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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Probe illegal logging, mining in Region 2, Duterte to Cimatu

By Azer Parrocha **November 15, 2020, 4:46 pm**



ILLEGAL LOGGING. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte presides a situation briefing to discuss the aftermath of Typhoon Ulysses in the Cagayan Valley Region at Tuguegarao airport in Cagayan on (Sunday) Nov. 15, 2020. Duterte ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to look into reports of illegal logging and mining following massive flooding in Cagayan Valley during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses. (Screenshot)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to look into reports of illegal logging and mining after Cagayan Valley experienced massive flooding triggered by heavy rainfall due to Typhoon Ulysses and enhanced by the tail-end of a cold front.

“I will direct here Cimatu to look into the illegal minings especially where people are building their shelter downwards,” Duterte said in a situation briefing in Tuguegarao City on Sunday.

He lamented that despite being discussed in various meetings, “nothing” has been done to address illegal logging and mining in the country.

“We always talk about illegal logging and mining but actually nothing has been done about it,” he said.

Duterte also asked Cimatu to ensure that residents in flood-prone areas are relocated to higher grounds.

“In other areas, yung convincing the people to move to a place where it’s not prone to flooding. That’s the only way that we can erase agony every time that there is a typhoon over here,” he said.

He reiterated the need for urgent climate action, warning that poor countries like the Philippines are most affected by the effects of climate change.

“Accept it or not, itong (this) climate change the warm climate boils the Pacific Ocean. There’s a lot of water vapor going upstairs and accumulating so much water, rain then it falls down, talagang ang matamaan ngayon yung mga populated areas nakukumprumiso (populated areas are compromised),” he said.

Citing his speech in the ongoing 37th virtual Association of Southeast Asian Nation (Asean) Summit, Duterte reiterated the need to hold accountable the industries responsible for carbon emissions.

“We had a virtual Summit meeting Friday and I was very strong in my language about the people who contributed a lot to the global warming and among pinakita nila sa atin na tayo (what they showed us that we in the) Philippines we only have a few factories running here. We spewed a little, but not that much,” he said.

Duterte assured that the government will continue its rescue operations until all families are saved, all casualties and missing persons have been accounted for, and all affected individuals and communities have received their needed relief and other assistance.

As of Sunday, 69 people have died amid the massive flooding in Cagayan Valley, according to National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director Ricardo Jalad.



He said almost 286,000 families or 1.1 million individuals were affected by the typhoon, while more than 3,000 houses were damaged or destroyed.

Damage to agriculture is estimated at almost PHP1 billion, while damage to infrastructure is around PHP253 million, he added. (PNA)



[National, News](#)

Duterte orders DENR to check illegal mining in Cagayan Valley

Published November 15, 2020, 3:59 PM

by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

President Duterte ordered Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu Sunday to check on illegal mining activities in Cagayan Valley after it was flooded following the onslaught of typhoon ‘Ulysses.’”



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte discusses matters with some members of the Cabinet who attended the virtual 15th EAST ASIA Summit at the Malacañang Golf (Malago) Clubhouse in Malacañang Park, Manila on November 14, 2020.

(KING RODRIGUEZ / PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Duterte made the statement as he led the situation briefing on the effects of Ulysses in Cagayan Valley in the afternoon.

In his remarks, Duterte said it was important to control mining in the region, saying too many holes on the ground will loosen the soil.

“Ang importante ‘yung control ng mining. ‘Pag butas nang butas, maraming tubig papasok sa lupa. It loosens the soil. ‘Yan ang i-control mo (What’s important is we control mining. If they keep on poking holes on the ground, the water will come in. It loosens the soil. That is what you should control),” he said.

In response, Cimatu said that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has issued cease and desist orders, noting that a lot of people have died because of the mining activities in the area.

According to Cimatu, there 10 casualties from the recent landslide in the mining area in Cagayan Valley.

Duterte assured the public that the government is working to prevent similar situations from happening by redefining forest protection efforts.

He, however, said that the national government cannot do this alone.

“We work to prevent the repeat of disasters by redefining forest protection efforts against illegal logging and mining. We expect LGUs (local government units) to do their part in this endeavor,” the President said.

“We talk about illegal logging and mining, but we do not do anything about it,” he added.

President Duterte backed Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade’s proposal of reforestation and dredging activities on the Cagayan River.



“Kailangan ng reforestation na ituloy. Pangalawa (na kailangan) ay ang dredging sa Cagayan River (We need to push through with the reforestation. Next is we need to have dredging activities at the Cagayan River),” Tugade said.

According to Tugade, the same thing will happen again if none of his two proposals are done.

“Reforestation and dredging of Cagayan River are needed to avoid future incidents in the province,” he said.

“In the medium term, dapat ibuhos ang trabaho sa reforestation at dredging sa Cagayan (We need to focus on the reforestation and dredging in Cagayan),” he added.



President Duterte arrives at the Tuguegarao Airport to inspect the flood situation in Cagayan yesterday.

Michael Varcas

Duterte wants Cagayan mining, logging probed

[Alexis Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 16, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte yesterday ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to look into the mining and logging activities in Cagayan Valley, after various parts of the region were inundated by floods spawned by Typhoon Ulysses.

During a briefing on the impact of Ulysses in Cagayan, Duterte said mining causes holes that can loosen the soil, which in turn may place some residents at risk.

“It props up every now and then. I will direct here General Cimatú to look into the illegal mining, especially where the people are building their shelters downwards,” Duterte said, referring to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatú.

“If... the possibility is not there for them to stop, at least General Cimatú should devise a way where they can place their houses well above the rolling stones if they come,” he added.

Duterte vowed to boost forest protection efforts against illegal logging and mining to prevent a repeat of the disaster.

Cimatú said they issued a cease-and-desist order on illegal small-scale mining operations following the massive flooding in Cagayan Valley, and said that 10 of the casualties in the region were reported at illegal mining sites.

In a separate meeting with Cabinet members and local officials in Camarines Sur, Duterte expressed support for the Bicol River Basin development proposal, which local officials said would help prevent floods.

“Avoid committees. Look for the guy that is really competent and knows his business and he will put his heart to it. If I say finish it, finish it. Frankly, I can get that kind of response from the military. One word is enough,” the President said.

State of calamity

A state of calamity was declared in Tuguegarao City following three weeks of widespread flooding wrought by six successive typhoons and tail-end rains yesterday.

The City Council Resolution 252-08 said that Tuguegarao was “90 percent inundated displacing large number of residents, causing damage to livelihood, livestock and properties, disruption of public facilities and utilities” brought by torrential rains of typhoons Pepito, Quinta, Rolly, Siony, Tonyo and Ulysses.



Widespread flooding and landslides unleashed by Ulysses left 22 dead in Cagayan Valley, according to latest reports bared by the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD).

The drowning of a one-year-old baby and an 80-year-old man in Barangay Cabiroan, Gonzaga and Brgy. Linao during the height of floods respectively last Friday were the new incidents confirmed by the OCD.

Also last Friday evening, Kelly Villarao, a rescuer from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources was electrocuted with three companions when their boat hit an electric post in Linao.

Villarao died on the scene while his companions were rushed to hospital.

Ten landslide fatalities were reported in Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya and two confirmed deaths from drowning in Benito Soliven and Angadanan town in Isabela.

The provinces of Cagayan and Isabela also declared their own state of calamity last Saturday.

At least 5,000 residents from 12 submerged barangays were displaced, a report from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office said.

With floodwaters still high, the Philippine Coast Guard-North Eastern Luzon District (PCG-NEL) yesterday morning recovered two bodies in Alcala, Cagayan.

PCG spokesperson Commodore Armand Balilo said the two fatalities were a 49-year-old male and a 45-year-old female.

It was only last Saturday when Coast Guard rescue teams reached Alcala. They first coordinated with the local government for a “systematic” method of rescue operations.

In Ilocos Norte, Coast Guard personnel yesterday extended help to an 83-year-old dialysis patient and safely transported her from her flooded house in Barangay Apusing Daga to Barangay Abbeg, Alcala, Cagayan.

They also rendered assistance to a stroke patient who they carefully brought to the nearest evacuation center.

As of 5 p.m. of Nov. 14, the PCG NEL reported that during their widespread rescue operations, they have extended assistance to more or less 400 residents in Cagayan and Isabela.

As of 1:45 p.m. of Saturday, the PCG has sent augmentation teams to Cagayan and Isabela provinces consisting of 120 personnel, including the Deployable Response Teams (DRGs), a medical team consisting of one doctor and three nurses, two K9 units and security teams.

Medical support

Over P11 million worth of drugs and other medical supplies were deployed to Cagayan Valley and other typhoon-affected regions, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

Aside from P10.29 million worth of logistics and commodities, DOH reported that additional P1.15 million worth of medical supplies were sent to Cagayan Valley where government-run health facilities are still on Code Red as of yesterday.



DOH said two composite teams and one assessment team were also mobilized to evacuation centers in Tuguegarao.

According to DOH, some P254,312 worth of medicines were sent to Mimaropa while over 1,600 tablets of doxycycline were distributed to Aurora and Nueva Ecija.

Power to return

Electricity in the Cagayan region is targeted to be restored in two days after inspection is done in the area, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said.

Cusi made this assurance when asked by Duterte when electricity will be restored.

“As soon as the water subsides and we finish inspection, within two days,” he said.

The energy secretary said in the area serviced by the Cagayan I Electric Cooperative Inc. (CAGELCO I), 27 barangays already have energy, including some in Tuguegarao City.

“CAGELCO II is awaiting activation by NGCP (National Grid Corp. of the Philippines) transmission. They already received power but are considering safety of the people because of the flood,” he added.

River dredging to push through

Meanwhile, Duterte gave the go-signal to start the controversial dredging of the Cagayan river to avert widespread flooding in the future.

The continuing dredging activities in northern Luzon’s longest river was endorsed by Cimatu in a Cabinet meeting during the presidential inspection on the extent of damages incurred in the province following the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

Duterte earlier in the meeting said the release of water in Magat Dam should not be blamed for the inundation of 24 towns and Tuguegarao City, including five municipalities and Ilagan City in northern Isabela.

Cimatu said the Japanese JICA agency recommended the dredging of the “bottleneck” portion of the river in Lal-lo that was seen as the “culprit” for holding the rush of water back to the land mass and causing flood.

With the President’s approval, Cimatu said Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba can now resume dredging the river at no cost to the government.

He said the provincial government can impose excise tax on the dredging activities since the contractor will make use of the sand they extract from the project.

The river dredging was sought by Mamba as the solution for the perennial flood problem.

– **Raymund Catindig, Evelyn Macairan, Mayen Jaymalin, Catherine Talavera, Romina Cabrera**



Probe illegal logging, Duterte orders DENR

Published 40 seconds ago on November 16, 2020 03:50 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephi_MJB



President Rodrigo Duterte has instructed Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to look into illegal logging and mining in Cagayan after the province was submerged in the worst floods in years as he admitted that the government has not done anything to address these issues.

Speaking at the high-level briefing in Cagayan following the onslaught of typhoon “Ulysses,” Duterte underscored the need to go after mining activities, saying it loosens the soil and causes flooding during storms.

The President, however, did not elaborate on the outcome he wants from the probe that will be conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“These rains or storms, either with winds or just water pouring from heavens, we always talk about mining or illegal logging but actually nothing has been done about it,” Duterte said.

“As I have said, it props out every now and then. I will direct, here, General Cimatu to look into the illegal logging especially where people are building their shelters downwards,” he said.

He later told Cimatu: “What’s important is to control the mining... Just do an inventory. If there are too many holes in the soil, too much water will enter that. Then it loosens the soil.”

Cimatu, for his part, said fatalities in Cagayan due to “Ulysses” were from areas known for illegal mining activities.

The regional police office has reported that some 23 people were killed in Region 2 following the onslaught of “Ulysses.”

Four were members of a family, who were victims of a landslide in Bitag, Grande Baggao, Cagayan. They were Jay Pagulayan, 19; King Jim Bragasin, 18 ; Ian Philip Pagulayan, 17; and their grandmother Virginia Bautista, 60.

The deadliest incident in the region was in Nueva Vizcaya where 10 persons, including four minors, died in a landslide in Barangay Ruruno, Quezon town.

Cimatu added that the DENR has filed cases and issued cease and desist orders against the illegal small-scale miners in Cagayan Valley.

The President also urged local officials to work with the national government to protect the province against illegal logging and mining activities.



“We work to prevent the repeat of disasters by redefining forest protection efforts against illegal logging and mining. We expect LGU to do their part in this endeavor,” Duterte said.

During the briefing, Duterte and his Cabinet men also emphasized the need to implement reforestation as well as dredging activities in the Cagayan River to avoid flooding in the future.

They also stressed the importance of addressing climate change as developing countries like the Philippines are more vulnerable to its effects.

Cimatu committed to plant 200 million trees and reported to the President that he had greenlighted a 30-kilometer dredging project in Cagayan River to increase the volume of water it can accommodate.

The province experienced unprecedented flooding triggered largely by the release of water from Magat Dam, one of the largest dams in the country, as well as heavy rains brought by “Ulysses.”

The rush of water caused the Cagayan River to swell and overflow, prompting officials led by Gov. Manuel Mamba to declare the province under a state of calamity.

Some 343,000 residents in Cagayan were affected by the flood, which was the worst to hit the province in years according to authorities.



Duterte orders DENR to probe link between landslides and illegal mining

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:41 PM November 15, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to investigate if illegal mining activities had triggered landslides in some parts of the country during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

In a briefing in Cagayan, which experienced massive flooding following the typhoon, Duterte said widespread mining in the area could have loosened the soil, increasing the chances of landslides.



“I will direct here Secretary Cimatú to look into illegal mining,” he said.

“Kapag maraming butas, maraming tubig na pumapasok sa loob ng lupa. That’s why, kapag ano, landslide. It loosens the soil, so kaya ang mining, maraming butas, ‘yan ang i-control mo,” Duterte added.

At least 10 individuals have reportedly died due to landslides during the typhoon, Cimatú said. He also pointed out that the areas identified as hazard-prone are the ones where landslides and flooding happened.

“So illegal mining itong mga lugar na namatay so we have filed cases already and cease and desist order for these people. So ito na-address na natin,” Cimatú said.

/MUF

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1360957/duterte-orders-denr-to-probe-link-between-landslides-and-illegal-mining>



FOLLOWING ULYSSES ONSLAUGHT

Duterte orders DENR to probe illegal mining role in landslides

Published November 15, 2020 5:15pm

By ERWIN COLCOL, GMA News

President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday directed Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to probe the illegal mining activities which may have caused landslides during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses.

"I will direct here si Secretary Cimatu to look into illegal mining," Duterte said during the situation briefing in Cagayan amid the massive flooding experienced in the province as well as in Isabela following the typhoon.

According to Duterte, widespread mining in the area could have loosened the soil, increasing the chances of landslides, especially during heavy rainfalls.

"Kapag maraming butas, maraming tubig na pumapasok sa loob ng lupa. That's why, kapag ano... landslide. It loosens the soil. So kaya ang mining, maraming butas, yan ang i-control mo," he said.

"Mag-inventory ka na lang Roy. Kasi sigurado yan, kapag marami nang butas. Maraming tubig ang papasok sa lupa then it loosens the soil," he told Cimatu.

Cimatu, in response, said he received a report that at least 10 individuals died due to landslides during the typhoon.

He also presented a hazard map in which he pointed out that the areas they identified as hazard prone are the ones where landslides and flooding happened.

"There's no mining area given permit except small-scale mining, this is illegal one," Cimatu said.

"So illegal mining itong mga lugar na namatay so we have filed cases already and cease and desist order for these people. So ito na-address na natin," he added.

Earlier, the President also said he would call for an investigation into the alleged quarrying operations which residents of Guinobatan, Albay complained of after the province was hit by Super Typhoon Rolly.

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

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

He also urged the national government to first investigate the matter before suspending quarrying operations in the province. — DVM, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/764217/duterte-orders-denr-to-probe-illegal-mining-role-in-landslides/story/>



PDu30 sa DENR: Illegal mining sa Cagayan silipin



November 15, 2020 @ 4:14 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na tingnan ang operasyon ng illegal mining sa Cagayan.

Ang kautusan ng Pangulo ay ipinaabot kay Sec. Cimatu sa isinagawang situation briefing sa Tuguegarao airport sa lalawigan ng Cagayan.

Sinabi naman ng Kalihim na may ilang mga nasabing illegal na gawain na ang nasampahan na nila ng kaso.

Maliban sa illegal mining na isa sa itinuturong dahilan ng malawakang pagbaha ay tinukoy rin ng Punong Ehekutibo ang illegal logging.

Dito na sinabi ng Chief Executive ang malaking papel sana ng mga nasa lokal na pamahalaan.

Sa kabilang dako, hinikayat naman ng Pangulo ang mga LGU na makipagtulungan sa binuong Task Force na mangunguna sa gagawing recovery efforts para sa mga lugar na sinalanta ng kalamidad. **Kris Jose**



Duterte sa DENR: Illegal mining sa Cagayan imbestigahan

By [Gemma Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 16, 2020 - 12:00am



Ito ang ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Duterte sa ginanap na situation briefing sa Cagayan kung saan maaaring ang talamak na mining activities umano sa nasabing lalawigan ang dahilan ng pagguho ng mga lupa, kaya nagkakaroon ng landslide doon lalo na tuwing malakas ang buhos ng ulan.

MANILA, Philippines — Pinaliimbestigahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang umano'y illegal mining na dahilan ng malawakang landslides at pagbaha sa kasagsagan ng bagyong Ulysses sa lalawigan ng Cagayan at Isabela.

Ito ang ipinag-utos ni Duterte sa ginanap na situation briefing sa Cagayan kung saan maaaring ang talamak na mining activities umano sa nasabing lalawigan ang dahilan ng pagguho ng mga lupa, kaya nagkakaroon ng landslide doon lalo na tuwing malakas ang buhos ng ulan.

"Kapag maraming butas, maraming tubig na pumapasok sa loob ng lupa. That's why, kapag ano... landslide. It loosens the soil. So kaya ang mining, maraming butas, yan ang i-control mo," utos pa ng Pangulo kay Cimatu.

Inatasan din ni Duterte ang kalihim na mag-inventory para makita kung maraming butas ang lupa kung saan dito pumapasok ang maraming tubig dahil para lumambot.

Tugon naman ni Cimatu, base sa kanyang natanggap na ulat, may 10 indibidwal ang nasawi dahil sa landslides sa kasagsagan ng bagyo, kaya iprinisinta rin niya ang hazard map.

Sa hazard map nakikita umano ang mga lugar kung saan hazard prone para sa landslide at kung saan nangyari ang mga pagbaha.

Paliwanag naman ng kalihim walang permit na ibinigay para magmina sa nasabing lugar maliban na lamang sa small scale mining kaya maituturing itong illegal.



Sinabi pa ni Duterte, na illegal mining ang dahilan kung saan karamihan ay nasawi kaya dapat sampahan ng kaso at maglabas ng cease and desist order para sa mga taong nasa likod nito.

Nauna na ring pinaimbestigahan ni Duterte ang umano'y quarrying operations sa Guinobatan, Albay na nirereklamo ng mga residente doon matapos silang hagupitin ng bagyong Rolly.

Kaagad namang sinuspinde ni Cimatú ang quarrying operations sa Guinobatan matapos ang bagyong Rolly nang madiskubre na bumababa ang tubig-baha mula sa dalisdís ng Bulkang Mayon at dumadaan sa tatlong ilog kung saan mayroong 11 quarrying operations.



Duterte nagpasaklolo sa LGU vs illegal logging, mining

By Abante News Online — Last updated Nov 15, 2020

NEWS



Photo courtesy of pcoo.gov.ph



32 0

Aminado si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na walang nagawa ang gobyerno sa problema sa illegal logging at mining.

Sa briefing kahapon sa bagyong Ulysses sa Tuguegarao City, Cagayan kung saan ay personal na bumisita si Pangulong Duterte ay umapela ito sa mga local government units (LGUs) na kumilos para protektahan ang kalikasan.

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"Itong ulan na ganito, o bagyo, either with winds or just water pouring from the heavens, we always talk about illegal logging and mining but actually nothing has been done about it," pahayag ng Chief Executive.

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"We work to prevent the repetition of disasters by redefining forest protection efforts against illegal logging and mining. I expect our LGUs to do their part in this endeavor," dagdag ng Pangulo.

Hinimok rin ni Duterte ang local government units na aaktibong makipag-ugnayan sa inter-agency task force na kanyang binuo para manguna sa rehabilitation ng mga lugar na appektado ng nagdaang mga bagyo.

"Your lives, including your good health and safety and improved welfare, are the government's highest priority," dagdag nito.

Inatasan rin ng Pangulo si Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu na siyasatin ang illegal mining activities sa lalawigan (Prince Golez)



Illegal mining, sanhi ng landslide nu'ng 'Ulysses'

ni [Ronilyn Seminiano Reonico](#) | November 15, 2020



Hazard prone rin umano ang mga lugar kung saan naganap ang landslide at pagbaha. Pinaimbestigahan ang mga illegal mining activities na itinuturong dahilan ng landslides Photo: NDRRMC

Pinaimbestigahan na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang mga illegal mining activities na itinuturong dahilan ng landslides nang manalasa ang Bagyong Ulysses sa bansa.

Sa speech ni P-Duterte kaugnay ng matinding pagbaha sa Cagayan at Isabela, aniya, "I will direct here si Secretary Cimatu to look into illegal mining. "Kapag maraming butas, maraming tubig na pumapasok sa loob ng lupa.

That's why, kapag ano... landslide. It loosens the soil. So kaya ang mining, maraming butas, 'yan ang i-control mo.

"Mag-inventory ka na lang Roy. Kasi sigurado 'yan, kapag marami nang butas, maraming tubig ang papasok sa lupa then it loosens the soil."

Ayon naman kay Cimatu, nakatanggap siya ng ulat na 10 katao ang nasawi dahil sa landslide sa kasagsagan ng pananalasa ng bagyo.

Hazard prone rin umano ang mga lugar kung saan naganap ang landslide at pagbaha. Aniya, "There's no mining area given permit except small-scale mining, this is illegal one. "So illegal mining itong mga lugar na namatayan, so we have filed cases already and cease and desist order for these people. So, ito na-address na natin."



Landslides na sanhi ng illegal mining, pinaiimbestigahan ni Duterte sa DENR

By **Bombo Christian Yosores**

-November 15, 2020 | 7:48 PM

Pinaiimbestigahan na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga sinasabing illegal mining activities na nagdulot ng landslide sa gitna ng hagupit ni bagyong Ulysses.

"Kapag maraming butas, maraming tubig ang pumapasok sa loob ng lupa. That's why kapag may landslide, it loosens the soil, 'yan ang i-kontrol mo," ani Duterte sa Cabinet meeting sa Cagayan nitong hapon.

Ayon kay Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu, 10 indibidwal mula sa isang illegal mining site ang namatay sa kasagsagan ng pananalasa ni bagyong Ulysses dahil sa landslide.

"There's no mining permit in the area that was given permit, except this small scale. This illegal one."

Hindi pinangalanan ng kalihim ang itinuturong mining site, pero nagsampa na raw sila ng kaso laban dito. Naglabas na rin ang kagawaran ng cease and decist order para maisara at tumigil ang operasyon nito.

Sang-ayon si Cimatu sa panukalang dredging sa o pagbubungkal pa ng lupa sa ilalim ng Cagayan river. Pati na sa pagpapalakas pa ng tree planting activity sa kabundukan ng Sierra Madre.

"I approved the request of the governor of a 30-kilometer dredging from the mouth of the (Cagayan) river upstream and that will really help a lot. That dredging will not cost on the part of the government," ani Cimatu.

"Wheter we like it or not, the flooding will again come and 'yan lang ang nakiki ta kong engineering intervention that we can do."

Magugunitang sinuspinde ni Cimatu ang operasyon ng quarrying sites sa Guinobatan, Albay dahil sa naging epekto nito nang humagupit ang Super Typhoon Rolly.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/landslides-na-sanhi-ng-illegal-mining-pinaiimbestigahan-ni-duterte-sa-denr/>



Illegal mining sa Cagayan Valley, pinasisilip ni Pangulong Duterte

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Nov. 16, 2020 at 4:15am



Ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na silipin ang illegal mining activities sa Cagayan Valley kasunod ng matinding baha sa rehiyon.

Ayon kay Pangulong Duterte, mahalagang makontrol ang pagmimina sa rehiyon.

Aniya, masyado nang maraming hukay na lupa na siyang dahilan kung bakit maraming tubig ang bumabagsak.

Tugon ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, naglabas na sila ng cease and desist orders lalo na at maraming tao ang namatay dahil sa mining activities sa lugar.

Pagtitiyak ni Pangulong Duterte na hindi na mauulit ang ganitong sitwasyon at palalakasin ang forest protection efforts.

Kailangan aniya ang kooperasyon ng publiko para maipatupad ito ng pamahalaan.

Source: https://rmn.ph/illegal-mining-sa-cagayan-valley-pinasisilip-ni-pangulong-duterte/?fbclid=IwAR2Badya7pMOnUW_4Juwgf_0TnbfriCVvHTKW0KkdntmKwhBa2ImM_rfTI



DENR to dredge Cagayan River, amid probes of dam protocol breach, illegal logging

By Samuel P. Medenilla

November 15, 2020



In this handout photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, floodwaters brought about by Typhoon Vamco inundate Cagayan valley region in northern Philippines on Sunday Nov. 15, 2020. Typhoon Vamco swelled rivers and flooded low-lying areas as it passed over the storm-battered northeast Philippines, where rescuers were deployed early Thursday to help people flee the rising waters. (Ace Morandante/ Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division via AP)

THE government is now considering dredging portions of the Cagayan River to prevent it from overflowing during typhoons.

This after a large portion of the Cagayan valley region suffered heavy flooding from the torrential rains brought about by typhoon Ulysses (international name: Vamco).

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) proposed dredging the mouth of the Cagayan river, which has now become shallow after years of heavy siltation.

Increased volume

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the mouth of the Cagayan river has become a "bottleneck," citing a study from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

He noted that Jica had proposed widening the mouth of the river. However, due to the bridge in the said area, this may not be possible; thus, they will be dredging 30 kilometers from the mouth of the river instead.

"If we don't touch the width of the river, we will make it deeper through dredging so its volume [of water] will just be the same as widening it," Cimatu explained during the situation briefing of President Duterte in Tuguegarao on Sunday.

He said they plan to make the dredging free of charge to the government by allowing the contractor to sell the harvested silt.

"But they have to pay as what the mining company is paying, 4 percent excise tax as a revenue of the government," Cimatu said.

Similar dredging activities are currently also being proposed in Camarines Sur and other parts of the country, which also regularly suffer flooding due to heavily silted rivers.

Dam project

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said another possible long-term solution for the perennial flooding of Cagayan river is the building of an "upstream dam" ahead of Magat dam.



Cusi said there is currently an existing dam construction project, which D O E certified as " project of national of national significance" due to its energy production and flood mitigation potential.

He said the project was approved by affected LGUs, but is being opposed by indigenous people.

Pending probe

DENR attributed the recent heavy flooding, that hit many parts of Cagayan Region, to the high volume of water gushing from the tributary rivers of Cagayan River, swollen by typhoon Ulysses.

" I was talking to my geologist a while ago that the volume of water, which came [from typhoon Ulysses] is more than the capacity or capability of the Cagayan River," Cimatu said.

Duterte said he sees nothing wrong with the release of Magat dam's water during typhoon Ulysses.

" It's a dam. They have to release it. O therwise, we'll have a catastrophe. Y ou have to release," D uterte said in an ambush interview during his visit to Camarines Sur on Sunday.

Cimatu, however, said at the Tuguegarao situation briefing they will nonetheless look into allegations that the flood was caused by Magat dam's releasing water at the height of typhoon Ulysses.

The allegation has prompted the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to push for centralized protocols for the release of water for dams in times of calamity.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said he will submit his proposal at the next National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council(NDRRMC).

Illegal mining

While the cause of the recent massive flooding in Cagayan is being probed, President Duterte asked DENR to stop illegal logging and mining in areas surrounding Cagayan Valley.

Cimatu said he already issued a cease and desist order against the small-scale illegal miners in the area and also filed cases against its operators.

As for reforestation efforts in the mountains of Cagayan, he said they will be coordinating with other government agencies on this initiative.



Tugade: Dredging of Cagayan River, reforestation key to prevent flooding

Published November 15, 2020 3:31pm

Updated November 15, 2020 5:30pm

By ERWIN COLCOL, GMA News

Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade on Sunday suggested conducting dredging on the Cagayan River in order to help prevent a repeat of the massive flooding in the Cagayan Valley Region.

Tugade made the suggestion during the situation briefing with President Rodrigo Duterte in Cagayan amid the heavy flooding experienced in the region due to Typhoon Ulysses.

During the briefing, Tugade said that aside from stopping deforestation, the dredging of the Cagayan River is one solution to prevent flooding in the area.

"Nakikita dito ang dalawang pangangailangan. Number one, yung itigil ang pagputol ng puno dito, yung reforestation program kailangan ituloy. Pangalawa, yung tinatawag na dredging sa Cagayan River," he said.

"Kung hindi magagawa ang dalawang yan, paulit-ulit na mangyayari ang pagbaha dito," he added.

Full capacity

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu pointed out that Cagayan River was already in full capacity when heavy rainfall brought by Ulysses came.

"The volume of water na bumagsak is more than capacity or capability of the Cagayan River. Puno na yung Cagayan River, marami pang naiwan na bumagsak. That resulted the flooding. It happened several years before na this area is very prone to flooding," he said.

Cimatu pointed out that there is a bottleneck in one area of the river that slows down the flow of water during heavy rains, resulting in an upstream that causes flooding in Tuguegarao City and other towns.

The said bottleneck is underneath a bridge. If it is to be widened, as per the suggestion in a previous study of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, then the bridge has to be demolished, he said.

"But I think we can do some engineering interventions. I talked to a geologist kanina, I told him to report to Manila para pag-usapan what will be the remedy of that," Cimatu said. "If we don't touch the width of the river, laliman lang natin yun, dredge it para yung total volume, it will just be the same as widening it," he added.



Cimatu also said he has already approved the request of Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba for a 30-kilometer dredging from the mouth of the river.

Reforestation

To ensure reforestation, Tugade recalled the suggestion of one of his regional directors to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to require individuals and cooperatives applying for a license or franchise from the agency to plant trees.

"Kung may kooperatiba ka diyan, minimum 500 trees kada prangkisa na bibigay ko sayo. Kung gagawin namin yan, yung pagtanim ng puno doon sa pag-issue ng prangkisa o lisensya, marami tayong matatamnan," he said.

"So I'm coordinating very closely with Sec. Roy Cimatu kung saan i-identify nila yung mga lugar na kung saan pwedeng taniman. Kung kukuha sila ng prangkisa sa akin, I will make this nationwide, part of their responsibility is really to plant trees," he added.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said he and Cimatu already have a plan with regards to tree planting, along with the Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education.

"Noong araw, sa mga eskwelahan, yung mga bata bago mag-graduate yan, required yan magtanim ng puno. Ini-inspect pa mismo yung mga bahay," Año said.

"So we are 110 million Filipinos. If we can plant 100 million every six months, that's 200 million a year. So nagpaplano kami, we can start at January," he added.

Meanwhile, Tugade also said he and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III will be donating 100 units fiber glass fishing boats for the residents of the coastal areas in Region II.

"Kapag fiber glass, hindi lang magagamit yan pang-fishing, pati sa rescue operation din," he said.

"Nag-usap kami ni Sec. Bebot [Bello] diyan at magtutulungan kami na before the end of this year, Sec. Bebot, naka-position tayo nang 100," he added. —JST, GMA News

‘Ulysses’ death toll climbs to 69

By [Dempsey Reyes](#) and [Keith Calayag](#) November 16, 2020

The number of fatalities from Typhoon “Ulysses” (international name: “Vamco”) rose to 69 on Sunday as authorities continue to receive reports from stricken areas in Luzon.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said the death toll climbed as search, rescue and retrieval operations continued in hard hit areas such as the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Rizal and Marikina City.

Cagayan Valley, which experienced extensive flooding, reported 22 deaths, Central Luzon had two and the Cordillera Administrative Region had 10, according to NDRRMC spokesman Mark Timbal.

Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), had 17 deaths, while the Bicol region and Metro Manila with eight each.



WATER EVERYWHERE President Rodrigo Duterte and Sen. Christopher Lawrence ‘Bong’ Go survey the extent of floods in Cagayan Valley. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NDRRMC did not specify the provinces where the fatalities were reported.

Timbal told reporters in a message thread that 21 people were injured and 12 remained missing as of Sunday afternoon.

Timbal had no numbers on rescued individuals in the regions he mentioned, but said houses damaged by the typhoon totaled 25,852.

Later in the afternoon, NDRRMC Executive Director Ricardo Jalad said in radio interview that two dead bodies were recovered by a team from the Philippine Coast Guard in the town of Alcala, Cagayan.

In his briefing with President Rodrigo Duterte in Cagayan, Jalad reported that nearly 286,000 families or 1.1 million individuals were stricken by Ulysses.

Agriculture also took a toll, with P1.19 billion in damage reported in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol and Cordillera.

Infrastructure damage hit P469.7 million in Ilocos, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) and Bicol.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who surveyed the devastation in Cagayan on Sunday, assured the public that the government was working to prevent a repeat of the disaster by protecting forests against illegal logging and mining.

He said he expects local government units (LGUs) to prevent illegal logging and mining in their areas.



LIFE GOES ON Residents of Kasiglahan Village in Rodriguez, Rizal start the difficult process of rebuilding their lives even as their community remains mired in mud. PHOTO BY RUY L. MARTINEZ

“Ang problema ko talaga ngayon whether we accept it or not, itong climate change (My problem is, whether we accept it or not, climate change).”

“Itong ulan na ganito o bagyo (During the storm), even with winds or just water pouring from the heavens — we always talk about illegal logging and mining, but actually nothing has been done about it,” he said during a briefing in Tuguegarao City.

Duterte directed Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to look into illegal mining operations in the country.

The President also backed Cimatu’s proposal for LGUs and the private sector to plant 200 million trees.

Restore normalcy

The President expressed condolences to those who lost loved ones in the floods.

“We are saddened to know that 24 persons perished here while a few others are still missing,” he said. “We are working hard to rebuild your lives after this calamity. We know your anguish and we will respond with urgency.”

He assured victims of the typhoon that the government will pursue its rescue operations until all families are safe and all missing persons have been accounted for.

Duterte directed cabinet secretaries to use all available funds to help Cagayan.

He ordered government agencies not to delay the delivery of aid to the people in need.

The briefing led by Duterte was attended by members of his cabinet including Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, Agriculture Secretary William Dar, Public Works Secretary Mark Villar, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, among others.

No power

As of Sunday, 170,303 customers of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) were still without electricity.

Meralco said 110,533 customers in Bulacan had no power, as well as 33,202 in Rizal and 24,389 in Metro Manila. Also affected were households in Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and Quezon.

The utility company earlier said it aimed to restore full power by Sunday.

The initial damage to power facilities was P70.794 million.



The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines said transmission lines in Apayao, Aurora and Kalinga were still down, but those in Cagayan, Quezon and Albay had been partially restored.

Meanwhile, Agricultural damage and losses from Ulysses increased to P2.107 billion, data from the Department of Agriculture (DA) showed.

The DA said 67,805 metric tons of rice worth P890 million was damaged.

P585 million was from fisheries, P513 million (24,588 metric tons or MT) from high-value crops and P109 million (4,827 MT) from corn.

Livestock took a hit amounting to P8.6 million, and irrigation and other farm facilities P584,000.

The agency's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center reported that the typhoon affected 62,533 farmers and 58,320 hectares of farmland in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Bicol.

WITH JORDEENE B. LAGARE



DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu said during President Duterte's briefing in Cagayan that "whether we like it or not, the flooding will come."

200 MILLION TREES AS FLOOD DETERRENT TARGETTED IN CAGAYAN

President Duterte said he will support and "shorten the process of paper" of the program suggested by DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu.

OneNews.ph | OneNewsPH | courtesy: PCOO



76 Comments 63 Shares



WALANG NAGTATANIM NG PUNO NA LOGGER



November 16, 2020 @ 12:59 AM 6 hours ago

HUMUPA na nang malaki ang baha sa Cagayan River.

Magkagayunman, aabutin pa rin umano ng ilang araw bago masabing ganap nang humupa ang baha.

Ayon sa maraming residente sa bayan ng Alcala sa lalawigan ng Cagayan na kabilang sa mga dinaluhong ng baha, ang 8-9 na piye na baha na umabot sa ikalawang palapag ng kanilang mga bahay ay putik na lang ang natira.

Wala na ring natutunton na mga pamilyang nasa bubong ng kanilang mga bahay dahil nasagip na sila ng mga pulis, militar at iba pang mga volunteer na rescue group o kaya'y nakababa na sa paghuba ng baha.

Bagama't nabaha rin ang mga bayan ng Camalaniugan at Aparri na hangganan ng 505 kilometrong Cagayan River mula Nueva Vizcaya, hanggang tuhod lang naman ang katamtamang pinakamalalim na baha.

At habang nakikita na ang mga lupang sinakop ng baha, sira lahat ang kapaligiran.

Ang mga hayop, kahit papaano ay naisalba gaya ng mga kalabaw at baboy subalit ang mga tanim, sira lahat.

Sa mga eskwela naman na lumubog, grabe ang mga pinsala sa mga gadget, learning material, printing machine at mga gusali mismo.

Ang mga makinarya sa negosyo sa palay gaya ng mga kiskisan at traktora at maging ang mga bodega ng mga palay at sasakyan ay sira rin.

Ang mga kalsada at tulay, marami rin ang nasira kaya naman ang rescue operations ay hindi maitodo.

Gutom, hirap o krisis at lahat ng masasabing kamalasan ang inabot ng daan-daan libong mamamayan mula sa nasa dalawang milyong populasyon ng buong Cagayan Valley, kasama na ang mga nasa Cagayan.

Ikinalulungkot naman natin nang labis ang mahigit nang 40 namatay na kalahati rito ang taga-Cagayan.

MGA DAHILAN NG BAHA

Ayon kay Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba, tumambad sa lahat ang bunga ng paglapastangan ng tao sa kapaligiran nang umabot na sa mahigit 13 metro ang taas ng baha.



Dinagdagan pa ito ng pagpapakawala ng tubig ng Magat Dam.

Sa pagragasa ng baha mula sa mga kabundukan sa Sierra Madre, Caraballo at Cordillera, bumaha dahil sa babaw ng tubig ng Cagayan River.

Bumabaw umano ito dahil sa mga putik, bato, buhangin at iba pa mula sa mga kalbo nang kabundukan.

Binigyang-diin ni Mamba ang illegal logging na sa kabila ng pagbabawal ng logging, nagpatuloy ang pamumutol sa mga punongkahoy kahit saan kaya nawala ang pangunahing komukonsumo ng tubig na mga puno at pumipigil sa pagdausdos ng mga putik patungo sa mga ilog at iba pa.

Sabi gobernador, kitang-kita na ang pang-aabuso sa kapaligiran sa lawak at tindi ng kalamidad na naganap.

Aniya, pinaghandaan na umano nila ang baha at kabilang sa mga paghahanda ang pagpapairal ng boluntaryo at sapilitang pagbabakwit subalit hindi nila inasahang ganoong katindi ang baha simula noong 1975.

ABUSADO TALAGA ANG LOGGERS

Tama ang sinasabi ng iba na bunga ng pang-aabuso sa kapaligiran ang isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan ng grabeng pagbaha, hindi lang sa Cagayan kundi mismo sa buong Cagayan Valley.

At ang pang-aabuso ay walang habas na pamumutol ng punongkahoy hanggang sa makalbo na ang mga kagubatan sa mga kabundukan at kapatagan.

Kinambalan pa ito ng iba pang pang-aabuso.

‘Yun bang === walang nagtatanim ng punong kahoy sa mga pinagkunan ng mga punongkahoy.

Sabi ng ating Uzi na matagal din sa industriya ng logging, 100 porsyento sa mga iligal na logger ay hindi nagtatanim ng puno na kapalit ng kanilang mga pinuputol.

Maging ang mga tradisyunal na logger na ligal gaya ng mga may hawak ng mga konsesyon sa logging o timber license agreement holder hindi rin umano nagtatanim ng mga puno.

Ito ang dahilan kung bakit nakalbo na ang mga bundok.

At sino lang ang mga nagtatanim bago sinimulan ang pagpapairal ng total log ban sa maraming bahagi ng bansa?

Mga taga-DENR lamang ngunit hanggang sa kanilang mga nursery lamang bilang pakitang-tao.

Noon lamang mga taong 1992 nagsimulang maisipan ng iba pang grupo ang magtanim at mag-alaga ng mga kagubatan.

Nang dumating ang administrasyong Duterte, may mga logging pa rin, ligal at iligal, at isa ito sa mga dahilan ng mga pagbaha mismo sa iba’t ibang bahagi ng Mindanao.



Nagdulot ito ng pagtawag mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa DENR, Department of Agriculture at Department of Interior and Local Government kung pupwedeng pairalin ang total log ban sa buong bansa.

At lumitaw na kung paiiralin man ito, maaaring hindi maisali ang mga nagtatanim ng puno o may tree plantations na sadyang nagtatanim upang sa huli ay kanilang aanihin at mapagkakitaan at makapagtanim muli.

MAGKAINGIN, MAG-UULING, LAND DEVELOPER

Ayon sa mga pag-aaral, kung matindi ang ginagawa ng mga logger, mas matindi umano ang gawa ng mga magkakaingin at gumagawa ng agrikultura o pagtataniman at mag-uuling.

Para sa mga mag-uuling, ang mga punong may mga hindi magandang uling lang ang nakalalagpas sa kanilang mga itak, palakol at lagare.

Pero ang mga magkakaingin, lahat pinuputol upang mapagtamnan ang lupain ng palay, mais at gulay at hindi rin sila nagtatanim maliban lang sa paisa-isang punong namumunga.

Kung paisa-isang malaking puno ang pinuputol ng mga logger na ligal at iligal, lahat ng puno, malaki at maliit at kahit tumutubo pa lang ay tablado sa mga magkakaingin.

At alam ba ninyo kung gaano na karami ang mga naninirahan sa bundok upang dito sila mabuhay sa pagkakaingin at pag-uuling sa kawalan ng hanapbuhay sa ibaba?

Milyon-milyon na at tinataya pa ngang nasa 20 milyon ang mga ito.

Gaano na kalawak sa mga kabundukan at kaburulan ang kinalbo ng milyon-milyong mamamayang natin?

Sa Cagayan Valley at iba pang bahagi ng bansa?

Iba pang problema rin ang pamumutol ng punongkahoy ng mga land developer at pinapalitan na lang ang mga puno ng mga nasa paso na halaman o divider ng mga kalsada ng mga mangilan-ngilang puno o halamang panghardin lamang.

Ang resulta, kakaunti na lang ang kagubatan sa bansa o forest cover dahil mula sa 36 milyong ektaryang lupain natin, kulang-kulang na lang sa 8 milyong ektarya kumpara sa napakaraming puno na nadatnan ng ating mga senior citizen sa kanilang kabataan.

MAGTANIM TAYO NG PUNO

Paano nga kaya natin maibalik sa abot ng ating makakaya ang kagubatang nakakalbo nang mabilis?

Ang tiyak, lahat dapat mag-isip at kumilos at hindi lang iasa ang lahat sa pamahalaan.

Alam ba ninyo na 75 porsyento ng katawan ng puno ay tubig?

Kung nauhaw ito sa tubig at nagkataon na may mga bagyo at baha, iinom ito hanggang mabusog ito nang 75% sa tubig.

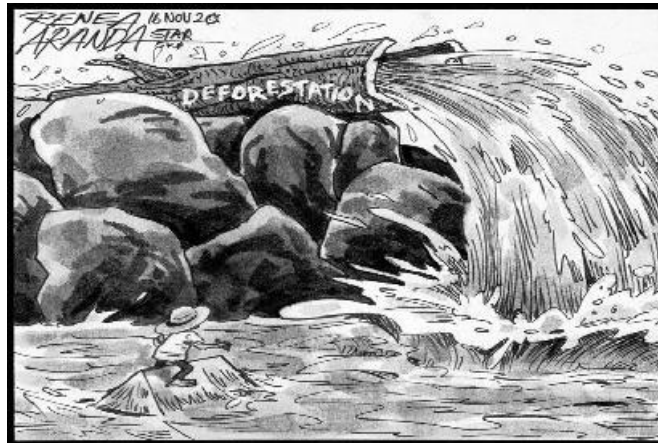


Kaya malakas na pamigil sa baha ang puno.

Kaya nating lahat ang magtanim ng puno.

Kung magtanim ng isang punongkahoy ang bawat isa sa nasa 70 milyong Pinoy na may edad 18 pataas taon-taon, 70M ding punongkahoy ang maitatanim.

Kung taon-taon nating gawin ito bilang panlaban sa 9-9 na ulan at mala-Noe na baha, baka isang araw, masosolusyunan din natin ang nakakalbo na sa punongkahoy na mahal nating bansa.



EDITORIAL - Beyond handwringing

(The Philippine Star) - November 16, 2020 - 12:00am

In the first week of November 1991, Typhoon Uring dumped torrential rains in Ormoc, Leyte. On Nov. 5, floodwaters rampaged down the mountains, washing away fallen trees and mud that smashed into houses. In some areas, the deluge rose to over two meters within just 15 minutes. Over 5,000 people were killed.

The freak flood was blamed on denuded watersheds near the city, and it led to calls for greater resolve to stop illegal logging. Many more massive floods have struck in the next three decades, a number of which were also blamed on forest denudation.

Today illegal logging is again being blamed, together with illegal mining, for the catastrophic deluge that has submerged vast swathes of Cagayan Valley in the wake of a succession of typhoons. Yesterday, during a visit to typhoon-devastated Cagayan province, President Duterte ordered a probe into illegal logging and illegal mining activities in the area.

Local government officials are also seeking better coordination in the release of dam water, which has been partly blamed for the massive flooding spawned by Typhoon Ulysses not only in Cagayan but also in Marikina. Dam floodgates must be opened when the water becomes swollen to the spillover level. This is to allow the regulated release of water and prevent the gates from bursting, which could cause greater catastrophe.

Weather forecasters also emphasized that they issued timely warnings on the amount of rainfall expected from Ulysses, which should have triggered evacuation from flood-prone areas. The scenes of disaster in Marikina and Cagayan, however, clearly show that the warning system and coordination for timely evacuation can still use significant improvement.

Evacuation will save lives but cannot prevent the inundation of property, crops and public infrastructure. Considering the state of watersheds, nothing could have stopped the torrential rains from swelling rivers and dams and submerging surrounding areas. Long-term and sustained interventions, however, will minimize the loss of lives and property as the country continues to be hit regularly by natural calamities.

President Duterte has ordered the dredging of the Cagayan River.

Environment experts have suggested the permanent relocation of communities located along riverbanks and other high-risk areas, and the development of floodplains. The massive flooding should also prompt a review of development projects near waterways as well as reclamation projects and the proliferation of fish pens including in Mega Manila, where floodplains and natural water catchments have disappeared. It's time to go beyond handwringing and rhetoric each time a killer flood comes along.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/11/16/2057160/editorial-beyond-handwringing>



Is it too late to save the Marikina watershed?

By Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

November 16, 2020



Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

RISING SUN

The late flooding that happened in Cagayan last Friday evening is totally heartbreaking. The governor said it was unprecedented and mentioned that environmental degradation led to this. May it serve as a lesson to all concerned—the environment needs to be prioritized because as it is, we are not even sure if the damage can still be reversed.

In 1904, the Marikina watershed—as part of the Sierra Madre—was declared a protected area. Through land conversion, this protected area became smaller and smaller as the years went by. There is talk of land grabbing, illegal logging and quarrying activities in the area. When an area that is not supposed to be inhabited is now heavily populated, one would expect that danger is imminent, especially now that the world is dealing with climate change.

Should we expect that flooding would get worse in the years to come? The mountains are already bare but the illegal activities still continue. This answers the question, I think. So, unless this government and the next one will do something that the past governments failed to do, which was to prioritize environment protection, we already know what the expected outcome will be.

Experts say that if something was done to restore the forests 10 years ago, we could have had a secondary forest and healthier soil to avert the disasters. With Ulysses, the Sierra Madre could not absorb the rainwater any longer. It was still saturated with the rains of Rolly. However, it is too late for that now. We can only look back and learn our lessons the hard way.

Nobody can say that they did not know about the dangers. The former secretary of the DENR, the late Gina Lopez, sounded the alarm before she died. Her message was to protect and rehabilitate the Marikina watershed to avoid future calamities. She fought too to get the message across that protecting our trees, our water, and our land is of prime importance.

Ordinary citizens like us can become eco-warriors and manifest our dreams and advocacy into solid action. Engage in conversations, make sure your voices are heard, participate in environment restoration activities like tree/mangrove planting and cleanup events (community, river, coastal, etc.). Join the millions of people around the world who are demanding action on climate change issues.

The government should look into the quarrying operations that are preventing reforestation work in Masungi and the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape. It should initiate programs to promote the restoration of the ecosystem and the setting up of smart infrastructure. It should strengthen its disaster management programs and funnel funding into environment conservation activities. It should cancel quarrying permits and stop logging activities and other related problems like land grabbing, corruption, and gross negligence by those who should be responsible. The government must do all this and more; and it must do it now. There is really no time to lose.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/16/is-it-too-late-to-save-the-marikina-watershed/>



In Cagayan briefing, DENR chief Cimatu declines to comment on dolomite beach

Published November 15, 2020 3:45pm

By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Sunday declined to answer questions regarding the controversial dolomite beach at the Manila Bay, as he said he would rather respond in Manila.

"Sa Manila? Doon ko na lang siguro sagutin sa Manila," Cimatu said in response to a query regarding the dolomite beach, amid the recent typhoons that hit the country.

The beach has been [littered with garbage with the recent downpours](#), leading to critics once again questioning its necessity.

The controversial "white beach" at Manila Bay is part of the P389-million beautification project of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources.

It has been slammed by [environmental groups](#) and Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo who tagged the project as "insensitive" and "insulting" amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire earlier said the inhalation of crushed [dolomite rock can cause respiratory problems](#), among other health issues. The health department, however, has since [backtracked and claimed otherwise](#).

Malacañang has also repeatedly backed the government project, claiming that this will help in flood control and prevent soil erosion. It is also said to help mental health.

Last month, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said that the crushed dolomite used in the project are not being washed away by the rains, but instead black sands are being ["washed in."](#)

In a now-deleted post, Antiporda last week posted a photo in the white beach along with MMDA spokesperson Celina Pialogo, which he captioned ["Dolomite lang ang matatag."](#)

This came while residents in several communities were forced to flee to the second floors or roofs of their homes as floodwaters rose, or seek refuge in nearby evacuation centers. —JST, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/764200/in-cagayan-briefing-denr-chief-cimatu-declines-to-comment-on-dolomite-beach/story/>

What caused Cagayan Valley's worst flood in 40 years?

By: Karl S. Ocampo, Nikka G. Valenzuela - @inquirerdotnet - Inquirer.net | November 15, 2020 - 10:08 AM

MANILA, Philippines — Officials offered various explanations on Saturday for the worst flood to hit Cagayan Valley in 40 years.

Being a catch basin, the water from other provinces and the water released from the Magat Dam flowed toward Cagayan, causing the flood, said Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) said it has been releasing water from the dam since Nov. 9 ahead of the landfall of Typhoon Ulysses (international name: Vamco) and then opened seven of Magat's spillway gates to control the reservoir's overflow at the height of the typhoon.

Wilfredo Gloria, operations manager of the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System, told the Inquirer that the NIA could not completely stop the release of water because that could result in a more massive destruction as the dam's water level was at a critical point.

He said in a phone interview that five of the spillways had been shut and only two gates remained open on Saturday, discharging 1,355 cubic meters per second of water against an inflow of 1,261 cms per second.



Rescuers from the Philippine Coast Guard reach some of the trapped residents the following day. —PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD PHOTO

Danger of overloading

This is to stabilize the dam's water level which currently is at 192.19 meters, against the critical level of 193 m, Gloria said.

“What we want is to normalize the water level at 192 m or at least below 193m, but we should also take into consideration the communities that may be affected by this. So right now, as much as possible, we are trying to stabilize it,” he said.

“If we overload the reservoir up to 193 meters, it may lose its natural stability. If we overload the dam and that overloading prolongs, the dam may break,” Gloria added.

The irrigation and hydroelectric dam was built in 1982 at the boundary of Alfonso Lista town in Ifugao province and the municipality of Ramon in Isabela. It has a 45-square-kilometer reservoir that is fed by watersheds in Nueva Vizcaya (60 percent), Ifugao (33 percent) and Isabela (7 percent).

The NIA recorded that from Monday to Saturday, the multipurpose dam reservoir had an inflow of 721.28 million cubic meters of water while outflow totaled 578.33 mcm.

Downstream flow

Ed dela Cruz, a hydrologist at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), said the current inflow of water was nearly the same rate as the discharge of water at 1,271 cms—862 cms of water for spilling and 409 cms for power generation.

“The inflow of water to the dam must be lowered so that at least the power generation and the inflow are equal. Then they could close the gates,” he said.

Water continues to stream into the dam from its 4,100-sq-km catch basin, Dela Cruz said. “Ulysses had a large rain band that reached up to Cagayan and that rainfall is entering the expansive basin,” he said.

Dela Cruz said that another factor that led to the flooding was water from upper parts of Cagayan flowing downstream to Cagayan River.

Mark Timbal, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) spokesperson, said the widespread flooding in Cagayan Valley was not due to the release of the water from Magat Dam, but rather the swelling of Cagayan River over the course of several weeks.

“These flooding incidents are the cumulative effects of the continuous rains experienced in Luzon,” Timbal told the Inquirer.

He explained that there has been “more than a month’s worth of rainy days,” in addition to at least five successive tropical cyclones that soaked the Luzon landmass.

Timbal said rainfall from the previous storms and typhoons have caused all the tributaries of the Cagayan River to swell, causing the flooding. The release of the water from the dam also was a factor.

In October 2015, at least 26 villages in Cagayan were flooded due to water discharged by Magat Dam in Isabela in the aftermath of slow-moving Tropical Storm “Lando” (Koppu) which inundated and caused landslides in many northern and central Luzon provinces.

NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad insisted that the council gave adequate warnings of flooding.



An aerial shot partially shows the magnitude of the calamity. —PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE PHOTO



Local gov'ts surprised

He said the agency's advisories were the same as Pagasa's "and always highlight the risk of floods," Jalad told reporters in a Viber message.

He also said that the agencies responsible for risk assessment for hydrometeorological hazard is Pagasa and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Malacañang on Saturday said it was not caught unprepared for the massive flood that rapidly swept through the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela in the wake of Ulysses, even though the local officials were surprised by its unprecedented magnitude.

Many Filipinos who were following disaster relief and rescue operations in areas battered by the typhoon, especially Metro Manila and Rizal province, heard reports of the massive flood in the two northern provinces only late on Friday night and Saturday morning.

But presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council had earlier deployed relief supplies and rescue personnel in the region.

"We were not caught unprepared because what we needed had been prepositioned. We just deployed more air assets to the area," Roque said in the Laging Handa briefing.

He said the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has been rescuing residents in Isabela and Tuguegarao City as early as dawn on Friday.

Early Saturday, the PCG also deployed convoys with a multipurpose vehicle, trucks, buses, newly procured rubber boats and rescue personnel, Roque said.

"The President is on top of the situation," he added. "He is in constant communication with [Defense] Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and Undersecretary [Ricardo] Jalad of the [NDRRMC]." In the same briefing, Mamba said the floodwater level rose to 13.1 m, higher than the 11 meters that it had risen to in the past.

"This is unprecedented in Cagayan, this is the first time we experienced this. That's why many were surprised. But really, we prepared for this, but this is worse than what we prepared for," Mamba told the Laging Handa briefing.

—*With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Patricia Denise M. Chiu and Inquirer Research*



What causes severe flooding in Cagayan province?

Jaehwa Bernardo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 15 2020 01:43 PM



Scenes from Tuguegarao along the city's main road towards the capitol as the area experiences floods in the wake of rains brought by Typhoon Ulysses on November 14, 2020. *Chiara Zambrano, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — A local official and a scientist have offered explanations as to why Cagayan province frequently experiences intense flooding.

In a Facebook [post](#), Fernando Siringan, former director of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), said the region serves as a catch basin of water from surrounding mountain ranges.

Both water and sediments from the mountains cause the rivers to overflow, prompting floods, Siringan said on Saturday as flooding inundated large parts of Cagayan Valley in the wake of Typhoon Ulysses (international name: Vamco).

Local officials had earlier attributed the severe flooding to water coming from surrounding areas as well as water released from the Magat Dam located in Isabela.

"Sa pagbaba ng maraming tubig kasama ang sediments mula sa mga kabundukan, umaapaw ang mga ilog at maaaring mabilis na magpalit ng posisyon. Paghupa ng baha ay may mga naiiwang putik, buhangin at kaunting graba," Siringan said.

The Cagayan River also becomes narrow in the portion of Sicalao Ridge because of old and deformed sedimentary rocks.

This narrow portion of the river starts at Barangay Tupang in Alcala, Cagayan and ends at Magapit in Lal-lo town, according to Siringan.

"Ang mahabang makipot na channel ng Cagayan River ay nakapagpapabagal sa pagdaloy ng tubig papunta sa bukana ng ilog sa Aparri. Dahil bumagal ang daloy ng ilog, naiipon ang tubig sa kapatagan, umaapaw sa channel at nagbabaha," he explained.

A 1987 study from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the flooding in Cagayan Valley, Siringan said, recommended the widening of the narrow portion of the Cagayan River from Alcala to Lal-lo.

But the scientist noted that the recommendation had yet to be fulfilled until now.

Alcala Mayor Cristina Antonio, in a [Facebook post](#) on Sunday, also cited the 1987 JICA report and lamented how the recommendation had "not been acted upon."

Earlier this year, Antonio had enlisted the help of Siringan and UP geologist Keanu Jershon Sarmiento to conduct a study on the flood and riverbank erosion on the Cagayan and Pared Rivers in Alcala.

Antonio also cited illegal logging and agriculture in slopes and mountains as causes of flooding.

"Mountains, slopes and watersheds in the whole Cagayan Valley have been stripped of native trees that hold soil and regulate water release," she said.



"Trees are cut down and forests threatened not only by illegal logging but by agriculture in slopes and mountains, particularly yellow corn farming and the use of herbicide that kills all vegetation and weakens the soil," she said.

Through the Siringan and Sarmiento study, Antonio began implementing changes in Alcala, including convincing farmers to abandon yellow corn farming and shift to agroforestry.

Alcala residents have also started planting trees around irrigation dam watershed areas, Antonio said.

The local chief executive said she engaged the 25 barangays to "plant tiny, dense, native forests in their communities, using the Miyawaki method," a technique pioneered by a Japanese botanist to help build dense forests.

"We are set to plant native forest and flowering trees on all Alcala roadsides that span around 120 kilometers," she said.

Antonio said severe flooding experienced in the Cagayan Valley in the past days could not solely be blamed to "Magat Dam protocols."

"It's about us, it's the way we live — as if we are apart from nature, as if what we do does not come back to us. It's us — how we have cut our trees and destroyed our forests, our soil and groundwater, how we have eaten up the land with farms and buildings," she said.

Antonio said the solution to the flooding problem in the region should be "a combination of interventions that should be anchored on science" and drawn from scientists who have studied the Cagayan Valley.

"I hope our leaders, and all of us, will help to save Alcala, and the whole Cagayan Valley. Please, let us listen to our scientists," she added.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/11/15/20/what-causes-severe-flooding-in-cagayan-province?fbclid=IwAR18onnFV5AbB-u-AswS4joYqNYIF197C_mILf-ut8HEPtSuB33NDsBRTds



Gov't eyes re-greening as long-term solution to flood woes

By Lade Jean Kabagani [November 15, 2020, 8:13 pm](#)



Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año (File photo)

MANILA — The government is targeting to push tree-planting activities to provide a long-term approach to minimizing serious flooding in the country.

In a virtual briefing, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año said they are now discussing with Sec. Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) along with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) officials about plans to require students to plant trees before graduation.

"We are 110 million Filipinos kung (if) we can plant 100 million per every six months and that's 200 million a year, so nagpapalano po kami (we are planning)— we can start on January," Año said.

Meanwhile, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur Tugade also recommended continuing and improving the reforestation programs in the country.

Tugade also suggested conducting dredging activities in the Cagayan River.

"Kung hindi ho magagawa yang dalawa na 'yan, paulit-ulit hong mangyayari yung pagbaha dito (If those two wouldn't happen, the flooding here will be repeated again and again)," said Tugade.

Also, Año cited the spilling operations of the water dams as one of the concerns of mayors as these have caused flooding in some areas in the country.

"It's unfortunate that there were six typhoons hit the country within four weeks—Pepito, Quinta, Rolly, Tonyo, Siony and the latest Ulysses, apart from cold-front and tropical depressions so talaga pong parang ang lupa ay talagang na-saturate ng tubig (really the ground seems to be saturated with water)," he said.

"Nadagdagan pa po ito ng pagpapalabas ng mga tubig sa dam, anim na dam ang nagbukas ng tubig at ito'y nakadagdag sa pagbaha (It was further increased by the discharge of waters from the dam, six dams opened to release water and this added to the flooding)," he added.

According to Año, each water dam is run by a different management and has its own protocol in terms of releasing water from the dam.

Thus, he recommended the regularization of spilling operations of the various dams in the country.

"I think we would propose—in terms as (of) calamity or typhoon, dapat po ay may nagkokontrol dyan kung sino, kelan bubuksan yung dam (there should be someone to control when to open the dam)," he said.

To reduce flooding incidents during heavy rains, Año said water dams can release water prior to the expected landfall of the typhoon, especially that forecasts on weather disturbances are provided.



Año then proposed that the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) be given an authority to control the opening of dams especially when a typhoon is already projected.

"I will propose na pag-usapan namin sa NDRRMC na sa times ng calamity o typhoon, ang NDRRMC ang magbibigay ng approval kung kailan pwede magbukas, ilang gate, para controlled natin (as we discussed in NDRRMC that in times ng calamity or typhoon, the NDRRMC should approve when the gates of the dams should be opened and how many gates should be opened so that the water release could be controlled)," he said.

"Kasi yan ang sinasabi ng ating ng mga LGUs katulad ng Region 4-A, Region 3 at saka NCR na nakadagdag talaga ng pagbaha ang pagbubukas ng dam (That's what our LGUs noted like in Region 4-A, Region 3 and National Capital Region that the release of water from the dams worsened the flooding)," he said.

On the other hand, Año also noted that the strict health protocols will be less strict during relief, rescue, and retrieval operations in the typhoon-hit areas.

He earlier said they have received numerous reports that relief and media organizations are being barred at the provincial border because of strict quarantine restrictions imposed by the provincial government.

"The situation in Cagayan requires unhampered disaster response and recovery operations by rescue and relief organizations," he said. "Therefore, all LGUs in Cagayan and Isabela should ease up access in their areas to facilitate disaster operations." (PNA)



Reforestation, dredging of Cagayan River 'a must': Tugade

November 15, 2020, 6:02 pm



Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade (File photo)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur P. Tugade has committed to help concerned government agencies address flooding woes in the Cagayan Valley.

Tugade made this commitment as he reports on the round-the-clock response efforts and actions of the DOTr, through the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), amid the widespread flooding in Cagayan and Isabela due to Typhoon Ulysses that battered Luzon last Wednesday.

He joined President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and other Cabinet members in a situation briefing to discuss the aftermath of “Ulysses” in the Cagayan Valley in their visit to Tuguegarao City in Cagayan on Sunday.

Tugade, who hails from Claveria, Cagayan, was tasked to divert the agency’s resources, as necessary, to aid relief operations and other efforts that will sustain much-needed assistance to the affected residents.

In his report, Tugade pointed out the continuous dredging of the Cagayan River and the reforestation efforts in the area as being integral in preventing deadly floods.

“I’ve seen deforestation and the Buntun Bridge overflowed, along Cagayan River. There are two things we need to address: No. 1, stop the cutting of trees or a need to continue reforestation program. No. 2, dredging of Cagayan River. If these will not be done, flooding will continue to happen,” Tugade said.

Tugade committed to help in the reforestation of various flood-prone areas in the country by making it mandatory for public transport cooperatives and individuals to commit a specific number of trees to be planted before acquiring a franchise or license.

He said the mandatory scheme was suggested by a Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) regional director during their meeting.

Tugade added that the DOTr will be closely coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local government units to identify areas where reforestation is needed and that this initiative will be implemented nationwide.

During the briefing with the President, Tugade also reported on the continuous rescue and relief operations conducted by its attached agency, the PCG, headed by its commandant, Admiral George Ursabia Jr., before, during, and even after the devastation of “Ulysses”.

“The Philippine Coast Guard leads the transportation department in Cagayan Valley Region where they work almost non-stop. PCG commandant Ursabia sent floaters, like boat and trucks. We also used choppers and airplanes of the Philippine Coast Guard to help in rescue, retrieval and relief operations,” Tugade said.



Within this week, he said the DOTr will also participate in the distribution of relief goods, including food and water, to typhoon victims.

Additionally, in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Employment, the DOTr will be donating 100 fiber glass boats to coastal communities.

Tugade said that these boats will not only help fisherfolk in their livelihood, but will also serve as rescue equipment when needed.

Meanwhile, he said no damages to the airports, seaports, and other DOTr agencies' facilities were reported in Northern Luzon. (PR)



Tugade: Reforestation, dredging of Cagayan River a must to resolve flooding woes; Coast Guard maintains search, rescue and relief operations in Ulysses-hit areas

By DOTrPublished on November 15, 2020

CAGAYAN, Nov. 15 -- Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur P. Tugade has committed to help concerned government agencies address flooding woes in the Cagayan Region, as he reports on the round-the-clock response efforts and actions of the DOTr, through the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), amid the widespread flooding in Cagayan and Isabela due to Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco) that recently battered Luzon.

Secretary Tugade joined President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and other Cabinet members in a situation briefing to discuss the aftermath of Ulysses in the Cagayan Valley Region in their visit to Tuguegarao City in Cagayan today, 15 November 2020.

Secretary Tugade, who hails from Claveria, Cagayan, was tasked to divert the agency's resources, as necessary, to aid relief operations and other efforts that will sustain much-needed assistance to the affected residents.

In his report, Secretary Tugade pointed out the continuous dredging of the Cagayan River and the reforestation efforts in the area as being integral in preventing deadly floods.

"Sa pagpupulong-pulong po, nakita ko nakakalbo ang kagubatan at talaga 'hong nag-overflow 'yung sa Buntun Bridge, 'yung sa Cagayan River. Mapapakita 'ho dito 'yung dalawang pangangailangan: Number 1 'ho, 'yung pagtigil ng pagputol ng puno dito o 'yung reforestation program 'ho kailangang ituloy 'yun. Pangalawa, dredging sa Cagayan River. Kung 'di magagawa ang mga ito, paulit-ulit pong mangyayari 'yung pagbaha dito," Secretary Tugade stressed.

In connection with this, the transportation chief committed to help in the reforestation of various flood-prone areas in the country by making it mandatory for public transport cooperatives and individuals to commit a specific number of trees to be planted before acquiring a franchise or license. Secretary Tugade said that the mandatory scheme was suggested by an LTFRB regional director during their meeting.

"Nirekomenda ng isang RD (regional director) ko sa LTFRB (Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board) 'Sir, bakit hindi natin gawing proseso na 'pag merong kumuha ng prangkisa 'yung kooperatiba, or lisensya 'yung mga indibidwal, part of their responsibility is to plant trees?' Kung may kooperatiba ka diyan, ili-limit mo minimum mo diyan: 500 trees kada prangkisa na ibibigay ko sa'yo. Kung gagawin 'ho namin 'yan, 'yung pagtanim ng puno doon sa pag-issue ng prangkisa o mga lisensya, marami 'ho tayong matatamnan."

Secretary Tugade added that the DOTr will be closely coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the local government units to identify areas where reforestation is needed and that this initiative will be implemented nationwide.



During the briefing with the President, Secretary Tugade also reported on the continuous rescue and relief operations conducted by its attached agency, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), headed by its Commandant, Admiral George Ursabia Jr., before, during, and even after the devastation of Ulysses.

"Nangunguna sa operasyon ng Kagawaran ng Transportasyon sa Cagayan region ay ang Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), kung saan talagang walang tulog, sige-sige lang trabaho. Kasama na 'ho diyan, nagpadala si PCG Commandant [George] Ursabia ng mga floaters, like boat and trucks. Ginamit na rin 'ho namin 'yung mga chopper at eroplano ng Philippine Coast Guard para makatulong sa rescue, retrieval and relief operations," Secretary Tugade shared.

Within this week, the transportation chief said that the DOTr will also participate in giving relief goods, including food and water, to the locals.

Additionally, in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the DOTr will be donating one hundred (100) fiber glass boats to coastal communities. Secretary Tugade said that these boats will not only help fisherfolks in their livelihood, but will also serve as rescue equipment when needed.

Meanwhile, no damages to the airports, seaports, and other DOTr agencies' facilities were reported in Northern Luzon. (DOTr)



Tugade: Reforestation, dredging of Cagayan River needed

Published 32 seconds ago on November 16, 2020 05:00 AM

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



PHILIPPINE Coast Guard personnel bring relief goods to families that sought shelter in a building in Barangay Afusing Bato, Alcala, Cagayan. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PCG

The continuous dredging of Cagayan River and reforestation efforts will prevent deadly floods from happening in the future.

This was the assessment of Department of Transportation (DoTr) Secretary Arthur Tugade on Sunday as he committed to help concerned government agencies address flooding woes in the Cagayan Region.

Tugade joined President Rodrigo Duterte and other Cabinet members in Tuguegarao City during a situation briefing to discuss the aftermath of typhoon "Ulysses."

He also reported on round-the-clock response efforts of the DoTr, through the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Tugade, who hails from Claveria, Cagayan, was tasked to divert the agency's resources to aid relief operations.

"I saw the almost denuded forests, how water spilled over to Buntun Bridge because of the Cagayan River overflow. We must continue reforestation programs and dredge the river. Otherwise, we won't see the end of this," he said.

To help in the reforestation of various flood-prone areas, Tugade said they will mandate public transport cooperatives and individuals to commit a specific number of trees to be planted before acquiring a franchise or license. The idea was suggested by a regional director (RD) of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

"The RD suggested a cooperative can be tasked to plant 500 trees for every franchise. That will immensely help in reforestation efforts," he said.

DoTr will coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and local government units to identify areas where reforestation is needed. The initiative will be implemented nationwide.

Tugade said the PCG, headed by commandant Admiral George Ursabia Jr. are working tirelessly before, during and after the devastation cause by "Ulysses."



“PCG commandant Ursabia dispatched floaters, boats and trucks. We used choppers and other airplanes for rescue, retrieval and relief operations,” he shared.

Within this week, the DoTr will participate in the distribution of relief goods to locals.

In cooperation with the Department of Labor and Employment, DoTr will also donate 100 fiber glass boats to coastal communities to assist fisherfolks regain their sources of livelihood.

No damage to airports, seaports and other DoTr facilities were reported in Northern Luzon.



DOTr eyes tree-planting as additional requirement for franchise applications

Published November 15, 2020, 6:42 PM

by [Genalyn Kabiling](#)

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) is planning to impose tree-planting as a requirement for those applying for a license or franchise from the agency.

Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said the trees must be planted by franchise applicants in areas designated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and concerned local government units.



Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade
(ALI VICROY / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The proposed reforestation program, Tugade said, was recommended by one of his regional directors to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) after noticing denuded forests contributed to flooding in Cagayan.

“Sabi sa akin, ‘Sir, bakit hindi nating gawing proseso na ‘pag mayroong kumuha ng prangkisa iyong kooperatiba or prangkisa iyong mga individual, part of the responsibility is to plant trees.’ Kung may kooperatiba ka diyan, ili-limit — minimum ho diyan 500 trees kada prangkisa na ibibigay ko sa iyo.”

(He told me, ‘Why not make it a process that when a cooperative or an individual applies for a franchise, part of their responsibility is to plant trees.’ If there’s a cooperative, we will impose a minimum 500 trees plant for every license that will be given to you),” Tugade said during the situation briefing attended by President Duterte and other government officials in Cagayan.

“Yung mga kukuha ng mga new licenses, pagtanimin ko iyan ng sampung puno, (To those applying for new licenses, I will ask them to plant 10 trees) you know, at designated area, it becomes a matter of created responsibility and obligation. Then, we can address, in our own way, that system,” he said.

Tugade said he would coordinate closely with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on identifying the places suitable for planting trees. He said he intends to implement “nationwide” the tree-planting requirement for franchise applicants.

He said the massive tree planting activity could help reforest denuded slopes and mountains and ease landslides and floods during calamities.

Apart from the intensifying reforestation efforts, Tugade proposed the dredging of Cagayan River to ease flooding in the province during storms.



“Kung hindi ho magagawa iyang dalawa na iyan, paulit-ulit ho mangyayari iyong pagbaha dito. Kaya in the medium term, kailangan ho talagang buhos ang trabaho diyan sa dredging at saka sa reforestation (If these two cannot be implemented, flooding will happen again. In the medium term, work must be focused on dredging and reforestation),” said Tugade, who hails from Cagayan.

Meantime, Tugade and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III have teamed up to conduct a relief operation this week in Cagayan-Isabela area.

The transportation chief said they intend to provide food, water and other relief aid to the flood victims. They also intend to donate 100 fishing boats made from fiber glass for affected coastal residents of the region.



Rizal solon pushes gov't agency to protect Sierra Madre

Published November 15, 2020, 12:41 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

A House leader has stressed the need to establish a government body to protect the 500-kilometer Sierra Madre mountain range which has been the country's safety net against strong typhoons for centuries.



(Forest Foundation Philippines / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

"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. We can no longer ignore this," Assistant Majority Leader Rizal Rep. Fidel Nograles said.

According to him, these shocking reports of typhoon-triggered floods in residential areas "emphasize the importance of taking concrete steps to care for the Sierra Madre mountain region."

House Bill No. 5634, filed by the Harvard-trained lawyer last year, proposes the creation of a Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA). Aside from protecting the mountain range, the SMDA will also be tasked to adopt 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."

"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 said.

Nograles said the wide area covered by the Sierra Madre mountain range and the importance of the region "requires coordination that cuts across various LGU (local government unit) 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," he noted.

Included in the functions of the proposed SMDA is the conduct of a comprehensive survey of the physical and natural resources of the Sierra Madre region and subsequent drafting of a conservation plan as well as the approval of all plans, programs, and projects proposed by local government offices and agencies within the region related to the development of the mountain range.

The SMDA will provide recommendations to the proper agencies regarding the financing and technical support to be given to agricultural, industrial, and commercial projects. It will also provide the machinery for extending the necessary planning, management, and technical assistance to prospective and existing investors in the region.



“The SMDA will be led by a Board of Directors with nine members. The members are the Executive Secretary; the National Economic and Development Authority Director General; the secretaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Energy; the Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples; a provincial governor representing the provinces comprising the Sierra Madre Region; a city or municipal mayor representing the cities and municipalities comprising the Sierra Madre Region; and the General Manager of the SMDA,” Nograles said.

The SMDA General Manager shall be appointed by the President and will be tasked to manage the operations of the Authority.



What are we gonna do?

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba on Saturday called it a summation of our wrongs to the environment.

Published 1 min ago on November 16, 2020 12:20 AM

By [Aldrin Cardona](#) @tribunephil_drin



Mud from the mountains. Not just water from above.

People again dealt with them in the aftermath of typhoon “Ulysses” (International name: Vamco). That last typhoon brought more rains, and the water slid mud down the slopes and into the cities compared to that equally deadly typhoon “Ondoy” (Ketsana) in 2009.

They came with the scorn hurled by the people who are often congratulated for their resilience — that oft-used word that simply means “be glad you’re still alive.”

Yet unless they move away from their communities, there is no assurance that they would survive the next catastrophe.

Twelve years, enough to spawn a new generation of men and trees, should have solved that flooding from “Ondoy.”

But in the name of development and overpopulation, there could have been more villages built around and above the low-lying areas of Rizal, Marikina and Quezon City than dikes and ducts, which could have prepared the victims of ‘Ondoy’ and their families for “Ulysses.”

No trees.

Just people, villages, houses, buildings, roads.

“Ondoy” and “Ulysses” will come back with another name. The results would be the same. Logging activities — both legal and otherwise — are the culprits that caused the massive flooding in Marikina Valley. The area extends to Pasig City and some parts of Rizal and Quezon City.

The Sierra Madre, our natural wall against strong typhoons, could no longer hold up the winds and strong rains of the typhoons that pass this part of Luzon.

In May and amid the raging virus pandemic, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) disclosed the confiscation of more than 350 board feet of lumber, 104 sacks of charcoal and five units of illegal logging equipment, estimated to be worth around P102,370.

These came from within so-called protected areas that are supposed to be spared from all forms of destructive human activities, as they are set aside for conservation and are home to threatened plant and animal wildlife.

The amount is also miniscule compared to the lives and properties lost with the devastation brought by the flooding. Yet we do not seem to take seriously efforts to reforest the now barren lands. And for it we pay dearly.



It is the same in Cagayan, where illegal logging is being blamed for the massive flooding that made the province and its fringes a waterworld soon after “Ulysses” had left for Vietnam and China.

In June, some 20,000 board feet of illegal logs worth over a million pesos were seized by government forces since the community quarantine was imposed.

The loggers did not stop.

Police had conducted 74 operations until that month in different municipalities in Cagayan, which resulted in the arrest of 94 loggers. It was not clear if they have snitched on their financiers, which is unlikely.

Again, in September, a team composed of units from the Army, police, Coast Guard and the DENR seized yet another 900 board feet of illegally-cut logs in Baggao, Cagayan. No, they did not give the big names that make their operations flourish to the detriment of the people.

In October, Baggao was named as a hotspot of illegal logging activities, along with the municipality of Peñablanca, also in Cagayan. Then came silence.

On 4 November, municipalities in the low-lying areas of Northern Isabela and Cagayan provinces were inundated by water due to continuous rainfall caused by the tail end of a cold front affecting Northern and Central Luzon.

That was after super typhoon “Rolly” battered the southern parts of Luzon, along with the Bicol area.

The people of Cagayan and Isabela had been warned to take precautionary measures with the continuous rise of the Cagayan River caused by waters from the tributaries of the Cagayan River and from the Magat Dam in Ramon, Isabela.

On Friday, SOS calls were made by the people who did not heed — or were not able to hear — the government warning, after water from the Magat Dam was released, sinking houses and communities.

They could not have prepared for it even if they tried.

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba on Saturday called it “a summation of our wrongs to the environment.”

“The big problem is the degradation of our forests. The forests are abused here in both the Cordillera and Sierra Madre sides,” he said.

We’ve heard them before. Some politician said this after “Ondoy”; still more uttered the same words after Ormoc.

But what are we gonna do about it now?



DELUBYO ANG GANTI NG KALIKASAN



November 16, 2020 @ 12:46 AM 6 hours ago

MALAWAKAN ang pinsala na iniwan ng bagyong Ulysses sa maraming lalawigan sa Kabikulan, Central, Southern at Northern Luzon, kabilang na ang Cagayan na may mga namatay at inilubog ang halos buong probinsya rito na animo'y Karagatan ng Pasipiko.

Umabot sa halos 5 bilyon ang damages sa infrastructures at agriculture ng kalamidad na itong itinuturing na isa sa pinakamalakas na bagyong tumama sa Luzon.

Nasaksihan din natin ang walang puknat na pagbuhos ng ulan noong kasagsagan ng Ulysses kung saan nagmistulang mga ibon ang mga residente sa tuktok ng kanilang kabahayan sa Marikina, Montalban, San Mateo at ibang lugar sa Rizal bunsod ng malawakang pagbaha rito.

Maging ang ilang bayan sa Quezon ay lampas bahay ang baha kaya ilang araw ding natengga ang transportasyon lalo na sa bayan ng Lopez na animo'y karagatan sa gitna ng kabahayan.

Ngunit ang masaklap dito, nangyari ang mala- delubyong bagyong Ulysses matapos bayuhin pa lang ng Quinta at Rolly ang Kabikulan na inilubog din ang halos lahat ng mga lalawigan dito, lalo na ang Catanduanes na pinadapa ang malalaking building at inilubog ang ilang libong kabahayan.

Hindi pa nga nakababangon ang mga kababayan natin, heto't dinaanan na naman sila ng kalbaryo.

Hanggang ngayon ay nagkukumahog ang iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno kung paano matulungan ang mga residente sa mga lugar na ito na sinalanta ng sunod-sunod na bagyo.

Sabi nga ng matatanda, hindi kayang pigilan ng sinoman ang bangis ng kalikasan ngunit kayang iwasan ang malawakang pagkasira nito.

Bakit?

Kung titingnan kasi natin ang mga lugar na tinamaan nang husto ng mga bagyong ito, talamak ang quarrying, mining at pagkakalbo ng kagubatan.

Kung sumunod lang sana noon ang kinauukulan sa panawagan ni dating DENR Secretary at tanyag na environmentalist na si Gina Lopez na ipatupad ang seryoso at makatotohanang reforestation sa bansa, hindi sana mala-delubyong pinsala ang iniwan ng mga nagdaan pa lang na bagyo.



At kung hindi lang winalis si Lopez sa kanyang posisyon ng ilang ganid sa kwartang mga opisyal na nasa likod ng malawakang open pit mining sa bansa, naiwasan pa siguro ang grabeng pinsala sa mga naturang lugar dahil nasa proseso na ang nabanggit na kalihim noon sa pagtuldok ng operasyon ng ilang abusadong minahan na gumiba ng mga bundok dito.

Masakit man tanggapin ng mga kababayan nating nawalan ng mahal sa buhay sanhi ng mga tumamang kalamidad ngunit walang dapat sisihin kundi ang mga buwayang opisyal na nagpapasasa sa yaman ng kalikasan kapalit naman ng pagkawasak kadalasan ng buhay ng mga mahihirap.

Para sa inyong komento o suhestiyon, mag-text sa 09999388537/normanlaurio17@gmail.com.



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



Masungi Georeserve

10h · 🌐

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NOVEMBER 15, 2020 | OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation is deeply disturbed about the continuous deployment of armed guards of Rabilou Inc in hundreds of hectares of the Upper Marikina Watershed despite DENR Show Cause Order. We strongly condemn the threat of harm to one of our trustees this morning. #SaveMasungi

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Region - III DENR Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force - ZPETF Department of Energy Philippines

Nov 15, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

Georeserve Foundation condemns threat to conservation and vital ecosystems by Rabilou Inc, and Green Army, calls for the removal of private guards from the Upper Marikina Watershed

Goal – Two weeks after Rabilou Inc's renewable energy subsidiary hired and deployed armed guards inside the Upper Marikina River 2 rd Landscape, it appears even closer now that it may not have any more than our authority in its so-called dismantling of fences and access to the DENR and Masungi park rangers on October 29, 2020. Rabilou made the protected area have more than doubled. The guards report a 300 percent increase in the number of the watershed.

Very disturbed by this land development right on the heels of the loss of Wuyang, which is sought after by the population and other Marikina Watershed, Ana Domaligan, Managing Trustee, remarked:

Under a 2008 agreement, Rabilou Inc. and its partners agreed to support and promote a project with other conservation partners until 2010. A training site of our managing trustee, a National Geographic Explorer Master award, was threatened with harm by Rabilou's guards, who also suggested that "DENR" was allegedly "working against them."

was grip from Anipolo Army involvement in Rabilou's actions

signed October 30, 2020 signed by 24 tribal elders, captains, and the Tribing Manager, Rematador ng Anipolo (tribal representative) against of armed guards by Rabilou Inc.

Official Statement dated October 28, 2020 where it stated that the request for "help in the deployment of security guards."

also released another statement entitled "Official Statement of the Anipolo" signed by an Atty. Juancho Bana, who claimed to be a legal counsel. The statement alleged that the wife of Mr. Luis, a owner of Rabilou, for "intending to buy arms to protect themselves," and that Mr. Bana allegedly "engaged the services of licensed arms from DENR" until the present.

Being Daraga-Koronado ng Anipolo in their authentic Official Statement dated October 30, 2020 stated that Atty. Juancho Bana is their lawyer. It therefore appears that the statements released by Rabilou and GMA and October 30, 2020 contain allegations that are false and untrue.

With our friends, General of Malabon

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Why we're here

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The Masungi Georeserve and General Bana

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Comments 721 Shares



Masungi Georeserve

PH · G

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VIDEO: "AKALA MO HINDI KITA KAKALADKARINE" - RUBLOU GUARD

We do not want conflict. But when conservation efforts are undermined and team members are threatened, we will exhaust all means to protect them. This morning, we documented even more armed guards sent by Rublou to patrol vast tracts of the fragile Upper Marikina Watershed, again without necessary permits or documents for the protected area. Last October 26, the Central DENR mandated the [Penro - Rizal](#) to effect stoppage, issue a show cause order and file appropriate charges within three days for violations in environmental and protected area laws.

All Filipinos should be deeply concerned about this highly questionable activity inside the watershed, our protection from calamity and home of biodiversity. [#SaveMasungi](#)

Read our Official Statement with updates here: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2951149321837946&id=1591599464459612

#LeaveOurWatershedsAlone #SaveMasungi

RUBLOU GUARD THREATENS CONSERVATIONIST & NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER



"Go to the PENRO (Provincial Environment & Natural Resources Officer), even he is fighting you."

▶ 0:08 / 1:18



492

66 Comments · 252 Shares



Duterte backs river basin project in Bicol

By Azer Parrocha November 15, 2020, 7:32 pm



PRRD IN CAGAYAN. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte interacts with the families affected by Typhoon Ulysses in Barangay Iraga, Solana, Cagayan following an aerial survey of severely affected areas on Nov. 15, 2020. He was accompanied by Senator Christopher Go. (Presidential photo by Ace Morandante)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday expressed support for a Bicol River Basin which may help minimize incidences of flooding through improved storage capacity of rivers and lakes.

This, after Presidential Adviser for Bicol Affairs Marvel Clavecilla mentioned a Bicol River Basin project which was discontinued because of lack of funding and social impact to residents living in the area.

“There was that suggestion, Mr. President that three barangays in Baco should be developed as an impounding area and they call it the Phantom Baco Lake. Meaning to say, during heavy flooding the water will be impounded in that area and during dry season, we can plant other crops there. But it will have a social impact in some three barangays in Baco, they considered that so they abandoned that plan. However, we can pursue that,” he said.

Duterte backed Clavecilla’s suggestion, noting that residents should be convinced that relocating to safer communities would also be beneficial to them.

“If it is a good plan and you are really determined to build your catch basin dito (here), you just have to move the people but convince them na ang (that the) social impact niyan (of that) is housing...you have to equal the quality and the kind of house that they have,” he said.

He said a Bicol River Basin should be pursued since it may also reduce losses due to disasters and other hazards.

“This is a good one. If you can construct a basin, you could have minimized the destruction. Kaya dapat i-pursue ‘yan (That’s why it should be pursued) ... If you can start, I’d be happy to help you there,” he said in a situation briefing in Camarines Sur.

Clavecilla, meanwhile, vowed to coordinate with the provincial government, Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to rehabilitate the Bicol River Basin.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Typhoon “Rolly” affected 90 percent of households in the Bicol Region.

Bicol Region suffered PHP7.2 billion in damages to infrastructure and PHP2.3 billion in damages to agriculture, the NDRRMC added. (PNA)



Duterte blames climate change for typhoons, flooding

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:09 PM November 15, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday blamed climate change for the severe weather disturbances in the country causing massive flooding.

He issued the remark after Cagayan and Isabela were inundated by massive flooding brought by Typhoon Ulysses, the 21st cyclone to enter the Philippines this year.

“Ang problema ho talaga ngayon, whether we accept it or not, itong climate change. The warm climate that boils the Pacific Ocean, there’s a lot of water vapor going upstairs and accumulating into so much rain,” he said in a briefing in Cagayan.

During the East Asia Summit that Duterte attended over the weekend, he said he emphasized the need for countries to address climate change.

“I was very strong in my language about the people who contribute a lot in global warming and among pinakita nila sa atin, tayo Philippines we only have a few factories running here,” he said.

“Pag bumagsak na, talagang babagsak. It does not only rain cats and dogs. it is really water pour over here,” Duterte added.

Typhoon [Ulysses have so far claimed the lives of 67 people](#), 22 of which came from Cagayan Valley.

Duterte said food and clean potable water should be given to residents affected by the flooding.
JE



Climate change, dahilan ng malakas na bagyo at pagbaha – Duterte

By Chona Yu November 15, 2020 - 09:13 PM



Climate change ang itinuturing dahilan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kung kaya nakararanas ng malakas na bagyo at pagbaha ang bansa gaya nang nangyari sa Isabela at Cagayan.

Ayon sa Pangulo, ang mainit na klima sa Pacific Ocean ang dahilan kung kaya malakas ang water vapor at nabubuong ulan.

Sinabi pa ng Pangulo na binigyang diin niya sa katatapos na virtual ASEAN Summit ang kahalagahan na tugunan ang climate change.

Sinabi pa ng Pangulo na gumamit siya ng matatapang na lenggawahe sa ASEAN Summit para ipunto kung ano ang ginagawa ng ibang tao na nagdudulot ng global warming.

Nakadidismaya ayon sa Pangulo na nasisisi ang Pilipinas sa global warming gayung kakaunti lang naman ang pabrika sa bansa.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/275212/climate-change-dahilan-ng-malakas-na-bagyo-at-pagbaha-duterte>



Climate change sinisi sa malalakas na bagyo, baha

By [Gemma Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 16, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Isinisi ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa climate change ang dahilan ng malalakas na bagyo at malawakang pagbaha sa bansa tulad ng nangyari sa Cagayan at Isabela.

“Ang problema talaga is whether we accept it or not, yung climate change. The warm climate that boils the Pacific Ocean, there’s a lot of water vapor going upstairs and accumulating into so much rain,” ayon kay Duterte sa situation briefing kahapon sa Cagayan.

Bago ito sa dinaluhang East Asia Summit, nanawagan si Duterte sa mga bansa na tugunan ang climate change.

Siniguro naman ng Pangulo sa mga flood-hit residents sa Cagayan Valley na patuloy ang pagtulong ng gobyerno at gagawin nito ang lahat para muling ibangon ang kanilang buhay mula sa pagkawasak nang manalasa ang bagyong Ulysses.

Tiniyak niya ito matapos personal na magtungo sa Cagayan Valley kasama si Sen. Bong Go at magsagawa ng aerial inspections at briefing kasama ang iba pang opisyal ng pamahalaan.

Pinamamadali rin niya sa kanyang gabinete ang pamamahagi ng relief goods.

Nagpahayag din ng pakikiramay ang Pangulo sa mga pamilya na namatayan at sinabi na milyong pisong halaga ng tulong ang ipagkakaloob sa Region II ng iba’t ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno kabilang na rito ang DSWD, local government units at non-government organizations.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/16/2057127/climate-change-sinisi-sa-malalakas-na-bagyo-baha/amp/>



Sen. Lapid pushes passage of bill to build a climate-resilient Philippine agriculture

Published November 15, 2020, 4:51 PM

by [Hannah Torregoza](#)

Senator Manuel “Lito” Lapid has sought the passage of a bill that seeks to ensure a climate-resilient Philippine agriculture industry by enhancing farmers’ adaptability to climate change events and adverse weather conditions.



Senator Manuel “Lito” Lapid (MANILA BULLETIN FILE)

In filing Senate Bill No. 1912 or the bill that proposes to institutionalize the use of crop climate calendars to equip Filipino farmers for climate-sensitive decision-making, Lapid said it is crucial to provide farmers access to localized weather and climate information.

With almost 20 typhoons and storms visiting the country every year, the senator said the damage caused by hostile weather conditions has cost billions of pesos every year especially in the agriculture sector.

Lapid said it is time that farmers are empowered to have access to innovative ideas and technologies to protect their livelihood.

Just recently, typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses, he noted, inflicted P10-billion worth of damage to Philippine agriculture sector with reportedly 150,000 farmers affected.

“Kaya panahon na para kumilos ang ating gobyerno para tulungan ang sektor ng agrikultura at siguruhing kaya nitong makasabay sa mga hamon ng climate change gaya ng mga bagyo (That’s why it’s high time for the government to move and help the agriculture sector, and ensure that it can cope and rise to the challenge of climate change),” Lapid said in a statement.

Under this measure, the Department of Agriculture (DA) will institutionalize the use of crop climate calendars throughout the Philippines.

A crop climate calendar is defined as “a visual tool that presents the phenology and cultivation practices of a crop against the timeline of the cropping season, containing information on the weather and climate states that occur in the locality and the risks faced by the crop.”

Under the bill, these crop climate calendars will be distributed free-of-charge. Lapid also said the measure mandates the DA to equip all farmers and farmers’ organizations in the formulation, use, and interpretation of crop climate calendars that are tailor-made for each specific locality.

The bill also seeks to provide regular appropriate training and capacity-building for farmers and farmers’ organizations in the practice of climate sensitive decision-making, and the use of relevant tools and applications.



“Sa ilalim ng ating panukalang batas, inaatasan din natin ang DA na bumuo ng malinaw at maayos na mga briefer at materyal gaya ng charts, tables at diagrams na madaling maintindihan ng ating mga magsasaka (This bill mandates the DA to form a clear and efficient briefer and material like charts, tables, and diagrams that is easily understandable for our farmers),” he said.

“Malaki ang maitutulong ng mga ito para sa matalinong pagdedesisiyon kung kailan ang tamang panahon ng pagtatanim at pag-aani. Malaking bagay din ito para makaiwas na masayang ang kanilang pananim sa tuwing hahagupit ang mga bagyo (It will greatly help them form intelligent decisions when they need to sow and harvest. This will also help them avoid wasting their crops during typhoons),” Lapid explained.

He added that Senate Bill No. 1912 also mandates the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to provide regular and up-to-date localized weather and climate information to city, municipal, and provincial agriculturist’s offices, and directly to the farmers themselves through all available means of communication and information dissemination.

He said this information must be written in simple English, Filipino, and other regional language or dialect as necessary, and must be presented in easily understandable form.



Climate-resilient agriculture, isusulong ni Lapid



November 15, 2020 @ 4:54 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naghain ng isang panukala si Senador Manuel “Lito” Lapid ang isang panukalang batas upang magtayo ng climate-resilient agriculture sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng pagpapahusay ng kakayahang umangkop ng magsasaka sa masamang panahon at pangyayari sa klima.

Sa pahayag, sinabi ni Lapid na layunin ng Senate Bill No. 1912 na gawing institusiyunado ang paggamit ng crop climate calendars upang maarmasan ang magsasaka ng climate-sensitive decision making.

Inaatasan din ng panukala na makita ng magsasaka ang localized weather at climate information.

Sa mahigit 20 bagyong dumadaan sa ating bansa kada taon, umaabot sa bilyong halaga ang nasasalanta at nasisira sanhi ng masamang kondisyon ng panahon partikular sa sektor ng agrikultura.

Nitong 2019 lamang, umabot sa P16 bilyong halaga ang nasira sa agrikultura na iniwan ng bagyo nang tumama sa bansa habang umabot naman sa P34.45 bilyon ang sinalanta at nasirang pananim noong 2018.

Kamakailan lamang, binayo ng bagyong Quinta, Rolly at Ulysses ang Luzon at nanira ng P10 bilyong halaga sa sektor ng agrikultura na naapektuhan ang 150,000 magsasaka.

“Sa likod ng mga nakalululang numerong ito at halaga ng mga nawasak at nasayang na pananim ay mga buhay ng ating mga magsasaka at ng kanilang pamilya na nalulubog din sa kumunoy tuwing may bagyo. Kasabay kasing inaanod at winawasak ng mga bagyo ang kanilang pamumuhay kung saan nagmumula ang pantustos nila sa pang-araw-araw na pangangailangan. Kaya panahon na para kumilos ang ating gobyerno para tulungan ang sektor ng agrikultura at siguruhing kaya nitong makasabay sa mga hamon ng climate change gaya ng mga bagyo,” ayon kay Lapid.

“The most innovative ideas and technologies, as well as proven best practices must be tried, tested and eventually implemented to assist our farmers in managing the effects of climate change and weather disturbances,” dagdag niya.

Inaatasan ng panukala ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na gawing institusyonado paggamit ng crop climate calendar sa buong Pilipinas.

“A crop climate calendar is defined as “a visual tool that presents the phenology and cultivation practices of a crop against the timeline of the cropping season, containing information on the weather and climate states that occur in the locality and the risks faced by the crop.” ayon sa panukala.



Inatasan din ang DA na armas ang lahat ng magsasaka at organisasyon ng magsasaka ng pagpopormula, paggamit at interpretasyon ng crop climate calendar na ginawa para sa espisipikong lokalidad na ipamimigay nang libre.

Magsasagawa ang DA ng regular na angkop na pagsasanay at capacity-building apra sa magsasaka at organisasyon ng magsasaka sa paggamit ng climate sensitive decision-making at paggamit ng may kaugnayang tools at applications.

“Sa ilalim ng ating panukalang batas, inatasan din natin ang DA na bumuo ng malinaw at maayos na mga briefer at materyal gaya ng charts, tables at diagrams na madaling maintindihan ng ating mga magsasaka. Malaki ang maitutulong ng mga ito para sa matalinong pagdedesisyon kung kailan ang tamang panahon ng pagtanim at pag-aani. Malaking bagay din ito para makaiwas na masayang ang kanilang pananim sa tuwing hahagupit ang mga bagyo,” paliwanag ni Lapid.

Inatasan din ng SB 1912 ang Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration or PAGASA na magbigay ng regular at up-to-date localized weather at climate information sa lahat ng agriculture office sa siyudad, munisipalidad at lalawigan at direkta sa mga magsasaka mismo sa pamamagitan ng lahat ng uri ng sistema ng komunikasyon at information dissemination tulad ng internet, social media, telebisyon at radyo.

“This information must be written in simple English, Filipino and other regional language or dialect as necessary and must be presented in easily understandable form.,” aniya. **Ernie Reyes**



Climate change and insurance

By Michael F. Rellosa

November 16, 2020

THANK God we (barely) survived being pummeled by successive typhoons, but what misery and heartbreak it caused us hapless mortals. Loss of life and limb may have been minimized, but loss of or damage to our hard-earned property, our houses, our cars and our means of making a living have not. In the past few weeks ending just before last weekend, the Philippines was battered by a string of typhoons — Typhoon “Quinta” (“Molave”), Typhoon “Rolly” (“Goni”), severe Tropical Storm “Siony” (“Atsani”), Tropical Storm “Tonyo” (“Eta”), Typhoon “Ulysses” (“Vamco”) — all of them wreaking havoc on our people, their properties and their livelihoods.

How can we lessen the impact of these increasing number of unusually powerful weather disturbances exacerbated by climate change? We can risk-manage and shore up our houses, retrofitting them to withstand stronger typhoons or other catastrophic perils such as floods and earthquakes through such measures as using four-sided roofs (cuatro aguas), building on stilts to lessen the force and effect of rampaging waters, be it storm surges or flash floods, using reinforced concrete and tempered glass for windows, installing storm shutters to protect windows, eliminating eaves to strengthen wind resistance, building away from slopes and water, and adhering faithfully to building codes. These are all possible and desirable but adds to the building costs, which not everyone can afford. We can plan ahead, and once warnings are up, park our cars in protected and elevated areas to ensure that they are safe from being submerged in floods. Sandbag entrances and drains to keep flood water out of our houses. Weigh down our roofs with sand bags as well as strap all objects that can be pried loose and become flying projectiles. These may be cheaper alternatives to the former but are not as reliable.

I could go on with numerous examples. However, there is one way that we can always rely on, and this is passing all this risk and the worry that goes with it, to someone else. This is known as risk transfer or insurance. For a fraction of the cost of retrofitting, or building to exceed the code, we can pay a small price for the insurance premium and be assured that if our property (house or car) gets damaged, partially or totally, the insurer would foot the bill to either replace it or have it repaired to the condition that it was in immediately prior to the loss or damage. You are therefore assured that you would still have your property to use and enjoy.

There are a number of people though, who view insurance dimly. This I think is due to a poor understanding of how it works and what it can offer. The key here is communication and an openness to share information on both sides, the insurer and the insured. Very few insured take the time to understand their coverages and fewer still bother to read their policies, much like very few of us bother to read the manuals that come with our cars or electronic gadgets, relying instead on trial and error to get them to work. We do not have the same leeway with insurance. Once our houses or cars are damaged, and we find out we do not have the right coverage, it will be too late to do anything about it.

My advice would be to talk to an insurance professional, be it an agent or broker or the insurer himself, tell them exactly what you want to be covered against. They will then respond with what is available in the market and how much it would cost. I would also advise that you go through the fine print of your policies together. Ask questions, especially when you discuss what are and aren't covered (coverages and exclusions). Make sure that what you want covered is written into the policy. Always remember that you have the right to make changes to the policy by advising them and asking them to endorse the policy accordingly. If it is to waive a certain exclusion, then perhaps there would be a corresponding additional premium charge. Keep all records of communication and agreements in soft or hard copies, together with the policy documents. Once happy with the policy, and with your questions answered, you can rest assured that all will be in order should the feared peril occur. No problem. You are insured.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/11/16/opinion/columnists/climate-change-and-insurance/796963/>



Existential challenge posed by climate change

By [Marit Stinus-Cabugon](#)

November 16, 2020

AS entire neighborhoods in the National Capital Region (NCR) were being inundated by flood water, President Rodrigo Duterte issued a strong appeal to developed countries to “lead in deep and drastic cuts in carbon emission. They must act now, or it will be too late,” the President said in his message at the plenary session of the 37th Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit. “Or if I may add,” he said, “it is too late.”

These words of doom are not misplaced. While the recent typhoons that plowed through the country cannot be blamed solely on climate change, the frequency and destructiveness of storms are influenced by climate change.

President Duterte called out the developed countries for being “those most responsible for this existential challenge that we face today.” The Philippines is one of the countries most affected.

It is ironic that countries and corners of the earth that have relatively little — in some cases almost zero — contribution to climate change are faced with climate change-induced challenges to which there seem to be no solution. Reuters, in a Nov. 10, 2020 article, reported about the “shocking” pace of the melting of glaciers in the Qilian Mountains in the Tibetan Plateau in Northwest China. The some 3,000 glaciers in this mountain range store tens of billions of cubic meters of water in solid form, China Daily reports.

The glaciers are the source of water of millions of people and vast fields of agricultural land in a place with a climate otherwise too dry for agricultural production. The water from the Laohugou glacier No. 12 — the largest glacier in the Qilian mountains — and other glaciers in the area “irrigates the Hexi Corridor and was fundamental in the development of oasis cities along the Northern Silk Road,” according to Greenpeace, which adds that the Laohugou glacier retreated by an average of 13.1 meters a year from 2006 to 2018 (July 4, 2018 post).

Laohugou is being closely monitored by researchers. They have noted that “run-off is about double what it was 60 years ago,” leading to increased flooding during spring. There is a fear that once the melting has peaked — expected to happen in about a decade from now — “snow melt would sharply decrease due to the smaller, fewer glaciers,” Shen Yongping of the China Academy of Sciences told Reuters, warning of a possible water crisis. The changes observed here “reflect melting trends in other parts of the Tibetan Plateau, the source of the Yangtze and other great Asian rivers.”

There are no people living in the vicinity of the glaciers, yet they are melting at elevated speed due to higher air temperatures caused by man-made global warming and black carbon. Black carbon is “formed by the incomplete burning of fossil fuels, biofuels and biomass” (Renee Cho, March 22, 2016). Black carbon is harmful to human health and the environment and “is the second largest contributor to climate change after CO₂.”

It “darkens the surface of snow and ice, reducing their albedo (the reflecting power of a surface), warming the snow, and hastening melting,” Cho explains.

If it is hard to imagine that snowfall and glaciers in some remote, uninhabited mountain peak in the Tibetan Plateau could determine the future fate of millions of people and hundreds of thousands of hectares of farm land; it’s even harder to understand why we should be concerned about Greenland’s ice cap.

Sure, Greenland (population of about 56,000) was never more mysterious than when Smilla Jaspersen pursued justice across a frozen sea off Greenland’s West Coast in Peter Høeg’s *Miss Smilla’s Sense of Snow*. The novel was published in 1992. This was before global warming had started to impact on Greenland’s ice sheet. This ice sheet’s “relatively stable behavior collapsed in the mid-1990s, and the decades since have been marked by a rapid and accelerating increase in ice loss,” Twila Moon and colleagues conclude in “Rapid Reconfiguration of the Greenland Ice Sheet Coastal Margin” (Oct. 27, 2020).



The authors remind us that this “ice sheet mass loss influences sea level in all coastal areas around the world.” Coastal and low-lying communities far away from Greenland will experience their own “reconfiguration” as sea levels rise, the result of this rapid melting, just as communities that are relying on glaciers as source of water are facing future existential challenges, to borrow President Duterte’s term.

Is it too late, as the President so ominously declared? After the inundation of areas around the NCR, almost the entire province of Cagayan Valley got flooded. Catanduanes was devastated a few days prior by Typhoon “Rolly.” Thousands of homes and billions of pesos worth of infrastructure and agriculture have been destroyed across Luzon within a few days. This is the new normal, a real and not fictional existential challenge.



Climate change and green transport: Now or never

By Thomas M. Orbos

November 16, 2020



Thomas M. Orbos

STREET TALK

Typhoon Ulysses created havoc as it breezed through our nation's area of responsibility, unleashing destructive winds and floods that caught many people off-guard. But in truth, we had been forewarned many years ago of the worsening weather systems—with Milenyo, Ondoy and Yolanda. And it will not get better.

This is the result of climate change; and these natural disturbances will be more frequent and destructive. As much as we hate to admit it, this is our own doing—with our neglect of the environment, from the denudation of our forests, the wanton abuse of our watersheds, and the harmful carbon emissions from human activities. Of these harmful emissions, 30 percent comes from transport, more than that coming from other sources; affecting not just our environment, but also our state of health, with respiratory illness as the third cause of deaths in our country. We can only blame ourselves. But we can also be the ones to change the course.

To move in our desired direction, urgently implementing a national program on green mobility is necessary. The legal basis is there with the Clean Air Act, a law created some 20 years ago. But up to recently, we have seen only minor adherence to this law. Higher fuel standard compliance had been delayed and importation of second hand vehicles, especially heavy haul transport, continues; both mainly for our business sector considerations. There were promising initiatives moving into this administration beginning with the public transport modernization program and the will to implement a more encompassing roadworthiness testing for all vehicles. But unfortunately, this is not enough. While we need to do catch up with our Asian neighbors, most especially with China who has given itself a zero-carbon emission challenge on their transport in 30 years, we still have to pass the laws on the promotion of low carbon transport and the support for its needed ecosystem.

The current pandemic presents a unique opportunity for such a catch up. Covid-19 attacks the respiratory system. And carbon emissions weaken it. Carbon reduction therefore makes sense, not just for a cleaner environment but also for us to be better equipped for respiratory related pandemics. Now is a good time to fast track such legislation on green mobility. Moreover, the majority of the populace now appreciates the low-carbon mindset. Commuters, fearful of infection on public transport or because simply none were available, have pivoted to walking and use of bicycles. The government can respond to this with pedestrian and bike-friendly infrastructure that is cheap, fast and easy to construct. We can just look at other mega-cities such as New York and London, having converted existing roads (with present car usage less anyway) into exclusive lanes to accommodate human powered form of mobility.

There are many other public sector green mobility initiatives that can be undertaken—and definitely not the “dolomite” kind. But more than government, the key to real change is us, the private sector. Collectively and individually. Conglomerates need to actively pursue green mobility such as the bike-for-employee program of San Miguel Corp. And individually, the green mobility mindset needs to be internalized by everyone. And it doesn't have to be just having electric vehicles or bicycles. It has to be a mobility mindset that inculcates “less and only necessary trips” are better. And if you do need to take that trip, then the hierarchy of mobility follows, heralding pedestrians on top and motorists at the bottom. Just think of the effect if everyone practices this simple mindset.



We should not kid ourselves. Global warming is here. Weather disturbances will be more frequent, violent and harder to predict. And this won't be the last of a global pandemic. Mother nature is speaking and we as her children need to listen. We need to reduce drastically these harmful emissions in order for us to secure a life for future generations. Again—we can only blame ourselves for the mess we are in. And we can only be the ones to change its course.

Thomas "Tim" Orbos was formerly with the DOTr and the MMDA. He has completed his graduate studies at the McCourt School of Public Policy of Georgetown University and is an alumnus of the MIT Sloan School of Management. He can be reached via e-mail at thomas_orbos@sloan.mit.edu



MAPAIT NA ALAALA AT ARAL NG NAGBABAGONG KLIMA



November 15, 2020 @ 11:57 AM 19 hours ago

NITONG nakalipas na dalawang Linggo, magkakasunod na dagok ang lumapat sa Pilipinas.

Malalakas na bagyo ang humampas sa Bicol at sa kalupaan ng Luzon. Mula kay “Pepito” tapos si “Quinta” rumagasa si super typhoon “Rolly” at sumunod sina “Siony” at “Tonyo.”

Nilubog naman ni Ulysses ang Maynila at lalawigan ng Rizal at Cagayan Valley nito lang nakalipas na mga araw.

Putik ang bumalot sa mga kalsada at luha naman sa mga mata at mukha ng mga biktima.

Noong 2009, si “Ondoy” ang nanalasa at sabi nila, ang ganitong bagyo at baha ay hindi pangkarinawan.

Isang beses lang daw sa isang-daan taon. Pagkalipas ng apat na taon, pinaluhod ni super typhoon “Yolanda” ang Bisaya at halos buong mundo ay tumugon sa panahon ng pighati ng Pilipinas.

Abnormal ang lakas ni Yolanda at siya ang pinakamalakas na bagyong tumama sa lupa, noong mga panahon iyon.

Pero nitong Nob. 7-12, 2020, dalawang bagyo na mas malakas, mas maraming ulan at mas mapaminsala ang tumama sa atin.

Sa loob ng isang dekada, ang sinasabing mga sakuna na sa isang beses mo lang mararamdaman ay binira at halos binura ang maraming bayan, kabahayan, kabuhayan at buhay.

Hawak na naman ng Pilipinas ang world record, sa pinakamalakas na bagyong dumaan at yumapak sa lupa. Pagkatapos lang ng pitong taon. Hirap isipin pero totoo.

Hindi na nakagugulat na mismong PAGASA na ang nagpapaliwanag na ang mga bagyong ito ay epekto na ng nagbabagong-klima o climate change.



Malalakas na bagyo na ang mas madalas na nating mararamdaman at mas malalaki na ang pinsala.

Sa gitna ng mga madilim na sitwasyon na ito, parang hindi tayo natuto. Meron kahandaan pero hindi sapat.

May mga batas at alituntunin, pero hindi nasusunod. Marami ang makulit na hindi sumusunod at maraming may kapangyarihan na hindi alam ang gagawin. O kaya ay tulog sa panahon ng sakuna.

Bilyong piso ang nasira at nawasak, libong pamilya ang nawalan ng tirahan at kabuhayan.

Maraming tumutulong, pero kapos ang abuloy at ayuda. At pinuri na naman ang pagiging matibay at masayahin ng mga Filipino.

Hindi natin natutunan ang mga mahalagang aral ng pagkasira ng kalikasan, ang nagbabagong-klima at ang pandemya.

Nakalulungkot na uulit at uulit ang masaklap na karanasang ito, sa susunod na taon.



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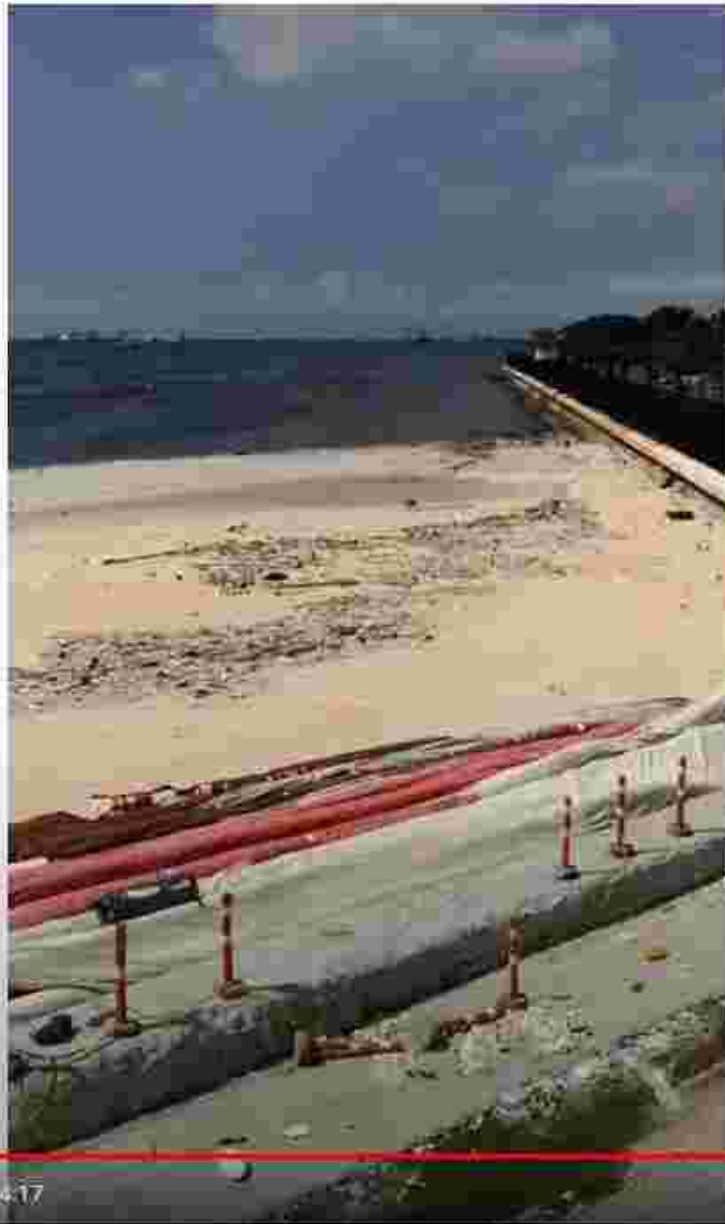
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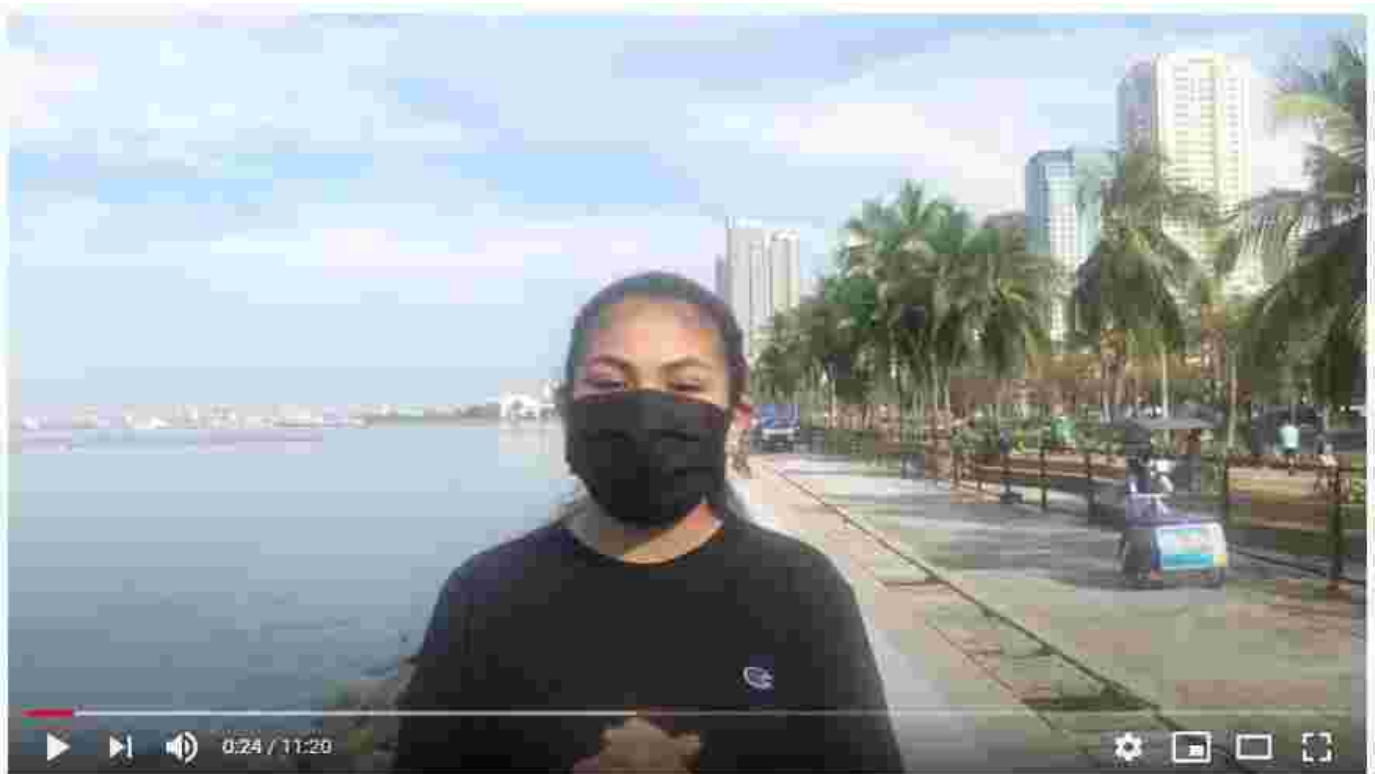
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Clean-up tips after flood issued

Published 1 min ago on November 16, 2020 01:10 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



PILES of debris from fallen trees were removed from a waterway in Taguig City. PHOTOGRAPH BY AL PADILLA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @TRIBUNEPHL_AL

An advocacy group for a zero waste and toxics-free society has come up with a list of useful tips on how the public can clean-up safely due to severe floods that inundated parts of the country following the onslaught of typhoon “Ulysses” (International Name: Vamco) in Southern Luzon.

The group said that while it sympathizes with the victims of typhoon “Ulysses” especially those who lost their loved ones and properties, they offered a 15-point cleanup eco-tips, which if properly observed, can help decrease the volume of debris and trash requiring disposal.

Following the cleanup eco-tips, it pointed out, will help “conserve resources, reduce expenses and protect human health from hazardous chemicals and wastes.”

“We invite affected families and communities to clean up the mess caused by typhoon ‘Ulysses’ in a manner that will prevent the creation of piles of stinking garbage in the neighborhood, which may take a few days before being collected,” the group said in a statement.

“The post-disaster cleanup should not lead to the all-out disposal of flood-soaked materials as some of them can still be washed, dried, repaired, reused, recycled or composted,” it added.

The 15-eco tips are:

1. Put on protective gloves and boots or safety shoes as a protection against animal bites, bruises, cuts, chemical burns, leptospirosis and other flood-borne diseases.
2. Segregate as much as possible post-disaster discards to set apart those that can be repaired, refurbished, reused, recycled, composted or disposed of.
3. Separate ordinary trash from special waste like busted fluorescent lamps, flood-soaked televisions and other e-wastes laden with hazardous substances such as lead, mercury and toxic flame-retardant chemicals.
4. Do not dump garbage in streets, storm drains, rivers and vacant lots, nor engage in open burning to prevent further environmental degradation and pollution.
5. Remove discards that can collect and hold water, which can serve as a breeding site for *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes whose bites can cause dengue fever.
6. Make use of rainwater and gray water from the washing of clothes and dishes and from bathing to remove silt from flooding, scrub with soap and water and then rinse thoroughly.



7. As much as possible, use non-toxic cleaning products such as vinegar, baking soda and soap.
8. Wipe glass windows clean using a moist newspaper that can be shredded after use for composting.
9. Clean furniture and other stuff submerged in floodwater with hot soapy water, rinse thoroughly and dry under the sun.
10. Salvage, clean, fix and reuse mud-soaked furnishings.
11. Mix equal amounts of vinegar and water to disinfect things contaminated by flood water.
12. If using commercially sold disinfectant, carefully read the product label and follow the usage instructions.
13. Do not mix chlorine-based products such as bleach with acids, ammonia and other compounds, and always use alcohol and bleach in a well-ventilated area.
14. Wash flood-drenched clothes and linens separately from uncontaminated ones.
15. If needed, give damaged walls, appliances, furniture and fixtures a fresh coat of duly certified lead-safe paint.



3 dead in Albay due to carbon monoxide poisoning

By Connie Calipay November 15, 2020, 4:51 pm



Infographic of the Department of Health-Bicol on the proper use of generator to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

LEGAZPI CITY – The police in Albay on Sunday said three persons were reported dead while 10 others were hospitalized in the province due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning associated with the use of generators.

This, as the Department of Health-Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) in the region reminded the public of the risks of CO poisoning in the aftermath of the recent Typhoons Quinta, Rolly and Ulysses, when many people resorted to using generator sets amid power outages.

Albay provincial police spokesperson Capt. Dexter Panganiban, in an interview, said in the municipality of Tiwi, two persons died and two others were hospitalized, while in Ligao City, one person died, and eight were hospitalized. All victims were referred to the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH).

In an advisory, DOH-Bicol said generators, if used improperly, can lead to the buildup of CO inside homes, garages, or buildings that could poison people inside.

"Clinicians and the general public are warned to watch out for symptoms that are related to CO poisoning," DOH-Bicol assistant regional director Ferchito Avelino said.

He noted that symptoms include headache, shortness of breath, altered mental status and behavior, fatigue, malaise or a general feeling of sickness, dizziness, clumsiness or difficulty in walking, vision problems, confusion and impaired judgment, nausea and vomiting, rapid breathing, chest pain, and a rapid or irregular heartbeat.

These symptoms coupled with a history of exposure to carbon monoxide or several people with similar complaints are red flags for possible carbon monoxide poisoning, Avelino said.

The advisory added that at high risk for CO poisoning are babies, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with chronic conditions such as anemia, respiratory illness, or heart disease.

The DOH-Bicol urged the people to immediately report to authorities or bring to the hospital suspected cases of CO poisoning.

The health agency has intensified its information dissemination through various media platforms and coordinated with local health officials through the DOH Development Management Officers on the proper use of generator sets as well as with hospitals on prompt diagnosis and treatment of victims to prevent mortality from CO poisoning. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1121873>



Duterte inutos ang pagbuo ng TF Rolly, Ulysses

By [Malou Escudero](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- November 15, 2020 - 12:00am



Ipinauubaya ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa task force ang pamamaraan kung paano mas magiging mabilis ang pagkilos ng gobyerno sa pagbibigay ng tulong.

PCOO file

MANILA, Philippines — Ipinag-utos kahapon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagbuo ng isang task force upang mas mapabilis ang rehabilitasyon at mabigyan ng tulong ang mga sinalanta ng nagdaang Bagyong Rolly at Ulysses.

Sa public address, sinabi ng Pangulo na kasali sa bubuuing task force ang halos lahat ng mga ahensiya ng gobyerno.

Ipinauubaya ni Duterte sa task force ang pamamaraan kung paano mas magiging mabilis ang pagkilos ng gobyerno sa pagbibigay ng tulong.

Tiniyak din ni Duterte na darating ang tulong sa mga sinalanta ng bagyo at hindi pababayaan ang mga mamamayan na nakalubog sa baha sa Tuguegarao, Cagayan Valley at Isabela.

Round-the clock din aniya ang ginagawang trabaho ng Armed Forces of the Philippines para tulungan ang mga mamamayan sa Region II na nasa bubungan pa rin ng kanilang mga bahay.

Aminado si Duterte na kung hindi may mga taong nangangailangan ng tulong, ang iba naman ay namamatay.

Tiniyak din ni Duterte na gagamitin lahat ang assets ng gobyerno para tulungan ang mga apektadong mamamayan.

Sa huli ay sinabi ng Pangulo na mahirap ang sitwasyon pero babangon pa rin ang mga Pilipino.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/15/2056969/duterte-inutos-ang-pagbuo-ng-tf-rolly-ulysses/amp/>



Gov't urged to seek foreign aid after typhoons

November 15, 2020 | 7:22 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/MICHAEL VARCAS

A SENATOR on Sunday urged the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to seek help from the international community for victims of Typhoon Vamco, which killed at least 67 people and submerged many parts of Luzon island last week.

The Senate would ask the agency on Monday to activate the Philippine International Assistance Cluster and explore the option of seeking foreign aid, Senator Ma. Lourdes Nancy S. Binay told DWIZ radio.

“We still have some fellow men on top of their houses in Isabela so there should be a sense of urgency,” she said in Filipino.

The government cluster coordinates incoming and outgoing international humanitarian assistance. It may call for foreign help if the local disaster agency recommends it to President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

Typhoon Vamco, locally named Ulysses pummeled Luzon last week, killing at least 67, hurting 21 others and leaving millions without electricity. At least a dozen people were still missing, according to the local disaster agency.

The typhoon made landfall in Quezon province and crossed Central Luzon, affecting Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The Philippines, one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, is hit by about 20 typhoons yearly. It's located on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire — a major area in the basin of the Pacific Ocean where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

Ms. Binay appealed to Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. to seek foreign aid for rescue equipment, personnel and air assets for disaster response and rescue missions. Vamco caused P70.79 million worth of damage on power equipment, according to the National Electrification Administration (NEA). About 88 areas in Luzon still did not have electricity, it added.

Meanwhile, Senators Juan Edgardo M. Angara and Sherwin T. Gatchalian in separate statements said they have given aid to the Bicol region.

Mr. Angara's office conducted relief operations in Bato and Virac in Catanduanes as well as in several towns in Albay and Camariñes Sur. Mr. Gatchalian gave P6 million of financial aid to the three provinces.

The Bicol region was still recovering from the onslaught of Super Typhoon Goni, locally named Rolly, which hit the country on Nov. 1. Typhoon Goni made landfall twice in the region, first in Catanduanes and then in Albay, killing at least 19 people.



Meanwhile, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has provided P10 billion more to the pooled calamity funds of government agencies to help them with rescue and relief operations after flooding in Cagayan Valley, Marikina City and Rizal.

“We just augmented the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Fund by another P10 billion in view of the continuing needs and for as long as it is imperative and necessary,” Budget Secretary Wendel E. Avisado said in a mobile phone message on Saturday.

The disaster agency has a P16-billion budget this year.

Mr. Avisado said the fund is meant for all kinds of disasters and natural calamities, including relief operations in flooded areas of Luzon.

Parts of Cagayan and Isabela have been submerged in floodwater since Friday due to the rising water level of Cagayan River caused by the heavy rainfall from Typhoon Vamco and the continued release of water from Magat Dam.

Rising flood waters forced some families to sleep on the roofs of their houses while waiting for rescue.

This followed massive flooding in Metro Manila, especially in Marikina City and Rizal province last week where muddy flood waters reached the roofs of single-story houses.

Vamco was the third typhoon and fifth tropical cyclone to hit the Philippines in less than three weeks. The typhoon drew comparisons to Typhoon Ketsana, locally named Ondoy, which submerged eastern parts of the capital region in 2009.

Four previous typhoons that entered the country this quarter have caused P38 billion in damage, based on official estimates as of Nov. 10.

The government’s calamity fund is a lump sum amount under its annual budget to cover response, relief and rehabilitation operations of state agencies in areas struck by calamities. Meanwhile, the Social Security System (SSS) and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) will lend to victims of the three typhoons.

SSS will offer calamity loans from Nov. 27 to Feb 26, it said in a statement on Sunday. It will also offer loans for housing repairs and tap its three-month advance pensions. The state agency said it had not released the rules for the program.

GSIS will also allow members to borrow P20,000 at a yearly interest rate of 6%, to be paid for three years.

Borrowers must be in active service and are not facing administrative or criminal charges. Old-age and disability pensioners with a net monthly take-home pension after loan availment of at least 25% of their basic monthly pension can also apply for the emergency loan.

Meanwhile, members with due loans or those with arrears of more than six months can renew their emergency loan from a different calamity, except the one under the COVID-19 emergency loan program.

Members with only three months of paid premiums may also apply. — **Charmaine A. Tadalán, Beatrice M. Laforga and Kathryn Kristina T. Jose**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/govt-urged-to-seek-foreign-aid-after-typhoons/>



Mga taga-Marikina naniniwalang buwan ang aabutin bago tuluyang makabangon

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Nov 15 2020 06:06 PM



Bumalik ngayong Nobyembre 15, 2020 ang mga residente ng Provident Village sa Makati City para maisalba ang natitira nilang mga gamit kasunod ng pananalasa ng Bagyong Ulysses. *Bianca Dava, ABS-CBN News*

MAYNILA — Hindi alam ni Richard Din kung paano magsisimula muli matapos malimas ng bahang dulot ng Bagyong Ulysses ang kanilang mga ari-arian.

Ngayon pa lang sana nakababawi ang restoran ni Din sa Marikina mula sa pandemya pero dumating naman ang bagyo.

"Washed out lahat. Matagal naming pinundar, tapos biglang isang iglap lang mawawala nang ganun," ani Din.

Agad namang lumikas sa kanilang karinderya ang pamilya ni Mary Ann Hernandez matapos umakyat ang baha sa ikalawang palapag ng kanilang bahay.

Pero hindi nakaligtas ang kainan ni Hernandez at namatay sa baha ang 5 alagang aso ng kanilang pamilya.

"Nakakapanghinayang ng loob," ani Hernandez, na may 2 anak na nag-aaral sa kolehiyo.

Bagaman maagang nag-evacuate ang pamilya ni Capiral, wala naman silang naisalbang gamit dahil umabot sa bubong nila ang baha.

Ubos lahat ng gamit, pati mga makinarya sa kanilang negosyong T-shirt printing.

"Malaking effect sa business namin," ani Capiral.

Naniniwala ang mga taga-Marikina na aabutin umano ng ilang buwan bago muling makabangon ang mga residente.

"This is a long fight. Matagal na recovery ito," ani Capiral.

"Ang plano wala pa talaga. Iniisip namin dapat munang malinis at sana mapabilis umangat ang Provident [Village]," ani Din.

Sa ngayon, kailangan ng mga residente ng mga hagdan, bota, at gamit panlinis.

-- Ulat ni Bianca Dava, ABS-CBN News

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/15/20/mga-tag-a-marikina-naniniwalang-buwan-ang-aabutin-bago-tuluyang-makabangon?fbclid=IwAR0DaZJ2lvrkdcCyX7quhfdHZNuCOACvdZ7YKptSve6J39MHGiGcvRvAgNI>



Ulysses casualties mounting

posted November 16, 2020 at 01:50 am

by [Othel V. Campos and Willie Casas, Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Death tally reaches 67
Farm losses at P1.9 billion
Infra damage—P469 million

The death toll from Typhoon “Ulysses” climbed to 67, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said in its 9 a.m. update on Sunday.



DELUGE. Amid the Ulysses-spawned deluge in Cagayan, a tantalizing view of a rainbow emerges, inspiring hope for the typhoon-battered residents of 24 towns who have yet to see the flood waters subside as of press time. Coast Guard

The council's spokesman, Mark Cashean Timbal, said 22 persons were found dead in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley); two in Region 3; 17 in Calabarzon; eight for Bicol; 10 in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and eight in the National Capital Region (NCR).

The NDRRMC also reported 21 injuries and 12 persons missing.

Damage to agriculture was placed at P1.19 billion in Regions 1, 2, 3, Calabarzon, Bicol, and CAR as the typhoon destroyed agricultural lands in its path and left thousands of farmers and fishermen with no means of livelihood.

The Department of Agriculture said so 49,237 farmers were affected by the typhoon, and that 54,043 hectares of agricultural land was destroyed.

The typhoon destroyed rice, corn, high value crops, fishery resources and livestock in the CAR, the Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon and the Bicol region.

Infrastructure damage was estimated at P469.7 million in Region 1, Mimaropa, and Bicol. Ulysses also damaged a total of 25,852 houses.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has 17 of its personnel and rescue boats, a water tanker, food trucks, and food and other non-food aid such as tarpaulins, its chairman said Sunday.

PRC chairman Senator Richard Gordon said the PRC staff would recruit volunteers on the ground.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said on Sunday that the death toll in the Cagayan Valley reached 24, while 13 people were reported missing.

In an interview on Dobo B Sa News TV, AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Edgard Arevalo said search and rescue operations of teams from the Army, Philippine Air Force and the Navy continued on Sunday.

Arevalo appealed for more relief items and food packs as these are most needed by Cagayan Valley flood victims.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, meanwhile, said the department would need more than P290 million to repair health facilities damaged by Ulysses.

In a briefing on the government's typhoon response, Duque said several facilities such as treatment and rehabilitation centers, rural health units, and barangay health stations were hit hard by the storm.

“One of the priorities is to repair the damage to isolation and quarantine facilities in [Region 5], which would reach P11.2 million,” Duque said.



"It's not much but we need the money right away because this is a basic service that needs immediate attention and repair," Duque added.

He urged the relevant agencies to move quickly to release funds for typhoon recovery efforts.

"The problem is historically, the government moves slowly, especially the national government," he said. Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje said the DOH would send a team to Cagayan Valley to help health workers there respond to the needs of residents affected by the massive flooding due to Ulysses.

Cabotaje, in an interview on Dabol B sa News TV, said health workers in Region 2 have already asked DOH for help as they are already weary following the successive typhoons that have torn through the region.

Cabotaje said the DOH also asked the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the World Health Organization to help them in various health-related concerns, such as provision of medical consultations and psychosocial briefing, and checking water cleanliness and sanitation.

Cabotaje reminded the residents to still observe minimum health standards to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as many are still staying in evacuation centers.

She added that they have not yet received any report of COVID-19 infection in evacuation centers.

Cabotaje also warned the public against leptospirosis, which could be contracted from exposure in floodwaters. Also on Sunday, Senator Imee Marcos said decades of neglect of the country's dams and other infrastructure led to the severe flash floods that devastated Cagayan and Isabela.

"Typhoon Ulysses brought back the horror of Ondoy. The government may have learned to prepare in advance but fell short of the magnitude of disaster," she said.

"The 38-year-old Magat Dam and other old dams have not been upgraded in decades, their surrounding watershed forests have been denuded, and hence Magat would have collapsed under the deluge of Typhoon Ulysses if water was not released," she said. "The cycle of calamity, panic and suffering will continue unless we improve our water infrastructure."

Marcos, who chairs the Senate committee on economic affairs, is filing a bill that aims to upgrade the country's water facilities and resources and reorganize their management amid the challenges of population growth and climate change.

"The water crisis will be the crisis of coming decades: flooding, shortages, the need for rain harvest infrastructure, management. It's urgent we grapple with the challenges ASAP," Marcos said.

With a population of about 12 million and still growing, Metro Manila will be needing a water supply larger than what the 52-year-old Angat Dam can provide, Marcos said.

"In recent years, we have experienced water rationing which can be aggravated by greater sanitation needs during pandemics like COVID-19," Marcos added.

Besides the upgrading of dams, Marcos wants to revive flood control projects like the unfinished Parañaque Spillway conceived in the 1970s and the dredging of Laguna Lake aborted in 2011, both of which could mitigate flooding in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

Marcos also said the country can take advantage of typhoons by creating more rain harvesting facilities that will not only reduce flooding but also increase the supply of non-potable water for agricultural irrigation, fish farming, and urban sanitation.

Less than 10 percent of rainfall in the country is harvested, with most of it draining toward the sea, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

"We also need to build more infrastructure, like the Candaba Viaduct built way back in 1976, that are elevated above swamps and flood-prone areas to prevent the interruption of supply chains during heavy downpours," Marcos said.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/339599>



Vamco (Ulysses) hits Vietnam as Philippines death toll continues to rise

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Nov 15 2020 09:21 PM



Parts of a bridge destroyed by Typhoon Vamco lie on a beach in Quang Tri province, Vietnam November 15, 2020. *Ho Cau/VNA via Reuters.*

HANOI - Storm Vamco barreled into Vietnam on Sunday, damaging buildings and injuring at least five people, as the death toll in the Philippines climbed to 67.

The storm made landfall on Sunday morning with reported winds of up to 90 kilometres per hour (56 mph), uprooting trees and blowing the roofs off houses and schools.

Vamco is the latest in a series of storms that have pummelled Vietnam over the past six weeks, causing flooding and landslides that have killed at least 159 people and left 70 others missing.

Initial reports from the Disaster Management Authority on Sunday said that five people were injured while they were trying to secure their houses.

Vamco has weakened since hitting the Philippines as a typhoon with winds of up to 155 kph, but state media said it had still caused significant damage.

Pictures showed seafront restaurants in the tourist hotspot of Hoi An -- a UNESCO world heritage site -- ripped apart by the storm, and huge trees uprooted in the old imperial city of Hue.

Authorities evacuated nearly 650,000 people from seven coastal provinces to higher and safer ground before the storm hit, but on Sunday warned of the danger of landslides triggered by the heavy rains.

Vamco was the deadliest storm to hit the Philippines this year, killing at least 67 people across the main island of Luzon in recent days and affecting some 1.7 million around the country.

The storm triggered some of the worst flooding in years, swamping villages, destroying crops and leaving hundreds of thousands without power.

Rescue teams and emergency supplies including food were dispatched to the northeast Philippines on Saturday where swathes of the region were inundated. The situation was made worse by the release of water from a dam.

Vice President Leni Robredo said Sunday that the waters were now receding after visiting Cagayan province, giving hope that the worst may be over for the storm-battered country.

"Situation is so much better. Many areas still flooded but water receded already," Robredo tweeted.

In Vietnam, weeks of severe weather have damaged or destroyed more than 400,000 homes, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Roads and bridges have been washed away, power supplies disrupted, and crucial food crops destroyed, leaving at least 150,000 people at immediate risk of food shortages.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/11/15/20/vamco-ulysses-hits-vietnam-as-philippines-death-toll-continues-to-rise?fbclid=IwAR3rTm6xg1jhzkzHD9CI4eUwz33-Hle1sOWxMK4QfJc5tsqmFYjO6jk72Pw>



Mga ‘reservoir’ itayo kontra baha mula sa mga dam - Gov. Fernando

By [Omar Padilla](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 16, 2020 - 12:00am

MALOLOS CITY, Bulacan, Philippines — Hiniling ni Gobernador Daniel Fernando sa pamahalaang nasyonal na isama na sa mga prayoridad ang konstruksyon ng mga “reservoir” upang maipon ang mga sobrang tubig mula sa mga dams na nagiging sanhi ng matinding pagbaha.

Ito’y upang maisakatuparan na umano ang proyektong ilang dekada na ring pinag-uusapan at ipinapanukala para tuluyan nang maresolba ang matagal nang problema ng pagbaha sa Bulacan tuwing may kalamidad.

Nagbunsod ang pakiusap ng gobernador matapos ang pagpapakawala ng sobra-sobrang tubig mula sa mga dam ng Angat at Ipo sa Norzagaray, at sa Bustos sa kasagsagan ng bagyong Ulysses.

Paliwanag ni Fernandi, hindi biro ang dami ng tubig na nasasayang at itinatapon lang habang kinakapos ang patubig para sa mga magsasaka tuwing tag-araw. Halimbawa na rito, base sa talaan ni Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer Felicisima Mungcal, naglabas ng tubig ang Angat Dam sa Norzagaray ng 133 cubic meter per seconds (cms) nitong alas-2 ng umaga ng Nobyembre 12 sa pagpasok ng bagyong Ulysses. Nasundan pa ito ng 120 cubic meters makalipas ng 12-oras ng araw ring iyon.

Sa karugtong nitong Ipo Dam sa nasabi ring bayan, umabot sa 5,638.77 cms ang pinakawalang tubig noong Nobyembre 9 na ilang araw pagkaraan ng bagyong Rolly, hanggang sa paghagupit ng bagyong Ulysses nitong Nobyembre 12.

Ayon sa gobernador, kung maiimbak lamang sa isang reservoir ang tubig, hindi ganito karami ang natatapon lamang papunta sa Manila Bay at kadalasan ay sanhi ng malawakang pagbaha sa Bulacan.

Nauna nang ipinanukala ng Kapitolyo sa nakalipas na mga dekada na magkaroon ng isang water reservoir sa Candaba Swamp, upang dito na maiimbak ang mga sobrang tubig mula sa nasabing mga dams kaysa padaluyin sa mga ilog na nakakapagpabaha.

Para naman sa mga sobrang tubig mula sa Bustos Dam, nais ni Gob. Fernando na matuloy na rin ang kumbersiyon ng Bayabas River sa bayan ng Donya Remedios Trinidad (DRT) upang maging dam. Mula rin noong Nobyembre 9, hanggang sa pagdaan ng bagyong Ulysses ng Nobyembre 12, nasa 7,079 cms na ang dumadaloy na sobrang tubig mula sa Bustos Dam. Kung ito aniya ay maiipon sa planong Bayabas Dam, karagdagang patubig din ito para sa mga magsasaka.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2020/11/16/2057170/mga-reservoir-itayo-kontra-baha-mula-sa-mga-dam-gov-fernando/amp/>



Lumang dam ayusin na - Imee

By [Gemma Garcia](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 16, 2020 - 12:00am



Ang undated na larawan ng file na ito ni Sen. Imee Marcos
The STAR/Edd Gumban, file

MANILA, Philippines — Isinusulong ni Sen. Imee Marcos ang rehabilitasyon at pag-upgrade sa mga lumang dam at imprastruktura ng tubig sa bansa.

Naniniwala si Marcos na ang ilang dekada nang napabayaang mga dam at iba pang imprastruktura ng tubig kaya nagkaroon ng flash flood sa Cagayan at Isabela.

Paliwanag ni Marcos, ang 38 taong nang Magat dam at iba pang mga lumang dam ay ilang dekada nang hindi na-upgrade o nagkaroon ng improvement at nakalbo na rin ang mga watershed sa paligid nito at posibleng bumigay kung di agad pinakawalan ang tubig.

Magiging pabalik-balik lamang umano ang mga kalamidad, pagpa-panic at pagdurusa ng mga residente sa paligid maliban na lang kung ipapaayos o i-improve ang mga water infrastructure sa bansa.

Kailangan na rin umano ng Metro Manila ng mas malaking water supply kumpara sa kayang ibigay ng 52 year old na Angat Dam dahil umaabot na sa 12 milyon at patuloy pang lumalaki ang populasyon ng Pilipinas.



Delubyo kung `di nagpakawala tubig

By: Abante Tonite — Last updated Nov 15, 2020

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Ipinagtanggol ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang desisyong buksan ang Magat Dam habang nananalasa ang bagyong 'Ulysses' dahil mas malaking sakuna umano ang mangyayari kung hindi ito nagpakawala ng sobrang tubig.

Sinabi ito ng Pangulo matapos magbanta si Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba na posibleng magsampa siya ng reklamo laban sa operator ng Magat Dam dahil sa pagpapakawala ng tubig habang kasagsagan ng bagyo.

"You have to release it otherwise we'll have a catastrophe," pahayag ng Pangulo matapos ang situation briefing sa kanyang pagbisita sa Pili, Camarines Sur nitong Linggo.

"Every dam in this world pagkapuno na 'yong tubig ire-release taiga 'yan, otherwise, magkalat 'yan 'pag nasira," dagdag ng Pangulo.

NGCP walang kinalaman sa paglubog ng Cagayan

Nilinaw naman ng National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) na wala silang kinalaman sa malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan at sa kahit saang lugar pa man sa bansa

Iginilit ng NGCP sa pahayag nito na mali ang ulat ng ABS-CBN hinggil sa pagbaha sa Cagayan na lumabas noong Nobyembre 14 at nauhit pa sa coverage ng pagbisita ni Pangulong Duterte sa lalawigan nitong Linggo.



Ayon sa NGCP, isa silang private concessionaire at system operator para sa national transmission grid na ang mandato ay patakbuhin, panatilihin at palawakin pa ang Philippine Power Grid.

Pagllinaw pa ng NGCP, wala silang kalamayan sa operasyon ng mga water source o hydro facility na katulad sa Magat Dam. Itinuro nito ang SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) na siyang nagpapatatko sa Magat Dam.

"The banner flashed during the above-mentioned news stories gives the false impression that the local governments in Cagayan Province is contemplating a legal suit against NGCP for the loss of life and damage to property caused by the flooding," ayon sa NGCP.

Dahil umano sa naturang balita, lumalabas na pinag-aaralan na ng pamahalaang lokal ng Cagayan ang pagsasampa ng kaso laban sa NGCP dahil sa pagkamatay ng ilang residente at mga pinsalang dulot ng pagbaha.

Sabi ng NGCP, kung magsasagawa lamang ng Google search ay malalaman na ang SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) ang operator ng Magat Hydro Facilities.

Maging ang mga sound bite umano mula kina Governor Mamba at Tuguegarao Mayor Jefferson Soriano sa balitang lumabas noong Nobyembre 14 ay hindi rin binanggit ang NGCP subalit naka-focus ang istorya sa nasabing kompanya.

Sabi pa ng NGCP na wala man lang kahit isa mula sa ABS-CBN News Team na komontak sa kanila para humingi ng tugon o reaksyon para balansehin ang istorya. Ito'y sa kabila umano ng maraming beses nang kinontak ang NGCP ng mga regional at head office team ng ABS-CBN para sa iba pang isyu.

Gilt ng NGCP na bawiin ng network ang naturang balita at itigil na ang pagpapalabas pa nito. (Prince Galeri)

[Climate change](#)

Scientists link record-breaking hurricane season to climate crisis

Evidence is not so much in the number of tropical storms the Atlantic has seen, but in their strength, intensity and rainfall



A man wades through rubbish and flood waters caused by Hurricane Eta in Honduras. Photograph: Orlando Sierra/AFP/Getty Images

Jeff Ernst in Tela, Honduras

Sun 15 Nov 2020 10.00 GMT

Paddling in a canoe through the flood waters left by Hurricane Eta in his rural village near the north coast of [Honduras](#), Adán Herrera took stock of the damage.

"Compared with [Hurricane Mitch](#), this caused more damage because the water rose so fast," said Herrera, 33, a subsistence farmer who is living on top of a nearby levee with his wife and child while they wait for the water to recede. "We're afraid we might not have anything to eat."

Hurricane Mitch in 1998 was the most destructive storm to hit Central America. But hundreds of thousands of subsistence farmers across the region have lost everything in flooding caused by Eta, which made landfall in Nicaragua as a category 4 hurricane on 3 November. Now, with a [second hurricane projected to make landfall](#) on Monday near where Eta did, even more could find themselves in the same situation.

Climate scientists say that this year's record-breaking hurricane season and the "unprecedented" double blow for Central America has a clear link to the climate crisis.

"In a 36-hour period [Eta] went from a depression to a very strong category 4," said Bob Bunting, CEO of the non-profit Climate Adaptation Center. "That is just not normal. Probably it was the fastest spin up from a depression to a major hurricane in history."

The evidence of the influence of the climate crisis is not so much in [the record-breaking 30 tropical storms](#) in the Atlantic so far this year, but the strength, rapid intensification and total rainfall of these weather systems.

"The warmer ocean waters that climate change brings are expected to make the stronger storms stronger and make them rapidly intensify more frequently and at a greater rate," said Dr Jeff Masters, a meteorologist and contributor to Yale Climate Connections. "These things have already been observed, particularly in the Atlantic, and it's going to be increasingly so in coming decades."

Central America has been one of the regions most affected by the climate crisis to date, first with Hurricane Mitch, and in recent years with [more extreme weather patterns](#), particularly in what's known as the dry corridor, which extends from northern Costa Rica all the way to southern Mexico.



"Heat is energy," said Masters. "Depending on the prevailing weather conditions you're going to intensify those conditions."

In the dry corridor, that has meant more frequent, prolonged and intense droughts as well as heavier rainfall when it does come, often causing flash flooding that washes away crops.

Subsistence farmers in the region have struggled to adapt to the new reality, and many in the region have simply given up and left. The climate crisis – and the hunger it brings – is increasingly being recognized as a major driver of emigration from the region.

"I don't see a lot of options for Central America to deal with the global warming issue," said Masters. "There are going to be a lot migrants and in fact, a lot of the migration that's already happening in recent years is due to the drought that started affecting Central America back in 2015."

Hondurans migrated to the US in significant numbers for the first time following Hurricane Mitch. In the year before the Covid-19 pandemic, more than 250,000 Hondurans were apprehended at the US south-west border, more than double any previous year and surpassed only by its neighbor to the north, Guatemala.

According to the Red Cross, at least 2.5 million people were affected by Hurricane Eta, including 1.7 million in Honduras. Many who have lost everything are already considering or making plans to migrate to the US and groups are beginning to organize caravans via social media.

Unable to fulfill the needs of their citizens before the pandemic, the economic downturn has stretched the finances of Central American governments to the brink. And unlike following previous natural disasters, the international community is dealing with pandemic-related problems of its own and is unlikely to step in to fill the gap.

Hurricane Iota could lead to even more widespread devastation across the region. Many areas still have high water levels from Eta, levees have been damaged or destroyed, dams are at or near capacity, and the saturated land could lead to more landslides like in Guatemala, where dozens are feared dead after part of a mountainside community was buried in mud.

The Atlantic hurricane season is expected to last until December this year, meaning that Iota might not be the last.

"When a season like 2020 keeps on cranking these things out, it's going to keep on doing that," said Masters.



India's capital is battling a surge in coronavirus cases just as pollution levels spike



People commute as New Delhi is engulfed in heavy smog on Nov. 10. Doctors say the extreme pollution could worsen the coronavirus outbreak in the city. (Rajat Gupta/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)

By **Joanna Slater**, **Niha Masih** and **Taniya Dutta**

November 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. GMT+8

NEW DELHI — Every year, as winter approaches and an acrid haze fills the sky, Jharna Sarkar fears for her health. This time, she's terrified.

The 66-year-old retiree suffers from asthma that is aggravated by the severe pollution in India's capital. Now a virus that makes people struggle to breathe is stalking her family.

Sarkar's son and older brother were both infected with the novel [coronavirus](#). Although her son recovered, her brother died in October. This year is "particularly frightening," she said.

Delhi is battling both toxic air and a record surge in coronavirus cases. Doctors and scientists say the combination will have deadly consequences, as exposure to pollution increases the risk of severe respiratory illnesses. Air pollution also makes people more prone to infections, they say.

India has recorded more than 8.7 million coronavirus cases, second only to the United States. While fresh cases nationwide have fallen sharply since September, Delhi is an exception to the trend.

[*The virus is on the march in much of the world. In India, it's in retreat.*](#)

The city is adding more than 7,000 cases a day, and that figure is [expected to rise](#). More than 100 covid deaths were reported in Delhi on Thursday, a record. Meanwhile, the number of open hospital beds equipped with [ventilators is dwindling](#).

The fresh wave of cases comes as Delhiites have thronged markets and malls during India's festival season. This weekend marked the advent of Diwali, a major Hindu holiday, and public health experts fear that celebratory gatherings could spread the virus.



City officials fear that celebrations for the upcoming Diwali holiday could exacerbate Delhi's pollution problem. (Rajat Gupta/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)



Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi's chief minister, appealed to city residents to observe the festival at home and banned the use of firecrackers, a traditional way of marking the holiday that also causes a spike in pollution.

The air quality in greater Delhi, home to 30 million people, has already deteriorated dramatically. Each autumn, when temperatures fall and wind speeds drop, a polluted smog settles over the city. Vehicle exhaust, construction dust, industrial emissions and crop burning in neighboring states all contribute to the mix.

India is trying to prevent apocalyptic air pollution. Step 1: Stop farmers from burning their fields.

Delhi just experienced [five straight days](#) of "hazardous" air quality, according to standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. On Nov. 10, the level of particulate matter considered most harmful to human health [briefly spiked to 30 times](#) the [safe limit prescribed](#) by the World Health Organization. Such particles can lodge deep inside the lungs and have been linked to high blood pressure, heart disease, respiratory infections and cancer.

Researchers also believe that [such pollutants contribute to a higher risk of death](#) from covid-19. A [recent study](#) by scientists in Europe estimated that [15 percent of covid deaths worldwide](#) could have been avoided if pollution levels were lower.

Air pollution leads to "greater vulnerability and less resilience to covid-19," said Thomas Münzel, a cardiologist and co-author of the paper, [in a statement](#).

The study also hypothesized that air pollution could play a role in spreading infections: It "seems likely that fine particulates prolong the atmospheric lifetime of infectious viruses, thus favoring transmission," the researchers wrote.

Doctors in Delhi say the confluence of the pandemic and the bad air is daunting. "It will be a very difficult winter," said Davinder Kundra, a pulmonologist at a private hospital in the city. The situation is "life-threatening."

Dirty air inflames the linings of the windpipe and lungs, rendering people more susceptible to infections of all kinds, said Arvind Kumar, chairman of the Center for Chest Surgery at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi. A community heavily affected by pollution will have "a higher chance of contracting covid and a higher chance of dying of covid."



Buildings are shrouded in smog in New Delhi on Nov. 4. (Adnan Abidi/Reuters)

The bad air is also a challenge for those recovering from coronavirus infections. Ajeet Jain, a doctor at Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital, a major covid treatment center, said the percentage of patients reporting post-infection respiratory problems has risen together with the pollution.

"My advice to them is, 'Go to a place where the air quality is better,'" Jain said. "That is the first and foremost treatment. Leave this place, at least for a while."



Some Delhiites who have contracted the coronavirus say they can feel the pollution making it worse. Nidhi Sabarwal Arora, 34, is a housewife whose entire family tested positive for the virus. She was asymptomatic until a day of particularly bad pollution last week. Then she became feverish.

"I definitely feel pollution is a culprit," Arora said. She smelled smoke in her house, which is close to a major highway, and it seemed as if the air she was breathing was heavy.

For people like Sarkar, the retiree, every day of bad air quality is a struggle. She is coughing badly despite the medication she takes for her asthma. Wearing a mask is necessary but difficult, and she says the smell of sanitizer can trigger her condition.

She would like to be somewhere with cleaner air but doesn't want to leave family behind and worries that many Indian cities now grapple with pollution.

"I often feel like we cannot live here," Sarkar said, adding: "I do not know where I can go."

[Who will make coronavirus vaccines for the developing world? India holds the key.](#)

[India's pollution refugees: People are fleeing Delhi because of the toxic air
Bad air kills more than a million Indians a year, study says](#)

Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/india-delhi-coronavirus-pollution/2020/11/14/2e8745ca-2479-11eb-9c4a-0dc6242c4814_story.html