

13 NOVEMBER 2020, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





## Cimatu tiniyak ang patuloy na paglaban sa climate change



November 12, 2020 @ 6:06 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa publiko na ang gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay hindi tumitigil sa paglaban sa climate change kahit na nasa panahon ng COVID-19 pandemic ang bansa.

“Climate change is a reality that will continually grip us if we do not take action,” ayon kay Cimatu sa kanyang ipinadalang mensahe na mula kay Undersecretary for Attached Agencies and Chief of Staff Rodolfo C. Garcia habang isinasagawa ang web event upang talakayin ang awareness para sa peatlands conservation na isinagawa nitong nakalipas na Nobyembre 6.

Ang naturang okasyon na inilunsad ng DENR at telecommunications giant PLDT Inc. at ang kanyang wireless unit Smart Communications Inc., featured the Caimpugan Peatland sa Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS) bilang pilot site para sa programang konserbasyon ng peatlands sa bansa.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang DENR ay nananatiling nakatugon sa climate change at maibsan ang epekto nito sa pamamagitan ng Program for Environment and Natural Resources for Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Development.

“Protecting the country’s peatlands is a solid step that the Department is taking to help reverse the impacts of climate change,” ani pa ni Cimatu na kanyang mensahe sa okasyon at nagsilbi rin kickoff for para sa selebrasyon ng Climate Change Consciousness Week this month.

Kaugnay nito nilinaw ni Cimatu ang higit na kooperasyon sa pagitan ng publiko at private sector para sa pamamahala at preserbasyon ng environment lalo na sa panaho ng COVID-19 pandemic.

“This landmark partnership with PLDT-Smart reinforces the call for the public and private sectors to work together to realize aspirations especially for the environment,” dagdag pa ni Cimatu.

Sinabi pa ng opisyal na tinatanggap niya ang partnership bilang panimula ng mahabang pag-iisa para protektahan ang peatlands at ang ating wetland resources.

Pinasalamatan din ng DENR chief ang PLDT-SMART at ang kanilang chairman, president and CEO Manny V. Pangilinan para sa nangungunang pribadong sector para sa pakikipagtulungam sa DENR sa konserbasyon ng peatland. Santi Celario

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/cimatu-tiniyak-ang-patuloy-na-paglaban-sa-climate-change/>



# Cimatu pushes creation of EPED

Thursday, November 12, 2020 Cory Martinez11

**THE** creation of a permanent enforcement bureau within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is very important since it will help save the lives of the department's frontliners who are fighting environmental crimes.

This was stressed by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu as he reiterated his appeal for the immediate creation of the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB).

Cimatu claimed that further delay in the establishment of the EPEB "is putting the lives of our environmental frontliners at greater risks."

Cimatu, however, expressed confidence that Malacañang would certify as urgent a proposed measure creating the said enforcement bureau. He said that two bills have been filed in the House of Representatives and the Senate seeking the establishment of the EPEB.

*"I am confident that the House and the Senate are behind the EPEB bill and that Malacanang will certify the same as urgent,"* Cimatu said.

Cimatu is expected to formally ask for the President's certification at the meeting of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) this month.

The President's certification would allow Congress to immediately pass the proposed law on third and final reading.

*"Regrettably, yet another one of our frontliners was killed last Oct. 28 in Agusan Del Sur during an anti-illegal logging operation in Bunawan town,"* Cimatu lamented.

DENR Forest Guard Marianito Rufano, 51, was killed by armed men while leading a two-day retrieval operation of some 12,911 board feet of abandoned premium Lauan and Toog timber seized from an illegal logging activity in Sitio Kiatsan, Bgy. Bunawan Brook in Bunawan.

On June 15, Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda filed House Bill (HB) 6973 establishing the EPEB under the DENR, while Senator Nancy Binay filed a counterpart measure—Senate Bill 1878—last October 12.

Executive Director Nilo Tamoria, DENR-Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF), said support for the EPEB bill has been *"gaining ground in Congress."*

*"HB 6973 now has four additional co-authors—Ang Probinsyano Partylist Representative Alfred delos Santos, North Cotabato 3rd District Representative Pingping Tejada, Cagayan Province 1st District Representative Ramon Nolasco Jr. and Ilocos Norte, 2nd District Representative Angelo Barba. Capiz 2nd District Representative Fred Castro has also manifested his plan to co-sponsor the bill,"* Tamoria disclosed.

EPETF records showed that in 2019 alone, five DENR workers were killed in the line believed to be connected to DENR's law enforcement operations while one was killed in May 2020.

## Derek Ramsay, Pops Fernandez join PLDT and DENR for peatlands conservation awareness

Bylza Iglesias, TMT

November 13, 2020

Gabay Kalikasan volunteers and eco-warriors Derek Ramsay and Pops Fernandez vowed to use their celebrity in helping raise awareness about the importance of conserving peatlands in the country.

The blockbuster actor and Concert Queen joined forces with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the PLDT-Smart Group (which supports Gabay Kalikasan) who have partnered to implement the pioneering program for wetlands conservation in the Philippines.

The project aims to protect, conserve and restore the Caimpugan Peatland in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife, Agusan del Sur. According to the government agency and telecom giant, Caimpugan Peatland holds the only recorded, remaining and intact peat swamp forest in the Philippines. It is also the largest of its kind in this part of the world.

During the event, Fernandez shared that while the entire world is still in the middle of Covid-19 pandemic, people should not forget another life-threatening matter that has been going on long before, which is climate change.



*Derek Ramsay and Pops Fernandez (inset and center and rightmost respectively) use their influence to promote peatlands conservation together with (from left) PLDT corporate communications head Cathy Yang, PLDT Chairman Manuel Pangilinan, and (second from right) PLDT Senior Vice President, Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) and Gabay Kalikasan founding chairman Chaye Cabal-Revilla.*

“That is really a concern. I was not serious about it a couple of years back but now that I see all these things that are happening to our one earth — one storm after another, earthquakes and so on. It’s all so alarming so I feel it would be good to be a part of something like this; to help reach out and communicate not just the Philippines’ problems but the world’s problems, really. I think we should all get together and try to do something about it, even just to let our kababayan be aware of this serious problem,” Fernandez said at the project’s virtual launch.

Meanwhile for Ramsay who has always been involved in environmental advocacies concerning climate change mitigation such as reforestation, marine protection and mangrove conservation, he wanted to help uncover another untapped essential in fighting climate change.



“I’ve always been an environmentalist. I love Mother Earth and we should all love Mother Earth. Everyone is aware of reforestation, mangrove conservation, but not so many people know about peatlands so I felt like this is a great opportunity for me to help spread the word about peatlands over social media. Like Pops said even just to let people know what peatlands are exactly, how important they are and why we should save them,” he explained.

“So, when they approached me to join this cause, I immediately said I’m onboard. I’m going to do everything to help educate people about peatlands. I want to go on a trip so I could actually see them soon.”

### **Reversing impacts of climate change**

No less than Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu led the digital launch of the peatlands project, along with PLDT-Smart Chairman, President and CEO Manny Pangilinan and PLDT Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) Chaye Cabal-Revilla, who is also Gabay Kalikasan’s founding chairman.

According to Cimatu, DENR is committed to address climate change and reverse its impacts through the Program for Environment and Natural Resources for Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Development. “Protecting the country’s peatlands is a solid step that the department is taking to help reverse the impacts of climate change,” Cimatu said, adding that involving communities in protecting and managing natural resources is a solid foundation not only not only toward attaining goals, but ensuring the sustainability of the efforts.

“This landmark partnership with PLDT-Smart reinforces the call for the public and private sectors to work together to realize aspirations especially for the environment,” Cimatu said.

Peatlands act like a foam that absorbs water, so that Agusan del Sur’s Caimpugan peatland serves as a reservoir for 22.9 million tons of carbon.

Pangilinan and Revilla both assured the secretary that PLDT will leverage its digital technology and networks to protect the mangroves and rainforests.

PLDT-Smart will further support peatlands conservation and management strategies by equipping the Bantay Danao Conservation Group volunteers with digital and communication tools such as radio devices, mobile phones, and drone equipment to support them in their enforcement activities.

Bantay Danao was formed in 2017 deputized by DENR-Caraga to protect the Agusan Marsh Wildlife.





# WATCH: Dolomite beach survives Typhoon Ulysses

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 13 2020 01:21 AM



The dolomite beach in Manila Bay is seen as Typhoon Ulysses swept through Luzon on Thursday. **Fernando G. Sepe Jr., ABS-CBN News**



News5

18h · 🌐

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MANILA BAY

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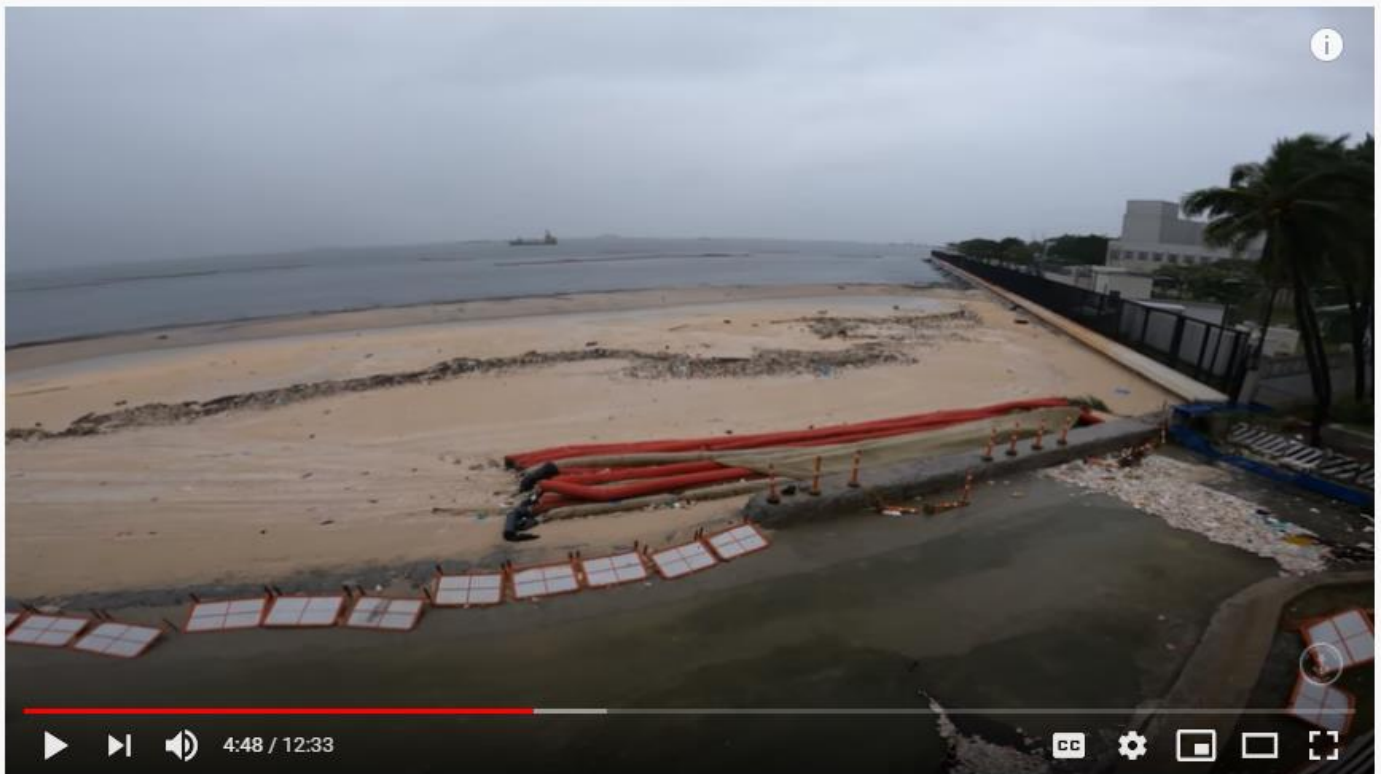
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# DENR taps firm to enhance greening efforts in Mt. Matutum

By Allen Estabillo **November 12, 2020, 5:47 pm**



**GREENING SITE.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through its provincial office in South Cotabato, has partnered with the private firm Tupi Supreme Activated Carbon, Inc. for the protection of a reforestation site in the critical Mt. Matutum (in photo), a provincial environment official said Thursday (Nov. 12, 2020). The province's highest peak, Matutum is a declared protected landscape and home to various wildlife species, among them tarsiers, as well as rare flora and fauna. (PNA-Gensan photo)

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY –** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has linked up with a private firm to enhance the continuing reforestation initiatives in the critical Mt. Matutum.

Radzak Sinarimbo, head of the DENR's Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office -South Cotabato, said Thursday they were closely working with the Tupi Supreme Activated Carbon, Inc. (TSACI) to facilitate the proper maintenance and protection of a 100-hectare tree plantation in the area.

Sinarimbo said the tree plantation, which is situated in Sitio Lamlatang, Barangay Miasong in Tupi town, was established under the department's flagship National Greening Program in 2013.

The company has agreed to help sustain, maintain, and protect the plantation, as well as take part in other conservation and reforestation initiatives in Mt. Matutum, which is a declared protected landscape.

TSACI, which is based in Tupi, is engaged in the production of activated carbon, a high-value product derived from coconut shells.

The product, which has a growing demand locally and abroad, is used in water filtration, air purification, health care, food, metal extraction, and gold purification.

"Company officials committed to be hands-on in the monitoring and protection of the established plantation," Sinarimbo said in a statement.

He said the initiative would provide additional jobs to community residents who would be tapped to join the tree planting and related activities.

Barangay Miasong is part of the declared biodiversity or wildlife corridor of the 14,000-hectare Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape.

The biodiversity corridor, which covers 10 barangays in Tupi and Tampakan town, is a priority of the continuing massive reforestation and rehabilitation program of the DENR and the provincial government of South Cotabato.

Mt. Matutum, South Cotabato's highest peak, is home to various wildlife species, among them the tarsiers, as well as rare flora and fauna.

It is a known habitat of the Philippine deer, Philippine Eagle, civets, and bats, among others.

The area's watershed is an important water source, supplying 30 percent of the water requirements of this city and the provinces of South Cotabato and Sarangani. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1121600>



# Mining industry seen to help boost recovery amid Covid

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

November 11, 2020

MINING stakeholders are one in saying that the industry is in a unique position to help the Philippines recover from the economic setbacks caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and boost development in the countryside given the right policy environment.

Speaking at the online forum Wednesday Roundtable@Lido, Undersecretary for Enforcement, Mining and Muslim Affairs Jim Sampulna of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said amid Covid-19, the industry is prospering but is meeting problems along the way.

Nevertheless, he said the mining industry is “our last card as far as the economy is concerned,” underscoring the country’s richness in terms of minerals.

Ronnie Recidoro, executive director of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) agreed. “If you look at the events that unfolded after March, the mining industry responded well to this pandemic outbreak. Almost all mining companies have zero Covid cases,” he said.

Recidoro said the mining industry continues to provide employment in the countryside; and training, capacity building where they are needed most, hence, putting it in a very unique position to boost economic recovery and growth.

“Mining operates in the remote areas where we provide training, capacity building, for people who really need it. We are uniquely situated,” he said.

Amid the pandemic, the mining industry responded to the government’s call for help.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Wilfredo Moncano said the MGB issued a circular on the minimum health protocol for mining companies—in conformity with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases—while continuing their operation.

Moncano added that in the height of Covid-19, the MGB thought it prudent to push for realigning the Social Development Management Program (SDMP) funds of operating mines to help communities cope with the challenge of the pandemic—instead of for the usual information, education, and communication and other programs.

He said the mining companies, since March, were able to contribute P364 million, “in terms of food packs, sanitizers, and other support to their host, and “a laboratory/chemical laboratory to test Covid cases.”

Moncano said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu is pushing for the industry to help in the economic recovery.

“We know that the Philippines is now borrowing money to support affected areas for vaccines.... We thought that to push for the mining industry to help in the recovery of the economy,” he said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/11/mining-industry-seen-to-help-boost-recovery-amid-covid/>



# 300K hot logs seized in Surigao City

By Alexander Lopez November 12, 2020, 6:47 pm



**HOT LOGS.** At least 5,000 board feet of Magkuno lumber worth PHP300,000 are intercepted by authorities in the port area in Surigao City on Wednesday evening, Nov. 11, 2020. Authorities arrested two suspects. (Photo courtesy of PRO-13 Information Office)

**BUTUAN CITY –** The Police Regional Office in Caraga (PRO-13) has reported the confiscation of PHP300,000 worth of illegally-cut lumber in Surigao City.

PRO-13 public information officer Capt. Dorothy M. Tumulak on Thursday (Nov. 12) said the contrabands were confiscated Wednesday evening (Nov. 11) at the port area in Surigao City.

The operation was conducted by the personnel of Surigao City Police Station (SCPO), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

“The 5,000 board feet of Magkuno (ironwood) lumbers were loaded in a wing van truck,” Tumulak said, adding that the contraband were about to be shipped out of Surigao City.

She said the confiscated lumber were covered with stocks of abaca fibers to conceal it from authorities.

Authorities also apprehended the truck driver identified as Mario Custudio, 31, the truck driver, a resident of Surigao City, and Millennier C. Bayeta, 20, the truck assistant, and a resident of Taganaan, Surigao del Norte.

In a statement Thursday, PRO-13 director, Brig. Gen. Romeo M. Caramat, Jr. said the suspects' arrest serves as a stern warning to all illegal loggers in Caraga Region.

Caramat said the apprehended persons were taken into custody by the Surigao City police, while the confiscated lumbers and the truck were turned over to the local DENR office.

He said the suspects will be facing charges of violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Code of the Philippines. (PNA)





# DENR worker killed in Davao buy-bust shootout

By Che Palicte November 12, 2020, 5:41 pm



RECOVERED EVIDENCE. The pieces of recovered evidence from drug suspect Ronel Revilla, after a shootout in Talomo, Davao City, on Wednesday afternoon (Nov. 11, 2020). Revilla, a forest ranger of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 11 assigned in Mati City, Davao Oriental, was killed in a shootout with authorities during the buy-bust operation. (Photo courtesy of Talomo Police)

DAVAO CITY—A forest ranger of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 11 (DENR-11) was killed in a shootout with authorities in a buy-bust operation Wednesday afternoon here.

In a police report on Thursday, Police Maj. Sean Logronio, Talomo station commander, identified the suspect as Ronel Revilla, a resident of Catalunan Pequeño but was assigned in Mati City, Davao Oriental.

Logronio said Revilla, 38, was listed as "top 8 high-value target" (HVT) in Davao Region.

Police said Revilla drew his gun and opened fire at the arresting team after sensing that he was transacting with an undercover cop, prompting the authorities to return fire.

"Unfortunately, as the authorities opened the car door to arrest him, the suspect attempted to shoot them, which prompted the police to return fire and shot the suspect. He clearly did not want to be arrested," Logronio said.

Revilla was brought to Davao Adventist Hospital but was declared dead on arrival by the attending physician.

Logronio said the police officers managed to recover sachets of suspected shabu and improvised tooter from the suspect's possession at the hospital.

Revilla's vehicle also yielded 15 sachets of suspected shabu, marijuana seeds, drug paraphernalia, a .45 caliber pistol with ammunition, and other pieces of evidence, police said.

Logronio said all the confiscated illegal drugs have an estimated street value of PHP890,000.

He said the operation against Revilla came after a month-long case build-up, surveillance, and background investigation.

"We will continue to be in the frontline of ensuring public safety. Rest assured that our investigation will not stop here. We are now in the process of runnin



# DENR employee gunned down in Davao City buy-bust

Published November 12, 2020, 12:53 PM

by [Armando Fenequito, Jr.](#)

DAVAO CITY — An employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was killed during a buy-bust operation on MacArthur Highway, Bangkal, here Wednesday.

The suspect was identified Ronel T. Revilla, forest ranger of DENR assigned in Mati City, Davao Oriental and a resident of Toril District here.

Initial report of the Talomo Police Station led by its commander Police Major Sean Logronio bared their Drug Enforcement Unit launched a buy-bust operation against Revilla near Mabini Elementary School around 3 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TALOMO POLICE STATION/ MANILA BULLETIN

The suspect sold a sachet of suspected shabu worth P1, 000 to police poseur-buyer.

Revilla sensed that he was dealing with a police officer and immediately pulled his gun and fired upon the arresting officer, prompting the cops to retaliate.

The suspect was taken to the Davao Adventist Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival at around 4:03 p.m.

Recovered from the crime scene were 15 big and medium sized-sachets of shabu, marijuana seeds and other drug paraphernalia, a caliber .45 pistol, and P28,300 cash. Confiscated illegal drugs weighing 90 grams have an estimated street value of P890,000.

Logronio said the operation stemmed from a month-long case buildup, surveillance, and background investigation of the suspect and his involvement in illegal drug operations.

The station commander lauded the operatives for their efficiency, good intelligence work, and tremendous courage in dealing with armed drug suspect.



“In our line of work, we always expect armed encounters such as during buy-bust and other related operations. Yes, it is scary. You can imagine what goes through the mind of a police officer seeing your suspect armed. Good thing these men heightened their sense of alertness, their training and they were able to retaliate fast,” he said.

Logronio said that even as the country is facing this health crisis, the PNP will remain relentless and spares no one in the battle against illegal drugs.

“We will continue to be in the frontline of ensuring public safety. Rest assured that our investigation will not stop here. We are now on the process of running after his cohorts and sources. We will show them no mercy,” he said.





## DENR forester killed in bloody buy-bust



By Ruth Palo

November 13, 2020

**DAVAO CITY:** A forest ranger of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Mati City, Davao Oriental was killed in a shootout during a buy-bust operation on Wednesday afternoon. Talomo Chief of Maj. Sean Logronio, who led the operation, identified the slain suspect as Ronel Revilla, 38, a resident of Catalunan here. He said Revilla was listed in the Philippine National Police's Directorate for Intelligence and top 8 High-Value Target in Davao Region. The operation stemmed from a month-long case build up, surveillance and background investigation of the suspect and his involvement in illegal drug operations, the chief added. Seized from him were 90 grams of suspected shabu worth P890,000, marijuana seeds, other drug paraphernalia, a .45 caliber pistol, magazines and bullets, cash money worth P28,300, and his driven vehicle.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/11/13/news/regions/denr-forester-killed-in-bloody-buy-bust/795518/>



# House approves creation of body to oversee Boracay

By: [Julie M. Aurelio](#) - Reporter / [@JMAurelioINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:02 AM November 12, 2020



**SUNSET VIEWING** In this photo taken in April 2019, tourists gather at the beachfront near Willy's Rock on Boracay Island to watch the setting sun. Tourism in Boracay, one of the country's leading destinations, has started to pick up after its six-month environmental rehabilitation in 2018 but the pandemic this year shattered hopes of the island's businesses for full recovery. — (Photo by ROBERT JAWORSKI L. ABAÑO / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

MANILA, Philippines — Two House panels on Tuesday approved the creation of the Boracay Island Development Authority (Bida) to firm up gains from the rehabilitation and sustainable development of the resort island in Malay town, Aklan province.

The committees on government enterprises and privatization and on local government approved a substitute measure to House Bill No. 6214, which will be used as the “mother bill” for the establishment of the Bida.

Two similar measures, House Bill No. 4175 and House Bill No. 7256, were also passed and consolidated with the substitute bill, introduced by Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte and party list Representatives Eric Yap (ACT-CIS) and Sandro Gonzalez (Marino).

## Ecotourism

“The purpose of the Bida is to place Boracay at the center stage. We know Boracay's potential. If this is developed further, tourists from other nations will patronize it more,” Yap said.

He said the substitute bill contained amendments, including an “ecotourism provision” and the creation of the Bida as a government-owned and -controlled corporation under the Office of the President, instead of being an attached agency of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources.

Aklan Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr. said: “We really need a big brother in Boracay. For 40 years, it was chaotic, and big people ran it, and even the President called it a cesspool.” Haresco said his version of the Bida bill had become “moot and academic,” noting that the substitute measure was “more superior.”

## Priority

President Duterte, in his State of the Nation Address in July, pushed for the creation of the Bida as a priority legislative measure in Congress. In 2018, he ordered the six-month environmental rehabilitation of Boracay, saying it had become a “cesspool” due to problems arising from uncontrolled development and overcrowding.



HB 6214 said the successful rehabilitation significantly improved the “New Boracay” and that the challenge was “how to sustain the recent efforts ... in cleaning and restoring the island.”

The Bida will be tasked with crafting policies, plans, programs and projects for the rehabilitation, preservation and enhancement of Boracay while ensuring environmental management and control, preservation of ecological systems, and the prevention of ecological deterioration and pollution.

In the same hearing on Tuesday, the panels approved House Bill No. 6578 creating the Lamon Bay Development Authority for Lamon Bay, a rich fishing ground in Quezon province, and House Bill No. 2155 creating the Kapatagan Valley Development Authority in Lanao del Norte province.





## Wildlife conservation during the pandemic

It shall be unlawful for any person, group, or entity to collect and/or trade wild plant species listed under DAO 2017-11, unless such acts are covered by a permit issued by the DENR.

Published 2 hours ago on November 13, 2020 12:20 AM

By [Dean Nilo Divina](#)



As the COVID-19 pandemic has kept most of us in our homes, many have made use of their time to master new skills or develop new hobbies. One of which is “plant parenting.” The surge of plant titas has increased the demand for indoor and outdoor plants in the market. Prices of plants would vary depending on their variegation or rarity.

While the selling of plants has become a lucrative source of income these days, the sale and ownership of plants classified under DAO 2017-11 issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as threatened plants are prohibited. DAO 2017-11 was issued pursuant to Section 22 of Republic Act (RA) 9147 otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, which is an act that provides for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats.

RA 9147 defines “wildlife” as wild forms and varieties of flora and fauna, in all developmental stages, including those, which are in captivity or are being bred or propagated.

Section 22 of the said law provides that the Secretary (DENR) shall determine whether any wildlife species or subspecies is threatened, and classify the same as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or other accepted categories based on the best scientific data and with due regard to internationally accepted criteria, including but not limited to the following: present or threatened destruction, modification or curtailment of its habitat or range; over-utilization for commercial, recreational, scientific or educational purposes; inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and other natural or man-made factors affecting the existence of wildlife.

The Secretary shall review, revise and publish the list of categorized threatened wildlife. Threatened Species denote species or subspecies considered as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or other accepted categories of wildlife whose populations are at risk of extinction. These shall include varieties, formae or other infraspecific categories.

DAO 2017-11 has listed the names of plants that are classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Other Threatened Species. The list is based on the best scientific and internationally accepted criteria, including but not limited to the following: (1) present destruction, modification or curtailment of its habitat or range; (2) over utilization for commercial, recreational, scientific or educational purposes; (3) other natural or man-made factors affecting existence of wildlife; 4) perceived/observed population size reduction; 5) species’ geographic range (extent of occurrence and/or area of occupancy), 6) small population size and continuing decline in such population; and, 7) very small or restricted population.



It shall be unlawful for any person, group, or entity to collect and/or trade wild plant species listed under DAO 2017-11, unless such acts are covered by a permit issued by the DENR and the species are found in areas under a valid tenure instrument or a parcel of land covered by a title under the Torrens System. The law imposes a penalty that ranges from P100,000 to P1,000,000 fine and imprisonment of six years to 12 years.

Wildness should always be taken in the proper context, and so with the act of collecting and/or trading wild plants.

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# Duterte raises need for urgent climate action post-‘Rolly’

By Azer Parrocha [November 12, 2020, 6:15 pm](#)



**CALL FOR CLIMATE ACTION.** The destruction left by Super Typhoon Rolly that hit the Philippines on Nov. 1, 2020. President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday (Nov. 12, 2020) emphasized the need to urgently address climate change, saying that the successive typhoons in the country should serve as a reminder that it should be taken seriously. (Photo courtesy of NDRRMC)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday emphasized the need to urgently address climate change, noting that the successive typhoons in the Philippines should serve as a reminder that it should be taken seriously.

In his speech during the virtual 37th Asean Summit, Duterte recalled how Super Typhoon Rolly (international name Goni) ravaged many parts of the country despite interventions made by both local and national governments.

“More than two weeks ago, the Philippines was battered by Typhoon Goni – and if I must tell you, we are now suffering in the midst of the storm of Typhoon Ulysses. With timely disaster preparedness measures, we were able to save many lives. But the typhoon left a trail of destruction in infrastructure and property. This represents a setback for our development agenda, particularly in the affected regions,” he said.

Duterte cited the importance of enhancing disaster risk reduction and management to prevent damage and destruction, especially in countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

“This calamity is yet another stark reminder of the urgency of collective action to combat the effects of climate change. We must therefore further enhance our cooperation on disaster risk reduction (and) management to reinforce our capacities, both at the national and regional levels,” he added.

The President also raised the need to hold accountable industries responsible for causing carbon emissions.

“We must amplify our voices to demand climate justice from those most responsible for this existential challenge we face today. Developed countries must lead in deep and drastic cuts in carbon emissions,” he said.

Duterte warned of grave consequences if climate change is not addressed.

“They must act now, or it would be too late. Or if I may say addedly, it is too late,” he said.

Developed countries must also deliver on their commitment to finance and invest in innovative adaptation solutions so other countries can have “a fair shot at progress and sustainable development,” Duterte said.

“This is their moral responsibility from which there should be no escape. Otherwise, it would be great injustice – a double blow to those who bear the brunt of the adverse consequences of their past actions and present inactions,” he said.





Last September, Duterte urged parties of the Paris Agreement to honor their commitment to climate change.

He said climate change must be addressed with the same urgency as the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

In 2017, Duterte signed the Paris Agreement, which aims to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming. (PNA)



# Duterte demands 'climate justice'

Published November 12, 2020, 4:44 PM

by [Genalyn Kabilig](#)

Demanding “climate justice,” President Duterte has called on rich countries to take drastic cuts in carbon dioxide emissions and extend financial aid to developing nations so they can with the impact of the climate crisis.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

(RICHARD MADELO / PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a virtual regional summit, the President reminded the wealthy nations about their “moral responsibility” to curb their carbon footprint after citing the devastating impact left by two typhoons in the country.

The onslaught of typhoon “Ulysses,” which comes on the heels of damage caused by typhoon “Rolly,” was another reminder of the urgency to combat the effects of climate change, Duterte pointed out.

“We must amplify our voices to demand climate justice from those most responsible for this existential challenge we face today. Developed countries must lead in deep and drastic cuts in carbon emissions. They must act now, or it would be too late. Or if I may say addedly, it is too late,” Duterte said during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plenary session Thursday.

“They must also deliver on their commitment to finance and invest in innovative adaptation solutions in the developing world. So we too can have a fair shot at progress and sustainable development,” he said.

Duterte said there must be “no escape” for these wealthy countries to abide by their moral responsibility to address climate crisis. “Otherwise, it would be great injustice – a double blow to those who bear the brunt of the adverse consequences of their past actions and present inactions,” he said.

At the UN climate summit in 2009, rich nations committed to raise \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help vulnerable countries rein in greenhouse emissions and cope with future climate impacts. The funds were supposed to come from both the public and private sectors. Reports however recently indicated that rich nations were supposedly giving less money to developing nations for climate mitigation projects.

Rich countries, which burn fossil fuels to grow their economies, have been largely blamed for ecological disaster but the poor ones, which did least to cause the problem, face the gravest consequences.

The President raised the country’s latest calamity during the ASEAN summit and explained his decision to leave the meeting early to attend to the situation. He said the country was battered by Rolly recently and is “now suffering” due to Ulysses. “There is a great damage and I may not be around to attend further in this regard for I have to go around and see what I can do for my people,” he said.



Duterte mentioned that many lives were saved following the timely disaster preparedness measures. The typhoon however left a trail of destruction in infrastructure and property, he said.

“This represents a setback for our development agenda, particularly in the affected regions. This calamity is yet another stark reminder of the urgency of collective action to combat the effects of climate change,” he added.

Duterte also made a pitch for closer regional cooperation in disaster preparedness and mitigation during the summit. “We must therefore further enhance our cooperation on disaster risk reduction management to reinforce our capacities, both at the national and regional levels,” he said.

After attending ASEAN plenary session, the President delivered an address to the nation assuring the government’s assistance to the communities affected by the storm.

Duterte went back to participate in other ASEAN meetings but left again to conduct an aerial inspection of the calamity areas in Metro Manila and nearby areas. After taking the helicopter ride, Duterte returned to the ASEAN summit via video conference.





## Duterte rallies Asean to fight climate change

By Keith Calayag

November 13, 2020

President Rodrigo Duterte has urged the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to intensify its fight against climate change.

In his speech during the virtual 37th Asean Summit on Thursday, Duterte said the calamities the Philippines faced is “a stark reminder of the urgency of collective action to combat the effects of climate change.”

Super Typhoon “Rolly” battered Bicol and Southern Luzon on November 1, killing 24 people and leaving more than P17 billion in damage to infrastructure and agriculture, according to the latest report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.



*President Rodrigo Roa Duterte conducts an aerial survey of flood-affected areas hit by Typhoon Ulysses on November 12, 2020. He was accompanied by Senator Christopher Go. ACE MORANDANTE/ PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO*

Also on Thursday, massive flooding caused by Typhoon “Ulysses” displaced thousands in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

Duterte told the international body that although many lives were saved, the consecutive typhoons that hit the country left a trail of destruction that “represents a setback for our development agenda, particularly in the affected regions.”

He urged the Asean countries to further enhance cooperation on disaster risk reduction management and to reinforce capacities, both on the national and regional levels.

He also called on countries to amplify their voices to demand climate justice from those who are “most responsible for this existential challenge we face today.”

“Developed countries must lead in deep and drastic cuts in carbon emissions. They must act now, or it would be too late. Or if I may say addedly, it is too late,” he said.

“They must also deliver on their commitment to finance and invest in innovative adaptation solutions in the developing world. So we too can have a fair shot at progress and sustainable development,” Duterte added.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/11/13/news/top-stories/duterte-rallies-asean-to-fight-climate-change/795614/>



# Duterte demands climate justice at ASEAN as typhoons lash Philippines

**Published** November 12, 2020 4:06pm

By VIRGIL LOPEZ, GMA News

President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday called on Southeast Asian countries to demand accountability from rich nations responsible for climate change, as a series of storms battered the country in a particularly brutal typhoon season.

Duterte made his appeal against the backdrop of Typhoon Ulysses battering several provinces in Luzon, causing widespread flooding and leaving millions without power. Ulysses is the third powerful storm to hit the Philippines over a three-week period and the eighth that has caused widespread damage in the past two months.

“We must amplify our voices to demand climate justice from those most responsible for this existential challenge we face today. Developed countries must lead in deep and drastic cuts in carbon emissions. They must act now, or it would be too late. Or if I may say addedly, it is too late,” he said at the plenary session of the virtual 37th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Related Summits.

The President said the rich countries must deliver on their commitment to finance and invest in “innovative adaptation solutions in the developing world” so that “we too can have a fair shot at progress and sustainable development.”

“This is their moral responsibility from which there should be no escape. Otherwise, it would be a great injustice – a double blow to those who bear the brunt of the adverse consequences of their past actions and present inactions,” he said.

Duterte gave a similar call before the United Nations General Assembly in September when he asked parties to the 2015 Paris climate accord to honor their commitments. The agreement aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions to limit the rise in global temperatures to below two degrees Celsius.

But Duterte had earlier questioned how climate change commitments could be enforced given the lack of a governing body and sanctions against countries that fail to do their part.

In his address to the ASEAN leaders, Duterte recalled the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly early this month.

“With timely disaster preparedness measures, we were able to save many lives. But the typhoon left a trail of destruction in infrastructure and property. This represents a setback for our development agenda, particularly in the affected regions,” he said.

According to Duterte, the calamity was a reminder of the “urgency of collective action to combat the effects of climate change.”

“We must further enhance our cooperation on disaster risk reduction management to reinforce our capacities, both at the national and regional levels,” he said. —**JST, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/763861/duterte-demands-climate-justice-at-asean-as-typhoons-lash-philippines/story/>

# PRRD espouses health, environment concerns at the 37th ASEAN Summit

November 12, 2020



*President Rodrigo Roa Duterte delivers his remarks during the virtual plenary session of the 37th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN Summit) and Related Summits hosted by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the Malacañang Golf (Malago) Clubhouse, Malacañang Park in Manila on November 12, 2020. KING RODRIGUEZ/ PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO*

In his attendance in the 37th ASEAN Summit via video conferencing, President Rodrigo R. Duterte laid out in the opening ceremony the significant points he wanted to propose in the summit such as stronger response to Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and climate change.

The Chief Executive also pushed for the country's interest regarding the issue on the South China Sea as he noted that "the Philippines is one with ASEAN in transforming the South China Sea into a sea of peace and prosperity for all. We are committed to the immediate conclusion of a substantive and effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. And if I may add, it has been a long time and it is a long wait."

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque disclosed the President's firm stand on the matter.

"It is an authoritative interpretation of application of UNCLOS (United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea) and is now part of international law. This cannot be ignored by any other country no matter how powerful it is," Sec. Roque underscored.

President Duterte excused himself from the meeting of the ASEAN heads of state to attend to the impact of Typhoon #UlyssesPH to the Philippines. He admitted to his fellow leaders that Typhoon #UlyssesPH brought extensive damage to the country and that he needed to attend to this pressing concern. – *Report from Mela Lesmoras*



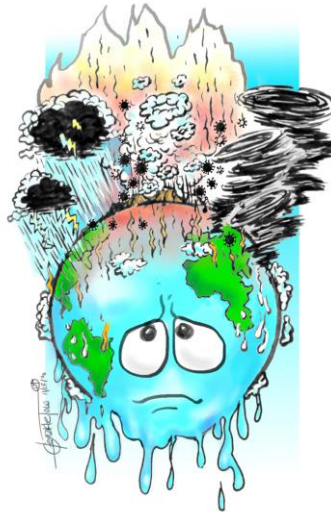


## Is it too late for us?

He asked everyone who signed the climate accord to tackle the issue with the same urgency as fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Published 52 mins ago on November 13, 2020 01:00 AM

By [TDI](#) [@tribunephil](#)



As the wind picks up speed and Metro Manila buckles up for another big storm — the fourth in a series of typhoons within the last two weeks or so — some of us may have wondered what could be worse: coronavirus or climate change?

Scientists are not putting a great distinction between these two destroyers. They are both caused by invisible particles and propagated by men.

So as “Rolly” rolled on and “Siony” ran after “him” (a big joke only Pinoys would think of at a time like this), Filipinos have watched in helpless dismay the destruction of places like Virac in Catanduanes, which one typhoon after the other battered and tore apart.

It’s not an image we are unfamiliar with. Many other typhoons in modern history had caused far greater damage that many places around the country are still recovering from.

When “Rolly” came by, purported to be “the strongest storm to hit the world in 2020,” we heaved a sigh of relief when it did not inflict the expected damage on most places it should have flattened with its winds. We offered up our thanks to God and gave ourselves one more reason to proclaim our faith.

But that is not all there is to it, isn’t there?

Faith cannot be the only answer to the worsening climate conditions we see here and around the world.

As the outgoing US President Donald Trump proved to one and all, an attitude of arrogant denial toward what is clearly true will not let it go away, no matter how much we believe it.

By saying things like the worst polluters in the world are China and India, and that the US enjoys the cleanest air and water, for example, he influenced people to believe it was alright to abdicate on their responsibilities toward climate change.

By pulling the US out of the landmark Paris Agreement, described as “the only global pact that seeks to avoid dangerous heating of the planet,” he moreover took out a key world player from what should be a collective effort to save the planet from a fate worse than the coronavirus pandemic.



This is why the coming and going of “Rolly,” “Siony” and “Tonyo,” and hopefully that of “Ulysses” soon, is significant — just as the arrival of President-elect Joe Biden is in the case of the worsening climate crisis.

It is an important issue not just for America, but all of us in the world.

As a number of policy makers and environment warriors have opined recently, what Biden will do or won't do during his four-year run at the White House will have “a profound impact on the whether the world is able to avert the worst effects of climate change,” a CNN report on US climate policy goes.

They cite two main reasons the incoming president should care about climate change: Influence over other nations, as well as moral obligation.

In a debate over this topic during the campaign season in the US, Biden acknowledged the latter, while Trump's history shows how his administration chose not to listen to scientific facts. It is the same kind of attitude that leads to health pandemics, as we should know by now.

While many people may get confused about scientific terms and data like global carbon footprint or carbon dioxide concentrations, the facts show in real events like worsening typhoons, bush fires and wildfires, storm surges, ice melts and earthquakes, that the planet is warming up too fast, we may indeed have less than 10 years to mitigate the situation.

Just like how the coronavirus pandemic has shown that no country is an island, the climate crisis is a problem that affects all humanity — no ifs or buts about it.

Findings state: “It's too late to stop all the impacts of climate change. They are already happening.”

There is, another report puts forth, “a global consensus that many of our economies still rely on fossil fuel.”

Clean fuel is an issue that has persisted through political and economic concerns over many administrations. It is one of the key programs under the current regime, and as President Rodrigo Duterte had urged last September, parties of the Paris Agreement must comply with its terms as developing countries such as ours suffer from the effects of climate change the most.

His first-ever speech before the United Nations General Assembly made headlines because it was a far cry in tone from the year before when he said climate change conferences were “accomplishing nothing.”

All talk and no action, he implied. “What ails the system now? What is this conference on climate change for? Is it not just talk? Because there is nobody, no entity to enforce the laws governing climate. There is not even a sanction,” he said in a Rappler report, against those countries that fail to meet their obligations.

This time, he asked everyone who signed the climate accord to tackle the issue with the “same urgency” as fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is because the world has come to this — felled by a virus, destroyed by particles and invisible heat.

Action is way better than sharp winds and hot air.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/11/13/is-it-too-late-for-us/>



# PH records 1,407 new COVID-19 cases; total now at 402,820

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Nov 12, 2020 4:21:52 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 12) — The Department of Health announced 1,407 new COVID-19 infections on Thursday, which brought the country's case count to 402,820.

This is the third consecutive day the department reported less than 2,000 new patients. However, it clarified that the updated tally excludes data from 17 testing laboratories which failed to submit their reports on time.

Of the total infected, 8.1 percent or 32,682 are currently ill patients, the DOH said.

The latest data showed Davao City posted the highest daily rise in cases with 214 more infected residents. This is followed by both Eastern Samar and Rizal with 75 each, Cavite with 64, and Quezon province with 54.

The department also added 211 to the recoveries count, which climbed to 362,417.

Meanwhile, 11 more deaths were confirmed, bringing the country's COVID-19 fatalities to 7,721. This is the lowest single-day rise in the death toll recorded over a month.

According to DOH, three duplicates were removed from the overall tally, while eight cases mistakenly reported as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

Researchers monitoring the COVID-19 situation in the country earlier noted a positive development in Metro Manila, saying the region's positivity rate "significantly" went down to five percent from Nov. 2 to 8. The rate refers to the percentage of those infected out of all tested.

However, despite this improvement in the positivity rate, the OCTA research team also recently recorded a "slight uptick" in COVID-19 cases in the country. It said this recent increase is a reminder that the gains can be easily overturned if the government and the public become complacent.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, meanwhile, said one more Filipino abroad tested positive for COVID-19, while another three have recovered from the disease. No new deaths were listed. The case tally among overseas Filipinos now stands at 11,511, which include 7,461 survivors and 828 fatalities.

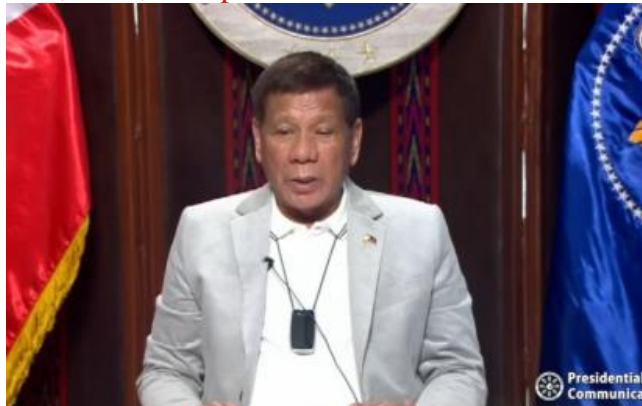
The global cases have reached 52.2 million, based on data from Johns Hopkins University. Of this number, over 1.2 million died, while nearly 34 million already recovered.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/11/12/PH-covid-cases-402k.html>



# Duterte assures immediate aid for Typhoon 'Ulysses' victims

By Azer Parrocha November 12, 2020, 2:54 pm



ON TOP OF THE SITUATION. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte addresses the nation as Typhoon Ulysses makes a series of landfall currently affecting several provinces across Luzon on Thursday (Nov. 12, 2020). Duterte assured everyone that “your government is on top of the situation”. (Screenshot)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday assured that the national government will provide relief, rescue, and assistance to families severely affected by Typhoon Ulysses, adding that no one will be left behind.

In an address to the nation, Duterte said local and national government agencies have been mobilized to respond to the situation on the ground as heavy rains and strong winds brought by the typhoon triggered massive floods and power interruptions.

“From the beginning, various government agencies have already been mobilized to respond to the situation on the ground. I renew my call on all local government units and concerned agencies to ensure that the well-being and the safety of our people remain the top priority,” he said.

He said concerned agencies will exert all its efforts to attend to people’s needs.

“As President, I guarantee you that your government will do its best to provide assistance in the form of shelters, relief goods, financial aid and post disaster counseling. Rest assured the government will not leave anybody behind. We will get through this crisis, I assure you,” he added.

Duterte also rejected criticism that the government has been sleeping on the job, saying local and government have been addressing challenges brought by the typhoon since it received an advisory.

“*May mga nagsasabi na walang ginagwa, natutulog. Wala kaming tulog dito* (There are people saying we’re not doing anything, we’re just sleeping. We haven’t slept yet),” he said.

He explained that he had to temporarily leave the ongoing video conference of the 37th ASEAN Summit to monitor the disaster situation.

Duterte said he personally wanted to leave Malacañan Palace to see firsthand the extent of damage of the typhoon but his detailed security prevented him from doing so.

“*Ang problema ko, pinagbawalan ako ng nagbabantay sa akin*, [Presidential Security Group], mga doctor, hindi ako makalabas (My problem is, I was barred by those guarding me, the PSG, doctors, I can’t get out),” he said.

He said he wanted to “be of help” and “share the grief” with suffering of the people, but had no choice but to comply with rules.

“It’s not that I am at a distance from you...Gusto kong pumunta doon, makipaglangoy sa inyo, ang problema pinipigilan ako (I want to go there, to swim with you, the problem is I’m being stopped),” he added.





To date, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the Philippine National Police already deployed 3,261 Search and Rescue personnel in anticipation of Typhoon Ulysses.

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel, he said, were deployed in various areas such as in Cavite, Manila, Marikina, Montalban and Rodriguez in Rizal to aid local government units in their respective rescue and relief operations.

Roque said the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Central Office (CO), Field Offices (FOs), and National Resource Operations Center (NROC) have more than P800-M worth of stockpiles and standby funds.

He noted that standby funds of more than PHP226 million are available with more than PHP184 million for Quick Response Fund.

“There are stockpiles composed of more than 282,000 Family Food Packs (FFPs) amounting to more than PHP130 million, other food items amounting to more than PHP177 million and non-food items amounting to more than PHP271 million,” he said.

To ensure everyone’s safety, Roque said the Department of Transportation (DOTr), through the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), suspended all flight operations at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) beginning midnight until 6 a.m. of Nov. 12.

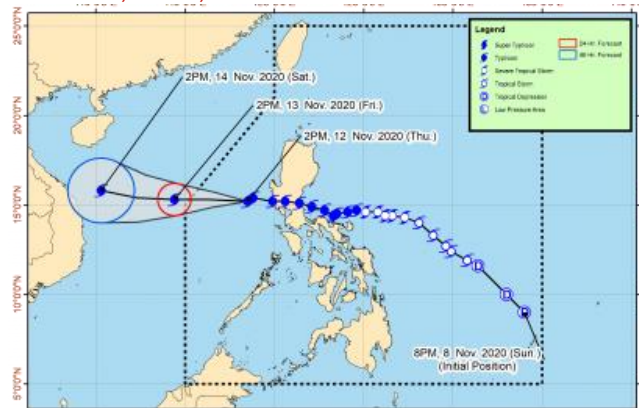
As of 8:00 p.m. of Nov. 11, 2020, Roque said the DOTr, through the Philippine Coast Guard, declared No Sail Policy in 24 provinces for all types of vessels. Forty ports have suspended operations, as of Nov. 11, 2020, 9:30 p.m.

The EDSA Busway operations and railway operations of MRT-3, LRT-1, LRT-2 and Philippine National Railway are suspended Thursday (Nov. 12), he added. (PNA)



# 'Ulysses' expected to exit PH Friday

By Ma. Cristina Arayata November 13, 2020, 12:40 am



(Image grabbed from PAGASA website)

MANILA – Typhoon Ulysses is expected to maintain its strength in the next 24 hours, and will exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Friday, the weather bureau said on Thursday night.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), in its 11 p.m. bulletin, said some areas in northern Luzon continue to experience heavy rains as Typhoon Ulysses maintained its strength.

"Ulysses" packs a maximum sustained winds 120 kph near the center, and gustiness of up to 150 kph. It was last seen 300 km west of Iba, Zambales, PAGASA said.

Moderate to heavy with some intense rains will continue over Batanes, Babuyan Islands, northern and eastern portions of mainland Cagayan, eastern portion of Isabela, northern and central portions of Aurora, Quirino, and Apayao until Friday.

Light to moderate with at times heavy rains are forecast over Ilocos Region, the rest of Cordillera Administrative Region, the rest of Cagayan Valley, the rest of Aurora, the northern portion of Quezon including Polillo Islands, Zambales, and Bataan.

Flooding, rain-induced landslides, and sediment-laden streamflows may occur during heavy or prolonged rainfall, especially in areas highly susceptible to these hazards, PAGASA added.

Meanwhile, no tropical cyclone wind signal was hoisted on any part of the country. However, gusty conditions will be experienced over Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Zambales, Bataan, and northern Occidental Mindoro including Lubang Island due to "Ulysses" and the surge of the northeast monsoon.

Rough to very rough seas, PAGASA said, will prevail over the seaboards of Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, and Zambales, the northern seaboard of mainland Cagayan, and the western seaboards of Bataan, Batangas, Occidental Mindoro (including Lubang Island), and Palawan (including Calamian and Kalayaan Islands).

Sea travel is risky for all types of seacraft over these waters as moderate to rough seas will continue over the eastern seaboards of Luzon. (PNA)



# Ulysses exits PHL after turning Luzon into massive swampland

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#), [Claudeth Mocon-Ciriaco](#) and [Lenie Lectura](#)

November 12, 2020



*Rescuers wade in waist-deep floodwaters in Barangay Ampid in San Mateo, Rizal, after Typhoon Ulysses flooded Metro Manila and nearby provinces Wednesday night.*

TYPHOON Ulysses exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Thursday afternoon, leaving a big part of Luzon flooded after dumping a huge volume of rainwater since Wednesday morning.

Its rains, evoking memories of the 2009 Typhoon Ondoy, caused severe flooding in low-lying areas, prompting immediate evacuation in Metro Manila and other areas in Luzon. The volume of water still stunned some communities, leaving scores trapped on rooftops and requiring rescue.

The copious volume of rainfall caused dams and rivers to reach spilling levels, compounding the floods.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said strong winds and torrential rainfall are expected to continue until Friday morning as Ulysses makes its final exit out of Philippine territory.

Pagasa weather specialist Ariel Rojas, at an 11 a.m. news conference, reported that Ulysses, international code name Vamco, continues to maintain strength as it hovers over Iba, Zambales, on its way out of the Luzon land mass Thursday morning.

The typhoon battered Luzon with destructive winds and torrential rains as predicted by weather forecasters, severely damaging public and private infrastructure.

Massive brownouts were also experienced for hours, and telecommunication services, including Internet and Wi-fi services, were out of commission for hours.

“As of this morning, the eye of the storm is already out of the Luzon landmass but because of the wide coverage of the typhoon, it will still bring strong winds that can damage houses made of light materials,” Rojas said.

In the next 24 hours, heavy rainfall is still expected in Luzon and some parts of the Visayas, as it moves westward at 25 a speed of km/hour, he said. “Ulysses is expected to regain strength above water in the West Philippine Sea,” he said, hence, maintaining its typhoon category.

Ulysses brought destructive winds and torrential rainfall over Western Pangasinan, which remain under Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal (TCWS) No. 3.



Affected were Bayambang, Bautista, Alcala, Santo Tomas, Malasiqui, Santa Barbara, Mangaldan, Dagupan City, Basista, San Carlos City, Calasiao, Binmaley, Urbiztondo, Mangatarem, Aguilar, Bugallon, Lingayen, Labrador, Infanta, Mabini, Sual, Dasol, Burgos, Alaminos City, Agno, Bani, Bolinao, Anda; and the provinces of Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, and Pampanga.

Pag-asa warned against geohazards associated with heavy rainfall such as floods, landslide in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes, and storm surges of up to 3 meters high, threatening coastal areas still affected by TCW Signals.

## Rainfall volume

IN the last 24 hours, from 8 a.m. of November 11 to 8 a.m. on November 12, Pagasa recorded the average rainfall in various monitoring stations, at times exceeding normal average rainfall previously recorded in those areas.

Tanay, Rizal received 356 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours; followed by Daet, Camarines with 271 mm of rainfall; Infanta, Quezon 255.1 mm, and Casiguran, Aurora, 238. These areas are in the Eastern side of Luzon, the areas where the eye of the storm was spotted Wednesday night, Rojas said.

Other areas with huge rainfall volumes are Ambulong, Tanan City, Batangas with 208.4 mm, Alabat, Quezon, 199.8; Virac, Catanduanes 176.7; Legazpi, Albay, 173.8 mm, Science Garden, in Quezon City, 153 mm; Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Pasay City 137.

Rojas noted that in September 2009, Ondoy dumped a total of 455 mm of rainfall as measured in the Science Garden rainfall monitoring station.

“It’s possible that heavy rain was experienced in the Sierra Madre where we have no monitoring stations,” said Rojas, explaining the massive flooding in low-lying areas in Metro Manila, particularly Marikina City.

## Dams, rivers

Richard Orendain, Pagasa weather specialist, meanwhile, said water in six Dams reached critical levels, prompting the opening of gates to release water in excess of the dam’s capacity.

As of 6 a.m. water elevation at Angat Dam was 211.3 m, exceeding the normal high water level of 210. Areas like Norzagaray, Angat, San Rafael, Bustos, Baliwag, Pulilan, Plaridel and Hagonoy, all in Bulacan and situated along the Angat River, were expected to experience flooding.

Other dams that reached critical levels are Ipo Dam, where four gates were opened upon reaching the 101.2 m spill level, threatening the same areas. Ipo Dam and Angat are situated within the same river basin.

Meanwhile, water elevation at La Mesa Dam, as of 8 a.m. reached 80.15 m, exceeding its capacity. Affected areas were Quezon City and the Camanava area or Northern Metro Manila area.

Ambuklao’s water level reached 751.08 m, exceeding its normal high water level of 752, prompting dam managers to open all eight gates to release water.

Water level at Binga and Magat Dams also reached critical levels, prompting the opening of the gates early Thursday morning.

Orendain said Pagasa issued General Flood Advisories for the Cagayan River Basin, Bicol River Basin, Pampanga River Basin, Agno River Basin; and Pasig, Marikina and Tullahan Rivers, all traversing Metro Manila.





He said flood warnings were issued for the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley Region, Region 3, Region 4A and 4B, Region 5 and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

According to Orendain, upstream of the Marikina River Basins received a total of 234 mm of rainfall over the past 24 hours. “Almost all monitoring stations [for Marikina River] registered above-critical levels,” he said.

This was also experienced in the San Juan River, and Tullahan River.

## Power plants

Thirteen power plants in Luzon were placed on preventive shutdown, shaving off over 4,000 megawatts (MW) of power generating capacity in the grid.

The Department of Energy (DOE) said Thursday that 4,231.8MW from 13 power generating facilities in the Luzon grid were affected by Typhoon Ulysses.

At 1 p.m., the agency said only 306.9MW of power generating capacity was back online.

In areas covered by the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), 1,940,333 customers experienced power interruptions as of 12 noon of Thursday. Of these, 760,477 customers are in Metro Manila.

Early in the day, affected Meralco customers reached 3.8 million. The number went down to 2.5 million at 10 a.m. Meralco registered almost 7 million customers as of end-September.

Meralco could not say when it would be able to fully restore power in affected areas. “It’s very difficult. There has been improvement in terms of numbers that are coming in. Hopefully, by tomorrow, a big chunk could have their power back,” said Meralco spokesman Joe Zaldarriaga. The National Electrification Administration (NEA) told the DOE that Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and Pampanga still have no access to power.

## NGCP report

Meanwhile, system operator National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) reported that 31 transmission lines were downed by the severe weather disturbance.

The NGCP is assessing the typhoon’s impact on the resumption of electricity services. It said restoration works have commenced, but are significantly slowed down by strong winds, heavy rains and flooding.

Electricity trading was suspended by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) after Luzon was placed on Market Intervention due to un-implementable Real Time Dispatch (RTD) brought about by Typhoon Ulysses.

Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi assured the public that the entire energy family has been working hard to immediately restore energy services in Central and Southern Luzon.

He said the DOE-led Task Force on Energy Resiliency convened to harmonize the energy industry’s disaster preparedness and response protocols before Typhoon Ulysses made landfall. Local government units that may be affected by the typhoon have likewise been informed.

“TFER is working round-the-clock to coordinate the efforts of all our industry players, who remain on their toes and at the ready. We commend the exemplary response of our power generation, transmission, and distribution sectors, as well as our oil players,” said Cusi.



## MMDA to LGUs: Help Marikina

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) appealed to several local government units in the National Capital Region (NCR) to aid cities like Marikina which were severely affected by Ulysses.

In a virtual meeting conducted by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Thursday morning, MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim said the agency requested non-affected LGUs to extend assistance to other LGUs.

Mayor Marcelino Teodoro had aired an appeal to his peers as the dozens of rescue boats of the city proved inadequate for rescuing people stranded on rooftops in severely flooded areas.

“Since last night, we accommodated all requests for assistance such as deployment of rubber boats and dump trucks to the affected areas. We will help with whatever assets we can generate,” said Lim, also the concurrent Chair of the Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

A total of 692 MMDA personnel were deployed to various areas in Metro Manila for typhoon Ulysses operations.

Ambulances, rubber boats, truck-mounted cranes, backhoes, water pumps, and rescue equipment were likewise dispatched to different areas in the metropolis.

Two MMDA rubber boats were deployed in Marikina while one dump truck is stationed at the Katipunan-Aurora staging area.



# Worst over for Bicol; Ulysses intensifies, threatens Quezon-Aurora area

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

November 12, 2020



*Storm clouds hover on Wednesday over Metro Manila, placed under Storm Signal No. 3 as Typhoon Ulysses heads toward Quezon and Aurora. This, just days after strong typhoons struck the country in quick succession, battering Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas, causing heavy losses to agriculture and damage to infrastructure and thousands of homes.*

Typhoon Ulysses continues to intensify, bringing in destructive winds and intense rainfall over Luzon in the next 72 hours.

The typhoon seemingly spared Albay and the Bicol Region of a direct hit as it remained offshore and in the last 24 hours..

The typhoon is expected to bring destructive winds and intense with at times torrential rainfall as it continues to move from Camarines Sur and Camarines on Wednesday to Iba, Zambales and other Central Luzon provinces, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

At 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the center of the eye of the typhoon was located at 60 km East Northeast of Daet, Camarines Norte.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 140 km/h near the center and gustiness of up to 195 km/h, Ulysses continues to move westward at 20 km/h.

The typhoon is expected to hover over West of Iba, Zambales in the next 24 to 48 hours, and move outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility by Saturday or Sunday.

As of 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Tropical Warning Signal No. 3 is raised over the southern portion of Quirino (Maddela, Nagtipunan), the southern portion of Nueva Vizcaya (Alfonso Castaneda, Dupax Del Norte, Dupax Del Sur), Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Tarlac, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan.

Similarly, Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, the northern and central portions of Quezon including General Nakar, Infanta, Real, Mauban, Sampaloc, Lucban, Tayabas City, Sariaya, Candelaria, Dolores, Tiaong, San Antonio, Lucena City, Pagbilao, Atimonan, Padre Burgos, Unisan, Agdangan, Gumaca, Plaridel, Pitogo, Macalelon, Lopez, General Luna, Catanauan, Buenavista, Guinayangan, Tagkawayan, Calauag, Quezon, Alabat, Perez, and Polillo Islands, Batangas, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, the northern portion of Camarines Sur (Del Gallego, Ragay, Lupi, Sipocot, Cabusao, Bombon, Calabanga, Tinambac, Siruma, Goa, Lagonoy, San Jose, Garchitorena, Presentacion, Caramoan) are under TCWS No. 3.



## Lahar warning

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has cautioned those living near volcanoes, particularly Mount Pinatubo against possible lahar flow as typhoon-induced rainfall is expected in the next 48 hours.

At an 11 a.m. press conference, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Renato Solidum, the concurrent Director at Phivolcs, said rainfall trigger flashflood or lahar and pyroclastic materials.

“If you’ll notice, the typhoons are passing by the Bicol Region, Calbarzon, MIMAROPA, Metro Manila or Central Luzon, like there’s a high way. Aside from normal effects of typhoons, strong winds, rain, flood, storm surge, and landslide, there are also lahar. Like with Rolly, we are giving lahar advisory. Yesterday, we have issued warning to those living near rivers against lahar. Mount Pinatubo has still many lahar and pyroclastic deposits,” he warned.

## Strong winds, heavy rainfall

Ezra Bulquerin, PAGASA weather specialist said strong winds are expected throughout the passage of the typhoon in these areas, enough to cause massive infrastructure damage. “This can bring cause trees and electric posts to fall,” he said.

Heavy rains is also expected in these areas, threatening to cause flooding and trigger landslide in areas prone to these geological hazards.

Ulysses, he said, threatens Central Luzon and may also directly hit Metro Manila, bringing in destructive winds and heavy rains.

In its Severe Weather Bulletin issued at 5 p.m. Wednesday, PAGASA said there is a high risk of storm surge with heights of up to 3.0 m over the coastal areas of Aurora, Quezon including Polillo Islands, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, and the northern and eastern coastal areas of Camarines Sur.

Meanwhile, up to 2.0 m over the coastal areas of La Union, Pangasinan, Isabela, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila, Cavite, Batangas, northern portions of Mindoro Provinces including Lubang Island, Marinduque, Romblon, Masbate including Ticao and Burias Islands, Albay, and Sorsogon, and the remaining coastal areas of Camarines Sur.

“These storm surges, which may be accompanied by swells and/or breaking waves near the coast, can cause life-threatening and damaging coastal inundation. Moreover, there is also a moderate risk of seiche or storm surge over the coastal areas surrounding Laguna de Bay,” it said.

Because of the typhoon, sea travel is risky for all types of seacrafts in areas under TCW Signals.

While Ulysses’ reach its peak intensity of 140-155 km/h prior to landfall before slightly weakening as it crosses mainland Luzon as it passes by the Sierra Madre and Zambales Mountain Ranges, although it is likely to remain a typhoon throughout its traverse.

Image credits: Nonie Reyes

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/12/worst-over-for-bicol-ulysses-intensifies-threatens-quezon-aurora-area/>





# Ilang taga-Catanduanes sa kapitbahay muna sumilong dahil sa Ulysses

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 11 2020 06:34 PM



Sa tantiya ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Catanduanes, nasa 7,000 ang lumikas papunta sa kanilang evacuation centers. *Jacque Manabat, ABS-CBN News*

CATANDUANES - Ngayong bumabangon pa ang mga residente sa probinsiyang ito mula sa pananalasa ng bagyong Rolly, pinili muna ng ilan na makisilong sa kanilang mga kapitbahay.

Sa tantiya ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Catanduanes, nasa 48,000 indibidwal ang nakikisilong ngayon sa mga kapitbahay nila. Nasa 7,000 naman ang nasa evacuation center na itinalaga ng gobyerno.

May iilan pang evacuation center sa probinsiya na nakaligtas sa hagupit ni Rolly, na sumira sa nasa 90 porsiyento ng mga estruktura sa lugar.

Pero maging ang mga evacuation center ay may indikasyon na maaaring magiba kapag dinaanan ng mga bagyo tulad ni Ulysses - kaya nakituloy muna sila sa mga kapitbahay na may matibay-tibay na bahay.

Nagtuloy-tuloy ang ulan simula madaling-araw ng Miyerkoles, pero hindi inalintana ng residenteng si Jayson Tarnate ang bagyo, na sumuong sa ulan at hangin para makabili ng pagkain para sa mga nakisilong na kapitbahay.

Naka-3 nang sari-sari store si Tarnate pero bigo siyang makabili kaya umuwi na lang siya.

"Bibili sana ng hotdog at manok. Lulutuin sana namin kaso wala kaming mabilhan. Yung mga bahay po nila kakalagay lang ng pang-safety. Eh nilipad na naman po ulit, [kaya] pinalikas muna namin sa 'min," ani Tarnate.

Sa lakas ng hangin, nabubuwal na maging ang mga puno. May ilang naglakad pero nahihirapang makabalik sa kanilang bahay.

Poste na lang ang natira sa bahay ni Marites Tindugan, na kasama sa 1 sa 3 pamilyang nakikituloy ngayon sa bahay ni Tarnate.

Sinubukan pa niyang isalba ang kaniyang mga gamit pero isang bag lang ng damit at low battery na flashlight ang nabitbit niya.

May mga residente ring nasa kalsada. Ang ilan, nagmamadaling makahanap ng gamit para mas tumibay ang kanilang mga bahay.

Sa ngayon, tinututukan ng LGU ng Catanduanes ang pagbangon sa bagyong Rolly.

"Itong bagyong Ulysses sa amin ay balewala. If not for bagyong Rolly na napinsala kami masyado... Ang pinakaproblema namin ngayon is how can we recover ASAP," ani Catanduanes Governor Joseph Cua.



Sira rin ang Doppler radar ng PAGASA sa probinsiya na pinangsusukat ng lagay ng ulan. Ngayon, umaasa muna sila sa Doppler radar na nasa Daet, Camarines Norte.

"Malaking kawalan [ang Doppler radar] sa part ng Visayas at Bicol area kasi mostly ang data ng coverage nito na 400 kilometers maximum range, hagip niya ang Samar area at Southern Luzon," ani PAGASA Catanduanes officer in charge Juan Pantino Jr.

Kasama sa mga napuruhan ng bagyong Ulysses ang coastal municipalities ng Catanduanes tulad ng Bagamanoc, Pandan, Panganiban, Viga, Caramoran, at Gigmoto.

Binaha rin ang bahagi ng mga nasabing munisipalidad at nagkaroon din ng mga landslide sa ilang lugar.

Sa ngayon, wala pang naitatalang nawawala o nasasaktan dahil sa bagyo.

-- **Ulat ni Jacque Manabat, ABS-CBN News**



# Metro Manila hinambalos ni Ulysses, baha mala-Ondoy

By [Doris Franche](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 13, 2020 - 12:00am



Nagsagawa kahapon ng aerial inspection si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kasama si Sen. Bong Go sa mga lugar na sinalanta ng bagyong Ulysses partikular sa Marikina at Rizal upang tingnan ang lawak ng pinsala. Ayon kay Go, pinasisigurado ni Duterte na magagamit lahat ng assets ng gobyerno para masagip ang mga stranded sa bubong ng mga gusali at bahay.

STAR/ File

MANILA, Philippines — Naramdaman ang bagsik ng bagyong Ulysses nang hambalusin nito buong magdamag ang Metro Manila at mga karatig lalawigan.

Ayon kay PAGASA weather forecaster Benison Estareja, mas maraming pag-ulan si Ulysses kumpara kay Ondoy nang manalasa ito buong gabi ng Miyerkules hanggang umaga ng Huwebes.

“In terms of pag-ulan natin, ina-assess pa rin natin pero... masasabi nating mas maraming pag-ulan na naranasan dito sa bagyong Ulysses compared kay Ondoy dahil malawak ang bagyo,” ani Estareja.

Sa hagupit ni Ulysses kahapon, hindi maiwasan ng maraming residente sa Marikina na maalala ang Ondoy, lalo’t lubog muli sa baha ang maraming bahagi ng lungsod.

Ang marami sa kanila, nagpapa-rescue na dahil sa bubong na na-stranded nang unti-unting umangat ang tubig-baha.

Matatandaang ang tropical storm Ondoy ay naghasik ng lagim sa Marikina at ilang bahagi ng Metro Manila at Rizal noong 2009. Nag-iwan ito ng higit 400 patay sa mga lugar na naapektuhan nito.



Ayon naman kay Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro, maraming kababayan niya ang puno ng takot at nagkaroon ng hypothermia dahil magdamag na basa, at nahanginan.

Bukod sa Marikina, nagbaha rin sa ilang bahagi ng Rizal, Pasig, Bulacan, Pampanga, Quezon at ilan pang lalawigan sa Luzon.

Nagtulong-tulong naman ang mga awtoridad sa pagsagip sa mga residente sa Marikina matapos malubog sa baha ang maraming bahagi ng lungsod nitong Huwebes.

Samantala, sinabi ng Office of Civil Defense (OCD) na umabot na sa 171,159 na tao o 47,316 pamilya ang na-displace ng bagyo. Nasa 162,753 ang nasa evacuation centers.

Ayon pa sa OCD, nakapagtala na rin ang rehiyon ng apat na landslide o pagguho ng lupa.

Nabatid na umaabot hanggang 3 metro o hanggang baywang ang tubig baha.





# Higit 8k katao apektado ng bagyong Ulysses sa QC

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 12 2020 06:03 PM

MAYNILA - Nagsagawa ng rescue operations ang Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office sa mga residenteng na-trap sa kanilang mga binahang bahay dahil sa bagyong Ulysses.

“Ang goal sana natin dito ay wala na sanang rescue na nagaganap. Kaso, sometimes yung ating mga residente, hindi rin nila siniseryoso warnings ng PAGASA, ng Quezon City government. Ganito po ang mangyayaring ending natin lagi - rescue na lang nang rescue,” sabi ni Mike Marasigan ng CDRRMO ngayong Huwebes.



Sa panayam sa TeleRadyo, sinabi ni Marasigan na karamihan sa mga nasagip nilang mga residente ay nauna nang nakasama sa forced evacuation matapos mailagay sa red alert status ang lungsod nitong Miyerkoles.

“Ito yung mga nasa evacuation center. Taposm nung gabi, bumalik sa kanilang bahay at for some reasons, wala daw ulan. So, inabot sila ng ulan ng 3 a.m., 4 a.m.,” sabi niya.

Ayon sa lokal na pamahalaan, umabot sa 8,286 indibidwal o 2,467 pamilya sa lungsod ang apektado ng pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses.

Mayroon naman silang 44 evacuation centers sa mga barangay.

“May mga partition tents lahat ng barangays para ma-maintain social distancing at pagsusuot ng mga mask,” ani Marasigan.

Tumutulong din aniya sa kanilang rescue operation ang ibang force multipliers tulad ng mga taga-Philippine Red Cross, pulisya at Metropolita Manila Development Authority.

Sinabi ni Marasigan na mataas ang baha sa mga barangay ng Del Monte, Masambong, Sta. Cruz, Sto. Domingo, Bagong Silangan, Bagumbayan, East Kamias at Roxas.

Hinikayat niya ang nais pang magpa-rescue na tumawag lamang sa emergency number na 122.

“Our emergency operations center will coordinate with water search and rescue available namin immediately. Just provide us with the complete address saka location para ma-coordinate din sa barangay,” sabi niya.

Laking pasalamat naman nila na wala pang naiuulat na nasawi o nasugatan dahil sa bagyo.

- TeleRadyo 12 Nobyembre 2020

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/11/12/20/higit-8k-katao-apektado-ng-bagyong-ulysses-sa-qc?fbclid=IwAR2iGmNpP-v0v2S2fCK-V71C2tNPjhWNBByQ7JPNs2iCUX4c7j6twVTaAf0Q>



# NDRRMC itinangging ‘caught flat footed’ sa mala-‘Ondoy’ na epekto ng Bagyong ‘Ulysses’

By **Bombo Analy Soberano** -November 12, 2020 | 1:36 PM



Humingi na ng ayuda ang National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) sa AFP, PNP, Philippine Coast Guard, at Bureau of Fire Protection units para mag-augment at tumulong sa mga gagawing rescue operation, lalo na at buhos pa rin ang humihingi ng tulong matapos mai-stranded ang mga kababayan natin dahil sa malawakang pagbaha dulot ng bagyong Ulysses.

Ayon kay Office of the Civil Defense Deputy chief, ASec. Casiano Monilla, mahigpit nilang tinututukan ngayon ang Marikina, Pasig at ang buong central Luzon.

Aniya, nagpakawala na kasi ng tubig ang Angat, Ipo, La Mesa at Wawa Dams.

Giit ng opisyal, bukas din ang mga private companies na may kakahayan na magsagawa ng rescue effort para tumulong sa mga naistranded na mga kababayan natin.

Sa ngayon, hindi pa masabi ng NDRRMC kung ilan ang mga nailikas, maging ang mga lugar na lubog sa tubig baha dahil nakapokus ang lahat sa ginagawang rescue operation.

Itinanggi naman ng Office of Civil Defense na sila ay “caught flat footed” o hindi nakapaghandang mabuti sa mala-ondoy na pagbaha na dulot ng bagyong Ulysses sa Metro Manila at iba pang mga lugar na dinaanan ng bagyo.

Ayon kay Monilla natuto na ang pamahalaan dahil sa karanasan sa Ondoy at kasama ang ganitong scenario sa kanilang pinagpaplanuhan.

Pagkatapos aniya ng Ondoy noong 2009 ay sinikap nilang palakasin ang kapasidad ng pambansang pamahalaan at maging ng mga LGU para tumugon sa mga situasyong ganito.

Sa panig aniya ng OCD at NDRRMC, ay hindi sila nagkulang sa pagbibigay ng babala, sa katunayan ay maging ang mga rehiyon sa Norte tulad ng Region 1 at Region 2 ay inabisuhan sa posibleng epekto ng bagyong Ulysses.

Sadya lang aniya na minsan ay hindi nakikinig ang mga tao sa babala at hindi sumusunod sa mga payo ng LGU.

Pinangunahan naman kaninang umaga ni DILG Sec. Eduardo Ano ang emergency council meeting kaninang umaga sa NDRRMC sa kampo Aguinaldo.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/ndrrmc-itinangging-caught-flat-footed-sa-mala-ondoy-na-epekto-ng-bagyong-ulysses-rescue-operation-ongoing/>



## Typhoon Ulysses cuts power to half of Meralco customers

posted November 12, 2020 at 12:18 pm

by [Manila Standard Business](#)

Typhoon Ulysses lashed Luzon, caused massive flooding and toppled power lines that left millions of households without power Thursday morning.

Power retailer Manila Electric Co. said about 3.8 million households or 56 percent of its customer base in Luzon experienced power interruptions as of 5 a.m. Thursday.



Meralco advisory

"We are exerting all efforts to restore power soonest despite the constraints we are currently facing. Rest assured that Meralco will continue to conduct restoration efforts round the clock in order to address each and every customer who still have no power supply," Meralco corporate communications head Joe Zaldarriaga said.

"At the height of the typhoon, more than half of our customers were without power. It would take time to restore power in our whole franchise area. Our lines sustained heavy damage," Zaldarriaga said in an interview with GMA News.

Meralco said it deployed linemen to restore power in affected areas including Metro Manila, Southern Luzon and Central Luzon.

It said that as of 12 noon on Thursday, 2.2 million households or 31 percent of its customers still had no power. Thousands of homes were submerged as Typhoon Ulysses dumped intense rain that at times matched the level recorded during the onslaught of Typhoon Ondoy in 2009.

Marikina River's water level exceeded 21 meters that overflowed to most villages in Marikina City. Rescue teams received appeal for help from residents trapped on the roof of their homes in Marikina City, Rodriguez and San Mateo, Rizal.

Villages in Bulacan towns were also submerged after Ipo Dam released water while Angat Dam announced the opening of one of its gates after the water level exceeded the normal high level of 210 meters.

Meralco said many of its customers in Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal, Laguna, Quezon Province, Calocan, Quezon City, Marikina, Muntinlupa and Makati experienced power interruptions.

Meralco advised residents in flooded areas to shut the main switch of their circuit breaker.

For power restoration, Meralco advised customers to report through its official Facebook Messenger and Twitter accounts or via SMS.

"Please include helpful details such as Account Name, Service ID Number (SIN), Exact Address, Nearest Landmark, Contact Number and Contact Person," Meralco said.



# Four Luzon dams start to dump excess waters

Published November 12, 2020, 9:56 AM

by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)

Dams in Northern and Central Luzon have begun dumping excess waters due to strong rains brought by Typhoon "Ulysses," the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said on Thursday.



Ipo Dam (MWSS / MANILA BULLETIN)

PAGASA said that at 6 a.m. Thursday, the dams that started opening their gates were the Magat Dam in Isabela province, Ipo Dam in Bulacan, and Binga and Ambuklao dams in Benguet province.

Magat Dam has a water level of 190 meters and has two gates open since Wednesday, Nov. 11, with an estimated water outflow of 989 cubic meters per second (cms).

Ipo Dam's water level is at 101.2 m and has four gates open with 587 cms outflow.

Binga and Ambuklao dams have water levels of 572.05 m and 751.08, respectively.

Binga has six gates open on Wednesday and has 495 cms. water outflow.

Ambuklao has four gates open with 557 cms. water outflow.





# Widespread flooding in Isabela, Cagayan feared as Magat Dam releases more water

Published November 12, 2020, 8:35 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Government hydrologists warned of widespread flooding in Isabela and Cagayan after all seven spillway gates of Magat Dam in Isabela were opened Thursday afternoon to allow the release of more water from its reservoir due continuous increase in the dam's water level.



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
NATIONAL IRRIGATION  
ADMINISTRATION-MARIIS

(PNA / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Jason Bausa said two additional gates were opened Thursday afternoon, bringing to seven the total number of gates releasing water from Magat Dam.

As of 7 p.m., the level of Magat Dam rose to 192.88 meters, which is already near its spilling level of 193 meters.

Bausa said Magat Dam's current inflow was measured at 6,908 cubic meters per second, while the total current discharge is 6,244 cubic meters per second.

"Masyado na itong malaki 'yung pinapakawalan ng Magat Dam para sa capacity ng Magat River pati na rin ng Cagayan River. (Magat Dam is releasing too much water for the capacity of the Magat River, as well as the Cagayan River)," hydrologist Richard Orendain said. Magat River is a tributary of the Cagayan River.

"Ang Cagayan river 'di na kaya i-accommodate ang ganung kalaking volume ng tubig from Magat. Magkakaroon po tayo ng malawakang pagbaha sa Isabela at Cagayan lalong-lalo na sa malapit sa Magat River at Cagayan River. (Cagayan River can no longer accommodate such a large volume of water from Magat River. We will have widespread flooding in Isabela and Cagayan, especially near the Magat River and Cagayan River)," he said.

The watershed area of Magat Dam had already received substantial rains from recent weather events, including Typhoon "Ulysses."

Areas that are likely to be affected by Magat Dam's release of water are the municipalities of Ramon, San Mateo, Aurora, Cabatuan, Luna, Reina Mercedes, Burgos, Naguilian, and Gamu, all in Isabela province.

PAGASA also issued a flood advisory for the following areas:

1. Upper main Cagayan River and its tributaries – Ganano River and Magat River



2. Middle main Cagayan River and its tributaries – Siffu-Mallig River and Pinacanauan Rivers of Ilagan, Tumauni and San Pablo

3. Lower main Cagayan River and its tributaries – Pinacanauan de Tuguegarao, Chico River, Pared River, and Dummun River

The weather bureau warned people living near low-lying areas, particularly those adjacent to and along these rivers to stay vigilant against possible landslides and flash floods.

Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils concerned were also advised to take appropriate actions.



## Waste of water resources

posted November 13, 2020 at 12:30 am

Time and again, floods submerge parts of the Philippines whenever a strong typhoon slashes across the archipelago. The flooding, caused by heavy rains and the release of excess water from major dams, is a clear manifestation of how the country is mismanaging its water resources.

### EDITORIAL

*“It will be a shame if precious water brought by the typhoons is wasted into the open sea, instead of being harnessed as drinking water and irrigation source during the dry season.”*

### Waste of Water Resources

Typhoon Ulysses battered Metro Manila, Central Luzon, the Bicol region and Southern Luzon for a least two days this week. Its rains caused major flooding, inundated several low-lying areas and forced the evacuation of thousands of Filipinos. The heavy rains overflowed dams, prompting authorities to release the excess water to preserve the integrity of the infrastructure facilities.

Dams are specifically built to store water during the rainy season and control the swelling of rivers and tributaries downstream where communities are situated. With the stored water, the dams feed the irrigation systems that criss cross rice and other farmlands during the dry season, and also provide cheap electricity.

Major dams in Northern Luzon and Central Luzon, however, had to dump excess water because of the heavy rains brought by the typhoon. The Magat Dam in Isabela, Ipo in Bulacan and Ambuklao and Binga in Benguet released “unwanted” water from their reservoir that eventually found their way in nearby lowland areas before emptying into the main river and the open sea.

The inundation of some towns in Metro Manila, meanwhile, should remind the government of the need to build similar dams, dikes or water impounding facilities to tame the Marikina River. The country’s engineers can draw up a plan to control the swelling of the waterway.

Headwaters in the Sierra Madre Mountains in Rodriguez, Rizal (formerly Montalban) flow down and join Marikina River that snakes around several towns and cities, including Marikina, San Mateo, Quezon City, Cainta and Pasig. Heavy rains from strong typhoons such as Ulysses and Ondoy expand this river, causing untold damage to many communities.

Metro Manila, thus, needs major dams or flood control structures near the base of the Sierra Madre Mountains to counter the deluge of rain. An average of 20 storms and typhoons hit the Philippines every year. It will be a shame if precious water brought by the typhoons is wasted into the open sea, instead of being harnessed as drinking water and irrigation source during the dry season.



## What happened to the flood control master plan?

posted November 13, 2020 at 12:20 am

by [Jenny Ortuoste](#)

### "Invest big, invest now, and see benefits over the medium- and long-term."

It is crushing to see the suffering and misery of many thousands of Filipinos whose lives were threatened and property destroyed by the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses (international name: Vamco), especially just a week after the havoc created by Super Typhoon Rolly (Goni).

As during the time of the massively destructive typhoons Ondoy and Haiyan, pleas for rescue and relief goods are being heard from many parts of the country where people are neck-deep in floodwater, their roofs torn off and windows blown in by the savagery of the storm.

As shattering as these images are, this reality is enacted over and over again in the Philippines, which is hit by about 20 storms a year. Still we have not come up with a reasonable and effective plan of action or infrastructure that will prevent flooding and diminish the annual risk of life, limb, and property.

This is not to say that the government has not prepared for disasters; rather, kudos are due to the many local governments that prepared their people beforehand and laid in the rescue and relief supplies they knew would be needed. However, these actions are merely reactive, and the failure lies in the lack of proactive measures against flooding.

Many experts, throughout the years, have given their suggestions on this matter so it is certainly not a lack of knowledge and skill that holds us back from being more prepared to meet calamities. Even the most cursory Internet search will throw up many articles on the matter.

In September 2014, architect Jun Palafox wrote in Manila Times that we are still vulnerable to long-term damage because "we lack consistency when it comes to implementation" and we tend to "focus more on reactionary measures rather than pro-active ones."

Palafox wrote that while other Asian countries have "huge working flood control systems and established mitigation measures," ours "have yet to be finished." He gave as examples Malaysia's SMART (Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel) and Japan's five-storey underground facility that dumps water into the Edo River.

The SMART Tunnel project, he wrote, took four years to complete at a cost of \$514 million. It is the "longest storm water tunnel in Southeast Asia" built to "solve Kuala Lumpur's flash flood problems and traffic jams." The Japanese "water infrastructure project" took 13 years to build, cost \$3 billion, and is the "world's largest underground flood diversion facility and was built as a flood control measure for the next 200 years."

Now that is forward-thinking. Invest big, invest now, and see benefits over the medium- and long-term.

Palafox said that after typhoon Ondoy in 2009, he and his team of architects and engineers brainstormed flood control recommendations that they submitted to the Aquino government.

In 2012, that administration, with technical and financial assistance from the World Bank, launched the Flood Management Master Plan for Metro Manila, to be completed in 2035.

The plan "proposed a set of priority structural and non-structural measures to provide sustainable flood management," wrote World Bank (WB) Lead Irrigation Engineer Joop Stoutjesdijk for PreventionWeb.

He added that in 2017, under the Duterte administration, the WB and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved \$500 million in funding for the project, which has four components—modernizing drainage areas, minimizing solid waste in waterways, participatory housing and resettlement, and project management and coordination—which aims to reduce flooding in some 56 drainage areas and directly benefit "at least 1.7 million people," particularly "many informal settlers living near drains and waterways."

So what has happened now to this Metro Manila Flood Management Master Plan?





In August 2018, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said “none of the projects” under the plan have been completed since 2012. Speaking to CNN Philippines, the agency’s Flood Control Engineer Lydia Aguilar said only 14 percent of the projects had been funded since the approval of the master plan.

“Yun po yung dahilan ba’t pa rin may pagbaha, kasi di pa natin nabubuo yung projects,” she added. [That’s the reason why there are still floods, because we haven’t completed the projects.]

Meanwhile, DPWH Unified Project Management Office and Flood Control Management Cluster Director Patrick Gatan said repairing Metro Manila’s drainage systems will require major funding and also worsen traffic.

The question is, why would funding be a problem if the WB and AIIB already approved half a billion dollars for the project? And what’s worse, traffic for a few years or continuous annual typhoon-related damage and deaths?

Two years ago, in a Senate Committee on Public Works hearing, committee chairman Senator Manny Pacquiao decried the slow implementation of flood control projects and called on DPWH to work with local government units and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to speed up the projects.

Pacquiao cited a Commission on Audit report that the DPWH failed to complete projects worth P62.59 billion on time, among them 622 flood-control measures designed to address flooding around the country.

Since 2018 there have been no updates on the plan that I’ve been able to find.

It is clear that there is a long-term flood management infrastructure project; that funding for it was approved; and that this administration has acknowledged its existence and slow performance in implementing the plan.

When will the DPWH realize that these flood management projects are necessary and vital? Metro Manila contributes some 35 percent to the Philippine economy, according to the WB. The area is also home to over 15 million people. People are suffering and dying each time a storm hits, and all this misery can be reduced, mitigated, even prevented, if we had a flood-control system like Malaysia’s SMART or Japan’s underground tunnel.

The Philippine flood management master plan must be fast-tracked. Let’s call on the DPWH to do its job, and the appropriate senators to kick the laggards’ butts and get them moving.

\* \* \*

Where are the missing PhilHealth billions? FB and Twitter: @DrJennyO



## SEEKING SAFETY

By The Manila Times

November 13, 2020



*(Clockwise from above) Policemen pull a boat carrying residents through a flooded street after Typhoon 'Ulysses' hit Marikina City; a terrified stray dog tries to keep itself above rising floodwaters caused by Typhoon 'Ulysses' at a shuttered establishment near the Zapote flyover, on the boundary of Las Piñas City and Bacoor City in Cavite province and rescuers from the Bureau of Fire Protection and the Dasmariñas City government lift Jomar Blesario on a stretcher after rescuing him from the ruins of a factory destroyed by a landslide caused by 'Ulysses' in Langkaan 1 village, Dasmariñas City, Cavite. PHOTOS BY AFP, MICHELLE ALQUINTO AND BOY JOSUE*





# Into the night

Fernando G. Sepe Jr., ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 12 2020 10:28 PM



Rescue work continues into the night at Provident Village in Marikina after the subdivision was inundated by torrential rains brought by typhoon Ulysses on Thursday. President Duterte ordered government agencies to hasten relief efforts after the powerful typhoon killed at least seven people and unleashed some of the worst flooding in years in the capital Manila.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/11/12/20/into-the-night?fbclid=IwAR02MF0gxDmuoedlBAUMLBTllwiGOXSMI\\_M4wbPDnxKvidoDofKWqKN2TYQ](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/11/12/20/into-the-night?fbclid=IwAR02MF0gxDmuoedlBAUMLBTllwiGOXSMI_M4wbPDnxKvidoDofKWqKN2TYQ)



# Marikina River, umapaw uli gaya sa Ondoy

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | November 12, 2020



Umabot sa 21.8 metro ang level ng tubig sa Marikina River na naitala alas-9:14 ng umaga ngayong Huwebes dahil sa Bagyong Ulysses, katulad ito ng nangyari sa panahon ng Ondoy noong 2009.

Inamin ni Mayor Marcy Teodoro na hindi nila inaasahan ang ganitong sitwasyon kung saan puno na ang mga evacuation centers ng mga residente habang mayroong naghihintay ng rescue dahil sa umabot sa ikalawang palapag ng kanilang bahay ang baha.

"Nao-overwhelm na kami sa extent, magnitude ng baha na nararanasan namin," ani Teodoro.

Gayunman, humingi na ng tulong si Teodoro sa Philippine Coast Guard.

"Kung makakatugon sila sa lalong madaling panahon sana," sabi ng alkalde.

Ayon pa kay Teodoro, nangangailangan din sila ng dagdag na rescue boats at personnel dahil sa maraming residente ang stranded at ang iba ay nakakaranas na ng hypothermia o pagkakaroon ng abnormal na temperatura sa katawan na may panganginig at pagkalito ng isip.





## Binga, Ambuklao, Magat Dam nagpakawala

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Nov 12, 2020

NEWS



Photo courtesy of UNTV



21 0

Binuksan ang mga gate ng tatlong dam sa Luzon habang kasagsagan ng bagyong 'Ulysses' para makalabas ang naiipong tubig at maiwasan ang pag-apaw nito.

Ito ang nabatid kay Richard Orendain, hydrologist ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) sa panayam sa radyo nitong Huwebes.

Aniya, anim na gate ng Binga Dam sa Benguet ang binuksan alas-nuwebe ng umaga matapos na makapagtala ito ng water level na 572.12 meter bandang alas-otso ng umaga.

Walong gate naman ang binuksan sa Ambuklao Dam sa Benguet din matapos na maitala ang water level nito sa 751.42 meter dakong alas-otso ng umaga.

Sa Angat Dam sa Bulacan ay isang gate ang binuksan ala-una ng hapon. Umabot umano sa 211 meter ang water level ng Angat Dam na mas mataas sa normal na antas nitong 210 meter.

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/binga-ambuklao-magat-dam-nagpakawala/>



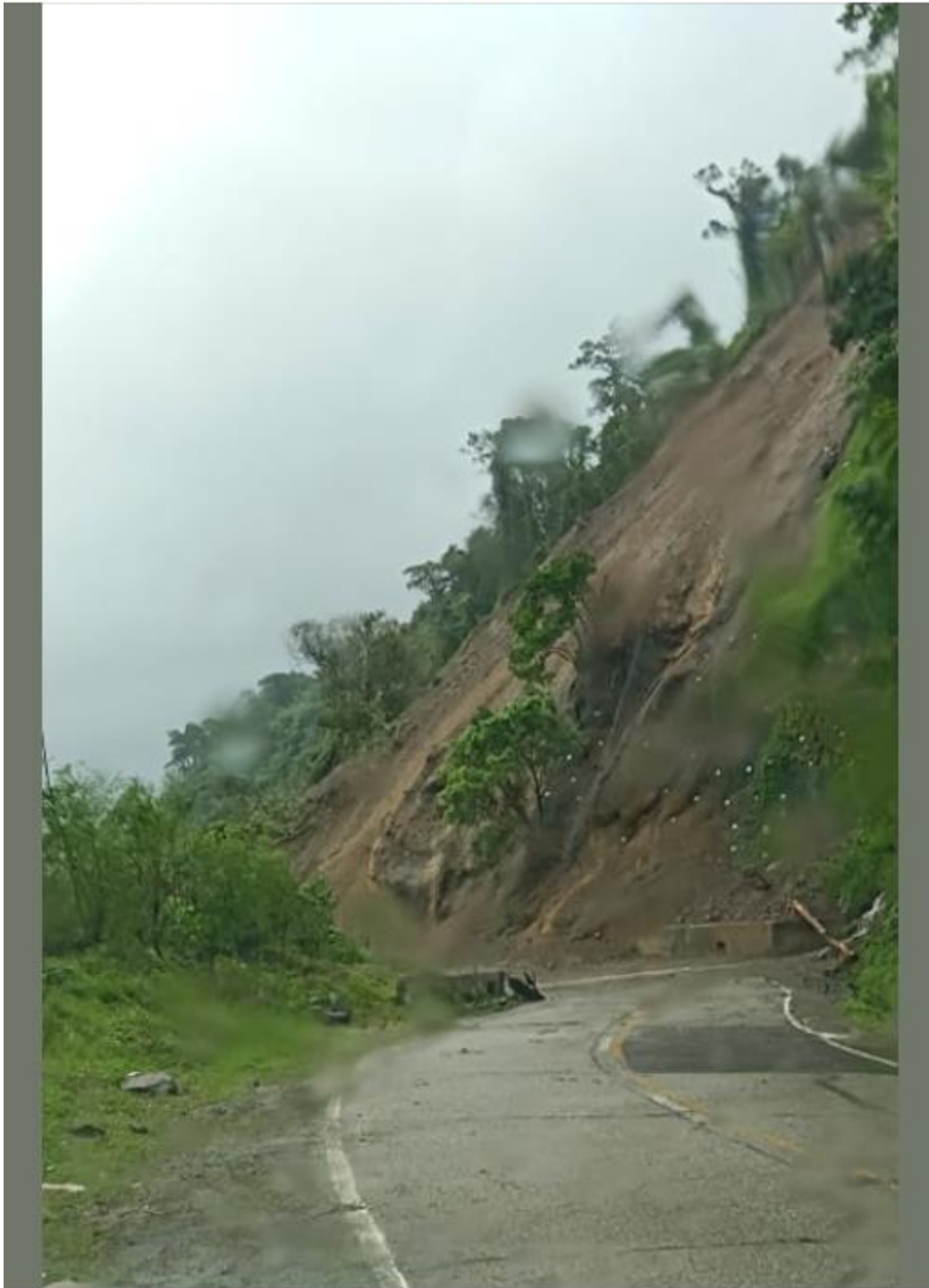
ABS-CBN News

7h · 🌐

Lalong lumala ang pagguho ng lupa mula sa bundok ng Sitio Bangkero, Barangay Pancian sa Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte dahil sa pananalasa ng bagyong #UlyssesPH Huwebes.

Hanggang gabi'y hindi madaanan ang kalsada at itutuloy ang clearing operation Biyernes.  
#TrafficPatrol (👤: Hendrick Pedronan) | via Dianne Dy, ABS-CBN News

BASA HIN DITO ang mga kaugnay na ulat: [bit.ly/UlyssesPH](https://bit.ly/UlyssesPH)



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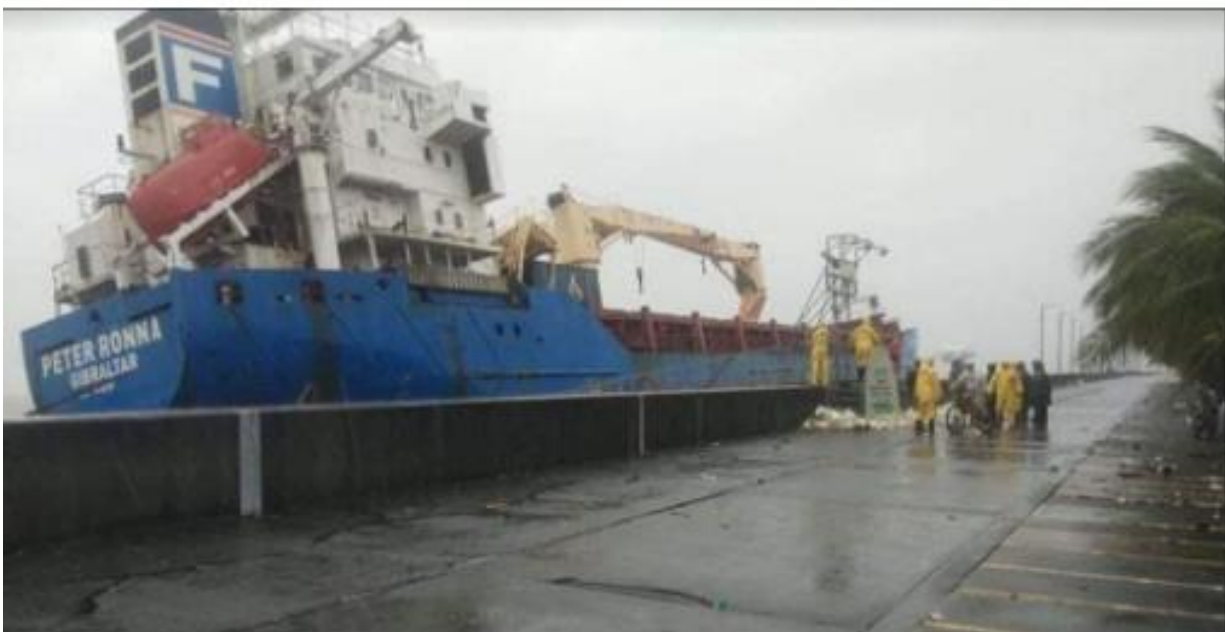
Barko sumadsad sa seawall ng SM Mall of Asia

SUMADSAD ang isang cargo vessel sa seawall ng SM Mall of Asia nitong Huwebes ng umaga dulot ng malakas na hangin at malalaking alon dulot ng bagyong Ulysses

Ayon kay Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano, nakikipag-ugnayan na ang mga lokal na awtoridad sa Philippine Coast Guard.

Sinabi ni Ruth Salimbangon ng City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, walang naiulat na nasaktan sa insidente.

Dagdag ni Salimbangon, handang tumanggap ng mga lumilikas na residente ang 2 evacuation center ng Pasay City.(Gaynor Bonilla)



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# Warmer seas due to climate change make hurricanes stronger

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 05:12 AM November 13, 2020

TOKYO—Warmer seas caused by climate change are making hurricanes stronger for longer after landfall, increasing the destruction they can wreak on impact, a new study has found. Researchers warn the finding suggests inland communities—which may be less prepared than coastal regions to face hurricanes—are increasingly at risk.

The effects of climate change on tropical storms, including hurricanes, are still being studied, although the warming planet is already known to be making storms bigger and stronger.

## ‘Rate of decay’

So academics at a Japanese university looked at data on North Atlantic hurricanes from 1967 to 2018 and examined their “rate of decay”—how long they took to weaken—in the first day after landfall.

They sought to understand what impact warming seas might have on storms when they make landfall—typically when they begin to lose strength.

“We show that the decay time scale has almost doubled in the past 50 years—a huge increase,” Pinaki Chakraborty, a professor at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University who led the study, told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

That could mean destruction would “no longer be confined to coastal areas, causing higher levels of economic damage and costing more lives,” he warned.

The researchers looked to see whether the longer rate of decay correlated with sea temperatures, which vary year to year, though they are rising overall.

They found a clear link: when sea surface temperature was higher, storms stayed stronger on land for longer.

But correlation does not equal causation, they said. So how to test the relationship?  
‘Growing concerns’

They turned to computer modeling, “building” four hurricanes that developed in identical conditions except for sea surface temperature.

When each reached the equivalent strength of a Category 4 hurricane, they “switched off” the moisture supply to the model storms—simulating their transition from sea to land—and watched how each behaved.

“Although the intensity at landfall is the same for all four hurricanes... the intensities of the hurricanes that developed over warmer oceans decay at a slower rate,” the study said. To test the proposition further, they modeled the four hurricanes under the same conditions—but this time when they made their simulated landfall, the researchers removed any stored moisture in the storm.





These “dry hurricanes” lost intensity significantly faster, and notably all at the same rate, despite having developed over seawater of differing temperatures.

Why might this be happening? The answer lies in moisture, which fuels the engine of a hurricane, the researchers said.

Storms that develop over warmer water retain more “stored moisture”—akin to a small fuel tank.

### **Unanswered questions**

This keeps them stronger for longer after landfall, even though they are cut off from the ocean supply.

There are still unanswered questions, including just how much sea temperature affects the time it takes a storm to weaken.

The landfall locations of storms have shifted over time, said Dan Chavas and Jie Chen of Purdue University’s Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, in a review commissioned by the scientific journal Nature.

Terrain differences at the new landfall spots could be playing a role in hurricanes weakening more slowly, they cautioned.

### **More damaging**

Changes in the technology used to observe storms over the past decades could also affect the findings.

Despite those questions, the study “adds weight to growing concerns that tropical cyclones might become more damaging in the future,” they wrote.

It should encourage researchers to “broaden their thinking” about climate change and storms, they added.

Chakraborty said he planned to expand the study to other regions affected by tropical storms to see if a similar effect was observed.



## China vows tough protection for tigers



By [Global Times](#)

November 13, 2020

**XIAMEN:** Siberian tigers, also known as Amur tigers, are one of the world's most endangered species. Currently, there are fewer than 500 remaining, with a majority of them living in the wilds of Russia.

As to the population living in China, through the conservation efforts of the Chinese government and some international organizations, their number was able to increase to less than 30 during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016 to 2020).



*HEAR ME ROAR* China on Nov. 11, 2020 assured that it would impose tough protection for Siberian tigers. As the largest predatory cat species, a male tiger's body can reach about two meters in length, with an additional tail length of about one meter. GLOBAL TIMES PHOTO

China's conservation efforts to protect wild Siberian tigers have greatly benefited the restoration of the species' global population and expansion of its habitat.

The Siberian tiger is a *Panthera tigris tigris* subspecies that mainly lives in Russia's far eastern regions and Northeast China.

As the largest predatory cat species, a male tiger's body can reach about two meters in length with an additional tail length of about one meter. The average weight of an adult male tiger is 250 kilograms, and some can reach a hefty 350 kilograms.

The color of wild Siberian tigers range from brown in summer and light yellow in winter. Their backs and sides bear many rows of narrow black stripes, while their heads are large and round with several black horizontal stripes on their foreheads.

These forehead stripes often come together in the middle, causing them to appear very similar to the Chinese character wang, which translates to "king" in English, which is why the Siberian tiger has the nickname "King of the forest" in China.

Siberian tigers usually live in regions with thick forests, shrubbery and wild grasslands, and can range more than 100 square kilometers in search of food.

They mainly prey on large and medium-sized mammals such as deer, sheep and wild boar, as well as small mammals and birds. This is usually accomplished through a sneak attack.

Due to the destruction of their habitat and poaching, their number has dropped significantly. In 2010, the Siberian tiger was listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Through increased protection efforts, including the introduction of a logging ban and the establishment of some national parks, the number of tigers in China has rebounded and is showing a slow upward trend.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, the annual growth rate of the wild tiger population is about 1.04 percent, while the animals are spreading to China's inland areas at a rate of 13.8 kilometers every three years.

Additionally, the number of animal snares set by hunters has decreased significantly, leading to an increase in the tiger's natural prey.

Jiang Guangshun, executive deputy director of the feline research center at China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration, told the Global Times that cooperation between China and Russia has been one of the most significant steps contributing to the animals' protection.

In June 2019, China and Russia signed a comprehensive strategic partnership that stated the two countries will deepen cooperation and protection of endangered wild animals including Siberian tigers and leopards and their natural habitats, and jointly monitor the endangered animals to ensure that those in Northeast China can freely migrate across the Sino-Russian border.