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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cagayan River dredging, planting of 200 million seedlings proposed as twin response to floods

Published November 16, 2020, 2:05 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has proposed the immediate dredging of Cagayan River and planting of some 200 million tree seedlings on low-lying agricultural areas in Cagayan following one of the worst flooding in the province in decades.



This handout aerial photo taken and received on November 14, 2020 from the Philippine Coast Guard shows submerged houses in Cagayan province, north of Manila, on November 14, 2020, days after Typhoon Vamco hit parts of the country bringing heavy rain and flooding. (Photo by Handout / Philippine Coast Guard / AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

Cimatu said these interventions, which we can be started immediately, can make a significant difference.

He cited that the DENR has been continuously conducting reforestation activities in Cagayan through the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) with focus on upland areas.

DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said that despite efforts to rehabilitate the forest through the ENGP, “climate change is already inevitable.”

“All we need to do is to adapt to the effects of climate change” by focusing on “infrastructure development” such as the dredging of Cagayan River, Leones said during the Laging Handa public briefing on Monday.

Cimatu said low-lying agricultural areas, including privately-owned lands, should now be included in the coverage of ENGP.

Cimatu attributed the intensity and frequency of typhoons and their unusual volume of rainfall to climate change.

The DENR chief said he has already approved the request of Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba for the dredging of the Cagayan River covering some 30 kilometers.



Cagayan River dredging, planting of 200 million seedlings proposed as twin response to floods

According to Cimatu, dredging will solve the existence of a constricted section of Cagayan River called Magapit Narrows. This narrows snakes through the towns of Alcala, Lal-lo and Gattaran.

He noted that 18 major rivers in Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and the Cordillera Administrative Region drain into the Cagayan River, making the province prone to flooding.

Cimatu explained that the bottleneck sites in the Magapit Narrows significantly hinders flow of flood water to the Aparri Delta and finally to the Babuyan Channel.

He said the dredging will improve the volume capacity of Cagayan River “at no cost on the part of the government” as the provincial government is now looking for a contractor.

The contractor will be allowed to sell the dredged minerals, with the government earning revenues from the dredging at the same time, as stipulated in DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2020-07 titled “Rationalizing Dredging Activities in Heavily-Silted River Channels Pursuant to the DENR-DPWH-DILG-DOTR Joint Memorandum Circular No.1 Series of 2019”.

The DAO rationalized dredging activities in heavily-silted river channels across the country to help restore their natural state and flow and reduce flooding.

It requires the contractor to shoulder all the expenses of the dredging operation in exchange for whatever minerals it may recover, provided it pays the required national and local taxes.

Leones said the DENR will also continue its reforestation efforts under the ENGP.

“Sierra Madre is one of our protected areas. This is the longest mountain range from Cagayan province to Quezon province. It is true that there is a lot of logging there although I can say that 70 percent of Sierra Madre is still vegetated,” Leones pointed out.

He also noted that the DENR continues to provide livelihood to the upland communities “because we noticed that aside from commercial logging the communities there are converting the forestland to agricultural land, where they plant cash crops in the sloping area.”

The DENR is conducting massive information dissemination campaign to ask the communities “not to convert our forestland.”

“We are no longer providing them cash crops but perennial crops, which are agrforestry crops to provide them food and at the same time protect our forests,” he added.



Dredging Cagayan River to stop floods – DENR chief



By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)

November 17, 2020

DREDGING the lower part of the Cagayan River will save the province of Cagayan from severe floods, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu said, adding that this has already been approved by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Based on a study conducted by government geologists, according to Cimatu, at least 30 kilometers from the mouth of the Cagayan River in Aparri town or up to Lallo and Alcala towns would need dredging to mitigate a repeat of severe flooding brought by Typhoon “Ulysses” in the province last week.

Described as the “worst” flooding in Cagayan since 1972, Cagayan province was submerged in water late Friday night, killing more than a dozen people and affecting over 300,000 others and destroying more than P1 billion worth of crops, livestock and property and infrastructure.

Last Wednesday, continuous heavy downpour caused the Cagayan River to swell, failing to accommodate water flowing from its more than 20 tributaries that eventually resulted in massive flooding and landslides in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley), particularly in Isabela and Cagayan.

“When dredged, the Cagayan River will improve the volume of water that the river can accommodate,” Cimatu, who was with Duterte on Sunday in Tuguegarao City, said.

The Cagayan River, known as Rio Grande de Cagayan, is the longest river and largest river by discharge volume of water in the Philippines with a total length of approximately 505 kilometers.

The river has a drainage basin covering 27,753 square kilometers and flows north to its mouth at the Babuyan Channel near the town of Aparri.

It traverses the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela and Cagayan.

If the river down to its bottleneck cannot be widened, Cimatu said, at least it should be dredged to deepen it.

He cited a 1987 Japan International Cooperation Agency report that recommended the widening of the river channel from the town of Alcala to Lallo.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), which had conducted a geo-hazard mapping study, also recommended the dredging of the “heavily silted” Cagayan River “to avoid further erosions.”

Felicitas Piligan, MGB senior geologist, years ago alerted concerned Cagayan local government units on the river’s siltation that prevented the flow of water when there were flash floods.

“During the mapping, we warned affected communities based on initial results of an assessment conducted in their areas which parts were vulnerable to landslides and floods,” she said.

Piligan added that every time there was a storm coming, the MGB repeatedly warned communities and local officials to relocate to higher grounds and set up evacuation centers.



Cimatu urges immediate dredging of Cagayan River

[Monday, November 16, 2020](#) [Cory Martinez](#)

THE dredging of Cagayan River and planting of some 200 million tree seedlings on low-lying areas in Cagayan are the measures that must be immediately implemented in order to prevent the recurrence of the worst flooding that the province has experienced in decades.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu made these proposals during the Cabinet meeting held last Sunday in Tuguegarao City, which was presided by President Rodrigo Duterte.

The President and his Cabinet flew to Cagayan's capital city to personally assess the damage caused by typhoon Ulysses.

"These are the interventions which we can already start. I think if we do these, we can already make a difference, Mr. President," Cimatu said.

Duterte signified full backing for Cimatu's twin proposals with his response. *"Go for it and I will support you all the way,"* the President said.

Cimatu said the DENR has been conducting reforestation activities in Cagayan through the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) with focus on upland areas.

He said that low-lying agricultural areas, including privately-owned lands, should now be included in the coverage of ENGP.

Cimatu attributed the intensity and frequency of typhoons and their unusual volume of rainfall to climate change.

The DENR chief said he has already approved the request of Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba for the dredging of the Cagayan River covering some 30 kilometers.

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Cimatu explained that the bottleneck sites in the Magapit Narrows significantly hinders flow of flood water to the Aparri Delta and finally to the Babuyan Channel.

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The contractor will be allowed to sell the dredged minerals, with the government earning revenues from the dredging at the same time as stipulated in DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2020-07 titled *"Rationalizing Dredging Activities in Heavily-Silted River Channels Pursuant to the DENR-DPWH-DILG-DOTR Joint Memorandum Circular No.1 Series of 2019"*.

The DAO rationalized dredging activities in heavily-silted river channels across the country to help restore their natural state and flow and reduce flooding.

It requires the contractor to shoulder all the expenses of the dredging operation in exchange for whatever minerals it may recover, provided it pays the required national and local taxes.



Cimatu: Enforce environmental laws

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#)(The Freeman)

- November 17, 2020 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — Taking cue from the massive flooding in Cagayan Valley region, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu reminded Cebu City to implement environmental laws in order to prevent flooding and possible losses to life and property.

Cimatu discussed the city's flooding problem with Mayor Edgardo Labella yesterday, saying there is a need to restore creeks and rivers.

Specifically, he told establishment and building owners to "do what is right."

Cimatu inspected the area where a teenage boy was trapped and swept away by the flood during last month's massive flooding on General Maxilom Avenue, resulting to the boy's death.

"There was no more creek there. Natabunan na ng mga buildings. I looked into the maps, natatakpan na pati sa latest," he said.

Cimatu said he noticed several violations, especially on the three-meter easement from the waterways.

"Like in Manila, ginawa ko, free the esteros. Dito, covered na...yung building. Dapat i-implement what is in the law," he said.

Cimatu said clearing operations should continue and once done, there should be regular cleanup. He likewise said that the three-meter easement should be followed by building and structure owners.

"I just hope that when we clear all these creeks, and linisin natin, we maintain ang three-meter easement para ma restore ang waterways," he said.

In this way, the flooding in Cagayan will not happen here.

"Sana hindi mangyari ang nangyari sa Cagayan (dito) at hindi mangyari ulit ang nangyari doon (flood claimed some lives)," said Cimatu.

The environment chief likewise advised that the city step up its disaster risk reduction efforts to prevent what happened in Cagayan Valley.

Cimatu said the city government, together with his department, will remove obstructions and restore creeks and rivers while appealing to establishment owners to cooperate and do what is right. — JMD (FREEMAN)



Cimatu presses Cebu City to clear waterways of illegal structures

By John Rey Saavedra November 16, 2020, 8:43 pm



FLOOD PREVENTION. DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu shows a 1988 map of Cebu City which showed the blue line representing the downflow of a creek in Barangay Camputhaw. Cimatu on Monday (Nov. 16, 2020) pressed the Cebu City government to clear the creeks, rivers, estuaries and other waterways of structures that violated the three-meter easement as a measure to mitigate flooding during heavy downpour. *(Screengrab from Cebu City Hall PIO video)*

CEBU CITY – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu on Monday pressed the city government here to clear creeks and rivers of obstruction to prevent flash floods during heavy rains.

Cimatu made this call amid the heavy flooding brought by Typhoon Ulysses, saying that what happened in Northern Luzon may also happen here if the city government fails to address violations of the three-meter easements in creeks, rivers, estuaries and other waterways.

Cimatu presented a 1988 map of the city that showed a line of creeks, among them the one in Barangay Camputhaw that overflowed on Oct. 13 and caused flooding in the uptown vicinity.

“I was telling my DENR regional director here to cooperate with city government to implement the law. We just hope to clear all these creeks,” he said.

Cimatu said Mayor Edgardo Labella told him that a 16-year-old boy was swept by water during the heavy flooding on the night of Oct. 13.

The Cebu City Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Office retrieved the lifeless body of the boy beneath the structure that covered the Camputhaw creek two days later.

“The map in the same area taken in 2011 already showed some structures (are already) covering the creek. I asked NAMRIA (National Mapping and Resource Information Authority) to trace the creek,” Cimatu said, recalling that a 2006 map also showed the area with no structures yet.

He called on the city to reestablish the three-meter easements in the waterways.



Cimatu presses Cebu City to clear waterways of illegal structures

He said they will also implement the same measures to other localities in the country as a way of mitigating flooding incidents.

Labella, for his part, said the city will cooperate and comply with the directive of Cimatu.

The city met with owners of buildings that have impeded waterways here and implement the engineering solution by asking them to voluntarily demolish their structures to avoid court litigation. *(PNA)*



DENR exec on climate change: 'Hindi maiiwasan. Kailangan mag-adapt'

Published November 16, 2020 2:25pm
By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

An official from the Environment Department said Monday that the Philippines cannot avoid climate change and it can only adapt to its effects.

At a public briefing, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones was asked about the efforts of the DENR in light of the issue on climate change, which was blamed by President Rodrigo Duterte for the flooding in Cagayan recently.

"Despite our efforts to rehabilitate our forests through our national greening program, talagang ang pagbabago ng klima talagang hindi natin maiiwasan. Nandito na po sa ating paligid 'yan," Leones said.

"Ang kinakailangan na lang natin ay talagang mag-adapt dito sa mga epekto ng climate change. Hindi natin maiiwasan kapag nagbago ang klima, talagang kailangan may gawin tayong bagay, mga proyekto," he added.

For Leones, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar can work on developing infrastructures that will help in controlling floods.

"Napansin natin sa Cagayan, malakas po talaga ang tubig, ang bagyong dumaan diyan at maraming tubig ang bumababa kung kaya't nagpabaha diyan. Nagkaroon ng flooding sa Cagayan," Leones said.

"Para maka-adapt tayo diyan, siguro makikipag-coordinate ang mga secretaries natin [na] sina Secretary Cimatu and Secretary Villa kung paano magkakaroon ng infrastructure development diyan," he added.



DENR exec on climate change: ‘Hindi maiiwasan. Kailangan mag-adapt’

Citing Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba, Leones said Cagayan River should undergo dredging to widen its river systems to prevent flooding in nearby areas.

“Sa amin pong department, tuloy-tuloy pa rin po ang aming National Greening Program, pagtatanim po sa kagubatan para at least ma-cushion po ang epekto ng climate change,” Leones added.

In a situation briefing on Sunday, [Duterte attributed to climate change the severe weather disturbances in the country causing massive flooding](#) like in Cagayan and 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," he said.

Typhoon Ulysses caused widespread flooding throughout Luzon, from the southern Bicol provinces to Metro Manila and Central Luzon to the Cagayan Valley region in the north.

It was the 21st cyclone to enter the Philippines this year.

Duterte also recalled that during the East Asia Summit he attended over the weekend, he emphasized the need for nations to address climate change. — **RSJ, GMA News**



DENR defends Kaliwa Dam project amid online petition for cancellation

Leones said 70% of the mountain range is "vegetated."

Asked about if DENR can ban all mining activities in Sierra Madre to prevent further damage, Leones pointed out that mining will be allowed as long as they complied with environmental laws.

In 2019, residents of Infanta, Quezon called on the DENR to revoke the environmental compliance certificate it issued for the Kaliwa Dam project.

The dam, which would be located in towns of Infanta and General Nakar in Quezon, received opposition from groups and residents who fear its effects on the environment and nearby communities.

As of writing, the online petition against the dam project has earned 140,134 signatures. —**KBK, GMA News**



Petisyon sa kanselasyon ng Kaliwa Dam project kinontra ng DENR



November 16, 2020 @ 6:38 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Kinontra ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang petisyon para sa kanselasyon ng Kaliwa Dam project sa lalawigan ng Quezon.

Habang sinusulat ito, umabot na sa 140,134 ang nakapirma sa online na kahilingan bilang reaksyon lalo na sa naganap na pagbaha sa Cagayan Valley dulot ng pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses.

Kabilang sa mga punto ng petisyon ang paniniwalang pagmumulan ng malakihang pagbaha ang dam gaya ng nangyari sa Magat Dam sa Isabela at ng walang habas na pamumutol ng mga punongkahoy na nakasisira sa kalikasan.

Ayon kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Jonas Leones, idinaraan sa masusing pag-aaral ang operasyon ng dam, kasama na ang kawalan ng mapuputol na punongkahoy hangga't maaari.

Nakapaloob umano ang Kaliwa Dam project sa malawakang programa ng pamahalaan na pangangalaga sa buong Sierra Madre, kabilang na ang malawakan at maramihang pagtanim ng mga puno, pagtiyak ng kapakanan ng mga naninirahan dito, maging ang mga apektado ng dam, at aksyon laban sa mga taong mapanira sa kapaligiran.

Upang matiyak umano ang maayos na pagtatayo at operasyon ng dam, panay rin umano ang mga konsultasyon sa mga apektadong mamamayan para sa kaligtasan at kawalan ng pagkasira ng kapaligiran.

Maging ang pagmimina ay dumaraan din umano sa mahihigpit na patakaran at batas at pinapayagan lang ito kung makasunod ang mga mining company sa nasabing mga patakaran at batas.

Matatagpuan ang dam sa pagitan ng mga bayan ng General Nakar at Infanta, kapwa nasa lalawigan ng Quezon, at tatagos ang mga tubo o daluyan ng tubig nito sa lalawigan ng Rizal na pagtatayuan ng imbakan ng tubig na ikokonekta sa mga tubong para sa mga mamamayan ng Mega Manila.



Petisyon sa kanselasyon ng Kaliwa Dam project kinontra ng DENR

Naisip ng pamahalaan na itayo ang Kaliwa Dam project na dagdag na pagkukunan ng tubig ng mga residente ng Mega Manila na nakararanas na ng kakulangan ng tubig, lalo na sa tag-araw. *RNT*



Trash aids

posted November 16, 2020 at 10:18 pm

by [Norman Cruz](#)



Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso (center) and Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna receive donated trash bins and trash bags from Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (right) after the flag-raising ceremony at City Hall on Monday. The trash bins and bags will be distributed to different barangays in the city to help local officials in waste management within their respective areas.

Topics: [Francisco Domagoso](#) , [Honey Lacuna](#) , [benny Antiporda](#) , [Trash bins](#) , [bags](#) , [waste management](#)



DENR ordered to probe illegal mining, logging in Cagayan Valley

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Nov 16, 2020 11:20:04 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 16) — President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to investigate illegal mining and logging activities in Cagayan Valley after the catastrophic flooding in the region due to Typhoon Ulysses.

The President held a meeting in Cagayan's provincial capital Tuguegarao City on Sunday to assess the impact of the typhoon.

He said the government is working to prevent another disaster by intensifying forest protection efforts against illegal logging and mining. He said holes caused by mining loosen the soil, posing a threat to residents in the area.

"Let us see, as I have said, it props up every now and then, I will direct here General Cimatu to look into the illegal mining, especially where the people are building their shelters downwards," Duterte said during the briefing.

He told Cimatu that if it's not possible to completely stop mining activities in the area, then he should find a way to place homes in a safer area.

On Monday, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque admitted in a press conference that there may have been lapses on the side of enforcement in preventing illegal mining activities in Cagayan.

"They have limited enforcement so I would accept that we need to better enforce and implement the laws banning illegal mining even in...remote and secluded areas such as the Sierra Madre range," he said.

The environment chief said they have issued cease-and-desist orders against small-scale mining operations, adding 10 people who died in landslides were working in illegal mining sites.



DENR ordered to probe illegal mining, logging in Cagayan Valley

"There's no mining area given permit, sir. Illegal mining po itong mga lugar 'yung namatay. So we have filed cases already and cease and desist order for these crooked people," Cimatu said.

Residents in Cagayan were surprised when massive floods hit their province during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses. Floodwater reached over 13 meters high in some areas, leaving thousands of residents stranded and desperate for rescue.

Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba surmised that the massive floods in the province was not due to the spilling from the Magat Dam alone, but was also caused by the "denudation of forests" and "siltation of rivers" which need long-term solutions.

He said the restoration of the river channel, dredging of the Cagayan River and re-greening of the region's forests will help address the flooding problems, but it will require the consolidated effort of the entire region.

Cimatu said the local government has been given the go-signal to dredge portions of the Cagayan River to prevent overflow.

"I approved the request of the Governor of a 30 kilometers dredging from the mouth of the river, upstream and that will really help a lot, Mr. President," he said.

Typhoon Ulyses killed at least 67 people nationwide after it hit Luzon last week, leaving in its wake towns submerged in flood and billions of pesos worth of damage to agriculture and infrastructure.



Quarrying dapat nang matutukan ng DENR

By [Gus Abelgas](#)(Pang-Masa)

-November 16, 2020 - 12:00am

Nakakalungkot isipin na kung kailan patapos na ang taon ay doon muling nakaranas ng matitinding kalamidad ang bansa na kung saan marami sa ating mga kababayan ang talagang naapektuhan.

Sunud-sunod ang naging paghambalos ng malalakas na bagyo na nagwasak sa maraming kabahayan. Malaking bahagi ng Luzon at hindi rin nakaligtas ang Metro Manila sa lupit ng mga nagdaang bagyo.

Wala naman talagang makapipigil sa ganitong pangyayari, oo nga't gawa ito nang kalikasan pero sa isang banda nakikitang, pinalalala ito ng kapabayaang at kapangahasang na rin ng ilan.

Hindi biro ang naging pagbaha sa Metro Manila partikular sa Marikina at sa ilang karatig lugar sa Rizal.

Rumagasa at mabilis ang naging pagtaas ng tubig, kaya marami ang na-trap sa bubong ng kanilang bahay.

Hindi maikakaila, talagang malaking volume ng tubig ang ibinuhos ng bagyong Ulysses na nagpalubog sa lugsod ng Marikina, isama na ang Rodriguez sa Rizal, pero ang nakikita isa rin sa nakikitang dahilan dito ay ang hindi matapus-tapos na mga ginagawang pagmimina at quarrying sa nabanggit na lalawigan.

Noon pa man umano, hindi pa man bumabayo ang malalakas na bagyo, umapela na ang maraming residente sa ilang lugar sa Rizal na ipatigil ang mga quarrying dito na nakikita nilang naging dahilan sa matitinding pagbaha.

Ang masaklap pa nga rito, ang ilang kompanya na nag-ooperate nito ay mga maimpluwensyang pulitiko o ang ilan ay may 'basbas' ng ilang pulitiko lugar.

Kung magpapatuloy ang ganitong gawain at aktibidad hindi malayong sa mga susunod na panahon baka mabura na sa mapa ang buong Metro Manila, dahil lamang sa kapangahasang at pagsasamantala ng mga taong nagpapatakbo nito.

Nakakaalarma ang ganitong mga paghuhukay na kumakalbo sa kabundukan. Dapat na itong matutukan ng pamahalaan partikular ng DENR.

Hindi lamang sa lalawigan ng Rizal kundi maging sa iba pang lugar na ganito rin ang nakikitang dahilan kaya madalas na malubog sa malalim na pagbabaha.

Huwag naman sanang mangyari na marami pa ang magbuwis nang buhay bago ito tuluyang maaksiyunan.

'Wag naman puto 'kita', malasakit naman sa mga mamamayan ang dapat na maipakita.



'Gold rush area' sa Nueva Viscaya abandonado na

By [Raymund Catindig](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- November 17, 2020 - 12:00am



Sinabi sa PSN ni Nueva Viscaya Police Director Colonel Ranser Evasco na agad nilang inilikas ang natitira pang nanunuluyan sa Sitio Compound at Sitio Bit-ang sa Barangay Runruno matapos ang pagguho ng lupa noong Huwebes.

File

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Philippines — Tiniyak ng awtoridad kahapon na abandonado na ang “gold rush area” sa Quezon, Nueva Viscaya alinsunod sa kautusan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na itigil ang pagmimina sa lugar na nagdulot ng landslides at ikinasawi ng sampung katao noong pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses.

Batay sa ulat na natanggap ng Pangulo, bumigay ang lupa sa kabundukan nang pasukin ng tubig ang mga tunnels na walang puknat na nilikha ng mga minerong kolorum.

Sinabi sa PSN ni Nueva Viscaya Police Director Colonel Ranser Evasco na agad nilang inilikas ang natitira pang nanunuluyan sa Sitio Compound at Sitio Bit-ang sa Barangay Runruno matapos ang pagguho ng lupa noong Huwebes.

Ayon kay Evasco, ang 10 nasawi ay pawang pamilya ng mga minerong dumayo mula sa ibat ibang lugar upang makipagsalaran sa pagkalkal ng ginto sa konsesyon ng lisensiyadong FCF mining Corporation.

Aniya, binabantayan ngayon ng pulisya ang abandonadong minahan upang masawata ang pagbalik ng mga pocket miners. Tatalakayin din ng pulisya at ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang estado ng lehitimong konsesyunaryo sa lugar kung sumusunod ito sa panuntunan ng gobyerno, ayon sa direktiba ni Duterte.



DENR files raps vs 10 illegal tree cutters



ZAMBOANGA. Policemen of Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte intercepts a shipment of illegally cut trees Wednesday, November 11, on the coast of Sicanan village in that town. A photo handout shows personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Siocon conducts an inventory of the confiscated lumbers. (SunStar Zamboanga)
November 16, 2020

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Community Environment and Natural Resources (Cenro) of Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, has filed charges before the Provincial Prosecutor's Office against 10 persons caught transporting undocumented forest products.

The shipment of forest products through a motorboat was intercepted Wednesday, November 11, by personnel of Siocon Municipal Station and 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company along the coast off Sicanan village, Latabon, Siocon.

Police Major Edison Alviar, Siocon police chief, said his team was conducting a seaborne patrol when they spotted a green Jungkong-type motorboat loaded with 90 pieces of white Lauan lumbers with 10 people aboard.

Alviar, who is also the head of the Task Force Pink Panther, said when accosted, the suspects do not have the necessary permits, which prompted them to confiscated the motorboat and its cargo and arrested the suspects.

Alviar took custody of the 10 suspects and motorboat and turned over the confiscated lumber to Cenro-Siocon, who in turn filed charges for violation of Section 78 of Presidential Decree 705, otherwise known as the Philippine Forestry Code, as amended by Executive Order (EO) 277 and EO 23.

Rey Jalandoni, head of Cenro-Siocon, commended the policemen under the command of Alviar for the continuous campaign on anti-illegal logging by virtue of EO 23, declaring a moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in the natural and residual forests and creating the anti-illegal logging task force.

Jalandoni said they will continue the campaign against the illegal cutting of trees and to protect the remaining forests. (SunStar Zamboanga)



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NOVEMBER 16,2020**

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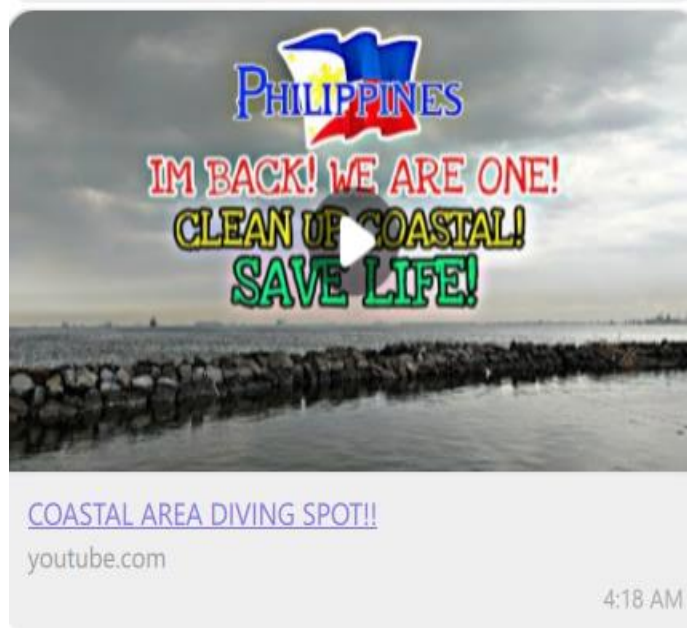
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Expert cites measures to mitigate flooding in Cagayan

By Ma. Cristina Arayata November 16, 2020, 2:46 pm



Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Renato Solidum Jr.

MANILA – Residents and local government units were surprised by the unprecedented floods that ravaged communities in Cagayan Valley, which was a result of too much rainfall from series of typhoons and the release of water from Magat Dam.

What can the communities do to prevent this in the future?

In an interview with the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Sunday, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Renato Solidum Jr. said Cagayan Valley naturally has a lower topography compared to the mountains surrounding it.

"The rainwater coming from those mountains goes down and goes to Cagayan River, which also causes flood during heavy rainfall. The natural flow of the river, and cutting of trees also contribute to flooding," he pointed out.

The spilling operations in Magat Dam would affect the following areas: San Mateo, Cabatuan, Luna, Reina Mercedes, Naguilian, Gamu, Ilagan City, Tumauni, Delfin Albano, Santo Tomas, Santa Maria, San Pablo, and Cabagan in Isabela; Aurora province; Tuguegarao City, Enrile, Solana, Iguig, Amulung, Alcala, Gattaran, Lasam, Lal-lo, Camalaniugan, and Aparri in Cagayan.

"Flooding has reached Aparri, Cagayan, as this is the exit point of Cagayan River," according to Solidum.

Reforestation

Solidum said reforestation in mountains is vital to prevent another disastrous scenario from happening in the future.



Expert cites measures to mitigate flooding in Cagayan

"This would slow down the rainwater from going from mountains to the river," he said.

Another suggestion was to construct a temporary embankment, so that the water would go here.

Dredging the Cagayan River is also necessary since this is already shallow, he added.

The widespread flooding in Isabela and Cagayan would greatly affect farmers, as well as the other stakeholders in the agriculture sector, he said.

Kaliwa Dam

Is there a need to construct the Kaliwa Dam?

Solidum said while this can still be continued saying this is needed to reduce the water shortage during dry season, effective management is crucial.

"Efficient management is necessary, so that this would not cause massive flooding," he said.

Solidum said flood maps (floods related to Typhoon Ulysses and the Magat Dam water release) were already uploaded in the Hazard Hunter app.

This DOST-managed app that can be accessed through a computer or mobile phone, helps people know if their location is at risk for volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and other hazards.

The flood impact maps can now be accessed via hazardhunter.georisk.gov.ph.

The maps show satellite image interpretations using artificial intelligence (AI).

"Using AI, the DOST-ASTI (Advanced Science and Technology Institute) interprets whenever there is a new satellite image. Then this would be updated in the Hazard Hunter," Solidum said.

He clarified that the flood maps are different from the hazard maps, as the flood maps show "what happened or is happening".

'Communities were informed'

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) posted on its website on Sunday that the NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System has advised residents of Isabela and Cagayan about the water release from Magat Dam on Nov. 9.

"NIA-MARIIS officials have warned residents living near low-lying areas, particularly those adjacent to and along the Magat River and Cagayan River to move to higher and safer places as the dam continues to release water starting November 9," it said.



Expert cites measures to mitigate flooding in Cagayan

NIA is in charge of the irrigation development and management.

NIA's claim was supported by a state hydrologist in a radio interview on Sunday.

"Yung mga local talagang alam nila, yung binibigyan nila ng abiso, pinapasok naman namin sa website namin, sa Facebook, Twitter. Lahat ginagawa naman ng paraan para makarating sa tao (The locals are aware. Those who were provided with the advisory, we upload advisory in our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Everyone does its part to inform the public)," Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Edgar dela Cruz said over DZBB.

In NIA-MARIIS' Facebook page last Nov. 9, it said that the advisory was also sent to the governor, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and PAGASA-Tuguegarao.

Letters addressed to PAGASA-Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba, Isabela Governor Rodolfo Albano III, and OCD-Region 2, were sent earlier to ask for their assistance "to ensure the safety of life and properties of residents near Magat River".

Dela Cruz also mentioned that eight to 10 hours prior to a dam's water release, mobile cars went around areas to provide announcements.

The heavy downpour from Typhoon Ulysses caused the water level of Magat Dam to reach beyond normal. **(PNA)**



NIA, ikinatwiran na mas malaking trahediya 'pag nasira ang Magat Dam kung 'di magpapakawala ng tubig

Nobyembre 16, 2020 11:00pm GMT+08:00

Idinepensa ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) nitong Lunes ang pagpapakawala ng tubig ng Magat Dam mula noong nakaraang linggo dahil sa matinding ulan na idinulot ng bagyong "Ulysses."

Ayon kay NIA Administrator Ricardo Visaya, mas malaking trahediya ang naghihintay kung mabibiyak ang dam dahil sa dami ng tubig.

"Ang laki ng ating reservoir ng Magat [Dam] is about 4,800 hectares. 'Pag ito ang na-break, lumampas sa spilling level na 193 meters above mean sea level, mag-spill po 'yan. Masisira po 'yan at milyon-milyon po na tao ang maapektuhan," paliwanag ni Visaya sa panayam ng GMA News "Unang Hirit."

Ginawa ng opisyal ang paliwanag sa harap ng tinatanggap na kritisismo ng pamunuan ng dam na sila ang sinisisi sa nangyaring matinding pagbaha na naranasan ng Cagayan at Isabela.

Sa isang pagkakataon noong November 12, pitong gate ng dam ang binuksan para magbawas ng tubig na ang dami ay katumbas ng dalawang swimming pool bawat segundo.

"Meron tayo mine-maintain na safety level. It should be below 193 meters above mean sea level. Kung ano dapat ang inflow should also be the outflow," paliwanag ni Visaya.

Dagdag ng opisyal, walong daanan ang pinanggalingan ng tubig na napupunta sa Magat Dam na mula sa Ifugao at Nueva Vizcaya. Kaya kahit hindi umano direktang tumama si "Ulysses" sa dam, patuloy na tataas ang tubig sa lugar.

"Ang Magat reservoir natin doon pumupunta ang walong tributaries. Doon sa Ifugao, mga tatlong rivers, at saka Nueva Vizcaya, lima 'yan. Hindi natin ma-control 'yan. Kaya inuunti-unti natin 'yung pagpapalabas ng tubig," pahayag ni Visaya.

"However, noong November 12, hindi nag-landfall 'yan sa Isabela ang Ulysses, but ang daming tubig na pumapasok sa Magat Dam. So anong gagawin natin diyan? So sinusunod natin 'yung protocol," patuloy niya.



NIA, ikinatwiran na mas malaking trahediya 'pag nasira ang Magat Dam kung 'di magpapakawala ng tubig

Batay sa protocol, sinabi ng opisyal na naghintay ang NIA ng abiso mula sa PAGASA bago nagpapakawala ng tubig ang dam.

"Hindi kami makapagpalabas without the advice ng PAGASA. Actually, sa mga pre-releases, na-advise kami ng PAGASA na nasa preemptive stage na at kailangan nang magpapakawala," sabi ni Visaya.

Idinagdag niya na naglabas din sila ng abiso sa mga maapektuhang lugar bago magpapakawala ng tubig.

"Bago ma-release naman niyan [tubig], lahat ng medium of dissemination, gaya ng radio, even email, telepono, siren sa mga malalapit na lugar ay ginagamit para maimpormahan lahat ng tao," giit niya.

"Ang pagre-release ng tubig, kung anong amount 'yan, diyan sinasabi lahat sa notice. At ang pinaka-minimum na oras para mabigyan ang mga tao na nakatira sa along sa mga riverways o sa irrigation canals namin ay mga minimum of six hours," patuloy ng opisyal.

Nagpalabas din umano sila ng anunsiyo sa Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices.

"Ang ating dam division sa Magat Dam ay lahat ng mga mediums for dissemination ay ginagamit. Hindi po namin kaya na bawat bahay. Kaya dini-disseminate natin sa PDRRMC na magpupunta po lahat sa mga kabahayan. Sila mismo ang pumupunta sa mga kabahayan. Local government na 'yon," saad ni Visaya.

Gayunman, ilang residente na naapektuhan ng pagbaha sa Cagayan ang nais na magsampa ng reklamo laban sa pamunuan ng Magat dam.

Ayon kay Visaya, "very complex" ang sitwasyon sa Cagayan.

"Ito sa Cagayan, it's a very complex situation dahil meron tayong 20 river tributaries diyan at isa lang ang Magat Dam. Palaging nabe-blame ang Magat Dam. 'Yung ating Magat River Irrigation System ang mayroong gadgets at instruments na nagbibigay ng data. All other 19 rivers na 'yan na galing sa Mt. Province, Kalinga, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, ang dami niyan, walang ano 'yan, hindi natin name-measure 'yan," paliwanag niya.

Bukod dito, sinabi ni Visaya na masyado nang "silted" ang Cagayan River.

"Nakikita natin na 'yung Cagayan River ay heavily silted na. Makita niyo, 'yung tubig na lumalabas diyan, brown na," giit niya. "Low-lying talaga kasi 'yan. Catch basin talaga ang Cagayan."--FRJ,
GMA News



Pamunuan ng Magat dam kakasuhan sa matinding pagbaha

By [Raymund Catindig](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- November 17, 2020 - 12:00am



Mataas pa rin ang tubig sa Brgy. Meysulao, Calumpit, Bulacan kaya kanya-kanyang diskarte ang mga residente sa paggamit ng maliit na bangka para lang makatawid sa kanilang gustong puntahan matapos ang pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses. Posibleng abutin umano ng ilang buwan bago tuluyang mawala ang nasabing tubig baha.

Boy Santos

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Philippines — Nagbanta si Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba na kanilang kakasuhan ang pamunuan ng Magat dam sa Ramon, Isabela dahil sa matindi umanong kapabayaang at sa danyos na idinulot nito sa mamamayan matapos ang malawakang pagbaha sa kanyang teritoryo noong nakaraang linggo.

Himutok ni Mamba, bagama't biyaya sa Isabela ang patubig na dulot ng dam sa pananim doon, wala namang nakukuhang pakinabang ang Cagayan sa operasyon ng Magat dam bagkus sila ang napeperwisyo sa tuwing nagpapakawala ito ng tubig sa panahon ng kalamidad.

Ayon kay Mamba, patuloy siyang inuudyukan ng mga tao na tuluyan nang sampahan ng kaso ang National Irrigation Administration na siyang nangangasiwa sa Magat dam.

Sa report ng Office of the Civil Defense, anim sa 10 namatay sa Cagayan noong nagdaang bagyo ay may kaugnayan sa baha habang libu-libong katao ang nailikas.

Sa pagdalaw ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa lalawigan, sinabi nitong dapat ay mayroong ahensiyang mangangasiwa sa pagpapalabas ng tubig sa dam sa panahon ng kalamidad upang maiwasan ang trahedyang.



SUNOD-SUNOD NA PAG-ULAN NAGDULOT NG PAGBAHA, PAGTAAS NG TUBIG NG ANGAT DAM



November 17, 2020 @ 12:25 AM 5 hours ago

ANG Angat Dam sa Norzagaray, Bulacan ay patuloy na nagpalabas ng labis na tubig mula sa kanilang mga reservoir noong Sabado dahil sa patuloy na pag-agos ng tubig na naglalagaslas mula sa mga bundok.

Base sa ulat ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), noong Nobyembre 13, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay umabot na sa 214.15 meters, lumampas na sa 212 normal high water level (NHWL).

Nagdesisyon ang mga opisyal ng Angat Dam na magbukas ng spillway gate dahil lumampas na sa normal na antas na 210 metro mula noong Nobyembre 12 matapos ang malakas na pagbuhos ng ulan ng bagyong “Ulysses” at patuloy ang daloy ng tubig mula sa bundok.

Datos ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam:

Nov 2 – 201.91

Nov 3 – 202.26

Nov 4 – 202.55

Nov 5 – 202.68

Nov 6 – 202.67

Nov 9 – 204.47

Nov 10 – 205.13

Nov 11 – 205.59

Nov 12 – 211.30

Nov 13 – 214.15

Nov 14 – 213.72



SUNOD-SUNOD NA PAG-ULAN NAGDULOT NG PAGBAHA, PAGTAAS NG TUBIG NG ANGAT DAM

Ang buong Metropolitan Manila area at mga karatig-lalawigan ng Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite at Pampanga, ay umaasa mula sa tubig na nagmumula sa Angat Dam, Ipo Dam, at La Mesa Dam.

Ngunit, sa panahon ng bagyong Ulysses, marami ang natakot, dahil sa pagbubukas ng tatlong gate, bawat gate ay mayroong dalawang metro bukas sa paglalabas ng tubig mula sa reservoir ng Bulacan.

Ang nakakatakot, naulit ang trahedya dulot ng bagyong Ondoy noong 2009, kung saan maraming lugar ang nalubog sa baha.

Ayon kay Dr. Seville D. David Jr., Executive Director ng NWRB, ang paglalaan ng tubig sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), para sa buwan ng Nobyembre ay mananatili sa 44 metro kubiko bawat segundo (CMS) habang ang National Irrigation Administration (NIA), ay tatanggap ng 25 CMS.

Sa ngayon, puno ng tubig ang Ipo Dam at La Mesa Dam kaya roon muna kukuha ng tubig ang MWSS at ang water concessioners, tulad ng Manila Water at Maynilad.

May sapat na tubig na magagamit sa buong Metro Manila, sabi ni Exec. Dir. David.



Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO

15 hrs · 🌐

NOW: PRCMO IN ACTION IN SAN JUAN RIVER

This is the situation in [#SanJuanRiver](#) after the Typhoon Vamco ([#UlyssesPH](#)) onslaught.

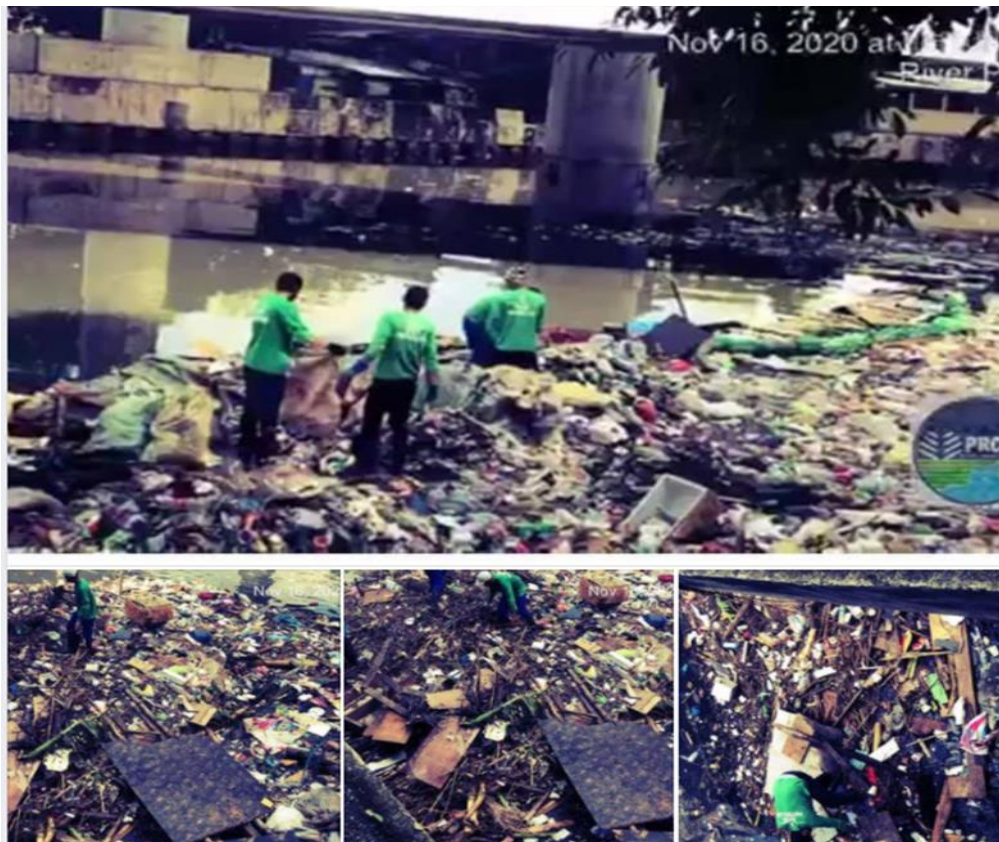
Our River Patrollers are back on track after the typhoon swept across the nation last week.

The typhoon left tremendous garbage that accumulated in this portion of the Buhangin Creek-San Juan River confluence along New Panaderos Bridge in Sta. Ana, Manila.

To intensify the cleanup efforts, River Warriors from different clusters were deployed in the river in support of the River Patrol group's ongoing cleanup operations.

Together with the River Warriors and Patrollers, let's unite against the degradation and abuse of our waterways and push for environmental protection and the sustainable development of the Pasig River, Manila Bay, and its connecting esteros for the current and future generations.

[#PRCMO](#) [#DENR](#) [#PasigRiver](#) [#PusoParaSallogPasig](#)





Conservation group slams ‘encroachment’ of firm into Marikina protected landscape

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

November 17, 2020



The Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal, was recognized one of top three global finalists for the United Nations World Tourism Organization Awards for Enterprises in a ceremony at the St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater.

Conservation advocates on Monday questioned the alleged encroachment by a private company of a vast portion of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) amid clamor to stop the further degradation of the Marikina Watershed following the massive flood caused by Typhoon Ulysses early this month.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation (Masungi) has called for the immediate removal of the private security guards of Rublou Inc. and its subsidiary Green Atom, a renewable energy firm, after a supervising security guard threatened one of its Board of Trustees with bodily harm during a verbal confrontation on Sunday, November 15.

The security guard was caught on video in a verbal tussle with Masungi Trustee Ann Dumaliang and even suggested that the company is working with the Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office (PENRO) in Rizal province.

This even as the PENRO-Rizal has already issued Rublou and Green Atom a “show-cause” order last October 26.

PENRO Rizal Isidro Mercado, in a telephone interview with the BusinessMirror belied taking sides with Rublou against Masungi over the issue. He confirmed that a show-cause order has in fact been issued directing Rublou to show proof of their legal stay, or occupation of the area.

“It’s not true that I am taking sides on this issue. We have already issued a show-cause order against Rublou and it is now with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Central Office,” he said.

Mercado said that the DENR Central Office has now taken cognizance of Rublou’s case. Led by a certain Mr. Luizo Ticman, reportedly a retired military general, and member of Philippine Military Army Class of 1976, Green Atom is allegedly planning to establish a solar energy farm in the



Conservation group slams ‘encroachment’ of firm into Marikina protected landscape

Marikina Watershed, an area already devastated by quarry operations in the towns of Montalban and Angono.

The devastation of the Marikina Watershed is being blamed for the massive flooding in Metro Manila.

The UMRBPL and the entire Marikina Watershed has been described by Masungi as already in “Stage 4 Cancer” because of environmental degradation. The UMRBPL was established after the 2009 flash flood caused by Ondoy that submerged Marikina City and other parts of Metro Manila, including some low-lying Rizal towns. The DENR was supposed to ensure the massive rehabilitation of the UMRBPL and prevent the further denudation and degradation of what remains of its forest cover.

According to Dumaliang, since the dismantling of Rublou and Atom’s steel fences and structures by the DENR and Masungi park rangers on October 25, the company’s security guards inside the protected area have more than doubled.

The guards reportedly continue to patrol at least 500 hectares of the watershed.

“We are very disturbed by this latest development right on the heels of the devastation of Ulysses, which is brought about by the denudation and abuse of the upper Marikina watershed,” Dumaliang said in a news statement.

Dumaliang reported that on November 9, 2020, suspicious movements by unidentified and unauthorized individuals prompted a pursuit with Philippine Army personnel army deployed in the area.

Rublou and Atom are claiming to have the authority from an Indigenous People’s group in Antipolo, which has a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim in the area.

But Dumaliang said upon verification by their group, indigenous groups from Antipolo deny involvement with Rublou.

Tribal leaders even issued a statement dated October 30, 2020, signed by 24 tribal elders, chieftains, and officers, the Tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo, denying involvement in the deployment of armed guards by Rublou Inc.

Rublou’s has issued an official statement dated October 26, 2020, where the company allegedly claimed that the tribe asked for “help in the deployment of security guards.

Rublou also released another statement entitled “Official Statement of the Dumagat-Remontados” signed by an Atty. Juancho Botor, who claimed to be the tribe’s “legal counsel.”

The statement alleged that the tribe asked Mr. Ticman, owner of Rublou, for “funding to buy arms to protect themselves.”



Conservation group slams ‘encroachment’ of firm into Marikina protected landscape

But Dumaliang said that instead of buying arms, Mr. Ticman allegedly engaged the services of licensed security guards since 2018.

The Tribong Dumagat-Remontados ng Antipolo also denied that Atty. Juancho Botor is their legal counsel, Dumaliang said.

Despite repeated requests, Rublou and Green Atom still could not present any legal document or permit to justify their occupation and actions within the watershed, Dumaliang said.

The Masungi Geopark, the joint reforestation project of Masungi and the DENR, the UMRBPL has been declared a protected area in 2011 and occupation, sale, disposition, and other destructive activities therein have been prohibited since 1904 due to its importance as a watershed reservation.

“We call on our President Duterte and our partners at the DENR led by Secretary [Roy] Cimatu to protect the integrity of this critical watershed by immediately causing Rublou to vacate the protected area, including the patch of Benguet pine trees grown by the government in the 1970’s,” said Dumaliang.

“A show-cause order was reportedly issued on October 26, 2020, by the PENRO Rizal. The DENR mandated that Rublou would only be given three days to present their documents. It is now more than two weeks from that deadline,” Dumaliang said.

Dumaliang is urging the National Bureau of Investigation and the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission to assist the DENR and help investigate and address what it describes as “wholesale buying and selling of forest land and land scams” in a protected area as a matter of national interest and welfare.

“This shall be made in conjunction with the President’s renewed drive against corruption. We believe it is in the interest of the Department of Energy [DOE] and the entire Philippine renewable-energy industry to review the integrity of Green Atom’s renewable-energy projects given the business practices and ethics it displays,” Dumaliang said.



LAGUNA – Patay ang isang empleyado ng lokal na tanggapan ng DENR matapos barilin ng hindi kilalang suspek sa kanilang project site sa Biñan City sa lalawigan ito, noong Linggo ng umaga.

Kinilala ng Biñan City Police ang biktima si Oliver Reyes, job order employee ng Laguna PENRO.

Ayon sa report ng pulisya, nasa tulay sa Barangay San Vicente ang biktima, dakong alas-7:30 ng umaga nang dumaan ang hindi kilalang mga suspek at malapitan itong pinagbabaril.

Tinamaan ng mga bala sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan ang biktima at namatay bago mairating sa ospital.

Ayon sa imbestigasyon, nasa lugar ang biktima at hinihintay nito ang kanyang mga kasama para sa gagawing proyekto sa ilog.

Patuloy ang imbestigasyon at inalam kung ano ang motibo at kung sino ang mga suspek. (NILOU DEL CARMEN)

Cimatu to Cebu City government: Address hike in cases fast

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#)(The Freeman)

-November 17, 2020 - 12:00am



Admitting he was alarmed by the recent spike in COVID cases in Cebu City, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu meets with Mayor Edgardo Labella and Councilor Joel Garganera of the Emergency Operations Center to discuss the situation.

CEBU, Philippines — The sudden spike in the number of new COVID-19 cases in Cebu City has to be addressed right away.

This was the statement of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu who flew to Cebu City on Monday, November 16, the day the city put back stricter border controls after seeing a spike in new cases.

This weekend alone, Cebu City logged 59 cases and 30 cases on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

“Yung sudden increase of new cases, from a single digit, biglang nag-59 (The sudden increase in new cases from a single digit to 59), this is really news for a locality like the City of Cebu. I’m here as part of my mandate. This is something that needs to be attended to immediately,” Cimatu said.

The positive news, Cimatu said, is that the city’s Emergency Operations Center headed by Councilor Joel Garganera has already started identifying the possible sources of the infections, and have extracted the patients from their areas to contain the spread.

“I’m happy to report to you, everything is already addressed to stop the continuing increase...it’s in place already based on the critique this morning,” Cimatu said yesterday.

He called on Cebuanos anew to observe minimum health protocols religiously, including the wearing of mask and face shield, physical distancing, and hand washing.

Cimatu led the enforcement of quarantine protocols in Cebu City in June when the city experienced a surge of fresh cases after two weeks of being under general community quarantine. At that point, the city was tagged as a hotspot of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. After a return to enhanced community quarantine for at least a month, the number of new cases started to decline. By August, the Department of Health (DOH)-7 said the city and the rest of Central Visayas has flattened the curve.



Cimatu to Cebu City government: Address hike in cases fast

Numbers continued to dwindle as city transitioned to a much-relaxed modified general community quarantine – at one point even going down to just one new case registered in a day – up until the first half of November when the spike was observed.

Garganera has attributed the spike in cases to residents becoming more and more complacent as the days went by. More people have come together for outings as more establishments and destinations reopened.

He pointed out that it is when people gather to eat together when they let their guard down, especially when they have to remove their masks and face shields to eat, and engage in conversation during the meal.

On November 11, for example, a huge crowd had trooped to a shoe sale at a store in Barangay Lahug, violating physical distancing regulations.

The Freeman learned that the top sources of recent infection are workplaces followed by gatherings (birthday parties, visiting relatives, vacations, fiesta), transportation, public markets, and facilities.

Mayor Edgardo Labella also assured Cimatu yesterday that measures are in place to contain the recent infections.

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases has continued to monitor Cebu City closely.

In IATF's Resolution No. 81, Cebu City is one of the local government units noted as an "area requiring special attention by the local government unit, and Regional IATF and the National Task Force."

Meanwhile, EOC's consultant and adviser, infectious diseases specialist, Dr. Bryan Lim, said the recent increase in cases is a spike and not a surge.

He noted that the spike was recorded approximately 14 days after Halloween.

"This is expected, as quite a number of people went out to parties, drinking sprees, karaoke etc. Clearly, the virus follows human behavior," Lim said.

COVID-19 cases sa bansa higit 409,000 na, nadagdagan ng 1,738 today

(Philstar.com)

- November 16, 2020 - 4:21pm



Nagwawalis ang mga lalaking ito, ang isang naka-face mask laban sa COVID-19, matapos masalanta ng Typhoon Ulysses ang Lungsod ng Marikina, ika-13 ng Nobyembre, 2020

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Parami pa rin nang parami ang nadadali ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) sa Pilipinas sa pagpapatuloy ng ika-35 linggo ng community quarantine laban sa pandemya.

Ito ang lumalabas sa datos ng Department of Health (DOH) matapos tumuntong sa 409,574 ang tinatamaan ng virus sa bansa — mas marami ng 1,738 noong Linggo.

Ngayong Lunes ang ika-pitong sunod na araw na mas mababa sa 2,000 ang arawang sariwang cases.

"9 labs were not able to submit their data to the COVID-19 Data Repository System (CDRS) on November 15, 2020," paliwanag ng kagawaran.

Sa mga nakapagpasa ng mga numero, nahinuha na karamihan sa mga COVID-19 cases na inilabas ng kagawaran:

- Davao City (140)
- Cavite (117)
- Rizal (89)
- Laguna (87)
- Batangas (79)



COVID-19 cases sa bansa higit 409,000 na, nadagdagan ng 1,738 today

Nasa 27,369 naman sa ngayon ang bilang ng "active cases" sa bansa, bagay na nakuha matapos iawas sa case tally ang mga gumaling at namatay na mula sa virus. Mababa-baba ito kumpara sa karaniwang mahigit 30,000 araw-araw.

Kakarampot lang naman kumpara sa nakagawian ang iniulat na COVID-19 deaths ngayong araw sa bilang na pito. Nasa 7,839 na ito lahat-lahat sa Pilipinas.

Nasa 45 naman ang panibagong gumaling ngayong araw kaugnay ng nakamamatay na sakit, dahilan para tumulak na ang local recoveries sa 374,366.

Wala naman na sa talaan ang animna kasong una nang ipinakilala bilang "recovered," at nire-classify na bilang "deaths."

Nasa dalawang duplicates din ang tanggal na sa total case count. Sa bilang na 'yan, dalawa ang ligtas na mula sa virus.

Kaugnay niyan, nireklasipika naman bilang deaths ang mga naunang naibalitang paggaling ng 16 katao mula sa COVID-19.

Sa pandaigdigang antas, 53.80 milyon na halos ang kumpirmadong nahawaan ng COVID-19, ayon sa [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#). Nasa 1.3 milyon na sa kanila ang patay. — **James Relativo**



PH Covid-19 recoveries reach 374,366

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor November 16, 2020, 6:03 pm



MANILA – A total of 45 new recovered cases reported on Monday pushed the overall tally of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) recoveries nationwide to 374,366.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) also reported 1,738 new confirmed cases, to bring the total number of active cases to 27,369.

Of the active cases, about 83 percent are mild, 8.5 percent are asymptomatic, 3 percent are severe, 0.20 percent are moderate and 5.3 percent are in critical condition.

The majority of the new cases are from Davao City with 140, Cavite with 117, Rizal with 89, Laguna with 87, and Batangas with 79 infections.

A DOH data based on November 15 report showed that 906 or 6 percent of the 15,210 who have tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

The DOH also logged seven deaths, bringing the country's death toll to 7,839.

As of Monday, DOH said it has 21,300 total bed capacity dedicated to Covid-19 patients.

Available are about 57 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds; 59 percent of 13,500 isolation beds; and 71 percent of 5,900 ward beds.

About 78 percent of 2,000 ventilators are available for use. *(PNA)*



“Deeper Laguna Lake will prevent Marikina and Rizal floods” – SHARP EDGES by JAKE J. MADERAZO

By Jake J. Maderazo November 16, 2020 - 05:15 AM



Floodwaters reached an unprecedented 22 meters at the Marikina Riverbank last Thursday surpassing that of Ondoy eleven years ago. San Mateo river whose critical level was 20 meters rose to 28 meters in a few hours, engulfing low-cost subdivision areas in Rodriguez. Meanwhile, Eastern Quezon City, Cainta, and Pasig were flooded as Laguna de Bay was already full at 12.5 meters.

This situation brings to light the Marcos-era solution of Manggahan floodway, Napindan Channel, and Paranaque Spillway. At floodwaters come down from Sierra Madre mountains, these are diverted to Laguna lake thru the floodway and then released at the appropriate time to Pasig River via the Napindan Hydraulic Control Structure or Napindan Channel. In order for Laguna lake not to overflow, its other waters will be diverted to Manila bay via the Paranaque spillway as a secondary outlet.

The idea was decided in the 70's after terrible floodings inundated the city of Manila, Makati, and Mandaluyong as Sierra Madre floodwaters went straight to Pasig River. The floodings rendered the seat of government inoperable for days because of the floods.

Before the Marcoses were ousted, Manggahan floodway and the Napindan channel were built but quite sadly the important Paranaque spillway was shelved because of “vested” and political interests of powerful people and the EDSA revolution.

Today, the Manggahan floodway and Napindan channel are both narrowed and heavily silted and without the spillway. . Moreover, Laguna de bay which was 22 meters deep at the time, is now only 3.5 meters deep because of garbage and other waste materials.

After Ondoy in 2009, talks about reviving the Paranaque spillway was discussed. But the dense population to be affected are “immovable” and the project was shelved due to right of way problems and people's protests. DPWH officials argued, instead, to raise the land around the lake to prevent flooding.

With much debates, the 1986 Manggahan Floodway and Napindan Channel now 34 years old and, the Paranaque spillway remains a dream. In 2012, The Laguna lake Development Authority (LLDA) proposed 7.2 kilometers tunnel from a point in Sucat on the shoreline of Laguna de Bay towards Manila Bay. This would reduce the water level in the Lake at 0.60 to 1-meter per month. Nothing happened afterwards.



“Deeper Laguna Lake will prevent Marikina and Rizal floods” – SHARP EDGES by JAKE J. MADERAZO

Two years ago, SMC president Ramon Ang proposed the construction of a 14-meter spillway project that will allow Laguna Lake waters to flow directly to Manila Bay at the price of \$2-billion. He promised to build this “free of charge” or at no cost to the government but on one condition that it be given the right to use the waste materials from Laguna de Bay for power generation.

Ang says I won’t divulge the details because they (competitors) might go to our technical partner. Instead of dredging, and if we secrete all the waste, there will be no more floods in metro Manila, Ang reiterates. The Duterte administration remained clueless on this offer.

But Malaysia’s SMART TUNNEL (Stormwater Management and Road tunnel) in Kuala Lumpur, a 4-kilometer toll road in Bukit Bintang towards the Sungai Besi Airport built-in 2003 is a modern example to our situation. Perhaps, this is one of the plans of Mr. Ang in solving the expected perennial flooding around his new airport in Bulacan and the nearby Calumpit, Hagonoy, and Marilao areas.

I certainly hope this administration will wake up!



Duterte urged to declare state of calamity over Luzon

Published November 16, 2020, 3:44 PM

by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council recommended to President Duterte on Monday the declaration of a state of calamity over Luzon due to widespread damages brought by typhoons “Quinta” and “Ulysses,” and super typhoon “Rolly.”



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte
(KING RODRIGUEZ / PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The decision to recommend a state of calamity over Luzon was agreed upon by the Council in a virtual emergency meeting led by NDRRMC chairperson and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

“It was approved during the meeting the recommendation for President Rodrigo Duterte to place under state of calamity the entire Luzon to address the impacts of the latest typhoons that hit the country,” said NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad.

Typhoon Quinta (international name: Molave) came ashore on October 25 and left 27 people dead, 40 injured, and four missing.

It also dealt massive damage to agriculture and infrastructure which was counted at P1.56 billion and P2.66 billion, respectively.

Meanwhile, super typhoon Rolly, the world’s most powerful cyclone this year so far, made landfall over Catanduanes on October 31 and pummeled Bicol Region and parts of Visayas until it exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility on November 3.

Twenty-six persons were reported killed, 399 were hurt, and six others were missing due to Rolly. It also left P12.9 billion of infrastructure damage and P5 billion of agricultural damages.

Immediately after Rolly left, two typhoons entered the PAR, “Siony” and “Tonyo” but they did not do significant damage, according to disaster risk management officials.

But the incessant rains brought by the successive typhoons saturated the soil in major parts of Luzon, which made typhoon Ulysses equally devastating as Quinta and Rolly.



Duterte urged to declare state of calamity over Luzon

Ulysses made its first landfall over Catanduanes on November 11. So far, officials said at least 67 persons were killed while 13 others were missing. It dealt P2.1 billion and P483 million damages in agriculture and infrastructure, respectively.

Meanwhile, Jalad said Lorenzana raised various concerns to the Council's member-agencies to improve their response mechanisms in times of disasters.

Accordingly, Lorenzana instructed the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) to revisit its historical data to strengthen their warning mechanisms before a typhoon hits the country.

The Council also discussed the provision of assistance to the affected farmers and fisher folk, road clearing operations, shelter requirements, and other recovery interventions, Jalad said.

Jalad added that a technical working group (TWG) of the joint Prevention, Mitigation, and Preparedness clusters of the NDRRMC will be convened to assess the current dam management across the country.

This, after the release of excess water in Magat Dam contributed to a massive flooding in Cagayan and other nearby provinces in Cagayan Valley (Region 2).

Scores were killed while thousands of families were affected by the inundation in the region.



Dredging of Bicol River backed by Duterte

Published November 15, 2020, 7:45 PM

by [Genalyn Kabiling](#)

President Duterte has backed the proposed dredging of Bicol River to minimize flooding in the surrounding areas during typhoons.

The President however said he prefers a single person over a committee to oversee the river development project in disaster-prone region to ensure its swift implementation.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (RICHARD MADELO/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO/
MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Duterte made the remarks after local officials proposed to the national government to dredge the heavily silted Bicol River to help ease the problem of perennial flooding. He was in Camarines Sur to attend a situation briefing and assure its people of the government swift aid to help them recover from a series of typhoons.

“I can only give you a guarantee that I will support the project,” Duterte said in his remarks. “If there is somebody, I need one man per project,” he added.

In the meeting with the President, Camarines Sur Governor Miguel Luis Villafuerte raised the proposed dredging of Bicol River to solve or curb flooding in the province. The governor mentioned there was World Bank study in 2013 on the importance of Bicol River dredging, adding that flood control project can be implemented in phases starting next year.

“We would be glad to accommodate you, whatever it is. If the World Bank doing the project study, siges kung may pera (go ahead if there’s money),” Duterte said.

Presidential Adviser for Bicol Affairs Marvel Clavecilla also sought the revival of the Bicol River Basin Development project during the meeting with the President. He admitted there might be some social impact as it may affect some towns in the area.

Duterte expressed support for the project and reminded local authorities to address such concerns related to the program.



Dredging of Bicol River backed by Duterte

“This is a good one. If you can construct a basin, you can minimize the destruction. Dapat i-pursue ‘yan (That should be pursued),” he said. “If you can start, I’d be happy to help you there,” Duterte said.

Typhoon Ulysses has left a large trail of death and destruction when it battered many parts of Luzon and the Bicol region. The death toll from the typhoon has reportedly risen to 67, according to disaster response authorities.



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.”



Existential challenge posed by climate change

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, dahilan ng malalakas na bagyo at pagbaha – Duterte

By [Bombo Reymund Tinaza](#)

-November 16, 2020 | 10:36 AM

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

Sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte, ang mainit na klima sa Pacific Ocean ang sanhi ng malakas na water vapor at nabubuong ulan.

Ayon kay Pangulong Duterte, binigyang-diin niya sa katatapos na virtual 37th ASEAN Summit ang kahalagahan na tugunan ang climate change.

Inihayag ni Pangulong Duterte na gumamit siya ng matatapang na lenggawahe sa ASEAN Summit para ipunto kung ano ang ginagawa ng ibang taong nagdudulot ng global warming.

Nakadidismaya umanong nasisi ang Pilipinas sa global warming gayung kakaunti lang naman ang pabrika sa bansa.



Duterte can't mock climate change now

By November 17, 2020

JUST a few months ago, President Rodrigo Duterte was non-committal on the issue of global climate change, even mocking it as a problem of the industrialized nations, blaming the West for its huge contribution to the degradation of the planet. Lately, however, and in the face of the serious devastation of a large swathe of Luzon caused by the series of typhoons, most notable of which are “Rolly” and “Ulysses,” the President has taken a second look at climate change. Note that Ulysses alone accounted for 69 deaths in Luzon, and P1.5 billion in agriculture and infrastructure losses.

In his recent messages to his colleagues in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Duterte underscored the importance of regional cooperation and capacity building against the onslaught of climate-related disasters: typhoons, floods, drought, exceedingly high temperatures, etc. Whereas before the Chief Executive used to mock the Paris Accord, he now pins his hope on cooperation among the community of nations to tackle this common problem of humanity.

With US President Donald Trump, another non-believer of the Paris Agreement, facing defeat in the last US presidential elections with his global warming stance contributing to the road to perdition, and with Duterte doing an about-face on the issue, perhaps both the US and the Philippines are now on the right track, policy-wise, on the question of the changing planet.

‘... perhaps both the US and the Philippines are now on the right track, policy-wise, on the question of the changing planet.’

After every destructive earthquake, after every devastating super typhoon, our officials, media and opinion influencers are always one in uplifting the national spirit by touting the Filipinos’ innate quality of resilience, the pliant-as-the-bamboo culture. But now, environmental groups and netizens are appealing to the government to stop glorifying the narrative of Filipino resilience and instead work on genuine climate action.

Over the weekend, calls for rescue and donations for communities ravaged by floodwaters have been drafted by demands for better environmental protection.

One group, the Aksyon Klima, said: “This is an unfortunate reality that the Philippines, one of the countries at highest risk to the climate crisis, can expect moving forward in the absence of transformative actions.” Greenpeace Philippines said Duterte “should not just hold industrialized nations to account for the climate crisis, but also fossil fuel corporations that are largely responsible for the carbon emissions that contribute to the rapidly warming planet.”

Greenpeace country director Lea Guerrero writes: “The fossil fuel industry is composed of the world’s largest and richest companies that rake in profits by the trillions of dollars. The poorest and most vulnerable communities reel from calamities caused by increasingly stronger typhoons.”

Other groups lauded the move of the Department of Energy (DOE) to impose a moratorium on the establishment of new coal-fired power plants. They proposed further moves in this regard, such as changing the nation’s energy policy from the use of fossil fuels, such as coal, to that of giving focus on renewable energy such as solar, wind, thermal, and hydro.

With environmentalist Joe Biden at the helm of the world’s most powerful nation, the US can very well help the Philippines in pursuing genuine reform in energy utilization and conservation



Stand For Truth: Nov. 16, 2020 (Duterte, sinisisi ang ibang bansa sa epekto ng climate change!)

DUTERTE, SINISISI ANG IBANG BANSA SA EPEKTO NG CLIMATE CHANGE!

Climate change ang itinuturing na dahilan kung bakit sunud-sunod ang pagtama ng malalakas na bagyo sa iba't ibang parte ng mundo. Samantala, sinisisi naman ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang epekto ng climate change sa ibang mga bansa! Pero sa Pilipinas, tinanggalan o 'di kaya'y binawasan ng pondo ang ilang mga proyektong makatutulong sana para harapin ang mga sakunang tulad nito. Panoorin ang video!



NDRRM fund gets P10-B augmentation

Published November 16, 2020, 12:02 PM

by [Genalyn Kabling](#)

The government has augmented the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF) with an additional P10 billion, bringing the total to P11.7 billion.

In a situation briefing in typhoon-hit Camarines Sur Sunday, Budget Assistant Secretary Kim Robert de Leon reported that the additional funds could be accessed by national government agencies to replenish their quick response funds (QRFs).



This handout aerial photo taken and received on November 14, 2020 from the Philippine Coast Guard shows submerged houses in Cagayan province, north of Manila, on November 14, 2020, days after Typhoon Vamco hit parts of the country bringing heavy rain and flooding. (Photo by Handout / Philippine Coast Guard / AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

The NDRRMF has a remaining balance of P1.774 billion prior to the latest replenishment made by the DBM, according to De Leon.

This is the second time this year the budget department augmented the national government's calamity funds following the onslaught of recent typhoons.

"So dahil nga po 'yon na lang 'yung balance nung ating regular NDRRM program at pumasok pa po ang Typhoon Ulysses and we saw the damages po kanina sa Region II area, taking again into consideration the authority granted under Bayanihan II, the DBM, again, augmented the NDRRMF by another 10 billion (Since it is the balance of the regular NDRRM program and the typhoon Ulysses hit the country and we saw the damage in Region II area, taking again into consideration the authority granted under Bayanihan 2 law, the DBM again augmented the NDRRMF by another P10 billion)," De Leon said during the briefing attended by President Duterte and other officials.

"For the regular NDRRM program kung saan po kukunin din 'yung mga QRF (where the QRF can be sourced), we now have 11.774 billion.



NDRRM fund gets P10-B augmentation

That is now on standby and accessible anytime,” he said.

De Leon said government agencies can request for additional funds with the following allowable limit: the Department of Agriculture (DA) can request for funds amounting P1.5 billion; Department of Health (DOH), P600 million; Department of Education (DepEd), P2.1 billion; Office of Civil Defense (OCD), P250 million; Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), P1 billion; Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), P1.25 billion; and National Electrification Administration (NEA), P100 million.

Any fund request will be subject to the endorsement of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the approval of the Office of the President.

“Rest assured po that as soon as we receive request from these agencies for replenishment of their QRF, we are quickly acting on it po para magpatuloy ang pagpo-provide ng serbisyo sa ating mga kababayan na naapektuhan nang sunod-sunod na bagyo (to provide service to our countrymen affected by the series of typhoons),” De Leon said.

The DBM also intends to provide an additional P1.5 billion to boost the local calamity funds of certain areas devastated by recent typhoons, according to De Leon.

The financial aid, to be sourced from the NDRRMF, will be given to concerned local government units in Regions IV-A, IV-B, and V which will be placed under a state of calamity after being battered by recent powerful storms, the budget official said.

“This is equivalent to around one percent of their IRA (internal revenue allotment) and takes into consideration the estimated amount of damage and the actual number of affected population based po sa reports ng OCD (Office of Civil Defense) and DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development), respectively,” he said.

When the President asked how soon the funds can be released, De Leon said the special allotment release order (SARO) could be released within a week once OP approves the fund request.

The President reminded the DBM to “move faster” since the people needed relief assistance.

“It’s really the assistance that the government — national government can spare for the provinces that were hit badly,” he added.

Pagbuo ng task force para sa disaster preparedness sinimulan na – Malakanyang



November 16, 2020 @ 4:24 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nagsimula na ang Malakanyang na gumawa ng executive order (EO) para sa pagbuo ng task force na nakatuon sa disaster preparedness and post-calamity rehabilitation at recovery efforts,

Ito’y matapos na ipag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang pagbuo ng task force na naglalayong i- fast-track ang rehabilitation efforts para sa mga naapektuhan ng bagyong Ulysses.

Ani Sec. Roque, ang task force na kikilalanin bilang “Build Back Better Task Force”, ay pamumunuan ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea habang ang Departments of Agriculture, Public Works and Highways, Department of Budget and Management, Social Welfare and Development, National Irrigation Administration, National Electrification Administration, at National Housing Authority ay kabilang naman sa mga miyembro nito.

“This body will have a clear chain of command and a direct mandate to address and monitor the multifarious issues and concerns involved in the rehabilitation and recovery phase of typhoon-affected areas,” ayon kay Sec. Roque.

Ang paglikha o pagbuo ng task force ay tinapatan naman ng mga pagbatikos simula pa na ang pamahalaan ay mayroong National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Ang apela lang ni Sec. Roque ay bigyan ng tsansa ang plano.

“Ang solusyon talaga diyan ay iyong creation ng Department of Disaster Resilience. Eh hindi pa po lumalabas. So obviously hindi po talaga sapat yung Council (NDRRMC) na gumagana bagamat mayroon tayong Executive Director na si napakagaling na Usec. Jalad,” ang pahayag ni Sec. Roque.

“I guess the task force really is to stress that someone has to be in charge. And the person in charge is the Executive Secretary with the full assistance of the Cabinet,” dagdag na pahayag nito. *Kris Jose*



EO for rehab, recovery efforts underway

By Azer Parrocha November 16, 2020, 4:17 pm



AERIAL SURVEY. Aerial photo shows the aftermath of Typhoon Ulysses along Camarines Sur. President Rodrigo Duterte conducted aerial inspections of severely affected areas in Cagayan Valley and Bicol Region on Nov. 15, 2020. (Presidential photo by Rey Baniquet)

MANILA – An executive order (EO) to form a “Build Back Better Task Force” that would implement immediate solutions to disaster rehabilitation and recovery of typhoon-hit areas is currently being drafted, Malacañang said Monday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque made this remark after Duterte on Saturday ordered the creation of a task force to fast-track the distribution of assistance to victims of successive typhoons.

“*May dina-draft na pong executive order tungkol dito* (There is an executive order being drafted on this),” he said in a Palace press briefing.

Roque said the task force will be headed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea with representatives from various agencies as members, including the Departments of Agriculture, Public Works and Highways, Budget and Management and Social Welfare and Development; National Irrigation Administration; National Electrification Administration; National Housing Authority, among others.

The Philippine Air Force, Philippine Navy, and Philippine Coast Guard must provide assistance to the task force, he added.

Local government units, he said, will also be called to render assistance to the task force in carrying out its mandate.

With Medialdea as chair of the task force, Roque said his role as “*primus inter pares*” or first among equals will allow him to persuade other agencies to fast-track the delivery of assistance “outside of the current bureaucratic framework”.

“*So ang sinasabi lang ni Presidente, miski walang pagpupulong ng council, puwede na magdesisyon ang Executive Secretary lalong-lalo na* (So what the President is saying, even if there’s no meeting with the council, the Executive Secretary can make decisions especially) if it means saving lives.



EO for rehab, recovery efforts underway

To make sure that the funds are available *para ibigay ang lahat ng ating pangangailangan* (to give to those who need it),” he said.

Roque said the task force was simply to stress that “someone has to be in-charge” with the full assistance of the entire Cabinet.

He also explained that the creation of a “more permanent body” that will focus and develop expertise on post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery of typhoon-hit areas is necessary since a proposed legislation creating the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) has yet to be enacted into law.

The House of Representatives approved its version of the DDR bill last September, while similar measures remain pending in the Senate.

“This body will have a clear chain of command and direct mandate to address and monitor the multifarious issues and concerns involved in the rehabilitation and recovery phase of typhoon-affected areas,” he said.

Roque, meanwhile, rejected early criticism that the creation of a new task force would be “redundant” since there is already an existing National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

“*Wala naman pong* (There’s no) superfluity. It will facilitate the easier and the faster provision of relief and assistance *pag meron pong kalamidad* (*if there is calamity*),” he said.

He said successive typhoons that hit the country make the creation of a task force a “necessity”.

“*Ang gusto lang talaga ni Presidente mas mabilis na pagbigay ng pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayan pag merong kalamidad* (The President just wants the immediate giving of aid to our citizens during calamities),” he added.

He, meanwhile, appealed to the public to give the EO a chance to prove whether it can make a difference in providing quicker response and rehabilitation.

“Let’s give it a chance. *Wala pa naman ‘no* (It hasn’t even been signed yet). Let’s see what kind of a difference this EO will make as delivery of quick responses and rehabilitation efforts in calamity-stricken area,” he said. (PNA)



House resumes work on Duterte priority bills



Published 2 mins ago
on November 16, 2020 05:30 AM
By [Hananeel Bordey @tribunephil hana](#)



HOUSE Speaker Lord Allan Velasco says measures endorsed by President Rodrigo Duterte will be their priorities.
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SPEAKER VELASCO

When the House of Representatives resumes sessions on Monday after a four-week break, its leaders vowed to work on measures sought by President Rodrigo Duterte.

House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco said the chamber will “hit the ground running” and push for bills that were certified urgent by the Chief Executive.

“We are working with our House leaders in finding ways to fast-track priority measures that will ensure a more efficient and responsive government during these trying times,” he said.

“We are confident that our colleagues in the legislature share a common goal as we all report for work on Monday.”

The House leader assured the 2021 General Appropriations Bill containing the P4.5-trillion national budget will be ratified before Congress begins its Christmas break on 19 December.

Among the priority measures are House Bill (HB) 6174 that seeks to strengthen Republic Act 9160 or the Anti-Money Laundering Act, proposed Internet Transactions Act and the proposed Magna Carta of Barangay Workers.

HB 6174’s counterpart Senate Bill 1412 was likewise certified urgent.

Other measures the lower chamber vows to work on are the proposed Coconut Levy Fund; National Land Use Act; Rightsizing the National Government Act; Right to Adequate Food, Anti-Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Discrimination Act; and On-Site, In-City, Near City Local Government Resettlement Program.

Aside from the budget which Velasco tagged as the “single-most powerful tool” to fight COVID-19 and its adverse impact on the economy, congressmen will also craft economic measures.



House resumes work on Duterte priority bills

“All these economic measures would go hand in hand with bills that will address systemic corruption in government. Both are equally important in helping the country get back on track, especially in the last two years of the Duterte administration,” he said.

House Majority Leader Martin Romualdez is likewise confident the Chamber will “work double time” in approving measures prioritized by the Duterte administration.

He said the House will consider a bill that will extend the validity of the Bayanihan to Recover as One law to ensure full implementation of the measure.

The Senate bill seeking for the extension of Bayanihan 2 until 27 March was filed by Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto last week.

This pigeon just sold for a record P91.3 million

Agence France-Presse

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A two-year old female pigeon named New Kim, that will set a new world record price when an auction ends on Sunday November 15, 2020, is seen in Knesselare, Belgium November 12, 2020. Picture taken November 12, 2020. *Yves Herman, Reuters*

BRUSSELS, Belgium - An unidentified Chinese buyer on Sunday paid a world record 1.6 million euros (\$1.9 million or P91.3 million) for a female homing pigeon called New Kim, online auctioneers Pigeon Paradise (PIPA) said.

The sale beat the 1.25 million euros paid for male pigeon Armando last year, according to PIPA.

New Kim, a well-bred two-year-old from a renowned Antwerp loft, was put up for auction at just 200 euros.

"I believe it's a world record, there has never been an officially documented sale at such a price," PIPA chairman Nikolaas Gyselbrecht told AFP.

"I didn't think we could reach that amount."

The buyer, who was not named, "will probably want to breed her", he added.

New Kim won the 2018 crown as "Ace Pigeon Grand National Middle Distance" in competitions held at Châteauroux and Argenton-sur-Creuse in France.

Top European birds have won global fame in recent years and particularly in China where pigeon racing can generate huge winnings.

Wealthy buyers from the Gulf and Asia have forced up prices for champion birds for their instinctive ability to fly as many as hundreds of kilometres (miles) and still find their way back home.

Pigeon fancying is rooted in Belgian and Dutch life with the tradition spreading over to northern France.



This pigeon just sold for a record P91.3 million

The sport had been considered in decline until auctions started showing serious prices for potential champions and proven winners.

Gyselbrecht said Belgium alone counts 20,000 breeders for racing birds destined to take part in major competitions.

New Kim was trained by father and son Gaston and Kurt Van De Wouwer at their world-class loft in Berlaar, near Antwerp. They sold their entire "collection" of pigeons on Sunday.

mad/fmi/pcm/bp/har

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