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DENR

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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.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. PHOTO BY RUY MARTINEZ

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.



DENR turns over 100 yellow trash bins to Manila City, for proper disposal of 'household healthcare wastes'

Published November 17, 2020, 5:10 PM
by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

An initial 100 pieces of yellow trash bins have been turned over by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to the Manila city government to ensure proper disposal of household health care wastes, such as used face masks.



DENR donates 100 pieces of yellow trash bins with trash bags for household health care waste to the City of Manila. (DENR TWITTER / MANILA BULLETIN)

The yellow trash bins will be distributed to 100 barangays in Manila to help address their concerns over proper disposal of face masks, surgical gloves, and other personal protective equipment (PPE) considered as household healthcare waste.

The trash bins will be used solely for these wastes to prevent contaminating other litter.

"Another 300 will be provided and a third batch will be coming until all the 800 barangays will have their own yellow trash bins to ensure that residents and businesses know where to throw these potentially infectious and contaminated COVID-19-related wastes," DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said.

During the turnover on Monday, Nov. 16, the DENR official hailed the efforts of the city government of Manila to implement efficient solid waste management and to clean up the city even at the height of typhoon "Ulysses."

"We wish to thank all Manileños, led by Mayor Isko [Moreno Domagoso], for their untiring efforts to manage solid waste disposal in the city and to sustain our Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts," Antiporda said.

He also recognized the Manila Department of Public Services-Team Mandaragat for its quick response and immediate action to clean up the historic bay before, during, and in the aftermath of typhoon Ulysses.



Aside from solid waste management and the bay cleanup, Manila has also embarked on various activities such as creating vertical and horizontal gardens, and more open spaces to improve air quality.

Antiporda commended Domagoso for “giving importance to cleaning and greening a big and highly-populated city like Manila.”

“It is thus but fitting that we give back to the city to enable them to carry out this formidable task as our partners in environmental protection,” he said.



MANILA

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Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda also recognized the Manila Department of Public Services-Team Mandaragat for its quick response amid the onslaught of Typhoon #UlyssesPH.



**DENR COMMENDS
MANILEÑOS' EFFORTS
IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda said Mayor Isko Moreno and his constituents deserve appreciation for their untiring efforts to manage solid waste disposal and sustain the Manila Bay rehabilitation.

OneNews.ph OneNewsPH file photo: Manila Public Information Office (Facebook page)

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DENR warns ‘catastrophic’ effect of quarrying operations in unstable upland areas

By PCOOPublished on November 17, 2020

MANILA, Nov, 17 -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has warned against persistent mining and quarry operations in areas identified as unstable as these may cause serious damage in low-lying villages and further siltation of the Cagayan River.

During an interview, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leonel said that they are now assessing alternative areas for legal quarry and mining operators in Region 2, which was affected by the flooding.



DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leonel during his interview in Network Briefing News episode, 17 November 2020. Screengrabbed.

“Gusto po muna natin iwasan dun sa mga area na unstable kasi ito po yung nagbibigay ng silt at sediments na kapag po nagkaroon ng quarry operations dun sa taas, talagang medyo magiging catastrophic po yung magiging epekto [We want to avoid those unstable areas because these are contributory to silt and sediments. Once there are quarry operations on these areas, then it would be catastrophic],” he said during the Network Briefing News with host Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar.

“Ang gusto lang po natin talaga ay yung dun sa mga river system, dun lang po sila pwedeng mag-quarry [We want them to conduct operations in our river system],” he added.

He appealed for illegal miners and quarry operators to already cease operations while assuring that the government is ready to provide alternative livelihood for them.

“Kung ma-suspend man itong mga quarry operations, siguro pwede nating hilingin na bilisan yung assessment so that all illegal quarry operators will be suspended, but legitimate ones and legal operators will be allowed to undertake their quarry operations,” he said.

Apart from this, the DENR has approved the dredging activity along Cagayan River’s heavily silted channels to address another onset of widespread flooding.

Usec. Leonel bared that the river is becoming shallow and narrower which minimizes its holding capacity in times of continuous heavy downpour.

“Kailangan linisin natin dahil ito po yung nagko-cause ng flooding. Kung nakabara po ‘yang basura at medyo heavily silted, talagang pong tayo ang maaapektuhan [We have to clean it up because it will cause flooding. If there are deposits as it is already heavily silted, then we will be greatly affected],” he said.



Currently, the DENR, in coordination with concerned agencies and local government units, is conducting assessments on areas affected by the flood, in order to respond with appropriate programs.

Along with the dredging projects to be conducted, Usec. Leonel said that they have recommended reforestation projects under DENR's National Greening Projects to be implemented in Cagayan Valley, especially in watershed areas.

The agency is also eyeing reforestation projects in upland areas through its Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP), which encourages villagers to cultivate forest trees and agricultural crops.

"Meron din po tayong available na perennial crops na pwede nating ilagay din sa kagubatan. Hindi man mapuputol but the communities can benefit from the fruits of the trees that it can provide. This can be part of the alternative livelihood to be given to the communities instead na magputol pa sila dun [We also have perennial crops that we can plant in forests. This can't be cut down as timber but the communities can benefit from the fruits of the trees]," he added.

ISFP aims to assist families generate incomes through the use of appropriate upland technologies while protecting the environment. (PCOO)



DENR to coordinate with DPWH in Cagayan infra dev't

By Marita Moaje November 17, 2020, 4:04 pm



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Monday it will coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the infrastructure development in Cagayan province, which was hit hard by massive flooding brought by Typhoon Ulysses.

“Despite our efforts to rehabilitate our forest through our National Greening Program, talagang ang pagbabago ng klima, talagang hindi po natin maiiwasan, nandito na po sa ating paligid iyan. Ang kinakailangan na lang po natin ay talagang mag-adapt dito sa mga epekto ng climate change (we cannot avoid climate change, it is already in our environment. What we need to do now is to adapt to the effects of climate change),” DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said during a Laging Handa public briefing.

Leones said as Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba had suggested, the Cagayan River system should be widened and dredged especially in the part of Alcala.

National Greening Program

Meanwhile, the DENR shall continuously implement the National Greening Program, with forest planting, to at least cushion the effects of climate change.

Leones assured that the Sierra Madre mountain range stretching from Cagayan province to Quezon is still considered a protected area.

While he admits that there is logging in the area, he said 70 percent of Sierra Madre is still vegetated.

He said planting is being done most especially in the upstream area where rain usually falls.

“We do continuous planting there. Our enforcement focuses most especially on illegal logging as we also provide a livelihood to the communities because we noticed that aside from commercial logging, the communities convert the forest lands into agricultural land and plant cash-crops in the sloping areas,” Leones said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Leones said the DENR conducts a massive information dissemination campaign to tell people not to convert forest lands.

He said the DENR also provides livelihood programs where they give seedlings of perennial crops used in agroforestry to provide people with food and protect the forests at the same time.

Mining in the Sierra Madre is in the part of Nueva Vizcaya, Leones said but noted that the DENR assures that they comply with environmental laws.

He said the DENR will not hesitate to stop these activities if they violate existing environmental laws.



With regards to Kaliwa Dam, Leones said the DENR will not approve its construction if it will destroy the forests in the area.

He said the process will pass through intensive studies and reviews that need to be complied with.

Among the conditions is that no trees should be destroyed and massive consultation should be conducted.

“So ito pong mga dams na ito makakaasa po ang ating mga kababayan na titiyakin natin na sa paggawa po sa Kaliwa Dam, bago po tayo magbigay ng permit diyan, dapat po masusi ang pagri-review. At kailangan ma-ensure natin that they will be complying with all our environmental laws and forestry laws (with regards to the dams, the DENR assures that we will be conducting a thorough review and study before issuing a permit for the construction of the Kaliwa Dam and make sure that they will be complying with all our environmental and forestry laws),” Leones said. (PNA)



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Dredging projects sa mga pangunahing ilog sa bansa, pinag-aaralan na ng DENR

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Pinag-aaralan na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang mga pangunahing daanan ng tubig sa bansa para sa malawakang dredging project.

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Dredge rivers, tributaries in flood-prone areas, Pacquiao urges

Published November 17, 2020, 3:31 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Instead of fighting mother nature particularly the destructive typhoons that cause massive flooding in low-lying and catch-basin areas in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga and Pangasinan, boxing icon Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao today said the simple solution is to dredge all rivers and tributaries in flood-prone areas by at least 10 meters deep.



Senator Manny Pacquiao
(EPA / JOSEPH VIDAL / PRIB / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Pacquiao, chairman of the Senate public works committee, said that aside from constructing flood control systems, the government, through the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other pertinent government agencies should launch a massive dredging program on all rivers and other water tributaries to contain floodwaters during heavy rainfall caused by typhoons and the monsoon.

The eight-time world champion said that every year, lives and livelihood are lost because of massive floods such as the one caused by typhoon "Ulysses."

This cycle will continue to take place if the government will not take any action to divert and properly impound floodwaters coming from upland areas and dams and the rainwater, Pacquiao explained.

He said that if the entire stretch of the Marikina river and the Pasig River and other secondary tributaries surrounding Metro Manila has an additional depth of at least 10 meters from their current state, the flooding that took place in Marikina and in some areas in Rizal would have not happened.

Pacquiao surmised that Pasig River which is 25 kilometers long and Marikina River which is 78 kilometers long would be sufficient to accommodate huge volumes of floodwater even during extended rainfall events similar to what happened during typhoon Ondoy and now typhoon Ulysses if both tributaries have an added depth of at least 10 meters.

The same could be done with the 505-kilometer Cagayan river, the 270-kilometer Pampanga river and the 233-kilometer Chico River which would suppress any flooding incidents in the Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and the Cordilleras, respectively.

These areas were the hardest hit by typhoon Ulysses which caused "massive" loss of lives and properties, Pacquiao said.

Laguna Lake, which is 911.7 square kilometers should be also dredged as part of the government's flood control solution.



“It’s a no brainer. Kapag malalim ang ating mga ilog at mga estero, mas maiiwasan ng posibilidad na umagos ang tubig-baha papunta sa ating mga kabahayan. Dapat diyan natin ibuhos ang ating flood control program at hindi kung saan-saan na mga proyekto na paulit-ulit lang. What we need is a long-term and sustain flood control program,” Pacquiao said. (If the rivers and esteros are deep, the possibility of floodwaters flowing to populated areas would be lessened. Our flood program should be geared to a program and not small projects that lead to nowhere and redone several times.)

Pacquiao said that by this time, the government already has enough data to determine areas that are flood-prone and the which waterways would need dredging.

To ensure compliance of the local government units (LGUs) in maintaining the depth of the tributaries in their areas, Congress could file a bill which would provide automatic allocation for the management of their waterways.

The DILG could monitor the program and can exercise administrative oversight to ensure its implementation, Pacquiao pointed out.

On top of the massive river-dredging project in flood-prone areas, Pacquiao also proposed that the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should conduct a study on how to create rain catchment and water impounding facilities especially in the National Capital Region (NCR) which could be processed by water concessionaires.

This way, the government would be able to reduce flooding as floodwaters are diverted into these impounding facilities while ensuring that the people would have an abundant and cheap supply of potable water and the farmers would have a year-round supply of water to irrigate their farms, Pacquiao said.

This system will also help protect planet Earth by preserving the country’s groundwater which is a fast-diminishing global resource.

Pacquiao said that the technology itself is nothing new or complex because this is already practiced even during ancient times which could be traced as far back as the Neolithic age.

He stressed that nearly all countries in the Middle East, Singapore, Thailand, Brazil, China, New Zealand and even Germany have been using water-impounding facilities for floodwaters and rainwater harvesting solutions to supplement their traditional sources of potable water.

Dredge rivers, ease floods – Pacquiao

By Javier Joe Ismael

November 18, 2020

Sen. Emmanuel “Manny” Pacquiao proposed the dredging of rivers and water tributaries in low-lying and catch-basin areas in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga and Pangasinan to ease flooding.



Sen. Emmanuel “Manny” Pacquiao

The chairman of the Senate public works committee said aside from constructing flood control systems, the government, through the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and other concerned agencies, should launch a massive dredging program on all rivers and other water tributaries to contain floodwaters during heavy rainfall.

He lamented that every year, lives and livelihood are lost because of massive floods such as the one caused by Typhoon “Ulysses.”

“This cycle will continue to take place if the government will not take any action to divert and properly impound flood waters coming from upland areas and dams and the rainwater,” Pacquiao warned.

He said if the entire stretch of the Marikina River and the Pasig River and other secondary tributaries surrounding Metro Manila had an additional depth of at least 10 meters, the flooding that hit Marikina and some areas in Rizal province would not have happened.

Pacquiao surmised that Pasig River, which is 25 kilometers long, and Marikina River, which is 78 kilometers long, could accommodate huge volumes of floodwater even during extended rainfall if both tributaries have an added depth of at least 10 meters.

The same could be done with the 505-kilometer Cagayan River, the 270-kilometer Pampanga River and the 233-kilometer Chico River.

Laguna Lake, which is 911.7 square kilometers, should also be dredged as part of the government’s flood control solution.

“It’s a no brainer. Kapag malalim ang ating mga ilog at mga estero, mas maiiwasan ng posibilidad na umagos ang tubig-baha papunta sa ating mga kabahayan. Dapat diyan natin ibuhos ang ating flood control program at hindi kung saan-saan na mga proyekto na paulit-ulit lang (If rivers and esteros are deep, the possibility of flooding in populated areas would be lessened. Efforts should be focused on this program and not on small projects that are done repeatedly but lead to nowhere). What we need is a long-term and sustained flood control program,” Pacquiao said.

He said the government already has ample data to determine which areas are flood-prone and which waterways would need dredging.



On top of the massive river-dredging project in flood-prone areas, Pacquiao also proposed that the National Irrigation Administration, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources conduct a study on how to create rain catchment and water impounding facilities especially in the National Capital Region.

This way, the government would be able to reduce flooding while ensuring sufficient water supply.

He stressed that nearly all countries in the Middle East, Singapore, Thailand, Brazil, China, New Zealand and Germany have been using water-impounding facilities to supplement their traditional sources of potable water.



Mas malinaw na patakaran sa watershed management, hirit ni Nancy



November 17, 2020 @ 7:13 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Inihayag ni Senador Nancy Binay na kailangan nang tugunan ang kasalukuyang overlapping functions ng ahensiya ng pamahalaan at pribadong sektor sa pamamahala ng watershed.

Sa pahayag, sinabi ni Binay na kanyang inihain ang Senate Resolution No. 566 na humiling sa Senate committee on energy na muling bisitahin ang mandato, kapangyarihan at tungkulin ng National Power Corporation (Napocor) sa pamamahala at rehabilitasyon ng watershed areas.

Ayon sa resolusyon, tinukoy ni Binay ang magkakapatong-patong na tungkulin ng Napocor at National Greening Program (NGP) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hinggil sa watershed management.

“We need to address overlapping functions among various government agencies implementing watershed management projects, programs and activities,” ayon kay Binay.

Sinabi ni Binay na kapwa ipinag-aalala ng DOE at DENR ang makalumang watershed function ng Napocor dahil nailipat ang pagmementeni at pamamahala ng watershed sa pribadong kompanya sanhi ng pribatisasyon.

Idinagdag pa ni Binay na lumitaw sa ginanap na pagdinig sa panukalang badyet ng DOE, pinag-usapan na bukod sa ahensiya ng pamahalaan, menementeni at pinamamahalaan din ang watershed ng pribadong kompanya na may kontrata sa pamahalaan.

“We need to introduce reforms which will enable NPC to set its priorities and optimize the use of its resources consistent with present circumstances,” ayon kay Binay.

Base sa website ng Napocor, pinamamahalaan nito ang labing-isang watershed areas na kabuuang land area na 485, 1999 ektarya sa pamamagitan ng Watershed Management Department.

“These watersheds, which support power generation, domestic water supply and irrigation, are managed through rehabilitation, protection and resources development,” ayon kay Binay.

Bukod dito, bahagi din ang Napocor ng NGP, isang programa ng DENR na may layunin na magsagawa ng rehabilitasyon sa 1.2 milyong ektarya ng kinalbong kagubatan hanggang 2022 at pagmementeni at proteksiyon ng mga umiiral na kagubatan.” Ernie Reyes

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/mas-malinaw-na-patakaran-sa-watershed-management-hirit-ni-nancy/>



Celebrities join DENR and PLDT-Smart in campaign for peatlands conservation

By ... -November 18, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with digital services provider PLDT Inc. (PLDT) and its wireless unit Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) to help raise awareness on peatlands in the Caraga region.

Peatlands are a type of wetlands whose peat soils consist of carbon-rich dead and decaying plant matter. If kept wet, peatlands can store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined. However, its crucial role in mitigating climate change, as well as the huge costs that arise when these natural carbon sinks are damaged, remains largely overlooked.

The DENR and PLDT-Smart presented the conservation program on peatlands in a web activity held last November 6 to kick off the Climate Change Consciousness Week in the latter part of the month. Featured in the conservation program is the Caimpugan Peatland in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS). PLDT Chairman and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan was the guest of honor for the virtual event.

Celebrities Derek Ramsay and Pops Fernandez, who acted as host during the virtual event, also expressed their concern for the environment and said they are one with PLDT and DENR in their campaign to protect the remaining intact peat swamp forest in the Philippines. They were both eager to visit the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, which has been designated as a national park and is recognized as a Heritage Park by the ASEAN.

Derek and Pops follow in the footsteps of Hollywood actor and environmentalist Alec Baldwin, who recognize the value of peatlands and spoke about its importance and need for conservation in a video for the Global Landscapes Forum.

Baldwin said: "Peatlands are crucial to fight climate change. They are large, often forested swamps that can be found all over the world. They matter for the planet because they actually store twice as much carbon as all the world's forest together while covering less than 3% of the land's surface but peatlands are being degraded and lost at a dramatic pace due to logging, drainage for agriculture and burning. When they are destroyed, they release massive amounts of greenhouse gases and the unique and often endangered plants and animals they house are lost as well.

"Peatlands also matter for people because the smoke released from peatland fires is toxic and has the worse impact on the most vulnerable groups – our children and the elderly. We must protect peatlands because peatlands matter."

The three-year extendable project to be implemented by PLDT-Smart through its Chief Sustainability Office until 2023 aims to strengthen and support the AMWS-Protected Area Management Office and other concerned DENR offices in implementing peatland conservation and management strategies under the AMWS Management Plan.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_entertainment/celebrities-join-denr-and-pldt-smart-in-campaign-for-peatlands-conservation/



Soil erosion sa Albay, unang namataan noong 2006 matapos ang bagyong Reming – MGB

By **Bombo Radyo Legazpi** -November 18, 2020 | 12:36 AM

LEGAZPI CITY- Naglabas ng inisyal na imbestigasyon ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) na unang namataan ang soil erosion sa Barangay San. Roque Malilipot, Albay matapos ang pananalasa ng bagyong Reming.

Pinalala aniya ang sitwasyon ng magkakasunod na sama ng panahon na narasan sa nakalipas na mga linggo na nagdala ng mataas na volume ng ulan.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo Legazpi kay MGB Bicol Director Engineer Guillermo Molina, batay sa kalkulasyon nasa 60 meters ang lalim ng river bank kung saan nakita ang unconsolidated soil.

Namataan ang parang komposisyon ng lupa na may buhangin at mga bato na madaling gumuho oras na maging saturated dahil sa hindi magandang kalidad.

Dahil dito, kinakalkulang nasa 61 na mga kabahayan ang nakatalaan na erelocate dahil sa posibilidad na kainin ito ng lupa.

Samantala inirerekomenda rin ng tanggapan ang pagpapatayo ng mga dike sa lugar para maiwasan ang kapareho pang sitwasyon.



Quarrying blamed for Marikina flood

Published 15 seconds ago on November 17, 2020 05:04 AM

By [Neil Alcober](#)



Quarrying operations in Rizal province were blamed for the destructive flood that hit Marikina City and nearby areas during the onslaught of typhoon “Ulysses” last week.

In a telephone interview with *Daily Tribune*, Marikina City Mayor Marcelino “Marcy” Teodoro said, “Definitely, one of the reasons for the flooding is the quarrying.”

“They had already been stopped during the habagat. It was stopped by the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources). After one or two years, they were able to resume operations,” he added.

The Marikina official appealed to the DENR to suspend quarrying operations in the province to prevent a disaster from recurring in the future.

“I hope they will think of other people’s welfare. They might be making money but they cause damage not only to property, but also to the lives of people. Some people even lose their lives because of their operations. That’s why they should stop. They should do what is right,” Teodoro explained.

Meanwhile, the Marikina local government is still conducting road clearing operations in affected areas, particularly secondary roads, to make them accessible for relief operations.

The mayor said the effort might take time since the effect of typhoon “Ulysses” was worse than typhoon “Ondoy.”

He pointed out that in some areas, the mud was 12 inches deep.

“We are clearing traffic routes so that our equipment could reach them for relief operations. Secondly, this will allow traffic to return to normal. Many streets are still not passable due to the thick mud,” Teodoro explained.



Prez Duterte orders probe on illegal logging, mining in Cagayan

November 17, 2020 9:55 PM by [Kristan Carag](#)



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte presides over a situation briefing with the members of his Cabinet and local government officials at the Tuguegarao Airport in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan on November 15, 2020 to discuss the disaster response measures and relief efforts on the aftermath of Typhoon Ulysses. ACE MORANDANTE/ PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

President Rodrigo Duterte directed Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Sec. Roy Cimatu on Sunday, November 15, to look into the illegal logging and illegal mining activities in Cagayan Valley.

President Duterte gave the order following the devastation left by Typhoon Ulysses in the region.

“I will direct here General Cimatu to look into the illegal mining, especially where the people are building their shelters downwards,” the President said during a situation briefing in Tuguegarao City.

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba has previously mentioned illegal logging as the cause of the massive flooding in the province, which has been placed under a state of calamity due to the damage left by Typhoon Ulysses.

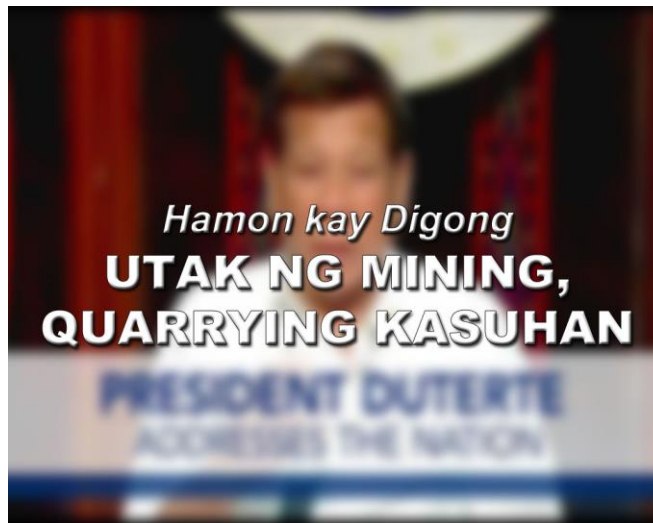
President Duterte said that the government has always talked about illegal logging and mining but nothing has been done to resolve the problem.

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/prez-duterte-orders-probe-on-illegal-logging-mining-in-cagayan/>



Hamon kay Digong UTAK NG MINING, QUARRYING KASUHAN

23 hours ago [jake](#)



UPANG makabawi sa mga biktima ng kalamidad, kailangang kasuhan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga mastermind ng mga mining at quarrying operations na naging sanhi ng malawakang pagbaha at landslide sa mga nagdaang bagyo.

Ito ang hamon ni ACT party-list Rep. France Castro kay Duterte dahil bukod sa mga dam na nagpalala ng problema ng pagbaha, ay itinuturo ang quarrying at mining operations sa pagguho ng lupa na tumabon sa mga komunidad.

“Make up for your absence, ensure that you file charges against the masterminds of mining and quarrying operations that led to the worsening condition of typhoon-hit areas, and affected many lives,” ani Castro.

Ayon sa mambabatas, nasa ilalim ni Duterte ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na nagpabaya sa kanilang tungkulin para proteksyunan ang kapaligiran.

Hinayaan aniya ng DENR ang quarrying at mining activities, hindi lamang sa Bicol region kundi sa halos lahat ng lugar sa Luzon na nagresulta ng pagkakalbo ng mga kabundukan.

Dahil dito, nagdusa aniya ang mga tao kaya dapat panagutin ang mga nasa likod ng quarrying at mining operations na hindi lamang ari-arian at kabuhayan ng mga tao ang nawala kundi ang buhay mismo ng mga tao.

Dapat na rin aniyang itigil ng gobyerno ang pagsandal ng mga ito sa resiliency o pagiging matatag ng mga tao sa kalamidad bagkus ay resolbahin ang problema na nagiging dahilan ng ganito kalawak na kalamidad.
(BERNARD TAGUINOD)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/hamon-kay-digong-utak-ng-mining-quarrying-kasuhan/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR3Jih8GimSeR8YVfRMUSkVdOpINmQpVeurv24nBqQdW8UdxQQpx4faaHGQ



Illegal logging, mining dapat isama sa House probe kay Ulysses

By [Joy Cantos](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- November 18, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Minaliit ng Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) ang gagawing imbestigasyon ng Kamara sa nangyaring massive flooding sa Cagayan at Isabela na tinawag nitong isang band-aid solution na walang kahihinatnan.

Ayon kay KMP President Danilo Ramos, tanging ang pagpapakawala ng tubig ng mga dam ang sakop ng gagawing imbestigasyon at hindi kasama ang pag-iimbestiga sa illegal at legal logging at illegal mining operations.

Sabi ni Ramos, kung nais ng mga mambabatas na masolusyunan ang problema at hindi na maulit sa hinaharap ang sinapit sa bagyong Ulysses ay kumprehensibong investigation in aid of legislation ang dapat nitong gawin.

Una nang naghain ng House Resolution 1348 sina House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, House Majority Leader Martin Romualdez at Minority Leader Joseph Stephen Paduano para imbestigahan ang massive flooding ni Ulysses na ikinasawi na ng 73 katao habang bilyong piso ng ari-arian at imprastruktura ang nasira.

Giit ng KMP, ang tanging nakapaloob lamang sa 2 pahinang resolusyon ng Kamara ay ang pag-iimbestiga sa National Irrigation Administration (NIA) na aalamin kung nasunod nito ang tamang protocol sa desisyon nitong buksan ang spillway gates ng Magat Dam subalit wala itong banggit ukol sa mining at logging operations.

Ani Ramos, ang pagpapatigil sa mining operations at pagsasampa ng kaso sa mga ito ang dapat na resolbahin at imbestigahan ng Kamara.

Nanindigan din si Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat na ang tuluyang pagpapasara ng mga large scale destructive mining operations at pagpapahinto sa kontraksyon ng Kaliwa Dam ang dapat na naging aksyon ng pamahalaan sa naranasang worst flood sa loob ng 40 taon sa Cagayan at hindi sapat na magsagawa lamang ng imbestigasyon na sa bandang huli ay maaaring wala ding mangyari.

Aniya, malinaw na illegal logging at mining ang sanhi ng naranasang malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan at Isabela na nangangailangan ng agaran at matapang aksyon ng gobyerno dahil hanggang sa hindi natitigil ang pagmimina sa bansa ay mas marami ang trahedyang naghihintay sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/18/2057666/illegal-logging-mining-dapat-isama-sa-house-probe-kay-ulysses/amp/>



House urged to include mining firms in Northern Luzon flood probe

By [Jovee Marie de la Cruz](#), [Rene Acosta](#) and [Claudeth Mocon-Ciriaco](#)
November 17, 2020



Typhoon affected residents of Barangka, Marikina, jostle to get their relief food packs from a worker of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Several groups on Tuesday dared the House of Representatives to include in its investigation the accountability of mining companies that led to the worsening condition of typhoon-hit areas.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas President Danilo Ramos made the call as House prepares to investigate, in aid of legislation, the cause of massive flooding that submerged the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses (international code name Vamco).

“We should not do an investigation just to provide a band-aid solution, the House of Representatives should probe what is the root of the problem, the continued release of water from dams [during Typhoon Ulysses], the legal and illegal logging, and large and small-scale mining operation triggered massive flooding in several areas [in Luzon],” said Ramos.

According to Ramos, the suspension of mining operations and the filing of cases against them should also be resolved and investigated by the House.

Last Monday, Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, together with Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez and Minority Leader Joseph Stephen Paduano, filed House Resolution 1348 to immediately conduct the probe.

Velasco wants to probe the circumstances surrounding the rapid inflow of water into the reservoir, as well as any non-compliance with laws, rules or regulations that may have had a contributory effect to the swelling of Cagayan River.

The Speaker also just wanted the chamber to look into the decision of the National Irrigation Administration to open the spillway gates of Magat Dam, and if such action was done in accordance with duly established guidelines and protocols.

Meanwhile, Assistant Minority Leader and ACT Teachers Rep. France Castro slammed the national government’s lack of disaster response and demanded accountability for failures in preparations in times of calamities.

“Make up for your absence, ensure that you file charges against the masterminds of mining and quarrying operations that led to the worsening condition of typhoon-hit areas, and affected many lives,” she said.

“In just a span of three weeks, the wrath of five tropical cyclones, including a super typhoon, brought damages and landslides, wrecked crops, homes, businesses, but more than this, it took the lives of many Filipinos. However, the Duterte government did nothing but abused and exploited the term ‘Filipino resiliency’ as it forced the people to do the necessary actions in cognizance to the ‘*bayanihan* spirit,’” Castro said.



Castro added President Duterte and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources allegedly just let the mining and quarrying activities persist.

Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat also called to put to stop the construction of Kaliwa Dam and all large-scale destructive mining operations as she urged the government to prioritize people's welfare amid the pandemic and disaster.

NOLCOM shift

The military's Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) has shifted its disaster response operations in Region 2 to relief efforts as residents have been moved out of their flooded homes.

The relief operations were pushed on Monday as the government continued to send assistance to victims of Super typhoon Rolly (international code name Goni) in Bicol region, with the Navy vessel BRP *Tarlac* leaving South Harbor on Tuesday for Catanduanes bearing relief items.

The shift to relief operations in Cagayan Valley came less than two days after the military dedicated a number of aircraft, manpower and rescue equipment in response to the worst flooding that hit the region in four decades.

Maj. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos Jr., commander of NOLCOM said that their "aerial reconnaissance over the weekend has showed that no more civilians remain stranded in roofs and other danger zones as a result of the concerted efforts between and among the LGUs [local government units], line agencies and security forces in evacuating and rescuing the residents.

"The delivery of goods is now your soldiers' top priority," Burgos said, clarifying that they are "ready to respond and perform rescue missions should the situation deem it necessary."

Burgos said that several NGOs and partner-stakeholders reached out to NOLCOM, expressing their desire to donate basic necessities such as food, water and clothing for the victims of Ulysses in Northern and Central Luzon, while confirming that "more than 10 truckloads of relief packs for thousands of families have already reached Cagayan and Isabela provinces."

The Navy's BRP Davao del Sur will be sailing from Manila to Cagayan's Sta. Ana Port to ferry more relief packages for the victims, while air assets are still currently deployed to monitor and deliver essential items to isolated areas, as well as perform medical evacuation in times of emergencies.

Burgos said that "soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines will continue our close coordination with the Incident Management Teams, chaired by the provincial governors, to ensure that appropriate actions depending on the situation will be undertaken in the soonest possible time."

Aside from Region 2, the NOLCOM is also currently performing humanitarian missions in Cordillera Autonomous Region and Central Luzon.

'Bayanihan' at DepEd

Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones has directed all field offices of the Department of Education, through their respective regional directors, to submit a list of teachers and personnel severely affected by recent typhoons Rolly and Ulysses to enable DepEd to fully assist them during these times.

"The entire DepEd family is one with the nation in the bayanihan efforts for our dear fellow Filipinos, who have been battered by recent calamities. In a span of days, areas in Bicol, Metro Manila, Calabarzon, and Cagayan Valley experienced tragic loss of peoples' lives and their livelihood," Briones lamented.

The DepEd noted that within the department, voluntary contributions from officials and staff from the Central Office, regional and division offices have been pouring in to help fellow Filipinos recover from these calamities and subsequently sent directly to the most affected schools.



“We are also committed to expedite the process of benefits for our staff and will facilitate smoother coordination with corresponding agencies. Recently, we are making headway in helping our personnel in getting the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and other private lending institutions’ calamity loan. The department will also provide provident fund emergency loans to the teaching and non-teaching personnel who were affected by the recent typhoons. We are also about to release the year-end bonus equivalent to one-month salary and P5,000 cash gift for our personnel,” she added.

On the learning materials side, the DepEd chief assured that they will release additional funding for the reproduction, or replacement of damaged self-learning modules.

“In addition, funds have been downloaded to provide hygiene kits and conduct cleanup drive and psychosocial first aid to affected schools. We also engaged our external partners to deliver donations directly to schools,” she said.

“Education has truly taken a hit from these calamities. And if we are here to revive it, our priority will be our passionate educators and learners. We shall overcome,” she vowed.

Image credits: **Nonie Reyes**



Imbestigasyong gagawin ng Kamara sa massive flooding minaliit... PAGPAPASARA SA MINING SA REGION 2, IGINIIT!

On Nov 17, 2020



MINALIIT ng grupong Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) ang imbestigasyong gagawin ng House of Representatives sa nangyaring massive flooding sa Cagayan at Isabela na tinawag nitong isang 'band-aid solution' na walang kahihinatnan dahil tanging ang pagpapakawala ng tubig ng mga dam ang sakop ng gagawing imbestigasyon, hindi kasama ang pag-iimbestiga sa illegal at legal loggings at illegal mining operations.

Ayon kay KMP President Danilo Ramos, kung nais ng mga mambabatas na masolusyunan ang problema at hindi na maulit sa hinaharap ang sinapit sa bagyong Ulysses, kumprehensibong investigation in aid of legislation ang dapat gawin.

"Hindi band-aid solution lang, hindi para masabi nating nag-imbestiga lang, ano ba yung punu't dulo ng problema?, may relasyon ang nangyaring pagpapawala ng tubig ng mga dams at ang ginagawang legal at illegal logging at large at small scale mining operation," paliwanag ni Ramos.

Una nang naghain ng House Resolution No. 1348 sina House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, House Majority Leader Martin Romualdez at Minority Leader Joseph Stephen Paduano para imbestigahan ang massive flooding sa pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses na ikinasawi na ng 67 katao at 20 pa ang nawawala habang bilyong piso ng ari-arian at imprastruktura ang nasira.

Giit ng KMP, ang tanging nakapaloob sa 2 pahinang resolusyon ng Kamara ay ang pag-iimbestiga sa National Irrigation administration (NIA) na aalamin kung nasunod nito ang tamang protocol sa desisyon nitong buksan ang spillway gates ng Magat Dam, subalit wala itong binanggit ukol sa mining at logging operations, ani Ramos. Ang pagpapatigil sa mining operations at pagsasampa ng kaso sa mga ito ang syang dapat na resolbahin at imbestigahan ng Kamara.

Nanindigan din si Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat na ang tuluyang pagpapasara ng mga large scale destructive mining operations at pagpapahinto sa kontruksyon ng Kaliwa Dam ang syang dapat na naging aksyon ng pamahalaan sa naranasang worst flood sa loob ng 40 taon sa Cagayan at hindi sapat na magsagawa lamang ng imbestigasyon na sa bandang huli ay maaaring wala ring mangyari.

Aniya, malinaw na illegal logging at mining ang sanhi ng naranasang malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan at Isabela na nangangailangan ng agaran at matapang na aksyon ng gobyerno dahil hanggang sa hindi natitigil ang pagmimina sa bansa ay mas marami ang trahedyang naghihintay sa Pilipinas.

Duda si Act Teachers Partylist Rep. France Castro na may kahihinatnan sa bandang huli ang imbestigasyong iniutos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte. Aniya, ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang nagbibigay ng permit sa mining operations at sya ring inatasan sa gagawing imbestigasyon. Kaya sa huli ay maaaring moro-moro lang ang mangyari rito.



Ang mga small scale mining ay agad na inisyuhan ng 'cease and desist order' at pinatigil ang operasyon, ngunit hindi naman makanti ng pamahalaan ang mga nasa large scale mining.

Hamon ni Castro, kasuhan ang mga mastermind sa mining at quarrying operations.

“Gobyerno rin ang may sala sa sinapit na pagbaha sa Cagayan dahil ang DENR na nasa ilalim ng ehekutibong sangay ang siya ring pumapayag na mag-operate ang mga mining at quarrying activities na kalaunang nagresulta sa pagkakalbo ng kabundukan,” diin ni Castro.

Source: https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/11/17/imbestigasyong-gagawin-ng-kamara-sa-massive-flooding-minaliit-pagpapasara-sa-mining-sa-region-2-iginiit/?fbclid=IwAR0kzIDJ2ekr_IGDFMWpox07gKHfQ7pxKE2TAtwDVU-PervkhViJkSOiGQ



Planting trees must for firms seeking DENR, NIA franchise

posted November 18, 2020 at 01:00 am

by [Willie Casas](#)

To help arrest deforestation nationwide, Malacañang said Tuesday applicants for franchise and license with the National Irrigation Administration and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources must plant trees. Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said this would be government policy, seen as in response to deforestation which has been among factors blamed for record flooding seen in Luzon following Typhoon "Ulysses."

The government will also coordinate with the education department on possibly requiring students to plant trees, said Roque.

The National Irrigation Administration said Tuesday "massive" reforestation was needed, as the governor of Cagayan called for the urgent improvement of the Magat watershed.

Gov. Manuel Mamba said release of water from the Magat Dam while the 505-km-long Cagayan River was swelling was one of the main reasons the province was inundated last week as Ulysses crossed Luzon.

Magat Dam is a large rock-fill dam on the Magat River, a major tributary of the Cagayan River whose eight-year construction was completed in 1982.

It is a multi-purpose dam which is used primarily for irrigating about 85,000 hectares of agricultural lands, flood control, and power generation through the Magat Hydroelectric Power Plant.

Mamba told ANC's Headstart: "I believe they could not control the water they had to release because of the watershed. If they don't improve the watershed, whether they like it or not, they will not be able to control the influx of water into the town and release because they have to do something for the dam not to burst.

"The most important part for them to control is the watershed, because we will have to bear the brunt."

Eduardo Ramos, dam and reservoir division manager of NIA, said the agency was giving attention to improving the watershed.

In the same interview, he said: "The water-holding capacity in our mountains is weak because there are no more trees, no more roots. We really need to do massive reforestation."

NIA is in charge of some 7,500 hectares of the shed, while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources takes care of the remaining area, said Ramos.

Flooding in Cagayan was the worst recorded in the last 40 years, killing at least nine of the nearly 70 recorded deaths.

Meanwhile, an environment group on Tuesday made a call to President Rodrigo Duterte to declare a national climate emergency following a spate of typhoons that has brought massive flooding in parts of Luzon.

Greenpeace Philippines country director Lea Guerrero called for a more comprehensive approach in addressing the climate crisis, as the Philippines is among the most susceptible countries to hazards brought about by climate change.

"The climate crisis is here to stay. It will be part of the future of the country. This is the new normal," Guerrero said during an interview on ANC's "Matters of Fact".

"Unless we have plans that are comprehensive and that are forward-looking like planning for the long term... we'll be stuck in a cycle of just responding to every disaster that comes in and it's not sustainable," she said.

Extreme weather events such as the strengthening of typhoons are among things linked to climate change and the worsening global warming.



While there have been efforts in addressing the effects of the climate crisis, Guerrero noted that the focus of present and past administrations had always been on post-disaster response.

“There hasn’t been a big effort for a lot of administrations to really address issues such as the country’s coal use, fossil fuel use,” she said.

Instead of creating task forces or ad hoc committees in dealing with disasters, Greenpeace proposed strengthening existing protocols such as typhoon response.

“We don’t need a national task force to keep on responding to everything that’s happening in localized places. But we need LGUs (local government units) to have more capacity, to have more resources to be able to determine the risks and manage the risks in their localities,” Guerrero said.

Other issues that must be addressed by the climate emergency declaration is holding fossil fuel and cement companies responsible for human-induced carbon emissions. Dozens of these companies are already the subject of a climate change inquiry of the Commission of Human Rights.

The group also urged the Philippine government to hold other nations accountable for having the most greenhouse gas emissions.

“What’s happening right now to the Philippines is not something we’re responsible for. We’re one of the least, the smallest contributors,” Guerrero said.

“We do need that action from outside to make sure this global problem is solved not just for the Philippines, but for developing nations that are reeling under the impacts of the climate crisis,” she said.



Pagtatanim ng puno ng franchise, license seekers oks sa Palasyo



November 17, 2020 @ 7:20 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sinuportahan ng Malakanyang ang nais ng Department of Transportation na gawing requirement ang pagtatanim ng puno tuwing kukuha ng prangkisa o lisensya.

“Iyan po ay magiging polisiya. Iyan po ay minungkahi ni Secretary Tugade sa lahat ng kukuha ng prangkisa, pero iyan po ay ipatutupad niya,” ayon kay Roque.

“Alam po natin na isa sa long-term solution para maiwasan itong ganitong kalalang pagbaha na na-experience dito sa Cagayan ay ibalik po natin ang mga puno sa mga kabundukan,” lahad pa nito.

Bukod sa reforestation, isinusulong din ni Tugade ang dredging ng Cagayan River. **Kris Jose**



Tanim-puno bago lisensiya

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

- November 18, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Balak ng Malacañang na pagtanimin ng puno ang mga estudyante na kukuha ng lisensiya sa gobyerno.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, isang pangmatagalang solusyon kontra sa baha ang pagtanim ng maraming punong kahoy.

Ang panukala ay unang inilutang ni Transportation Sec. Arthur Tugade para sa mga kukuha ng prangkisa.

Tiniyak ni Roque na magiging polisiya ng gobyerno na obligahin ang mga mamamayan na magtanim ng puno.

Makikipag-ugnayan din ng Malacañang sa Department of Education para sa nasabing proyekto.

“At makikipag-ugnayan din po tayo sa DepEd at iba-iba pang mga ahensiya para ang mga estudyante, ang lahat ng mga kumukuha ng lisensiya sa gobyerno ay ma-require po na magtanim ng puno dahil alam po natin na isa sa long-term solution para maiwasan itong ganitong kalalang pagbaha na na-experience dito sa Cagayan ay ibalik po natin ang mga puno sa mga kabundukan,” ani Roque.



Duterte blames 'squatters' for deforestation

Published November 18, 2020 1:18am

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

Following the widespread flooding in several provinces due to Typhoon Ulysses, President Rodrigo Duterte blamed low-income families for deforestation.

In a briefing with Cabinet officials on Tuesday night, Duterte said poor communities in farms cut down trees and use the wood to build their houses and that this causes deforestation.

“Yong average Pilipino, they cannot afford a concrete house so halos lahat dyan, let us use the word being understood by all, ‘yang mga squatters, puro kahoy ‘yan. Bibili ‘yan including coconut wood,” he said.

“Ang problema niyan sa bukid talagang magpuputol ‘yan ng kahoy because ang mga Pilipino, ‘yan lang (ang kaya). Saan naman sila kukuha ng semento? Where do they cut the trees? In Canada? Or pupunta pa sila sa South America o Africa? So kung anong makita nilang nabibili sa small-scale... karamihan ‘yan ang ginagawang bahay ng mga tao,” he added.

Duterte said as the population increases annually, so is the need to cut trees.

“Magtatayo ng bahay and the temptation to cut the trees and bring it there to the lower land ay really to build houses kaya ‘di yan mawawala,” he said.

Moreover, Duterte said he is in a quandary on how to solve the problem of illegal logging.

Earlier, Duterte ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to [investigate illegal mining and logging activities in Cagayan Valley](#) after various parts of the region were submerged in flood due to the heavy rains brought by Ulysses.

Duterte said mining could have loosened the soil, increasing the chances of landslides, especially during heavy rainfall.



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

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

Albay Governor Al Francis Bichara, however, appealed against the suspension of quarrying operations in the province, adding that they would run out of aggregates for reconstruction and rehabilitation projects.

He urged the national government to first investigate the matter before the implementation of suspension orders in the province. -- **BAP, GMA News**



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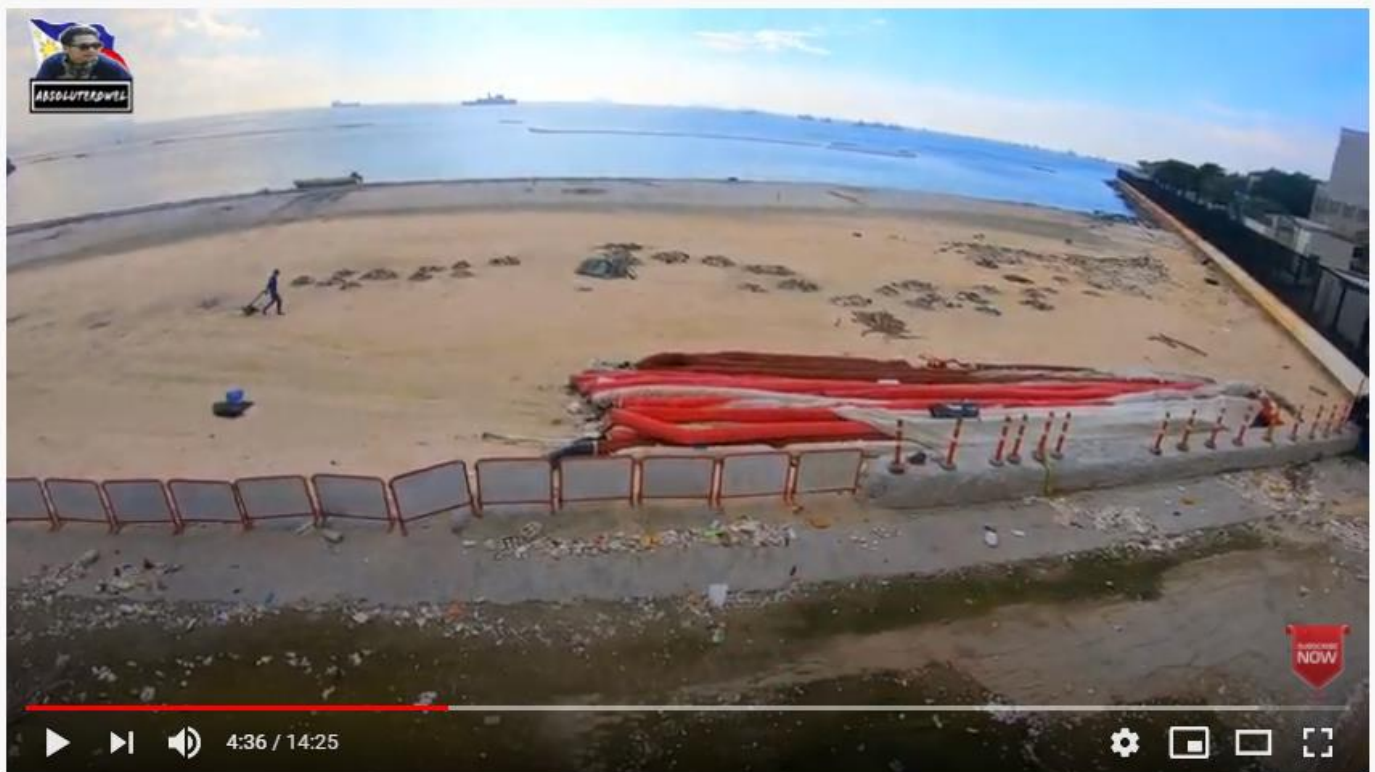
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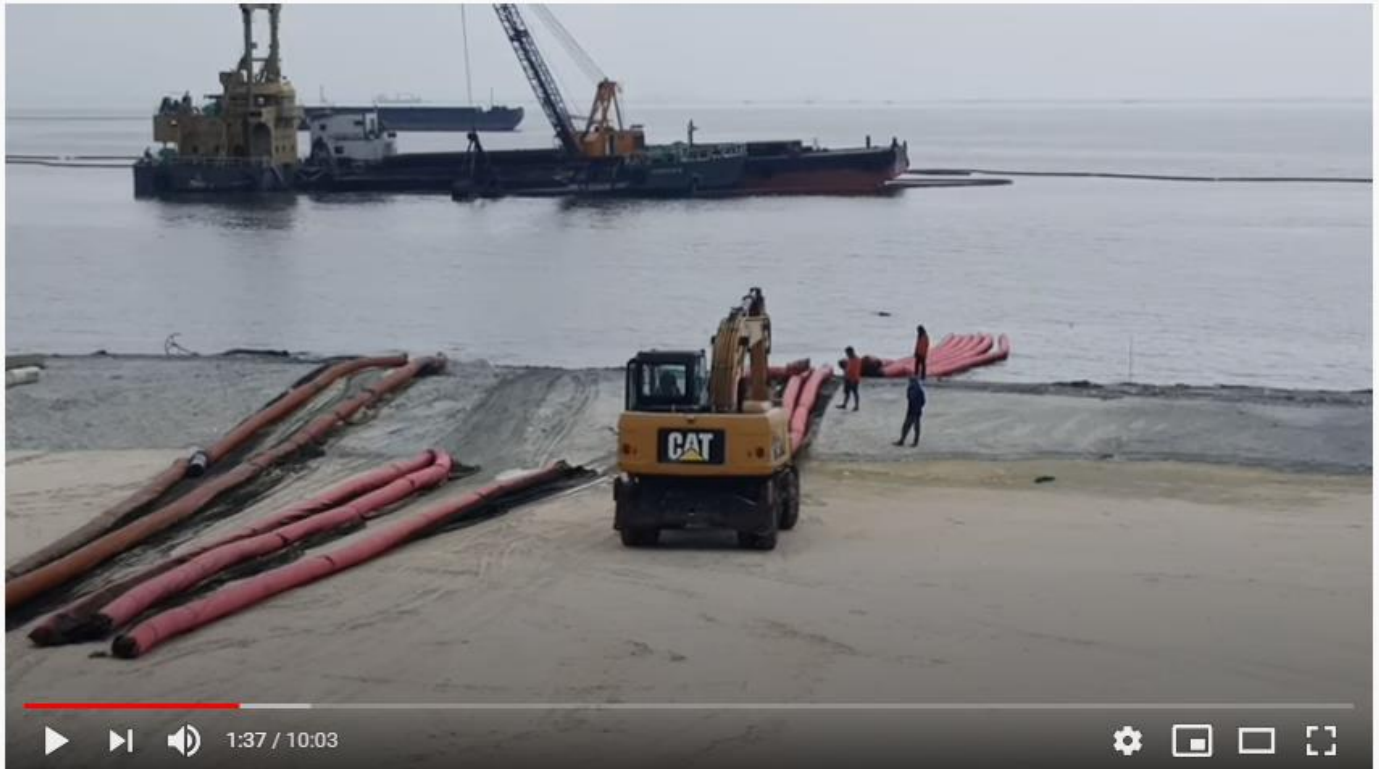
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Too late the hero

[DEMAND AND SUPPLY](#) - [Boo Chanco](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 18, 2020 - 12:00am

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu could have been the hero. The general obviously knows what went wrong and what the solutions are. He mentioned a number of things that would have helped, but the hero was too late. He should have done those things when he took on the DENR job.

Cimatu noted that the province is prone to flooding. He proposed the immediate dredging of Cagayan River and planting of some 200 million tree seedlings in Cagayan. JICA proposed dredging the river way back in 1987.

The general also blamed climate change. He gave the impression that they did some tree planting and that he has approved the dredging, but the force of climate change was too much to overcome.

I noted a Facebook post of Gigo Alampay that featured the efforts of the mayor of Alcala, Cagayan to address that perennial flooding problem. Mayor Tin Antonio even sought the help of UP experts and the recommendations are obvious.

Dredging is apparently the most important. Even a 1987 JICA study said as much. Imagine that... 1987 yet. But the government just takes too long to do anything.

Indeed, I was wondering why Cagayan's most powerful son, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, did nothing to address this problem.

Let me just quote liberally from the piece written by the Alcala mayor.

"In December 2019, the municipality of Alcala, six barangays were totally submerged, more than 10,000 families affected, and more than 5,000 homes went underwater. There was no typhoon signal, just rain due to monsoon, and water coming from the Sierra Madre, water released by Magat Dam, water coming from everywhere.

"We turned to our Filipino scientists to ask why. The municipality requested Fernando Siringan, former director of the UP Marine Science Institute (UP MSI) and one of the country's top river and marine geologists, to conduct a study on flood and riverbank erosion on the Cagayan and Pared Rivers in Alcala.

"From July to September 2020, Siringan and fellow UP geologist Keanu Jershon Sarmiento travelled the length of the Cagayan and Pared Rivers in our town. They looked at rocks and banks, the vegetation, the meandering of the rivers, the width of the channel and flood plain, the depth of the rivers all throughout, the flow of water, the facilities and communities impacted by flood and erosion through time.

"The final study describes the confluence of factors that brings severe flood and suffering not just to the town and people of Alcala, but to all towns and peoples throughout the length of the Cagayan River from Isabela to Aparri, Cagayan where the river empties into the sea:

"In Alcala, the river channel – which goes as wide as 400 meters – suddenly constricts to a narrow 180-meters from Barangay Tupang all the way to Barangay Magapit, Lallo.

"Alcala is situated to receive 80 percent of water run-off in the Cagayan River Basin that encompasses Cagayan and Isabela.

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



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

“Steered by the Siringan and Sarmiento study, the municipality of Alcala has started to implement changes. We moved the Tamban Bangkero to a safer, more stable location upstream. We were shocked to learn that the river current had eaten away at the cliff of the old Bangkero and could collapse to plunge people to the 18-meter swirling depths below.

“To save Barangay Pagbangkeruan from being taken by the Pared River, we need to create a secondary channel... Then we have to plant a 30 meter-wide vegetation shield of native trees to form a belt of protection for the riverbank and community – a mighty, green wall...

“In the past two months, we have convinced the farmers in our 12 irrigation dam watershed areas to abandon yellow corn and to shift to agroforestry. We have started to plant native forest, flowering and fruit trees on these watersheds that have a combined area of 300 hectares.

“We have engaged our 25 barangays to plant tiny, dense, native forests in their communities, using the Miyawaki method.

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

“But the biggest, most challenging work of all, the one most urged by Siringan, is the river channel widening from Tupang, Alcala to Magapit, Lallo. This work would help not only Alcala, but the whole Cagayan Valley Region, tremendously. This is not a new idea – this is one of the recommendations of the 1987 JICA report on flood and the Cagayan River. Sadly, this has not been acted upon...

“It’s not just about Magat Dam protocols, although in our state of despair Magat Dam is the most visible target. It’s about us, it’s the way we live – as if we are apart from nature, as if what we do does not come back to us. It’s us – how we have cut our trees and destroyed our forests, our soil and groundwater, how we have eaten up the land with farms and buildings.

“The problem being complex, the solution is also a combination of interventions that should be anchored on science and drawn after scientists have studied the Cagayan River itself... It is not dredging every which way, it is not putting up a dike here and there. It is knowing, based on sound science, what to do and what not to do...

“I believe in Siringan. I believe in our Filipino scientists. They stand by their science, and the people of Alcala are glad to lean on their strength...

“As I write this today, Nov. 15, 2020, my beloved town Alcala and many parts of Cagayan are underwater... Our people are suffering. They are cold, tired, hungry, thirsty, their homes gone, their animals gone, their belongings gone.

“Please, let us listen to our scientists.”

Boo Chanco's e-mail address is bchanco@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter [@boochanco](https://twitter.com/boochanco)



Police Files Tonite

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Quarry operators sa Rizal pagpalahin ng putik!

KUNG may "ipa-papatay" man si Pangulong Rody Duterte sa malawakang pagbaha ng putik sa kapatagan ng Rizal hanggang Marikina City ay walang iba kundi ang mga demonyong quarry operator.

Oo! Itong quarry operators ang pumapatay sa mga bundok sa Rizal province.

Dahil sa mga hukay at pagkakalbo sa kabundukan ng Rizal, nagdudulot ito ng pagragasa ng tubig kasama na ang putik pababa at nagiging malaking pagbaha sa mabababang bayan ng Rodriguez, San Mateo, Antipolo, Morong at Taytay, damay narin ang Marikina City na bagsakan ng tubig-baha mula sa Rizal.

Kita nyo nang humupa ang baha nitong Linggo?, makapal na putik hanggang tuhod naman ang pinapala ng mga residente.

Ang dapat tumanggal sa makapal na putik na ito ay ang quarry operators sa lalawigan ni Governor Rebecca "Nini" Ynares.

Sabi matagal na raw ipinatitigil ni Gov. Ynares ang quarrying sa kanyang probinsiya, pero hindi raw nito nagawa dahil sa binigyan ng permiso ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB). Tootoo ba ito, Director Wilfredo G. Moncano?

Sa pagkakaalam ko, hindi rin mangyayari ang quarrying sa isang probinsiya bayan kung ayaw ng governor at mayor. Yes! Kailangan parin ng permit ng provincial/municipal o local government unit (LGU) bago maisakatuparan ang malawakang pagbubungkal sa kabundukan lalo't kung magdudulot ito ng matinding panganib sa ibaba, sa kabayanang nakapaligid sa bundok. Mismo! Kaya pag nagkaroon ng imbestigasyon ang Kongreso sa malawakang pagbaha sa Rizal hanggang Marikina, dapat kasamang imbestigahan ang mayor, governor, MGB officials at DENR officials na nakatalaga sa probinsiya na ipinangalan sa ating pambansang bayani, Dr. Jose Rizal.

At hindi lang ito dapat matapos sa imbestigasyon, dapat may managot at may makulong, Mr. President! Dapat!!!

Hindi lang baha ng putik ang dulot na panganib ng quarrying sa kabundukan ng Rizal.

Napakarami naring commuters at motorista ang nasawi sa aksidente ng sagasa ng truck na loaded ng lupa/bato galing sa quarry sites pababa sa mga bayan ng Rodriguez, San Mateo, Taytay, Morong at Antipolo.

Ang sanhi ng aksidente ay nawalan ng preno ang truck, hindi kinaya ng preno dahil sa napakabigat na karga nito.

Sa likod ng mga trahedyang ito, kapag nagpatuloy pa ang matinding quarrying sa kabundukan ng Rizal, darating ang panahon na guguho ang bundok o matatabunan na ng putik ang kapatagan ng lalawigan, pramis!

At walang dapat sisihin dito kundi ang mga namumuno sa lalawigan, mga bayan sa Rizal at mga tiwali sa DENR. Mismo!

Ang utos ngayon ni Pangulong Rody Duterte kay DENR Sec. Ruy Cimatú ay imbestigahan, habulin, ipakulong, ang mga opisyal na responsable sa illegal mining, quarry at logging na dahilan ng malawakang pagbaha sa Rizal province, Marikina City, at sa Region 2 (Cagayan Valley, Isabela at Nueva Vizcaya).

Pag sineryoso ni si Sec. Cimatú ala-exDENR OIC late Gina Lopez ang "tall order" na ito ni Pangulong Duterte tiyak na marami ang mabubulok sa bilangguan at malamang iendorso siya ng mamamayan na kumasa nang presidente sa 2022. Mismo!

Yes, Sec! Kung ikaw ay may pangarap maging ama ng ating bansa, ito na ang pinakamagandang pagkakataon para patunayan mo ang iyong pagka-dating military General. At sigurado na susuportahan ka ng taong bayan.

Remember Gina Lopez, kung hindi lang namayapa ang ale, sa nangyaring ito sa Rizal province, Marikina City, at Region 2, malamang na bubuhatin siya ng taumbayan para gawing ina ng bansang puno na ng katiwalian. Mismo!

👍 3



BICOL RIVER BASIN PROJECT APRUB KAY PDU30



November 18, 2020 @ 6:38 AM 1 hour ago

SUPPORTADO ni President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang pagbuhay sa Bicol River Basin Development Authority na siyang magpapatupad ng mga makabuluhang proyekto sa probinsya upang solusyunan ang pagbaha sa rehiyon.

Sa pagbisita ni President Duterte nitong ika-15 ng Nobyembre 2020 sa Camarines Sur upang talakayin ang naging pagtugon ng pamahalaan noong nanalasa ang bagyong Ulysses sa probinsya maging ang relief efforts na isinasagawa rito ay napag-alamang may proyekto palang tinatawag na “Phantom Baao Lake” kung saan nakaplanong ito ang gagawing saluhan ng tubig-ulan upang maiwasan ang pagbaha sa probinsya.

Ngunit dahil sa kakulangan sa pondo at ang inaasahang social impact ng proyekto sa mga naninirahan sa tatlong barangay na maaapektuhan nito ay hindi ito naisakatuparan ayon kay Presidential Adviser on Bicol Affairs na si Marvel Clavecilla.

Kung titingnan, napakagandang proyekto sana nitong Bicol River Basin o ang “Phantom Baao Lake” dahil bukod sa makatutulong ito na maiwasan ang pagbaha sa probinsya na maaari pang taniman ang paligid nito sa tag-araw matapos makalikom ng tubig ulan sa panahon ng bagyuhan ay maililipat pa sa mas ligtas na lugar ang mga pamilyang naninirahan malapit dito.

Tama naman ang rekomendasyon ni Pres. Duterte na marapat lamang na pantayan ng pamahalaan ang kalidad ng kabahayang ipapalit nito sa mga iiwan ng pamilyang maaapektuhan ng proyekto.

Sa galing at bilis umaksyon ng mga nakaupo ngayon sa pamahalaan, hindi malayong maisagawa ang proyektong ito sa lalong madaling panahon sa pakikipagtulungan ng opisina ni Clavecilla, DPWH, DENR at ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Bicol.

Basta naman tunay na magbibigay-benepisyo sa sambayanang Filipino ay hindi nagdadamot ng suporta si President Duterte patunay na rito ang kaliwa’t kanang pagtatayo at pagpapasinaya ng mga proyekto ng iba’t ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan sa ilalim ng administrasyong ito.

Kaya naman nawa’y tigilan na sana ang pamumulitika sa mga panahong gaya nito na patuloy na lumalaban ang bansa sa COVID-19 at nahaharap pa sa mga kalamidad gayong kitang-kita namang kumikilos ang pamahalaan at ibinibigay ang lahat ng makakaya nito upang tumugon sa pangangailangan ng sambayanang Filipino.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/bicol-river-basin-project-aprub-kay-pdu30/>



When Mother Nature gets ‘pissed’

[CTALK](#) - [Cito Beltran](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 18, 2020 - 12:00am

Judging from the amount of rain and flooding that we witnessed these past few weeks, one gets the impression that Mother Nature is so pissed with our collective disregard for the environment that she decided to pee on us all. Forgive the graphic creativity of describing recent events but it's what comes to mind after President Duterte was quoted as saying that he wants to investigate illegal mining and illegal logging in Cagayan Valley and Isabela province as the cause of the recent unexpected major flooding. Yes, there is reason to investigate the illegal activities in those places but as far as floods go, the President would do better if he looked further north and higher up. A year or so ago, we were already dealing with major landslides, flooding and tragedy up in the mountains and it got so bad because the experts already said that much of the highlands up north were Red Zones or so unstable they were unsafe for habitation. Why? Because those mountains and hills had been mined, logged and turned into vegetable farms with nothing left to hold the terrain in place. In areas where there are no "Vegetable Terraces," people built homes back to back, ultimately creating potential death traps in the event of landslides.

But even in the face of these obvious violations and environmental destruction, every president is misdirected by advisers and local officials to go after faceless nameless small miners and illegal loggers. There is the saying: "It takes a village..." In the case of the environmental destruction in the north and many parts of the Philippines, the destruction is caused by the very villages and villagers that now sit on top of them. Unfortunately no one has stood up and held those people and those communities accountable. Instead we pity the people of Cagayan and Isabela for being sunk by floodwaters that accumulated in their homes and backyards. If President Duterte and the members of the Senate and Congress are really serious about dealing with this mortal sin against Mother Nature and the people who are living in floodwaters, then authorities should stop chasing mythical monsters. Put an end to the denudation of forests, the uncontrolled creation of vegetable gardens that produce in excess and wastage, and investigate the DENR to find out if they are really controlling illegal logging. Anyone who drives up north or even along the Silang-Tagaytay road has to wonder where all the wood carvers and furniture makers get tabletop slabs of wood 4 feet by 20 feet wide. What sort of regulation and documentation are required starting from LGU locations to the very workshops and stores that sell such "big pieces." They always say that the wood used in those shops and stores are from typhoon damage, but what system is in place to regulate and verify such? Anyone who goes online will surely manage to buy exotic woods for their homes if they have the cash. So all this talk about stopping illegal logging to my mind is just smoke and mirrors.

In any case, I do hope that President Duterte can break free from the blinders people want him to wear. We are all responsible for the flooding and it is time for all of us to do something at our levels. I say we promote localized vegetable gardening, break up vegetable terraces and replant them with trees, get mining firms to foot the bill to restore denuded areas and penalize LGUs that have ignored the deterioration of their local areas. Right now the analogy is if the man on the mountain pees, the people down below get flooded. Enough is enough. Make everyone accountable.

* * *

Instead of just a representative from their PR agency, someone from FedEx recently reached out and called me to explain the details of my sad experience in attempting to send a care package to my daughter Hannah in the Netherlands. Here is the full email that I received.



“Thank you so much for taking my call and again I would like to extend our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused by this incident. Rest assured that the gaps have been addressed internally for service improvement.

As discussed, I have verified directly with FedEx Netherlands and they confirmed that T-shirts made in China are acceptable. We just need to provide a complete commodity description such as material composition of the fabric and the value of the goods.

While for the store-bought dried mangoes, it will need an export permit from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) as confirmed by their office. The facial wash and Celeteque moisturizer will not require an FDA clearance as long as the weight will not exceed 10 kgs. A bottle of Betadine throat spray will definitely need a permit to carry or mail from the FDA office, which FedEx is unable to process, same with the BPI permit.

Please feel free to advise me when would you like to avail of the free shipping up to 5 kgs so I can gladly coordinate this with our Operations team.

Again, please accept our apologies and we thank you for your understanding.

Best regards,

Vivien Rodriguez |Customer Care Specialist, Customer Experience Operations | FedEx Express Philippines”

In addition to the matters stated above, I discussed the concerns and experience of our readers and Ms. Rodriguez assured me that the FedEx management will look into those matters as well. Like I said, I won't hate on FedEx, it's enough that they took recognition of everyone's problems and promised to do something.

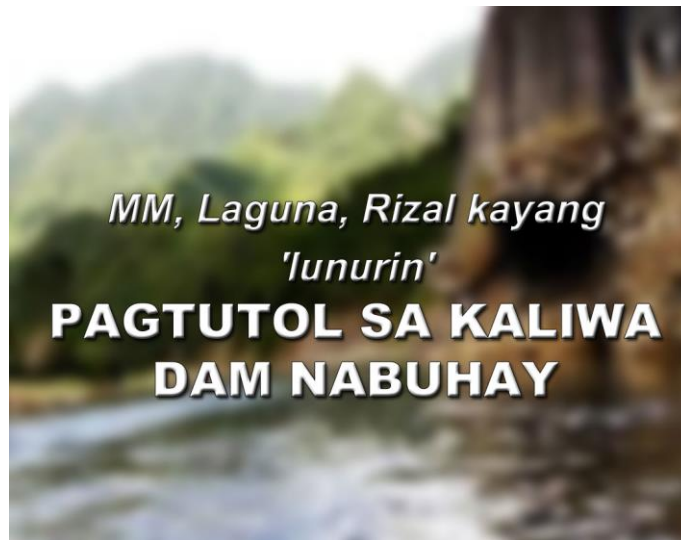
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E-mail: utalk2ctalk@gmail.com



MM, Laguna, Rizal kayang 'lunurin' PAGTUTOL SA KALIWA DAM NABUHAY

24 hours ago jake



LALONG hindi dapat ituloy ng gobyerno ang Kaliwa Dam project dahil sa idinulot ng mga dam na matinding pagbaha sa Marikina at Cagayan Valley noong kasagsagan ng Bagyong Ulysses.

Ito ang pahayag ni Bayan Muna Party-list Rep. Eufemia Cullamat kaugnay ng nasabing proyekto na pinondohan ng bansang China at babayaran ng mga Filipino na may mataas na interes.

“Ang trahedyang nagdulot o ugat nitong matinding pagbaha at landslide ay ang nagpapatuloy pa rin na mga proyektong nakakasira sa ating kalikasan, katulad ng malalaking pagmimina na nagkakalbo sa mga kabundukan at kagubatan, at ang mga dambuhalang dam na nagpapakawala ng napakaraming tubig na naglulubog sa maraming bayan,” ani Cullamat.

Ginawa ng mambabatas ang pahayag dahil isinisisi sa Angat Dam ang matinding pagbaha sa Marikina City kaya plano ni Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro na kasuhan ang nasabing pamunuan ng nasabing dam dahil wala umanong pasabi ang mga ito na magpapakawala sila ng tubig.

Isinisisi naman ni Cagayan Gov. Manny Mamba sa Magat Dam ang paglubog ng lalawigan sa baha dahil hindi kaagad naglabas ang mga ito ng abiso kaya nabigla ang mga Cagayano at hindi nakapaghanda.

“Tumatambad na lamang sa atin ang mga delubyong dulot ng mga mapaminsalang proyektong ito ‘pag tumama na sa atin ang kalamidad,’ ayon kay Cullamat kaya walang dahilan para ituloy ng gobyerno ang Kaliwa Dam project.

Nangangamba ang mambabatas na mas malaking delubyo ang mangyayari kapag itinuloy ang nasabing proyekto at posibleng malunod ang buong Metro Manila at mga lalawigan ng Laguna at Rizal kapag nagkaroon ng aberya.

Sinabi ng katutubong mambabatas na hindi solusyon ang mga mega dam tulad ng Kaliwa Dam, sa kahirapan ng pagkukunan ng tubig bagkus ay kahirapan ang dulot nito sa mga tao kapag may nangyaring sakuna.
(BERNARD TAGUINOD)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/mm-laguna-rizal-kayang-lunurin-pagtutol-sa-kaliwa-dam-nabuhay/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR3hhC0ZcR_n6JLGQ10qchHvNcgBn5l1Btxz8xHMS26Jl_E--JZ9KORDsY0



Geologist pushes for widening of Cagayan River to prevent massive flooding

Published November 17, 2020 :25pm

By LLANESCA T. PANTI, GMA News

Cagayan River, the longest river in the Philippines, should be widened to prevent massive flooding in the future, such as what occurred since last week due to Typhoon Ulysses, a geologist said Tuesday.

Dr. Fernando Siringan, former director of the UP Marine Science Institute, noted that while Cagayan River is 400 meters wide at its widest, it is only around 180 meters wide in the area of Alcala, Cagayan since typhoons have brought down sedimentary rocks, reducing the river's coverage.

“Para kang nasa EDSA, na may anim na lanes, tapos naging dalawa na lang. Naging embudo. Sa EDSA, nagpa-pile up ang sasakyan. Eh ang sasakyan, hindi gumagalaw. Doon sa Cagayan, nagpa-pile up ang tubig mula Alcala, Cagayan, paakyat ng Tuguegarao,” he said in a Doble B sa News TV interview.

Cagayan River traverses four provinces, namely Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Isabela.

“Kailangan palawakin ang Cagayan River. From 400 meters wide, nagiging 180 meters wide lang siya sa may Alcala. Halos kalahati. Kailangan lumuwag ang ilog bago tayo gumawa ng kahit ano. Kailangan i-prioritize ‘yun,” Siringan added.

Likewise, Siringan said residents should make it a habit to plant trees like narra, molave and fruit-bearing trees, among others, to boost the reforestation program of the government.

“Iyang reforestation, may mga nagsasabi [na] bakit parang walang nangyayari? Kasi merong naitanim pero maling puno. Kaya dapat ine-encourage ang ating mga kababayan na magtanim at alagaan ito,” Siringan said.



“May mga variety ng narra, iyong kulay dilaw, na mabilis tumubo, na iyong girth niya ay 30 centimeters na in ten years. Puwede rin mga fruiting trees [ang itanim],” he added.

Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade on Sunday also [pushed for reforestation](#), as well as the dredging of Cagayan River.

"Nakikita dito ang dalawang pangangailangan. Number one, 'yung itigil ang pagputol ng puno dito, 'yung reforestation program kailangan ituloy. Pangalawa, 'yung tinatawag na dredging sa Cagayan River," he said during a situation briefing in Tuguegarao City with President Rodrigo Duterte, Cabinet officials, and other government officials.

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

Mayor Tin Antonio of Alcala said the widening of Cagayan River from Tupang in Alcala to Magapit in Lal-lo [would benefit](#) the whole Cagayan Valley.

"This is not a new idea — this is one of the recommendations of the 1987 JICA Report on flood and the Cagayan River. Sadly, this has not been acted upon," she said.

Antonio however said they have started planting trees in many areas.

Ulysses already left at least [67 dead](#), 21 injured and 13 missing so far, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. It has also displaced 428,657 families or over 1.7 million individuals.

Prior to Ulysses, Typhoons Quinta and Rolly also caused devastation in recent weeks to many areas, leaving billions worth of damages in agriculture as well as public and private infrastructure. —**KG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/764429/geologist-pushes-for-widening-of-cagayan-river-to-prevent-massive-flooding/story/>



Ex-rebels plant 30K mahogany seedlings in Maguindanao

By Noel Punzalan **November 17, 2020, 3:55 pm**



NURTURING THE FORESTS. Environment workers and former Moro rebels turned forest rangers plant trees across the denuded forests of Maguindanao from Oct. 22 to Nov. 14. For three weeks, the 'palaws', together with volunteers and employees of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources–Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, managed to plant some 30,000 mahogany seedlings during a series of tree planting activities. *(Photo courtesy of MENRE-BARMM)*

COTABATO CITY – Former Moro rebels turned forest rangers led the planting of at least 30,000 mahogany seedlings across the forests of Maguindanao for nearly a month now, environment officials of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) said Tuesday.

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENRE) in BARMM has earlier hired 400 “Palaw” (forest) rangers, all former combatants of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) as part of its PHP300-million Integrated Bangsamoro Greening Program.

“The ‘palaws’ are only hired for one year under the program that is subject for an extension if needed,” MENRE-BARMM Minister Abdulraof Macacua said in an interview with reporters here.

From Oct. 22 to Nov. 14, joint efforts of the “palaws”, MENRE-Maguindanao personnel, and volunteers, planted a total of 715 hectares of the province’s forestlands with mahogany seedlings.

The series of reforestation activities in Maguindanao included the planting of trees in Barangay Tugaig, Barira (3,685 seedlings in 154 hectares); Barangay Labungan, Datu Odin Sinsuat (17,334 seedlings in 531 hectares); and Barangay Tuayan, Datu Hoffer (12,500 seedlings in 25 hectares).

“We would like to thank MENRE-BARMM for the trust and confidence given us for this task,” Mansa, one of the “palaws”, said in the vernacular during a separate interview.

Macacua said the involvement of the “palaws” in the greening activities helps in their transition into peaceful and productive residents in their communities.

Forester Noroden Abdullah, acting provincial environment officer, said the ‘palaws’ together with barangay officials would monitor the sustenance of the reforested lands.

Aside from growing trees and guarding the forests, the ‘palaws’ are also tasked with illegal logging surveillance and detection, apprehension of illegally cut logs, and fire suppression in forest areas.

Similar planting activities have commenced in the forest areas of other BARMM province-component areas that include Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. **(PNA)**



Duterte to consider declaring national climate emergency

By Samuel Medenilla

November 17, 2020



In this photo provided by the Coast Guard, residents wade along a flooded road during rescue operations in the Cagayan Valley region, northern Philippines on Friday, November 13, 2020. Thick mud and debris coated many villages around the Philippine capital Friday after Typhoon Ulysses (international code name Vamco) caused extensive flooding that sent residents fleeing to their roofs and killing dozens of people.

Malacañang said the government is now considering declaring a national climate emergency following the series of strong typhoons that devastated parts of the country this year.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said this will give President Rodrigo R. Duterte the opportunity to come up with a “permanent solution” to the effects of climate change.

“Well, I think this will be studied by the Palace because of the declaration of the President in the UN (United Nations) General Assembly and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN),” Roque said during an online press briefing on Tuesday.

He made the statement in response to the appeal of Greenpeace Philippines for the country to declare national climate emergency.

During his speech before the UN General Assembly last Sept. and in the recently concluded 37th ASEAN Summit, Duterte raised the issue of climate change and how it needs a global response since it is now threatening lives of many people in several countries, including Philippines.

He demanded developed countries to make drastic cuts in their carbon emission, which trigger climate change.

Duterte attributed the massive damage caused by typhoons Rolly (international name: Goni) to the effects of climate change.

“It remains a top priority of the President because we know there are studies, which say Philippines is among the top five countries of the world, which are the most susceptible to climate change,” Roque said.

Labor coalition Nagkaisa supported the initiatives of the government to demand compensation developed countries accountable for natural calamities, which are said to be brought about by climate change.



“To us, the government must be present not only in calamity-hit areas but also in the negotiating tables pressing rich countries and their TNCs (transnational companies) to pay for climate debts they owe us,” Nagkaisa said.

“Either we, the taxpayers, will continue footing those bills forever or we charge them all to the world’s biggest polluters,” it added.

TNCs, the coalition said, are firms involved mostly in the extraction and production of fossil fuel.



HEADLINE

'Climate emergency' on cue

The creation of the task force to be named 'Build Back Better' is to ensure that communities are built to be more disaster-resilient.

Published 22 mins ago on November 18, 2020 01:00 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephi_MJB



President Rodrigo Duterte is likely to heed Greenpeace Philippines' appeal to call a "climate emergency" to highlight the government's effort to "Build Back Better" communities and facilities devastated by a trio of typhoons in the last three weeks.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the Office of the President has been reviewing recommendations to make the declarations, including that of a task force formation, due to extensive damage caused by typhoons "Quinta," "Rolly" and "Ulysses."

The Palace official also said President Duterte has received a letter from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to place Luzon under state of calamity, which will allow local chief executives to utilize their respective calamity funds for relief and rehabilitation efforts.

This will also help them monitor and control the prices of basic commodities in their respective areas.

"The President has received the NDRRMC's recommendation to make such a declaration in the entire island of Luzon. But pending his decision, we are expecting that badly-hit areas will be placed under state of calamity," Roque told reporters.

Duterte, however, is leaning towards a declaration of a "climate emergency" in response to Greenpeace Philippines' call. The group also recently lauded the President's recent challenge to the international community, especially the economically advanced countries, to lessen their emission levels.

This was after Greenpeace Philippines country director Lea Guerrero renewed the group's call for a more comprehensive approach in addressing the climate crisis, as developing countries like the Philippines are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Think tank groups and environmental watchdogs argue that the country is one of the world's most at-risk nations to cyclones, floods and earthquakes, and Filipinos are disproportionately affected by such hazards compared to other nations.

Roque noted that the country's chief executive has repeatedly asserted the need for collective action to combat the effects of climate change during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the recent summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).



He also said that the President will likely echo his pronouncements in the upcoming virtual meeting of state leaders in the Asia-Pacific Region.

“I think the Palace will review that because of the President’s recent declarations at the UN General Assembly and at the ASEAN,” he said.

“The President is really prioritizing permanent solutions on climate change. Recent events showed the need to demand what we call climate justice,” Roque added.

Greenpeace Philippines has earlier said that declaring a “climate emergency” will enable the Philippines to achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement which commits world leaders to keep the planet’s temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Philippines and its Southeast Asian neighbors Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia are signatories to the Paris Agreement formed in 2015. It came into force a year later.

“Ulysses,” the fifth typhoon that hit the country in less than three weeks, submerged several provinces in Luzon, left some 80 individuals dead, and affected over 1.7 million people last week. Meanwhile, the typhoon caused P2.5-billion worth of damage to the agriculture sector.

So far, “Ulysses” damaged 71,466 hectares of agricultural lands with production losses at 109,117 metric tons, affecting some 71,466 farmers in Cordillera, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON and Bicol region.

Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, former Special Assistant to the President, also disclosed the likelihood of the formation of the inter-agency task force to start the rehabilitation of the most affected areas this week.

Go made the declaration as he led the distribution of assistance to flood-stricken neighborhoods in Marikina City, one of the worst affected areas by “Ulysses.”

“The creation of the task force to be named Build Back Better is to ensure that communities are built to be more disaster-resilient,” Go said.

The President and the government, Go said, have been working ways to fast-track the country’s recovery from the typhoons’ wrath.

Three typhoons have triggered landslides and flooding areas from north to south of Luzon since 25 October following the landfall of “Quinta” (international name: Molave).

Typhoon “Rolly” (Goni), a Category 5 tropical cyclone — the strongest, came on 31 October; while “Ulysses” began pounding the country on 11 November.

with John Roson



Pagdedeklara ng climate emergency oks kay Marikina mayor



November 17, 2020 @ 2:17 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines — Sinang-ayunan ni Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro ang pagdedeklara ng national climate emergency sa bansa.

Sa isang panayam, sinabi ni Teodoro na sang-ayon siya sa rekomendasyon ng Greenpeace Philippines kay President Rodrigo Duterte na magdeklara ng national climate emergency.

“Yes, I agree with that. There is an emergency. For example in our agricultural sector, the damage would run into billions of pesos brought about by the effect of climate change,” ani Mayor Marcy.

“We should address this issue not rhetorically or by mere pronouncements but with a statutory framework that would comply everybody to provide programs and activities to address the effects of climate change.”

Maaalalang isa ang Marikina sa nasentruhan ng pananalasa ng bagyong Ulysses.

Malaking bahagi aniya ang Marikina River na bumabalot sa iba pang ayong tubig sa Metro Manila.

“If there is no rehabilitation in the whole river system, everything is for nothing. So our call really is for an integrated approach, a whole-of-government approach, so that we could effectively collaborate and address the problems brought about by climate change.” RNT/FGDC



After 4 typhoons, ACB chief says time to turn to nature for climate action

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

November 17, 2020

THE Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) said on Monday it is high time to push for the restoration of degraded ecosystems and conservation of existing ones as part of the disaster risk reduction strategies.

In a statement, ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim said four consecutive typhoons pummeled the Philippines in just a couple of weeks and the Mekong Region has also gone through five typhoons since October this year.

The recent emergencies show that Southeast Asia remains one of the vulnerable regions taking the brunt of climate change, she said.

“While effective and decisive immediate response is crucial in these times, we invite everyone to look at the bigger picture,” she said, citing the most recent figures of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that show Asean losing 376,181 square kilometers of forest area in a span of three decades, from 1990 to 2020.

Natural ecosystems like the Sierra Madre Mountain Range in the Philippines, which runs from Cagayan province in the north to Quezon province in the south and is strategically located in the Philippines’ eastern seaboard, require protection, said Lim, a former director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

A heterogeneous mountain range with a diversity of ecosystems—from wetlands like mangroves and freshwater lakes, such as the Dunoy lakes, to unique pygmy forests and large dipterocarp forest areas—Sierra Madre can weaken strong weather disturbances and absorb large amounts of rainfall, Lim noted.

Facing climate risks, the Asean region has high stakes in the global climate action, which, among others, includes the landmark post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the ACB chief said.

“Inasmuch as there is recognition of climate change as a driver of biodiversity loss, it must also be realized that conserving and sustainably managing biodiversity is right at the core of climate action. As we continue to face the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, business as usual should no longer be acceptable,” she said.

Lim explained that the courage and resilience of Asean citizens in the face of crises must be matched with “science-based policies and programs that embed biodiversity and nature-based solutions to short- and long-term climate action at all levels.”

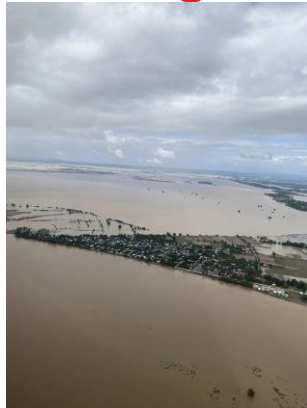
The ACB, along with its dialogue partners, such as Swedebio, supports the Asean member states in promoting the ecosystems-based adaptation approach and implementing programs that boost the resilience and services of protected areas and other vital ecosystems, with their communities.

Headquartered in Laguna, Philippines, the ACB is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates cooperation and coordination among the 10 Asean members on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such natural treasures.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/17/after-4-typhoons-acb-chief-says-time-to-turn-to-nature-for-climate-action/>



Environmental group kay Duterte: Magdeklara ng national climate emergency



November 17, 2020 @ 12:30 PM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nananawagan ang Greenpeace Philippines na ideklara ni Pangulong Duterte ang national climate emergency matapos hagupitin ang bansa ng sunod-sunod na bagyo.

“The climate crisis is here to stay. It will be part of the future of the country. This is the new normal,” ayon kay Greenpeace Philippines country director Lea Guerrero sa panayam ng ANC.

“Unless we have plans that are comprehensive and that are forward-looking like planning for long term... we’ll be stuck in a cycle of just responding to every disaster that comes in and it’s not sustainable,” dagdag ni Guerrero.

Ang mga malalakas na bagyo umano ay resulta ng climate change at global warming.

Aniya, pinagtutuonan ng dati at kasalukuyang administrasyon ang post-disaster response.

“There hasn’t been a big effort for a lot of administrations to really address issues such as the country’s coal use, fossil fuel use,” giit ni Guerrero.

“We don’t need a national task force to keep on responding to everything that’s happening in localized places. But we need LGUs (local government units) to have more capacity, to have more resources to be able to determine the risks and manage the risks in their localities,” pagpatuloy nito.

Sa kasalukuyan, dose-dosenang kompanya na ang nasa imbestigasyon ng Commission of Human Rights (CHR).

Hinimok din ng grupo na panagutin ang mga bansang mayroong malaking greenhouse gas emissions.

“What’s happening right now to the Philippines is not something we’re responsible for. We’re one of the least, the smallest contributors,” saad nito.

“We do need that action from outside to make sure this global problem is solved not just for the Philippines, but for developing nations that are reeling under the impacts of climate crisis,” hayag ni Guerrero. *RNT/ELM*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/environmental-group-kay-duterte-magdeklara-ng-national-climate-emergency/>



Time to turn to nature for climate action

By Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim Published on November 17, 2020

LAGUNA, Nov. 17 -- Four consecutive typhoons pummeled the Philippines in just a couple of weeks, leaving swathes of destruction in their wake. The most recent one, with the local name "Ulysses" (international name: Vamco) submerged parts of Luzon, giving residents in the capital a painful reminder of the great flood that happened 10 years ago. These kinds of calamities, as terrifying and as destructive, are happening in some parts of the ASEAN region, too. Since October, five typhoons have hit the Mekong Region, resulting in catastrophic floods in Central Vietnam, Cambodia, and Lao PDR, leaving millions worth of properties destroyed and scores dead.



File photo of the devastation caused by Typhoon Washi in 2011. Photo by Cheryl Baldicantos.

Our hearts deeply go out to the victims of these massive floods. Climate change impacts have been accelerating and are now severely felt. These emergencies go to show that Southeast Asia remains one of the vulnerable regions taking the brunt of climate change. It is among the most disaster-prone in the world, with 1,218 disasters occurring from 2012 to 2018, data from the ASEAN Secretariat show. These disasters cause an estimated damage of USD 15.9 billion annually, equivalent to three times the ASEAN's collective annual gross domestic product.

While effective and decisive immediate response is crucial in these times, we invite everyone to look at the bigger picture.

The Sierra Madre mountain range, which runs from Cagayan province in the north to Quezon province in the south, is strategically located in the Philippines' eastern seaboard, weakening strong weather disturbances that develop and originate from the Pacific Ocean, thus protecting a large part of the island of Luzon. This heterogeneous mountain range comprises a diversity of ecosystems from wetlands like mangroves and freshwater lakes, such as the Dunoy lakes, to unique pygmy forests and large dipterocarp forest areas. This combination of different ecosystems, if intact, will not just break strong winds but will also absorb large amounts of rainfall.

Thus, an integral part of our disaster risk reduction should be the restoration and conservation of existing forests. Likewise, mangrove and wetlands ecosystems serve as buffers and support numerous flora and fauna species that in turn provide communities food and livelihood. Pristine marine and terrestrial areas serve as sinks that are crucial in preventing carbon levels from rising.

These nature-based solutions are also called the 'no-regrets' adaptation measures as we benefit from their positive impacts with or without the occurrence of disasters. Aside from cushioning us from the impacts of climate change, the protection of these ecosystems provide advantages that are key to our survival: providing clean water, ensuring food security, and regulating a host of diseases.



It is, however, unfortunate that our ecosystems continue to be under threat: in a span of three decades, from 1990 to 2020, the ASEAN had lost 376,181 square kilometers of forest area, according to the latest data of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; inland waters continue to be ASEAN's most threatened habitats despite the waters it provide to irrigate agricultural areas in the Region; marine biodiversity health continues to be undermined by the overexploitation of coastal and marine resources. With climate change and loss of biodiversity, food security is further threatened as crop yields decline, and pest and disease infestations worsen.

Nevertheless, we must learn from these grim experiences and resolve to transform the way we treat our ecosystems and make them part of our solutions to recover and rehabilitate what has been affected by these recent events. There remain diverse ecosystems found in abundance in the ASEAN region that require protection. The ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, along with its dialogue partners, such as Swedebio, promote the Ecosystems-based Approach (EbA) and implement programs that support protected areas and their communities to boost the resilience of vital ecosystems.

The ASEAN region has high stakes in the global climate action, which, among others, includes the landmark post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Our attention is now on the development of this framework, which is expected to be finalised and adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity. Touted as the "Paris agreement for biodiversity," this framework will put front-and-center the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in climate change.

Inasmuch as there is recognition of climate change as a driver of biodiversity loss, it must also be realised that conserving and sustainably managing biodiversity is right at the core of climate action.

As we continue to face the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, business as usual should no longer be acceptable. We must work hand in hand if we want to make a difference for our future. Member states must work with other nations in crafting an ambitious yet attainable global framework that will serve the interest of the Region. Furthermore, a wise decision for the public and private sector is to increase investments in nature-based solutions.

The citizens of the ASEAN have demonstrated courage and resilience in the face of crises in the past. These, however, must be matched with science-based policies and programmes that embed biodiversity and nature-based solutions to short- and long-term climate action at all levels. (ACB)



'Naiwang basura sa Marikina, katumbas ng 1 taon na kalat' – mayor

By **Bombo Dennis Jamito** -November 17, 2020 | 5:08 PM

Binungkal ng magkasanib na pwersa ng Marikina City at Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang mga naiwang basura ng bagyong Ulysses.

Magugunitang isa ang Marikina sa nakaranas ng matinding pagbaha, maliban pa sa malakas na hanging dala ng nagdaang bagyo.

Bago ito, nagpulong muna kanina sina Mayor Marcy Teodoro at MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim sa gagawing clean up drive.

Aminado naman ang nagtulong-tulong na street sweepers at volunteers na hirap sila sa pagtanggap ng mga kalat .

Kaya minabuti na rin nilang paganahin ang mga heavy equipment ng MMDA.

Dito ay inaasahang matatanggal ang mahigit 100,000 toneladang basura, na katumbas ng para sa isang taon na garbage collection.

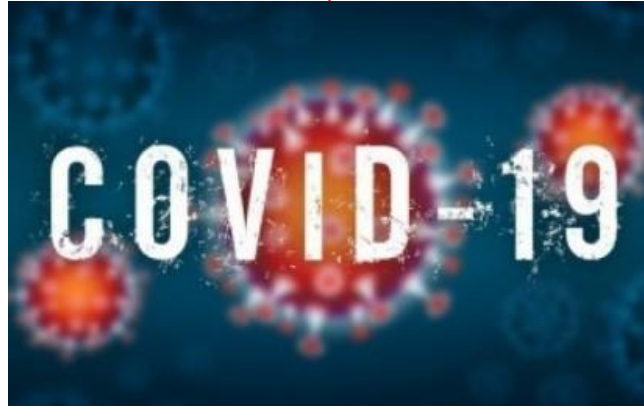
Nagpahirap pa sa pag-alis ng mga kalat, ang pagkakababad ng mga ito sa putik.

Nagbabala naman ang local health officials na kasabay ng paglilinis, tiyakin pa rin dapat ang pag-iingat laban sa leptospirosis at iba pang sakit.



PH Covid-19 recoveries rise by 186 to 374,543

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor **November 17, 2020, 5:46 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday logged 186 new recovered cases, bringing the overall tally of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) recoveries nationwide to 374,543.

As of 4 p.m., the DOH also reported 1,148 new confirmed cases and 23 new deaths.

The figure brings the total number of active cases to 28,313 and the death toll to 7,862.

Of the active cases, about 83.6 percent are mild, 8.2 percent are asymptomatic, 2.9 percent are severe, 0.22 percent are moderate, and 5.1 percent are in critical condition.

Cavite topped the list of places with most number of newly-confirmed cases at 88. It is followed by Quezon City with 52, Rizal with 46, Baguio City with 44, and the City of Manila also with 44 infections.

The DOH data as of November 16 showed that 920 or 5.1 percent of 17,880 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

The DOH also reported it has 21,300-bed capacity dedicated to patients with Covid-19.

Available are 56 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 59 percent of 13,500 isolation beds, and 71 percent of 5,900 ward beds.

About 77 percent of 2,000 ventilators are available for Covid-19 patients' use. (PNA)



Pfizer sinimulan ang 'pilot program' sa pagbabakuna ng COVID-19 vaccines

By **Bombo Christian Yosores**

-November 17, 2020 | 8:16 PM

Sinimulan na raw ng kompanyang Pfizer ang pilot program nito sa pagtuturok ng COVID-19 vaccine sa ilang estado sa Amerika.

Ayon sa kompanya, iikot ang pilot program ng COVID-19 immunization sa mga estado ng Rhode Island, Texas, New Mexico at Tennessee.

“The four states included in this pilot program will not receive vaccine doses earlier than other states by virtue of this pilot, nor will they receive any differential consideration,” ayon sa statement.

Napili raw ng Pfizer ang apat na estado matapos nilang suriin ang dami at lawak ng populasyon ng mga ito. Pati na ang immunization infrastructure at pangangailangang maabot ang mga indibidwal sa iba't-ibang lugar.

Noong nakaraang linggo nang ianunsyo ng kompanya na 90% effective ang bakunang gawa nila ng German company na BioNTech.

Agad namang naglabas ng report ang isa pang US pharmaceutical company na Moderna, na nagsabing 95% na epektibo ang kanilang bakuna laban sa coronavirus.(Reuters)

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/pfizer-sinimulan-ang-pilot-program-sa-pagbabakuna-ng-covid-19-vaccines/>



Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the details of the EO on the creation of the “Build Back Better” task force are being worked out.

STAR/KJ Rosales, File

Duterte set to sign EO on typhoon task force

[Edith Regalado](#), [Pia Lee Brago](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 18, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte is set to come up this week with an executive order establishing the mega task force that he envisioned would expedite rebuilding and rehabilitation in the wake of destructive weather disturbances, particularly Typhoon Ulysses.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the details of the EO on the creation of the “Build Back Better” task force are being worked out.

Sen. Bong Go, a close presidential aide, confirmed preparations for the release of an EO.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, as task force head, will oversee the government’s response to emergency situations, especially with regard to the release of emergency funds.

“So if the President gives an order to any agencies of the government, the response should be prompt. And what the President wants is, even if different agencies are bound to cooperate with one another, there should be one in charge and that is the executive secretary,” Roque said.

He reiterated that the functions of the task force would not overlap with those of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

“There is the NDRRMC which is an attached agency of the Department of National Defense, and of course it handles staff work and coordinates rescue and relief operations – including the giving of warnings because we have laws that obligate NDRRMC to provide this early warning to our countrymen,” Roque said in Filipino.

Meanwhile, Australian Ambassador Steven Robinson said his country has extended P35 million in assistance to families affected by Typhoon Ulysses, in response to a United Nations appeal for immediate help for the victims.

The UN made the appeal on Nov. 9 for \$45.5 million in immediate relief to some 260,000 people in the provinces devastated by Super Typhoon Rolly.

The Bicol Region bore the brunt of the typhoon’s violent winds and torrential rains, blowing away roofs, toppling structures and causing severe flooding and landslides.



“Australia has contributed to that as well and we’re now at a point of contributing A\$1 million (P35 million) to typhoon response. This is not really the amount but the principle that when the Philippines is in difficulty, Australia will stand by the Philippines,” Robinson told reporters on the sidelines of the launch of Australia Government initiative Investing Women RISE Fund-Responsive Interventions Supporting Entrepreneurs.

“About a million Australian dollars so that’s about P35 million to P36 million that has been contributed in the last couple of weeks to the response,” he said.

Since 2006, Australia has responded to 21 different disasters or conflicts in in the Philippines.

“And so Typhoon Rolly is no different and soon as Typhoon Rolly hit, you might be aware that due to arrangements with the Philippine government and also the Philippine Red Cross, we’ve over the last few years pre-positioned a whole range of supplies here in the Philippines to enable us to have instantaneous response,” Robinson said.

“Within a very short time, about 48 hours or maybe even less, of Typhoon Rolly hitting, we were able to release about P6.5 million worth of prepositioned supplies,” he added.



State of calamity sa buong Luzon

By [Doris Franche](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- November 17, 2020 - 12:00am



Patuloy ang mabilisang pagkaloob ng ayuda ng mga tauhan ng PNP at SAF sa mga lugar na nasalanta ng matinding pagbaha. Kuha ni Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Inaprubahan ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) ang pagrerekomenda kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na isailalim sa state of calamity ang buong Luzon.

Ito ay matapos ang sunud-sunod na paghagupit ng bagyong Quinta, Rolly at Ulysses sa Luzon.

Ayon kay NDRRMC Executive Director Ricardo Jalad, nagsagawa ang NDRRMC ng emergency meeting kanina at pinag-usapan ang rekomendasyong state of calamity sa Luzon.

Layon nilang matutukan ang epekto na iniwan ng mga magkakasunod na bagyo.

Sinabi pa ni Jalad na napag-usapan din sa pagpupulong na mag-convene ang Technical Working Group para sa gagawing joint prevention, mitigation at paghahanda ng mga clusters ng NDRRMC para i-assess ang sitwasyon ng mga dam.

Bukod dito, kailangan din muling bisitahin ang historical data para makapaghanda kapag may bagyo, gayundin ang tulong sa mga magsasaka, mangingisda at mga nawalan ng kabuhayan at tirahan.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana sa NDRRMC chairperson na inatasan niya ang PAGASA na bisitahin ang lugar upang mas mapabuti pa ang sistema sa pagbibigay ng warning hinggil sa pagdating ng bagyo.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/17/2057497/state-calamity-sa-buong-luzon/amp/>



Mamba said an inquiry would provide the provincial government with information for the possible filing of charges against the dam management.

Michael Varcas, file

Cagayan gov backs probe on Magat management

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 18, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba is backing calls for an investigation of the Magat Dam management, which he blames for the massive flooding that left 13 people dead in his province.

Mamba said an inquiry would provide the provincial government with information for the possible filing of charges against the dam management.

“An investigation by any of the agencies would be our basis to decide if we really have to fight it out with them and get what should be ours,” Mamba said in an interview with “The Chiefs” aired on Cignal TV’s OneNews/TV5 on Monday night.

Vice President Leni Robredo has also expressed support for an investigation into the flooding in Cagayan and Isabela during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses last week.

Mamba blamed Magat Dam for the floods in the province after water from the dam was released as Ulysses pummeled the country.

He said Cagayan has always been getting destructive floods from the dam, but not its benefits unlike the provinces of Ifugao, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya.

Mamba said the dam irrigates about 80,000 hectares of land in Isabela, but not a single hectare in Cagayan.

The Cagayan Valley police said 13 of the 29 fatalities in the region are from Cagayan. Some areas in the towns of Amulung, Baggao, Alcala, Enrile, Lal-lo and Sto. Nino remain isolated.

But Isabela Gov. Rodito Albano III said Magat Dam is not solely to blame for the floods.

He said the dam is just one of 38 tributaries connected to the Cagayan River, all of which brought floodwaters during the typhoon.

Albano said they were confident Ulysses was not a threat as Northern Luzon was only under Signal No. 1.

“Everyone was sound asleep. The typhoon came during the night, no one expected that it was that strong,” he said.



Albano is pushing for the creation of a Department of Water, which would provide necessary data that can be used by local government units in their response.

Illegal loggers

Albano urged President Duterte to put the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at the forefront of the campaign against illegal loggers, which are also being blamed for the floods.

Albano said Duterte should order the military to run after illegal loggers.

“Let’s give them police powers so the President will order them to run after illegal loggers,” Albano said.

Food security threatened

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has also called for an investigation on the Cagayan floods, noting the disaster imperiled food production and threatened the country’s food security.

CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said Cagayan Valley is considered as the rice bowl of the north, with a majority of its population relying on rice farming as livelihood.

The region, she said, is highly agricultural and produces various crops and raises different livestock to supply food across the country.

“The devastation caused by the massive flooding brought enormous losses in crops, livestock and properties... Prioritizing their recovery is essential to food security and will redound to the entire community,” de Guia said in a statement Tuesday.

“There is also a need to ensure accountability and conduct investigation as to whether the unprecedented flooding could have been prevented and the people sufficiently warned of its extent,” she said.

De Guia noted the commitment of the Department of Agriculture to provide P2.2 billion in assistance to severely affected farmers in the region.

These will include various forms of assistance such as rice, palay and corn seeds, fertilizers, seedling trays and poultry.

De Guia said these agricultural inputs are essential in helping the farmers restart their livelihood.

“We expect that the aids are distributed with promptness, efficiency, and transparency to ensure that no farmer is left behind,” she said. – **Janvic Mateo**



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.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2020/11/17/2057413/pamunuan-ng-magat-dam-kakasuhan-sa-matinding-pagbaha/amp/>



NIA, handang muling suriin ang protocols sa pag-release ng tubig sa dam

By **Bombo Dennis Jamito**

-November 17, 2020 | 7:14 PM

Ikinokonsidera na rin ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) ang pagsasagawa ng review sa kanilang protocols para sa pagre-release ng tubig sa mga dam.

Ayon kay NIA Dam and Reservoir Division Manager Engr. Eduardo Ramos, nagpulong na sila ng iba pang opisyal ng kanilang tanggapan para silipin ang ilang hakbang na maaaring baguhin.

Layunin nitong mai-angkop sa panahon ang mga abiso, depende sa tindi ng inaasahang ulan na papasok sa dam.

Gayunman, hindi nito sinang-ayunan ang panukalang gawin ang water release na mas maaga nang limang araw para hindi gaanong malaki ang impact ng baha.

Paliwanag nito, maaari lamang gawin ang pagpapakawala ng tubig sa loob ng tatlong araw bago ang pagdaan ng bagyo, alinsunod sa pinapayagang panuntunan.



Mga residenteng sa isang barangay, inilikas dahil sa mga nakitang bitak sa lupa dahil sa tuloy tuloy na pag-ulan

By **Bombo Radyo Cauayan**

-November 18, 2020 | 1:32 AM

CAUAYAN CITY – Halos 500 pamilya mula sa barangay San Pugo, Nagtipunan, Quirino ang inilikas dahil sa pagkakaroon ng malalaking uka sa lupa at bitak sa kinatatayuan ng kanilang mga kabahayan na sanhi ng tuloy-tuloy at malalakas na pag-ulan.

Sa naging panayam ng Bombo Radyo Cauayan kay Nagtipunan Mayor Nieverose Meneses, sinabi niya na pansamantalang lumikas ang ilang residente ng barangay San Pugo matapos na maglitawan ang malalaking bitak at umukang lupa na kinatatayuan ng mga kabahayan dahil sa tuloy tuloy at malalakas na pag-ulan.

Aniya tinatayang 500 mula sa barangay San Pugo ang ligtas na nailikas ng lokal na pamahalaan at nailipat sa mas ligtas na lugar pangunahin na sa mga evacuation center.

Ayon kay Mayor Meneses dahil sa pangyayari at panganib na maaaring idulot ng mga iniwang uka at bitak na lupa ng pag-ulan ay plano ng Lokal na pamahalaan na magtayo na ng relocation site para sa mga epektadong pamilya.

Karamihan na rin sa mga pangunhing kalsada sa Nagtipunan ang Isolated at hindi maaaring madaan ng anu mang uri ng sasakyan dahil sa ilang serye ng landslide at bitak sa kalsada habnag may ilang lansangan ang nanatiling one way.

Matapos ang assessment at pagsasaayos sa barangay San Pugo ay binisita nila ang western portion ng Nagtipunan Quirino.

Sa kabila nito tiniyak ng lokal na pamahalaan na sisikapin nilang matugunan ang naturang mga suliraning kinakaharap ng bayan ng Nagtipunan.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/mga-residenteng-sa-isang-barangay-inilikas-dahil-sa-mga-nakitang-bitak-sa-lupa-dahil-sa-tuloy-tuloy-na-pag-ulan/>



Water of life... and death

[SKETCHES](#) - [Ana Marie Pamintuan](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 18, 2020 - 12:00am

You can live without food for a couple of days, but not without water.

With the knowledge that water is the stuff of life, humans all over the planet built communities around bodies of water. Over the millennia, oceans, lakes, rivers, creeks provided nourishment and livelihood, irrigated crops and made sanitation and personal hygiene possible.

Even wild animals know enough to build lairs near sources of water.

For all those blessings from water, humans have also endured the adverse consequences of living close to water sources. Heavy rains swell rivers and lakes and inundate communities, leaving death and destruction. Killer ocean tsunamis have obliterated entire towns.

Rains can be deadly even for those living far from bodies of water: incessant downpours loosen mountain soil, triggering landslides and volcanic lahar flows.

Yet the advantages of living close to the water still far outweigh the risks for many people. So it would be impractical, according to the governor of Cagayan province, to relocate to higher ground the most flood-prone communities in Cagayan Valley.

People need the mighty Cagayan River – the country’s longest – for a wide range of activities, from washing clothes to transportation and irrigation. The Cagayan Valley is a major source of rice and other crops for Luzon. So any proposal to ban human habitation around the river is unlikely to prosper, according to Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba. The governor of neighboring Isabela province, Rodito Albano III, has the same view.

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The two governors, who faced “The Chiefs” last Monday night on OneNews / TV5, said they did receive warnings about the periodic release of water from Magat Dam as typhoons starting with Rolly hit the country.

Mamba, who lamented that his province has not benefited at all from Magat, is still studying if the dam management should be sued for the cataclysmic flooding that submerged Cagayan.

Albano, however, pointed out that the Cagayan River is fed by 37 tributaries, and the dam is considered the 38th. Rolly and Ulysses simply brought so much rain, Albano said. He noted that the yellowish brown color of the floodwater that swamped Cagayan and parts of Isabela indicated that much of the water came from the river tributaries in the three major mountain ranges around the valley: the Sierra Madre (the country’s longest), Caraballo and Cordillera.

Residents took Ulysses for granted, Albano said, because the rainfall alert was only from yellow to orange and the storm warning signals were only from No. 1 to 2 in different areas of the province. People thought they would sleep soundly through the storm.

Metro Manila was under Signal No. 3 and red rainfall alert, but we still mostly downplayed the threat. Maybe we muted our phones to shut up the wailing alerts from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

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If dam warning and water release protocols in Cagayan Valley were followed (to prevent dam gates from bursting), and residents aren't keen on abandoning riverside communities permanently, what can be done?

Both Mamba and Albano say river dredging – the first in decades for the Cagayan River – would help. So would curbing illegal mining and logging, although Albano insists there is no more illegal logging in his province.

Planting more trees would also help, although they would need special care since saplings tend to be destroyed in forest fires during droughts, Albano said.

The situation is slightly different in Metro Manila, where unplanned development has created communities at high risk during natural calamities.

Geohazard experts say Provident Village, which suffered the worst flooding during Typhoons Ondoy and Ulysses, sits on the Marikina floodplain where human habitation should not have been allowed in the first place. Despite the regular flooding scourge and continuing risks, however, village residents are in no hurry to move out.

The creation of the Dagat-Dagatan housing project in Navotas during the Marcos regime also filled a natural catch basin and aggravated the massive flooding in the Camanava area.

Around Laguna de Bay, much of the surrounding floodplain was reclaimed and fish pens were allowed to proliferate, causing heavy siltation. In some lakeside communities including in Muntinlupa, floods can take up to three months to subside.

Even creeks and waterways in Metro Manila have been filled to make way for all types of construction.

In Las Piñas, such illegal structures on public land are being demolished so natural waterways can be restored and used for flood mitigation. But in many other areas, such demolition projects have faced strong resistance from residents.

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People ignore the risks posed not only by typhoons and floods, but also earthquakes. Certain spots along the Marikina Valley Fault, for example, now have ground cracks that run through private homes. People whose homes sit on the cracked ground have said in interviews that they don't intend to move to safer communities. There is no certainty, they explained, that a strong earthquake or even the so-called Big One would strike in their lifetime.

This is probably the same mindset behind the development of certain residential and mixed use properties that lie along the valley fault in Laguna.

The same goes for Baguio City, where the pine trees have given way to houses built close together, perched precariously over the slopes.

Where does disaster mitigation fit into these areas?

Faced with the challenges of flood mitigation, the Duterte administration has a ready answer: create another task force.

We now have a Build Back Better task force, whose acronym could be confused with the original BBB for Build Build Build.



Building back better was the buzz phrase in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yolanda. I'm not sure if this has been achieved in the typhoon-ravaged areas of Eastern Visayas.

Many of our communities are prone to disasters because of haphazard development. And no one is about to budge from the high-risk areas. If another Yolanda or Ondoy or Ulysses or the Big One threatens, our response boils down to que sera, sera.

That "whatever will be, will be" fatalism will be a major hurdle for anyone tasked to avert further death and destruction in our country.

Climate change bigger threat than Covid-19 – Red Cross

By Agence France-Presse

November 18, 2020

The world should react with the same urgency to climate change as to the coronavirus crisis, the Red Cross said on Tuesday, warning that global warming poses a greater threat than the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).



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)

Even as the pandemic rages, climate change is not taking a break from wreaking havoc, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC) said in a new report.

In the report, on global catastrophes since the 1960s, the Geneva-based organization pointed out that the world had been hit by more than 100 disasters — many of them climate related — since the World Health Organization declared the pandemic in March.

More than 50 million people had been affected, it said.

“Of course, the Covid is there, it’s in front of us, it is affecting our families, our friends, our relatives,” IFRC Secretary-General Jagan Chapagain said in a virtual press conference.

“It’s a very, very serious crisis the world is facing currently,” he said of the pandemic, which has already claimed more than 1.3 million lives.

But he warned that the IFRC expects “climate change will have a more significant medium- and long-term impact on the human life and on Earth.”

“Unfortunately, there is no vaccine for climate change,” Chapagain said.

When it comes to global warming, he warned, “it will require a much more sustained action and investment to really protect the human life on this Earth.”

The frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate-related events had already increased considerably in recent decades, said the IFRC.

In 2019 alone, the world was hit by 308 natural disasters — 77 percent of them climate or weather-related — killing some 24,400 people.

The number of climate and weather-related disasters has been steadily climbing since the 1960s, and has surged by nearly 35 percent since the 1990s, IFRC said.

This is a deadly development.



This is a deadly development.

Weather and climate-related disasters have killed more than 410,000 people over the past decade, most of them in poorer countries, with heatwaves and storms proving the deadliest, the report said.

Faced with this threat, which “literally threatens our long-term survival,” IFRC called on the international community to act with the urgency required.

It estimated that around \$50 billion would be needed annually over the next decade to help the 50 developing countries to adapt to the changing climate.

IFRC stressed that that amount was “dwarfed by the global response to the economic impact of Covid-19,” which has already passed \$10 trillion.

It also lamented that much of the money invested so far in climate change prevention and mitigation was not going to the developing countries most at risk.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/11/18/2057663/tanim-puno-bago-lisensiya/amp/>