

15 NOVEMBER 2020, SUNDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



Screen shot from dzBB report

## Manila Bay dolomite beach littered with garbage after Typhoon Ulysses

Published November 14, 2020 4:58pm

Manila Bay’s dolomite beach was littered with garbage after the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

The video report by dzBB’s Jhomer Apresto Saturday on location at the bay showed that garbage could be seen strewn all over the beach.

Among the trash seen in the vicinity were plastic bottles and pieces of Styrofoam.



There were “batik-batik” or visible spots on the artificial white sand.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, however, earlier said that the dolomite sand was not swept away by the sea, and that black sand was instead “washed in.”



 **Jhomer Apresto**  
@jhomer\_apresto

TINGNAN: As of 2:40 pm, Kapansin pansin ang mga basurang nagkalat sa "dolomite sand beach" sa Manila Bay. Epekto ito ng pananalasa ng bagyong ulysses. |@dzbb @gmanews



2:48 PM · Nov 14, 2020

3  See Jhomer Apresto's other Tweets

The report also mentioned that Roxas Boulevard was also flooded at the height of the typhoon due to the storm surge. – **RC, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/764119/manila-bay-dolomite-beach-littered-with-garbage-after-typhoon-ulysses/story/>



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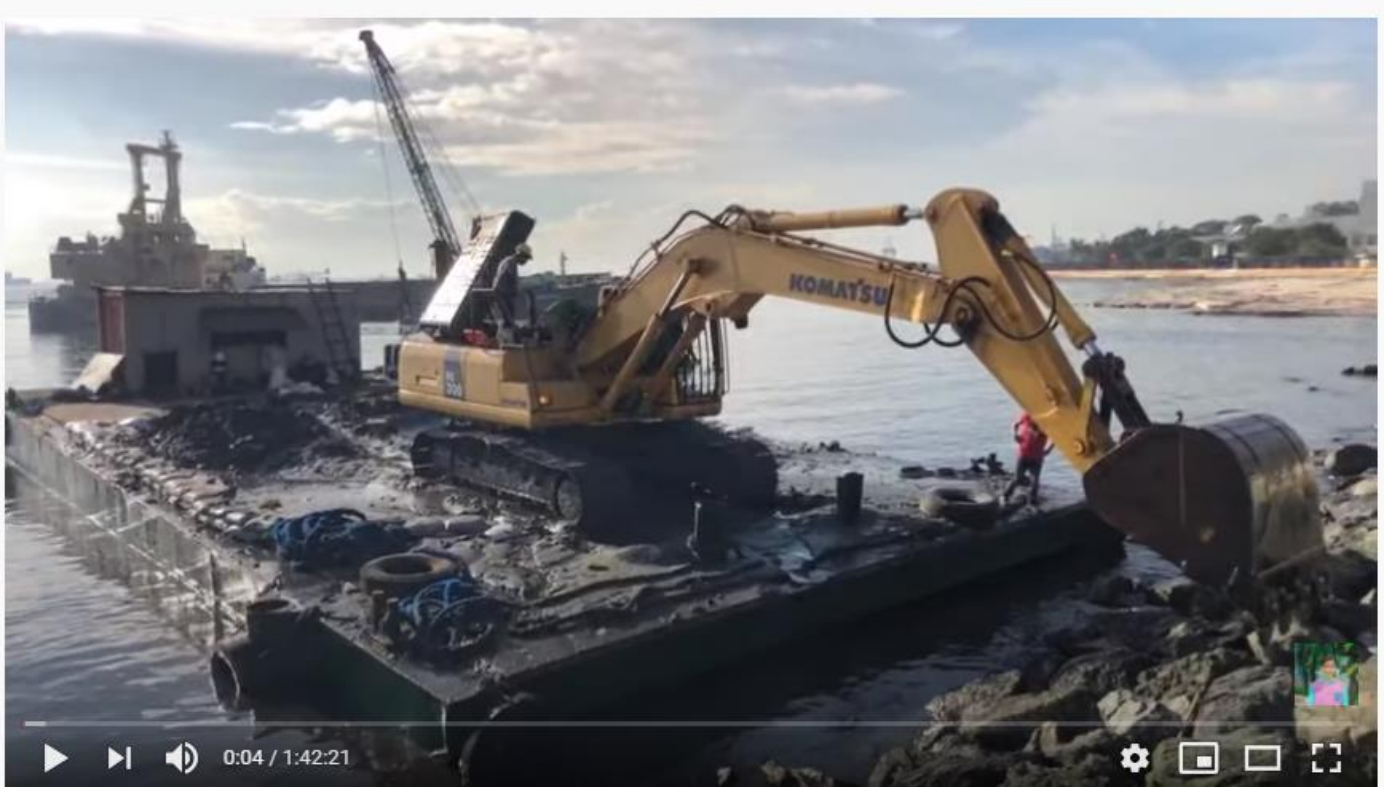
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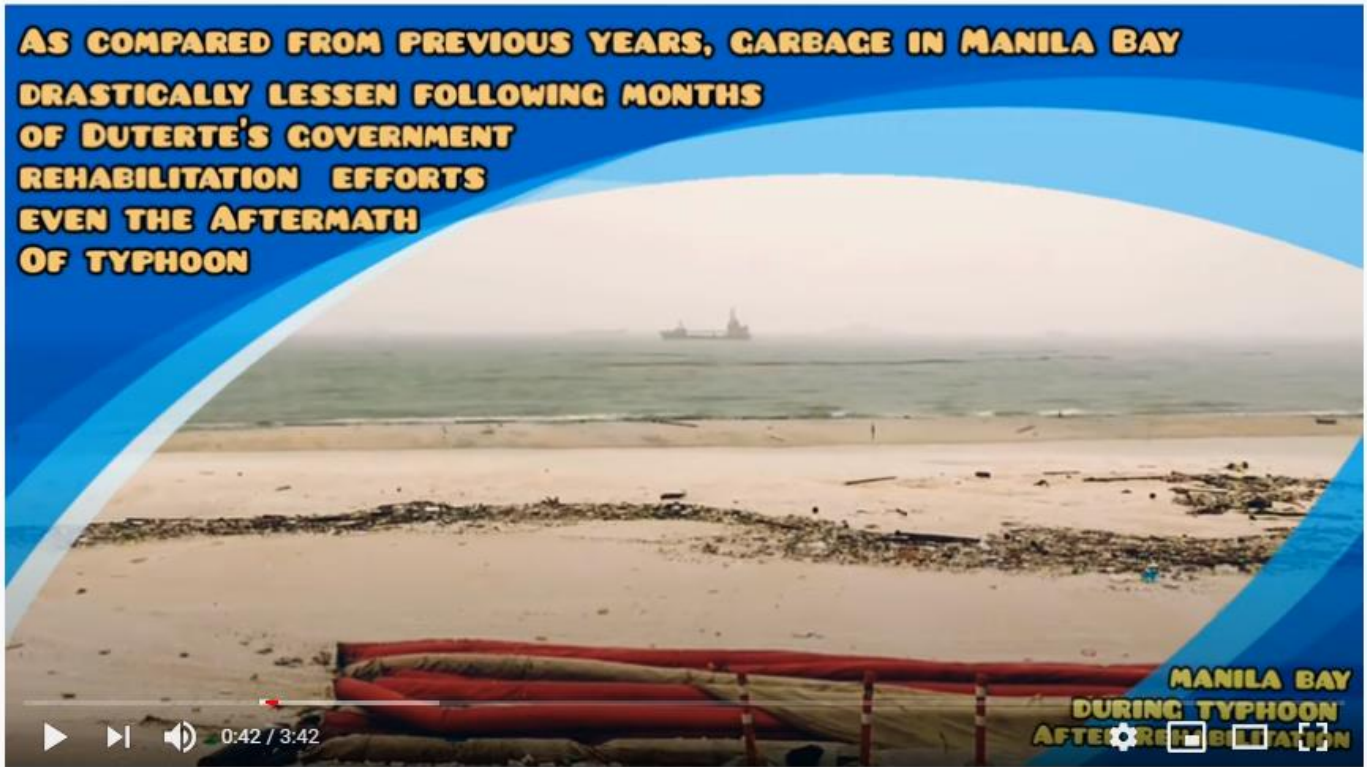
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PROTECTING ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

# DENR pushes ‘critical habitat’ status for Sarangani forest hosting Philippine eagles

By: [Bong S. Sarmiento](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:00 AM November 14, 2020

KORONADAL CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is preparing to declare Dakeol Forest in Sarangani province as a “critical habitat” after more endangered Philippine eagles (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) have been discovered to be thriving in the area, officials said.

Edgar Calderon, team leader and park maintenance foreman of the DENR’s Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Kiamba town, said a juvenile Philippine eagle was recently seen at Sitio Angko in Barangay Batian, Maitum town, which is part of Dakeol Forest.

In June, a team from Cenro, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) and the Maitum local government scoured the forest to monitor eagle nesting sites.

When Cenro personnel returned early this month, they were greeted by the sight of a juvenile eagle in the forest’s southern part.



BACK TO THE WILD A 2-year-old Philippine eagle flies back to the wild in Caraga, Davao Oriental, last month after a two-month rehab in a Philippine Eagle Foundation facility in Davao City. Conservationists are calling for the preservation of remaining habitats of the raptor, like the Dakeol Forest in Maitum town, Sarangani province. —PHOTO COURTESY OF EDEN JHAN LICAYAN

## Sarangani Pride

An assessment by the PEF showed that the juvenile raptor was 10 months to a year old and believed to be the offspring of Sarangani Pride, an eagle that was rescued and released back to the wild in 2017.

Conservationists monitor the movements of Sarangani Pride through a solar-powered tracking device.

The PEF has advised that a similar device should be attached to the juvenile eagle recently found by the Cenro staff for easy monitoring and to aid in locating the rest of the eagle population in the forest, Calderon said.



The team also observed two more Philippine eagles in a distant site during the recent visit to the forest, he added.

Dakeol is also home to Philippine serpent eagles (*Spilornis holospilus*), whose population trend is classified as “decreasing.”

Maitum Mayor Alexander Bryan Reganit cited the need to protect the town’s forests to preserve the Philippine eagles and local wildlife.

The DENR and the PEF are planning to conduct conservation activities for the Philippine eagle and other species in Dakeol.

Weighing as much as 8 kilograms, the Philippine eagle is considered the top predator in the country’s tropical rainforest.

“[The eagle] plays an important role in keeping the ecosystem in balance and provides an umbrella of protection to all other life forms in its territory,” said Jayson Ibañez, the PEF research and conservation director.

Only an estimated 400 pairs of Philippine eagle remain in the wild, putting the species on the “critically endangered” list of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.



# Capisaan Cave System: A 'critical habitat' with vast eco-tourism potential

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

November 15, 2020



*Dr. Jayson Q. Caranza, an assistant professor at the Nueva Vizcaya State University, dips in an underground river inside the Capisaan Cave System that is home to awe-inspiring rock formations.*

With its astonishing karst and mineral formations, the Capisaan Cave System in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, is considered one of the best spelunking destinations in the country. It continues to fetch cave explorers from all over, boosting local tourism in the province.

The Capisaan Cave System and the forest over karst formations around it are teeming with wildlife, including native and endemic species of plants and animals, making it an excellent critical habitat candidate, said Dr. Jayson Q. Caranza, an assistant professor at the Nueva Vizcaya State University.



*Dr. Jayson Q. Caranza and members of his team take cave fish specimen during their study last year.*

He said varying degrees of disturbance can be observed inside and outside the Capisaan cave.

Caranza spoke during a webinar on October 14 dubbed “#Connected to the Wild Biodiversity Research Series.” It featured different biodiversity researches funded and supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its Protect Wildlife Project. It was held in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Caranza, who has a post-graduate degree in Environmental Science, presented his findings and recommendation in the study, “Recreational Value, Sensitivity and Disturbance Assessment of the Capisaan Cave System, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines.”

## Importance of caves

The webinar highlighted the importance of caves, that are considered as unique ecosystems within an ecosystem.



*Black-naped monarch is among the bird species in the forest around the cave.*

Caves are provided adequate protection by national and local laws in the Philippines. The DENR, which implements Republic Act 9072, or the Cave Act, conducts cave assessment and classifies caves according to their values.

Of the more than 2,500 caves in the country, 616 have been officially classified.

Two segments of the Capisaan caves have been classified as Class I, while one segment was classified as Class II.

Class I caves are those with delicate and fragile geological formations.

This means they have threatened species, archeological and paleontological values and extremely hazardous conditions.

Their allowable use include mapping, photography, educational and scientific purposes.

Class II caves have areas which have sections with hazardous conditions and contain sensitive geological, biological, archeological, cultural, historical and biological values or high quality ecosystem.

Some of its sections may be restricted and open only to experienced cavers or guided educational tours.

## Biodiversity

In his study, Caranza recorded a total of 91 plant species in Capisaan's different cave openings. There were plenty of trees along with shrubs and other vegetation.

"Majority of the plants were native to the Philippines, 10 were endemic to the [country], with two introduced species," he said.

Citrus orchards, agricultural crops and or rice paddies are also noticeable near cave openings, while tropical piper betel plantations are creeping in the Capisaan karst landscape

The cave itself is teeming with wildlife. Spiders, insects and even small crabs can be found inside the cave along with snakes, frogs and lizards, he said.

## 'Accidental' fishes

Fishes like common carp, catfish, mudfish, wild guppy and orange carp are inside the cave.

"The occurrence of these fishes in the Capisaan cave system was considered accidental, brought mainly by the water tributaries running on rice fields before draining into the cave," Caranza said.

"The orange carp was probably aquarium or pond escapees that were swept by flood," he added.



## Keystone species

More importantly, there are several species of bats dwelling in the cave with four different bat species in its different sections.

In the forest over karst, a total of 61 species of birds were recorded.

Birds of different species, a total of 931, were counted during a survey conducted by Caranza and his team. Of these, 36 are endemic and eight are threatened as listed either by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) or the DENR.

Bats and birds are natural farmers and considered keystone species that can help the ecosystem thrive with their presence.

## Cave management

DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon said the cave management issues and concerns in the Capisaan Cave System reflect the condition of other caves in the country which are often threatened by ecotourism and various development initiatives.

“Our priorities are caves within protected areas. We are developing management plans for caves within protected areas for the purpose of regulating tourism,” Calderon, the concurrent director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on October 31.

He said only upon proper cave assessment can an effective management plan of caves be developed by the DENR-BMB and other stakeholders.

“Historically, caves are close to our hearts. In Bulacan, for instance, our guerrillas have hidden in a cave in Bulacan for their safety. But their importance as an ecosystem is most significant because they are home to bats,” he said.

“Bats are natural pollinators. They help the forest grow,” said Calderon, a forestry expert.

By conserving caves, he said, the spread of zoonotic diseases can also be avoided.

“Close contacts with bats through ecotourism exposes tourists to the risk of acquiring diseases,” he said.

## Varying vulnerability

According to Caranza, different parts of caves, specifically long cave systems like the Capisaan, have different physical formations and have varying levels of vulnerability and sensitivity to disturbances.

Situated in Barangay Capisaan, one of the 30 barangays in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, the Capisaan Cave System is the fifth-longest cave system in the country.

It has a total passage length of 4.2 km, and has nine known entrances, including the main entrances Lion, Alayan and Sabrina, and three entrances in Barangay Malukbo.

The Capisaan karst system landscape has an area of 1,515.96 hectares and has an elevation of 700 to 1,200 meters above sea level.

## Caves as protected area

Southeast Asia has around seven Asean Heritage Parks with cave ecosystems, proof that caves are important like other ecosystems in the region, and are being supported to ensure their protection and conservation while deriving economic benefits from them through various activities that include ecotourism.





These are Gunung Mulu National Park, Kinabalu National Park, and Taman Negara National Park in Malaysia; Nam Ha National Protected Area in Lao PDR; Hoang Lien Sa Pa National Park in Vietnam; Bantimurung Bulusaraung National Park in Indonesia; and the Mount Kitanglad Range Natural Park in the Philippines.

Theresa Mundita S. Lim, executive director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity which implements the AHP Programme, told the BusinessMirror that AHPs represent the cream of the crop of protected areas. “They represent important ecosystems that do not only support the rich biodiversity in the region, but also livelihoods and other economically and culturally important values to the people of Asean,” she said via Messenger on November 1.

According to Lim, these days one can also no longer ignore the importance of AHPs in keeping diseases at bay by providing a safe haven for natural reservoirs to contain potentially pathogenic microbes from spilling over.

## Ecotourism potential

“Karst landscapes are very special with cave systems offering huge ecotourism potential. More often they are subjected to deforestation, over-exploitation and, sometimes, mismanagement,” Caranza said in the introduction of his study.

The recreational uses of caves, he said, is affected by the quality of the derived services and resources that a cave offers, particularly the richness and vulnerability of its resources and the level of disturbance, it sustained over time.

Knowing the cave’s level of sensitivity and disturbance is vital for the efficient creation and execution of protection and management policies at the local level since each cave is different from one another, he said.

## Open to tourists

The Capisaan Cave System was opened to tourists in 1992. Since then, Caranza said it has undergone infrastructural changes due to the exploration, initial development and its promotion for tourism.

“At the moment, it is included in the forest land use plan of the municipality. It has a recognized cave and tour guide association,” he reported.

Currently managed through a multistakeholder approach between the government and the nongovernment group, the Capisaan Cave System has been declared as a local conservation area of the Kasibu town.

## Economic benefits

Ecotourism in the area has since improved the economic condition of the community.

This is evident with the increased number of cave guiding jobs as alternative livelihood, particularly in Kasibu town, Caranza said.

Based on his analysis, the annual tourism receipt of Kasibu town from the Capisaan Cave System alone can fetch up to P12 million a year.

## Threats

However, he said changes in land-use and land cover of Capisaan were also evident in the increase in built-up and agricultural areas over time.

Farming rice, vegetables and other crops are creeping around the cave system.

He said that gawed or betel plantations are growing in the area. This compounds the problem brought by poor management of the tourism activities in the Capisaan Cave



## Findings and recommendation

While the cave has an active subterranean river to support life, it is also prone to flooding and threatened by various human activities.

Caranza noted that agricultural development around the cave system, particularly tropical betel farming, must be controlled or it will continue to worsen and cause irreversible damage to the cave and threaten its diverse animal and plant wildlife.

He added that significant disturbance in areas where tourism is allowed is evident, with damage to rock formations and graffiti in some parts inside the cave.

Worse, with garbage found inside the cave, he recommended proper solid waste management. "Either they were swept by floodwater or brought by tourists," he said.

He added that there is a need to conduct a study to determine the carrying capacity of the Capisaan Cave System, and limit the disturbance to prevent further damage.

Experts agree that caves, being unique ecosystems, need special care to remain healthy and to be able to serve their natural ecosystem functions more than anything else.

Image credits: [Dr. Jayson Q. Caranza](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/15/capisaan-cave-system-a-critical-habitat-with-vast-eco-tourism-potential/>



## MARIKINA RIVER SWELLING

# Geologist says focus on water coming from Montalban; DENR says P28-B dam on the way

Published November 14, 2020 9:03pm

Traditional control measures against flooding - like building dikes, dredging, and elevating roads - are no longer enough in the age of climate change, according to a geologist and professor from the University of the Philippines (UP).

In the case of the Marikina River, Professor CP David of the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences said the government should instead focus on managing the water that flows down the river from neighboring Montalban, Rizal.

"Sa tingin namin, hindi na ito [traditional flood control measures] sapat lalo na at pumapasok tayo sa mga taon na lalong lumalakas ang pag-ulan dahil sa climate change," he said.

"Ano ang puwede natin gawin sa upstream ng mga ilog? In the case of Marikina, ano ang puweng gawin sa area ng Montalban para iyong tubig na bababa mula Montalban hanggang Marikina, mababawasan natin ang water level," he added.

To address this, Secretary Mark Villar of the Department of Public Works and Highways said the government is already in the "final stages" of designing a P28-billion dam to be built upstream of the Marikina River.

"Doon talaga galing ung tubig. Kapag may dam na doon sa pinakadulo, doon pa lang mabablock na iyong tubig," said Villar.

Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro on Friday morning placed the city under state of calamity after Typhoon Ulysses caused the Marikina River to swell to a record 21.96 meters, past the 21.5 meters set during Typhoon Ondoy in 2009.

The river swelling triggered floods that swallowed communities in surrounding barangays, like the Provident Villages, a flood-prone area because it is situated just 13 meters above sea level.

Teodoro has already threatened to sue the management of the Angat Dam for allegedly not alerting the local government about its plan to release water from its reservoir and into the Marikina River. **-MDM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/764148/geologist-says-focus-on-water-coming-from-montalban-dnr-says-p28-b-dam-on-the-way/story/>



## 10 bodies recovered in mine site

By Leander C. Domingo, TMT

November 14, 2020

**QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya:** Rescuers have recovered 10 bodies that were buried by a landslide near a foreign-based, large-scale mining area during the heavy downpour brought by Typhoon “Ulysses,” which hit the province Wednesday night.

Maj. Jesus Ventura, Quezon town police Jesus, identified the youngest victim as Dexter Kurt Nah-oy, a two-month-old baby, who lived with the family at Sitio Bit-ang in Barangay Runruno here.

Ventura said also recovered were the bodies of Cresencia Tuma Nah-oy, 27, from Saclat village, and Ben Bulayo Uyami Jr., 31, from Tukod village, both in Nagtipunan town in the neighboring province of Quirino.

Also recovered were the bodies of Julie Ann Conde Taniza, 15, from Sitio Kinalabasa, Runruno village in this town; Markconie Mangandat Binwag, 25, from Baligui village, Maddela town, Quirino; Francisco Taguiling Napadawan, 54, from Don Faustino Pagaduan village, Diffun town, also in Quirino; Noel Buyaco Tayaban, 39, from Regimental village in Lamut town, Ifugao province; and Jomar Ohdon Comilang, 33, from Tupaya village, Lagawe town in Ifugao.

Ventura said two more bodies recovered were those of Joel Buyuccan, 26, from Balligui village in Maddela, Quirino, and Omar Tuguinay, 17, from Tupaya village in Lagawe.

He said all were victims in the three landslide areas in Sitio Bit-ang, Kinalabasa and Compound 1, all in Barangay Runruno.

Runruno village in this town hosts the multibillion peso FCF Minerals Corp., a London-based mining company that operates the Runruno Gold and Molybdenum Project.

It is among the four mining companies in the Philippines issued by the national government with a Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) under the Mining Act of 1995.

Another mining company in Nueva Vizcaya and holder of the first FTAA is the Australian OceanaGold Philippines Inc. in Didipio village in Kasibu town.

Its Didipio Gold and Copper Project operation has been suspended for one year and is awaiting approval of its FTAA renewal with the national government.

Around the FCF Mining areas covered by its FTAA are families who refused to vacate reportedly over unsettled payments of their crops and pieces of property.

Some engage in illegal small-scale mining operations, where many among the victims and members of their families are working.

According to the Runruno local government, these residents come from the provinces of Ifugao, Benguet and Quirino and from other towns in Nueva Vizcaya.

In 2011, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) recorded some 6,000 illegal small-scale miners extracting gold ore in Barangay Didipio and Barangay Alimit in Kasibu town and Barangay Runruno.

Mario Ancheta, MGB Region 2 director, said these illegal small-scale miners, particularly those in Runruno, do not have the necessary technology and capability for the proper and safe conduct of small-scale mining.



MGB officials said they operate illegally without permits from proper authorities, and faced great risks, especially in areas already declared as prone to landslides and flash floods.

Ancheta said illegal miners, among them from nearby Ifugao and Benguet province, have proliferated since time immemorial in these dangerous areas as their gold-rush sites.

Local government officials in Nueva Vizcaya have confirmed the presence of these illegal miners, many of whom used banned explosives to construct small tunnels with multiple chambers and process gold from extracted ore using hazardous chemicals.

Ancheta said government-sanctioned large-scale mining like the FCF Minerals and OceanaGold have the highest engineering standards in mining that can ensure the safety of workers and can prevent flooding and landslides during calamities.

“We are amazed that there are groups that elect to have small-scale mining in Nueva Vizcaya than [be part of] the existing large-scale mining operations with the capability of designing excavated areas to prevent landslides and floods,” he added.

Ancheta said these small-scale miners even joined anti-mining groups opposing these nationally-sanctioned mining corporations instead of helping stop rampant illegal extraction of minerals in these areas that is the “true cause of floods and landslides.”

Source: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/11/14/news/regions/10-bodies-recovered-in-mine-site/796165/?utm\\_term=Autofeed&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1sP9iE5R4\\_N8fu7YqPL8pY9-oNjwGAG\\_fQAk9be6WYhdGLyC2ZTgth5wg#Echobox=1605297557](https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/11/14/news/regions/10-bodies-recovered-in-mine-site/796165/?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1sP9iE5R4_N8fu7YqPL8pY9-oNjwGAG_fQAk9be6WYhdGLyC2ZTgth5wg#Echobox=1605297557)



## Lawmaker pushes for Sierra Madre body

posted November 15, 2020 at 12:20 am

by [Maricel Cruz](#)

Following massive flooding in the towns in his legislative district, a congressman from Rizal on Saturday reiterated his call for the creation of a government body tasked to oversee the rehabilitation of the Sierra Madre range that protects Metro Manila from winds and the accompanying floods brought by typhoons.

Deputy Majority Leader and Rizal Rep. Fidel Nograles said there was “a critical need to put up a government body to oversee, manage, and care for the 500 kilometer-long Sierra Madre Mountain Range in order to protect the biodiverse area’s forest cover and prevent flooding in several areas in Luzon.”

Nograles represents the Second District of Rizal, two towns of which—Montalban and San Mateo—sustained destructive floods from waters coming from Sierra Madre.

Typhoon flooding in eastern Metro Manila all the way to towns in the Cagayan Valley “emphasize the importance of taking concrete steps to care for the Sierra Madre mountain region,” Nograles said.

“The mountain really has a big impact during weather disturbances. The increased frequency and severity of flooding in areas close to the Marikina River, as well as in towns in the Cagayan Valley are attributed to the loss of Sierra Madre’s forest cover—and we can no longer ignore this,” Nograles said.

“There is clearly a need to provide this vital mountain range with further safeguards and protection while finding ways to responsibly develop part of the range not under its Protected Areas,” he added.

House Bill 5634, filed by Nograles last year, creates the Sierra Madre Development Authority, tasked, aside from protecting the mountain range, with adopting “a wholistic approach to enhance development of indigenous resources of the Sierra Madre region to its fullest potential for economic development in order to raise the standard of living of those residing in the area.”

The bill tasks the SMDA to:

- conduct a comprehensive survey of the physical and natural resources of the Sierra Madre region and the draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize the said resources in order to promote the region’s social and economic development
- provide the machinery for extending the necessary planning, management, and technical assistance to prospective and existing investors in the region
- provide recommendations to the proper agencies regarding the financing and technical support to be given to agricultural, industrial, and commercial projects
- assess and approve all plans, programs, and projects proposed by local government offices/agencies within the region related to the development of the mountain range
- plan, program, finance and undertake infrastructure projects such as river, flood, and tidal control work, waste water and sewerage work, dams and water supply, roads, irrigation, housing and related work
- undertake studies on the conservation, improvement, exploration, development, and maintenance of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range

Nograles pointed out that the wide area covered by the Sierra Madre mountain range and the importance of the region “requires coordination that cuts across various LGU jurisdictions and numerous departmental concerns.”

“The SMDA will ensure coordination and cooperation among all these, resulting in a coherent and comprehensive strategy that will protect the Sierra Madre’s forest cover while allowing for sustainable development.”

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/339516>



## Tap illegal loggers for reforestation – Gordon

Published November 14, 2020, 2:42 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Sen. Richard J. Gordon strongly suggested Saturday that those engaged in illegal logging should reforest the areas they denuded as bald mountains contribute to severe flooding and landslides whenever strong tropical cyclones hit the country.



Senator Richard Gordon (ALI VICOY / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Gordon issued the statement during a DWIZ radio interview where he was asked about an Internet picture of wanton deforestation of the Sierra Madre mountains.

“We must plant. Nature has a way of healing itself,” Gordon said.

Gordon said he has yet to see an illegal logger being jailed.

During the interview, Gordon was told there is an Internet picture ascribed to then Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Gina Lopez in 2017 showing the bald Sierra Madre mountain in the side eastern of Luzon.

This deforested mountain range contributed heavily to the flooding and landslides, particularly in the Cagayan Valley and Marikina City, during and after the passage of typhoon “Rolly.”

Lopez failed to get the nod of the bicameral Commission on Appointment (CA) to be confirmed as Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary.

She also had fought against unregulated quarrying and mining operations.

“Wala naman tayong nakikitang kinukulong sa illegal logging, dapat ‘yung mga nagaganyan dapat sila ngayon ang hingan na maglagay ng puno sa mga pinutol nila,” Gordon said.

(We don’t see anyone being put to jail for illegal logging. Those involved in illegal logging should be asked to plant and replace the tree they have cut)

Gordon cited Thailand where citizens plant the seeds of the fruits they have eaten.

“Ginawa ko sa Olongapo dati ‘yan. Dapat conscious tayo na dapat magtatanim tayo,” he added.

(I did that in Olongapo City. We should be conscious that we have to replant)



## Marikina watershed nasa stage 4 cancer na; mala-Ondoy, Ulysses na baha tuloy-tuloy



November 14, 2020 @ 3:10 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sinabi ng isang environmentalist na maihahalintulad na ang Upper Marikina Watershed sa taong may ‘stage 4’ na kanser na naghihintay na lamang ng kanyang kamatayan.

Ayon kay Billie Dumaliang, trustee and advocacy officer ng Masungi Georeserve, kalbo na ang kalakhang bahagi ng nasabing lugar dahil sa kagagawan ng mga landgrabber, illegal logger, mag-uuling at iba pa.

Nakitaan na ang pagkakalbo ng lugar noon pang 2017 nang maging kalihin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources si Gina Lopez.

Ngunit wala pang gaanong aksyon ng mga kinauukulan para ibalik sa dating magubat na pook ang nasabing lugar.

Protektado ang lugar ng Proclamation 296 na pinalabas ng pamahalaan noong 2001 at pinangalanan itong Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

Sumunod dito ang Republic Act No. 7586 o National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 na nagsabing dapat maprotektahan ito mula sa mapanirang gawain ng tao.

Subalit binalewala lang umano ng mga illegal grabber, illegal logger, mag-uuling at iba pa ang mga nasabing batas.

Mayroon umanong makapangyarihang nag-angkin ng malaking bahagi ng watershed at pinagbabawalan ang mga conservationist na pumasok para malaman kung paano kinakalbo ang kagubatan sa lugar.

Magkagayunman, sinabi ng conservationist na pupwede pang ibalik sa dati nitong anyo ang lugar sa pamamagitan ng muling pagtanim ng puno at pagbabawal ng lahat ng nakasisirang gawain.

Kung hindi umano magagawa ito, palala nang palala ang mga kalamidad sa mga kapaligiran nito at hindi na mapipigilan ang mga mala-Ondoy at mala-Ulysses na baha hindi lang sa Marikina kundi sa iba pang mga lugar na kaugnay ng watershed. RNT

Source: [https://www.remate.ph/marikina-watershed-nasa-stage-4-cancer-na-mala-ondoy-ulysses-na-baha-tuloy-tuloy/?fbclid=IwAR3I2qJOqocXzusaOuUz4\\_IgZALEwnGbHK-IMeFEq07YHJ-K5-9J7HA5kDg](https://www.remate.ph/marikina-watershed-nasa-stage-4-cancer-na-mala-ondoy-ulysses-na-baha-tuloy-tuloy/?fbclid=IwAR3I2qJOqocXzusaOuUz4_IgZALEwnGbHK-IMeFEq07YHJ-K5-9J7HA5kDg)





# 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 dati, 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.

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.

Ulysses left at least 14 dead and trapped residents in some areas on top of their roofs, as they awaited boat rescue from raging floods.

In scenes reminiscent of unprecedented flooding brought by Tropical Storm Ondoy over a decade ago, villages in eastern Metro Manila and neighboring Rizal experienced severe inundation, with the Marikina River reaching water levels worse than its peak at the height of the 2009 storm.



# Marikina watershed nasa stage 4 cancer na

On Nov 14, 2020



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Source: [https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/14/marikina-watershed-nasa-stage-4-cancer-na/?fbclid=IwAR0PO1MKKNGS12wuMnen\\_BlsQgBJcMpmwuqoxVrz4iyOkKAcOnAke\\_D4ov0](https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/14/marikina-watershed-nasa-stage-4-cancer-na/?fbclid=IwAR0PO1MKKNGS12wuMnen_BlsQgBJcMpmwuqoxVrz4iyOkKAcOnAke_D4ov0)



# Gov't urged to pursue climate justice from US, China for devastation brought by numerous typhoons— Salceda

Published November 14, 2020, 6:49 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

Recent typhoons that wrought havoc in the country has made it imperative for government to pursue climate justice from the United States, China and the world's industrialized countries that caused the destructive effects of climate change.

Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, chairman of the House Economic Stimulus and Recovery Cluster, declared his support to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu's call for a declaration of climate emergency.



(Cong. Joey Salceda's office / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

A declaration of climate emergency will empower government to pursue stronger climate-adaptive and resilient measures. The declaration is a government admission that global warming exists and that urgent measures should be undertaken to address the problem.

Salceda, who is also chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, said the Philippines must now commit to a foreign policy of pursuing climate justice from the world's largest polluters.

"The three strongest typhoons on record to ever hit landfall, Super Typhoon Gon (November 1, 2020), Super Typhoon Meranti, (September 16, 2016) and Super Typhoon Haiyan (November 8, 2013) all hit the Philippines, a country with one of the lowest carbon emissions per capita in the world," Salceda said, referring to typhoons Rolly, Ferdie and Yolanda, respectively.

"We are in a climate emergency. And we need to pursue international justice. We are suffering from a problem we had little to do in causing," the veteran lawmaker stated. Last year, Salceda sought the adoption of House Resolution No. 535 declaring a disaster and climate emergency in the country.

Still being deliberated by the Committee on Disaster Resilience, HR 535 proposes to compel government and the society to take immediate action in anticipating, halting, reducing, reversing, addressing and adapting to the impacts, consequences and causes of climate change.

Salceda said the resolution is supported by several civil society organizations and think-tanks, including the University of the Philippines (UP) Resilience Institute.

Salceda said the Philippines must pursue foreign policy that will hold the world's largest polluters accountable for the damage caused by the climate crisis in the country.



“I helped the Philippines get accredited with the Green Climate Fund, allowing us to have access to funding from the body. But that’s not enough. The dollar for dollar, the impacts of climate change on countries like the Philippines must be compensated by the countries that benefit from the causes of climate change,” the Albay solon explained.

He cited a 2015 study by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) that indicated that climate change causes around P145 billion in economic damage in the Philippines every year.

Salceda believes the damage has since accelerated.

Salceda said the Green Climate Fund was meant to be “an initial mechanism to help developing countries adapt to climate change.”



# After 3 weeks and 5 typhoons, group calls on gov't to make genuine climate action now

Published November 14, 2020, 4:30 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Stop glorifying Filipino resilience and make genuine climate action now, an environmental group called on Saturday.

The Aksyon Klima Pilipinas issued this call following the catastrophic impact of extreme weather events on marginalized sectors and poor communities in the country.

“In a span of three weeks, the Philippines has been hit by five tropical cyclones, including Goni (Rolly) the strongest typhoon recorded for 2020. It has left communities throughout the country battered by strong winds, torrential rainfall, and immense flooding before they can even recover from the previous storm, not to mention the effects of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic,” Aksyon Klima said in a statement.

“This is an unfortunate reality that the Philippines, one of the countries at highest risk to the climate crisis, can expect moving forward in the absence of transformative actions. It is yet another in a growing list of reminders that the loss and damage inflicted on vulnerable countries by the manifestations of the climate crisis are disproportionately experienced by marginalized sectors and poor communities,” it added.

Aksyon Klima asked for accountability by paying climate debt in full.

“We call on the Philippine government to hold industrialized nations accountable for their significant roles in causing the climate crisis. No country can address this crisis on its own, which is why we need them to continue actively championing the advocacy for climate justice that our country needs in international negotiations and forums,” the group said.

It also urged the national government to hold corporations accountable “for emitting a vast majority of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions that allow them to continue to profit at the expense of planetary and human health.”

Aksyon Klima also pointed out the liability of negligent national and local government officials at the time of emergency. “There should be no room for politicking, misinformation, and insensitivity during times of crisis, when the well-being of millions of Filipinos are of paramount importance.”

“We demand that the Philippine government allocate more attention, resources, and manpower towards strengthening climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and measures towards decarbonizing the economy and sustainable development, where no one is truly left behind,” it said.

“The glorification of resilience must stop now. It is time for genuine climate action. How many more Filipinos need to suffer before you figure it out?,” it added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/14/after-3-weeks-and-5-typhoons-group-calls-on-govt-to-make-genuine-climate-action-now/>



# Clean up your act

Climate action, for the Philippines, goes beyond geopolitics since it has to contend with the reality of extreme weather.

Published 4 hours ago on November 15, 2020 02:00 AM

By [TEB](#)



When the world talks about a frontliner, the Philippines is it in terms of meeting the challenges of nature.

Now that US President-elect Joe Biden pledged to rejoin the Paris Agreement as among his first actions when he assumes office, a worried world waits with bated breath.

The Philippines has a lot at stake in the global deal, since it counts even minute successes in reducing greenhouse emissions in terms of lives and properties, as super typhoons become the new standard.

Biden said he will issue an executive order to rejoin on his first day in office on 20 January 2021. With the US back on board, all 197 signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that include the Philippines will have ratified the historic deal.

In his address during the opening of the virtual 37th ASEAN Summit, President Rodrigo Duterte appealed for countries who can do the most in reducing global pollutants to take responsibility.

When he assumed the presidency, Mr. Duterte questioned the agreement since it may put the burden on developing countries the reduction of gas emissions, and thus affect their economic momentum.

Coal, for instance, remains the cheapest fuel for electricity, but is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect that drives the planet's temperature ever higher.

Referring to the string of strong typhoons — “Quinta,” “Rolly” and “Ulysses” — that all happened within a month, the Chief Executive raised the urgency of collective action.

“They must act now, or it would be too late. Or if I may say addedly, it is too late,” he said with his statement apparently directed to the superpowers.

In June 2017, President Donald Trump announced the US was withdrawing from the deal, but the terms of the agreement meant a long delay before it is enforced.

The pressure to withdraw was apparently from American industrial giants who see additional costs and limited profitability with the restrictions under the Paris Agreement.

The agreement was the result of 179 countries and the European Union spending two weeks in Paris during December 2015 to hammer out the final wording of a pact to keep global temperature increase well below 2°C and if possible, below 1.5°C.



Even a Democrat administration is not an assurance that the United States will stick to the letter.

US politics influenced by big business had hampered previous attempts to put together a global pact on climate change.

The Democrat Clinton administration was unable to secure the Senate's backing for the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

In the run up to the Paris climate talks, former President Barack Obama's negotiators wanted to ensure that it would take time for the US to get out if there was a change in leadership then seeing a risk, which had been fulfilled under Trump.

Even though the agreement was signed in December 2015, the treaty only came into force on 4 November 2016, 30 days after at least 55 countries representing 55 percent of global emissions had ratified it.

No country could give notice to leave the agreement until three years had passed from the date of ratification.

Even then, a member state still had to serve a 12-month notice period on the UN.

Thus, Trump's decision to pull out the United States from the deal took effect only last 4 November.

The Philippines had already put in its contribution to the global pursuit through a ban on new coal plant projects.

"While we have initially embraced a technology-neutral policy, our periodic assessment of our country's energy requirements is paving the way for innovative adaptations in our policy direction," Department of Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said.

The ban would mean the cancelation of over 13 gigawatt-hours of proposed power plants.

Climate action, for the Philippines, goes beyond geopolitics since it has to contend with the reality of extreme weather.

Its ideal geographical position places on it the burden of receiving the worst retaliation an angry nature dishes out against destructive human practices.





# The pandemic and climate change

[FROM A DISTANCE](#) - [Carmen N. Pedrosa](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 15, 2020 - 12:00am

There was a time when I dismissed a debate on whether climate change was manmade or a cyclical event of the natural history of the world.

I was sore that a young Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, was made a spokesperson for the youth to help mitigate climate change. How wrong I was. The youth should take part in the debate because it is they who will suffer if no effective changes are made now.

Imagine my surprise when I found that my own granddaughter was a Greta Thunberg for the Philippines. I found this piece in her computer:

“Hi everyone! I’m Daniela Pedrosa, I am the Internal Strategies and Systems Head for both Bye Bye Plastic Bags PH and Kids for Kids PH, and I am a board member of TAYO, or TAYO Change Agency Inc. I’m currently a senior in PAREF Woodrose School.

I’m sure you’re all very much aware of what COVID-19 is, but there are two things that I think are very important factors to understand the virus and its relationship with our world.

Our interaction with biodiversity is related to the forthcoming of the virus.

Is COVID-19 really an outlier that lies outside the realm of regular expectations? The answer is no. In recent years, hundreds of health experts, scientists, researchers and presidents have warned us of the possibilities of an upcoming pandemic.

Our second factor is the environment, or our interaction with biodiversity.

Ever since the agricultural revolution came about, we have dominated nature with our needs, thus increasing our food production. With populations rising as a result of this increase, together with digitalization and capitalism, we have continuously and mercilessly tilled more and more land to meet our needs.

Many of the viruses that have emerged today, such as HIV, Aids, Ebola, SARS and many other zoonotic diseases, have been caused by our aggressive and constant interaction with wildlife.

In general, the volume of medical waste has increased by up to 40 percent.

The Asian Development Bank estimated that hospitals in Metro Manila would generate 280 metric tons of medical waste in a single day.

And because a lot of restaurants, groceries and other businesses have stopped allowing the use of reusable bags, cups and other things like that for hygienic purposes, there’s also been a big increase in the use of single-use plastics, apart from PPEs.

We use up approximately 129 billion face masks and 65 billion gloves every month.

The problem with disposable masks is that a lot of them are made of a few layers of different polymers.

In the Philippines, our waste is currently being treated through the use of autoclave or the process where waste is subjected to extreme heat and pressure to kill pathogens, and is then brought to a licensed sanitary landfill for disposal in a cell dedicated for infectious waste.



It's important that we find sustainable ways to deal with it now. The problem with waste doesn't lie as much in our consumption as it does with our disposal.

Then there is organic waste. So we've seen a rise in this type of waste due to severe cuts in agricultural and fish exports. With import restrictions in export markets and a lack of cargo transportation services, a lot of agricultural and fishery commodities have been left behind untouched, and the decay of these commodities releases a lot of methane, which is a greenhouse gas that is 28 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at warming the earth.

The negative effects, the maintenance and monitoring of natural ecosystems, have been temporarily halted, and tourism activity to natural areas has also ceased.

Some energy agencies are already predicting that emissions in some countries will rise again by 5 percent as lockdowns are lifted. The decrease we're seeing is very temporary, and the truth is, we aren't going to see real sustainable changes until we change our way of doing things.

There is also less air traffic because people aren't traveling anymore, and a lot of these airplane emissions were caused by business trips and conferences that consisted of people from all over the world. And on a much smaller scale, lots of people are working from home.

The pandemic has highlighted the possibility of meeting and working online, which may become a long-term thing if people find it efficient enough. Going back to what I mentioned earlier about the decrease in air pollution being temporary, we're only actually seeing a 5 percent reduction at most in carbon emissions this year.

But we need to be seeing at least a 7.6 percent reduction year-after-year for the next decade if we want to stay within our carbon budget.

This is where our opportunities come in. If our new normal consists of more online meetings and transactions, governments will need to start investing more in electrical energy for vehicles, as well as in making internet capacity much more efficient and accessible, to make these things a reality and pave the way to a more sustainable future.

This is why we're putting it under the in-between – the decreases that we're seeing in pollution are very temporary, but they don't have to be. It's really up to us and our governments to continue pushing for this decrease through policies, laws, investing and smarter planning. Now that we're done with the negative effects and the in-between of the pandemic, let's move on to the last point.

The pandemic highlighted the boundaries that we are limited in our world and the boundaries that need respecting to prevent the next pandemic, if we want to prevent climate change from further deteriorating our planet and change our means of doing business as usual.

When we talk about the environment we aren't just talking about the plants and trees. We're talking about the world we live in and everything that makes it what it is.

Everything is related to the environment. Our ability to solve this pandemic and prevent future ones from happening lies in our willingness to change the way we live as well as the systems that bring about behavior that our world can't tolerate. (Excerpted from webinar on the Pandemic and Climate Change.)

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/11/15/2056947/pandemic-and-climate-change>



## Laguna Water uses salt to produce disinfectant solution

By BusinessMirror

November 15, 2020



Salt is a very reliable mineral that is commonly used in food flavoring, or preservative as disinfectant or antibacterial agent to prevent food spoilage.

In Laguna Water, the leading water and wastewater services provider in Laguna, it is using salt as the main ingredient in producing a reliable and cost-effective solution for water treatment and disinfection. Eliminating health and environmental risks, the company now creates its own sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) with MIOX Corp.'s On-Site Sodium Hypochlorite Generator (OSHG).

The on-site generated chlorine is proven to be an effective disinfectant which improves bacterial control, thus, providing better water quality while reducing capital and operation costs.

The new process also ensures the health and safety of employees and as well lessen the company's carbon footprint.

“OSHG technology requires only electricity, water, and table salt [or brine] to create chlorine. It does not produce any by-products, hence, it is very safe and will not produce any health or environmental concerns,” said Laguna Water Technical Operations Head Melissa Alcasid.

Since the production of chlorine is done on-site and only needs salt as raw material, OSHG technology increases the company's reliability and efficiency in terms of water treatment.

Further, it addresses the risk of the employees' exposure to chlorine since transportation and storage of large amounts of the substance would no longer be required.

“Before OSHG, commercially available liquid chlorine was used and being dosed to our water sources manually,” Alcasid said.

“Our operators need to physically go to the deep wells to adjust and monitor the chlorine that is being injected. Now, with OSHG, dosing and monitoring of chlorine is done automatically at the Laguna Well Field, our Centralized Water Distribution System,” Alcasid added.

Chlorination is a water treatment process, wherein chlorine is injected to water to disinfect and kill germs. This is an important step taken by water service providers to protect public health by ensuring that the water they provide to their customers are free from any disease-causing organisms.

Currently, Laguna Water produces 17,000 liters of chlorine per day using the OSHG.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/15/laguna-water-uses-salt-to-produce-disinfectant-solution/>



24 Oras: Makapal na putik at basura, problema ng mga residente ...

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**BAGYONG ULYSSES**

**4** MAKAPAL NA PUTIK AT BASURA, PROBLEMA NG MGA RESIDENTE MATAPOS ANG BAHA

NG BAHAGI NG CAGAYAN, NALUBOG SA ABOT-BUBONG NA BAHA: STATE OF CA

0:00 / 1:29

Makapal na putik at basura, problema ng mga residente matapos ang baha

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# We shall overcome

Published 3 mins ago on November 15, 2020 12:07 AM

By [Bella Cariaso](#)



For the second time in the past three days, President Rodrigo Duterte addressed the nation to assure the public that the government is on top of a crisis situation as northern provinces were submerged days after the latest typhoon, named “Ulysses,” had left.

Mr. Duterte said he created a task force tasked to hasten the rescue and relief operations on areas affected by massive flooding, particularly in Region 2.

“What you need to know is that I know you are suffering, I know that you need help, I know that you expect help to arrive soon, and we will do it. These are mere challenges. We will rise up. It is difficult but Filipinos always know how to rise up,” Duterte said in his public address.

Duterte added that the task force will ensure help will come as soon as possible.

“Our government will make sure that it can help those affected by the typhoon’s impact, so I immediately took steps and I have created a task force to streamline and facilitate the rehabilitation efforts,” the President added.

“I gave the task force a timeline for it to start with its assignments without delay and cut red tape to ease the flow of relief assistance to the affected people,” he added.

Mr. Duterte was represented by Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. in the virtual Association of Southeast Asian Nation-United States (ASEAN-US) Summit yesterday morning to allow him to focus on monitoring the rescue operations being conducted following the massive floodings in Isabela and Cagayan.

“Help is coming,” Duterte vowed.

He assured that all agencies of the government will work round-the-clock to assist residents in Cagayan, Isabela and other provinces who are still trapped by floods.

“It means efforts will not stop, the various forms of aid are there. The Coast Guard, on the other hand, has sent a plane, it is only on standby if the plane needs to be used,” the President said.

“The government will come in soon, using all the assets. I will see to it that they will come, just wait a little while, the others who have not yet left their homes will be retrieved by air assets,” Mr. Duterte added.



## **Rody sets visit**

In a televised briefing, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the President may conduct an aerial inspection in Isabela and Cagayan today to personally see the extent of the massive flooding in Region 2.

Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, who is the President’s confidante, confirmed the plan of Mr. Duterte to visit the disaster site.

Roque also denied that the government was caught unprepared by the flooding in the two provinces. Various agencies such as the Department of Transportation (DoTr), the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines have deployed their forces to the site of the tragedy.

Air, water and land assets of the government have been stretched out as a result of the rescue efforts now ongoing in several parts of Luzon including in the capital Metro Manila with parts of Marikina City engulfed by water after a nearby river overflowed.

Albay province was also ravaged by both typhoons “Rolly” and Ulysses.

As early as dawn last Friday, the DoTr through the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), has been working round-the-clock, resulting to the rescue of 15 individuals in Modelro, Sitio Pantalan, and Pantabangan in Tumauni, Isabela; 50 individuals in Barangay 12, Tuguegarao City; 47 individuals in Pengue Ruyu, Tuguegarao City; 13 individuals in Caritan Norte, Diversion Road, and Anufuan West, Tuguegarao City; and 70 individuals in Linao East, Tuguegarao City.

Roque added that at 3:30 am yesterday, the PCG deployed the first convoy of augmentation, composed of 10 rescue personnel, one multipurpose vehicle, one truck, and several newly-procured rubber boats.

## **PRC comes to Cagayan’s aid**

Rescue teams from various chapters of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) were also deployed to Cagayan to augment the humanitarian group’s rescue operations.

PRC chair Senator Richard Gordon said staff and volunteers from PRC chapters in Mandaluyong, Olongapo and Nueva Vizcaya brought with them payloaders and water tankers to provide water to the affected communities.

As soon as they arrived, the group’s Water, Search, and Rescue team waded through the floods in Pengue Ruyu, Tuguegarao City to begin rescue operations.

PRC did not only rescue individuals who were trapped during the floods, it also helped clear the streets of mud and debris.

Gordon also deployed PRC’s own firetrucks to help clean the roads to make them more accessible for disaster response not only in Cagayan, but also in Marikina, Rizal and Catanduanes.

Though their own facility was also flooded, it did not prevent the PRC-Cagayan chapter from providing relief efforts to the evacuees by distributing hot meals and delivering first aid assistance.

The government urged donors to send hot meals or ready-to-eat food instead of canned goods or packs of noodles as affected individuals had no resources to cook them.

PRC has rescued about 361 individuals and provided some 14,984 hot meals as of 13 November.



The humanitarian group also lent the Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center in Marikina one generator set and five emergency lights.

Gordon, meanwhile, advised the local government units to separate evacuees who are exhibiting symptoms of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) like a fever from those who are healthy in order to prevent the spread of the virus in the evacuation centers.

**with GABBIE PARLADE**



## Duterte creates quick-response task force for typhoon-battered areas

posted November 15, 2020 at 12:50 am

by [Vito Barcelo and Joel Zurbano, Jess Malabanan](#)

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the creation of a task force for the government's response on the devastation of Typhoon Ulysses and Super Typhoon Rolly, with both leaving at least 59 people dead and a swathe of destruction in much of Luzon.



*RELIEF: Soldiers of the Joint Task Force-NCR of the Armed Forces of the Philippines load relief goods at the DSWD warehouse in Pasay City on Nov. 14, 2020. (Inset) In Catanduanes, the BRP Gabriela Silang, BRP Malapascua, and BRP Sindangan arrived safely at the Port of Virac to unload some 73 tons of goods to be distributed in municipalities battered by Super Typhoon Rolly. Norman Cruz*

"Our government is making guidelines to help our people affected by the typhoon. Thus, I created a task force," Duterte said in a televised address heard nationwide.

"I directed them to streamline, to hasten the rehabilitation efforts [for those] affected by the typhoon. Second, the task force is made up of different agencies and all are involved in this," he said.

Meanwhile, in a series of Viber messages to reporters, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council spokesperson Mark Cashean Timbal said 16 deaths were recorded in the Cagayan Valley region, six in Calabarzon, five in Bicol, and six in the Cordillera region.

The number of injured was placed at 22 – three in Cagayan Valley, nine in Calabarzon, eight in Bicol, and two in the Cordillera region.

Those reported missing are now at 20 with five in Cagayan Valley, two in Calabarzon, eight in Bicol, and five in the Cordillera region.

Timbal said damage to agriculture had been estimated at P968 million in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol, and Cordillera, while damage to infrastructure was placed at P253 million in Ilocos and Mimaropa.

Some 3,013 houses were also damaged in the Ilocos and Cordillera regions.

In Central Luzon, disaster-control officials recorded P52 million in damage to agricultural lands, planted to high-value crops including palay, in at least 101 villages in Pampanga.

Pampanga Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Officer Angelina Blanco said over 2,200 hectares of agricultural lands have been inundated by widespread flooding.

"Ulysses has left wide damage to agriculture, residential houses and government infrastructure in Pampanga," said Blanco, citing reports from line government agencies including the Provincial Agriculture Office.

Blanco said P617,500 worth of livestock including poultry buildings had been damaged in Magalang and San Simon towns.

Strong winds flattened 182 houses while 1,666 more others have been partially damaged in almost all towns in the province.





Meanwhile, state pension fund Government Service Insurance System said it was offering emergency loans to its members and pensioners affected by Ulysses, Rolly and other typhoons that hit the country since October this year.

GSIS President and General Manager Rolando Ledesma Macasaet said “Members and pensioners may borrow P20,000 under the GSIS Emergency Loan Program. The loan is payable in 36 equal monthly installments at only 6 percent interest rate,” Macasaet said in a statement.

Qualified to apply are members who are in active service and not on leave of absence without pay; have no pending administrative or criminal case; and have a net take-home pay of not lower than P5,000 after all required monthly obligations have been deducted.

Those that have due and demandable loan accounts (have arrears of over six months) are now allowed to renew their previous emergency loan from a different calamity (excluded under the COVID-19 Emergency Loan Program).

It was on November 1 when the country faced the wrath of Super Typhoon Rolly, killing at least 22 people and damaging properties while Typhoon Ulysses ravaged the country last Wednesday, November 12, submerging much of Luzon, particularly Central Luzon north of the capital and the Cagayan Valley hemmed in by the Sierra Madre and the Caraballo Mountains.

The President said the task force would be given a time line to lay out plans ensuring that response and relief operations would not be delayed “and cut the red tape to facilitate delivery of aid for the affected residents.”

“All of the agencies are in the task force. I gave them a time line for them to make steps ensuring there will not be any delay in the distribution of aid,” he said.

The President said these agencies were working round the clock, adding “all those who could give help are there. The Coast Guard has helicopters in the area. The search and rescue has support forces. The Coast Guard has already been deployed in Region 2.”

The chief executive said the Philippine Coast Guard, Army, and Navy were being deployed for search and rescue in submerged areas.

In Malacañang, Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the government vowed not to leave anyone behind in the on-going relief and other response efforts undertaken by various government agencies in all areas affected by the two typhoons that wrought massive damage to the Bicol region and Central Luzon, including Metro Manila.

“No one will be left behind. We will get through this crisis,” Roque said.

In a statement, Roque cited data from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council which said Ulysses had less reported casualties and injuries compared to 2009’s typhoon Ondoy that recorded a death toll of 464 with 529 injured.

“We can see how prepared is the administration under Presidente Duterte,” said Roque, adding “the President was always there monitoring and advising the people to keep safe.”

On the part of the DILG, Secretary Eduardo Año said 99 percent of local chief executives in affected areas were present in their areas of responsibility, all of whom have convened their local DRRMCs, established local emergency operation centers, and activated their disaster and emergency response teams.

In terms of the clearing of roads, Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar reported that 40 roads sections had been cleared as of date, while the remaining 52 road sections currently closed due to landslide and debris would be cleared before Sunday.

Elsewhere, former Vice President Jejomar Binay urged the government to immediately augment the calamity funds of local government units in the areas affected by Rolly and Ulysses.

“National government should immediately act to augment the calamity funds of LGUs. The funds are almost depleted because of the aid they extended during the lockdown and the typhoons. Their resources and manpower have been stretched to the limits,” Binay said.



Binay, who served as Makati City mayor from 1986 to 1998, and from 2001 to 2010, noted that while the Department of Budget and Management said it would release P1.9 billion to the affected areas, the amount will be disbursed to national government agencies.

Likewise, he said the remaining balance of P1.7 billion from the remaining P3.6 billion National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund might not be enough considering the extent of damage caused by the typhoons throughout Luzon.

“The national government should give immediate aid to those who provide aid. They are tired but they continue to serve),” he added.

Earlier, the DBM was reported to have released only P3.545 billion of the P140-billion emergency pandemic response under Bayanihan 2.



In his televised address to the nation, Duterte expressed hope for Filipinos to rise from the tragedy as he assured adversely affected residents, especially in Cagayan province, that “help is on its way.”

Presidential Photo/Simeon Celi, Jr.

## Duterte creates body to fast-track rehabilitation

[Christina Mendez](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 15, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte created yesterday a special task force to ensure the immediate rehabilitation of areas devastated by Typhoon Ulysses, particularly the heavily flooded region of Cagayan Valley where rescue efforts were still ongoing.

In his televised address to the nation, Duterte expressed hope for Filipinos to rise from the tragedy as he assured adversely affected residents, especially in Cagayan province, that “help is on its way.”

“Help will be coming, that assistance will be expedited in due time,” he said in Filipino, adding that the government was doing its best to provide help as soon as possible to Tuguegarao City, Cagayan and Isabela in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).

Powerful storms in succession – Quinta, Rolly and then Ulysses – ravaged provinces and cities in all the regions of Luzon, including the National Capital Region or Metro Manila.

The President is set to visit Cagayan today to provide assistance and assess the condition and needs of affected areas, Sen. Bong Go said.

Go said so far, all government agencies have been mobilized to respond to those hit by the typhoon.

The President said he created the task force, composed of representatives from various agencies, to speed up government’s response to the need for rehabilitation.

“I directed them to streamline (processes) para madali ang (to expedite) rehabilitation efforts affected by the typhoon,” said Duterte, who has been monitoring rescue efforts in Cagayan Valley since dawn yesterday.

“I gave them a timeline to take steps without delays and cut red tape to speed up the process in helping the people,” he said.

He said the task force must facilitate faster rehabilitation efforts as well as the immediate distribution of relief assistance.

The President also addressed typhoon victims awaiting rescue and assistance, assuring them that all government assets at his disposal are being mobilized.

“Wait a little bit more, it will take some minutes. Those who haven’t been rescued from atop their homes... our air assets would get there,” he said in a mix of Filipino and English.



The President added: “You must know that I am aware of your hardships. I know you need help and you’re hoping it reaches you at the soonest time.”

The country was still reeling from the adverse impacts of the recent typhoons when rains dumped by Ulysses in the Sierra Madre mountains cascaded down, flooding a majority of the populated areas of Cagayan Valley.

A military official described aerial images of the flooded region as “the Pacific Ocean.”

In separate statements, presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. and Go assured the public that the President was on top of the situation and monitoring developments in Region 2 since before dawn yesterday from his official residence at Malago compound, Malacañang.

“We continue our rescue operations in Tuguegarao, Cagayan Valley and Isabela in the aftermath of Typhoon Ulysses,” Roque said in an interview at PTV-4’s Laging Handa program.

“Right now, our focus is on rescue efforts. It is important to save the lives of the Filipinos affected. Therefore, the President immediately ensured that all government assets are ready to be used to save those in need,” Go said in a separate statement.

Due to the gravity of the situation, Duterte had to forego his virtual participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United States (ASEAN-US) Summit.

Foreign Affairs Sec. Teodoro Locsin Jr. read Duterte’s statement early Saturday morning.

By mid-morning, Duterte was able to deliver his speech before the ASEAN-Australian Biennial Summit.

“The President is on top of the situation,” assured Roque, emphasizing the Chief Executive was in constant communication with Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana, who heads the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Duterte had directed the Departments of Social and Welfare Development (DSWD) and of Health (DOH) to provide assistance to the affected population in Region 2. – **Cecille Suerte Felipe**



# Swathes of Cagayan, Isabela disappear

Published 2 mins ago on November 15, 2020 12:05 AM

By [John Roson](#)



Cagayan was placed under a state of calamity, Governor Manuel Mamba said. He added the massive flooding experienced in the region has been the worst since 1975.

He blamed the heavy rainfall brought by typhoon “Ulysses” in past days as well as the opening of Magat Dam saturated the soil with water.

Mamba also cited the inundation of forests from illegal logging for the massive flood stating that this incident should serve as a lesson to the public and to the national government.

As of the latest report from the Cagayan Provincial Information Office, the number of casualties was at eight deaths and three individuals injured while a total of 43,838 families were affected.

Mamba deployed rescuers to help 13,000 families or 47,000 residents in the province who were severely affected by the floods caused by typhoon “Ulysses” and monsoon rains.

“The volume of people calling for help needs more helpers,” he said.

Rogelio Sending Jr., Cagayan provincial information officer, said 24 out of 29 towns in Tuguegarao City were either isolated or flooded as villagers trooped to evacuation centers, higher grounds, or relatives’ houses.

The Buntun and Namabbalan highways were closed to traffic due to the swelling of the Cagayan and Pinacanauan rivers.

“We are literally in a sea of floodwater, the biggest since 40 years ago,” he said.

In a statement sent to the Daily Tribune, Department of Science and Technology (DoST) Region-2 Director Engineer Sancho A. Maborang said “we are doing our best to inform and disseminate latest updates to the general public and government institutions through Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) on the latest weather bulletin of Region-2.”

Maborang, whose house in Tuguegarao City was likewise submerged in floodwaters, has been conducting relief efforts in the reachable areas of the city through the assistance of personnel coming from the DoST Regional Office 2.

With the catastrophic event that struck Cagayan Valley, particularly Tuguegarao City, which flooded many areas causing most residents to be trapped by rising floodwaters, Maborang is encouraging the public to be vigilant and be on alert on the latest updates by tuning in to the DoST-PAGASA’s website for the latest developments.



Tuguegarao City Mayor Jeff Soriano said residents of the two provinces were surprised by the swift rise in the water level despite an improving weather.

Tuguegarao was mostly spared by the storm, but rains that fell on Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya at Isabela and the release from Magat Dam, those contributed to the rise in water.

### **Floods 'so massive'**

Thousands of people spent the night on rooftops and overwhelming local rescuers, officials said Saturday.

"Rescue teams were overwhelmed, the flooding was so massive, that's the proper description," Cagayan public information officer Rogelio Sending Jr. said by phone.

From Friday night to early Saturday, social media platforms erupted with posts and comments from trapped residents calling for rescue, as well as posts by people seeking help for them.

Some posts claimed that only a few rescue teams were seen around, delaying operations.

Sending described Friday's inundation as "the worst in 40 years" and affected even local rescue workers.

Melanio Tariga, acting spokesperson of the Isabela Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, said in a radio interview that his province also experienced widespread flooding.

He appealed for help in rescue operations and relief goods.

Of the fatalities, four died in a landslide in Baggao town and two drowned in Alcala and Tuguegarao. Three other persons, including a rescuer, were electrocuted in Alcala and Tuguegarao.

According to Sending, many parts of Cagayan were already flooded since the tail-end of a cold front enhanced by typhoon "Ulysses" brought rains to the province a few days ago.

Although local government units have prepared for this scenario, Mamba admitted that local officials did not expect the situation to be catastrophic.

"We anticipated this. We conducted preemptive and forced evacuation but we did not anticipate the enormous volume of water that was coming," he said.

As the region entered its third day of severe flooding, Mamba said that there are still more residents trapped in the roofs of their houses as officials are unable to reach them due to the depth of the flood.

However, he assured that rescue operations are currently ongoing with more national government officials finally involved.

**with Jun Yap,  
Gabbie Parlade  
and Aldwin Quitasol**

# Cagayan under water

By Catherine S. Valente, TMT

November 15, 2020

Govt mounts massive search and rescue operations

**AND LEANDER C. DOMINGO AND VINCE JACOB A. VISAYA**

CAGAYAN was submerged in water late Friday night in what local authorities described as the “worst” flooding in the region since 1981, killing more than a dozen people and affecting over 300,000 others, authorities said on Saturday.



*VALLEY OF TEARS This Nov. 14, 2020 photo shows flooded Cagayan province, particularly its capital Tuguegarao City, during an aerial inspection. PHOTO FROM THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE*

The heavy floods were caused by the release of water from the Magat Dam and the continuous downpour from the weather disturbances that hit the region, the most recent of which was Typhoon “Ulysses” (international name: “Vamco”).

With the level at the Magat Dam, Cagayan’s reservoir, rising to 192.99 meters, .01 meters short of its spilling level of 193 meters at 10 p.m., the National Irrigation Administration-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-Mariis) was forced to open all of its seven spillway gates to about 30 meters, releasing over 6,000 cubic meters per second (cms) of water late Friday night.

At least 16 people were confirmed dead from the floods and a total of 343,202 residents in 22 cities and municipalities in Cagayan province, 25 cities and municipalities in Isabela, 15 municipalities in Nueva Vizcaya and five municipalities in Quirino were affected, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said.

The NIA-Mariis said it was necessary to release water from the reservoir to prevent the dam from reaching its spilling level which as of 2 p.m. on Saturday, was down to 192.18 or .82 meters from its spilling level at 193 meters with an inflow of 1,153 m<sup>3</sup>/s and outflow of 1,340 m<sup>3</sup>/s as only two spillway gates were opened at 4 meters.

## ‘On top of the situation’

Malacañang said President Rodrigo Duterte was saddened by the situation but was “on top of the situation.”

Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr. told a virtual press briefing that Duterte, who was currently attending the virtual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, was “in constant communication” with the NDRRMC; Departments of Defense, Social Welfare and Development, Health, Public Works and Highways; and other concerned government agencies and denied reports that the government was “caught unaware” by the situation in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).

Affirming the President’s promise that “no one will be left behind,” Roque said the government would use all its resources to help the region.



“As early as dawn yesterday, the Department of Transportation, through the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), has been working round-the-clock with the rescue of 15 individuals in Modelro, Sitio Pantalan and Pantabangan in Tumauni, Isabela; 50 individuals in Barangay 12, Tuguegarao City; 47 individuals in Pengue Ruyu, Tuguegarao City; 13 individuals in Caritan Norte, Diversion Road, and Anufuan West, Tuguegarao City; and 70 individuals in Linao East, Tuguegarao City,” Roque said in a separate statement.

The PCG deployed the first convoy of augmentation, composed of 10 rescue personnel, one multipurpose vehicle, one truck and several newly-procured rubber boats, and the second convoy of deployable response groups or DRGs of 60 rescue and medical personnel, two buses, one 12-wheeler boom truck, two M-35 trucks, and a total of seven drivers to aid the ongoing rescue operations in Isabela, Tuguegarao, and Cagayan, Roque said.

The rescuers are also equipped with two rubber boats and three generator sets, as well as 44 drums of fuel for the rescue assets and vehicles.

The Palace official said another convoy, composed of two trucks, was also on its way after loading 20 drums of fuel for the two Coast Guard airbus light twin engine helicopters that will be used to conduct aerial extraction.

Roque said the Philippine National Police deployed 747 Search and Rescue personnel and 1,003 Reactionary Standby Support Force in Region 2 as of 6 a.m. on Saturday.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), particularly the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), shifted efforts from counterinsurgency to search, rescue, retrieval and relief operations in the Cordillera Administrative Region and Region 2.

In addition, Roque said that two Hueys were sent by Nolcom from Clark to Cauayan, Isabela for operations in Cagayan, particularly Tuguegarao, for rescue and relief delivery operations to communities isolated by not passable roads.

NDRRMC spokesman Mark Timbal told The Manila Times in a text message that more than 3,700 personnel were deployed to support the 24-hour rescue operations of the local government units (LGUs) “despite the strong currents of the flood waters and low visibility.”

Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo mobilized her team to help out in coordinating with various rescue teams from the military and police.

In a Facebook Live video on Friday evening — just right after relief operations in Marikina City and Rizal — Robredo said she had immediately mobilized her security team after reading social media posts calling for help from the Northern part of the country.

“Our prayers for Cagayan and Isabela. Reading posts now of people asking to be rescued. We deployed our security team to coordinate with AFP all the calls for rescue we are reading now. Will be monitoring and will post updates,” she said in a separate Twitter post on Friday evening.

‘Pacific Ocean’

In a radio interview, Col. Ascio Macalan, Cagayan’s disaster official, said the province has turned into the “Pacific Ocean.”

A total of 13,954 persons were staying in evacuation centers while 3,798 residents were evacuated but staying with their relatives, the NDRRMC said.





## ‘Roads vanished’

Lt. Col. Rowan Rimas, Marine Battalion Landing Team 10 commanding officer, appealed to authorities saying, “Cagayan needs help. They need us. Let us help them please.”

“The highway, the roads just vanished. Truly heartbreaking. Words can’t explain what I am feeling right now. I know God will give us the strength to overcome this,” Rimas said.

He said it had been two hours and they had yet to reach the town of Iguig, which is north of Tuguegarao City, but was optimistic that “we will get there, slowly.”

“For now, I’ll stick to my mission. Bring my Marines in Tuguegarao at all costs and save as many lives as possible. Those people we passed by are in dire need of drinking water and food. We shared some of our rations with them,” Rimas said.

Gov. Manuel Mamba said Cagayan province has been placed under a state of calamity by virtue of Resolution 2020-10-768 released by the provincial board special session.

The resolution said, “The closure of roads and bridges, destruction of communities, agriculture, livestock and other infrastructures have gravely affected the lives of the people.”

Damaged infrastructure, crops, livestock and property in Cagayan have yet to be determined, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO).

PDRRMO officials also confirmed a total of eight fatalities, four in Baggao town who died from a landslide, one drowned and two electrocuted in Alcala, and one drowned in Tuguegarao City.

## ‘Ulysses’ wrath

It was during the downpour by Ulysses on Wednesday that caused some 20 rivers to swell and fill up the Cagayan River, causing massive flooding and landslides in Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Cagayan provinces.

The Cagayan River, which is also known as Rio Grande de Cagayan, is the longest river and largest river by discharge volume of water in the Philippines with a total length of approximately 505 kilometers and a drainage basin covering 27,753 square kilometers. It traverses Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela and Cagayan.

Engineer Carlo Ablan, NIA-Mariis Flood Forecasting and Instrument Section head, said the Magat River system, whose water was impounded at the Magat Dam reservoir, is one of 20 Cagayan River’s tributaries.

The other Cagayan River tributaries that largely contributed to the swelling of Cagayan River were the rivers of Diduyon, Addalam, Dabubu, Dibuluan, Dumatata, Ganano, Diadi, Disabungan, Ilagan, Bintacan, Tumauni, Pinacanauan de Cabagan, Pinacanauan, Mallig, Sifu, Taotao, Pared, Chico and Dummon.

## ‘Worst flood’

Mamba said the provincial government deployed rescuers to help 13,000 families or 47,000 residents who were severely affected by the floods caused by Ulysses and the monsoon rains.

Rogelio Sending Jr., Cagayan provincial information officer, said 20 out of 29 towns and Tuguegarao City have been either isolated or flooded as villagers trooped to evacuation centers, higher grounds or relatives.

The province has been literally in a sea of floodwater, the highest in 40 years while Buntun Bridge and Namabbalan are closed to traffic so as to protect motorists, Sending added.



Buntun Bridge's level is down to 12.8-meters, lower than than the 13.3 meters recorded on Friday night.

Many villagers in 156 villages from 24 towns and in Tuguegarao City were trapped on their rooftops, which have become their temporary shelters.

Robredo said the same security team had handled rescue coordination efforts in Marikina City and Rizal at the height of the onslaught of Ulysses, that had also left residents stranded on roofs of houses on Thursday.

House of Representatives' Committee on Ways and Means Chairman and Albay Second District Rep. Jose Maria "Joey" Salceda asked LGUs that had not been affected by recent typhoons to mobilize their untapped calamity funds toward assisting devastated provinces such as Cagayan and Isabela.

Prior to Ulysses, Typhoons "Quinta" and "Rolly" had also devastated the Bicol Region in a span of weeks. Salceda stressed the need to assist affected LGUs as many have used up much of their resources for pandemic response.

Salceda pointed out that the unaffected LGUs may transfer underutilized local disaster risk reduction management funds to support other LGUs declared under state of calamity, which is provided under Section 21 of the Republic Act 10121 or "Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act."

**WITH DARWIN PESCO, DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ AND ARLIE O. CALALO**



## **‘Worst flooding’ naranasan ng Tuguegarao; mayor umapela ng tulong**



November 14, 2020 @ 2:19 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Itinuring na ‘worst flooding’ ang nararanasan sa Tuguegarao sa inabot nitong mataas na baha at patuloy na pag-apela ng rescue sa gitna ng pandemyang nararanasan.

“First time po ito nangyari sa amin. The last time we had this is in 1972 pa po. Ngayon po ang pinaka malaking flooding sa amin sa siyudad since 1972,” saad ni Tuguegarao City Mayor Jefferson Soriano sa isang panayam.

Nasa 39 mula 49 barangays sa Cagayan province capital aniya ang lubog ngayon sa baha dahil sa mga tubig na nagmula sa Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, at Magat Dam sa Isabela.

“Tuloy tuloy po yung Magat, ang pinakawalan po ng Magat is more than 2,500 cubic meters per second. It reaches Tuguegarao and nearby town in about seven to nine hours, minsan sa bilis mga five to nine hours andito na po yung tubig na pinakawalan ,” punto pa ni Soriano.

Umapela naman ang mayor sa mas maraming rescue teams para maagapayan ang mga na-trap sa kani-kanilang tahanan.

“Marami pa po ang nangangailangan i-rescue. Ang hirap po diyan is habang nag su-subside po ang water s aiabng lugar, dito po sa Tuguegarao lumalaki ang tubig.”  
RNT/FGDC/Rey Velasco



## San Mateo, Rizal to be placed under state of calamity —acting mayor

**Published** November 14, 2020 12:17pm

By TED CORDERO, GMA News

Due to the impact of flash flood from Typhoon Ulysses, the municipality of San Mateo in Rizal will be placed under state of calamity, pending approval of its municipal council, Acting Mayor Paeng Diaz said Saturday.

“Sa bayan ng San Mateo ay may labinlimang barangay at 10 po rito ay binaha,” Diaz said in an interview on Dobol B sa News TV.

Of the 10 flooded barangays, four were 80% submerged and the “rest naglalaro sa 70 to 60 [percent].”

“Hiningi po natin sa sangguniang bayan na isailalim na ang bayan sa state of calamity,” he said.

According to Diaz, there are 17 evacuation centers serving as temporary shelters for 1,633 families or 7,494 individuals.

‘[Ang] 1,633 families ay amin silang kina-categorize as partially and totally damaged,’ Diaz said, noting that emergency shelter assistance will be extended to affected families.

“Subsided na po ang baha pero iniwan naman nito ay putik,” Diaz said.

“[Pero] wala nang babalikan ang ilang residente na bahay dahil nasira ang mga bahay,” he said. “Hindi pa pabalikin ang mga residenteng nakatira sa mga danger zone,” he added. —**LBG,**

**GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/764090/san-mateo-rizal-to-be-placed-under-state-of-calamity-acting-mayor/story/>



## Lupa sa Albay gumuho

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Nov 15, 2020

METRO



Kinumpirma ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) ang nag-viral na larawan sa social media, kung saan nagpapakita ng isang malawak o malaking soil erosion na nangyari sa San Roque, Malipot, Albay.

Sa mga larawan, makikita ang top shot ng lawak nang nangyaring soil erosion malapit sa ilang kabahayan. Pati kalsada ay tila pinutol na dahil sa laki at lawak nito. Sa ulat, pinalikas na ng barangay ang mga residente malapit sa nasabing soil erosion sa Brgy. San Roque.

Ayon naman kay NDRRMC Spokesperson Mark Timbal, nagkataon umano na wala nang residente sa lugar nang mangyari ito. "Confirmed ang nangyaring landslide (sa Malipot, Albay), pero no casualties kasi wala nang tao na nakatira sa area," sinabi ni Timbal sa Abante TONITE.

Patuloy ang koordinasyon ng NDRRMC sa barangay at sa lokal na pamahalaan kaugnay sa kalagayan ng mga lumikas. (Kiko Cueto)



# Paghahanap sa 5 pang natabunan sa landslide sa Ifugao, tuloy pa rin

Micaella Ilaog, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 14 2020 05:05 PM



Tuloy ang search and rescue operations sa Barangay Viewpoint sa Banaue, Ifugao para sa 5 pang kataong nawawala matapos na matabunan ng landslide ang kanilang tinutuluyang bunkhouse sa kasagsagan ng bagyong Ulysses. *Larawan mula sa IFUGAO Police Mobile Force Company*

BAGUIO CITY - Patuloy pa rin ang search and retrieval operations para sa limang kataong natabunan ng gumuhong lupa sa Barangay Sumigar View Point sa Banaue, Ifugao.

Ayon kay Ifugao Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer na si Kenneth Pugong, nahihirapan sila sa paghahanap sa mga biktima dahil masyadong malawak ang bundok at maputik.

“Sa ngayon nahihirapan sila kasi medyo mudflow pa po yung sitwasyon doon,” pahayag ni Pugong.

Sapat naman daw ang manpower sa lugar, kailangan pa rin nila ng drone para sa search and retrieval operations.

“Kung merong mabubuting puso diyan na pwedeng mag-donate ng drone para malaking maitutulong po yung kasi wala pa kaming drone na gagamitin para sa pag-locate sa area na ise-search nila,” dagdag ni Pugong.

Biyernes ng hapon nang umabot na sa 6 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa insidente habang isa naman ang sugatan.

Huwebes nang matabunan ng lupa ang tinutuluyan bunkhouse ng mga bikima sa pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses.

Lima sa nasawi ay kawanin ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) na nagsasagawa ng clearing operation sa lugar.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/14/20/paghahanap-sa-5-pang-natabunan-sa-landslide-sa-ifugao-tuloy-pa-rin>



# Angat, Ipo Dams continue to discharge excess water

Published November 14, 2020, 1:26 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Angat and Ipo Dams in Bulacan continue to discharge excess water from their reservoirs Saturday due to constant inflow of water cascading from the mountains.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration said additional one spillway gate was opened around 9 a.m. Saturday, bringing to three the number of gates that are releasing water from the Bulacan reservoir.

Each gate has a two-meter opening.

Angat Dam authorities added another gate to release water due to the continuous increase in the dam's water level, which has already exceeded its normal high water level of 210 meters since Thursday after the passage of typhoon "Ulysses."

As of 9 a.m. Saturday, the water level of Angat Dam reached 214.21 meters, slightly above the 213.72 meters three hours earlier at around 6 a.m.

Downstream of Angat Dam is the Ipo Dam, which also continues to discharge water from its reservoir.

Ipo Dam's water level was at 100.77 meters around 9 a.m., close to its 101-meter spilling level.

Two gates of Ipo Dam are still releasing water with a total discharge of 307 cubic meters per second.

PAGASA warned residents in the low-lying communities of Norzagaray, Angat, San Rafael, Bustos, Baliuag, Pulilan, and Plaridel in Bulacan, as well as the concerned Local Disaster Reduction and Management Councils, to conduct appropriate actions against flooding.



# Magat Dam gates unlikely to be shut despite Cagayan, Isabela flooding

Published November 14, 2020 3:44pm

By JAMIL SANTOS, GMA News

Two Magat Dam gates remained open for spilling operations and were not likely to be closed due to the large volume of water coming into its reservoir, a PAGASA hydrologist said on Saturday.

Speaking on Dabol B sa News TV, hydrologist Edgar Dela Cruz said that as of noon, the Magat Dam's water level was at 192.19 meters.

Its two gates of four meters were continually releasing waters to slightly decrease levels.

"Hindi po pupuwedeng isara 'yung mga gate ng dams po natin dahil po may mga malaki pang volume na pumapasok o inflow sa mismong reservoir ng Magat Dam," explained Dela Cruz.

"Kung isasara po natin 'yan, just imagine sa isang oras, mga 3,600 seconds po 'yun sa isang oras eh. Kung imu-multiply natin doon sa 860 cubic meters, napakalaking volume po ng tubig 'yun na baka po sa loob lang ng isang oras, masyado nang mataas ang elevation ng Magat at lalo po tayong mahirapan na i-release 'yun after ng sinasabi nating interval."

"Hangga't malaki pa po ang inflow na pumapasok galing sa kabundukan at pumapasok sa Magat Dam, mahihirapan po tayong isara 'yan. Hindi pa po natin alam kung gaano tatagal 'yung malaking volume," Dela Cruz added. — **DVM, GMA News**





Police Files Tonite

16h · 🌐

Sa pagpakawala ng tubig ng Magat dam...  
64 sa 91 barangays nagmistulang lawa sa Isabela  
Ni Rey Velasco

ANIMNAPU'T APAT (64) sa 91 barangays sa Ilagan, Isabela ang nagmistulang lawa bunsod ng halos 11 oras na walang tigil na pag-ulan ng bagyong Ulysses nitong Miyerkoles at Huwebes. Ayon kay Ilagan City Mayor Jay Diaz, mahigit 11,200 pamilya ang apektado ng matinding pagbaha at inaasahan na madadagdagan pa ang bilang dahil sa patuloy na pag-apaw ng tubig sa mga kabahayan kahit humupa na ang bagyo.

Mula kasi sa 91 na barangays sa Lungsod ay 64 dito ang nilamon ng tubig-baha. Bubong ng mga bahay na lamang ang nakikita.

Sinabi ni Mayor Diaz na puno na ang 19 evacuation centers sa Lungsod at patuloy parin ang pagdating ng bagong evacuees.

Daan-daang ektarya rin ng mais, palay at high-value crops ang nasira dahil sa matinding pagbaha.

Pahirapan pa aniya ang pagpasok sa ibang barangays na binaha dahil sa mataas parin na tubig-baha bunga ng patuloy na pagpakawala ng tubig ang Magat Dam.

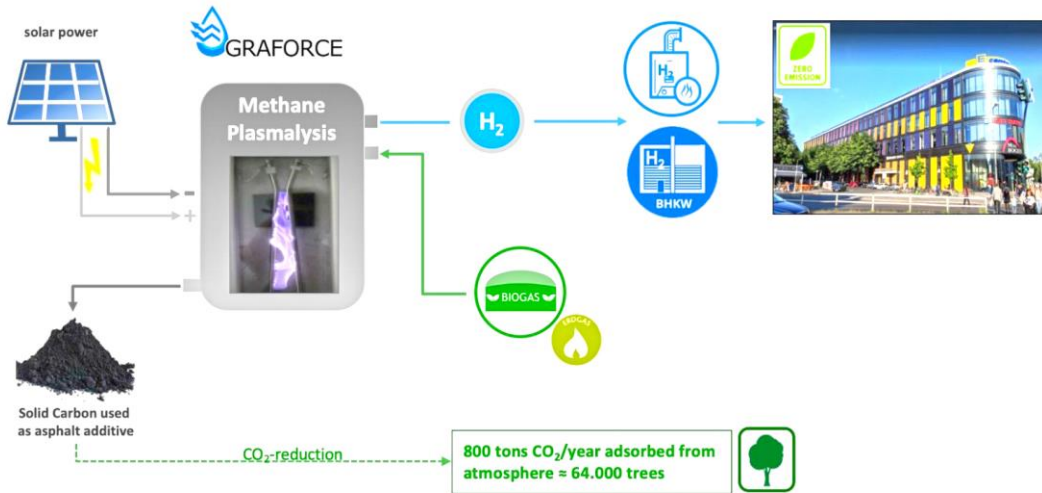




# Berlin hotel's carbon-reduction effort feted

Published 2 mins ago on November 15, 2020 03:30 AM

By **BUSINESSWIRE**



The Mercure Hotel MOA Berlin is set to become the first hotel and event location worldwide with a negative CO2 balance when generating heat.

Thanks to the methane plasmalysis technology developed by Graforce, the MOA Berlin will not only generate its heat without any emissions, it will also extract CO2 from the atmosphere — while heating.

The “MOA-H2eat” solution has just been awarded with the German Gas Industry Innovation Prize for an “approach that revolutionizes the heating market and contributes to decentralized decarbonization.”

No longer heating with natural gas but with hydrogen from biogas, the hotel uses methane plasmalysis technology to split biogas into hydrogen and solid carbon.

Using electricity from renewable energies, methane plasmalysis is just as climate-friendly as electrolysis — but the costs are significantly lower.

For the zero-emission heating process, MOA Berlin uses modified gas condensing boilers fueled by a mixture of green hydrogen and biogas.

The solid carbon can be used as an industrial raw material, for paints and ceramics or, as in the case of the MOA Berlin, for producing asphalt.

The gas heaters used at the MOA Berlin before would have emitted up to 800 tons of CO2 per year. In order to absorb this amount from the atmosphere, the equivalent of more than 65,000 trees are needed.

“In order to counteract global warming, the generation of heat and hot water must be completely CO2-free by 2050. There are two ways to achieve this,” said Graforce founder and chief tech officer Dr. Jens Hanke.

“Either we’ll heat with renewable electricity only or we decarbonize the natural gas supply with a carbon-free alternative such as hydrogen,” he added.

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/11/15/berlin-hotels-carbon-reduction-effort-feted/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=berlin-hotels-carbon-reduction-effort-feted](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/11/15/berlin-hotels-carbon-reduction-effort-feted/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=berlin-hotels-carbon-reduction-effort-feted)



## Scientists unravel how and why Amazon trees die

By [BusinessMirror](#)

November 15, 2020



*The Amazon rainforest in the side of Brazilian state of Acre in 2009.*

The capacity of the Amazon forest to store carbon in a changing climate will ultimately be determined by how fast trees die—and what kills them.

A huge new study has unravelled what factors control tree mortality rates in Amazon forests, and helps to explain why tree mortality is increasing across the Amazon basin.

The large analysis found that the mean growth rate of the tree species is the main risk factor behind Amazon tree death, with faster-growing trees dying off at a younger age.

The findings have important consequences for our understanding of the future of these forests. Climate change tends to select fast-growing species. If the forests selected by climate change are more likely to die younger, they will also store less carbon.

The study, co-led by the Universities of Birmingham and Leeds in collaboration with more than 100 scientists, is the first large-scale analysis of the causes of tree death in the Amazon and uses long-term records gathered by the international Rainfor network.

The results published in *Nature Communications*, show that species-level growth rates are a key risk factor for tree mortality.

“Understanding the main drivers of tree death allows us to better predict and plan for future trends—but this is a huge undertaking as there are more than 15,000 different tree species in the Amazon,” said lead author Dr. Adriane Esquivel-Muelbert of the Birmingham Institute of Forest Research.

Dr. David Galbraith from the University of Leeds added: “We found a strong tendency for faster-growing species to die more, meaning they have shorter life spans. While climate change has provided favourable conditions for these species, because they also die more quickly the carbon sequestration service provided by Amazon trees is declining.”

Tree mortality is a rare event so to truly understand it requires huge amounts of data.

The Rainfor network has assembled more than 30 years of contributions from more than 100 scientists. It includes records from 189 one-hectare plots, each visited and monitored on average every 3 years.

In each visit, researchers measure all trees above 10 cm in diameter as well as the condition of every tree.

A total more than 124,000 living trees were followed, and 18,000 tree deaths recorded and analysed.

When trees die, the researcher follows a fixed protocol to unravel the actual cause of death.

“This involves detailed, forensic work and amounts to a massive ‘CSI Amazon’ effort conducted by skilled investigators from a dozen nations,” noted Prof. Oliver Phillips from the University of Leeds.



Dr. Beatriz Marimon, from Unemat, who coordinates multiple plots in central Brazil added: “Now that we can see more clearly what is going on across the whole forest, there are clear opportunities for action.”

She added: “We find that drought is also driving tree death, but so far only in the south of the Amazon. What is happening here should serve as an early warning system as we need to prevent the same fate overtaking trees elsewhere.”

The research was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and included contributions from 10 UK universities as well as scientists from across South America in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela.

Image credits: [Wikimedia Commons](#)