

14 NOVEMBER 2020, Saturday



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR NAGBIGAY NG P359,000 CALAMITY DONATION SA KAGAWARAN NG KALIKASAN



November 14, 2020 @ 12:20 AM 5 hours ago



IBINIBIGAY ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (panglima sa kanan) kay National President Joselyn Sarile ng Kalipunan ng mga Kawani sa Kagawaran ng Kalikasan (K4) (panglima sa kaliwa) ang calamity donation na nilikom ng DENR management na nagkakahalaga ng P359,000.

Layunin ng donasyon na matulungan ang mga empleyado ng DENR na labis na naapektuhan ng Super Typhoon Rolly partikular na sa mga probinsiya ng Catanduanes at Marinduque.

Katuwang ni Cimatu sa ginanap na turn over noong Nobyembre 5 sa OSEC Conference Room, DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City si Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda (nasa dulong kanan).

Kabilang sa larawan sina (mula sa kaliwa) Alvin Legaspi at Wilhelmina Diez, miyembro ng K4 Secretariat at DENREU Central Office, Administrative Service Director Rolando Castro; K4 Treasurer at LMB Union President Engr. Beato Cefre, Jr.; BMB Union President Elpidio Gelera; DENREU Director Ethel De Guzman; at DENREU President Alvin Gatbonton.

Kasama naman sa nakibahagi sa pamamagitan ng Zoom sina K4 Chairperson Emma Delima, mga DENR Regional Union Presidents at dating K4 Presidents, Atty. Camilo Garcia, Atty. Alvin Constantino at Juan Evangelista.



Hamon sa DENR, gibain ang obstruction sa mga waterways, now na!

[Friday, November 13, 2020](#) [Allan L. Encarnacion](#)

BINAHA na naman ang malaking bahagi ng Metro Manila at mga karatig lalawigan dahil sa bagyong Ulysses.

Alam nating lahat ang natural overflow ng ating mga dam at ng ating mga ilog ay walang ibang pupuntahan ang tubig kung hindi ang kapatagan. Maraming lugar ang hindi naman dati binabaha pero lumulubog na sa tubig sa tuwing umuulan.

Sabihin na nating iyong volume ng ulan ni Ulysses at ni Ondoy ay halos magkasindami. Babalik pa rin tayo sa tanong kung bakit masyadong malawak ang pagbabaha.

Noong unang taon ni Presidente Duterte, ang natatandaan ko ay nagpaimbentaryo siya ng mga waterways. Ibig sabihin, tingnan kung anong mga istraktura ang nakapatong o nakaharang sa natural waterways, lalo na dito sa Metro Manila.

Hindi ko alam kung bakit natigil ang programang ito gayong napakaganda nito bilang unang hakbang sa paglutas sa problema ng pagbabaha.

Bakit naman hindi tayo babahain, hindi na natin kailangang maging taga-DENR para malaman na maraming waterways ang nabarahan na ng mga building, mga malls, mga barangay halls, mga private homes at mismong mga condominium development.

Huwag na tayong lumayo, itanong nga natin sa DENR at sa Marikina local government kung bakit may mga poste ng SM ang pinayagang nakapatong sa mismong Marikina River. Hindi ang kasalukuyang local government ng Marikina ang ating tinutukoy, iyong mga dating naupo dyan.

Hindi ba't sa batas, bawal ang kahit anong obstruction sa mga daanan ng tubig? Paano sila nabigyan ng building permit? Paano sila nabigyan ng environmental clearance ng DENR? Hindi ba't magandang itanong sa kanila yan?

Diyang din sa Congressional Avenue sa Quezon City, iyong structure ng isang educational institution, nakapatong sa waterway na nagiging sanhi ng mabagal na takbo ng tubig sa mga creek tuwing umuulan.

May isa na namang itinatayong high rise condo sa Congressional din malapit sa National Bookstore, nagising na lang tayo may boardup na ng condo at nawala na ang tulay na ang ilalim ay ilog na tagusan sa Tullahan River.

Itatanong ulit natin sa dating pamunuan ng Quezon City government at sa DENR kung paanong nabigyan ng building permit at ECC ang istraktura na iyon kahit nakapatong sa ilog at tinakpan ng kanilang karatula ang tulay? Malaking hamon ito kay Mayor Joy Belmonte na itama ang kapabayaang dating pamahalaan.

Maraming ganyang kaso sa Metro Manila na ang sanhi lamang ay nakapikit ang mga ahensiya at mga lokal na pamahalaan na dapat ay nagbabantay sa mga gumagahasa sa ating mga natural resources and natural waterways.



Hamon sa DENR, gibain ang obstruction sa mga waterways, now na!

Hindi natin masisi si President Duterte kung bakit biglang natigil ang programang pag-imbentaryo sa ating mga katubigan dahil sa dami ng problema ng bansa. Pero ano pa ang silbi ng DENR at mga lokal na pamahalaan kung ang lahat ng kilos para protektahan ang bayan ay magmumula pa sa Palasyo ng Malacanang?

Kahit gaano pang flood control project ang gawin ng DPWH ay magpapatuloy ang pagbabaha sa malaking bahagi ng Metro Manila kung hindi natin gigibain ang mga structures na nakapatong or nakaharang sa mga natural na daluyan ng tubig.

Paging DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, iparamdam nyo naman sa amin ang inyong bangis sa pamamagitan ng pagdemolish sa lahat ng mga bumara at nagpasikip sa ating mga ilog.
allanpunglo@gmail.com



DENR probes illegal logging, mining in NoCot

By Edwin Fernandez November 13, 2020, 8:33 pm



Google map of Magpet, North Cotabato

COTABATO CITY – Environment officials in North Cotabato are investigating the reported illegal logging and illegal mining activities in the hinterlands of Magpet town, officials said Friday.

“We are investigating and we will enforce the law without fear or favor,” Mamutur Cariga, chief of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), said over a radio interview here.

Cariga said they immediately sent personnel to verify the report on Thursday afternoon after residents complained of massive cutting of trees and digging by suspected illegal miners in Barangay Don Panaca.

“As far as we are concerned, North Cotabato is mining-free,” Cariga said, surmising that the digging in Barangay Don Panaca could have been done by treasure hunters.

Several villagers in the area who spoke on condition that they remained unidentified, however, told PENRO officials that the digging was allegedly financed by a military man, Cariga said.

Lt. Colonel Rey Alvarado, commander of the Army’s 72nd Infantry Battalion based in Magpet, said as far as his unit is concerned, no soldier is involved in illegal logging or illegal mining.

“Our troops know it is illegal and they will not venture into it,” he said in a separate radio interview. “We are conducting a separate probe.”

Cariga said the Army and the police remain reliable partners in the implementation of forestry laws in the province. *(PNA)*



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***BAKIT HINDI ITO BINABALITA?**

**SCHOOL OF FISH PA BA ITO?
BAKIT SOBRANG DAMING ISDA!**

[MASAMA DAW ANG DOLOMITE, PERO BAKIT SOBRANG DAMING ISDA?](#)

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NAPA SPA TULOY AKO NG LIBRE 😊😞🙏❤️

SHOW MORE



53 tons of trash collected from Manila Bay after typhoon ‘Ulysses’

Published November 13, 2020, 3:19 PM
by [Minka Klaudia Tiangco](#)

More than 50 metric tons of garbage were collected by the Manila city government in Manila Bay after typhoon “Ulysses” battered Luzon with strong winds and heavy rains on Wednesday and Thursday.



(Photos from Isko Moreno Domagoso Facebook page/ MANILA BULLETIN)

The Manila Department of Public Services (DPS) Team Mandaragat said they have collected 53 metric tons of trash from the start of the typhoon’s onslaught to 11 a.m. on Friday.



(Photos from Isko Moreno Domagoso Facebook page/ MANILA BULLETIN)

In a Facebook post on Friday, Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso thanked the city government personnel for cleaning up the city before, during, and after the typhoon.

“Sa gitna at pagkatapos ng unos ay walang patid ang ating DPS Team Mandaragat sa paglilinis at paghahakot ng basura sa Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard at Manila Yacht Club (In the middle and after the disaster, our DPS Team Mandaragat was unstoppable in cleaning and collecting garbage along Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard, and Manila Yacht Club),” his post read.



53 tons of trash collected from Manila Bay after typhoon 'Ulysses'



(Photos from Isko Moreno Domagoso Facebook page/ MANILA BULLETIN)

“Ito po ang Manila Bay ngayong umaga, malinis na at maaliwalas (This is Manila Bay this morning, clean and pleasant),” he said, sharing photos of Manila Bay.

Typhoon Ulysses exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) at around 9 a.m. on Friday.

The typhoon left at least 13 deaths and P104 million in agricultural damages. It also triggered flooding in portions of Luzon and damaged countless infrastructures.



Trash strewn along Baywalk in Manila a day after the onslaught of Ulysses

Published November 13, 2020 7:02am



DZBB Super Radyo ✓

@dzbb



[#BantayBagyo](#): As of 5:45 a.m., ganito ang sitwasyon sa Manila Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard.

Ang mga basura ay naanod ng malakas na alon sa Manila Bay dahil sa bagyong [#UlyssesPH](#). Nagsimula na rin ang paglilinis dito. | via [@Isa_Umali](#)



6:25 AM · Nov 13, 2020



Several piles of garbage can be seen strewn along parts of the Baywalk in Manila a day after the city and parts of Luzon were pounded by heavy rains and strong wind brought about by Typhoon Ulysses.

Isa Avendano-Umali reported for Super Radyo's DZBB, Manila City employees have started clearing out the garbage along the seawall along the length of Roxas Boulevard.



Manila Bay mabilis na nilinis ng Manila LGU



November 13, 2020 @ 7:20 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinasalamatan ni Manila Mayor Fransico ‘Isko Moreno’ Domagoso ang mga basurero ng kanyang lungsod sa mabilis na paglilinis ng Manila Bay sa buong panahon ng bagyong si Ulysses

Nakahakot ang mga basurero sa ilalim ng Manila Department of Public Services (DPS) Team Mandaragat ng 43 tonelada ng basura.

Ipinagmalaki ng punong lungsod na mula sa unang araw hanggang sa makaalis ang bagyo, tuloy-tuloy umanong nagsagawa ng paglilinis ang mga basurero na nagbunga ng maaliwalas at magandang dalampasigan ng lungsod.

“Sa gitna at pagkatapos ng unos ay walang patid ang ating DPS Team Mandaragat sa paglilinis at paghahakot ng basura sa Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard at Manila Yacht Club,” pahayag ni Domagoso sa kanyang Facebook Page.

“Ito po ang Manila Bay ngayong umaga, malinis na at maaliwalas,” aniya pa.

Sinasabing nag-iwan ng maraming patay si Ulysses ngunit 14 pa lang umano ang kumpirmado. **RNT**



E. Visayas body backs Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest protection

By Sarwell Meniano November 13, 2020, 1:46 pm



PROTECTING NATURE. A portion of Leyte's biggest peatland forest in the towns of Palo, Alang-alang, Sta. Fe, and San Miguel. The Regional Land Use Committee in Eastern Visayas on Friday (Nov. 13, 2020) said it would support the Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest Restoration Initiative that seeks to conserve the biggest peatland in the province. *(Photo courtesy of Ronnan Christian Reposar)*

TACLOBAN CITY – The Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC) in Eastern Visayas has expressed support for the Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest Restoration Initiative that seeks to conserve the biggest peatland in the province.

RLUC chair and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) 8 (Eastern Visayas) Director Bonifacio Uy said Leyte's provincial government, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), would lead in convening the concerned local government units to discuss the establishment of the Leyte Sab-a Peatland as a Local Conservation Area through a provincial ordinance.

“Other concerned agencies also committed to present their plans in the Leyte Sab-a Peatland area in the next RLUC meeting to be integrated into the enhanced management plan of the DENR,” Uy said in a statement issued on Friday.

The four-year project aims to protect, restore, and manage the Leyte Sab-a Basin Peatland area in the towns of Palo, Alang-alang, Sta. Fe, and San Miguel, to sustain its ecosystem services.

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction and Forest Foundation has been implementing the four-year Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest Restoration Initiative since January 2018.

The PHP20 million project aims to produce legal and scientific studies, come up with a comprehensive map of the forest, and raise community and local leaders' awareness of the importance of peatland forest.

Leyte's Sab-a Basin exhibits diverse vegetation, having a wetland forest, boggy areas, sedge and grasslands, and diversity of endemic flora and fauna, having threatened animals and freshwater fish species found mostly in the wetland forest ecotype.



E. Visayas body backs Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest protection

The basin absorbs and holds water during the rainy season, releasing it slowly to maintain base flows in the outflow rivers, according to Forest Foundation.

The Leyte Sab-a Basin peatland is a large catchment basin measuring 3,088 hectares, more than half of which has been reclaimed for agriculture.

The remaining 1,740 hectares in the eastern half of the basin consists of small remnant areas of swamp forest and grass peat swamp.

Peatlands are vital features of the local ecosystem as they help regulate water flow, helping minimize the risk of flooding and drought in low-lying areas.

They also play an important role in long-term climate change mitigation by moderating atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. (*PNA*)



Migratory birds not source of avian flu



By [HARIBON FOUNDATION](#)

November 14, 2020

Earlier this year, the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) confirmed the detection of bird flu in an egg farm in San Luis, Pampanga. Initial investigation around the area revealed the presence of migratory birds, which many have associated with bird flu outbreaks.

Also known as avian influenza, bird flu refers to the disease caused by infection with avian influenza Type A viruses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said these viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds but can infect domestic poultry, other birds, other animal species and — very rarely — humans.

The link between the spread of bird flu and migratory birds rests on the claim that wild birds carry the flu viruses during their long migration, and infect flocks in resting areas along their migratory routes.

However, multiple studies say otherwise.

A 2006 editorial published on *The Lancet Infectious Disease*, an online journal on infectious diseases, noted that scientists have only rarely identified live birds carrying bird flu in a "highly pathogenic form" despite extensive testing done on wild birds in Europe.

"Furthermore, the geographic spread of the disease does not correlate with migratory routes and seasons. The pattern of outbreaks follows major road and rail routes, not flyways," the editorial piece added.

An article, published last year in the life sciences archive PubMed Central, reviewed the editorial and concluded that the statements made on the piece still hold in the present.

Both the editorial and the review pointed out that a more likely perpetrator for spreading the virus is how poultry, poultry product, or infected material from poultry farms are handled, traded and transported.

"Contaminated food and water, animal/insect vectors and air can play a role in the secondary spread of AI (avian influenza) virus within and between poultry flocks, but movement of man and fomites is considered most relevant for spread between farms," said Johannes H. van der Kolk, author of the review article and editor-in-chief of the Swiss Institute for Equine Medicine in Switzerland.

Aside from the risk of being poached for illegal trading, migratory birds are also at risk of getting killed because of their supposed connection with the spread of bird flu.

In a recent webinar about migratory birds by the Haribon Foundation, the organization noted that it is crucial to clear up these misconceptions especially as the bird migration season begins.



CCC seeks stronger climate education



By [Conrad M. Cariño](#)

November 14, 2020

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is seeking increased public-private cooperation to strengthen environmental and climate change awareness and education nationwide.

Emmanuel de Guzman, CCC vice chairman and executive director, said that type of cooperation is necessary for the country pursue sustainable development and build resilience to threats like climate change and the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

“Now, more than ever, we must heed science and invest more in public awareness and education on greener, more environment-friendly and more sustainable ways of living,” he said in his message for the 2020 National Environmental Awareness Month (NEAM) this November.

Republic Act 9512 or the “National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008” set November of every year as NEAM.

Covid-19, he said, is so far the strongest warning “we must reform the ways we live and ways we regard our environment.”

“We simply cannot afford a return to business as usual,” de Guzman added.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said available evidence so far indicate the virus causing Covid-19 has a zoonotic source or is of animal origin.

De Guzman also called for full implementation of RA 9512 and RA 9729, or the “Climate Change Act of 2009,” to educate people and inspire public action for the environment and climate.

He noted that RA 9512 provides the framework for interagency and multisectoral cooperation on integrating environmental education school curricula in all levels.

RA 9729, on the other hand, requires inclusion of basic climate change concepts in the country’s primary and secondary education curricula, de Guzman added.

He said full implementation of both laws “has never been this critical” given extent of environmental degradation nationwide, climate change’s threats and danger of Covid-19.

Earlier, de Guzman warned the risks of climate change and pandemics escalate among the country’s most vulnerable and marginalized sectors.

Such risks are particularly high in crowded urban informal settlements, he added.



House panel pushes bill protecting 200-year-old dao tree in CdO

Published November 13, 2020, 3:05 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

The House Committee on Tourism pushed a bill seeking government protection for a 200-year-old dao tree measuring at least 49 meters or approximately the size of a 16-story building found within a secondary forest in Cagayan de Oro City.



MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

The House panel endorsed for the second time the enactment of House Bill No. 2792 that contains the same legislative proposal approved by the House last year.

Authored by Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, HB 2792 was refiled after it failed to get Senate approval due to time constraints.

Rodriguez, chairman of the House Committee on Constitutional Reform, said the dao tree or Dracontomelon Dao being referred to in his bill is one of the biggest and oldest in the country and can be found “within a pocket secondary forest in the Integrated Forest Management Agreement area” of the Pelaez Ranch in Barangay Cugman.

“At present, this dao tree is 49 meters high and has a diameter of 222.8 centimeters. It estimated to be more than 200-years-old,” Rodriguez said.

He added: “It is imperative that the tree be declared the heritage tree of Cagayan de Oro City in order to ensure its long term protection. It can also be an additional tourist attraction for the city,” he said in the bill’s explanatory note.

The bill seeks to designate the Department of Tourism, in coordination with the Cagayan de Oro City Cultural heritage Conservation Council and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, to prepare a tourism development plan to ensure the protection and enhance tourism in the area where the tree stands.

The tourism panel unanimously approved the measure and endorsed immediate passage by the House.



Quezon residents blame illegal logging for destruction of homes

Published November 13, 2020 10:51pm



Residents of Barangay Banglos in General Nakar, Quezon on Friday blamed illegal logging for the destruction of their houses at the height of the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

In the aftermath of the calamity, piles of huge logs were seen in many parts of the coastal town.

According to Jun Veneracion's report on "24 Oras," the residents said their houses were destroyed by tree trunks that were swept away by the floodwaters. The logs can be seen piled up about 200 to 300 meters from the Agos River.

"Parang awa niyo na po, mga illegal loggers, please tigilan niyo na po 'yung pag puputol ng puno. Kami po 'yung nasasalanta dito sa baba. Nakita niyo naman po ang daming kahoy," Rosemarie De Garcia said.

Garcia said her house has been destroyed, swept away by floodwaters.

In the barangay, at least 15 houses located beside the river were destroyed.

Barangay Councilor Rey Astera said "Kung wala nang nag i-illegal e 'di siguro'y hindi ganito ang mangyayari sa aming barangay."

In the town of General Nakar, about 1,000 houses were destroyed. The residents are asking for some assistance as they build their homes again.

The GMA Kapuso Foundation delivered bags of relief goods to the typhoon victims in the town. However, with the devastation brought about by Ulysses, it would take time and more assistance for the families to recover from the tragedy.

The Foundation will proceed to Infanta, Quezon on Saturday to distribute relief goods. -- **Joahna Lei Casilao/BAP, GMA News**

Landslides kill 10 people near Nueva Vizcaya mining site

Published November 13, 2020 5:27pm

Ten people have died following landslides near a mining site in Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported on Friday.

Interviewed on Super Radyo DZBB, Police Colonel Ranser Evasco, Provincial Director of Nueva Vizcaya Police, said they received a report on Thursday that soil erosion occurred in three sitios in Barangay Runruno.

Evasco said authorities immediately recovered five bodies on the same day, but five others were missing.

Search and rescue operation resumed on Friday, where three bodies were recovered at dawn, while two others were found after noon.

"Bale tatlong landslide po 'yan at tatlong sitio pero iisang barangay, 'yung Barangay Runruno," Evasco said.

"Talagang ang Barangay Runruno ay bulubunduikin po ito. Meron pong FCF Minerals po dito," Evasco added, saying that gold was being mined at the area.

However, the Nueva Vizcaya Police Provincial Director dissociated the landslides with the mining operation, as he said it was due to the saturated land due to Typhoon Ulysses.

"Bundok po ang gumuho at tuloy-tuloy po for the past weeks ang ulan so na-saturate po, bumigay po 'yung bundok," Evasco said.

"Nag-evacuate po kasi 'yung iba before po noong dumating 'yung bagyo. At ito po 'yung mga naiwan or bumalik doon sa kanilang bahay. Nagkataon po na gumuho 'yung bundok. 'Yun nga po ang nangyari," he added.

Three houses were covered by the landslides.—**Jamil Santos/LDF, GMA News**



Villar turns coconut wastes into viable source of income, sustainable waste management initiative

By [BMPlus](#)

November 13, 2020



The coconut tree has long been considered as the “Tree of Life” and for good reasons. All the parts of the tree can sustain a human life—the coconut fruit as food, the coconut juice is better than water as it very nutritious, the palms and trunks can be used to make shelter among many more. In short, it can supply man’s basic needs for survival. In fact, even the wastes from coconuts, such as its husks, are important in many people’s lives.

And Senator Cynthia Villar, through the Villar Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance of Villar SIPAG, has turned coconut wastes into a viable source of livelihood and income for many communities. In doing so has also helped in waste management efforts in the country.

“There are two-fold benefits in turning waste coconut husks into something useful, we got rid of garbage that used to litter our streets and clog our rivers and waterways. Secondly, we helped residents by providing them with livelihood and additional source of income. It’s a win-win for people and the environment,” said Villar who is chairperson of both the Senate Committees on Agriculture and the Environment.



Las Piñas Coconet Factory



Villar turns coconut wastes into viable source of income, sustainable waste management initiative

Villar SIPAG's coconet weaving enterprises convert waste coconut husks into coconets, which are used as riprap materials in construction projects to prevent soil erosion. Vista Land buys the coconets for its housing subdivisions.

The workers extract fiber and coco peat from the waste coconut husks using a decorticating machine, which can extract fiber from up to 8,000 husks of coconuts daily. The fibers are then made into twines by women workers. Each twine is eight meters long. Another group of workers weave the loom of twines and within two hours they can weave one roll measuring one meter by 50 meters that can earn for them 200 pesos. The coconets cost 2,000 pesos per roll.

The coco peat or dusts extracted by the same machine are mixed with household wastes to make organic fertilizers. All the fertilizers produced are distributed all over the country and given free to farmers and urban gardeners. These have become in demand during the pandemic when the popularity of growing one's food and vegetable gardening dramatically increased.



Twining and weaving

The people who are involved in making coconets and organic fertilizers have made it a viable source of income. Thus, they are committed to it. "One of my learnings as a social entrepreneur is that we really have to put a income component in our projects for them to be successful or sustainable. Otherwise, people will be hesitant or half-hearted to participate," cited Villar.

According to Villar, their coco wastes project at also demonstrates how technological innovation can improve people's lives. In coconet-weaving, it's the decorticating machine invented by Dr. Justino Arboleda that paved the way for the production of the coconets from waste coconut husks.

"Dr. Arboleda's invention has won awards. It is a good example of how a simple invention is now the source of livelihood of many families and has helped many cities get rid of wastes cause floods and pollute rivers and waterways," said Villar.

It was in fact the persistent flooding in her home city of Las Piñas that brought attention to the notorious role of coco wastes in the problem. Villar said when they took a closer look and studied

Villar turns coconut wastes into viable source of income, sustainable waste management initiative

what's causing the floods, they discovered the culprit—waste coco husks, thrown away by itinerant buko (coconut) vendors.

“Las Piñas River has become a big dumping area of waste coconut husks, which caused the clogging of the riverways. So we thought of controlling the wastes with the people's cooperation. We designated areas where coconut vendors can bring or deposit waste coconut husks. Then we turned those as raw materials for coconet weaving enterprise that we put up,” the senator said. Besides the coconets, even the coco dust became a raw material mixed with household wastes to make organic fertilizer.



Coconet finished products

Indirectly, the coconet enterprise is also supporting farmers all over the country because they don't have to buy fertilizer. It also boosts organic agriculture in the country. Incidentally, November is 'Organic Agriculture Month' by virtue of Proclamation No. 1030, which cites organic farming as an effective tool for development, environmental conservation, and protection of the health of farmers, consumers and the general public.

Villar is an active proponent of organic agriculture. In fact, Villar-authored Organic Agriculture Bill has been passed in the Senate on June 1. Senate Bill No. 1318 will introduce the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), a more affordable and accessible certification system for organic products. It amends Republic Act No. 10068 (The Organic Agriculture Act of 2010) will provide the much-needed impetus to support the growth of organic agriculture in the country.

As an environmentalist and social entrepreneur, Villar is continuously searching for ways and means to provide livelihood to Filipinos that also help protect the environment. Besides waste coconut husks, the raw materials used in Villar's other livelihood projects are all from wastes. These are water hyacinths for the waterlily handicraft-weaving enterprise and the handmade paper factory; kitchen and garden wastes for the organic fertilizer composting facility; and plastic wastes for the waste plastic recycling factory that produces school chairs. The senator has set up over 3,000 livelihood projects nationwide.

Villar believes that there should be greater private sector and public participation in the development waste management programs. Her projects are implemented by Villar SIPAG in partnerships with numerous government departments/agencies, private sector groups and companies. It has established barangay-based livelihood enterprises that are models of proper waste management and good examples of how garbage can be turned into useful end-products.



Water from dams threatens villages



By [Arlie O. Calalo](#)
November 14, 2020

Water released from five dams in Luzon could cause massive flooding in riverside villages, a government hydrologist warned on Friday.

Richard Orindain of the hydro-meteorological division of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in an interview that Angat, Ipo, Ambuklao, Binga and Magat dams have been discharging water to avoid reaching critical levels.



Angat Dam (TMT file photo)

The five reservoirs breached normal levels after days of rain from three succeeding typhoons.

The last typhoon was “Ulysses,” which slammed into Luzon last Thursday.

Orindain said Binga Dam in Benguet and Magat Dam in Isabela, major sources of irrigation water in Luzon, have been releasing water to prevent from reaching spilling levels.

Binga has an outflow of 494.71 cubic meters per second, Orindain said. Areas affected by the discharge are Barangay Dalupirip and Tinongdan in Itogon, Benguet.

Threatened by water released from Magat are the towns of Ramon, San Mateo, Aurora, Cabatuan, Luna, Reina Mercedes, Burgos, Naguilian and Gamu in Isabela.

And downstream of Angat and Ipo dams are the towns of Norzagaray, Angat, San Rafael, Bustos, Baliuag, Pulilan, Plaridel and Hagonoy in Bulacan.

Orindain said none of the dams have reached spilling level, but they have started releasing excess water in anticipation of more rains induced by the La Niña phenomenon and the amihan or northeast monsoon.



Water from dams threatens villages

After exiting Luzon, Ulysses has re-intensified into a typhoon as it is moved toward Vietnam, Pagasa reported on Friday.

It was last tracked 500 kilo-meters west of Iba, Zambales, moving west-northwestward at 10 kilometers per hour (kph).

Ulysses packed winds of 120 kph and gustiness of up to 150 kph.

Moderate to heavy rains will still be experienced over Batanes and Babuyan Islands while light to moderate with at times heavy rains may prevail over the rest of Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Norte and Aurora.

Pagasa forecaster Raymon Ordinario said no weather disturbance is expected in the next three to five days.

“But based on our forecast, we are expecting at least one more tropical cyclone within this month and another two to three more next month,” Ordinario said.



506 new Covid-19 recoveries, total now 362K: DOH

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz November 13, 2020, 6:27 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 506 new recoveries from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), bringing the country's total to 362,903.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH said 89.7 percent of the country's Covid-19 cases have recovered while a total of 7,752 individuals, or 1.92 percent of the total, have succumbed to Covid-19.

Some 1,902 new cases were also reported, bringing the country's total active cases at 34,058 or 8.4 percent of the total cases.

Of these active cases, 83.9 percent were exhibiting mild symptoms, followed by those without symptoms at 9.4 percent, those in critical condition at 4.3 percent, those with severe symptoms at 2.3 percent, and those with moderate symptoms at 0.12 percent.

Of the new cases, Cavite reported the highest number with 122, followed by Davao City with 113, Quezon City with 84, Bulacan with 81, and Manila with 78.

To date, a good percentage of the country's total health facilities for Covid-19 cases remain available.

Some 54 percent of the country's 1,900 beds at intensive care units (ICU) are available, 59 percent of 13,500 isolation beds unoccupied, 70 percent of 5,900 ward beds empty, and 77 percent of 2,000 ventilators are not in use.

NCR hospitals in the aftermath of "Ulysses"

In a situation report, the DOH reported that majority of its retained hospitals in the National Capital Region (NCR) are fully functional and operational after the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

"However, the ground floor of Amang Rodriguez Medical Center was flooded. The patients were transferred to the 2nd floor of the said hospital," the DOH said.

At the Dr. Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, it said patients were evacuated from makeshift tents to the main building of the hospital.

Both the East Avenue Medical Center and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, it said, incurred minor damages in their roof.

Some hospitals also experienced power outage, understaffing due to transportation problems of its staff, and internet connection problems. (PNA)



DOH: Bagong COVID-19 cases, 1,902; total count, 404,713

By [Bombo Bam Orpilla](#)

-November 13, 2020 | 4:21 PM

Umabot sa 1,902 ang kabuuang bilang ng mga nadagdag sa tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa report ng Department of Health (DOH), pumalo na sa 404,713 ang numero ng coronavirus cases mula noong Enero.

Pero may 17 laboratoryo umano ang hindi nakapagpasa ng ulat sa COVID-19 Data Repository System kahapon.

Ang Cavite ang nakapagtala ng pinakamaraming bagong kaso ng deadly virus sa 122 newly-announced cases.

Sinundan ng Davao city, Quezon City, Bulacan, at lungsod ng Maynila.

Samantala, ang mga nagpapagaling ay nasa higit 34,000 pa.

Ang mga recoveries naman ay umaabot na sa halos 363,000 dahil sa 506 na nadagdag na gumaling.

Habang 31 ang additional sa total deaths na ngayon ay nasa 7,752 na.

Transmission of COVID-19 in evacuation centers a 'very strong possibility,' Duque warns

Published November 13, 2020 12:37pm

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

The transmission of COVID-19 in evacuation centers is a "very strong possibility," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III warned the public on Friday after Typhoon Ulysses rendered the "stay at home" pandemic response policy impossible for many Filipino families.

advertisement

During a briefing with other government agencies involved in Typhoon Ulysses response, Duque advised the local government units and emergency responders to observe minimum health standards to avoid the spread of the virus among the evacuees.

"It's a very strong possibility kaya kinakailangang magmatyag ang atin pong mga safety officers na ipinapatalaga ng DOH (Department of Health) sa mga local government units," he said.

Only one family should be accommodated per classroom or tent as much as possible, according to Duque. He added that these temporary shelters should be properly ventilated.

He also recommended that those belonging to the vulnerable population such as the elderly and pregnant be isolated.

The basic protocols such as regular handwashing, wearing of face masks, and social distancing should not be neglected.

According to NDRRMC executive director Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad, 64,500 families or 231,300 individuals had been preemptively evacuated before Ulysses hit. An additional 44,194 families or 170,500 individuals have evacuated through rescue operations, he added.

More than 12,000 evacuation centers had been activated by affected local government units, according to Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.

He also mentioned that the local government units were able to evacuate a total of 102,806 families or 345,119 individuals.

"Ito ay maaring mas mataas sa numero ng NDRRMC sapagkat ang pinagbasehan ay nasa evacuation center. Ito ay individuals na nailikas ng ating LGUs pero ang iba rito ay hindi naman napunta sa evacuation centers kundi sa kanilang mga kamag-anak," Ano said.

As of November 12, a total of 402,820 COVID-19 cases were recorded in the Philippines, of whom 362,417 have recovered and 7,721 died. More than 32,600 are still tagged as "active cases."

Aside from COVID-19, the DOH is also monitoring other possible diseases which may affect the evacuees, such as leptospirosis and diarrhea.—AOL, GMA News



PAGASA: Dams not to blame for massive floods in Marikina, Pasig

Published November 13, 2020 10:05pm

The massive amount of water released by dams during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses did not cause the widespread flooding in Metro Manila particularly Marikina and Pasig, PAGASA has said.

According to Oscar Oida's report on "24 Oras", PAGASA hydrologist Richard Orendain said that aside from the heavy rain, the floodwaters in Marikina and Pasig City came from the upstream of Mount Oro in Rizal.

"Kailangan po nating buksan nang sa gayon ay hindi po masira 'yong dam na 'yon dahil hindi po natin hahayaan na mas lumala 'yong sitwasyon na magkaroon tayo ng dam break," Orendain said.

Orendain said the rainfall on Thursday reached 374 millimeters in a span of 11 hours. PAGASA said this amount of rainfall is equivalent to more than a month of rain.

"Wala pong dam dito po sa water shed ng Pasig-Marikina basin. 'Yong mga malalakas na pag-ulan sa upstream, 'yon po 'yong nagpabaha dito sa Marikina," Orendain said.

Further, to prevent future flooding in the capital region, PAGASA suggested artificial embankment.

"Magsa-sacrifice tayo ng isang land na doon muna natin ilagay and then pagkatapos ng pag-ulan, ng pagbaha, i-release ulit natin sa ilog 'yong inipon natin doon sa embankment para in the future 'pag may pag-ulan na naman, mayroon na naman tayong pag-iimbakan," Orendain said.

Ulysses, the eighth to hit the country in the past two months, struck areas still reeling from Super Typhoon Rolly (international name: Goni), the most powerful typhoon in the world this year, which killed 25 people and destroyed thousands of homes earlier this month. **-NB**



Marikina City now under state of calamity after Ulysses onslaught

November 13, 2020 1:56 PM by [Christhel Cuazon](#)



(Photo courtesy: Philippine Coast Guard/Facebook)

Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodor on Friday placed the city under a state of calamity following the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

“Ngayong umaga ay idineklara natin ang state of calamity sa buong Marikina. Bakit? Upang sa ganon ang pamahalaan natin ay makatugon sa mga pangagailangan ng mga kababayan natin na naperwisyo,” Teodoro said in an interview with *dzRH’s Coffee Break*.



Environmentalist: Diminished Marikina Watershed's condition similar to 'Stage 4 cancer'

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Nov 14 2020 02:59 AM



An aerial photo of the balding portion of the Marikina Watershed in 2017, captured by then Environment secretary Gina Lopez. *Gina Lopez*

MANILA — A conservationist from the Masungi Georeserve on Friday regretted seeing floodwaters inundating parts of Luzon and some areas in Metro Manila due to Typhoon Ulysses, saying the Upper Marikina Water Basin was in its last stages of “forest death.”

Billie Dumaliang, a trustee and advocacy officer at Masungi Georeserve, told ABS-CBN News on Friday it would be hard to reverse the damage made to the watershed due to illegal logging and land-grabbing, among others.

“The Upper Marikina Watershed is in Stage 4 of forest death. The mountains are bare and illegal activities continue unabated,” Dumaliang said.

“Since it’s just grassland it can be compared to a Stage 4 cancer. Ibig sabihin, mahirap na ibalik sa datì, malapit na mamatay, kailangan pagtiyagaan.”

(Which means it will be hard to reverse the damage done to it. It is nearing death, we need to work hard to maintain it.)

Floodwaters from Ulysses could have been prevented if the government “seriously restored” the forest a decade ago.

She emphasized that the watershed, site of the georeserve’s restoration project, “regulates water flow, enhances water quality, and reduces the risk of floods and landslides in downstream cities like Marikina.”

“If we had seriously restored it ten years ago, there would now be a secondary forest and healthier soils. Perhaps, the aftermath of Ulysses would be a lot different. So many ifs . . . Too many excuses . . . The answer is right in front of us,” Dumaliang said.



Environmentalist: Diminished Marikina Watershed's condition similar to 'Stage 4 cancer'

Under Proclamation 296 issued in 2001, the Marikina Watershed Reservation in Rizal was declared a protected area and was renamed Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

It was granted protection under Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, which means the area is "protected against destructive human exploitation."

But illegal activities, Dumaliang said, haven't stopped in the area despite its protected status.

In October, conservationists from Masungi Georeserve sounded the alarm on the presence of armed guards working for a private company at the eco-tourism site.

The barriers, set up in a portion of the georeserve's restoration project, blocked authorized Masungi personnel from accessing about 1,000 hectares of land

Restoration 'only way to go'

Restoration should be "the only way to go," Dumaliang said, and the only long-term solution, especially because it is a nearby forest to Metro Manila.

"It is not only the planting of native trees but the restoration of an entire working ecosystem . . . It is the only sustainable and long-term solution coupled with smart infrastructure and disaster risk management," she said.

Land-grabbing, illegal logging and charcoal-making, corruption and negligence, Dumaliang added, continue to threaten restoration efforts.

"Spurious and large-scale land speculation inhibits genuine efforts to restore the watershed . . . Many have the desire and resources to reforest until they are prevented by spurious land claims by powerful people," she said.

"We need to act now or we will see the same fate soon, and regret that we did not do enough."

A post by the late environment secretary Gina Lopez calling for the reforestation of the Marikina Watershed in 2017 has gone viral, as environment advocates sought long-term solutions to prevent massive flooding in the capital region.

Concerned parties said the recent flooding in some parts of Metro Manila and in Luzon was a manifestation of what Lopez was trying to explain years ago.



‘Worst floodings’ ang nangyari sa Cagayan – Gov. Mamba

By [Bombo NewsCenter](#)

-November 13, 2020 | 6:03 PM



Itinuturing ngayon ng gobernador ng lalawigan ng Cagayan na pinakamalalang pagbaha ang nangyari sa kanilang lugar.

Sa panayam ng **Bombo Radyo** kay Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba, sinabi nito na sa nakalipas na 15 taon ito na ang “worst floodings.”

Noong nakaraang taon ay may nangyari ring mga pagbaha pero hindi umano katulad ngayon na dumaan ang bagyong Rolly at sinundan pa nang pagpapakawala ng tubig mula sa Magat Dam.

Ang dam ay nasa bahagi ng Ifugao at Isabela.

Dahil dito hindi na umano madaanan ang mga kalsada patungong Isabela at ilang mga national highway patungo naman ng Ilocos region.

Umaabot din sa 23 mga bayan na binubuo ng 135 na mga barangays ang apektado ng mga pagbaha.



Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba



‘Worst floodings’ ang nangyari sa Cagayan – Gov. Mamba

Nasa 40,000 din na mga indibidwal ang apektado kung saan 10,000 ang mga nasa evacuation centers.

Liban nito, ang iba naman ay minabuting manatili muna sa bahay ng kanilang mga kakilala at kaanak.

“Mag-15 year na rin akong gobernador at ito ang worst. We have the same last year,” ani Gov. Mamba sa **Bombo Radyo**. “Perennial problem namin ang flooding.”

Kinumpirma rin naman ni Gov. Mamba na apat na ang patay sa kanilang probinsiya matapos maganap ang landslide sa bayan ng Baggao.

Liban pa ito sa isang missing



Isabela under State of Calamity

Published November 14, 2020 1:45am

In Isabela, the floodwaters in Ilagan City have not yet subsided, according to a report on Saksi.

The provincial government reported that 26,000 families are affected by the flooding. Isabela province has been placed under the state of calamity.

"Ang malungkot dito ay hini gaanong handa na, 'yung handang-handa na alam namin na magkakaroon ng ganito," said Isabela Gov. Rodito Albano.

"Naghanda kami nung gabi, ininspeksyon ko 'yung ano namin. Pero hindi namin akalain na nung gabing yun ganito kalaki yung daloy ng tubig ang bumaba sa Cagayan River," he added.

The water from Cagayan River came from the Magat Dam, which is located in the town of Ramon.

"Nag-release pa 'yung Magat dam. Magat Dam kasi is one of those causing 'yung kuwan, 'yung worsening ng aming kuwan. Nagpa-release din pos ila ngayon. Lahat po 'yan papunta sa amin," said Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba.

An announcement was earlier made by authorities that water will be released from Magat Dam and that this may cause flooding in some areas.

Local government units evacuated people from areas that would usually be affected whenever water is released from the dam.

However, local officials did not expect that more areas would be affected as six gates were opened to release a huge volume of water.

The amount of water released reach at least 3,491 cubic meters of water per second, which is equivalent to water from almost one and a half olympic swimming pool.

"Kailangan natin pangalagaan 'yung integridad ng structure natin dito sa Magat Dam, hindi po kaya lahat ng tubig," said Richard Orendain, PAGASA Hydrologist.

For the excess water, Orendain suggested that a piece of land be used as storage or artificial embankment.

In Cagayan province, 24 out of 29 towns remain flooded a day after the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses while the province of Isabela has been placed under a state of calamity.

One of the reasons for the flooding was that the water was released from Magat Dam reportedly caused flooding in more areas than expected.

Baggao town was inundated and some residents are using small boats what used to be roads.

There were also landslides, wherein four have been reported to have died.

In Alcala, roads are impassable because of floods and landslides while in Pamplona, isolated residents had to be rescued after floodwaters entered their homes.

In Buguey, a vessel ran aground and all 22 crew members are safe.

In Tuguegarao City, many residents are stranded because of the floodwaters.

More than 4,400 persons are in evacuation centers. -- BAP, GMA News



Pagbaha sa North Cotabato binalangkas ang solusyon ng MinDa at Provincial Government

By [Bombo Garry Fuerzas](#)

-November 14, 2020 | 2:21 AM

CENTRAL MINDANAO-Bumisita sa tanggapan ni Governor Nancy Catamco si Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Policy Planning and Project Development Officer Joey Recimilla upang magbigay ng briefing tungkol sa mga malalaking ilog sa Mindanao lalong-lalo na sa North Cotabato.

Ipinaliwanag ni Joey Recimilla sa Gobernadora na isa sa pinagmumulan ng matinding pagbaha sa lahat ng mabababang lugar sa North Cotabato ay ang Pulangi river.

Napakahalaga para kay Catamco na mapapalaliman pa ang pagtalakay nito dahil sa epekto ng mga pagbaha. “Kailangan na nating makabuo ng komprehensibong pagpapalano, kasama ang mga LGUs para alam natin ang ‘channeling’ ng tubig. Sa pamamagitan nito mas epektibo ang pagsasaayos ng mga dike, at mga kanal nang hindi masasayang ang pera ng Gobyerno.”

Ngayong Nobyembre 27 ay tinakdang magkakaroon ng Mindanao River Basin Management Council meeting sa Amas Capitol Rooftop upang talakayin ang mga solusyon, panukala at mga plano ng ahensya at ng Pamahalaang Probinsya kaugnay sa pagbaha sa mga low lying areas at mga main tributaries o malalaking ilog.



Duterte constantly monitors typhoon situation: Palace

By Filane Mikee Cervantes November 13, 2020, 2:03 pm



President Rodrigo Duterte. (Presidential photo)

MANILA – Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque on Friday assured the public that President Rodrigo Duterte is always monitoring the situation and updates on the impact of Typhoon Ulysses.

In a press briefing, Roque said the President uses technology to monitor developments without the need to travel around.

Roque said inquiries regarding President Duterte’s whereabouts in times of crisis and calamities are part of the opposition’s tactics.

"Hindi po dapat tanungin 'Nasaan ang Pangulo' -- 'yan po ay kalokohan lang ng oposisyon. Ang Presidente po ay hindi nawawala, palagi po natin siyang kapiling, palagi po niyang iniisip ang kapakanan ng ating mga kababayan (We should not ask 'Where is the President'--that is one of the gimmicks of the opposition. The president is not missing. He is always here with us and he is always thinking about the welfare of our fellow Filipinos)," he said.

The hashtag #NasaanAngPangulo became one of the trending topics on Twitter as Typhoon Ulysses battered several parts of Luzon.

Roque said President Duterte also instructed government agencies to do their best to help those who are vulnerable and in need.

When asked why the President did not preside over the meeting with top government officials, Roque said Duterte has to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit and perform his role as the “chief architect of the country’s foreign policy”.

Despite his hectic schedule due to the ongoing virtual plenary session of the 37th Asean Summit, President Duterte on Thursday conducted an aerial inspection of the areas hit by the typhoon.

Before the aerial inspection, Duterte addressed the nation and assured that the government is on top of the situation.

He said the national government would provide relief, rescue, and assistance to families severely affected by “Ulysses”.



Duterte constantly monitors typhoon situation: Palace

“From the beginning, various government agencies have already been mobilized to respond to the situation on the ground,” Duterte said, renewing his 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 nobody would be left behind as the government is ready to address the 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,” the President added.

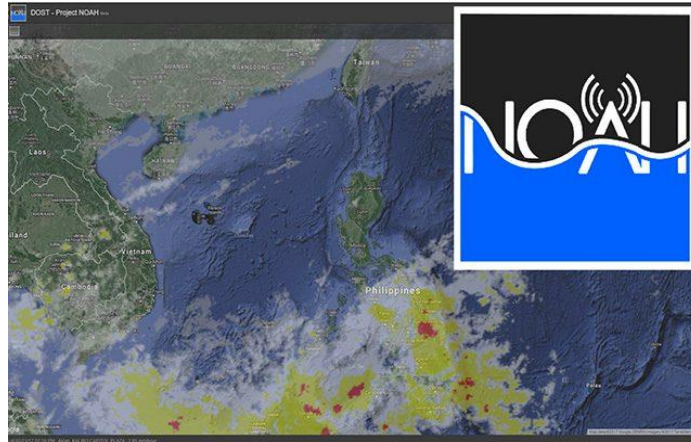
On Thursday morning, Duterte delivered a message during the 37th Asean Summit plenary session but had to temporarily leave the video conference to monitor the typhoon situation and government response.

“We are now suffering in the midst of the storm of Typhoon Ulysses. There is 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 in his speech. **(PNA)**

‘Project NOAH’ and ‘National Calamity Fund’ create online buzz as Duterte bats for climate justice

By [Catalina Ricci S. Madarang](#)

- November 13, 2020 - 6:25 PM



A screenshot of the Project NOAH website (<http://noah.dost.gov.ph/>) with the project’s logo.

President **Rodrigo Duterte**’s call to combat the effects climate change prompted his critics to talk about **Project NOAH**, an old disaster response initiative, and budget cuts on the **National Calamity Fund** online.

Amid the onslaught of **Typhoon Ulysses** on November 12, Duterte attended the first day of the 37th **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** summit via video conference, along with other member-states.

The international event runs from November 12 to 15.

In his address during the plenary session, Duterte cited the impact of tropical cyclones “**Rolly**” and “**Ulysses**” in the Philippines as consequences of climate change and called for cooperation in combating them.

“We must therefore further enhance our cooperation on disaster risk reduction management to reinforce our capacities, both at the national and regional levels. More importantly, we must amplify our voices to demand climate justice from those most responsible for this existential challenge we face today,” he [said](#).

He also demanded for climate justice from developed countries that commit the most carbon emissions in the world.

Duterte described it their “moral responsibility.”

“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.

Both natural calamities, which occurred weeks apart, battered several regions across the country, particularly in Bicol and Metro Manila.



‘Project NOAH’ and ‘National Calamity Fund’ create online buzz as Duterte bats for climate justice

“Ulysses,” in particular, triggered widespread flooding in Marikina, Pasig, Bulacan, Cavite, Quezon and other areas in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces.

Following Duterte’s talk on climate change, the terms “Project Noah” and “calamity fund” topped the trends list on local Twitter as Filipinos remembered both disaster response efforts which could have helped better prepare the country during natural disasters.

NOAH spelled out as **Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards** is a project of the **Department of Science and Technology** that the national government defunded in 2017.

On the other hand, the calamity fund refers to the allocation for the **National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council** from the annual **General Appropriations Act** or the National Budget.



Multi-purpose gyms to serve as evacuation centers urged

[Friday, November 13, 2020](#) [Ryan Ponce Pacpaco](#)

WITH an average of 20 typhoons hitting the Philippines yearly, Quezon City Rep. Alfred Vargas on Friday said it is high time for each community to have a disaster-proof, multi-purpose gym where they can evacuate in times of calamities.

House Bill (HB) 1403 or the proposed “Multi-Purpose Gym in All Municipalities and Cities Act” sets the minimum standards for the construction of multi-purpose gyms to ensure they can withstand strong typhoons and earthquakes.

Vargas said the practice of using schools as evacuation centers is not ideal because it disrupts educational activities and they sometimes lack the necessary facilities to accommodate evacuees.

“Evacuation centers should be well ventilated, have bathing and toilet facilities, and able to accommodate large groups of people,” Vargas said.

He saw the need to have more disaster-proof gyms due after knowing first-hand about its usefulness in his district.

“The multi-purpose gym at Quezon City’s fifth district serves as temporary shelter of residents whenever there are strong rains. Ginawa natin itong disaster-proof, kaya alam nating ligtas sila dito,” Vargas said.

Under HB 1403, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will be in charge of constructing typhoon-resistant, multi-purpose gyms in each municipality and city. Priority shall be given to third to sixth class municipalities, especially those located in disaster-prone areas.

DPWH will coordinate with the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to determine which disaster-prone areas should be prioritized in the construction of multi-purpose gyms.

The multi-purpose gyms should be located at an area safe from hazards identified by the local government unit in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

They must be built to withstand wind speeds of at least 155 miles per hour and a 7.2-magnitude earthquake.

The DPWH will come up with the building specifications for the multi-purpose gyms and ensure these are complied with during construction.

The multi-purpose gym should have an isolation area that can be used as a clinic, as well adequate shower and toilet facilities. Its floor area must also be free from permanent fixtures to accommodate evacuees.



KALAMIDAD GRABE; MGA ARAW NG TULUNGAN NGAYON, 'DI SIRAAN



November 13, 2020 @ 2:50 PM 15 hours ago

Nakaapat nang bagyo ang buwang ito at grabe ang mga kalamidad na nilikha ng mga ito.

Ang Kabikulan at ilang bahagi ng Timog Katagalugan, winasak nina Quinta at Rolly.

Ang Metro Manila at mga lalawigang dinaanan ni Ulysses, winasak din ng hangin ngunit higit na katakot-takot na baha ang idinating.

Ayon sa mga nakaranas, mas matindi pa ang baha na ipinarating ni Ulysses kaysa sa dala ni Ondoy noon.

Umabot ang kamay ni Ulysses mula sa Caraga Region hanggang sa Cagayan Valley, Cordillera, Kabisayaan, Kabikulan, Central Luzon.

Dumugtong ang mga baha ni Ulysses mula sa mga ulan na dinala ni Siony na halos isang linggong nanatili sa Northern Luzon at kasama ang amihan at La Niña na nagdulot din ng mga ulan at baha.

Si Tonio, naging mahina subalit nagdulot din ng mga baha.

ANYO NG KALAMIDAD

Nasa 10 ang namatay noong dumating si Quinta at mahigit 20 naman noong dumating si Rolly.

Kay Ulysses, nagbibilangan pa ngunit habang sinusulat natin ito, may 39 nang nakuhang bangkay mula sa iba't ibang lugar ng mahal kong Pinas.

May 2 patay sa Caraga, 12 – Calabarzon, 2 – Metro Manila, 7 – Cagayan Valley, 1 – Cordillera Administrative Region, 4 – Central Luzon at 3 – Bicol.

Buong Luzon at may bahagi ng Kabisayaan at Mindanao ang tinamaan ng mga bagyo sa nakalipas na 13 araw kaya naman, ang milyon-milyong mamamayan sa mga lugar na ito ay labis na nagdusa.

Ang nasira sa agrikultura, imprastraktura, tahanan, negosyo at iba?

Tinataya, nilalagom at kinukuwenta pa.



KALAMIDAD GRABE; MGA ARAW NG TULUNGAN NGAYON, 'DI SIRAAN

Pero tiyak na multi-bilyon piso ang halaga ng mga 'yan.

LABIS NA PAGHIHIRAP

Kung iisipin, mga Bro, naghihirap na tayo sa pagtama sa atin ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Nang dumating ang mga nabanggit na bagyo, lalo pa tayong nakaranas ng matinding kalamidad ng pinaghalong COVID-19 at sumpa ng kalikasan.

Wala nang hindi naghihirap, maging ang pamahalaan.

Ang inaakala nating mayayaman, bumabagsak din ang kanilang yaman sa pagbagsak ng mga negosyo at ekonomiya ng bansa.

Subalit ang higit na nakararaming mahihirap ang labis-labis na naapektuhan sa pagkasira ng kanilang tahanan, pananim, trabaho, negosyo, ari-arian at iba pa.

NASAAN TAYO AT ANO ANG ATING GINAGAWA

Kita naman nating lahat, lahat ng pamahalaan mula local government units hanggang sa mga rehiyon at nasyunal, kumikilos.

Kumikilos din maging ang mga nasa pribadong sektor, kabilang na ang mga civic organization gaya ng Lions Clubs International at Rotary Clubs.

Maging ang mga militanteng partylist ay tumutulong din.

Ang mga mamamayan?

Hindi matatawaran ang kanilang mga ginagawa mula sa pagwawalis sa kanilang mga paligid at pag-alis ng mga sanga at dahon o putik sa mga kalsada.

May mga nag-aabot ng tulong sa kanilang mga kapitbahay na nawasakan ng bahay o nagugutom.

May mga tumutulong sa mga namatayan at nasugatan na naitakbo sa mga ospital.

May mga nagboboluntaryo sa search and rescue operations.

May mga dalang pala o bareta upang tumulong sa pagbuo ng mga tulay o paggawa ng mga kalsada.

May mga nag-uulat sa mga kinauukulan kung saan ang mga walang kuryenteng lugar, binahang lugar at kung saan matatagpuan ang mga nasa delikadong lugar at marami pang iba.

ANG IBA?

Habang abala ang lahat sa pagkakaisa at pagtutulongan upang malagpasan ang mga kalamidad, meron namang walang ibang ginawa kundi magbantay sa lahat ng kilos ng mga nasa pamahalaan o kaaway nila sa pulitika upang siraan lamang.

Hindi na yata natutulog ang mga ito sa kababantay at anomang mabalitaan nilang gawa ng mga nasa pamahalaan o kalaban nila sa pulitika, minamasa nila.



KALAMIDAD GRABE; MGA ARAW NG TULUNGAN NGAYON, 'DI SIRAAN

Walang maganda o mabuti at lahat ay masama para sa kanila.

Ang kanilang mga daliri ay naka-welding na yata sa mga keyboard ng mga cellphone, laptop at iba pang gadyet para manira lang nang manira.

24 oras silang nagtitipa sa Twitter, sa Instagram, sa Facebook at kahit saan sa social media para maghatid ng mga kasinungalingan, pagbaluktot ng mga katotohanan at iba pa para makapanira at makapambwisit lamang.

Ang panawagan sa kanila ng ating Uzi, sumama sila sa mga mamamayan, sa pamahalaan, sa pribadong sektor na ipinupusta ang buhay, ang yaman, ang pawis, ang puyat at iba pa para sa pagbangon ng iba mula sa mga kalamidad.

Anong malay nga naman nila na kung isang araw, sila rin ang mabagyo, mabaha, masawi, maospital at mangangailangan ng tulong?



EDITORIAL - Brace yourselves

(The Freeman) - November 14, 2020 - 12:00am



We don't want to be naysayers, but it seems times will get more challenging in the foreseeable future with a double-whammy from nature. One is a threat that comes with all the fury of a force of nature, the other is so silent we usually never notice it's there.

That's right, the typhoons and the coronavirus.

Many areas in Luzon had yet to recover from the devastation caused by typhoon Rolly when they were again hit by another howler, typhoon Ulysses, the fifth storm to hit in just three weeks.

We can see in the news and social media heartbreaking images of whole neighborhoods inundated, major highways turned into rivers, and the sight of people trapped in their rooftops, waiting for rescue from the floodwaters.

So far 14 people have already been confirmed dead and three missing, with those numbers expected to rise. Around 340,000 people are now in evacuation centers and in immediate need of aid and relief goods.

Sadly, more storms are something we have to prepare for. While the Philippines seems to be geographically blessed when it comes to our central location in Asia, we are also geographically cursed when it comes to tropical depressions. We are often in the path of storms and see more than our fair share of them every year.

As if that wasn't enough, storms are becoming stronger because of the warming oceans. Global warming is resulting in storms with faster winds and more destructive power. Do we even have to mention we are experiencing the La Niña phenomenon right now?

And looming in the background is the coronavirus crisis. We are still in the midst of a global pandemic, so the threat is still there. In fact, it is rearing its ugly head again in many areas across the world.

This means we have to be ready not just for more storms, but how to deal with those who will be affected by the storms, while making sure that the rescued and the rescuers themselves do not get infected with the coronavirus.

The new normal doesn't just pertain to the situation where we have to be constantly practicing safeguards against a virus; it also means we have to be prepared how to deal with disasters with that other threat still in the back of our minds.

House to expedite approval of Land Use, Coco Fund, gov't restructuring bills

November 13, 2020 | 7:48 pm



PHILSTAR/FELICER SANTOS

The House of Representatives will focus on passing at least seven of Speaker Lord Alan Q. Velasco's priority bills, including the Coconut Levy Fund bill, the proposed National Land Use Act, and a measure outlining the restructuring of the government, the Majority Leader said Friday.

"We discussed how to expedite the approval of pending legislative measures in compliance with Speaker Velasco's directive to hit the ground running," Majority Leader Martin G. Romualdez said in a statement.

Mr. Romualdez, who chairs the House committee on rules, said bills that were passed by the chamber on third and final reading in the previous Congress can be "disposed of" by invoking Rule 10 Section 48 of House rules, which permit one day of hearings only for such measures

"The concerned committees for these measures may meet for just one hearing and immediately refer the committee reports for plenary deliberation," Mr. Romualdez said.

Mr. Velasco's priority measures pending at committee level and eligible for one-day hearings are the Coconut Levy Fund bill, the proposed National Land Use Act, the Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps bill, the Rightsizing the National Government bill, the Right to Adequate Food bill, the Anti-Ethnic, Racial and Religious Discrimination bill, and the On-Site, In-City Near City Local Government Resettlement Program bill.

Mr. Romualdez said the Speaker is also pushing for the immediate approval of other proposals, including the Ordaining the Development of the Downstream Natural Gas Industry bill, the proposed Internet Transaction Act, the Military Uniformed Personnel Pension Fund bill, the Magna Carta for Barangays bill, Amendments to the Revised Penal Code, Amendments to the Government Procurement Reform Act, the proposed Marinduque Special Economic Zone Act, the proposed Marinduque Sports Academy and Training Center Act, and the proposed Bisekleta Para sa Kinabukasan ("bicycles for the future") Act.

"All other priority measures to be identified by the Speaker as his priority bills are expected to face easy sailing in the House," he said.



House to expedite approval of Land Use, Coco Fund, gov't restructuring bills

The House leadership on Tuesday included 12 economic measures sought by the Finance department for inclusion in the priority list for fast-tracking into floor and committee deliberations to help the government revive the economy following the damage done by the pandemic.

The priority measures include House Bill (HB) No. 7749 or the proposed Government Financial Institutions Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises for Economic Recovery act, which is in plenary. Its purpose is to strengthen the capacity of government financial institutions to provide assistance to micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises.

Other priority measures in plenary are HB 7425 or the proposed Digital Transactions Value-Added Tax act, HB 7406 or the proposed Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Program act, HB 6135 or the Fiscal Mining Regime, and HB 7425 or the proposed Internet Transactions Act/E-Commerce Law.

Priority measures that have yet to make it past committee are the Military and Uniformed Personnel Services Separation, Retirement, and Pension bill, the Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization bill, the Coconut Farmers Trust Fund bill, the Department of Water Resources and Water Regulatory Commission bill, the Warehouse Receipts bill, the National Disease Prevention and Management Authority bill, and the National Land Use bill.

Legislators are set to convene the bicameral conference on the proposed 2021 national budget on Nov. 16. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**



Gov't urged to create disaster management plans for animals

Published November 13, 2020 10:44pm

Pawssion Project Foundation has urged the government to create disaster management plans for animals.

As an aftermath of Typhoon "Ulysses," which brought about floods and strong winds Wednesday night, pets were found either buried in mud or stranded on rooftops.

"We are calling out towards the PH government to kindly create a disaster plan for stranded animals," the animal rights organization wrote in an Instagram post on Friday.

"This is an appeal to, not just the PH government, but also to all pet owners. Please, please come up with emergency plans for your furry friends," it added.

"If you are with us, we encourage you to tap people in power to create disaster plans for the voiceless," the group said.

"We'll do much better as a nation if we start to think more about others, including those who cannot speak for themselves."

Aside from Pawssion Project Foundation, the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) also spoke up earlier today urging the public to [unchain their pets during disasters](#). – **Kaela Malig/RC, GMA News**



GLOBAL GOALS

Carbon neutrality needed and fast



Published 1 hour ago
on November 14, 2020 05:10 AM
By [TDT @tribuneph1](#)



Emissions at a manufacturing complex in Toronto, Canada. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UN

Although more governments and businesses are committing to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, the world is still falling far short of that goal, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres said in his latest push for a cleaner, greener future.

The UN chief made the statement in a video message for the opening of the Race to Zero Dialogues, part of a global campaign that mobilizes businesses, cities, regions and investors to support net zero carbon emissions, in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Guterres reported that so far, the European Union, Japan and the Republic of Korea, along with more than 110 other countries, have made the pledge, while China is set to join them by 2060.

“That means 50 percent of the world’s GDP and half of global CO₂ emissions are now covered by a net zero commitment. And the number of net-zero commitments from companies has more than doubled in the past year to over 1,100. Yet, we are still far from where we need to be,” he said.

“Our goal is to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Today, we are still headed toward three degrees at least.”

The Race to Zero dialogues are part of the lead-up to the anniversary of the Paris Agreement on 12 December, and the Climate Ambition Summit to be held that day.

The virtual gathering began on Monday, which would have marked the start of the latest UN climate change conference, known as COP26, which had to be rescheduled to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The postponement highlights the disruption the COVID-19 pandemic has caused. And these dialogues highlight that climate action is more urgent than ever as we work to recover from the effects of the pandemic,” the Secretary-General remarked.



GLOBAL GOALS

Carbon neutrality needed and fast

The Race to Zero Dialogues are being held online and across multiple time zones, over the next 10 days, with more than 100 virtual events scheduled.

Sessions are organized under different daily themes, covering key sectors including transport, health, energy, industry, oceans and water and food systems.

The Secretary-General issued a call to participants, underlining the need for ambition and action.

“I urge you and the members of the different coalitions you are part of to promote, develop and implement credible decarbonization plans,” he said.



Climate Action Superheroes empower children



Published 29 seconds ago
on November 14, 2020 05:20 AM
By [TDT @tribuneph](#)



UN campaign empowers kids to take climate action and protect the planet. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UN

Eight new animated characters on a mission to protect the planet have been pressed into service by the United Nations (UN) to empower children worldwide and boost the drive toward sustainability by 2030.

The Climate Action Superheroes are the face of a new campaign, to be launched on UN social media platforms, aimed at mobilizing children under 12 to recycle and to save water and energy.

“We want children to be aware of the difference they can make through everyday actions,” said Nanette Braun, Director of Campaigns in the UN Department of Global Communications.

“Lifelong behaviors are shaped at an early age and we hope that providing the knowledge and tools to help build a more sustainable future will have lasting impact.”

The rainbow of quirky superheroes is armed with advice on the steps youngsters can take toward meaningful action for themselves and their families.

They include the Energy Expert, Recycle Ranger, Green Guide and Water Wizard, who will engage children and parents, in fun missions on topics such as reducing single-use plastic, saving energy and conserving water.

Take the Fashion Fixer, a sea-green-colored titan taking on the global textile industry, which produces more than eight percent of greenhouse gases and 20 percent of global wastewater annually.

The character shows how being stylish does not have to be wasteful by donating used clothing and mending items, thus giving them new life.



Climate Action Superheroes empower children

Since superheroes wear masks, especially in the COVID-19 era, their “mission” includes making your own mask, preferably from recycled fabric.

Related to this is the Truth Talker, who “has the facts about climate change and tells others about it.” The red-colored character is also concerned about how best we can all communicate during this unprecedented period of global pandemic.

Truth Talker encourages children to find out the facts and share them with their friends, thus helping to counter misinformation. As an anti-bullying crusader, the superhero encourages children to report online bullies and to speak up against any type of discrimination.

But in order to tell others about the truth, you first need to learn what the truth is, the character advises. Children can take a simple quiz to test their knowledge about climate change, with answers and explanations provided.

Children and their parents can learn about the superheroes and their many missions through a colorful, animated world on the UN website.

The campaign concept was developed by students at Parsons School of Design, part of The New School, a prestigious university in New York City, home to UN Headquarters.

They are in a global executive master’s program which has a focus on leading creative change. They worked with the UN to brainstorm new ways of engaging the public on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Climate change worsens Australia's weather



By [Agence France-Presse](#)
November 14, 2020

ADELAIDE: Climate change is already buffeting Australia with extreme bushfires, droughts and cyclones, and the fossil-fuel reliant country should brace for worse to come, according to the country's top science and weather agencies.

The government's top science body, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (Csiro), and its Bureau of Meteorology released a report on Friday outlining a sobering future for the vast continent nation that was devastated by bushfires in 2019-2020 after its hottest and driest year on record.



Burning embers cover the ground as firefighters battle against bushfires around the town of Nowra
AFP – Saeed KHAN

The blazes burned an area roughly the size of the United Kingdom, leaving 33 people dead, killing or displacing nearly 3 billion animals and costing the economy an estimated \$7 billion.

“Ten or 20 years from now, we won’t be saying 2019 was really hot — 2019 will just be usual. There will be nothing exceptional about 2019,” Csiro Climate Science Center director Jaci Brown told public broadcaster ABC. “In fact, in the next century, this decade will seem cool.”

The State of the Climate report, which comes out every two years, found less rain is falling in Australia's southwest and bushfire-ravaged southeast, even as it increased in the north — hit by major flooding and destructive tropical cyclones in recent years.

Australia has warmed on average by 1.44 degrees Celsius (2.59 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1910, the scientists said, nudging the ultimate Paris Agreement target of keeping global warming below 1.5 C.

Oceans have warmed by around 1 C over the same period, causing acidification and more frequent marine heat waves, the report continued. Australia's Great Barrier Reef has suffered three mass coral bleaching events in five years, losing half its corals since 1995 as ocean temperatures have climbed.



Climate change worsens Australia's weather

The report predicted sea levels will continue to rise in line with global trends while tropical cyclones become less frequent but more intense. "Climate change is happening now and it will continue to happen," Brown told the ABC.

The Csiro has previously called for Australia to tap "abundant natural resources and extensive know-how" to become "a world-class clean energy and technology provider," putting it at odds with the conservative government, which has slow-pedalled measures to tackle climate change.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has repeatedly played down the link between climate and the bushfires, and has committed to keeping Australia as one of the world's leading fossil fuel exporters.

But Australians are increasingly concerned about climate change, with a recent poll by Sydney's Lowy Institute showing almost 90 percent believing it is a critical or important threat.

Survey respondents placed drought and water shortages exacerbated by climate change above even the coronavirus pandemic and the global economic crisis as the top threat facing the country.