awarded as the global winner of the We Love Cities campaign.

"We would like to thank the 13 cities for striving to make things better. We hope that all (Philippine) cities will do their part to ensure that we attain our (below) 1.5°C target (of global temperature rise) because it connects to our survival. Maraming salamat (thank you very much), and we hope we all put our minds and efforts together to attain a more sustainable and climate-friendly future not just for the Philippines, but the whole world," said WWF-Philippines executive director Jose Angelito Palma.

League of Cities of the Philippines executive director Shereen Gail Yu-Pamituan acknowledged the efforts of the participating cities to create a more sustainable future for their communities, even in these challenging times.

WWF-Philippines climate and energy programme head Angela Ibay urged the cities to continue doing climate actions that will lead them to a 1.5°C trajectory and encourage other cities to ensure a climate-secure future for their constituents.



She also pointed out the role of cities in achieving a future where both nature and people thrive.

“Despite all the challenges that our Philippine cities face, we have seen how they have continued to positively act and contribute to climate and environmental action. Across our OPCC participant cities, we are heartened by their generosity in sharing ideas on how cities can become cleaner, greener and more sustainable, recognizing that they can act as transformation catalysts. This is critical not just now but more so for the future of our planet and the next generation,” Ibay said.

With cities accounting for 70 percent of carbon emissions globally and generating 80 percent of the total gross domestic product, WWF-Philippines believes that their political leadership and economic power are considered instrumental in the transition to a more stable climate.



Typhoons Rolly, Ulysses bear imprints of changing climate, say experts

Published December 9, 2020, 5:22 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Filipino climate scientists have confirmed that 2020 tropical cyclones, such as super typhoon Rolly and typhoon Ulysses, had certain characteristics that may have imprints of a changing climate.



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a statement titled “Climate Change and the 2020 Tropical Cyclones” issued on Wednesday, the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) pointed out that cyclones have unusual but consistent attributes that were partially controlled by regional weather phenomena exhibiting unusual behavior this year.

The NPTE, which is composed of the country’s foremost climate scientists, noted that only two to three weather disturbances are usually recorded during October and November.

The scientific advisory body said that typhoon Quinta, super typhoon Rolly, tropical storm Siony, tropical depression Tonyo, and typhoon Ulysses were “off-season” tropical cyclones.

They were also slightly higher in latitude compared to where tropical cyclones commonly enter during October-November, it said.

The NPTE, in particular, pointed out that the rapid tropical cyclone intensification in the case of super typhoon Rolly may have been influenced by the unusually high sea surface temperature consistent with a warming climate.

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (CCA-DRR) will become an even bigger challenge for the country if natural hazards will be less predictable in the future, it said.

The team of experts highlighted the need to conduct further studies on the changing behavior of tropical cyclones, translation of scientific data on climate change and its impacts on actionable information that will be useful on the ground, and enhanced cooperation among the national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), and the scientific community on the implementation of climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures, which are now more timely and relevant.

“Climate change should not be used as the reason behind our inability to predict the weather and manage flooding but instead, it should challenge us to find ways of improving our forecasting accuracy, enhancing early warning systems, and responding to floods accordingly to prevent the unnecessary loss of lives and damage to properties,” the NPTE said.

The experts said that there is a need to initiate further studies on potential climate variability to improve the prediction of the track, timing, and intensity of tropical cyclones.



They also pointed out the revision of the dam release protocols that should consider the changes in climate change projections and hydrologic characteristics.

Moreover, the experts highlighted the need for scientists and professional communicators to work together in packaging scientific information into timely, accurate, and actionable warnings understood by all stakeholders.

Lastly, they urged the NGAs and LGUs to constantly seek the advice of mandated scientific advisory bodies when planning and implementing CCA programs and DRR interventions in all types of development plans.

CCC Vice-Chair Emmanuel De Guzman said the recommendations of the NPTE support the policy advocacy of the Commission for a whole-of-society approach in addressing the prevailing climate emergency.

“To survive and thrive in this era of climate change, we must heed the science and let it inform national and local development planning. In line with this, the Climate Change Commission has adopted a National Climate Risk Management Framework which provides direction and guidance to national government agencies, local government units, academe, and other key stakeholders in undertaking more comprehensive national and local risk assessments and formulating risk management strategies and interventions,” he said.

De Guzman also said that the Commission will continue to promote the value of science informing policy and practice in the context of climate action.

“Our goal is to bring our experts closer to our leaders and local communities to promote broader multi-stakeholder participation and to accelerate the mainstreaming of climate change mitigation and adaptation in national and local policy and planning processes,” he said.



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

AFP/Charism Sayat

Greenpeace: Climate crisis is a human rights issue

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - December 10, 2020 - 7:14pm

MANILA, Philippines — Climate crisis is not only an environmental or political problem but also a human rights issue that threatens people's rights to life and livelihood, an environmental organization said Thursday

In a forum coinciding with the Human Rights Day, Greenpeace Southeast Asia Executive Director Yeb Saño pointed out that climate crisis poses danger to the realization of human rights.

"Climate emergency is not just an environmental conservation dilemma. It's now the single biggest threat to lives, livelihood, human dignity, security. It is absolutely a human rights issue," Saño said.

"Climate crisis is not an issue about disaster event alone. It is compromising human existence, the fundamental dignities of people, their lives, livelihood, their health, home and all the basics that people need in order to survive," Rep. Edgar Chatto (Bohol) also said.

The Philippines is an archipelagic country highly vulnerable to the catastrophic impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather events and rising temperatures.

"Climate crisis is indeed generational and Filipino communities are at the forefront of the impacts. The Philippines has been facing impacts of climate emergency not only today but from many decades already," Saño said.

"We cannot anymore keep on telling ourselves we are resilient and through our resiliency, we can rise up and pick up the pieces every time and stand back on our feet. We need to stop romanticizing our resilience," he added.

The historic Paris climate accord, signed five years ago, called for blocking global warming at well below 2 degrees Celsius and 1.5 degrees Celsius, if possible.

Earth's surface has already warmed 1.2 degrees Celsius on average, and new study shows that a return to 2019 levels of carbon pollution would likely push the planet past the 1.5 degrees Celsius milestone around 2030.



Climate emergency

Last month, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution declaring a climate and environmental emergency. The declaration urges local government and government agencies to adopt policies to mitigate the effects of climate change, but does not legally compel them to act.

“The House resolution declaring climate and environmental emergency is not just a mere symbolic gesture but it should be an instrument that aims to ensure coherent actions in the executive and legislative agenda of our government,” Chatto, chair of House committee on climate change, said.

Saño said the climate emergency declaration is the start of “big steps” toward addressing concurrent crises.

“This declaration is a call to initiate an urgent whole-of-government and whole-of-society mobilization to respond to the climate emergency,” Saño said.

Better normal

Bill Bontigao, a Bicol-based youth leader, called on the government to set priorities to tackle the climate crisis and hold big polluters accountable for their contribution to the warming of the planet.

He also called on young people like him to act on the crisis to attain a “better normal.”

“I don’t want my nieces and nephews, including the next generations, experience a future where they can’t enjoy the rain nor the warm feeling of the sun because the world has changed so much... I don’t want them to experience a future where their survival is being challenged rampantly,” Bontigao, a survivor of Super Typhoon Rolly (Goni), said.

“I don’t want them to question me and my generations, telling me, ‘Uncle, what did you do when you had the chance to take action? Did you just do TikTok or Facebook? You and your generations failed to make a better world for us.’” — **with report from Agence France-Presse**



Environmental groups push passage of DDR bill

Published December 10, 2020, 4:44 PM

by [Alexandria Dennis San Juan](#)

Various environmental groups have called on the government to implement urgent policy action to address the disaster and climate emergency in the Philippines.

In an online forum Thursday, the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI), Greenpeace Philippines, and Local Climate Change Adaptation for Development (LCCAD) reiterated its call for the immediate passage of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DRR) bill.

The groups also partnered with the House of Representatives and Albay Rep. Joey Salceda to amplify the passage of the bill which they said would “ensure that the current and future generations of Filipinos will survive the projected accelerating impacts of climate change and disasters.”

The House Committee on Disaster Resilience recently approved House Resolution No. 535 declaring a disaster and climate emergency in the Philippines which Salceda called the “necessary first of many steps.”

Apart from this, the UPRI, Greenpeace, and LCCAD also advocate for several policy actions to address the country’s disaster and climate emergency such as declaring 2020 as a Disaster and Climate Emergency awareness year, raise awareness on the salient features of the DDR bill, and to call for international humanitarian aid in the aftermath of the recent typhoons.

The groups added that it will also join local government units in their call for support for vulnerable communities in the country to help them adapt and develop resilience to climate change and disaster-related impacts.

Manuel Rangasa, executive director of LCCAD, said these policy actions are the key to further enhancing the country’s disaster-climate resilience action such as climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and activities.

“Activities can be classified as contributing to climate change mitigation if they promote efforts to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions or enhance greenhouse gas sequestration or total avoidance,” Rangasa said.

“Activities can be classified as climate change adaptation if they achieve at least one of the following – addressing current drivers of vulnerability; building resilience to current and future climate risks; incorporating climate risks into investments; or incorporating management of climate vulnerability and disaster risk assessment into plans, policies, and institutions,” he added.

UPRI Executive Director Mahar Lagmay emphasized the importance of planning to prepare for present and future hazards amplified by climate change.

“Scientific planning across various sectors of society is one of the most effective tools to mitigate the harsh impacts of natural hazards. When combined with education and awareness-building to embed a culture of safety, it becomes the real early action measure in a people-centered early warning system,” Lagmay explained.

However, for Greenpeace Southeast Asia Executive Director Naderev Saño, genuine disaster and climate resilience goes beyond survival and preparation.



Saño pointed out that the public should stop equating “climate resiliency” with expecting highly vulnerable communities and sectors to simply try and survive the impacts of the climate emergency.

“We need coherent strategies that are rooted in clear and immediately implementable policies that protect people and climate, ensuring that those least responsible for emissions and yet are suffering the worst impacts are finally granted climate justice and a better future,” Saño added.



Group airs grim health warnings over planned Luzon coal plants

By: [Jheset O. Enano](#) - Reporter / [@JhesetEnanoINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:44 AM December 11, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Cases of premature deaths due to air pollution are feared to more than double in Metro Manila and in the provinces of La Union, Bataan, and Bulacan once the proposed coal-fired power plants in these areas and nearby places become operational, according to an international research group.

Adverse health impacts from pollutants emitted by these plants will also burden the country with at least P14 billion in health and economic costs yearly, the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (Crea) reported.

Projected deaths

The Crea report, which was released on Friday, looked at the emissions of coal-fired power plants across the Philippines. It highlighted how these plants, both existing and in the pipeline, would bring more pressure to the country's already strained health and economic resources, especially as it grapples with the coronavirus pandemic.

At least 1,000 people may die from air pollution every year once the coal projects add a combined 9 gigawatts to the country's existing 10-GW coal capacity, the Crea said.

A closer look at the impact of coal plant emissions per province showed that Luzon, which has the highest megawatt capacity of installed coal, would suffer at least 68 percent of the estimated premature deaths related to air pollution.

Premature deaths are those that could have been avoided with better air quality, said Isabella Suarez, the Philippine-based energy analyst from Crea.

With the proposed plants mostly situated in Luzon, its residents—especially those in populous cities and provinces—could experience even poorer air quality and health, the report said.

According to the World Health Organization, pollutants from coal-fired power plants, particularly the small yet deadly particulate matter 2.5, can travel over long distances and contribute to ambient air pollution.

Metro Manila, neighbors

"While many power plants are not built in close proximity to cities, their emissions nevertheless contribute to air pollution in these high-density areas, increasing the risk of death and illness from both acute and chronic diseases," the report said.

Metro Manila, for instance, is projected to have a 109-percent increase in premature deaths should nearby proposed plants be switched on, with eight cases per million people rising to 16 cases.

Even with the absence of coal plants in the capital region, emissions from plants built in nearby provinces can reach the metropolis, the Crea said.

Air pollution-related deaths in the provinces of Bataan and Bulacan are also projected to double. Currently, Bataan hosts two coal plant projects with a combined 1.3 GW of power. Power capacity in the province is expected to rise to nearly 4 GW with other plants currently being built and reviewed.



The Crea report projected a similar spike in cases of premature deaths in La Union province, with a projected 211-percent rise in cases once the proposed 670-megawatt coal plant becomes operational.

Suarez said the group's study showed that air pollution should not only be the concern of the community or the province where the coal plant will be built but of the entire country that will suffer from the detrimental effects of continued reliance on fossil fuel.

DOE moratorium

"Air pollution and climate change also have the same sources; they are two sides of the same problem," she said in an interview. "It does not make sense that for a country that is vulnerable to climate change, we continue to have dependence on what is causing the problem."

The Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced a moratorium on endorsements for new greenfield coal plants, but it does not cover those in construction and with approved permits.

Environmental groups and clean energy advocates have urged the DOE to impose a clear moratorium that would cover all coal projects in the country and begin the transition to renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.

The Crea report noted that based on the National Renewable Energy Zones identified by the government, many of the provinces at risk of having higher cases of air pollution-related deaths also had the potential for renewable energy.

For instance, the power stations in Zambales and Pangasinan provinces are found in renewable energy zones which have a total solar and wind potential of 1,067 MW and 1,040 MW, respectively.

Similarly, proposed projects in Camarines Norte and Quezon provinces are also within or nearby these identified zones for clean energy.

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis had earlier reported that the DOE moratorium could attract some \$30 billion in renewable energy investments.

Shift to renewable energy

With recent studies that also linked COVID-19 deaths and exposure to air pollution, renewable energy advocates said the country should seriously consider the urgent shift away from fossil fuel use.

"Air pollution does not respect political, administrative or geophysical boundaries," Paeng Lopez, campaigner from Health Care Without Harm, told the Inquirer. "It means that no one is actually safe ... With Metro Manila now a hotbed for COVID-19, if we further expose communities, especially the urban poor, it will make things worse."

Added Lopez: "For decades now, it is becoming clear that the choice for us is to transition to renewable energy. Every day that we spend not acting on it or seriously transitioning, it is a wasted opportunity."

Suarez said the projections of rising cases in the provinces emphasized the crucial role of local governments in ensuring the health and safety of their communities from coal pollution.



"Part of the process [in building coal plants] goes through our local governments," she said. "There is an opportunity for them to say no to coal ... It is a matter of them being proactive." Local officials, Suarez said, could also take steps toward ensuring the continuous monitoring of emissions from all operating and proposed plants within their jurisdictions and ensure transparency in the process.

"[These impacts of coal pollution] should make big emitters and the people think about the urgency of the problem," Suarez said. "We are dealing with a health crisis, but air pollution is also a health crisis in the making and has contributed to our vulnerabilities as a people to infectious diseases, including COVID-19."



BOC NAIA condemns 4.28 tons of unregistered and hazardous goods

Published December 10, 2020, 6:52 PM

by [Ariel Fernandez](#)

The Bureau of Customs-NAIA has condemned 4.28 tons of unregistered and hazardous goods in Trece Martires, Cavite.



(BOC NAIA / MANILA BULLETIN)

The condemnation of unregistered cosmetics and food products is part of Bureau of Customs' border protection initiatives to protect the public against unsafe and hazardous consumer products.

The goods were destroyed using the Thermal Decomposer (Pyrolysis) Facility of the Integrated Waste Management Inc. (IWMI) to ensure that these items will not be sold or made available in the market.

For the year 2020, the Port of NAIA has already condemned a total of 371.42 tons of unregistered and hazardous goods. This is also in compliance with Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero's directive to decongest all ports and warehouses.

District Collector Carmelita Talusan vowed BOC-NAIA's continued vigilance against the influx of dangerous drugs, anti-social goods and hazardous substances.



MANILA BAYWALK

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#SaveManilaBay

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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2ubs7eWWMw&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly



SPOTTED. Isang pamilya ng Philippine Eagle ang natagpuan sa Mt. Apo nitong Nobyembre sa ilalim ng proyektong "Search for the King of Birds" na nag-umpisa noong 2019.

Inabot ang grupo mula sa Philippine Eagle Foundation nang 192 oras sa kanilang pag-oobserba sa Philippine Eagle.

Target ng PEF na mahanap ang tathat ng nesting sites ng naturang ibon sa Mt. Apo Key Biodiversity Area para maprotektahan ang mga lugar na ito. Courtesy of Haniel Tocmo (Photos: Philippine Eagle Foundation)



Caren Guiso Membrado, Arvin Royel and 79K others

1.5K Comments 3.7K Shares



GMA News 12h

Imbis na maruruming damit, isang sawa na may habang anim na talampakan ang laman ng laundry basket ng isang residente sa Novaliches, Quezon City. Paano nga ba siya napadpad rito at ano ang dapat gawin sa mga ganitong sitwasyon?




Born to Be Wild 10h

Imbis na maruruming damit, isang sawa na may habang anim na talampakan ang laman ng laundry basket ng isang residente sa Novaliches, Quezon City. Paano nga ba siya napadpad rito at ano ang dapat gawin sa mga ganitong sitwasyon?

Abangan ang [BornToBeWild](#) ngayong Linggo, 9:00 AM sa [GMA Network](#)

👍👎👏 1.5K 235 Comments 101 Shares



PRRD to carefully review 2021 budget: Palace

By Filane Mikee Cervantes December 10, 2020, 8:53 pm



President Rodrigo R. Duterte (File photo)

MANILA – Malacañang on Thursday said the early passage of the proposed PHP4.506-trillion national budget for 2021 in Congress would give President Rodrigo Duterte ample time to thoroughly review it.

In a news briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the Palace will “take all steps necessary” to enact the 2021 General Appropriations Bill on time to avert a reenacted budget scenario amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

"Ang bibigyan po natin ng kasiguraduhan eh bibilisan naman po ng Palasyo ang pagsusuri sa budget para malaman kung mayroong mga specific line item na ibi-veto ang Presidente. Pero siyempre po lahat iyan mangyari ngayon na dahil kinakailangan magkaroon tayo ng budget pagdating ng a-uno ng Enero (What we assure is the Palace will fast-track the scrutiny of the budget to know if there is specific line item that the President will veto. But of course, it will happen now because we need to have budget before January 1)," Roque said.

Roque assured that Duterte will still exercise his power of review and his power of line veto.

"Pero hindi po isasakripisyo o isu-surrender ng Palasyo, ng Presidente, ‘yung kanyang kapangyarihan na pag-aralan ang budget at siguraduhin na walang dapat na item ng appropriation na dapat ma-veto (The Palace, the President will not sacrifice or surrender his power to study the budget and make sure to exercise his power of line veto)," he said.

Both chambers of Congress ratified the bicameral conference committee report on the 2021 budget, which will support the country's calamity and coronavirus responses, including PHP72.5 billion for the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines.

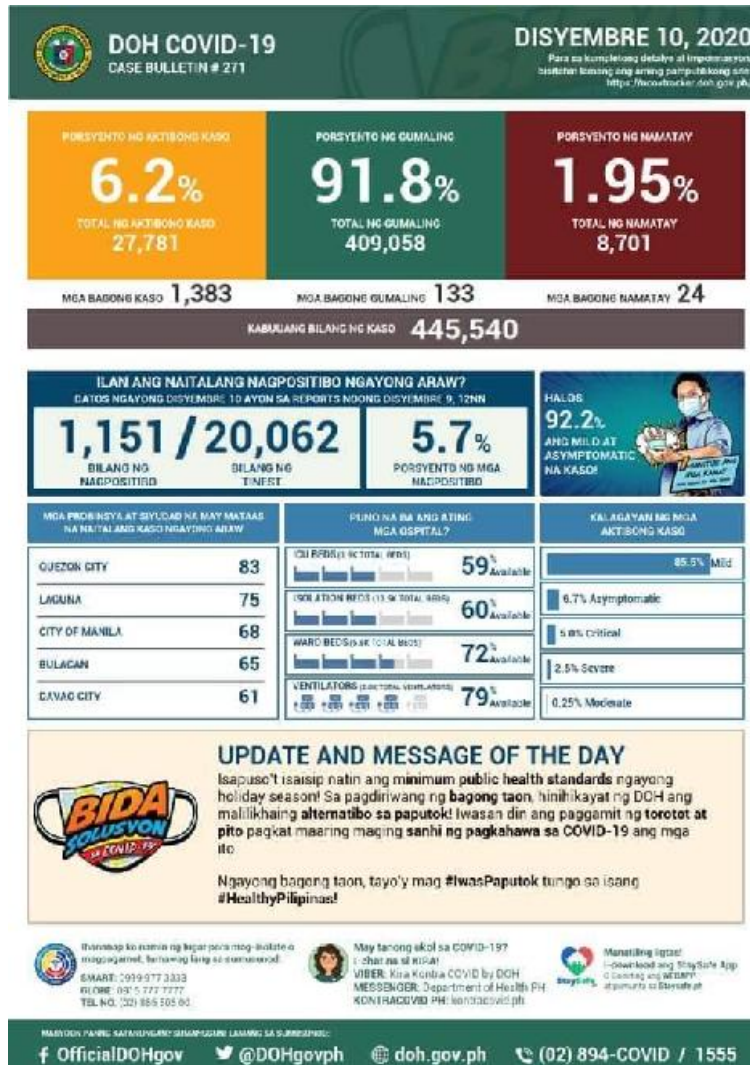
Earlier, budget deliberations were stalled due to the speakership tussle between then-Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano and his successor, Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Velasco.

Under the term-sharing deal brokered by Duterte, Cayetano would serve as the House Speaker for the first 15 months, or until October 2020, while Velasco would take over and assume the position for the remaining 21 months or until the 18th Congress ends in 2022. (PNA)



BREAKING: Bilang ng mga tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, nasa 445,540 na

By Angellic Jordan December 10, 2020 - 04:07 PM



Hindi muli bababa sa 1,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Huwebes (December 10), umabot na sa 445,540 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 27,781 o 6.2 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,383 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

85.5 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 6.7 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.25 porsyento ang moderate; 2.5 porsyento ang severe habang 5.0 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 24 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 8,701 o 1.95 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa. Ayon pa sa DOH, 133 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 409,133 o 91.8 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radio.inquirer.net/279148/breaking-bilang-ng-mga-tinamaan-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-nasa-445540-na>



2K-3K MINAMASAKER NG COVID SA US; SA PINAS, 'WAG MAGRELAKS



December 11, 2020 @ 12:40 AM 7 hours ago

NAKABABAHALA ang pananalasa ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Tingnan na lang natin ang nagaganap sa United States na roon naninirahan ang nasa apat na milyong Pinoy.

Aba, nasa 2,000 hanggang 3,000 ang minamasaker ng COVID-19.

Heto ang rekord ng mga patay sa nakalipas na siyam na araw o simula noong Disyembre 2, 2020.

Disyembre 2 – 2,680; Dis. 3 – 3,006; Dis. 4 – 2,970; Dis. 5 – 2,625; Dis. 8 – 2,003; Dis. 9 – 2,838; at Dis. 10 – 2,846.

May nakasingit lang na patay na 1,938 noong Dis. 6 at 1,096 noong Disyembre 7.

Grabe rin ang dami ng nagkasakit sa bilang na 201,150 noong Dis. 2; 214,497 – Dis. 3; 227,991 – Dis. 4; 220,731 – Dis. 5; 205,991 – Dis. 6; 178,507 – Dis. 7; 205,530 – Dis. 8; 230,418 – Dis. 9; at 204,266 – Disyembre 10.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad, malamang umanong epekto ang dami ng mga namamatay at nagkakasakit sa magkakasunod na maramihang paggalaw ng tao palabas ng kanilang mga tahanan at pagtitipon gaya ng katatapos lang na pambansang halalan nila at 3-4 araw na pambansang Thanksgiving nila.

Maaari rin umanong makalikha ang Kapaskuhan na isa pang pambansang okasyon ng kasiyahan ng maramihang pagkakasakit at masaker sa mga nasa Amerika.

Ngayon naman, pati mga Pinoy ay namamatay rin gaya ng sinasabi na 30 porsyento sa 193 namatay nang nars ay mga Pinoy.

Pero ulat lang ito noong kalagitnaan ng Agosto 2020.

Sa California naman na 25 porsyento ang Pinoy ng kabuuang populasyong Asiano, 35 porsyento sa mga patay ang Pinoy.

Ganyan katindi ang pandemya.

SA PINAS?

Masasabi nating maswerte tayo kahit papaano dahil mula sa pang-18 na may pinakamaraming kaso ng COVID-10 noong nakaraang buwan, pang-27 na lamang tayo at pang-28 tayo sa rami ng may patay.



Maswerte tayo dahil kahit papaano, nasa 8,701 pa lang ang namamatay kumpara sa US na umabot na 296,777 at maaaring nasa 300,000 na sa darating na Linggo...kung magpapatuloy ang mahigit 2,000 patay araw-araw roon.

Whew!

Ang totoo, ayaw ko sanang sabihin na maswerte pa rin tayo dahil marami-rami naman talaga ang halos 9,000 nang patay ngunit para lang sa pagkukumpara ito.

Sorry po talaga sa salitang “maswerte” at no offense meant sa lahat ng nasawi sa ating bansa, kasama na ang mga kaibigan, kamag-anak, kabarkada, katrabaho, kaorganisasyon, kaopisina at iba.

MARAMING PASAWAY

Kahit papaano, medyo sunod-sunod ang mga araw na iniuulat ng Department of Health na wala pang 2,000 nahahawa sa buong bansa at nasa 50 ang katamtamang namamatay araw-araw.

Pero nakababahala ang mga nagaganap ngayon.

Halimbawa sa mga pampublikong transportasyon.

Anak ng tokwa, siksikan na ang maraming bus at dyipni.

Walang nakatayo sa mga bus pero marami na ang 100 porsyentong punuan ang mga upuan at maging sa mga jeep.

Plastik na lang ang mga pagitan sa mga jeep habang walang plastik sa pagitan ng mga pasahero sa pangdalawahang upuan sa hanay ng mga bus.

Habang minumungkahi ng ilang awtoridad na dapat sana bukas ang mga bintana ng mga bus, kasama ang mga modern jeep, higit na marami ang may aircon.

Hindi ba pagmumulan ito ng pagdami ng COVID-19?

Nito namang Human Rights Day, anak ng tokwa, ang mga nag-rally para sa libreng COVID-19 test, binalewala ang social distancing.

Wala rin kayang hawaang naganap sa mga ito?

Sa Divisoria, talagang siksikan at kinakailangan pang magpadala sina Yorme ng bantay at mga pulis para basagin ang paglabag sa social distancing ng mga mamimili.

Kahit saan naman, lalo na sa mga interior na lugar o barangay sa mga lalawigan, anak ng tokwa, wala na halos ang nagsusuot ng face mask at nakaririnding tingnan ang paglilwaliw ng mga menor-de-edad na walang face mask.

Tanging ang mga may trabaho ang nagsusuot ng face mask at face shield, lalo na kung sasakay sila ng mga pampublikong sasakyan dahil hindi naman sila pasasakayin kung wala sila ang mga gamit na ito.

Heto pa, alam ba ninyong maging ang marami sa nag-aasikaso sa mga evacuation center sa mga nakakalamidad sa bagyo, baha at sunog ay nagsasabing “Parang sipon-sipon, ubo-ubo at lagnat-lagnat na lang ang COVID-19.”



Kaya naman, sa loob ng mga center na 'yan, grabe ang mga siksikan.

Marami rin ang matitigas ang ulo at walang sinusunod na health protocol at walang pakialam pagkatapos sila pa ang may pinakamalaking reklamo kung tinatamaan sila at isinisisi sa gobyerno ang lahat.

L

Habang dumarating ang Kapaskuhan, parami nang parami ang mga bawal.

Unang ipinagbawal ang caroling at Christmas party.

Ngayon naman, kasama na ring bawal ang pag-videoke, paputok at panonorotot.

lisa lang ang target dito: Pigilin ang hawaan sa COVID-19.

Tatandaan natin: Hindi lang naman ang mga sintomas ang makahahawa kundi maging ang mga asymptomatic o walang sintomas pero may dala-dala palang virus ng pandemya.

Sa iba mga bansa, may mga wais.

Isinasagawa ng mga Christmas party at family reunion sa mga loob ng mga hotel at iba pang mga tagong lugar.

Magkakaroon din kaya ang ganito?

Kung nasisikil ang mga karapatan natin ngayong Kapaskuhan, pinakamagandang isipin na para sa ating kapakanan ang lahat ng mga paghihigpit.

Kung sumunod tayo sa mga patakaran at batas laban sa pandemya, tayo rin ang makikinabang.

Mahalagang tandaan ng lahat na malaking tagumpay nating lahat ang mababang bilang ng mga nagkakasakit at namamatay.

Pero nagaganap lang ito dahil sa kahit papaano'y pagsunod ng marami sa mga batas-pangkalusugan.

Huwan nating iasa lahat sa pamahalaan ang ating kaligtasan dahil sa totoo lang, kalahati nito ang nagmumula sa atin.

Paulit-ulit man, obligahin natin ang ating mga sarili na magsuot ng face mask, face shield, mag-social distancing, paalalahanan ang iba na nakalilimot at matigas ang ulo.

Tandaan din natin ang mga bawal at maging masunurin tayo sa mga batas o patakaran na nauukol sa mga ito.

More nations assist in post-calamity recovery

By **BusinessMirror**

December 10, 2020



Gordon (second from left) hands a token of appreciation to Ambassador Ali Bin Ibrahim Ahmad Al-Malki during a turnover ceremony at the PRC Headquarters in Mandaluyong City on December 4. The Qatar Red Crescent donated relief goods to assist in the recovery of Filipino families affected by Super typhoon Ulysses.

VARIOUS countries remain unwavering in sending their aid to the Philippines, weeks after a series of natural calamities slashed through the archipelago.

On December 4, Ambassador Saskia de Lang announced the government of the Netherlands' grant of €600,000 as disaster-relief fund for the survivors of recent Super typhoons Rolly and Ulysses (international names Goni and Vamco). This will be channeled through the Netherlands Red Cross (NRC) and will focus on building temporary shelter and repairing damaged houses; providing basic needs and support to livelihoods; disaster-risk reduction; water, sanitation and hygiene, or WASH; health; protection, gender and inclusion; as well as migration and restoring family links.



Senator Richard Gordon (right) receives a check from departing Ambassador of South Korea Han Dong-man in November. The senator and PRC president-CEO thanked the Korean government for its humanitarian assistance in aid of the survivors of recent super typhoons.

An additional €350,000 has also been collected by the NRC through a public campaign for funds in favor of the Philippines.

"On behalf of [our] government, I would like to convey our heartfelt condolences to the people and the government of the Philippines over the losses of lives, the displacement of families, and the widespread damages to property and infrastructure," said De Lang. "Both the Philippines and the Netherlands are vulnerable to extreme weather. Climate change worsens this situation. We stand with the Philippines in these difficult times, and we will continue to cooperate on climate adaptation, water management and disaster-risk reduction. But for now, we focus on the immediate humanitarian response."

She added, "I am also proud of the generosity shown by the Dutch public in contributing to the campaign for funds in favor of the Philippines."

Both governments enjoy a long-standing partnership, sharing Dutch water expertise to cope with the Philippines's multiple water challenges—including coastal protection, land-use planning, drinking water management and the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan. Past and current disasters show that they face similar challenges along their coasts and rivers.



It said: "Disasters are not a fatality: the aim of [our] cooperation is to turn vulnerabilities into resilience, and sustainable, inclusive development."

The Netherlands government is actively engaging the Dutch private sector to collaborate in these efforts: "Aid and trade go together, and reinforce each other," the embassy stated.

Qatar's 'air bridge'

For their part, the Qatari people, through the Qatar Red Crescent (QRC), has donated around \$250,000 (approximately P12 million) worth of relief goods to assist in the recovery of Filipino families affected by Ulysses.

A Qatar Emiri Air Force C-17 plane transported the items via an "air bridge" established between the two states and landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport around 3:56 a.m. on December 4.

The Qatar Embassy in Manila said the aid was delivered under the directive of Qatar's Emir, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in a "bid to help friends in the Republic of the Philippines." Abdelmounaim Mhindate, head of the QRC Philippine mission, said the donations would be delivered straight to typhoon-stricken families—particularly those from hardest-hit areas.

The relief items include more than 40 tons of various food and nonfood items, in addition to shelter, tents, water and sanitation units, generators, and rescue boats. It will be coursed through the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) to help about 2,500 families—some of whom were displaced following the supertyphoon's onslaught.

"Once we took all these items outside the airport, immediately, [they] will be taken to the affected areas, especially in Rizal and Cagayan," Mhindate told the Philippine News Agency during the arrival.

"There is a very long, historic diplomatic relationship between the State of Qatar and the Republic of the Philippines," acknowledged the mission head. "The QRC and the PRC, we also have long-standing cooperation and partnership... we have always been interested [in supporting] the PRC and the Filipino people, especially those who have been affected by natural disasters."

Mhindate said Qatar would continue to support the Philippines, especially with emergency response in times of natural disasters: "We'll continue our work with PRC to reach those who are exposed to the dangers of disasters, and we will work hand-in-hand with them."

The Qatar aid program was implemented by the Qatar Charity and the QRC, which in turn coordinated with the PRC to ensure the quick provision of aid, with Qatar Fund for Development as main donor.

During the ceremonial turnover, Senator Richard J. Gordon, PRC chairman and CEO, disclosed that the donation is a testament to the volunteer organizations' mutual support among members of the society.

"[The QRC] has been helping us all the time, therefore solidifying our relationship. All these [donations are necessary; we will give them] to the most vulnerable sectors of the community," he revealed.



The contents of the donation include 402 food packages worth \$10,765.89; 1,137 food packages worth \$31,150.68; thermal blankets; family rifle tents; shelter tool kits; tarpaulins; inflatable boats; mosquito nets; as well as carbon and sand filters, among others.

The QRC has been a partner of the PRC in many humanitarian efforts, such as those for Super typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan) in 2013, Typhoon Dindo (Hagupit) in 2014, the Surigao earthquake and Typhoon Vinta (Tembin) in 2017, as well as Ompong (Mangkut) in 2018, to name a few. One of its notable efforts is the donation of two water tankers and 650 disaster-resilient shelters to "Yolanda" survivors.

SoKor sent support

GORDON likewise thanked the government of the Republic of Korea for donating nearly P10 million as humanitarian assistance for families and communities affected by the recent howlers. The senator and PRC president-CEO personally received a check for \$200,000 from outgoing ambassador Han Dong-man during their dinner on November 23.

"We thank you for the humanitarian aid, and we will make sure that this will go directly to the people. *Kamsahamnida!*" Gordon said.

He also expressed his and the PRC's gratitude to the departing diplomat for the numerous donations made by the latter's government during his stint in the country: "You have done so much to further strengthen ties between our nations, which will definitely be a legacy. On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the PRC, we wish you safety on your next journey, and a life full of happiness ahead. You will always have a second home in the Philippines."

Gordon noted that South Korea, through its embassy here, has always made donations to the PRC whenever disaster strikes any part of the country to help fund the humanitarian operations that they conduct in the area concerned.

Its donations for the past five years included a P5-million donation for Marawi City in July 2017 for 20 portable toilets that served more than 4,500 individuals in four evacuation centers in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

In February 2018, the embassy also donated P10 million for the PRC's operations on the Mayon Volcano eruption, as well as the distribution of hygiene and health kits for 4,000 persons in evacuation centers, among other forms of assistance.

In September 2018, South Korea also donated P16 million for PRC's Typhoon Ompong operations, which was used to provide affected households with a livelihood assistance amounting to P10,000 each.

When a series of strong earthquakes jolted different parts of Mindanao last year, the East Asian country also donated P5 million for PRC's Mindanao Earthquake Recovery Phase. In January this year, too, it also provided P10 million to facilitate relief operations in communities affected by the Taal Volcano eruption. *With reports from Joyce Ann L. Rocamora and Christine Cudis/PNA*

Image credits: [PNA/Joey O. Razon](#), [Philippine Red Cross/PNA](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/12/10/more-nations-assist-in-post-calamity-recovery/>



Switzerland to give P27-M to typhoon, flood-hit PH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora December 10, 2020, 1:37 pm



Photo courtesy of Switzerland Tourism/BAFU

MANILA – The Swiss government will contribute Swiss Franc (CHF) 500,000 (approximately PHP27 million) to support the calamity-stricken regions in the Philippines, weeks since typhoons Rolly and Ulysses battered the country and displaced thousands of people.

The donation, to be coursed through the Philippine Red Cross PRC and IFRC, includes support in health, water, sanitation, hygiene and shelter, and humanitarian relief items, among others.

It seeks to help in the immediate and early recovery needs of thousands of families hit by storms.

"In solidarity with the Philippines, the Swiss Confederation confirms its support to the emergency appeal of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) amounting to CHF 500,000- which corresponds to roughly PHP27,000,000," the Switzerland Embassy in Manila announced Thursday.

"This year has been a tumultuous one, to say the least. In 2020, we were confronted by volcanoes, typhoons, and a terrible Covid-19 pandemic that took a heavy toll on so many people with health concerns but also fear for their jobs, livelihoods, and existences. Solidarity and care are more important than ever," Swiss Ambassador Alain Gaschen said.

Last month, "Rolly" and "Ulysses" unleashed torrential rain and ferocious winds resulting in billions worth of damages to infrastructure and agriculture and a total of 126 deaths in the country. (PNA)



Climate change: Have countries kept their promises?

By Matt McGrath Environment correspondent

Published 20 hours ago



It was all smiles in Paris in 2015 but have countries fulfilled their climate promises?

Agreed by 196 parties in the French capital in December 2015, the Paris climate deal aims to keep the rise in global temperatures this century "well below 2C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5C." We look at five key countries and how well they have kept their promises.

Every one of the signatories to the Paris climate agreement has had to lodge a climate action plan with the UN to spell out what steps they are taking to curb carbon.

Overall, according to a new assessment from global consultancy Systemiq, low-carbon solutions have been more successful in this period than many people realise.

The growth in coal for energy outside of China has declined significantly.

"We have to translate what we can do into what we will do," said Lord Nicholas Stern, from the London School of Economics (LSE).

"But a big part of that is understanding what is happening and that's why I think this report is important. It will change people's perspectives of what is possible and translate that into action."

So the big picture might be improving, but what about individual nations? Just ahead of the five year anniversary of the deal, we look at how five key countries have lived up to their promises under the pact.

The UK

As well as being the world's fifth largest economy, the UK is the incoming president of the Conference of the Parties or COP, the main UN climate negotiating forum, which will take place in Glasgow in November 2021.

This global gathering of world leaders will try and work out how to improve the collective effort to tackle climate change, and take the next steps. COP26 in Glasgow will be the most important meeting since the Paris climate agreement was signed five years ago.

The president of the meeting is a key influence on the success or failure of the event.



Expanding offshore wind energy is a key policy for the UK's future climate targets

In Paris in 2015, French foreign minister Laurent Fabius was seen as a hugely effective, impartial leader who gained the trust of nations rich and poor.

UK Business Secretary Alok Sharma has already been tasked with the job by Boris Johnson, but already there are worries that he has too much on his plate.

Has the UK lived up to its promises?
The answer to this is mostly yes.

Since 2008, the UK government has had to set five-year greenhouse gas targets by law, based on advice from the independent Climate Change Committee (CCC).

Targets set under the first three carbon budgets have been met.

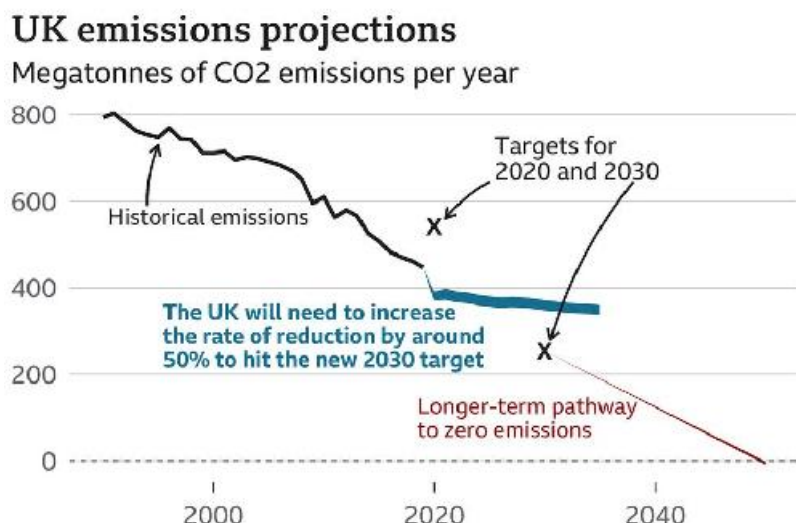
While it was part of the EU, the UK's target for 2020 was a reduction of 16% on 2005 emissions. The UK easily achieved this. In fact, right now, Britain's total output of warming gases has gone down by around 45% from 1990 levels.

As a result of leaving the EU, the UK has to register its own standalone plan to cut carbon with the UN.

This is known as a "nationally determined contribution" or NDC.

It focuses on targets for 2030, which are meant to show the pathway to net zero emissions by 2050, a goal that was increased by the government from 80% cuts in 2019.

Reaching net zero requires that any carbon emissions are balanced by absorbing an equivalent amount from the atmosphere by, for example, planting trees.





The [new 2030 plan](#), released on 3 December, has mainly won plaudits for its ambition. But critics say there are some major hurdles ahead.

Under the new NDC, around 87% of our electricity would need to come from low carbon sources by the end of this decade, up from over 50% now.

Almost half the cars on the road would need to be electric, up from around 6% at present.

As well as making major changes to transport, energy and food emissions, the UK will have to take a tough stand internationally so that it doesn't simply substitute carbon cuts at home with emissions-laden products from abroad.

"It's what you do at home, but it's also what you invest in internationally," Dr Alison Doig, from the [Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit \(ECIU\)](#), told BBC News.

"The UK needs to ensure with our export finance credits and with our Brexit deals, that we are strongly signalling overseas, what we're doing domestically."

Australia

Australia matters because not only is it one of the biggest sources of fossil fuels, it is also a country highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The country is now the world's largest exporter of coal and gas, according to a [recent study](#).



Wildfires in Australia were made worse by long running drought

Emissions of greenhouse gases from Australian exports are responsible for 3.6% of global emissions [according to research](#).

On a per capita basis, and including exports, Australians are responsible for four times as much CO2 as people living in the US.

Politically, Australia is also very important in climate change terms as well.

Over the past five years, it has moved further away from the majority of nations in the UN, which have been urging rapid cuts in carbon. Prime minister Scott Morrison was [criticised by other politicians](#) for downplaying the role of climate change after recent, devastating wildfires.

Has Australia lived up to its promises?
Not really.

While it is set to hit a rather low 2020 target set under a previous global agreement, its actions under the Paris climate agreement are not measuring up, according to experts.



Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison has been criticised for not taking climate change seriously

Australia set a target for 2030 of making a 26-28% reduction in its emissions compared with 2005 levels.

Projections published at the end of last year suggested Australian emissions will be only 16% lower than 2005 levels in 2030.

This year's UN Emissions Gap report says that, right now Australia is projected to fall short on what should be a very easy target.

"That 26% reduction needs to be at least double that to be in the Paris Agreement pathway," says Dr Bill Hare, who's part of the [Climate Action Tracker](#) group of scientists who have rated Australia's plans as "insufficient".

"There's very little going on whether you're talking about electric vehicles, motor vehicle standards, it's alone in the OECD in not having fuel efficiency standards, it has virtually nothing on energy efficiency, and virtually nothing on building efficiency."

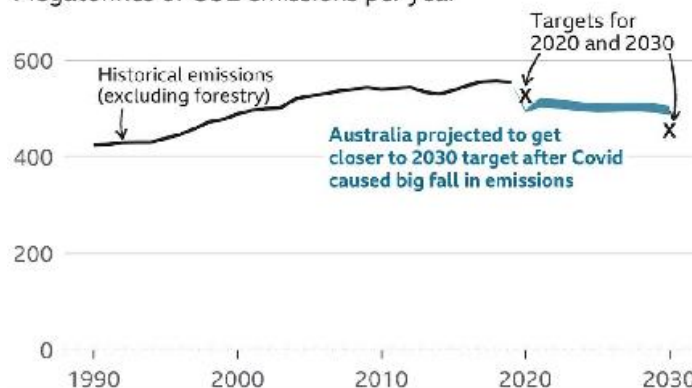
"It is really an embarrassment actually."

There's a lot of focus on Australia now because of changing world politics.

A dispute with China has threatened its exports of coal, while the result of the recent US election has taken away a climate ally of the Australian government.

Australia emissions projections

Megatonnes of CO2 emissions per year



Source: Climate Action Tracker



There's even been some talk in recent weeks that the country might soon set a long-term net-zero emissions goal.

And [according to newspaper reports](#), Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison is set to announce that the country will no longer use carbon credits carried over from a previous international climate agreement.



Australia had planned to use these questionable credits as a way of making up the shortfall in its 2030 target.

"I think if Trump had won the election then Australia would see themselves as part of a gang with Brazil and Saudi Arabia and a few others," said Dr Alison Doig, from the ECIU.

"But with Biden coming into office, they know are in a position that's becoming more outcast. So that might be why there's some softening on local language and the rhetoric."

While action at the federal level in Australia might be slow, lower down there's a good deal of movement.

"Our energy market operator has said that for the power sector in Australia, we're looking at the fastest transition in the world," said Dr Bill Hare.

"Everyone knows that we're famous for our sunshine, our wind and our space. And that means that renewables are cheap, they are rapidly outcompeting coal and gas, and those technologies are going to be replaced very quickly."

The EU

The EU represents about a fifth of the world's economy - and was responsible for around 9% of the global share of CO2 emissions in 2019, the third largest emitter.

Climate change is seen as a key issue for Europe, because it's an international problem where acting together makes sense to many citizens.

Europe's political leaders also see tackling climate as important in showing the global relevance of the Union.



An onshore wind farm in Germany

During the Trump administration, the EU has stepped up in a leadership role, attempting to build bridges with China on how to tackle the challenge.

The EU is well regarded generally among developing countries and small island states because they are seen as wanting to push for greater ambition in terms of cutting carbon.

In terms of building a global alliance of rich and poor countries the EU is key.

Has the EU lived up to its targets?
Again, the answer is mostly yes.

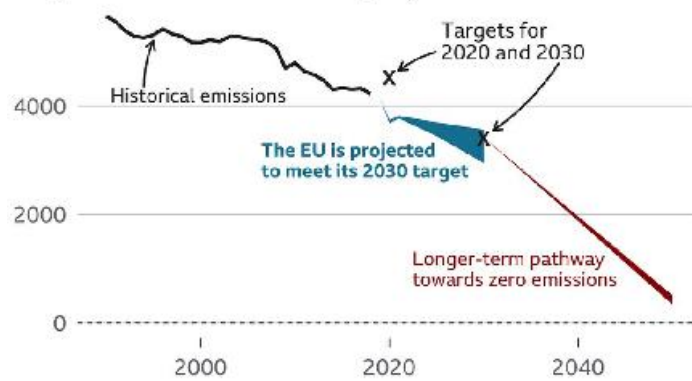
But back in 2007, EU leaders set a goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 20% of their 1990 levels by 2020.

By 2018, the collective efforts had cut warming gases by 23.2%.



EU emissions projections

Megatonnes of CO₂ emissions per year



Source: Climate Action Tracker

BBC

This over-achievement caused many to think that the initial targets had been set far too low. The EU currently has a 40% target for 2030, which experts believe is also behind the times.

"It's basically 10 years old," said Dr Niklas Höhne from the Climate Action Tracker group.

"If the EU would implement all the targets that it has for renewables and energy efficiency, it would already reduce emissions by 45%."

"So, the official target that they use today is outdated and needs to be revised."

The EU has adopted the aim of having a climate-neutral economy by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement.

And in the [European Green Deal](#), announced in September, the European Commission proposed a new target for cuts of around 55%.

European leaders are expected to agree the new 2030 goal when they meet on 10-11 December. The European Parliament and many environmentalists want them to go further and aim for a 60% cut.

But the proposal has already run into trouble with Eastern European member state who argue this is too much, too soon.

"It will open up this Pandora's box again, because the eastern countries will want to have compensation for it," said Dr Susanne Dröge, from the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

"Brexit will increase the pressure to find compromises and to pay for it," she said.
"After all, it is always about compensation."

China

China is key to solving the global problem with climate change, because it is the world's biggest contributor to the root cause, CO₂ emissions.

As China's economy rapidly expanded over the past two decades, using coal as their main energy source, their emissions have overtaken the US and now comprise around 28% of the global CO₂ output.

But China is also the reason for a recent burst of optimism that has spread through the international community since September, when China's President Xi Jinping [told the UN](#) that his country would reach carbon neutrality by 2060.



China's President Xi meets US President Trump in 2019

Has China lived up to its promises?
Again the answer is mostly yes, but with some caveats.

Seeing itself as a developing country, China has always been reluctant to take on targets to cut carbon, arguing that the West should go first and farthest to rein in CO2.

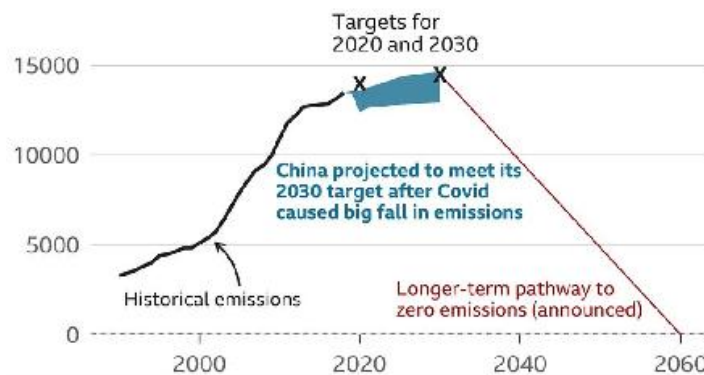
Instead, China has focussed on carbon intensity rather than cuts. This means limiting the amount of CO2 used per unit of economic activity.

This is easier to achieve than outright emissions reductions but the downside is that as GDP increases so does the overall total of carbon used.

Before the Copenhagen conference of the parties meeting (COP) in 2009, China pledged to cut its carbon intensity by 40-45%, compared to 2005 levels.

China emissions projections

Megatonnes of CO2 emissions per year



Source: Climate Action Tracker



At the end of 2017, China had cut carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 46% from the 2005 level.

In the Paris Agreement, China promised to cut carbon intensity by 60-65%, and to peak its emissions by 2030.

The country remains on course to meet these goals. In fact, [according to some research](#), it could meet them years ahead of schedule.

"I think China took the conservative approach to the Paris Agreement, they only proposed something that they were very sure that they could meet," says Niklas Höhne from the Climate Action Tracker.

"It was also clear that at the moment when they proposed their 2030 target, that they would over-achieve it. And that doesn't mean that that it's a bad target, per se, but that's their way of approaching it."



When President Xi Jinping told the UN in September that China would reach net-zero in 2060 and peak its emissions well before 2030, the statement was welcomed all over the world.

The key for China will be the next five-year energy plan, that will be issued in the early part of next year.

If the shift to renewable energy sources, away from coal is really going to happen, the evidence will be in that document.



A giant solar farm in China

That could also form part of a new Chinese national commitment to be submitted to the UN, in the run up to the Glasgow COP next year.

But there are significant challenges.

"The nature of the peaking in 2030 target can be only measured in a 100% certain way after the fact," said Dr Shuwei Zhang, from the Draworld Environment Research Centre in Beijing.

"The 2060 neutrality goal is theoretically possible, but could become unfeasible in reality, if action is continuously delayed."

"From now, there is no leeway to accommodate coal any longer."



Scientists examine a melting glacier in China

China will have to limit coal for energy, not just inside the country but outside as well. The financing of overseas coal power plants will have to wind down.

Right now, the country's emissions have rebounded in the wake of the pandemic, as coal continues to burn brightly.

But many remain optimistic, that if China says it can do something, then it will get there.

"I assume if China proposes the target of carbon neutrality by 2060, it's already quite sure that they can achieve it," said Dr Niklas Höhne.



"And that makes me a bit hopeful that they can indeed make that transition."

The Philippines

The Philippines is one of the countries suffering the most from [the impacts of climate change](#).



The Philippines has suffered serious impacts from storms and typhoons

Like many other developing economies, the country is very keen to use energy to bring people out of poverty and raise living standards.

In the past, the Philippines has looked to significantly increase investment in coal to foster development.

But its current approach seeks to move away from coal, and experts say the country could be a role model for many developing nations in similar situations.

Has the Philippines lived up to its promises?

Up until the Paris Agreement, the Philippines had not had any international requirements to curb its carbon.

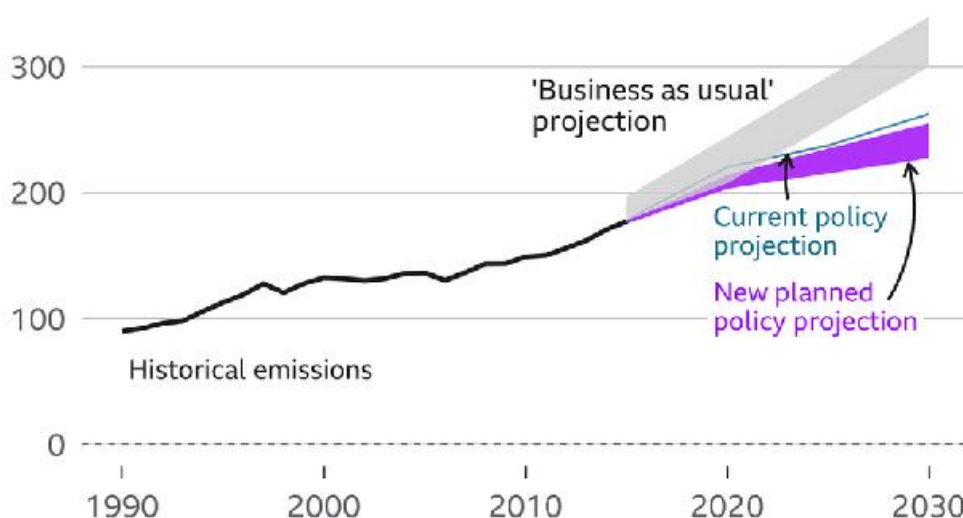
But in the Paris pact, it committed to cut its emissions by 70% below "business as usual" by 2030. According to the Climate Action Tracker analysis, its actions to date are compatible with keeping warming well below 2C this century.

In 2019, around half the country's electricity came from coal - and plans in the pipeline would have more than doubled the country's coal fired capacity.

But in October 2020, [the government announced a moratorium on new coal plants](#), preferring instead to pursue a more mixed energy strategy.

Philippines emissions projections

Megatonnes of CO2 emissions per year



Source: Climate Action Tracker



According to the Climate Action Tracker, this could curb emissions from the Philippines by 35% on top of their current policy projections by 2030.

"I think that one of the most critical factors is that the market has been very important in the power sector," said Dr Bill Hare.

"In other countries in Southeast Asia, we have what's called political economy, vested interests dominate in places such as Vietnam or Indonesia."

"But in the Philippines, the market has been really important in determining investments for quite some time. And I think that's what we're seeing unfolding, multiplied by a government predisposition now towards renewables, and a realisation that, as a very vulnerable country, they really need to be getting their act together."

The expectation of observers is that with funding from the UN's [Green Climate Fund](#) and more focus on sustainability from international banks, the move away from fossil fuels in the Philippines in the longer term will likely speed up.

The Philippines has not yet set a long-term goal, but it says it is committed to submitting a new national climate plan with enhanced targets.

The country will also likely push for further action on a concept known as "loss and damage" within the UN negotiation process.

For developing nations, this means financial recompense for the impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided or adapted to.

But richer countries are strongly resistant, believing that because they contributed the most to carbon emissions, they will be on the hook for compensation for centuries to come. Follow Matt [on Twitter](#).